

**Town Topics**

**THE ROANOKE BEACON**

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

A home newspaper dedicated to the service of Washington County and its 13,000 people.

VOLUME LXV—NUMBER 52

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Thursday, December 30, 1954

ESTABLISHED 1839

P. W. Brown, who has been hospitalized at Rocky Mount since he was stricken ill here several weeks ago, was brought home by ambulance Thursday of last week and is reported to be getting on nicely, although confined to his room for the present. He will gradually be allowed to come downstairs, then out in the yard and later may be able to ride around town, according to present indications, it is reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludford McNair and family, of Acme, arrived in Plymouth Monday of this week to spend several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McNair. The latter had just observed their 57th wedding anniversary the previous day. They were married at the Baptist parsonage in Plymouth Sunday, December 26, 1897, by the late Rev. Frank T. Wooten. Incidentally, Mr. McNair, a justice of the peace of long standing, observed the day by tying the knot for a young couple from Pamlico County. This was the 17th wedding that Mr. McNair has performed during his 44-year career as a magistrate.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Newland will leave Thursday of this week for Mitchell, Indiana, where they will spend several days with Mrs. Newland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Conley. While away the Newlands will also visit in Indianapolis, Louisville, Kentucky, and other points. They plan to return to Plymouth January 10.

Harvie Hill, 12-year-old Plymouth golfer, posted a blistering 78 good for second prize in his age group in the Donald A. Ross Junior Golf Tournament at Pinehurst the first of this week. It was the fourth year in the event for Harvie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill, and the second time he has come in a prize winner. Harvie won first prize in the 8-10 year age bracket in 1952. This year he competed against nearly a hundred youngsters from several states in the 11-14 year group and was runner-up to a 14-year-old Norfolk lad who shot a 75. Marvin Rodgers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omega Rodgers, of Plymouth, also took part in the tourney, competing in the 15-year group and winding up with an

See TOPICS, Page 7

**Seeking Teachers For 2 Vacancies**

Two Washington County teachers, Mrs. Irene H. Rainey, the English teacher at the Creswell School, and Mrs. Marina J. Baum, the sixth grade teacher at the Roper School, have tendered their resignations.

Mrs. Rainey's husband, the Rev. L. J. Rainey, who is at present pastor of the Creswell, Roper, Mt. Pleasant and Oak Grove Baptist Churches, has accepted the call to become pastor of the Baptist Church at Saluda, North Carolina. Mrs. Rainey plans to accompany her husband when he accepts this position.

Mrs. Baum agreed to stay only until Christmas when she accepted last September. Teachers to replace Mrs. Baum and Mrs. Rainey are being sought. T. A. Hood is principal of the Roper school and R. B. Cobb is principal of the Creswell school.

**Kin of Local Man Dies in Accident**

William Douglas Lovic of Shapshurp and Rocky Mount, brother to Henry O. Lovic of Plymouth, was killed Christmas morning in an airplane crash at his home near Shapshurp. Lovic had rented the airplane in Rocky Mount for a flight to Greenville and apparently was "bussing" his home, about 200 feet from where the plane fell, when it nosed into the ground and burned with the pilot trapped inside.

Lovic, a native of Pitt County, was an employee of Carolina Construction Company of Rocky Mount. He was 30 years old.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the graveside in Fostet Hills Cemetery in Farmville. The Rev. Z. B. T. Cox, of the Farmville Christian Church, conducted the last rites. In addition to his widow, the former Mamie Allen of Farmville, Mr. Lovic is survived by three sons, Billy, Bobby and Mitchell; his mother, Mrs. Van Little, of Monroe; four brothers, Harry L. Lovic, of Durham, Ralph Lovic in the Navy and stationed in Florida, Henry O. Lovic of Plymouth, and Walter R. Lovic of Farmville; two sisters, Mrs. H. O. Baldree of Farmville and Mrs. Austin Riggsbee of Durham.

**SOME OF THE TOYS COLLECTED IN EMPTY STOCKING FUND DRIVE**



James T. Boyce, chairman of toy collection for the Empty Stocking Fund Committee, is pictured above with some of the more than 400 toys distributed to the needy in the county before Christmas. The photo was made Tuesday of last week on the steps at the Agriculture Building here. Most of the toys were new and were contributed by local merchants and business firms. More than 400 children in nearly 300 families shared in the distribution.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

**292 Families Aided By Christmas Fund**

**Farm Census Is Of Great Value**

Many farmers seem to think that the farm census which is taken each year by tax list takers has some direct connection with taxes, County Agent W. H. Pruden pointed out this week. The inventory of crops by townships is valuable to all agricultural agencies in helping to map a sound and progressive farm program and actually benefits the farmer who gives in the correct information, the county agent emphasized. It should be remembered that the information is strictly confidential and in no way has any bearing on taxes.

**Thanks Expressed By Fund Chairman To All Who Helped**

**Effort Termed Most Successful Ever With Value of Food, Clothing, Toys Distributed Estimated \$4,000**

By Carl L. Bailey, Jr., Chairman, Washington County Empty Stocking Fund

The 1954 Washington County Empty Stocking Fund program has been successfully completed. It proved to be the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind ever conducted here. This was true both from the standpoint of the number of people for whom Christmas cheer was provided, and also from that of the quantity of food, clothing and toys which were distributed. The people of the county were most generous. Liberal contributions of money, food, and clothing were received from people in all walks of life throughout the county. At one stage during the campaign, and after it had been ascertained that a much larger number of people was in need than in 1953, a question arose as to whether it would be possible to serve them all. It was determined to make plans to serve all the needy, and the necessary commodities were purchased based upon faith that the funds would be provided. The campaign for contributions was intensified, and the faith of the committee proved to be well-founded. Quantities of clothing, food and toys poured in, together with cash contributions amounting to \$1,941.83. Approved for payment are bills totalling \$1,918.95, all but \$1.60 of which was for the purchase of food. The committee is confident that the money in hand will be sufficient to provide payment for any other small bills. Should there be any

See THANKS, Page 12

**Whirlwind Finish Swells Cash Donations To Near \$2,000 Mark, Insuring Success of Fund**

Carl L. Bailey, Jr., chairman of the Washington County Empty Stocking Fund, this week expressed profound thanks to all the organizations and individuals having a part in the successful fund drive concluded recently.

The program for 1954 proved the largest and most comprehensive ever conducted in the long series of annual Empty Stocking campaigns, Mr. Bailey declared. Nearly \$2,000 in cash contributions were handled and the money was used for the purchase of food with which to augment donations of commodities. The number of persons receiving Christmas parcels was 965, making up 292 families in all parts of the county.

Nearly 1,100 items of toys were collected from merchants and individuals and the fund chairman reported that James Boyce, toy collection chairman, and his assistants did a "wonderful job" of collecting, sorting, mending and packaging. Working with the aid of information supplied by the county welfare department, Boyce and his committee were able to individually package the toys for distribution so that when the packaging of food and other items began Monday, December 20, much time and effort were saved in that regard.

About 30 volunteer workers, many of them colored, began the task late Monday of Christmas week of packaging food and other items stored at the Agriculture Building. This work was completed Tuesday afternoon in record time and distribution of the gift packages was virtually completed the following day. Some deliveries were made in Plymouth late Monday afternoon of last week and the remainder in the town Tuesday and Wednesday.

See CHRISTMAS, Page 12

**Fire Not From Hot Politics**

Fireman Bud Lovic mounted a ladder and beat out a small blaze atop the City Hall building Wednesday night. The alarm was turned in by Colon Bowen who noticed smoke from the Christmas decorations strung from the building. A wreath had been wrapped around a connection, it was said. No damage resulted. A false alarm was turned in Tuesday at 4 p. m. and firemen sped to the scene only to find that grass was being burned off down the railroad tracks. It has not been determined who turned in the alarm, firemen reported.

**Tax Listers and Supervisor Take Oaths of Office**

**Sworn In at Adjourned Meeting of County Commissioners; List Prices for Livestock Fixed**

The county tax supervisor and township tax listers were sworn in and prices for listing livestock, tractors, trucks, automobiles, etc., were fixed at an adjourned meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners at the courthouse here Monday night, December 20, at 7:30 o'clock.

Members of the board present were Frank L. Brinkley, chairman; J. C. Knowles, H. L. Davenport, A. R. Latham and Philip M. Spruill.

The chairman of the board administered the oath of office to H. L. Davenport, county tax supervisor, and to Tax Listers R. W. Lewis, of Lees Mill Township; P. B. Belanga, of Scuppernon Township; Paul Swain, Plymouth Township; and W. W. White, of Skippersville Township.

Prices were fixed for listing livestock, etc., for 1955 as follows: Sheep, \$4 and up; goats, \$2 and up; milk cows, \$60 to \$100; other cattle, 7c to 10c a pound; poultry, 12c a pound; horses, no. 1, \$35 and up; horses, no. 2, \$25 and up; mules, no. 1, \$60 and up; mules, no. 2, \$25 and up; meats, .15c a pound; hogs, 12c a pound; and lard, 10c a pound.

**Special Service At Grace Church**

A special service in Grace Episcopal Church, Plymouth, Thursday night of next week was announced this week by the rector, the Rev. E. M. Spruill.

The service, set for 8 o'clock, will be the annual Feast of Lights service for the Epiphany season of the Christian year, it is explained.

There will be Evening Prayer with brief meditation by the rector. Every person attending the service will be given a candle lighted from the Christ candle on the altar, showing that Christ is "the Light of the world."

The public is cordially invited to attend this service with the local Episcopalians.

**Town, County Boards Meet Monday**

More or less routine sessions are expected here Monday of next week when various town and county governing bodies meet in regular monthly sessions. The Washington County Board of Commissioners will meet in their room at the courthouse Monday morning. A routine session is anticipated. Clerk to the Board J. Robert Campbell stated last Wednesday. Superintendent of Schools Roy

**Series Important Farm Meetings in County Announced**

**County Agent Issues Invitation To Attend Meetings Set for Agriculture Building Early Next Year**

A series of important farm meetings to be held at the county Agriculture Building here early next year was announced this week by County Agent W. H. Pruden.

The series will include a tobacco meeting Thursday, January 6, a livestock school Wednesday, January 19, a commercial vegetable school Wednesday, January 26, and a sweet potato school Thursday, February 24. Also, a poultry school will be held at Edenton March 7 with persons from this county invited to attend. One or more specialists from State College will attend each of the meetings and all should prove profitable to those who attend. Mr. Pruden stated.

Ned Hawks, extension tobacco specialist, will conduct the tobacco meeting to be held at 7:30 Thursday night of next week. All county growers are urged to attend.

Interesting and important discussions will deal with such things as irrigation, new tobacco varieties, disease and insect control, harvesting and curing, fertilization, nematode control, etc.

Pruden points out that irrigation has meant from \$300 to \$500 more money per acre for those who have used it and he stated that the number of farmers using irrigation methods doubled this year over 1953.

New varieties of tobacco have also meant from \$200 to \$300 an acre more in some cases, it was noted.

The livestock school is slated for 10 a. m. January 19. Beef cattle, sheep and swine will be discussed.

Time of the commercial vegetable production school has been set at 7:30 p. m. January 26.

The Sweet Potato School will begin at 2 p. m. February 24, and the Poultry School (at Edenton at the Agriculture Building) will open at 10 a. m. Turkeys will be discussed at length at the latter meeting.

All phases of production in each of these divisions will be thoroughly discussed by competent leaders, Pruden stated, and many new developments in production practices extremely helpful to the progressive farmer, will be taken up at the meetings.

**Rites Set Friday For F. C. Ausbon**

Last rites for Frank Cowell Ausbon, 46, of Hampton, Va., will be conducted from Grace Episcopal Church here at 3 p. m. Friday by the rector, the Rev. E. M. Spruill, assisted by the Rev. P. B. Nickens, pastor of Ludford Memorial Baptist Church. Burial will be in the family plot in the church cemetery.

Mr. Ausbon died at 4 a. m. Wednesday at his home following a heart attack. He was the son of the late Fletcher Ausbon and Mattie J. Ausbon, of Plymouth. He was employed as foreman of the ground forces for the government at Langley Field, Va.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Louise Weatherly Everton Ausbon; two stepsons, Jay and Lloyd Everton, of the home; seven sisters, Mrs. W. A. Crockett, Mrs. Katie Cato and Mrs. Claudia Livers, all of Hampton, Mrs. Hazel Salyer, Washington, D. C., Mrs. Hermine Ausbon Ramsay, Mrs. Mattie Arps and Miss Miriam Ausbon, all of Plymouth; a brother, Hampton Ausbon, of Richmond, Va.; several nieces and nephews.

**Tax Listing for New Year Starts Monday in County**

**Holiday Observance Said Quiet in County**

The Christmas holiday season was quietly observed in this county, law enforcements officers report.

No serious accident or violence was reported in the county and only one fire alarm was reported during the period—that a grass fire in Plymouth with no damage being done, according to the report.

Local police officers reported that law offenders were scarce during the holidays with practically nothing happening to disturb the status quo.

Mayor A. J. Riddle's Cadillac was damaged slightly on the right rear door when struck by a machine operated by a colored man. The accident happened in the city limits.

**Schedule 35 Cases For Superior Court**

**Judge Paul To Preside at First Week Which Opens Here January 10; Judge Nimocks at Second Week**

A two-week mixed term of Washington County Superior Court will open here Monday, January 10, with Judge Malcolm C. Paul, of Washington, scheduled to preside over the first week of court and Judge Q. K. Nimocks, jr., of Fayetteville, the second.

There are 35 cases listed on the court calendar, 19 criminal and 16 civil. Five divorce actions are listed to be tried during the first week along with the criminal cases. The remainder of the civil actions are scheduled to be heard the second week.

The criminal docket will be prosecuted by Solicitor Elbert Peel, of Williamston.

Among criminal cases expected to attract more than usual interest is that of Jack and Ira Patrick, young white men of the Creswell section who are charged with assault with a deadly weapon and secret assault.

In a preliminary hearing before Judge W. Ronald Gaylord here

See COURT, Page 12

**Riddle Seeks To End Line Holdup**

Mayor A. J. Riddle said Wednesday that he plans to try to arrange a meeting here with an engineer of the True Temper Corporation from its Cleveland offices, and M. O. Cayton, sanitary engineer with the State Health Department, in the near future in an attempt to reach an understanding whereby work can proceed on the sewer line near the True Temper plant.

Work was halted on the line Monday, December 13, after the True Temper management had lodged a complaint to the town dumping sewage in the creek south of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad on the grounds that such would be detrimental to the plant's log pond.

The town has already spent \$14,000 for cast iron pipe and for labor in laying the sewer line, Riddle stated.

Previous to the action by the True Temper management the State Health Department had sent a representative to Plymouth to examine the situation and the permission of the State Board was granted for the sewage to be dumped according to the plan being followed by the town when the objection was raised, the mayor explained.

Riddle expressed the desire to reach an amicable understanding in the matter in order to allow resumption of the work or else abandon the project altogether.

**Few To Observe New Year's Day**

Comparatively few places of business in Plymouth are observing New Year's Day, as a holiday. Most local stores, including furniture, hardware, grocery, clothing and appliance establishments, restaurants, filling stations and drug stores will be open for business as usual.

The A&P store will be closed all day along with federal, state and county offices. The local banks, ABC store and post office also are observing the holiday. There will be no rural or city mail deliveries but dispatches will be made as usual.

**Masons To Install New Officers at Meeting Tuesday**

**Hilton Chesson To Be Installed as Master of Perseverance Lodge at Tuesday Night Service**

Hilton Chesson will be installed as master of Perseverance Lodge No. 59, A.F. & A.M., Tuesday night of next week when the lodge holds its annual banquet and installation night here. C. O. Jordan, of Washington, will serve as installing officer.

Other officers to be installed at the service include W. C. Cheson, senior warden; J. M. Gilreath, junior warden; B. G. Campbell, treasurer; W. C. Styons, secretary; G. R. Leggett, jr., senior deacon; M. F. Ange, junior deacon; D. K. Pittman, senior steward; J. B. Latham, junior steward; C. W. Dinkins, tyler; and the Rev. R. H. Lucas, chaplain.

The banquet will be held in the lodge hall, beginning at 7 o'clock. A Greenville caterer will serve a barbecue plate. The installation service is scheduled to begin promptly at 8 o'clock.

**Last Rites for William Phelps**

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p. m. from Holly Neck Church of Christ, near Roper, for William D. (Bill) Phelps, of Roper. Mr. Phelps was 36. He died Friday at 3:30 a. m. at his home.

He was a native of Washington County and spent his life in the county. He was born November 30, 1868, the son of the late Wilson and Nellie Arnold Phelps. His wife was the late Julia Phelps. The deceased was a member of Holly Neck Church.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Vera Phelps, of Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Lula Davenport, of Plymouth; two brothers, Albert Phelps and Arthur Phelps, both of Roper; a half-brother, Seaton Woodley, of Norfolk; 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Last rites were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Walter Armstrong and burial was in the church cemetery.

**Month of January Allotted For Listing Property; To Avoid Late Rush Early Listing Is Urged**

Tax listing will get underway in this county Monday of next week when the four township list takers start their annual task under supervision of Hubert L. Davenport, of Skippersville, veteran county tax supervisor.

Final instructions and supplies were furnished the listers at an adjourned meeting of the county commissioners Monday night of last week when the supervisor and listers were sworn in and arrangements completed to secure uniform listing of personal property throughout the county.

New Year's, a legal holiday, will be observed and it was decided to begin the listing job next Monday and terminate it on the last day of the month. Property owners are urged to list as soon as possible to avoid a last-minute rush which invariably develops during the final few days of the month.

Warning is being given that no extension of time will be allowed for listing, and those who do not get their property listed on the books during the allotted period will be subject to a penalty of 10 per cent, it was stated.

The following are list takers for the year, appointed by the commissioners at the meeting here Monday of last week:

Paul Swain, Plymouth Township; R. W. Lewis, Lees Mill; P. B. Belanga, Scuppernon; and W. W. White, Skippersville.

Mr. Swain will list at the courthouse and it is expected that the usual schedule will be followed, Monday through Saturday from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. throughout the month of January.

Only one schedule was reported turned in this week but it is expected that all will be available for publication next week.

**Mrs. Robinson Is Buried in County**

Graveside rites for Mrs. Della Robinson, 79, of Mears, Va., were conducted at Hassell Cemetery near Roper at 2 p. m. Friday of last week by the Rev. C. N. Barnette, minister of First Christian Church, Plymouth.

Mrs. Robinson, who made her home at Roper until 18 years ago when she moved to Mears, died in the latter place last Wednesday. She was a member of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church near Roper. Her husband was the late Walter Robinson, of Roper.

She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Blanche Ainsworth, of Mears, and Mrs. Lillian Craddock, of Suffolk, Va.; a son, Elmer, of Plymouth; two sisters, Mrs. Lena Ayers of Rocky Mount, and Mrs. Janie Holt, of Sanford; two brothers, Walter Mobley, of Rocky Mount, and Thomas Mobley, of Greenville; and seven grandchildren.

**Service Saturday For W. A. Mizelle**

William A. Mizelle, 78-year-old retired farmer of near Plymouth, died at his home Wednesday morning at 7:15 o'clock after an illness of three weeks. He had been in declining health for the past 10 years.

Mr. Mizelle was born in Washington County February 28, 1876, the son of the late William R. and Caroline Jackson Mizelle. He was a lifelong resident of the county, a member of Christian Hope Church of Christ where he taught a Sunday School class for 50 years, and was at one time a deacon of the church.

He was married at Plymouth February 21, 1904, to Miss Adell Gurganus, of Plymouth, who survives. Besides his widow, he leaves two sons, William H. Mizelle, of Plymouth, and Oscar Mizelle, of Greensboro; and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted from Christian Hope Church Saturday at 3 p. m. by the Rev. Frank Butler, of Washington, and interment will be in the Mizelle Cemetery near the home.