

PROVEN WAY TO REMOVE DRAINAGE PROBLEM



The above photo shows a drainage ditch on the D. M. Roberston farm in the Lake Phelps area and is only one of many such ditches which have been dug during the past year in this county and adjoining ones. H. E. Newland, of the Soil Conservation Service, reports that great progress was made in the county last year in solving drainage problems with the use of draglines. As many as 13 such machines have operated at a time in the county during the year.—Photo by Newland.

Patrolman "Red" Walters, of Columbia, is now assisting Carl Gilchrist, of Plymouth, in Washington County, due to the recent resignation of Patrolman J. E. Morton, of Roper. It is thought that Morton's vacant post will not be filled by the State Highway Patrol until after the completion of the next patrol school at Chapel Hill sometime in the Spring. The popular Walters reports that he has not been called upon to investigate any wrecks in the county as yet and that he is "taking it easy" while he can.

The H. E. Newlands are expected to return to Plymouth next Monday from a holiday trip to Indiana. They left here Thursday of last week for Mitchell, Ind., where they were to visit Mrs. Newland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Conley. From there the schedule called for stops at Indianapolis, Louisville, Ky., and way points.

A good many tobacco growers about the county were busy this week treating tobacco bed sites with gas for control of weeds, insects, and like things detrimental to the production of good, strong tobacco plants. County Agent W. H. Pruden reported, Pruden incidentally, highly recommends the use of gas in treating beds. He also hints that irrigation for tobacco is a splendid idea, what with the dry weather current and also predicted to come.

Hugh B. (Junior) Pierce is back in Plymouth, looking decidedly "in the pink." He was recently discharged from Uncle Sam's army, after considerable service overseas, including a starring stint on one of the crack service football elevens. The Plymouth boy, who made a name for himself at Plymouth High School and at N. C. State before being snapped up by the above-referred-to Uncle, coached the line on his service team and reports that the team used the same multiple offense style of play now being taught members of the State Wolfpack by Head Coach Earl Edwards, who came to the West Raleigh School last year from Michigan State College. Pierce, a standout center, plans to re-enter State College in February for the

See TOPICS, Page 6

Commissioners in Routine Meeting Here On Monday

Unanimously Adopt Resolution Asking That Croatian Sound Bridge Be Named for Umstead

The Washington County Board of Commissioners held a brief, routine meeting at the courthouse here Monday of this week and adopted a resolution calling on the State Highway and Public Works Commission to name the Croatian Sound bridge, when completed, the "Umstead Memorial Bridge" in memory of the late William B. Umstead. Umstead was governor of the State at the time the decision was reached to construct the bridge and it was largely through his efforts that the appropriation was secured.

The motion was made by Commissioner Hubert L. Davenport, of Skippersville, and was seconded by Phillip M. Spruill, of Scuppernon. The resolution unanimously carried and Clerk J. Robert Campbell was instructed to send copies of the resolution to A. H. Graham, chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, and to J. Emmett Winslow, of Hertford, chairman of the commission for the First District.

Frank L. Brinkley, of Plymouth, and A. R. Phelps, of Roper, were reappointed to five-year terms on the board of trustees of Washington County Hospital, the terms to begin January 1, 1955.

E. J. Spruill, county tax collector, reported the sum of \$25,324.43 collected by his department during the month of December.

Routine work reports were submitted to the board by County Agent W. H. Pruden and by Mrs. Frances M. Darden, home agent.

Polio Campaign Gets Underway in County

RECEIVES CITATION



Maj. Stewart E. Nestor, USAF (retired), former Plymouth resident, received a commendation medal and citation from the Air Force during the Christmas holidays while he and Mrs. Nestor were here visiting their daughter, Mrs. W. F. Ruffin, and family.

Air Force Major, Former Resident, Receives Citation

Stewart E. Nestor Commended for Work in Rewriting Portion of Air Force Manual Last Year

A commendation medal and ribbon, with accompanying citation, was awarded recently by the United States Air Force to Maj. Stewart E. Nestor, former Plymouth resident and purchasing agent for the North Carolina Pulp Company. Major and Mrs. Nestor spent the Christmas holidays in Plymouth with their daughter, Mrs. W. F. Ruffin, and family, leaving early last week for Florida.

Major Nestor, a native of West Virginia, lived in Plymouth from 1937 to 1942, serving as purchasing agent for the pulp company here during that time. He volunteered for service with the Air Force in 1942 and served continuously since that time until his retirement last October 2nd at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, Calif. Prior to his service with the Air Force, Major

See CITATION, Page 12

Tom F. Hopkins Accepts Directorship of 1955 March Of Dimes; Goal Set at \$3,500

Thos. F. Hopkins, local furniture dealer, this week accepted appointment as Washington County director of the 1955 March of Dimes, it was announced by Jack McGhee, state chairman of the annual polio appeal.

Mr. Hopkins has been a volunteer in the local March of Dimes campaigns of the past five years, and served at one time as a district director.

Noting advances made in the study of the salk trial polio vaccine, Mr. Hopkins stated, "We open the 1955 drive with bright prospects for eventually conquering polio."

"In Washington County, as in counties throughout the United States, people are giving an increased measure of their time, money and skills to the fight against this dread disease."

This is important, he emphasized, because in the meantime the Washington County chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis must continue the long-term care of several polio victims of former epidemics. "If the Salk vaccine gives us the hoped-for answer in 1955, the victory in great part will be the result of our unstinted and faithful participation in the March of Dimes," the county director declared.

The 1955 campaign is getting underway in this county and will be climaxed by the annual March of Dimes Ball next month. The goal has been set at \$3,500 for the county, Mr. Hopkins said. Canisters were placed in Plymouth business houses Monday and were to be put in places of business at Roper, Creswell and other parts of the county later this week. The county organization is expected to be perfected in time for publication next week, it was stated.

Anyone wishing to volunteer services or suggestions for prosecuting this worthy effort should contact Mr. Hopkins. The cooperation of everyone will be appreciated, he stated.

Stockholders of Country Club To Meet Wednesday

Annual meeting of the stockholders of the Country Club of Plymouth, Inc., will be held Wednesday of next week, January 12, at 8 p. m., in the clubhouse, it was announced recently. Officers and directors are to be elected, and probably there will be other business matters to be considered.

Another fire in the nearby Pantego section of Beaufort County was also brought under control, that one on Friday. It had burned over an area of about 1,000 acres, it was reported.

Much of the land burned over in Washington County belongs to the Roper Lumber Company and men were employed by the firm to help fight the big fire. They reportedly worked around the clock when the blaze was at its worst.

Church Here Asks Sizeable Sum for Lot From County

Delegation From Church of God in Christ Presents Written Request Which Education Board Rejects

The Washington County Board of Education at its meeting Monday of this week conferred with the Rev. J. S. Spruill and three members of the congregation of the Church of God in Christ concerning a written agreement to move the church from Adams Street, so that the lot could be used as a much needed addition to the Plymouth School campus.

At a meeting last November 10 the Rev. Mr. Spruill had informed the board that the church congregation had agreed to move the church from Adams Street to Madison Street and exchange the lot which the church owned on Adams Street for one which the board purchased for the purpose of locating the church on Madison Street. At the board meeting Monday the church presented a written request that the county board of education pay them \$6,000.00 and move the church or \$8,000.00 providing the church paid for all expenses incurred in moving the church. The board of education rejected this proposal. The board received a bid on December 11, 1954, from H. D. Craddock, to move the church for \$887.60.

It had been hoped that a written agreement could be signed at this meeting with the trustees of the church. The board was informed that all the trustees had not been elected.

It was promised that the education board would be informed by Friday night of this week concerning the church board of trustees personnel. Meanwhile, the matter is "hanging fire."

The contract of Mrs. Evelyn Faison Cooper to replace Mrs. Evelyn Johnson Hargrove, first grade teacher at Plymouth Colored Elementary School, Mrs. Hargrove resigned because of illness.

All members of the board were present: L. E. Hassell, chairman, J. W. Norman, Mrs. K. S. Browbridge, J. Whitford Swain and P. B. Belanga. Attorney Carl L. Bailey, jr., of the firm of Bailey and Bailey, was also present.

Special Session; Highway Men in Meet With Board

District Highway Chairman, Divisional and District Engineers, Discuss Roads With Commissioners

J. Emmett Winslow, of Hertford, district highway chairman, W. N. Spruill, of Ahsokie, divisional engineer, and W. F. Sessions, of Plymouth, district engineer, met with the board of county commissioners in a special session here Tuesday afternoon.

The meeting opened at 1:30 o'clock and a general discussion of the road situation ensued. The commissioners explained that there were a number of petitions for road improvement in the county on file, some of which had been on file for years.

Mr. Winslow stated that the district chairman had received its just share of road work in the past and also stated that now no funds are available. A definite answer was given the members of the county board as to why certain petitions for road improvement had not been acted upon.

It was shown that on many such roads daily traffic had been measured at less than 100 cars and that in such instances and particularly where few people lived along the roads the expense of improvement could not well be justified.

The district chairman promised that the county would always get its pro rata share, just as in the past, of any monies spent for road improvement in the district.

The chairman of the board of commissioners, Frank L. Brinkley, of Plymouth, was absent because of a meeting held simultaneously at N. C. Pulp Company. All other members of the board were present as follows: J. C. Knowles, Lees Mill; H. L. Davenport, Skippersville; Phillip M. Spruill, Scuppernon; and A. R. Latham, Plymouth.

Following the meeting, which lasted about an hour and a half, the district chairman, engineers and members of the county board went out to look at the Morrattock Road, one of those cited as in need of improvement.

Real Estate Revaluation Will Be Completed Soon

To Start Half-Holiday Here Next Wednesday

"We hope to be able to notify all taxpayers of their new valuations by February 1st," R. M. Byrd, who is in charge of the revaluation project in this county said late yesterday.

Mr. Byrd said he did not know whether the taxpayers would be notified by publication or by post card, but that everyone would have the opportunity to come to the courthouse and compare his new valuation with those of others in the county.

Byrd said that the average citizen thinks of revaluation only in terms of higher valuation and higher taxes, but that the project undertaken by Washington County is more of an equalization than revaluation.

All townships except Skippersville have been completed insofar as appraisals and mapping are concerned, he said. However, it was added that in the completed townships there are a few scattered places where improvements or additions have been made since the appraisal was completed and these, of course, will have to be rechecked.

The project head stated that it is hoped to complete the work in Skippersville Township by the last of this month. It was pointed out, though, that January is normally a fairly wet month and extensive rain could delay the work considerably.

Information gained in the course of the field work is set down on work sheets and later transferred to permanent record cards. Houses, for example, fall into some 32 general classifications and a table to go by to ascertain the price per square foot is used for the particular category. There are variations, of course. There is a plumbing tax listing so much per square foot.

See REVALUATION, Page 12

Services Monday For J. W. Chesson

Joseph Wilson Chesson, 80-year-old retired carpenter of Plymouth, died at 3:30 p. m. last Saturday in a Norfolk, Va., hospital. He had been in declining health for the past four years and had been confined to his bed for three years of that time.

Mr. Chesson was born in Washington County October 27, 1874, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Chesson. He was a member of Zion's Chapel Church of Christ near Roper.

Surviving are his widow, Minnie Chesson; five daughters, Mrs. Roy Crumpler, Mrs. R. W. Beard, Mrs. R. C. Whittenburg, Mrs. Elizabeth Harris and Mrs. G. D. Ainsley, all of Norfolk; three sisters, Mrs. Ada Patrick, of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Delia Sykes, of Portsmouth, Va., and Mrs. Colie Campen, of Norfolk; a brother, Jack Chesson, of Lake Lure; 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p. m. Monday at Holly Neck Church of Christ near Roper by the Rev. J. D. Waters, of Plymouth, assisted by the Rev. L. M. Ambrose, of Creswell. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

OFFICERS OF F.H.A. CHAPTER AT PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL



Officers of the Plymouth Chapter, Future Homemakers of America, elected shortly after the new term began last fall, are pictured above as follows: Front row: Sue Carol Lassiter, president; Jolene Hollowell, vice president; Ruby Boyd, secretary; and Mary Ach, treasurer; back row: Jane Swain, reporter; Dottie Thompson, historian; Betty B. Davenport, parliamentarian; Betsy Barnhill, song leader.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

Total 36 Cases Is Set for Trial at Court Term Here

One Case Removed From Criminal Calendar and Two Added; Mixed Term To Open Monday

The regular two-week January mixed term of Washington County Superior Court is slated to open here Monday morning of next week, with Judge Malcolm C. Paul, of Washington, on the bench. Judge Q. K. Nimocks, jr., of Fayetteville, is scheduled to preside over the second week of court.

At the time the calendar was prepared, 35 cases were listed for trial, 19 criminal cases and 16 civil actions. However, since that time one of the criminal cases was tried in Washington County Recorder's Court when the charges were lessened, bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the lower court. That was the Patrick case, tried Tuesday before Judge W. Ronald Gaylord and reported elsewhere in this paper.

Also, two other cases are due to be heard at the January term of superior court which were not listed on the calendar originally. Roy Chester Price and Kenneth Governor Morris, young Roper Negroes, face assault and robbery counts following a preliminary hearing Tuesday at which Judge Gaylord found probable cause. Jesse Voliva, Columbia merchant seaman, is the prosecuting witness. Price and Morris are out under \$200 bond each.

Morris also faces a speeding charge on which he was tried Tuesday, found guilty and fined \$50 and costs. He noted appeal to superior court and bond was set by Judge Gaylord at \$100.

The first week of court will be devoted to the trial of criminal cases, with the exception of several divorce actions, while Judge Nimocks will hear civil actions during the second week which is expected to be concluded Wednesday, January 19.

Owens and Phelps Go to Raleigh for Assembly Sessions

State Senator and County Representative Left First Of Week To Attend Party Caucus Tuesday

State Senator Edward L. Owens of Plymouth and County Representative Dr. J. M. Phelps of Creswell left the first of the week for Raleigh to attend the biennial session of the North Carolina General Assembly, scheduled to begin yesterday. Mr. Owens left Monday night and Dr. Phelps went up Tuesday, accompanied by Tyrrell Representative Delbert M. Sawyer, all three of them planning to be there in time to attend the Democratic caucuses set for Tuesday night.

Dr. Phelps said Monday that he had no local legislation in mind at the present, although some may develop during the course of the session. He stated he would be glad to hear from any of his constituents about any matters that come before the assembly and would welcome their advice concerning pending legislation. Dr. Phelps said it was his plan to be at his home at Creswell on Saturdays and Sundays generally throughout the session.

The state senate was scheduled to begin its sessions at 11 a. m. yesterday, with the house meeting an hour later at noon. Political observers believe the sessions will continue at least four months and possibly longer. Dr. Phelps and Mr. Sawyer have adjoining seats in the house, Nos. 116 and 115, respectively, while Senator Owens has Seat No. 4 in the state. All three of them will live at the Sir Walter Hotel while they are in Raleigh.

Hangings Presented To Roper Church Recently

At the Christmas service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Roper, a set of white liturgical hangings of damask was presented to the church by the congregation. The hangings were given in the glory of God and in honor of Miss Augusta C. Carstarphen, who has been a faithful and zealous member of the Roper church for many years.

The rector, Rev. E. M. Spruill, blessed the hangings at the Christmas service, Saturday evening, December 25th.

Forest Fire Burns Over 9,000 Acres

A big woods fire which burned over some 9,000 acres of land in this county was finally brought under control Saturday.

Tom Wynne, of Elizabeth City, district state forester, reported that four tractors and a crew of 20 or more men were still working early this week to contain the fire.

The blaze started Thursday of last week and swept over an area of peat bogs near Wenona. The fire was fanned by stiff winds from the coast, it was said.

The area in which the blaze started and spread rapidly was dense and the peat bogs served to spread the fire underground, making control difficult. The underground fires were reported still smoldering late Tuesday and it was explained that sufficient rainfall to raise the water table will be the only thorough means of dousing the fire.

The ground is unusually dry for the time of year, although a light rainfall was recorded Sunday night.