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Town Topics

The Rev. and Mrs. Edward M. Spruill left Rocky Mount on Tuesday of this week by train for San Francisco, California. From the west coast they will fly to Honolulu, Hawaii where they will attend the 58th General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which meets in the Hawaiian city, September 4-15. Mr. Spruill is a clerical delegate to the convention from the Diocese of East Carolina. Mrs. Spruill will also attend the triennial convention of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church in the United States meeting in Honolulu at the same time. Florence Spruill, their daughter, will visit her cousin, Katherine Harrison, in Rocky Mount, during her parents' stay in Hawaii.

Jimmy Kitchengs recently won a four-day, expense-paid vacation at Virginia Beach but declined it and accepted instead an automatic dishwasher. Kitchengs' place of business here was named among 166 winners in the B-J (big job) Jubilee contest sponsored by a major appliance firm. Sales records were broken by many of the winners during the contest, it was said.

The Washington County chapter of the American Red Cross has been notified that Miss Jewel Graves, local area field representative, has been assigned to assist in the Eastern States Flood disaster. She is presently assigned in the Connecticut section, according to K. C. Lattimer, director, field service, with the Southeastern Area office, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. Bexter H. Omohundro and children, of Torrance, Calif., are visiting Mrs. Omohundro's parents and other relatives in the Roper section. Mr. Omohundro, member of the editorial staff of the Long Beach (Calif.) Independent Press-Telegram, flew from Torrance to Norfolk, Va., on August 19 to join his wife and children, who have been visiting in the county for about a month. They plan to return home sometime in September. Mrs. Omohundro's sister, Barbara Spruill, of Roper, will return with them.

Plymouth has a crack rescue team in the persons of Lyman Mayo, Billy Hopkins and Bud Lovic. Seems that E. M. Leavitt and H. C. Carter bought a 30-foot cabin cruiser at Wanchese last week-end and made good progress toward home in the craft until they ran into trouble trying to locate the mouth of Roanoke River, without aid of compass or chart. Darkness overtook them and although the boat is equipped with running lights it looked as though the two men would have to spend the night in Albemarle Sound. A phone call from near the highway bridge informed Leavitt and Carter's better halves of their plight and the women contacted the Coast Guard. Meantime, Mayo, Hopkins and Lovic put out aboard the Scout Explorer Ship Albemarle (about 11 p. m. Sunday) and by 2:15 a. m. Monday all hands were safely back

County Woman Is Buried Yesterday

Services were held at her home Wednesday at 3 p. m. for Mrs. Sallie Cherry Davenport, 87, who died at 6:50 a. m. Monday at Mrs. Lucile Trueblood's nursing home, Durants Neck. Officiating was her pastor, the Rev. W. E. Eason of Creswell. Burial was in the family cemetery.

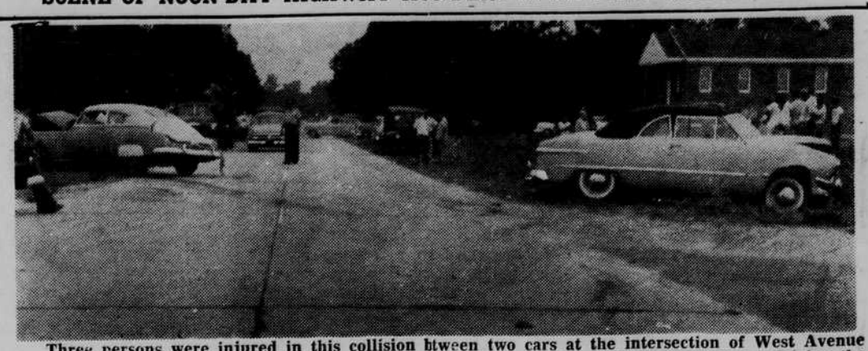
Mrs. Davenport was stricken ill with cerebral hemorrhage Thursday of last week. She had left her home to enter the nursing home just two months ago. She had recently suffered several falls, making it necessary for her to use a wheelchair.

She was the daughter of the late Gisborn Cherry, of Virginia, and the late Elizabeth White Cherry, of Washington County, and was born in Chowan County November 10, 1867. For some years she lived in Chowan County, later marrying Guilford Davenport and settling in this county. Mr. Davenport died in 1936.

Mrs. Davenport was a member and faithful attendant of Rehoboth Methodist Church and Sunday School and attended regularly until her health failed about four years ago.

She is survived by a host of cousins and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

SCENE OF NOON-DAY HIGHWAY ACCIDENT HERE LAST WEDNESDAY



Three persons were injured in this collision btween two cars at the intersection of West Avenue and Highway 64 here shortly after noon Wednesday of last week. Earl Mendenhall was driving the 1951 Chevrolet at the left above, with George Bagley, jr., as a passenger, while the 1951 Ford convertible on the right was operated by Ralph Bowen. All three were injured, Bowen being treated and released from the hospital the same day, while young Bagley was released this week, and Mendenhall expects to return home today. Policeman Foy Davenport is shown above directing traffic a few minutes after the accident, which attracted more than 100 spectators.—Jewel Hardison photo.

$200 County Quota For Victims of Flood

Southeastern Area Office of Red Cross Asks Effort To Surpass "Rock Botton" Quota Here

The Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross has received notice from the Southeastern Area office at Atlanta, Ga., that a "rock bottom" quota of $200 has been assigned this chapter for its part in flood disaster relief.

The news came in the form of a telegram from E. Roland Harriman, relief chairman, to Dr. A. L. Whitehurst, of Plymouth, who is chapter chairman.

"Needs continue to grow in the disaster affected area," the wire read. "Estimated number of families looking to the Red Cross for assistance exceeds 10,000 and continues to mount. This will require funds in excess of $8,000,000. Your chapter has been assigned a rock bottom quota of $200 and expect you will make every effort to have it substantially overscribed."

Dr. Whitehurst stated this week that no canvass will be made here, but it is hoped that generous voluntary contributions from various organizations and individuals will enable the local chapter to surpass its goal.

It has been pointed out that "disaster relief is a charter obligation of the Red Cross. The agency helps people of families and as individunals. Government aid in disaster areas goes to rebuild public works and to help distressed businesses."

Figures released by the Red Cross show a six-state total of 474 injured, 131 hospitalized, 34,660 families suffering loss, 922 homes destroyed, major damage to 5,035 homes, minor damage to 14,702 homes, 11,036 families expected to register for disaster relief.

Dr. Whitehurst stated that those planning to send checks should make them payable to the American Red Cross for Disaster Relief. Checks may be sent direct to Dr. Whitehurst or to the Planters National Bank & Trust Company, Plymouth.

It is preferred that those from this county making donations for this cause send checks either to the local bank or to Dr. Whitehurst in order that the county chapter may receive credit toward its assigned quota. Checks sent into national headquarters will not be so credited, it was pointed out.

Auction Sales Time Reduced

In an announced effort to relive congestion in the plants which are redrying Stabilization Corporation tobacco, auction sales time on the markets of the big Eastern Bright Leaf Belt is cut from five and a half hours to three and a half hours a day, effective Thursday of this week.

It is expected that the warehouses will complete the shorter sales day before lunchtime each day. The curtailment is in effect until further notice, it is understood.

Labor Day Picnic Set for Monday By Paper Makers

Fried Chicken Dinner for Members of Local and Families Certificates To Be Given Stewards

The eighth annual Labor Day picnic sponsored by Cherry River Local, No. 423, International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, will be held at the pavilion back of the pulp mill here next Monday. All members of the union and their immediate families, as well as a number of invited guests, are expected to attend.

The occasion will mark observance of Labor Day and the 15th anniversary of the local's charter. The picnic on Labor Day last year was attended by an estimated 300

Main feature of the day will be a fried chicken dinner at 1 o'clock. The menu includes fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, soft drinks, coffee and hot rolls. Following the dinner steward certificates will be presented to 15 members of the local who recently completed a special training course. It is expected that John O'Brien, international representative of the Paper Makers Brotherhood, will make the presentation. Games and sports will also be a part of the day's program, it was said, and there will be pony riding for the children

Certificates will be presented to the following 15 stewards, who completed the course with Harvey Hobbs and James Hamilton as instructors: James Humphreys, Howard Estep, Thurman Manning, Robert Hamilton, Lewis Sullivan, George Shaver, Robert Johnson, George Bauler, Charles Painter, jr., Lewis Keisler, Alphonso Cox, Julian Comstock, Harry Phelps, Clayton Ragland and Keith Hackney.

Officers of the local are as follows: James Hamilton, president; Howard Estep, vice president; Keith Hackney, secretary; and Alphonso Cox, treasurer. The committee on arrangements for the Labor Day observance is composed of the following: Harvey Hobbs, chairman; James Humphreys, Alphonso Cox and Howard Estep.

Quarterly Bloodmobile Visit Set September 28

The third quarterly visit to Plymouth of the Red Cross bloodmobile from the Tidewater Regional Blood Center, Norfolk, Va., is slated for Wednesday, September 28, it was learned this week.

No announcement of any change in quota has been made to date and it is assumed that the regular quota of 110 pints will again be in force,

The set-up, as usual, will be made at the veterans building. The visit, the 19th to the county since inauguration of the program locally in December of 1950, will again be sponsored by the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

County Damage Committee Will .. Name Officers

Meeting of 12-Man Hurricane Damage Group Scheduled To Be Held at Agriculture Building

Officers for the newly-formed Washington County Hurricane Damage committee will be named at a meeting of the group Friday of this week.

The meeting is scheduled to be held at 3:30 p. m. in the auditorium of the county agriculture building here.

The committee, to number 12 persons, will be made up of W. Willis Bowen, county FHA supervisor; Henry Bragg, Soil Conservation Service technician; Miss Miriam Ausbon, county ASC manager; W. H. Pruden, county farm agent; Mitchiner Banks, of Roper, vocational teacher; C. S. Heynen, of Wenona, Pamlico District SCS supervisor for Washington County; T. Reynold Spruill, of Roper, president of the Washington County Farm Bureau; H. E. Beam, of Branch Banking & Trust Company; Frank L. Brinkley, chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners; Joe Snell, chairman of the ASC county committee; R. W. Lewis, of Roper; and one man to be named by the Creswell Ruritan Club.

A preliminary meeting was held here Wednesday morning of this week at which time the first estimate of hurricane damage in the county, made by the Technical Agricultural committee recently, was reviewed. The only revision decided upon was an increase in the percentage of pasture damage in the county.

At a meeting of the heads of state and federal agricultural agencies called by Governor Hodges on August 22 to consider all possible sources of assistance to farmers in counties where Hurricane Connie and Diane materially damaged farm property and crops, it was decided that such committees composed of farm leaders be formed in the counties.

The purpose of the committee, it was explained, is to obtain and give out information and to formulate and carry out programs connected with hurricane damage and rehabilitation.

To clarify damages and methods of securing and applying assistance a program based on three steps has been suggested:

1. Immediate emergency procedures; 2. medium range steps to be taken; and 3. long-time protection against hurricanes and other related damage.

The following heads of agencies in the state have given assurance of their full support and cooperation:

H. J. Isenhower, director, Farmers Home Administration; E. B. Garrett, Soil Conservation Service; H. D. Godfrey, ASC administrative officer; A. L. Teachey, director, vocational agriculture; and D. S. Weaver, director, Agricultural Extension Service.

Board Meetings Postponed Week

Regular monthly meetings of the Plymouth Town Council and the Washington County Board of Commissiners will be postponed one week because of the Labor Day holiday.

Both bodies will hold the usual "first Monday" meetings instead on Monday, September 12. The council will have its session at night, beginning at the usual hour, while the commissioners will meet Monday morning of the 12th at the courthouse. Routine sessions are in prospect for both groups.

The Washington County Board of Education met Monday of last week in a called session and no meeting date for the month of September has yet been announced.

Faculty Complete Here as New Term Of School Opens

New Band Director, Three Grade Teachers Secured Since Last Week To Fill Vacancies at Local School

School bells rang Thursday morning of this week for an expected 3,400 students in the three white and three colored schools of Washington County.

All county faculties were complete for the opening with the addition of four teachers at Plymouth White Schools within the last week to fill the only existing vacancies.

The vacancy which came with the resignation of Edward Taylor, band director, has been filled by Bernard Hamm, of Portsmouth, Va. Mr. Hamm is a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, and of East Carolina College, Goreenville, where he majored in music. The local position will be his first teaching experience.

Mrs. Woodrow Collins, of Plymouth, will teach a sixth grade section, while two seventh grade vacancies will be filled by Bobby Crisp and Tex Lindsey.

Mr. Crisp and Mr. Lindsey both are MA graduates of East Carolina College. Mr. Lindsey has served for several sessions as principal at Columbia High School.

The lunchroom will be open at the school from the first day on, it was said.

The school will operate on an abbreviated schedule for the first two days, Principal J. S. Fleming has announced, getting out at 2 p. m. Monday of next week will be the first holiday of the young session, the Labor Day holiday being observed each year by the schools of the county. The regular schedule will go into effect next Tuesday, it was stated.

The Rev. Robert L. Combs, Plymouth Presbyterian Church minister, will conduct exercises during the auditorium period Thursday (today), it has been announced.

Mr. Fleming stated that all school patrons are welcome to visit the school today and during any day of the session.

A successful school year is looked forward to by faculty, students and parents alike as the 1955-56 session is inaugurated.

County Posts Set For Lengthy Alert

A 56-hour alert to be known as "Operation Late Summer" will be participated in by the two county Ground Observer Corps posts at Plymouth and Roper next week.

The alert is scheduled to begin next Tuesday at 8 a. m. and continue until 5 p. m. on Thursday, the announcement stated.

Posts in several southeastern states will take part, among them 230 posts n 57 North Carolina counties.

Jesse Rawls, supervisor of the Roper post said two-hour shifts will be maintained, two observers to the shift. He reports sufficient post strength, with a total of 81 volunteers, including 47 men, 18 school children and 16 women.

Dr. A. L Whitehurst, supervisor of the Plymouth post, said it is planned here to use the full post membership during the alert.

County Growers Market Orderly

County tobacco growers, it is thought, are making no particular rush to grade and market their leaf, but it is moving to market in a rather orderly fashion.

Some nearby markets have reported unusually heavy sales, however, and the Williamston market made a cooperative move to lessen the storage problems of the Stabilization Corporation by leasing the Carolina Warehouse on Washington Street for such use, the firm moving over to the large warehouse on the by-pass, renamed Carolina Warehouse No. 2.

There was widespread dissatisfaction among growers at prices which prevailed last Thursday—opening day on the belt—and Friday. However, with better weather and a full set of buyers on all markets, prices began to edge upward this week, to the relief of growers and others alike.

ON HONOR ROLL

Geraldine Davenport, daughter of Mrs. Nellie Davenport, of Creswell, made the honor roll for the summer quarter at East Carolina College, Greenville, Mrs. Davenport has been notified by college officials. Miss Davenport was valedictorian of the 1955 graduating class at Creswell High School.

5 Per Cent Wage Increase For Workers at Pulp Plant

New Contracts Signed This Week With Three Unions; Electricians Signed Two Weeks Ago

New contracts governing wages and working conidtions at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company here were signed this week by representatives of the management and three of the four AFL-affiliated unions representing employees of the big mill. Separate negotiations were conducted by the electricians' union, and that contract was signed about two weeks ago.

Main feature of the new contract is a 5 per cent general increase for all hourly paid employees. In addition, fringe benefits applicable to the hospital insurance program, annual sick leave, and increase in minimum retirement pay provided by the company will increase the accrual to the approximately 900 employees affected.

Under the new rates, minimum pay for hourly employees who worked 90 days or more will be $.51 per hour. From there the 5 per cent wage increase means up to a maximum base rate of $3.01 per hour for machine tenders on the No. 3 paper machine. The range of the increase varies from 7 to 14 cents per hour, depending on the type of work performed. In addition, a number of individual job adjustments were made, affecting about 125 people, their increases ranging from 2 to 12 cents per hour.

According to a union spokesman, the hospital insurance program at the plant was improved in several particulars, being increased from $8 to $10 per day in benefits, with the company paying the entire premium for each employee, although the employees will continue to pay the cost of insurance for their dependents. An annual sick-leave plan was put into effect, providing for 40 hours' pay to employees after the loss of two full weeks due to sickness or accident. This applies to employees with six or more months of service. The minimum retirement pay for employees was increased from $100 to $125 per month, at no added cost to the employees.

Terms of the new contracts are retroactive to August 1, when the old contract expired. Negotiations were started July 15, with agreement reached early on main features of the contracts. Subsequent conferences were held to work out details of the contracts, which were approved by membership of three of the unions on August 17.

Lewis E. Price, chairman of the employees' negotiating committees, in commenting on the new contracts said yesterday "In general this settlement is approximately the same as the pattern establish-

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Local Business To Halt For Labor Day Holiday

Following the custom of recent years, practically all stores and places of business in Plymouth will be closed all day next Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day, a national legal holiday.

In addition to the stores, the banks, post office, county and other offices will be closed. There will be no rural and city mail deliveries, but dispatches will be made as usual and mail will be placed in lock boxes at the local post office.

Industrial plants here will observe the holiday, including The North Carolina Pulp Company, the Atlas Plywood Corporation and the True Temper Corporation.

If they follow the usual custom, drug stores, restaurants and filling stations will observe the usual Sunday hours for the day, but other uptown stores and shops will be closed all day.

Revaluation Method Challenged in Court

Mrs. Thelma S. Waters Seeks To Restrain Town, County Tax Officials from Collecting Higher Levy

A complaint was filed in the office of the clerk of superior court here Monday by a Plymouth taxpayer, arising out of the property revaluation project completed here early this year.

Mrs. Thelma S. (W. E.) Waters, through her attorneys, Bailey and Bailey, filed the complaint "for herself and all other persons similarly situated who may make themselves party hereto" against Washington County, the board of commissioners of Washington County, E. J. Spruill, tax collector of Washington County, the Town of Plymouth and P. W. Brown, tax collector of the Town of Plymouth.

The summons was issued and served Monday.

The complaint cites a number of alleged irregularities in connection with the revaluing work in this county and the subsequent higher assessment pertaining particularly to Lot No. 91, the northern two-thirds of Lot No. 90 and the southern 1/12 of Lot No. 92 of a subdivision of Stillacres in the Town of Plymouth, all owned by the plaintiff.

It is stated in the complaint that the above-cited property was valued for the purpose of taxation for 1954 and prior years at $4,093, and that since that time the value has not increased more than $100 by virtue of improvements, additions or by reason of extraordinary circumstances.

The complaint states that the valuation was hiked to $11,790, with a resultant tax of $200.43, as compared with a tax total of only $69.58 in 1954. It is claimed that the attempted levy is illegal beyond the sum of $69.58, or in the amount of $130.85.

The suit is slated to be heard before Malcolm C. Paul, of Washington, resident judge of the second judicial district, at the courthouse here Wednesday, September 14 when plaintiff will move for an order restraining and enjoining the defendants from levying, assessing or attempting to collect or enforce the collection of any tax on the property described in the complaint in excess of the amount levied for taxes in 1954.

Defendants have been notified to appear at that time and show cause why such order should not be entered.

Lake Phelps Legion Post Delays Meeting for Week

Lake Phelps Post, No. 391, American Legion, will postpone its regular September meeting for one week, due to the regular meeting time falling on Labor Day, it was announced this week by H. S. Woodley, post adjutant. The meeting will be held on Monday night, September 12, at 8 p. m., and all members are urged to attend, he said.

FHA Disaster Loan Requests

Less than a score of disaster loan applications have been received to date in the county FHA office here, Supervisor W. Willis Bowen reported yesterday. However, Mr. Bowen said he had been "swamped" with applications in neighboring Tyrrell

Early applications from farmers in Washington County have been due for the most part to pasture damage and in some few instances damage to feed for livestock, it was stated.

Five Hurt in Two Wrecks Last Week In This County

Edenton Marine, Roper Negress Seriously Injured in One-Car Accidents Friday And Saturday

Five persons were injured, two of them seriously, in two highway accidents in this county late last week.

Evan L. Williamson, Edenton marine, was admitted to the Washington County Hospital here following a wreck on the Albemarle Beach Road near the Spruill farm Saturday at 2:30 a. m. He was treated by Dr. T. L. Bray and later transferred to a Portsmouth, Va., hospital.

Dr. Bray said Williamson suffered a back injury resulting in loss of sensation to the lower body. A passenger in the Williamson car, John L. Hassell, of the Edenton Marine Base, suffered a lacerated hand but was not hospitalized.

The machine, a 1954 Chevrolet, went out of control and traveled 125 yards down the Mackeys Road before coming to rest. The car was said to be a total loss by State Highway Patrolman Carl Gilchrist,

When released from the hospital Williamson will face reckless driving charges here, it was said.

Three persons were injured, two slightly, in another one-car accident which happened at 12:30 a. m. Friday in front of the Pete Phelps residence on US 64 between Roper and Plymouth.

A 1954 Mercury, operated by Lenora Hudson, colored of Roper, went out of control during a rain, and ran into the roadside ditch, according to the report of Patrolman Gilchrist. The vehicle was traveling toward Roper at the time.

Lenora Hudson and Ruby Dean Hudson, 14, escaped with scratches but Luebenia Hudson, 35, suffered possible internal injuries. The latter was taken by a passing motorist to the Washington County Hospital where she was admitted,

No charges were made.

Donkey Baseball Here Friday Night

The donkey baseball game, scheduled for the local park Friday night of last week, was postponed because of wet grounds and is now slated to be played Friday night of this week, according to an announcement from the sponsoring Plymouth Lions Club.

The Lions will take on the Roper Ruritan Club, with donkeys imported from Weldon furnishing the motive power. The game will start at 8 o'clock, with all players mounted (at least to begin with). Umpires will be expected to stand on their own two feet, however, unless they come suddenly into contact with the rear heels of some jackass.

Dr. A. L. Whitehurst, chairman of the Lions' project committee, stated early this week that advance ticket sales were good. The ducats may be obtained from any member of the Lions Club.

Proceeds will be used to help finish and furnish the interior of the proposed new public library here, it was said.

Area Librarian Begins Work Today

Mrs. Eugenia Babylon, of Chapel Hill, arrived in Plymouth Wednesday of this week to assume her new duties as regional librarian, effective September 1.

The regional library plan was recently perfected through the joint efforts of local library boards representing Washington, Tyrrell and Chowan Counties.

A governing body composed of three members from each of the participating counties has been formed and will be headed by Mrs. J. Robert Campbell, of Plymouth, chairman.

Other board members are Mrs. M. S. McMullan, Mrs. George Mack and Thomas Sheppard, all of Edenton; Mrs. Clair E. Morris, Mrs. C. Earl Cahoon and Paul Liverman, all of Columbia; E. E. Harrell, of Plymouth, and T. Reynold Spruill, of Roper.

The local librarians, who are paid from local funds, will be retained in each of the counties, it was said.

Mrs. Babylon will be paid from state funds and she is to serve each of the three counties in the regional set-up equally.

Once all details are worked out, bookmobile service will be extended to all residents, white and colored, in the three-county area, it was explained.

The regional plan does not require the counties involved to increase their funds allotted for library service.

In the future the local library boards in the three counties will deal only with local library afafirs.

Worms Hit Peanut Fields in County

Infestation of leaf feeding insects on peanuts has been reported in this county, it was learned this week.

County Agent W. H. Pruden stated yesterday that Tommy Tarkenton, who farms at Pleasant Grove, had reported heavy infestation in his crop.

Pruden said the damage is first noticed on the newly formed leaves where the small worms begin, particularly the corn ear worm, also known in cotton as the cotton bollworm.

As the worms become larger they begin working down the plant, ending up on the young pegs. Yields may be reduced considerably because of loss of foliage and the direct attack of the worms on the young pegs.

The county agent urges that all peanut growers check their fields carefully and states that all of the leaf feeding worms on peanuts may be controlled by applying 10 to 15 pounds per acre of either 10 per cent DDT or 20 per cent toxaphene.

Control measures should be taken as soon as possible after damage is detected since it is much easier to kill the worms while small, it was pointed out.

Most peanut fields now have a rank growth and farmers may be reluctant to go over the fields with dusting equipment. However, Pruden stated, it is felt that much less damage will be done be the dusting apparatus than by the worms.

Where large acreage is involved airplane dusting may be used with good results, it was said.