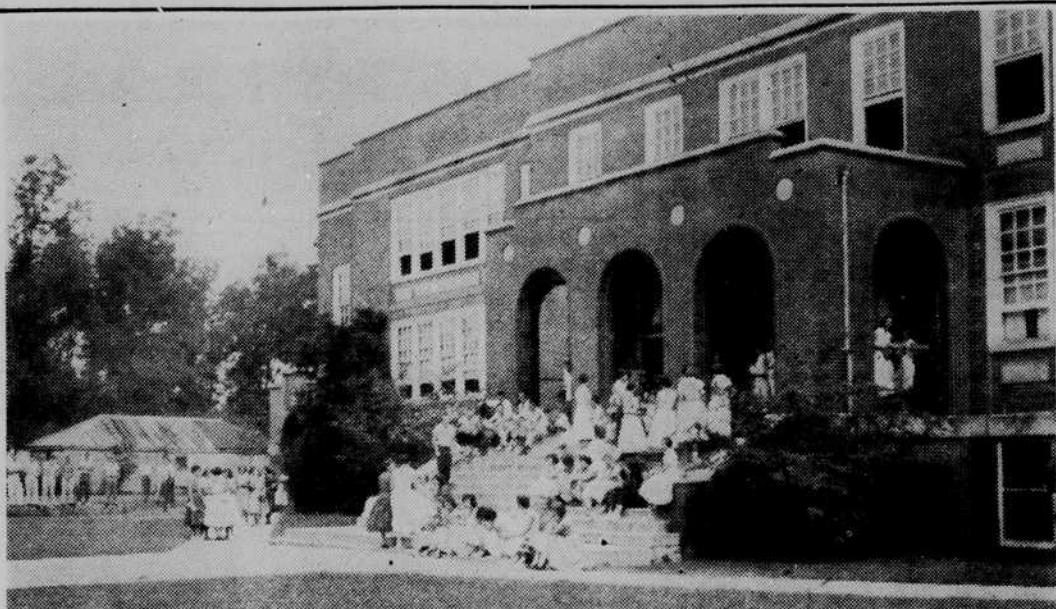


PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SCENE OF ACTIVITY AS NEW TERM STARTS



Dormant for three months, the Plymouth High School building here was a beehive of activity last Thursday morning with the start of the new school term. There was a record-breaking enrollment at the end of the third day of the term, with 750 in the elementary school and 235 in the high school for a total of 985. At the end of the third day a year ago the enrollment was 700 in the elementary department and 229 in the high school, for a total of 929. The above photo shows the front of the building here before the beginning of classes Thursday morning.—Staff photo.

School officials here said yesterday it was not likely the Plymouth High School Band would be able to play for the football game with Weeksville here Friday night. For one thing, the game was changed from Weeksville to Plymouth only late Tuesday, which did not give the musicians any time for practice. The band has not worked together since last spring, and the new director, Bernard Ham, has not had much opportunity to get acquainted with the members or the set-up here, since the school term began just last Thursday.

County Agent W. H. Pruden, who has been on annual leave this week, will be back in harness Monday of next week. Bill has just been loafing mostly so far as could be learned, but plans to spend the week-end at Nags Head.

If anybody's wondering why superior court is being held here in September this year here's the answer. The Washington County Bar asked that court not be scheduled in July during a busy season for a predominantly agricultural county. Then after the re-districting, new court schedules were drawn up, giving this county a September criminal term in lieu of the usual July term.

Chief of Police P. W. Brown will testify that Beacon wants ads really get results. Several weeks ago he inserted a "lost" ad in the paper for a lady who had lost a wrist watch. Lo and behold, two lost watches were turned over to the police department by finders. One of them was the watch he advertised for, and a day or so later another lady claimed the other. The Beacon got "gypped" on the deal, however, because it only collected 50 cents for the one "lost" ad.

Work was begun Tuesday of this week on the roof of the municipal building here. Rotten sheathing at the edges of the roof is being replaced, preparatory to installing new gutters. The roof will then be given a new coat of aluminum paint, Police Chief P. W. Brown stated.

Mrs. Ada Virginia Cahoon, of Plymouth and Columbia, is the new stenographer in the Washington County Register of Deeds office here, Mrs. John Lilley having resigned after a six-year stint. Mrs. Cahoon took over her new work Thursday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamilton and little son returned home last Saturday after an extensive vacation trip through northern and mid-western states. They were gone about two weeks, visiting relatives at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and also in Ohio and West Virginia. Mr. Hamilton said on his return that they were not bothered too much by rain while they were on their trip, although some sections of the country were flooded during the same period.

Hunting Permits To Be Issued by Dwight Concern

Hunters in This County, Beaufort, Hyde and Tyrrell Invited To Hunt Old Roper Lands

Hunters living in Washington, Tyrrell, Beaufort and Hyde Counties will be invited to hunt on the old Roper lands recently bought by the Dwight Corporation, Charles Gleaves, president of the corporation, announced today. Arrangements will be completed during the next few days for issuing permits to residents of the area to try their luck at this popular sport on Saturday throughout the hunting season.

Key men have agreed to serve as supervisors in the three main sections of Dwight Corporations' hunting lands. Leslie Clayton will be in charge of activity in the Ponzera area, which will include the lands east of Hyde Park Canal and south of the first tributary ditch just below Lake Pungo. Carroll Liverman will look after the Pungo-Pantego section, and also the land north of the first tributary ditch. Willy Phelps will be in charge of the Washington County area between Lake Phelps and Chesson Road (the old Norfolk Southern Railroad bed).

Permits will be issued to residents of the area for their personal use only. Those applying must undertake to hunt only on Saturdays, not to drive over the dirt roads when they are wet, to follow the instructions of the key men, and to protect the area in accordance with Department of Conservation practices against fire or damage to life or property. Anyone violating these conditions will, of course, lose the privilege of hunting on Dwight Corporation lands at all.

Application for permits can be made to the key men listed above after next week.

Superior Court Term Starts Here Monday

Warns Motorists Must Dim Lights

State Highway Patrolman Carl Gilchrist, of Plymouth, this week called attention of the motoring public to the statutes which require that drivers who pull off the highway and onto the shoulders of roads turn off bright lights and turn parking lights on; also when waiting to enter an intersection when there is approaching traffic.

The patrolman said that several complaints have been received lately of parked cars with bright lights on nearly causing wrecks, and he emphasized the danger of such practice.

County Spotters In Lengthy Alert

Things were reported going well at both county Ground Observer Corps posts this week as they joined in "Operation Late Summer," a 56-hour alert which began at 8 a. m. Tuesday and will end at 5 p. m. Thursday.

Posts in several southeastern states are taking part, among them 230 posts in 57 North Carolina counties.

Two-hour shifts were being maintained at posts at Plymouth and Roper, according to the respective post supervisors, Dr. A. L. Whitehurst and Jesse Rawls.

Dr. Whitehurst termed the participation "good" and said that a number of aircraft had been reported by local volunteer observers.

Early yesterday it was said that observers were needed here for the 8 to 10 a. m. shift and afternoon shifts Thursday (today) but Dr. Whitehurst expressed the belief that they would be lined up before Thursday morning.

Post strength at Roper numbers more than 80 persons, including 47 men, 18 schools children and 16 women. The Plymouth post membership numbers upwards of 60.

Enrollment in Schools

Total enrollment in Washington County Schools at the end of the third day after the opening September 1 stood at 3,344, according to figures released by the office of the superintendent. This total represents an increase of 149 students over that for the same period last year.

A gain of 52 students was shown by the three white schools while total enrollment at the county's three colored schools showed increase by 97 students, the figures show. An actual loss of 15 students in the three white high schools was more than offset by an increase in the elementary total from 1304 last year to 1371. The colored schools registered gains in both elementary and high school.

Four schools—Plymouth and Creswell White and Plymouth and Washington County Union School, colored, showed increases. Roper White and Creswell Colored recorded slight decreases. The increase of 84 at Washington County Union School was the largest in the county. Plymouth White ran second with an increase of 59 students.

The table below shows the elementary and high school enrollments at the end of the third day of school Tuesday of this week by schools for last year and this year:

White Schools	1954-55			1955-56		
	Ele.	H.S.	Total	Ele.	H.S.	Total
Plymouth	700	229	929	750	236	986
Roper	245	94	339	253	75	328
Creswell	359	139	498	368	127	495
Total	1304	455	1759	1371	440	1811
Colored Schools	1954-55			1955-56		
	Ele.	H.S.	Total	Ele.	H.S.	Total
Plymouth	514		514	529		529
Washington Co. Union	475	255	730	542	272	814
Creswell	192		192	190		190
Total	1181	255	1436	1261	272	1533
GRAND TOTAL	2485	710	3195	2632	712	3344

County Committee Approves Original Damage Estimate

Henry Bragg Named Chairman of County Hurricane Damage Committee at Friday Session Here

The first estimate of hurricane damage in this county was left unchanged by the Washington County Hurricane Damage committee in session here Friday. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the county agriculture building at 3:30 p. m.

The estimate, totaling \$810,000, and prepared by the county technical committee recently, was reviewed for the damage committee by County Agent W. H. Pruden.

Following a round-table discussion by the group of 11 persons, it was voted to accept the first estimate without change.

Officers were elected by the committee as follows:

Henry Bragg, county soil technician, chairman; W. H. Pruden, vice chairman; and W. Willis Bowen, county Farmers Home Administration supervisor, secretary.

The committee voted the following recommendations:

That the FHA committee be given authority to pass on whether borrowers should be given credit to apply funds on existing debts;

That general outlet work too large for individual farmers to undertake be carried out to guarantee improved drainage in Washington County;

That immediate attention be given to drainage in the Scuppernon-Lake Phelps area and other drainage areas of the county.

Present were Mr. Bragg, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Pruden, H. E. Beam, Plymouth banker; Tom Hampton, of Creswell; C. E. Heynen, Pamlico Soil Conservation District supervisor for Washington County; Mitchiner Banks, vocational agriculture teacher at Roper; J. A. Morris, Creswell farmer and former county Farm Bureau president; T. Reynolds Spruill, of Roper, president of the Washington County Farm Bureau; Frank L. Brinkley, of Plymouth, chairman of the county board of commissioners; and Bob Lewis, Roper farmer. Joe Snell, of Plymouth, was the only committee member not present.

Support for Red Cross Fund Here

Since last week's appeal here for funds for hurricane damage relief the Washington County chapter of the American Red Cross has received \$163.11 in contributions plus an additional \$15 in pledges not yet turned in. Dr. A. L. Whitehurst, of Plymouth, county chapter chairman, stated Wednesday morning.

The chapter quota, assigned by Red Cross headquarters, is \$200.

Dr. Whitehurst has received a telegram from Ellsworth Bunker, president of the national Red Cross organization, advising that more than \$10,000,000 has been raised throughout the nation, assuring "sufficient funds to meet adequately Red Cross requirements in eastern states flood relief operation. You are therefore authorized to inform the people within your chapter jurisdiction . . . that with funds available contributed and pledged no further contributions are necessary."

"Chapter leadership in this effort has been outstanding and we are grateful for your support . . ." Dr. Whitehurst adds his thanks to all persons or groups who supported the appeal of the local chapter.

Record Rainfall In August Shows 13.42 Inch Total

More Than Seven Inches Greater Than Six-Year Average Precipitation for Month, Records Show

"Everybody talks about the weather."

And this time there is really something to talk about . . . the record rainfall in this county during August, for one thing.

Total precipitation, according to records kept at the weather station at Tidewater Research Station between Plymouth and Roper, was 13.42 inches for the 31-day period. This was nearly one-fourth the average annual rainfall for this county during a six-year period 1948-53 inclusive. The yearly average for those years was 55.19 inches.

The August 1955 total topped the 12.29 inches in August of 1952 and the 10.90 inches in August of 1953. Up until 1952 the high for the month, since records have been kept here, was 7.66 inches. The low was in August of 1950—1.63 inches.

Total annual rainfall in the county from 1948 onward shows 62.71 inches in 1948; 61.64 in 1949; 54.06 in 1950; 40 in 1951; 59.74 in 1952; 52.88 in 1953; and 37.68 in 1954.

The six-year average precipitation for the month of August stands at 6.40 inches, making the current August rainfall above average by 7.02 inches. No wonder everything's so wet; and what's more, it's still raining. Records for the first six days of September show precipitation on each day as follows:

September 1, .07 of an inch; 2—.57; 3—1.77; 4—.09; 5—.76; and 6—.03; total, 3.29 inches.

Rainfall was recorded on 14 out of the 31 days in August as follows:

August 1—.02 of an inch; 4—.02; 10—1.86; 11—.50; 12—5.04; 13—.19; 14—.93; 15—.03; 17—2.60; 18—.11; 19—.15; 25—1.64; 26—.23; 27—.03.

Temperatures have been milder, lately, but the humidity has been oppressive.

Board Meetings Set for Monday

The regular monthly meetings of two town and county governing bodies, postponed for a week because of the Labor Day holiday this week, will be held next Monday.

The county commissioners will meet at the courthouse Monday morning in what promises to be a strictly routine session, according to Board Clerk J. Robert Campbell. No new business has been added to the agenda since last week, Mr. Campbell stated.

The Plymouth city fathers will hold their session at the municipal buildings at 8 o'clock next Monday night. Nothing out of the ordinary is expected to come up, according to City Clerk W. A. Roebuck.

No meeting of the Washington County Board of Education has been set, it was stated Wednesday of this week, but a called meeting may be held later in the month if board matters so warrant.

Holiday Week-End Quietly Observed

The long Labor Day week-end was observed quietly in this county, law enforcement officers report.

Many local persons engaged in golfing, fishing or other sports, while some surf and strand lovers took off to the beaches for a final fling before season's end. Many others worked about house and lawn or just rested.

No highway accidents were reported in town and county during the period. Several arrests were reported over the week-end, however, both by county and town officers. The charges included discharging firearms in the city limits, trespass, public drunkenness, etc.

More than two-thirds of the deaths caused by farm machinery involve tractors.

Bloodmobile Returns September 28

When the Red Cross bloodmobile makes its regular quarterly visit to Plymouth Wednesday, September 28, it will be seeking the 2-342nd pint of blood from this county.

On the 18 previous visits a total of 2,232 pints has been donated here. The quota of 110 pints for the coming visit added to that figure would bring the total for 19 trips to 2,342 pints.

If past records mean anything the total will be secured. On four previous third-quarter trips here the bloodmobile has secured an average of exactly 114½ pints.

Lowest figure for a third-quarter visit was posted at Creswell in July of 1951—61 pints. Last September 96 pints was the total. In September 1952 151 pints were given here and the following September 150 pints was the total.

Only four times in the 18 visits to the county by the bloodmobile since inauguration of the blood bank program here have the totals fallen under 100 pints.

Highest figure reached was on the fourth visit—December 13, 1951—when 189 pints were donated. Second high was on March 12, 1954—174 pints. So far this year 195 pints have been secured here—113 on March 9 and 82 on June 22.

Special Meeting of Board Will Discuss Court Action

NEW TEACHERS AT HIGH SCHOOL HERE THIS YEAR



This will introduce the seven new teachers on the faculty of the Plymouth schools this year. Pictured above they are, left to right, front row: Mrs. Mary Ladd of Plymouth, third grade; Mrs. Mildred Collins, of Plymouth, sixth grade; Miss Elizabeth Topping of Pantego, sixth grade; back row: Tex Lindsey of Plymouth, seventh grade; Andrew M. Wood of Chapel Hill, ninth grade science, health, assistant football coach; Bobby Crisp of Falkland, seventh grade; and Bernard Ham of Portsmouth, Va., music and band instructor.—Staff photo.

State Approves New Health Center Here

Structure Will Cost About \$33,350; County's Share Only 23.6 Per Cent, Or About \$7,870

Construction of a health center for Washington County has been approved by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, it was learned this week from Frank L. Brinkley, chairman of the board of county commissioners. The commission's approval means that funds will be available for the project as soon as the U. S. Department of Health, Welfare and Education concurs, and concurrence by that group usually comes as a formality.

Mr. Brinkley said he had been informed by Dr. John Carroll, director of the State commission, that the health center at Plymouth will serve the Washington County Health Department. It is estimated to cost about \$33,350, with the federal government supplying half, or \$16,675; the state supplying 26.4 per cent, or \$8,804.40; and Washington County putting up 23.6 per cent, or \$7,870.60.

Actual cost to the county will not be determined until bids are received and the contracts let, but the percentages will be as outlined above. The Weber architectural firm in Raleigh is now preparing detailed plans of the building; and as soon as they are received the county board will advertise for bids on the project, Mr. Brinkley said.

The county already has a lot for the new health center. It is located between the old county home property and the residence of Cecil Craft, fronting about 95 feet on Washington Street and extending back some 1,200 feet to the run of Peacock Swamp. The new building will have about 2,000 square feet of floor space. It will be a one-story structure of brick and block construction.

At the present time the health department is housed in the right wing of the old county home building. This property was sold to Jack L. Horner about two months ago, but one of the terms of the sale was that the health department was to continue to occupy its present quarters rent-free until January 1, 1956. It is hoped the new health center will be about ready for occupancy by that time.

Donkey Game Is Stated Tonight

The donkey baseball game, sponsored here by the Plymouth Lions Club as a public library benefit, was postponed for the second time last Friday, again due to rain and wet grounds.

Dr. A. L. Whitehurst, project chairman, announced this week that the game has been rescheduled for Thursday night, weather permitting. Should rain force a third postponement, the game would be set for Thursday night of next week, Dr. Whitehurst stated. Game time is 8 o'clock.

Grower Must Pay For Farm Visits

Instructions covering charges for measuring and certifying disposition of excess peanuts hogged off or left in the ground undug were clarified this week in a letter received at the local ASC office from A. P. Hassell, Jr., acting administrative officer at state ASC headquarters, Raleigh.

Where excess peanuts are hogged off or left in the ground and two visits to the farm by a crop reporter from the county ASC office are required—one for measuring and designating the acreage to be hogged off or left in the ground, and the second to determine that the peanuts on such excess acreage were actually hogged off or left in the ground—a charge will be made for each visit, it was stated.

If the farmer is in a position to determine without assistance the area to be disposed of, the charge, if already collected, can be applied to cover the expense of a visit to the farm by the reporter to determine acreage actually hogged off or left in the land.

It was stressed that in cases where the grower has paid a single charge with the understanding that it would cover both visits to the farm, he should be notified that the collection will cover only one visit.

Alarm Expressed In County Over Damaged Peanuts

Excessive Water Causing Stems, Pins To Rot, Said; Damage to Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Soybeans Cited

Some county peanut growers are reported alarmed over crop prospects following the unusually heavy rains and high water.

Total acreage planted to peanuts in the county is 3,367 and the value of the crop has been estimated at more than \$600,000. Some growers are reported fearful that the crop could turn out an almost complete failure.

The farmers point out that pins and stems are rotting and that the great amount of water has in many instances washed away much of the bed of dirt on which the plants pin down. One farmer in the Roper section said he had pulled up a good many plants in his fields to examine them and found only about seven or eight peanuts to the hill in most cases. If that is a fair sample, then the yield would be very low, it was brought out.

The same situation is reported in nearby counties. A Marlin County peanut grower is reported to have pulled only seven sound peanuts from three bushes.

Corn, already badly blown and damaged by the recent storms, is said to be badly deteriorating along with soybeans, and there have been reports of sweet potatoes rotting in the ground because of too much water.

Reports of fish pond dams on farms here and there giving way from the pressure of rising waters have also been received.

Motion To Declare Revaluation Invalid Will Be Heard by Judge Paul Here Next Wednesday

Washington County Commissioners will hold a special meeting Thursday night of this week to consider ways and means of opposing the court action brought last week seeking an injunction against putting into effect the revaluation of real property in the county this year.

The court action was instituted by Mrs. Thelma S. (W. E.) Waters Monday of last week. Through her attorneys, Bailey & Bailey, she filed a complaint "for herself and all other persons who may make themselves party hereto" against Washington County and the Town of Plymouth alleging irregularities in the revaluing work put into effect here this year. She asks for a court order enjoining the defendants from levying, assessing or attempting to collect or enforce the collection of any tax on the real property described in the complaint in excess of the amount levied for taxes in 1954.

The action is to be heard here before Judge Malcolm C. Paul, second district resident judge, next Wednesday while he is holding a special session of Washington County Superior Court.

Chairman Frank L. Brinkley, of the county board of commissioners, said yesterday it was his opinion the county board would oppose the court action. It is probable steps will be taken at the commissioners' meeting tonight to employ an attorney, since the county does not have a regular lawyer. It is expected the town will have its regular attorney, W. L. Whitley, to represent it in the matter.

Some of the plaintiff's allegations of irregularities in the revaluation of real estate in the county center around the employment of experts from out of the county to do the revaluation. The county board employed John W. Johnston, of Richmond, Va., in June, 1953, for the revaluation, and he delegated the actual work in Washington County to an assistant, R. M. Byrd. Byrd came here in the fall of 1953 and finished mapping and appraising real estate in the county around the first of this year.

The complaint charges the revaluation is illegal because it was not performed in a regular revaluation year; also because the revaluation work was not done by a board of three assessors who were freeholders of the county who had resided here for one year or more.

It is expected that the validity of a special act passed by the 1953 legislature will be one of the main points of controversy in the hearing. This act empowered the county commissioners to employ experts from outside the county to do the revaluation.

See BOARD, Page 10