

Town Topics

THE ROANOKE BEACON

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AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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ESTABLISHED 1889

Dr. A. L. Whitehurst, of Plymouth, and Mayor Bob Cowen, of Williamston, attended the district council meeting, East Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America, held at East Carolina College, Greenville, Tuesday of this week. The meeting was presided over by Dr. J. D. Messick, president of the college, who is council head. Mr. Cowen is district chairman and Dr. Whitehurst is district vice-chairman.

It will be back to the classroom for some 3,500 students Monday morning of next week as all schools in the county resume the regular schedules following Christmas holidays which began Tuesday, December 20.

The Rev. R. H. Lucas, of Plymouth, is conducting funeral services at the chapel of Oden Funeral Home in Washington this morning at 11 o'clock for Mrs. Laura Keaton Hodges, wife of Alva Clifton Hodges. Burial is to be in Oakdale Cemetery there.

Fred Davenport, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davenport of Rt. 1, Plymouth, is one of two students at East Carolina College, Greenville, representing the YMCA at the 17th Quadrennial Conference of the Student Volunteer Movement for Christian Missions at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. The conference opened Tuesday and continues through Sunday. Seven other students at the college are attending the conference, theme of which is "Revolution and Reconciliation." About half of the 3,000 students attending are overseas students studying in the United States.

John W. Darden reports that his seven living brothers and sisters were all together to visit with him Monday of this week. There have been many such get-togethers in the past but usually one or more would be absent from the group for one reason or another. This time they were all there, aggregating 567 years in age and ranging in

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Tax Listers and Supervisor Take Oaths of Office

Sworn in at Adjourned Meet of County Commissioners; List Prices for Livestock Set

The county tax supervisor and township list takers were sworn in and prices for listing livestock and other items of personal property were established at an adjourned meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners held at the courthouse here Monday night, December 19.

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

The oath of office was administered to the county tax supervisor, Hubert L. Davenport, and to the tax listers, W. A. Roebuck, Plymouth Township; Dewey S. Spruill, Scuppernon Township; Wade S. Hardison, Lees Mill Township; and W. W. White, Skinnerville Township.

Prices were fixed as follows for uniform personal property listing: Sheep, \$4 and up; goats, \$2 and up; milk cows, \$60 to \$100; beef cattle, 10c a pound; other cattle, 6c a pound; poultry, 10c 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, 12c a pound; hogs, 8c a pound; lard, 10c a pound.

Cold Spell Hampers Community Singing

The series of community sings held here last week as part of the first annual Community Christmas Festival proved quite popular, according to reports.

Carols by a massed choir from various church choirs in the county and special solo numbers were presented Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights.



Fail To Obtain Blood Quota December 21st

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.

Break-in Reported At Creswell Store

The Creswell ABC Store was entered sometime last Thursday night and several cases of whiskey removed.

Manager Clyde Smithson discovered Friday morning that the store had been entered during the night and reported the matter to Sheriff J. K. Reid who hurried to Creswell to begin an investigation. Fingerprints were obtained from the front door which had been pried open by the thieves to gain entry into the store, but the sheriff said they were not expected to be of value since the store manager had handled the door when he came to work Friday morning. It is definitely known that eight cases of whiskey were removed from the store and possibly 10 cases, it was said.

The weather was quite cold Monday and Wednesday nights but was much warmer Friday night when the largest crowd of the series turned out. The attendance Friday night was estimated at about 500 persons. Many compliments were received by the festival committee on the decorations, the program and the staging of the event.

Polio Fund Drive To Open Tuesday; Set \$3,000 Quota

Washington County To Join 10,000 Communities in Launching Annual Fund-Raising Campaign

The annual Washington County March of Dimes is slated to begin Tuesday of next week and continue through the month of January, Thos. F. Hopkins, director, has announced. The campaign will be based on the theme, "Polio Isn't Licked Yet."

The launching of the drive here will coincide with that in 10,000 communities across the nation. Millions of dollars in March of Dimes funds are needed, it is said, to aid thousands of polio patients for whom the Salk vaccine came too late.

Some 68,000 patients all over the country are now on the rolls of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and it is pointed out that many more will be stricken with the dread malady before the Salk vaccine is administered to all. Funds are also needed to continue work in scientific research. That program has already produced the Salk vaccine which is 60 to 90 per cent effective against the three types of virus known to cause polio. Additional research, it is hoped, will turn up still better medical weapons.

Rehabilitation also requires a heavy outlay in order to search out new methods for care and treatment and to provide training for doctors, nurses and other specialists. The minimum need for the 1956 March of Dimes has been set at \$47,600,000.

The goal for Washington County has been set at \$3,000, Mr. Hopkins said. "More than 55 cents of each dollar of these funds will go directly into financing of the medical and other care essential to those who have been stricken by polio," the director stated. "This includes cost of maintaining the 14 respirator centers which the National Foundation operates throughout the country for research and demonstration of new techniques.

"By steadily improving the methods of coping medically with polio, scientists whose work is financed by the March of Dimes have been instrumental not only in cutting down the death rate by more than half since the National Foundation was established in 1938, but also greatly extending the degree of recovery from crippling disease." The local organization of volunteer workers is expected to be perfected and announced soon.

Quiet Observance Of Holidays Here Marred by Wrecks

No Violence Reported But Several Arrests for Minor Offenses Are Made Here During Period

For the most part the Christmas holiday season was quietly observed in this county, law enforcement officers report.

Plymouth Police Chief P. W. Brown said about a dozen arrests were made here during the period, all for minor offenses such as drunkenness, crashing stop lights and such.

Joe Willie Norman, Skinnerville Negro about 50 years of age, was still being treated Wednesday in an Edenton hospital for injuries he received when struck by a car owned by Elton Ainsley.

The accident happened at 3 a. m. Monday near Elmer Camp's store at Skinnerville. The investigation was made by Patrolman L. N. "Red" Walters, of Columbia, and a detailed report was not available.

Another accident investigated by Walters, happened near Zion's Chapel Church at 5 a. m. Sunday morning when a 1950 Plymouth reportedly operated by Samuel Biggs, of Bowling Green, Va., turned over twice. J. E. Morton, of Roper, a former highway patrolman who was a passenger in the car, reportedly suffered a broken nose and other injuries requiring hospitalization.

Patrolman Carl Gilchrist investigated two accidents, one which happened at 11:30 p. m. last Thursday, and the other at 6 p. m. Saturday.

A 1952 Pontiac operated by Jesse Linwood Hardison, of Plymouth, ran off the roadway and overturned on a side road about three miles from Plymouth Thursday night. The accident was reported the next morning and investigated by Gilchrist. Hardison was not hurt but damages to the car were estimated at \$500. He was charged with operating a motor vehicle on the wrong side of the highway.

Saturday at 6 p. m. while stopped at the intersection of NC 32 and US 64 a 1949 Buick owned and operated by David Earl Webb, colored of Rt. 1 Roper, was struck in the rear by a 1953 Chevrolet pickup truck owned and operated by Edgar Joseph Barber, of Rt. 1 Roper.

Barber suffered abrasions and was admitted as a patient at a Columbia hospital. He was charged with drunken driving. Webb was charged with driving without operator's license.

The Buick was demolished, according to the patrolman's report, while damage to the truck was placed at \$800.

One grass fire was reported in Plymouth during the holidays with no damage resulting.

Rites on Tuesday For County Native

Funeral services were held from Zion's Chapel Church of Christ Tuesday at 2 p. m. for William Hance Cooper, 71, of Phillis, Va. Officiating was the minister of the church, R. L. Gardiner. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Cooper died at his home in Phillis Sunday at 8:30 p. m. after an illness of 10 weeks. He had been in declining health for the past 16 months.

He was a native of Washington County and a member of Zion's Chapel Church. He was the son of the late William D. and Lizzie Poyner Cooper, of this county, and was born May 4, 1884. Mr. Cooper was married February 22, 1905, at Roper to Miss Josephine Marriner of that place. He was a retired railroad worker and had lived in Virginia for 48 years, moving there from this county. He leaves, besides his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Esta Mae Trueblood, of Great Bridge, Va.; three sons, George G. Cooper, of Washington, D. C., Raymond H. Cooper, of Phillis, and Lelan E. Cooper, of Grimesland; two sisters, Mrs. Beulah Elliott, of Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Violet Attwood, of Princess Anne, Va.; two brothers, Lelan Anne Cooper, of Alexandria, Va., and Adrian Cooper, of Norfolk, Va.; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tax Listing for New Year Starts Tuesday in County

Lodge Here To Install New Officers Tuesday

Wilmer C. Chesson will be installed as master of Perseverance Lodge No. 59, A. F. & A. F., Tuesday night of next week when the lodge holds its annual banquet and installation night here. H. H. Allen and W. A. Roebuck, both past masters of the lodge, will serve as installing officer and marshal, respectively. Other officers to be installed at the service include J. M. Gilreath, senior warden; G. R. Leggett, jr., junior warden; B. G. Campbell, treasurer; G. R. Leggett, sr., secretary; Jack B. Latham, senior deacon; Dan K. Pittman, junior deacon; W. C. Styons and James Hardison, stewards; Hilton Dunbar, tyler; and the Rev. R. H. Lucas, chaplain. The banquet will be held in the lodge hall, beginning at 7 o'clock, and all masons are invited. A Greenville caterer will serve the meal. The installation service is scheduled to begin promptly at 8 o'clock.

Task To Continue Through Friday, February 3; To Avoid Late Rush Early Listing Is Urged

Tax listing will get underway in this county Tuesday of next week when the four township list takers start their annual task under supervision of Hubert L. Davenport, of Skinnerville, veteran county tax supervisor. Final instructions and supplies were furnished the list takers at an adjourned meeting of the county commissioners Monday night of last week when the supervisor and list takers were given the oath of office and arrangements completed to secure uniform listing of personal property throughout the county. New Year's, a legal holiday, falls on Sunday so Monday will be observed instead, with the listing job to start Tuesday and continue through Friday, February 3. 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 on the books during the allotted period will be subject to a penalty of 10 per cent provided by law, it was stated. The following are list takers for the year, appointed by the commissioners at a special meeting held here sometime ago: W. A. Roebuck, Plymouth Township; Wade S. Hardison, Lees Mill Township; W. W. White, Skinnerville Township; and Dewey S. Spruill, Scuppernon Township. The Plymouth Township list taker will sit at the courthouse and will follow the usual schedule beginning January 3 and continuing through February 3. Other township schedules have been released as follows: Lees Mill: at T. W. Tarkenton Store, Pleasant Grove, January 17 and 27; See LISTING, Page 12

306 Families Aided By Christmas Fund

Cash Donations, Heaviest Ever, Go Over \$2,500 Goal; Total of 1,124 Persons Get Food Boxes

Deliveries of gift boxes to needy families were completed Wednesday night of last week to wind up the most successful in the long series of annual Empty Stocking Fund campaigns in Washington County. James H. Ward, fund chairman, this week expressed profound thanks to all the organizations and individuals who had a part in the successful project.

Mr. Ward said food boxes were distributed to 306 families in the county, or a total of 1,124 persons. Last year food boxes went to 291 families and 965 persons.

Also, 91 families received boxes containing toys. There were 423 children who received at least one toy each. This compares with 87 families and 359 children a year ago.

Mr. Ward said special thanks were due Mrs. Ursula Spruill and her staff at the county welfare department for administering the program.

It was noted that the Rev. R. L. Combs, pastor of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, used his station wagon and worked throughout the two-day delivery period; A. R. Latham used his truck and helped to make deliveries; House Chevrolet Company donated the use of a truck and Skeeter Lilley donated his services as driver; Tom Freeman donated the use of his truck and Bob Ayers gave his services as driver in making deliveries.

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Few To Observe New Years 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, A&P 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.

Hobbs New Head Of Papermakers

Harvey Hobbs will head Cherry River Local No. 423, International Brotherhood of Paper Makers for the coming year. Mr. Hobbs was recently elected president of the union here and installed along with other officers as follows: Wilbur Davenport, vice president; G. L. Skidmore, financial secretary; James Humphreys, treasurer; Charles Window, recording secretary; Ed Wheeler, Keith Hackney and Howard Estep, trustees.

The next regular meeting of the group is scheduled to be held Tuesday night of next week.

Resigns Posts as County Assessor, Hospital Manager

R. M. Byrd, Jr., Tenders Resignation Effective on January 13; Plans To Enter New Field

R. M. Byrd, Jr., has submitted his resignation as county tax assessor and as business manager of the Washington County Hospital. It is understood that Mr. Byrd will enter the insurance field at Macon, Ga.

Mr. Byrd tendered his resignation in letters addressed to Frank L. Brinkley, chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, and E. H. Liverman, chairman of the hospital board. The letter to Mr. Brinkley, made public this week, said in part: "After giving much thought and consideration, I feel that I am acting for the best interest of my family's security and future. I request this resignation to become effective January 13, 1955. My relationship with the county has been very enjoyable these past two and a half years."

Mr. Byrd was not available Wednesday for comment. He did the major part of the work of property revaluation in the county which was completed early this year. He also assumed his duties as business manager of the hospital, succeeding Mrs. Ted Lindsey, February 15.

He was retained by the county following completion of the revaluation project to keep the new tax system installed here up to date and since that time has worked part time in this capacity, devoting the remainder of his time to the business administration of the hospital. The hospital board is expected to call a meeting in the near future to act upon the resignation.

The letter to Mr. Brinkley was read at the meeting of the commissioners here recently but no comment was made at that time.

PETTIGREW REGIONAL LIBRARY STAFF FETED



Members of the Pettigrew Regional Library staff were entertained at a Christmas dinner party at the Hotel Joseph Hewes in Edenton Friday night, December 16, by Mrs. Eugenia R. Babylon, regional director. The picture shows the group at the home of Mrs. Babylon on East King Street, where gifts were exchanged and games played following the dinner. They are, seated, left to right, Mrs. Babylon, Mrs. Verdie Alexander of Columbia, librarian for the colored bookmobile; Mrs. W. V. Reynolds of Columbia, Tyrrell County librarian. Standing, left to right, Mrs. C. E. Ayers of Plymouth, librarian of Washington County Public Library; Miss Harriet B. Leary of Edenton, librarian at Edenton Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library and Mrs. Bryan Harris of Roper, librarian of the white bookmobile. The Pettigrew Regional Library is North Carolina's newest library, being formed October 1, 1955, and comprising Chowan, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.—Evelyn Leary Photo.