

J. S. Fleming, Plymouth High School principal, this week issued a statement urging parents and patrons of the school to visit the school and "see it at work."

Mrs. Eugenia Babylon, Pettigrew Regional librarian, and Mrs. Bryan Harris, bookmobile librarian, have been alternating to keep the Washington County Public Library open during the illness of the librarian, Mrs. C. E. Ayers.

R. F. Lowry, county school superintendent who is acquiring a reputation as an after-dinner speaker of sorts, pinch-hit for somebody Monday night at the Creswell Ruritan Club meeting.



AWARD: Dr. A. L. Whitehurst (second from left) is shown receiving the Plymouth Jaycees distinguished service award for 1955 at the annual DSA banquet of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce, held in the Fellowship Hall of the Christian Church here last Friday night.

Dr. A. L. Whitehurst Gets Jaycee Award

Special Meeting Called Off Here

The special county board of education meeting which was to have been held here Tuesday of this week was called off when it was learned that Leslie N. Boney, architect, of Wilmington, would not be present.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss with Boney and others pressing school problems which now confront the board, it was said.

1955 Best Year in History of Branch Bank, Report Says

Earnings 10 Per Cent More Than in 1954, President Paschall Tells Annual Stockholders Meeting

The Branch Banking & Trust Company, founded in 1889, had the most successful year in its history during 1955 in spite of three hurricanes and other adverse climatic conditions which affected the area served by its 17 branch offices, according to J. E. Paschall, president of the institution.

He made the statement at the annual meeting of stockholders held Tuesday afternoon of last week at the home office in Wilson, N. C.

Profits from operations in 1955, Mr. Paschall said, were the highest in history, being approximately 10 per cent in excess of earnings in the preceding year.

The total capital account now approximates \$10,000,000, according to the president, which has been

Three Robberies Here Solved by Police Officers

Missing Quality Cleaners Cash Register Fished Out Of River Back of Plant; Four Arrested

The first break for local officers who are seeking to snap a pesky series of robberies which has been going here for weeks came last Friday when three under-age Negroes were arrested and tried in juvenile court here before Superior Court Clerk W. T. Stillman.

The three were sentenced to the Hoffman Training School. A pellet gun stolen from Southern Hardware Company was recovered from one of the trio, Officer Roy Davenport, of the local police department, said.

As a result of confessions by the youths the cash register stolen from Quality Cleaners recently was fished from the Roanoke River back of the cleaning plant.

The boys had made a trip to Norfolk, Va., during which they spent some of the money obtained from the cash register and from the sale of loot from other places, it was stated.

At the time of the cleaning plant robbery the manager reported about \$150 stolen along with the cash register, but the Negroes said they got \$60. The cash register, itself, valued at about \$150, had been forced open and was badly damaged.

Saturday at 3 p. m. Officers Davenport and Basnight picked up Billy Mayo alias Billy James, 19-year-old Negro, while he was watching a movie at a local theater. He was charged with forcible entry into Roy's Cafe January 15, tried in Washington County Recorder's Court Tuesday and found guilty. Judge Gaylord handed him a six-month road sentence.

A .25 caliber automatic pistol taken from the cafe led to the arrest, officers said. James is said to have sold the weapon to another fellow and officers were tipped off. Also recovered were a carton of chewing gum and several silver dollars taken from the place.

The Tetterton Grocery on Monroe Street was reported robbed of between \$1,000 and \$1,500 in cash and checks late last year but that job remains unsolved, Chief P. W. Brown said.

Talk School Problems and Needs at Lions Club Meet

The condition of schools in Plymouth and the county was the chief topic discussed at the regular meeting of Plymouth Lions Thursday night at the First Christian Church. Supper was served by the ladies' church circle.

E. M. Leavitt and J. W. Norman, the latter a member of the county education board, were the principal speakers. Mr. Leavitt discussed the need for more and better school facilities and emphasized the need for greater interest in the school system by the general public.

Mr. Norman spoke on the need for adequate facilities, well qualified teachers, and the problems confronting the state in regard to integration.

Fatal Stabbing Here; Woman Is Held for Trial

Tero Grant, Young Colored Logwoods Worker, Dies of Chest Wound at County Hospital

Tero Grant is dead and Annie Taylor is facing trial in superior court here in a case arising out of the death.

Grant, young Negro originally from South Carolina according to local police, died on the x-ray table at Washington County Hospital at 3:50 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

According to Officer Paul Basnight, of the Plymouth Police Department, who made the investigation, Grant was found lying on the floor of a house in the Sugar Hill section of East Water Street, with a short spade or shovel lying on the floor near him. Grant had been stabbed in the left chest.

The Taylor woman, also colored and about 35 years of age, was in the house, Basnight said. The officer rushed the wounded man to the hospital where he was admitted at 2:30 p. m.

Returning to the house, the officer found that the woman had left, but she was picked up at another colored place in the vicinity and lodged in county jail here.

Tuesday she was given a hearing before County Recorder W. Ronald Gaylord who found probable cause of unlawful slaying and bound the woman over for trial at the next criminal term of Washington County Superior Court. Bond was set at \$1,000 by Gaylord and the woman was still in jail late yesterday.

Officers said she comes from Stony Creek, Va., a small rural community between Emporia and Petersburg. She and Grant reportedly were living together here, but it was not learned just how long the two had been in Plymouth. It was said that they came here together from Stony Creek sometime ago.

At the hearing Tuesday two witnesses testified. They were Washington County Sheriff J. K. Reid and John Smith, colored, who lives near the house which was occupied by Grant and the Taylor woman. It was Smith who notified police early Sunday afternoon of the slaying.

Testimony offered at the brief hearing indicated that there had been an argument between Grant and Annie Taylor and court observers believe the woman will plead self defense.

She is said to have admitted stabbing the man with a butcher knife as he advanced on her with the spade.

Pete Bell, elderly Plymouth lawyer, served as defense counsel at the hearing. Bell said Wednesday morning he had little hope that bail could be arranged.

Grant is said to have been employed in the logwoods for a Jamesville logger.

Federal Surplus Property Agent To Be Here Friday

For the third time, Edward F. Griffin, state civil defense director general, has extended the schedule for his representatives who are visiting eastern counties in the interest of applicants for federal surplus property.

Return visits to all counties have been set up. A representative will be in Plymouth Friday of this week and may be contacted at the courthouse during the day.

Number From Here Attend ASC Meeting in Washington

Among those from this area who attended the 13th annual meeting of the State Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors in Washington last week were Ed Craft and H. J. Bragg, of the local Soil Conservation office; Joe Snell, of Plymouth, C. S. Heynen, of Wena, and J. A. Morris, of Creswell, county supervisors; C. L. Hopkins, of Creswell; Linwood Knowles, supervisor, Martin County and Milton Cahoon, Tyrrell County supervisor.

List Taking Job in County Little Over Half Complete

Edward L. Owens Files Today for State Senate

Edward L. Owens, who served the district as State Senator in the last General Assembly, officially filed today as a candidate to succeed himself, subject to the coming Democratic primary. Mr. Owens had previously announced his intention to seek the office when he appeared as guest on the television program, "Quote Me," recently at a Washington station. He was interviewed by Washington and Williamston newspapermen on the program in regard to his stand on certain issues expected to be considered at the regular biennial session of the state legislature.

Mothers March Here Yields \$800 for Polio

Preliminary Progress Report on Annual County Polio Fund Drive Is Released by Hopkins

A preliminary report on the progress of the annual Washington County March of Dimes, released Wednesday by Thos. F. Hopkins, chairman of the fund drive, indicates good response thus far.

Mr. Hopkins said the Mothers March raised \$800 toward the county's minimum quota of \$3,000. The chairman termed the public response to this effort "great."

At the same time it was stated that the coin collectors are doing a good job. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to further insure the success of the annual campaign.

One thousand bags of fresh-roasted peanuts have been ordered from an Edenton supplier and are slated for delivery here Wednesday of next week. These will be sold and the proceeds turned over to the March of Dimes.

The annual March of Dimes Queen's Ball, which climaxes the drive, has been scheduled for Friday night, February 10 and Stewart Smithson and his orchestra, Suffolk, Va., has been engaged to play for the dance.

A popular-make mattress will be offered as a door prize at the event, Hopkins stated.

Cards will be distributed to the school children Thursday of this week, the chairman said, remarking at the same time that school officials, faculty and students always manifest a cooperative spirit and invariably come up with a fine effort and splendid results.

Last Rites Held for Woodley Ambrose

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon for Woodley Ambrose of the Creswell section at the Rev. Luther Ambrose, assisted by the Rev. Garland C. Bland. Burial was in the family cemetery.

Mr. Ambrose was a member of the Phillippi Church for a number of years, some of which time he served as a deacon. He was a lifelong resident of Washington County.

Surviving besides his wife, Mrs. Eula Davenport Ambrose, are two children, Mrs. Donald Phelps and Glenda Ambrose, of Creswell; also three foster children, Mrs. Sarah Michaels, of Indiana, Mrs. Mary Flotz, of Washington, D. C., and Carol Sawyer, of Creswell; father, Norwood Ambrose, and stepmother, Mrs. Laura Ambrose; three sisters, Mrs. C. L. Barnes, Mrs. J. H. Pritchard and Mrs. Wilson Phelps, all of Creswell.

Returns To Work

Walton Allen, who has been ill at his home here with pleurisy since Friday of last week, was back on duty Wednesday at the local service station where he is employed.

Total of 2,204 Property Owners in County on Books as of Wednesday Noon

The tax listing job in this county is over half completed, Hubert L. Davenport, county tax supervisor, said Wednesday.

Figures released at noon that day showed 2,204 property owners on the books in the four townships out of an expected total of 4,401. Listing deadline is February 3. Late listers will face a certain 10 per cent penalty as provided by law, the supervisor said.

Normally, the calendar month of January is the legal listing period, it was explained, but since New Year's Day fell on Sunday the job was not commenced in this county until January 3, so those who list at the tail-end each year will have three days next month to get in under the wire.

More than half the listing has been done in Plymouth, where W. A. Roebuck is doubling in brass as list taker for both township and city. Roebuck said more than 900 city property owners were "on the books" through Wednesday noon, while 1,117 had listed by that time in the township.

Local VFW Post Will Be Host Sunday to District

The Bosie Bateman Post, No. 4023, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will entertain the district meeting at the Veterans Building here Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Post Commander Walter Swain announces.

All members are strongly urged to be present.

Republicans Asked To Meet With Precinct Committees

The Republican county chairman wishes all Republicans to meet with their precinct committee to set the most convenient date and place for their convention, it was announced here this week.

Announcement of date and place of meeting will appear following selection, it was said.

Robber of Local Salesman Handed 10-15 Year Term

Judge Sharp Sentences Warren Collins Monday for Highway Robbery and Assault on Bert Bishop

Warren Collins, Jr., the young Terra Ceia "desperado" who "bumped" a ride with a local furniture route salesman and collector, held him up and robbed him at pistol point, then slugged the man and left him tied up some 25 miles from Plymouth, got a 10 to 15-year prison sentence for his trouble.

The sentence, following conviction on a "highway robbery with arms and violence" count, was meted out in Beaufort County Superior Court at Washington Monday by North Carolina's famed woman jurist, Susie Sharp, of Reidsville.

The state's star witness was Bert Bishop, who is employed by Norman Furniture Company. Bishop was robbed of some \$150 in cash and checks, only \$15 of which has been recovered. Payment was stopped on the checks and some new clothes which Collins bought for himself with some of the money brought a partial refund, Thos. F. Hopkins, manager of the local furniture company, stated.

Bishop, who was struck on the side of the face with a small wrench, says that his lower jaw, lower lip and chin are still swelling as a result of the blow.

Accompanied by Mrs. Highsmith, Miss Haley will hold a special school of instruction at 2 p. m. next Tuesday at Roanoke Country Club, Williamston. On Monday of next week Miss Haley will speak at a general meeting in the Williamston High School auditorium at 7:45 p. m. Her subject will be, "Teen-Age Times."

Miss Haley will be in Windsor for similar meetings February 1, and at Griggs School at Poplar Branch February 3. A four-hour study discussion on "Education for Responsible Parenthood" is slated for February 2 at Sunbury.

Jail Inspector Praises Sheriff Reid

Washington County's jail and jailed are in good hands. That is the inference to be drawn from a letter from T. A. Early, of Raleigh, who is inspector of North Carolina correctional institutions.

The letter, under date of the 12th inst., is addressed to the county's high sheriff, J. K. Reid, of Plymouth. Copies were sent to the chairman of the board of county commissioners; the county superintendent of public welfare; Chester Morris, superior court judge; and

the federal superintendent of welfare and rehabilitation. A copy of the letter reads: "On January 4th I inspected your county jail and it is a pleasure to report that I found everything in order. The jail was clean throughout, with clean white mattress covers on the bunks, and there was every evidence that the jail is receiving every-day attention including all standard humane practices."

"I emphasize all of these points because I think you are entitled to this praise and I am not able to give it in all counties even though I have been making every possible effort to that end for the past six years. Your attitude toward jail management and the proper handling of those coming under your control is to be commended and we wish to thank you."

"We also wish to thank you for your promptness in sending us the jail population report each month. This enables us to compile the State's statistics promptly and accurately as we are required to do."

Mr. Norman spoke on the need for adequate facilities, well qualified teachers, and the problems confronting the state in regard to integration.

Free Short Course for County Youth

One young farmer from this county will be chosen to attend the annual Bankers Short Course to be held at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, February 6-17.

Deadline for submitting formal application to be considered for the selection is Friday of this week at 5 p. m., County Agent W. H. Pruden said.

Bank and Trust Company. No formal applications had been received here late yesterday, it was reported, but Assistant County Agent J. L. Outlaw said some were expected momentarily.

The course is termed "an investment in North Carolina Agriculture" and is conducted by the School of Agriculture at the West Raleigh college. It is sponsored by the Agricultural Committee of the North Carolina Bankers Association.

Registration will be Monday, February 6, from 8 to 9 a. m. Recipients of the scholarship to the short course, which will be on modern farming, must intend to farm and not plan to go to college, have an outstanding record in youth work (4-H and FFA), and have not attended previous such course.

Subjects to be covered are listed as poultry, marketing, field crops, farm planning, soils and fertilizers, farm mechanization, horticulture, livestock and forestry.