

Urge Naming Committees To Study Needs of Schools

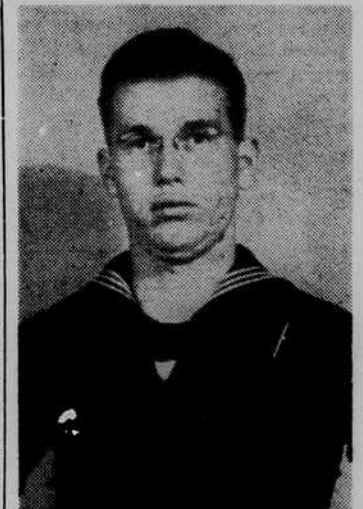
Three From Plymouth To Attend Band Clinic

Three members of the Plymouth High School band will participate in the Eastern Division, All-State Band Clinic to be held at East Carolina College in Greenville Friday and Saturday of this week.

Instruction from experienced teacher-musicians. Herbert L. Carter, of the East Carolina College Department of Music is chairman of the clinic and is now completing plans for the program.

Roper Observer Post Members Get Wings

GETS COMMENDATION



BM 2/c Lindsay E. Spruill, Jr., was recently commended by the commanding officer of the USS Beards for bravery in helping effect the rescue of his boat officer in the Mediterranean on December 14, 1955.

First Presentation Made in This County; Durham Filter Center Officials on Hand for Occasion

Monday night of this week was a proud occasion for members of the Roper Ground Observer Corps Post.

The certificates qualify the men to wear the lapel pin or "wings" of the Ground Observer Corps, and pins were also given out with the certificates.

Those receiving pins and certificates were listed as follows: N. C. Phelps, assistant chief observer, certificate and wings; Charlie D. Spruill, observer, certificate and wings; Tony Chesson, observer, certificate and wings; T. C. Martus, observer, certificate and wings; W. A. Dixon, assistant chief, certificate and wings; Mitchiner Banks, assistant chief, certificate and wings; J. R. Swain, assistant chief, certificate and wings; J. S. Leary, assistant chief, certificate and wings; J. S. Leary, assistant chief, certificate and wings; Tommie Norman, observer, certificate and wings; Cecil C. Craft, jr., assistant chief, certificate and wings; T. W. Norman, chief observer, certificate; Ralph Rawls, observer, certificate; Jesse E. Rawls, post supervisor, certificate.

January Is Busy Month for Police

January was a busy month for the local police department. A report released yesterday by Police Chief P. W. Brown shows that 38 arrests or citations and 54 courtesy calls or investigations were made during the 31-day period.

Arrests for public drunkenness totaled nine to lead in that department, while 21 courtesy calls were made as a result of lights being reported out here and there within the city.

A total of 51 cases investigated by members of the five-man force was sent up to county recorder's court for disposition. Radio calls for the month amounted to 292.

The report is broken down as follows: Arrests—murder, 1; drunks, 9; speeders, 8; improper muffler, 1; stop sign violations, 4; worthless check, 3; failure to use truck lane, 1; cutting on city water without authority, 1; displaying dealer tags, 1; improper brakes, 1.

Public nuisance, 2; simple assault, 2; red light violation, 2; improper parking, 1; discharging firearms within city limits, 1.

Investigations and courtesy calls—lights reported out, 21; doors found unlocked, 4; fire calls answered, 6; accidents investigated, 7; shooting out lights, 2; breaking windows, 2; investigating robberies, 4; robberies solved, 3; courtesy calls, 6.



Officers of the Plymouth High School senior class for the current school year are pictured above, as follows: Laura Jo Quinn, president; Lynn Magee, vice president; Jessie Harrison, secretary; and Betty Jane Leary, treasurer.—Staff photo.

Letters Mailed Yesterday to Various Organizations in County Request Cooperation in Movement

Practically all organizations in the county are being invited to take part in a movement to help formulate plans for improving school facilities in the county. Letters asking that committees be appointed were mailed to many of the organizations yesterday over the signature of George T. Barden, secretary of the Plymouth Lions Club, although it is emphasized that it is not a Lions Club project but a general county-wide citizens movement to secure better schools.

The letters grew out of recent discussions of the need for better schools at meetings of several local organizations, including the parent-teacher association, Lions Club, Jaycees, Rotary Club and others. The matter was discussed at considerable length last Thursday at the Lions Club meeting, and it was decided to ask each organization to appoint a committee to work with the county board of education, school superintendent, local school boards and others in trying to secure better schools.

Organizations being urged to take part include Ruritan Clubs in Roper and Creswell; parent-teacher associations in Plymouth, Creswell and Roper; Lions, Rotary and Jaycee clubs in Plymouth; the VFW, American Legion posts in Creswell and Plymouth; labor unions, merchants association; Creswell, Roper and Plymouth fire departments; and a number of local women's organizations, including the Literary Club, Garden Club, Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club; as well as any other groups that may be interested.

E. M. Leavitt is chairman of the Lions Club committee, other members of which are J. W. Norman, member of the county board of education, and R. H. Lucas. It is hoped other organizations will name similar committees immediately, so that a general meeting may be held and steps taken to work out a definite program to be recommended to people of the county.

It was brought out at the Lions club meeting last Thursday that additional buildings or improvements are needed at all of the schools in the county. County Superintendent R. F. Lowry, who was a guest at the session, said funds available from the state bond issue totaled about \$180,000, which was hardly enough to even start on a program.

Needs of county schools as determined by a survey panel of experts a few years ago indicated more than a million dollars would be required for additional buildings, it was brought out. While this amount is completely out of reach in the foreseeable future, it was suggested during the discussion that a study could determine just what it is possible to do in order to bring about some improvements. It is for this purpose that representative groups from all sections of the county are being sought to help formulate a program.

Woodland Jurist Named For Civil Term of Court

Notice was received here this week of the appointment of W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Woodland, to preside at the civil term of superior court here in February, in lieu of Judge Chester Morris, of Coinjock, who continues ill.

Burgwyn, one of the state's special judges, recently presided here at the January criminal term of court, also in Judge Morris' stead. The term of court will open Monday, February 13.

State College Specialist in Conference With Pruden

Charles Williams, State College Extension Service farm management specialist, was in Plymouth yesterday for a conference with County Agent W. H. Pruden. Williams and Pruden discussed the farm crop situation with reference to the best bets in livestock and money crops for the county this year.

Urgently Need More Air Spoilers at Post Here

Representatives from the Durham Air Filter Center met with the Plymouth Ground Observer Corps Monday night of this week to lay out future plans, Post Supervisor A. L. Whitehurst reports.

Two sub-stations, one at Roanoke Rapids and the other at Washington, are being set up, it was said, and the two posts in this county will be connected with the Washington sub-station.

Officials desire that the local post go on 24-hour duty as soon as feasible, Dr. Whitehurst stated. However, he points out that the post strength is very short—only 58 members when actually 200 are needed. So at present 6-hour duty is being maintained, it was said.

Anyone wishing to volunteer his services is asked to please contact Dr. Whitehurst at Plymouth.

Name Princesses To Compete for 1956 Polio Queen

New Queen To Be Crowned At Intermission of Annual March of Dimes Queen's Ball February 10

March of Dimes princesses to compete for the title, "Washington County March of Dimes Queen for 1956," have been named at Plymouth High School.

Laura Jo Quinn and Ann Robertson will represent Mrs. Hough's 12th grade section, while Helen Manning and Faye Phelps have been named as princesses from Mrs. Long's section.

In Mrs. Gurkin's 11th grade section, the two representative are Leah Cox and Phyllis Spruill. Gail Gaylord and Margie Brown are representing Mrs. Lucas' 11th grade section.

Mr. Rawls' 10th grade section named Lois Mobley and Bonnie Willingham. Joyce Hardison and Mary Alice Kelly will compete from Mr. Inabinet's 10th grade section and Flossie Nooney and Rachel Peele are the princesses from Mr. Wood's ninth grade section.

Mr. Foster's ninth grade section is represented by Ann Hardison and Gloria Robertson.

The queen will be crowned at intermission of the annual March of Dimes Ball to be held at the Veterans Building here Friday, February 10. Crowning the new queen will be last year's queen, Miss Sandra Leggett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Leggett, sr.

Prospects Are Said Better for Peanut Farmers of Section

Senator W. Kerr Scott Is Confident That Acreage For Virginia Type Peanuts To Be Upped

The farm outlook, at best, is not too rosy, observers say, but a ray of sunshine for the peanut farmers of this section came this week in a statement from North Carolina Senator W. Kerr Scott, as reported from Washington. The article follows:

Washington.—Senator W. Kerr Scott (Dem.-N.C.) said today that he has "assurances" that present laws affecting peanut growers of North Carolina and other states "will remain as they are."

In other words, the North Carolina Senator sees certain defeat for the administration's proposal to provisions from the present peanut law.

Scott based his assurances on the fact that Chairman Allen J. Ellender of the Senate Agriculture Committee is also "opposed" to doing away with the minimum acreage provision.

The North Carolinian said the only reason he can see for eliminating the minimum acreage provision is that the administration would like authority to cut peanut acreage allotments "across the board" in order to get rid of surplus Spanish and runner type peanuts.

He pointed out that while those two types of peanuts are in oversupply, there is a "serious shortage" of Virginia type peanuts which are produced in North Carolina.

See PEANUTS, Page 12

But One Day Remains For Listing in County

The legal penalty-free period for property owners of this county to list their property for tax purposes expires Friday of this week.

County Tax Supervisor Hubert L. Davenport, of Skinnerville, has stated that late listers will face a certain 10 per cent penalty as provided by law.

The number of property owners in Plymouth Township "on the books" increased by about 400 during the past week and the total is now past the 1500-mark, according to List Taker W. A. (Bill) Roebuck.

No official figures were available late yesterday from other townships in the county but it was believed that more than 3,000 out of an expected total of 4,401 had listed by then in the four townships.

Well over 1,000 property owners in the city have listed, it was said.

Working on Plans To Bring More Industry

W. M. Darden, of Washington County Industries, Hopeful Small Industry To Locate Here

"We feel that within the calendar year of 1956 we are going to see some results from our efforts," So spoke W. M. Darden, local realtor, attorney and businessman, in an interview with a Beacon reporter yesterday.

Darden heads an organization known as "Washington County Industries" which was recently formed here to work for the betterment of the county, particularly in promoting new industry.

In pursuing the objectives announced at the time the new group was organized early last month Washington County Industries will be helped by the Business and Development Corporation and the Commerce and Industry Division of the State Department of Conservation and Development, the president stated.

The efforts being put forth by Washington County Industries are designed to be of county-wide benefit and the interest and support of individuals and groups from every part of the county are welcomed, Mr. Darden emphasized.

Programs at all regular meetings of the "Washington County Industries" Rotary Club during January were devoted to the new enterprise. Mr. Darden served as program chairman for the club during the month.

At present the new organization is working with a Michigan manufacturer of charcoal briquets and chemicals in the hope of getting a small plant established in this county, Darden stated. The briquets, he explained, are made from hard and soft woods and the chemicals from hardwood. These products, it was added, are derived chiefly from timber which is at present little used in the wood trade or manufacture in this section.

See INDUSTRY, Page 12

Town Tag Sales Reach 500-Mark

Sales of Town of Plymouth motor vehicle license plates for 1956 reached 501 by noon Wednesday, Police Chief P. W. Brown reported. Last week at the same time 350 had been disposed of, so 151 were sold during the past week. The total here usually runs about 850, the officer said.

City owners who have not obtained a tag for their vehicle are reminded that on and after February 15 the new tags must be displayed in order to be within the law, in operating cars, trucks or other motor vehicles.

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Violent Week-End Goes Into Record Again in Plymouth

Young Negro Here Narrowly Escapes Death in Stabbing; 14-Year-Old Negress Charges Attempted Rape

A week-end of violence, the second in a row, was reported here Monday.

The previous week-end saw a fatal fight, claiming one Tero Grant who was stabbed to death in a Sugar Hill residence. This time death was narrowly averted as Lorenzo Lawrence, Plymouth Negro about 25 years of age, was rushed to Washington County Hospital for prompt treatment of a stab wound just under the heart and a badly cut nose.

Night Policeman H. B. Johnson rushed the wounded man to the hospital at around 8 p. m. Saturday from in front of Martin Hyman's cafe on West Main Street.

Johnson swore out a warrant for Lawrence and for his alleged assailant, James "Dock" Downing, another Plymouth Negro about 30, for engaging in an affray.

Lawrence was released from the hospital in time to appear in recorder's court here Tuesday where Judge W. Ronald Gaylord found both guilty and sentenced Downing to four months on the roads, suspended upon payment of the court costs, hospital and doctor bills. Lawrence was let off with payment of costs.

The weapon used in the fight, a pearl-handled pen knife with 2 1/2-inch blade, was taken from Downing. The larger of two blades had been broken off about an inch or more from the tip.

Johnson arrested Downing at the West Main cafe at 8:30 p. m. Saturday and jailed him here to await trial. The officer said he was told that an argument between the two men began inside the cafe and that they went outside to fight.

At 11:30 p. m. Sunday Alphonso Cradle, 34-year-old Plymouth Negro, is alleged to have assaulted a local 14-year-old Negress with intent to commit rape.

At 1:15 a. m. Monday, the girl's mother, Mary Moore, swore out before Magistrate C. M. Beasley a warrant for Cradle's arrest and he was picked up and jailed shortly thereafter.

The attack is said to have been made on the girl, a Wilson Street resident, in a wooded area on Fourth Street near Spring Green Church. Two young white men of Plymouth who passed the scene in an automobile, the lights of which scared the man off twice, failed to appear as witnesses at the preliminary hearing Tuesday but it is believed they will be in court when the case is tried in superior court here.

Judge W. Ronald Gaylord found probable cause and Cradle was bound over for trial at the next criminal term of court under bond of \$500.

Cradle is married and the father of young children.

Cake Cutting and Cub Pack Meeting Slated at Roper

Also, March of Dimes Benefit Basketball Game Set To Follow PTA Meeting Tuesday Night

PTA Founders Day will be marked with a cake-cutting at the regular meeting of the Roper Parent-Teacher Association Tuesday night of next week, PTA officials have announced.

The Roper Cub Scouts, sponsored by the PTA, will hold their pack meeting, T. A. Hood, high school principal who serves as cubmaster, said. After the meeting, a basketball game to raise money for the polio drive will be staged.

The Roper Cub Scout organization includes: Den 1 with Mrs. Seth Russell and Mrs. Elbert Tarkenton, the den mothers, is composed of Scouts Tim Gaylord, Andy Banks, Maurice Phelps, David Rath, Richard Dorsey, Bobby Norman, Larry Russell, Paul R. Gardiner and Frankie Tarkenton;

Webelos Scouts, Den 2, with Mrs. L. E. Hassell, jr., the den mother, are Gene Basnight, Bobby Chesson, Howard Daevnport, Tommy Hassell, Keith Marriner, Otis Marriner and Billy Skiles;

Den 3 Cub Scouts are Billy Coburn, Webb Lee Hardison, Rudy Oliver, Dean Taylor Dunbar, and Harry B. Peale. Den 3 has no den mother.

Mrs. Beulah Gaylord has been helping the new den mothers. N. T. Stout is assistant cubmaster.



Recently installed, officers of Perseverance Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M., for the current year are pictured above as follows: Back row, left to right: James M. Gilreath, senior warden; Wilmer C. Chesson, master; G. R. Leggett, jr., junior warden; middle row: B. G. Campbell, treasurer; Jack B. Latham, senior deacon; Dan K. Pittman, junior deacon; G. R. Leggett, sr., secretary; front row: James E. Hardison, junior steward; R. H. Lucas, sr., chaplain; Hilton Dunbar, tiler; and W. C. Styons, senior steward.—Staff photo.