

Eugene Waters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Waters, of Plymouth, made the honor roll for the past semester at the University of North Carolina where he is a sophomore. Eugene Waters, an outstanding student and athlete while at Plymouth High School, is continuing his good scholastic work at Chapel Hill and in a letter to his parents, Dean Cecil Johnson extended congratulations on Eugene's "fine record."

Mrs. W. T. Stillman, wife of the genial and popular court clerk here, underwent surgery in a Williamston hospital Monday morning of this week. Mrs. Stillman is reported to be doing as nicely as could be expected. She was admitted to the hospital Sunday.

Mrs. Lorraine Hunter, local draft board clerk, and possibly members of the board will attend a regional conference of Selective Service personnel at Elizabeth City Tuesday afternoon of next week. The meeting is slated for the auditorium of the Agriculture Building. Matters relating to the current manpower situation, the role of the Selective Service System in implementing the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 and other pertinent questions will be discussed, Mrs. Hunter was informed.

Dr. B. W. Cutler, of Plymouth, calls attention to the fact that March 4-10 has been designated "Save Your Vision Week" and the observance is being sponsored throughout the state by the North Carolina Optometric Society. Sharp eyes, it is pointed out, can reduce highway accidents, one of the state's gravest problems at the moment. It is believed that some form of visual handicap is involved in the majority of fatal accidents. It's something to think about.

The weather station near here was informed this week by the U. S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau at Raleigh that the spring storm season is getting close. Pointing out that tornadoes are fast-moving and short-lived, cooperation in reporting storms was urged, since prompt reports might enable the bureau to warn other communities in the path of such a storm. During 1955 seven tornadoes were reported in the state, causing one death, four injuries and \$600,000 property damage.

Young Negro Dies Following Match; Ruled Accidental

Willie Moore Victim of Broken Neck Said Suffered When Thrown by White Man at Skinnerville

Willie Moore, Negro of Skinnerville, died at his home at 1:30 a. m. Sunday from a broken neck said to have been received the previous Friday night in a sort of impromptu wrestling match with a white man at the home of Florence Webb, colored, also of Skinnerville.

No probable cause was found at a hearing in county recorder's court before Judge W. Ronald Gaylord Tuesday. Following testimony from the witness stand by Artis Blount, Joe Moore, Elwood Norman and the Webb woman, Judge Gaylord called the widow, the mother and brother of the dead man to the bench and asked if they knew facts relating to the case which has not been brought out. They replied that they did not, that they knew of neither provocation, malice nor ill-will existing between the two men prior to the tragic happening. If new evidence is forthcoming to warrant it, the case will be reopened, Gaylord said.

The four witnesses were all eyewitnesses to the scuffle which is said to have taken place in the sitting room of Florence Webb's home at about 11 p. m. Friday. Philip Patrick, about 30, of Skinnerville and Norfolk, is said to have thrown Moore to the floor. Moore failed to get up and the Webb woman said she remarked at the time, "Willie, why don't you get up? You're just ashamed because Phil threw you." Two of the Negroes present lifted Moore to his feet but he apparently could not stand, it was stated. They then carried him to his home where he was put to bed. They testified they thought he had been drinking.

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SAFETY BOXSCORE

Breaking all past records, employees of the North Carolina Pulp Company, Plymouth, as of March 5, 1956, had completed the following number of man-hours of work without a lost-time accident:

1,456,238



FILES: Dr. J. M. Phelps of Creswell (right), Washington County Representative in the General Assembly, is shown as he signed a candidate's blank and paid his filing fee last week for reelection this year, subject to the Democratic primary on May 26. W. T. Freeman (left), chairman of the county board of elections, is looking on. A contest for the office was assured this week, when W. J. Woolard, who represented the county in the 1951 and 1953 legislatures, also filed for the office of representative.—Staff photo.

Politics Livening Up; Two Candidates File

FOR REPRESENTATIVE



W. J. Woolard, Plymouth furniture man who represented Washington County in the 1951 and 1953 sessions of the General Assembly, announced this week that he was a candidate for the office again, subject to the Democratic primary May 26. Dr. J. M. Phelps of Creswell, the incumbent, filed for the office last week.

Services Held for Mrs. Spruill Here

Last rites for Mrs. Loula Spruill, 71, were conducted from the chapel of Horner's Funeral Home here Monday at 2:30 p. m. by the Rev. D. W. Alexander, of Bethel, and the Rev. C. N. Barnette, of Plymouth. Burial was in Windley Cemetery.

Mrs. Spruill, wife of Crawford S. Spruill, died at her home near here at 11:30 a. m. Saturday following an illness of three weeks. She had been in declining health for two years.

Mrs. Spruill was a native and lifelong resident of this county, born July 17, 1884, to the late Ellis H. and Fannie M. Bowen Davenport.

She was married March 10, 1907, at Plymouth to Mr. Spruill, of this place. She was a member, an active worker and former Sunday School teacher of Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Plymouth.

She leaves, other than her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Hugh Allen, of Portsmouth, Va.; a son, Harold Spruill, of Plymouth; two sisters, Mrs. Maud Harrison, of Elizabeth City, and Mrs. J. T. Mizelle, of Newport; two brothers, L. E. and M. H. Davenport, both of Plymouth; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

W. J. Woolard Enters Race For House Seat; T. F. Davenport for Member Board of Education

W. J. Woolard and T. F. Davenport paid filing fees this week and announced that they would seek office subject to nomination in the May 26 Democratic Primary, W. T. Freeman, chairman of the county board of elections, reports.

Woolard, Plymouth furniture man and for two terms County Representative in the General Assembly, announced Tuesday his candidacy for the House seat held in the last legislature by Dr. J. M. Phelps, Creswell physician.

The incumbent, Dr. Phelps, previously had announced he will seek to return as County Representative to the General Assembly which will hold its biennial session early next year.

Woolard's announcement this week came as little surprise, perhaps, and assures a race for the county's seat in the state legislature which could easily develop into something more than a two-way fight.

Davenport, elderly former Ranger at Pettigrew State Park, announced for a seat from Suppernong Township on the five-member county board of education. Plymouth Township is allotted two seats on the board, while Lees Mill, Skinnerville and Suppernong Townships have one seat each. Incumbents on the board whose terms of office expire and are therefore subject to nomination in May include Mrs. K. S. Trowbridge of Plymouth, and P. B. Belanga, of Suppernong. Mr. Davenport is a former county commissioner. The intentions of Mrs. Trowbridge and Mr. Belanga are unannounced publicly at this writing.

At the county commissioners' meeting Monday, Hubert L. Davenport of Skinnerville said he probably would be a candidate for reelection, although he has not formally filed. A. R. Latham of Plymouth, the other commissioner whose term expires this year, indicated he had not decided whether to run or not although he was inclined not to do so.

The only other announcement to date for a county office came from

See CANDIDATES, Page 10

Town Ordinance Cited by Brown

It is against a town ordinance to leave motor vehicles parked on any paved street within the Plymouth town limits after midnight, Police Chief P. W. Brown warned this week.

The strict enforcement of the ordinance is necessary, Chief Brown emphasized, in order for street cleaning and other duties to function properly. The cooperation of all citizens and motorists is urgently sought in this regard, the police chief said.

Hassell Resigns Post on County Education Board

County School Governing Body Reluctantly Accepts Resignation; Successor Is To Be Named This Month

In a letter to the Washington County Board of Education, dated March 5, L. E. Hassell, sr., of Roper, tendered his resignation, effective at the April 1956 board meeting.

Mr. Hassell, who has served many years as chairman of the board, gave ill health as the reason for his action. He stated in part, "I wish to express my deep appreciation to each member of the board and to Mr. Lowry for the loyal cooperation that has been given me in this capacity. My best wishes go with you all for the success of your future program for the schools of Washington County."

Other members of the board are J. W. Norman and Mrs. K. S. Trowbridge of Plymouth, P. B. Belanga, of Creswell, and J. Whitford Swain, of Roper. It is thought that Mr. Norman may succeed to the chairmanship of the board.

The county board of education, at its meeting here Monday, reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mr. Hassell as member and chairman and expressed the unanimous opinion that he had served the schools of the county loyally and efficiently during his tenure of office. Mr. Hassell has been a member of the board for 19 years, all but three years of which he served as its chairman. During his tenure of office the final phase of the consolidation program was completed during which 10 small schools were consolidated. At present there are only six schools in the county.

Carl L. Bailey, sr., chairman of the Washington County Democratic Executive Committee, said yesterday that his committee will meet "sometime between now and the end of the month" to name a successor to the post.

Addition To Hospital Here Is Being Sought

County Board Approves Making Application To Medical Care Group; Up To 12 More Beds Asked

Enlargement of the Washington County Hospital here was approved by the board of county commissioners at its regular meeting here Monday. Chairman Frank L. Brinkley was authorized to complete the application in the name of the county governing board and have it forwarded to the State Medical Commission as soon as possible.

Enlargement of the hospital was limited to a maximum of 12 beds by the commissioners' action. However, Mr. Brinkley had stated to the board that conversations with state commission officials had convinced him that they would be more likely to approve an addition of 8 to 10 beds than any larger amount.

The county's share of the cost of constructing the addition is limited to 23.6 per cent of the total, with the state to put up 26.4 per cent and the federal govern-

See HOSPITAL, Page 10

Mrs. Baynor Is Buried Tuesday

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. from Roper Baptist Church for Mrs. Edna Baynor Pierce, 33, of Roper. The Rev. Mr. Evans officiated and interment was in Craddock Cemetery near Roper. The remains were left at Horner's Funeral Home until one hour prior to the service and then carried to the church.

Mrs. Pierce died at 10 a. m. Sunday in a Norfolk, Va., hospital. She had been ill for six months and in failing health for three years. She was a native of Washington County and spent her entire lifetime here. Mrs. Pierce was born April 12, 1922, to Mrs. Mittie Skittleharpe and the late Dennis Baynor, of Roper.

Her marriage to Charlie Pierce, of Jamesville, took place at Roper August 31, 1951. Mr. Pierce survives, along with Mrs. Pierce's mother, two daughters, Gloria Gale and Donna Kay Pierce, both of the home; two sons, James Dennis and Larry Edward Pierce, of the home; a sister, Mrs. Geraldine Brickhouse of Portsmouth, Va.; one half-brother, Billy Skittleharpe, of Roper; and stepfather, Eddie Skittleharpe, of near Roper.

Bloodmobile Here Next Wednesday

Dr. R. Vernon Jeter, chairman of the local blood program, today called attention of the public to a shortage of Type O and Type B blood, said to be nearing the acute stage.

The good doctor intimated that those types as well as other blood would be welcome indeed when the Red Cross bloodmobile unit from Tidewater Regional Blood Center at Norfolk makes its regular quarterly appearance here Wednesday of next week.

The set-up will be made, as usual, at the Veterans Building and donor hours are announced as 10:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Joint sponsors again—the local VFW and American Legion posts and auxiliaries.

Refreshments, including sandwiches, donuts, coffee and soft drinks, will be supplied and served by the Plymouth Junior Woman's

Club, Mrs. Borden Kornegay, president. Again the Senior Woman's Club will supply the necessary clerical help.

On December 21 of last year the bloodmobile support here reached its lowest ebb since inauguration of the blood bank program in the county back in December of 1950. Only 49 pints of blood were secured on the most recent visit of the unit to Plymouth. Prior to that time the total of 61 pints secured July 20, 1951, at Creswell was the low figure.

The announced quota for next Wednesday is 110 pints. Dr. Jeter stated. Noting that much of the blood deposited in the local bank is used by colored citizens, the program chairman urges that colored people of Plymouth and Washington County join in strongly supporting the effort to keep

the program going here. Also, persons who have not previously given blood are called upon to respond, thus helping to insure success in meeting the minimum quota and possibly making it easier on those who have given blood time after time.

Free transportation will be available to anyone desiring to give blood and who does not have transportation to the scene of operations, it was emphasized. If you would like to have someone pick you up just telephone the Veterans Building and someone on duty will attend to the matter promptly, Dr. Jeter stated.

Stating that the blood program is a "lifeline artery" vital to Washington County Hospital's successful operation, Dr. Jeter urged that the citizenry, white and colored, "make a date to save a life."

Lengthy Session Is Held Monday By County Board

Soil Conservationist Directed To Seek Disaster Fund For Six Drainage Projects; Other Matters

Washington County's Commissioners had an all-day session here Tuesday, with a number of important matters for consideration, and it was nearly 6 o'clock in the afternoon before the session finally adjourned. Besides drawing jury lists for two terms of court and receiving regular reports, the board voted to apply for an addition to the county hospital and postponed action on the board of education's request for an election of the issuance of \$500,000 in school bonds.

Chairman Frank L. Brinkley presided over the session, with all members of the board in attendance, as follows: A. R. Latham of Roper, chairman; J. W. Norman of Roper, vice chairman; and J. Whitford Swain, of Roper, secretary.

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Board Does Not Act On Bond Proposition

Matter Left Open After Discussion Monday; Vote Before General Election in November Not Likely

Washington County Commissioners took no action at their regular meeting Monday on the request of the county board of education for an election on the issuance of \$500,000 worth of school bonds. The request was discussed at some length, and a new schedule of bond retirements prepared by County Auditor E. J. Spruill was considered, but the matter was left open at the conclusion of the meeting, with no definite time to set for reopening the discussion.

The board of education, in a formal resolution adopted at its February meeting, asked the commissioners to order a special election to pass on the issuance of \$500,000 in bonds, funds from which would be used to construct additional buildings in the county. A special meeting was held February 20th, attended by the commissioners and acting chairman of the education board, and the matter was considered at some length without any decision being reached.

Main objection on the part of the commissioners centers around the necessity for increasing the county tax rate if the bonds are issued within the next three years. The county auditor submitted figures showing that the bonds could be issued over a three-year period starting in 1959 without the necessity for increasing the tax levy for debt service.

At the meeting Monday, none of the commissioners expressed active opposition to the proposal to issue bonds, except that they do not want to do it right now. They also expressed a desire to know more about the program being considered by the board of education. It was pointed out that the county budget for this year does not provide any funds for a special election, and several of the commissioners said that if the bond issue was submitted at the general election in November it would save about \$1,000 in election costs.

It was on the latter note that the meeting closed Monday, with the prospect that the matter will not be reopened for consideration here.

See BOND ISSUE, Page 10

RESIGNS POST



L. E. Hassell, sr., of Roper, chairman of the Washington County Board of Education since January, 1944, tendered his resignation this week, to become effective on April 2. Appointed to the board in 1943, Mr. Hassell says he is giving up the post on account of his health.

Union Mass Meet Is Set Wednesday

All members of Plymouth labor unions are urged to attend a mass meeting at the Labor Hall Wednesday of next week, March 14, at 7:30 p. m., when Millard Barbee of Durham, president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor, will be the principal speaker. Representatives of the several international unions which have locals here will also be present.

One of the objects of the meeting is to reorganize a Central Labor Union here, according to a spokesman. Such a group was organized and functioned here for about five years but it has been dormant for the past three years.

It was emphasized that all union members are invited and urged to be present, including members of the locals at Atlas Plywood Corporation and True-Temper Corporation, as well as those at the North Carolina Pulp Company.

Mayor Says Town Tax Rate May Be Lowered To \$1.75

Would Be 25 Cents Under Present Rate; Also Says New Water Tank May Be Built This Fall

Big news at the March meeting of the Plymouth Town Council Monday night was the statement by Mayor A. J. Riddle that it might be possible to reduce the town tax rate to \$1.75 for the next fiscal year. The statement was received with enthusiasm by the councilmen, who have been looking forward to the time the present rate of \$2 could be lowered.

Prior to that the mayor had stated he believed the town could construct a new water tank sometime this fall without the necessity of borrowing any money. There was some discussion about this, and the councilmen thought it advisable to secure the services of an engineer to choose the best location for the tank. Mayor Riddle believes it should be located at or near the site of the new town well, adjacent to the Tetterton Daft Bar on Washington Street Extended.

During the discussion, it was brought out that the town needs a tank of 250,000-gallon capacity, as compared with the present 75,000-gallon tank, which is not in very good condition. Several of the councilmen thought a water softener should be installed at the same time as the tank. It was estimated that the tank would cost in the neighborhood of \$48,000, and a water softener possibly an additional \$6,000. At the present time the town is using about 180,000 gallons of water daily, it was stated.

Several other matters were considered by the councilmen Monday night. They agreed to cooperate with a delegation from the Plymouth Garden Club in getting local business houses to build incinerators for burning litter. Mrs. M. L. Nobles and Mrs. Howard Walker represented the club at the meeting, and their suggestions were backed up by County Sanitarian D. D. Allen, who said it would be more economical to have the litter burned by the merchants concerned than to have it hauled away by town trash trucks as at present. It is proposed to have a relatively small incinerator installed back of the stores in each block, where cartons, paper and other like litter can be burned, leaving only tin cans and other items of garbage to be hauled away to the city dump.

Plans for the incinerators are being prepared, and the garden club See TAX RATE, Page 5

To Resume Work Masonic Temple

Barring unfavorable weather, construction is slated to be resumed today on the Masonic Temple here, it was announced by W. A. Roebuck, chairman of the building committee.

Roebuck explained that footings were laid about two years ago on the lot on the corner of East Third Street and Andrew Jackson Avenue which is owned by Perseverance Lodge No. 59, A. F. and A. M. here.

Cement blocks, lumber, doors and windows were delivered to the lot earlier this week, Roebuck said, and work will commence Thursday (today) on erecting the walls, according to plans announced Wednesday.

The work will be under the direction of a member of the local lodge, L. E. Sullivan, of Plymouth. Labor is to be hired to erect the walls and roof but all interior finishing will be done through use of volunteer labor of lodge members, it was explained.

Others on the building committee were listed as follows: W. C. Chesson, master; Hilton Dunbar, Alton Pinkham and Hugh Brown.

Roebuck said no date for completion of the project is now in view.

Survey Panel To Work Here Today

A survey committee, appointed by the Division of School Planning of the State Board of Education, is scheduled to visit this county today (Thursday), according to R. F. Lowry, superintendent of county schools.

Mr. Lowry stated at the regular monthly session of the county board of education here Monday that the special survey team would be in the county Thursday to make a close study of the school situation as relates to immediate and future needs.



IN COUNTY: One of the two mobile chest x-ray units operating in the county is pictured above shortly before it opened on Water Street next to the post office here last Saturday morning. This unit will remain in Plymouth through Saturday of next week, March 17, offering free chest x-rays to all persons 15 years of age and older from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. Tuesday through Saturdays. Another unit will be in Creswell through Saturday of this week, after which it will move to Roper, across the street from the post office, where it will be from Tuesday through Saturday of next week, from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. Both units are closed on Mondays.—Staff photo.