

Pass County Application for Funds

Washington County's application for federal hurricane relief funds has been passed by the State Civil Defense board, it was learned yesterday.

In a telephone conversation with a Beacon reporter yesterday Dr. J. M. Phelps, county representative who was in conference Tuesday with State Civil Defense Ad-

ministrator Edward Griffin, of Raleigh, said he had been assured that the application was in order and had been passed by the board. However, a resolution designating someone to sign necessary papers must be passed by the board of county commissioners, it was stated.

Dr. Phelps said he was told many counties are asking for large sums,

11 counties having requested nearly \$5,000,000. He was assured that a fair and just amount will be distributed to each county according to need.

A team of engineers appointed by the federal administrator of civil defense will leave Wilmington next Monday, Phelps said he was informed, to make a survey in each county to determine needs.

County Budget Given Approval; Rate Same

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.

Lettuce Harvest First in County, Starts on Monday

Indications Are That Crop Of Good Quality Can Be Produced on Darker Soils Here, Said

Harvesting of the commercial lettuce crop in this county began Monday of this week, County Agent W. H. Pruden reports.

Mr. Pruden said Vance B. Respass of the Holly Neck section began the harvest of his one and a half acres of the crop Monday and is marketing it locally. The quality is reported to be good.

It is also expected that Reed Devaney of the Turnpike section will begin harvesting his 60-acre crop of lettuce later this week.

Devenay will ship through Hugh Martin of the Marketing Division, State Department of Agriculture, it was said. Through County Agent W. H. Pruden Devaney was able to secure an experimental lettuce harvester perfected by N. C. State College. The harvester was delivered Tuesday by J. C. Ferguson, Extension agricultural engineer. Through use of this machine Devaney will harvest 12 rows of lettuce at the time and pack in the field. In addition to lettuce, the harvester is used for harvesting turnips.

See **LETTUCE**, Page 12

Seize Nine Stills During May Raids

Nine illicit whiskey stills and considerable materials and equipment were seized by officers during a series of raids conducted in the county in May, according to a report by Robert Sawyer, of Roper, chief ABC enforcement officer for Washington County.

Totals of confiscated items were listed as 2,700 gallons of mash, 38 barrels, 2 vats, 11 coolers, 10 worms.

One man, Henry Wilkins, was caught with a gallon of non-tax-paid whiskey and was tried in county recorder's court where he received a fine of \$50 and was taxed with costs.

Taking part in one or more of the raids were Sawyer, Wade Hardison and Earl Morton of Roper and ATU officers.

Club Swimming Pool Is Opened for Season

The swimming pool at the Plymouth Country Club opened for the season Tuesday of this week and was fairly well patronized by club members the first two days, considering the weather. Children of members especially have enjoyed using the pool, although it was rather cool for some of them and they didn't stay in the water very long.

Bernie Ham, band instructor at the high school here, is managing the pool this year. Mr. Ham has passed the Red Cross life-saving test and is a qualified swimming in-

For Eleventh Straight Year County Tax Rate Set at \$1.70 by County Board of Commissioners

The county commissioners reviewed and approved the general county budget and several departmental budgets at their regular monthly meeting here Monday and voted that the county tax rate remain at the \$1.70 on the \$100 valuation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957. The rate has remained unchanged for the past 11 years.

Both the budget and the tax rate are subject to review and approval of the Local Government Commission at Raleigh, but this, as a rule, is a mere formality.

Budget requirements total \$268,673.14, broken down as follows: General County Fund, \$70,689; Poor Fund, \$21,029.53; Health Fund, \$11,933.94; Farm and Home Demonstration Agents, county share, \$8,565.94; Fire protection, \$5,500; Old Age Assistance, \$6,840; Aid to Dependent Children, \$1,815.60; Aid P.T.D. Fund, \$3,840; School Current Expense, \$66,041; School Capital Outlay, \$7,600; Debt Service Fund, \$64,818.13.

The tax rate is set on the basis of 10 cents for general county fund; 15 cents for poor fund; 12 cents for health fund; 9 cents for the county's share of farm and home demonstration agents' salaries; 5 cents for fire protection; 4 cents for old age assistance; 1 cent for aid to dependent children; 3 cents for aid to P.T.D. fund; 37 cents for current school expenses; 8 cents for school capital outlay; 65 cents for debt service fund.

Changes were made in eight of the 11 categories, six of them being increased and two lowered. Rate for health fund was raised from 10 to 12 cents; farm and home demonstration agents, county's share, from 7½ to 9 cents; fire protection from 5½ to 6 cents; old age assistance from 3½ to 4 cents; aid P. T. D. fund from 2½ to 3 cents; current school expense from 36 to 37 cents.

Rates were reduced for school capital outlay from 9 to 8 cents, and of debt service fund from 70 to 65 cents.

Estimated property valuation is \$12,000,000, up \$1,000,000 over preceding budget estimate, and the amount of the tax levy is listed as \$204,000 as compared with \$187,600 for the current fiscal year. Total budget requirements are listed at \$268,673.14, slightly higher than the \$268,226.90 of the current year, while estimated revenue other than the tax levy is put at \$105,887.20, leaving \$162,785.94 tax levy needed to balance the budget. For the current fiscal year this latter figure is \$149,580.

The estimated amount of uncollectible taxes and discounts is listed at \$41,214.06, a bit higher than the \$37,420 of the current year, and bringing the total levy to the amount of \$204,000.

Since July 1, 1955, the county's outstanding debt bonds and notes have been reduced in principal by \$84,500, leaving the outstanding debt as of July 1, 1956, \$360,000.

Good Attendance At Bible School

Attendance said to be the largest in the history of the school is reported at the annual Vacation Bible School of Ludford Memorial Baptist Church.

Classes began Monday of this week and will continue through Friday with commencement exercises scheduled for Friday night. The school is directed by one of the largest faculties it has had—approximately 20 teachers and officers, it was stated.

The daily schedule includes opening service in the church, with salutes to the flag and to the Bible, prayers, Bible reading, character story, then class work, Bible drills, handwork, recreation, etc.

"It is the firm belief of all those who engage in Bible School work," stated the Rev. Paul B. Nickens, minister of the church, "that the lessons learned by the boys and girls enable them to become more useful citizens, both of the country in which they live and of the Kingdom of God."

Gas Distribution Here Is Favored By Town Council

Votes Four to Two at Special Meet Friday to Grant Franchise to Trans-Carolina Pipeline Firm

By a vote of four to two, the Plymouth Town Council last Friday night agreed to grant a franchise for distribution of natural gas here. The action was taken at a special meeting called by Mayor A. J. Riddle at the request of representatives of the North Carolina Pulp Company, which is interested in securing natural gas as a fuel for power generation at its plant here.

Two firms have made tentative surveys of eastern North Carolina with a view to distributing a large volume of natural gas. They are the North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation and the Trans-Carolina Pipeline Corporation. The resolution passed by the council last Friday night was made in favor of the Trans-Carolina corporation, but it is understood the franchise will actually be granted to whichever company is successful in securing a Federal Power Company permit to serve the section.

A hearing was scheduled to open in Washington yesterday before the FPC to determine which firm will be authorized to serve this section. A number of eastern Carolina towns, as well as the utilities commissions of North and South Carolina, have intervened in the FPC case in behalf of one firm or the other.

State Utilities Commission has indicated it favors the application of the North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation, along with the towns of Red Springs, Roseboro, Salem, Laurinburg, Lillington, St. Pauls, Clinton, Benson, Clayton, Wadesboro, Hamlet, Dunn and Erwin. Trans-Carolina's application has been approved by Plymouth, Williamston, Robersonville, Dunn, Lumberton, Albemarle, Tarboro, Mount Olive, Rockingham, Maxton, Clinton, Raeford and others.

Many towns have not committed themselves as yet, and some have or will have local systems.

At the meeting here last Friday, Councilmen E. D. Keel, Jack B. Latham, J. B. Holliday and J. D. Mallory voted in favor of granting the franchise to Trans-Carolina, while Ralph Hunter and W. C. Hall were opposed. The latter two councilmen said they did not have enough information about the proposed project to vote in favor of it although they did not actively oppose it.

Z. V. Norman and Woodrow Collins, attorney and purchasing agent, respectively, of the North Carolina Pulp Company, spoke in favor of granting the franchise. Use of natural gas as a fuel for power generation instead of oil would effect considerable savings, it is understood.

Services Today For G. C. Phelps

Funeral services for G. C. (Pete) Phelps, 66, of Roper RFD, will be held Thursday at 4 p. m. from Zion's Chapel Church, near Roper. The minister, R. L. Gardiner, will officiate and burial will be in the church cemetery.

Mr. Phelps, a retired farmer, died at 7:30 a. m. Wednesday at Washington County Hospital after an illness of two days. He had been in declining health for about eight years.

He was son of the late George and Cottie Craddock Phelps of this county and was born in the county September 3, 1889. He was a lifelong resident of the county and a member of Zion's Chapel Church.

Mr. Phelps was married September 25, 1915, at Roper to Clara Tarkington of that place, who survives.

Other survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Helen Geanelli and Miss Peggie Phelps, both of Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Mildred Houser of Falls Church, Va.; three sisters, Mrs. Lillie Ambrose, Plymouth, Mrs. Cottie Daughtry, Durham, and Mrs. Maggie Underwood, Wichita Falls, Texas; a brother, Eli Phelps of Plymouth; a half-brother, William Phelps of Roper; and two grandchildren.

Commissioners in Monthly Meeting Here on Monday

Budget for Next Fiscal Year Approved; Four Men Are Recommended for County Forest Ranger

The county commissioners, in regular monthly session here Monday afternoon, had a busy day, approving the budget for the next fiscal year and taking action on several other matters.

The county tax rate was again set at \$1.70 and the general county budget and various departmental budgets were approved as reported elsewhere in this paper. The tax rate and budget are subject to review and approval of the Local Government Commission at Raleigh.

J. Robert Campbell, clerk to the board, was instructed to write to Governor Hodges urging approval of the application filed with the Federal Civil Defense Administration on March 15 of this year requesting financial assistance for county drainage made necessary by hurricane damage. The application covered a number of drainage projects.

A letter from S. A. Dowell, district forester, dated May 7, stating that S. F. Darden, county forest ranger, is retiring July 1, was read. Nine men filed application for the position. They are: Steve Davenport, Wilton Spear and Kenneth L. Armstrong, all of Creswell; Nathaniel Holton, Larry D. Allen and Marion Burgess Lane, all of Weno; and James Shelton Ange, W. H. Joyner and Richard L. Davenport, all of Plymouth.

The board recommended the following four men for the job: Kenneth L. Armstrong and Wilton Spear, of Creswell, and W. H. Joyner and Richard L. Davenport, of Plymouth.

Board members expressed regret at Darden's retirement and appreciation for his long and able service. Darden has been county ranger for about 20 years.

W. T. Freeman of Lees Mill Township headed a delegation which requested the commissioners include as an additional drainage project in the application to the Civil Defense Administration the Folly Canal in Lees Mill Township. Henry Bragg of the Soil Conservation Service was requested to fill out the application.

W. H. Pruden and Henry Bragg were appointed to represent the board of commissioners at a meeting with Governor Hodges and Col. B. C. Snow relative to the hurricane relief project application filed by this county March 15.

E. J. Spruill, county tax collector, reported the sum of \$4,763.90 collected by his office during the month of May.

W. H. Pruden, county agent, and Mrs. Frances M. Darden, home agent, read their reports of work done in May.

J. C. Knowles made the motion, seconded by H. L. Davenport, that the general county budget for the next fiscal year be approved as tentatively approved May 7. The motion carried.

The clerk was instructed to write to the highway department asking that a road in Plymouth Township beginning at Lily of the Valley Church on Dismal Road and continuing to a dead end, be graded and maintained.

H. L. Davenport, county tax supervisor, was authorized to bargain with W. V. Andrews in the sale of timber owned by the county and located back of the old county home site.

The commissioners appointed Gale Gaylord to assist in compiling the county tax books. The courthouse janitor was instructed to obtain the necessary materials to spray the building to get rid of roaches and bugs and to continue the job until the pests are destroyed.

Reminds Farmers Gasoline Refund

Farmers will be able to obtain a refund of the federal excise tax on gasoline which is used on a farm for farming purposes, County Agent W. H. Pruden points out. The present federal tax rate is 2 cents per gallon.

The first refund payment will be made after June 30 on gasoline purchased and used during the first six months of this year. Thereafter, refunds will be made for a one year period from July 1 to June 30.

Refund claims should be filed after June 30 and before October 1 on Form 2240 which should be mailed to the district director of internal revenue at Greensboro.

Farmers who expect to file claims should keep sufficient records to verify the accuracy of the amount claimed, it is pointed out.

\$1.80 Rate Set by Council; In Approving City Budget

Creswell 4-H Member Now at Forestry Camp

Michael L. Davenport of Creswell Rt. 2 is attending the second annual 4-H Forestry Camp at 4-H Camp Millstone this week, J. L. Outlaw, assistant county agent, announces.

The camp is located in Richmond County between Ellerbe and Rockingham. It is conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and is sponsored by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Michael left for camp Monday and will return home Saturday of this week. All expenses while at camp, including travel, will be paid by the sponsor.

The camp program is designed to give 4-H Club boys who attend the knowledge and experience they will need to be successful forest owners of tomorrow. Experienced foresters and woodsmen from the Extension Service are serving as instructors.

Instruction includes such things as planting a forest, measuring timber, improving timber stands, harvesting the timber crop, how to work safely in the woods, and care of woods tools.

Michael earned the trip to camp, Outlaw says, by completing forestry projects in tree planting and timber stand improvement.

Rate 20 Cents Per \$100 Lower Than for Current Year; Budget Calls for Total Outlay of \$130,975.47

Town of Plymouth taxpayers will get a 10 per cent reduction on their town taxes for the next fiscal year. This was made certain by members of the town council at their June meeting Monday night, when they adopted the 1956-57 budget, based on a tax rate of \$1.80, as compared with the old \$2 rate, which has been in effect here for many years.

While the budget estimate approved Monday night is subject to review by the Local Government Commission at Raleigh, this is usually a formality, and town officials do not anticipate any changes being made by that body. Copies of the budget are being forwarded to the commission, and approval is expected within a few weeks.

The new budget, prepared by a committee composed of Councilmen E. D. Keel, J. B. Latham, J. D. Mallory and City Clerk W. A. Roebuck, calls for a total outlay of \$130,975.47 for the coming fiscal year as compared with \$136,235.69 for the current year. The principal reduction is in the sinking fund for a new water tank here. During the present year \$13,943.69 was set aside for this fund, while during the coming year only \$3,304.47 will be available for this project.

Town officials are still hopeful that by "cutting a few corners" they can get started on the new water tank during the coming year. Two tank companies have submitted estimates of the cost of a new 250,000-gallon tank, one figuring the cost at approximately \$49,000 and the other about \$52,000, not including a water-softening installation, which is estimated to cost an additional \$7,000 or so.

It is difficult to see how the tank project can be undertaken during the coming fiscal year, but officials are still hopeful that a start can be made. It is understood that there may be a delay up to a year and a half after the contract is let, so this will give the local officials some additional time to raise the money.

Revenue from property taxes in the new budget is down from \$89,890.69 to \$81,070.47, but small increases are expected in dog taxes, auto tags, water sales and parking meters, leaving the net loss in revenue only \$5,260.22. This leaves the total anticipated revenue at \$130,975.47, as compared with \$136,235.69 of the current year. See **BUDGET**, Page 7

W. H. Pruden Resigns Job as County Agent

Tenders Resignation in Letter to County Commissioners; Press of Private Business Cited

After a little more than four years as county agent, W. H. Pruden is stepping down, effective July 31.

In a letter to the county board of commissioners Mr. Pruden tendered his resignation, giving as his reason the press of private business.

Mr. Pruden is a partner in the Roanoke Farmers Exchange store here and it is reported he plans to actively manage the business.

Mr. Pruden's letter to the commissioners was made public and reads in part: "The press of private business has reached the state that it becomes necessary that I resign as County Agent of Washington County, effective July 31, 1956. It is with much regret that I find this course necessary. I feel that agricultural Extension work has made some progress during the term of my office. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the fine cooperation that the Board has given me. Gentlemen, you have done everything in your power to promote our agricultural program."

Each of the board members expressed regret that Pruden is terminating his work as county agent and spoke appreciation for work well done, stating that they felt he had been sincere in giving the farmers all of his energy and noting that farm work in the county has gone forward during his tenure.

Pruden succeeded W. V. Hays as county agent in March 1952, coming here from a similar position in Hyde County.

In offering his resignation, Mr. Pruden pointed out that he is deeply interested in the welfare of the farmers and that he believes he can render them a distinct service in his private business.

"Technical information is necessary in running any farm supply business," Mr. Pruden stated. "I feel that I am qualified to advise farmers of their technical needs in such things as the proper fertilizer to use, chemicals for weed control, disease control and insect control. Washington County has long needed a farm business to stock these technical items. I will do everything in my power to make these materials available to the farmers of Washington County."

Church School Is Slated Next Week

The annual Vacation Church School sponsored by Plymouth Methodist Church will be held next week, it is announced. Theme of the school will be "The Bible."

A staff of 23 workers has been organized, it was said. The schedule will include worship, class study, activity, music and recreation. Use of the latest in audio-visual aids will be made as a part of the schedule.

Children who have passed their fourth birthday and up to high school age are eligible to attend, it was stated. Registration will be Sunday morning at Sunday School classes and Monday morning at the 9 o'clock session.

The school will be held each day, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a. m. to 12 noon, with a family participation picnic on Saturday afternoon and a sharing and commencement service Sunday night, June 17, at 7:30 o'clock.

Bookmobiles on Revised Routes

The bookmobiles of the Pettigrew Regional Library, made up of Chowan, Tyrrell and Washington Counties, are going on their summer schedules at this time, Mrs. Eugenia R. Babylon, director, announced this week.

Routes have been revised since schools have closed and more stops have been added, it was said. It is hoped that many pupils will take advantage of the service and keep up with their reading during the summer, Mrs. Babylon added.

Darden Family To Hold Annual Meet In County Sunday

Sixteenth Anniversary Meet Of Stephen Darden Descendants Association Set Near Plymouth

The Stephen Darden Descendants Association will hold its 16th anniversary meeting in this county Sunday, it has been announced.

The meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bateman, near Plymouth, according to an announcement from John W. Darden, president of the association.

The Bateman residence is the homestead of the late David G. Darden and is located five miles south of Plymouth on NC 32.

It has been decided that there be no regular fixed program for the meeting this year but rather a discussion among the members concerning the accomplishments of the association during the 16 years it has been in actual operation. A basket picnic lunch will be served as usual, it was said.

Other officers of the association are Alphonso D. Hall, vice-president; M. G. Darden, historian; Mrs. William J. Grimes, secretary; and Mrs. Charles E. Davis, treasurer.

Service Is Announced At Morattock Sunday

Services will be held at the Morattock Primitive Baptist Church near Plymouth Sunday afternoon, June 10, at 3:30 o'clock, by the minister, Elder S. R. Boykins. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Legion, Auxiliary To Install New Officers

New officers to serve for the coming year will be installed Friday night of this week at a joint service of James E. Jethro Post No. 164 of the American Legion and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the post, it is announced.

The meeting will be held at the Veterans Building and will begin at 7:30 o'clock with a covered dish supper supplied by the ladies of the legionnaires, it was stated.

P. B. Bateman will serve as installing officer. Legion officers to be installed include P. W. Brown, commander; Ronald Waters, first vice-commander; O. A. Chesson, second vice-

commander; Norman White, adjutant; E. E. Harrell, chaplain; David Williams, sergeant-at-arms; W. Ronald Gaylord, service officer; P. B. Bateman, historian.

Auxiliary officers will be installed as follows: Mrs. Lyman Mayo, president; Mrs. Lillie Ambrose, first vice-president; Mrs. W. C. Jones, second vice-president; Mrs. Ronald Waters, secretary; Mrs. Jim Porter, treasurer; Mrs. O. Q. Lassiter, chaplain; Mrs. Walter White, historian; Mrs. A. L. Whitehair, sergeant-at-arms; Mrs. Jack Willoughby, child welfare chairman; Mrs. W. Blount Rodman, rehabilitation chairman.