


**THE Perquimans Weekly**

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MAX CAMPBELL Editor



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Advertising rates furnished by request.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1948.

Individual boys and girls to receive the medals. Usually, in connection with such awards, there is much favoritism and politics. Nevertheless, some sensible plan could be worked out to recognize bravery on the part of the nation's youngsters.

**A Matter Of Finance**

The United States, as a nation, owes a sum larger than \$250,000,000,000.

The United States looks forward to an estimated surplus of \$7,500,000,000 when the next fiscal year ends in June.

The United States, as a nation, faces an uncertain world and finds itself in an economic contest with Soviet Russia which might lead to war.

Under the circumstances, the question before Congress is whether the United States should pay some of its indebtedness or distribute a part of the surplus among the taxpayers of the country.

This is a naked question, regardless of whether the United States should extend aid to Europe, prepare itself for possible war, or go in for disarmament. Conceivably, the surplus can be enlarged by forgetting Europe, reducing the Army, Navy and Air Force and cutting off Federal employees. Even so, the same basic problem would confront the people of the nation and we would have to decide whether the surplus remaining should be used to pay our national debt or distributed in the form of a bonus to taxpayers enjoying unprecedented prosperity.

**Wildlife Club To Hold State Meeting**

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation's third annual meeting will be held in Winston-Salem on January 25 and 26. Headquarters will be the Robert E. Lee Hotel. Several nationally known speakers, including Carl D. Shoemaker of the National Wildlife Federation, will be on the program. Federation President P. K. Gravely of Rocky Mount will preside and give a report. Wendell Tesh, president of the Forsyth County Wildlife Club, and Dr. Fred Garvey, both of Winston-Salem, are in charge of local arrangements and have promised several entertainment features.

Election of officers for 1948 will be held at the business session. Officers to be elected are president, three vice presidents and secretary and treasurer.

**BETHEL CLUB MEETING**

The Bethel Home Demonstration Club met Friday, January 16, with the president, Mrs. J. P. Ward. The meeting was opened by all singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Mrs. J. P. Ward read the devotional, followed by a prayer. The roll was called and resolutions were made by some for the new year. Also as each name was called, dues were paid, which all amounted to \$8.00. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

As this was the first meeting of the year, Miss Frances Maness explained the filling out of the new books and score sheets, and also meetings of the year.

The contest was won by Mrs. C. E. White. The hostess served Jello and coconut cake to the following members: Mrs. Leroy Goodwin, Mrs. L. A. Proctor, Mrs. E. L. Goodwin, Mrs.

J. C. Hobbs, Mrs. W. D. Perry, Mrs. J. J. Phillips, Mrs. E. T. Phillips, Mrs. E. J. Proctor, Mrs. Reuben Stallings, Mrs. Dap Simpson, Mrs. C. E. White, Mrs. Beulah Williams, Mrs. W. P. Long, Mrs. S. M. Long, Miss Blanche Goodwin, Mrs. J. P. Ward and also Jackie Goodwin and Sarah Ward.

**BIBLE CLASS MEETS**

The Judson Memorial Bible Class held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening January 13 at the home of Mrs. Roger Morris with Mrs. Alma McCracken as joint hostess. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mrs. Warner Madre. During the business session the roll call and reading of the minutes were heard with twenty members present. Plans were discussed for a Valentine party February 12th. Mrs. Louis Tarkington was in charge of the program. Mrs. Lawrence Davis gave the Devotional and the Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison. Hymns were then sung. Delicious refreshments were served to the following members: Mesdames I. A. Ward, teacher, Jimmy Stallings, Jim Bass, Tommy Miller, Thomas Tilley, Addie Jones,

Linda Ward, J. T. McPherson, Josiah Elliott, Alma McCracken, L. J. Davis, E. A. Goodman, Tommy Byrum, Henry Lewis, Louis Tarkington, Riddick Chappell, Roger Morris, Warner Madre and Miss Inez Hampton and Hazel Dail. The meeting adjourned to meet in February with Mrs. Warner Madre with Mrs. Addie Jones as joint hostess.

**SMALLER POTATO ACREAGE IS INDICATED FOR YEAR 1948**

Producers of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina indicate that they expect to plant 28,400 acres in 1948, or two per cent less than they harvested in 1947, according to

**Federal-State Crop Reporting Service**

The Service added that the 1948 intended acreage in other states which normally sell their potatoes about the same time that North Carolina does is about six per cent above last year's.

North Carolina's intended acreage is a big drop from the 10-year (1927-46) average of 35,650 acres. Last year's harvested acreage was 29,000.

In a country well governed poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed wealth is something to be ashamed of.

—Confucius.

**Sunday School Lesson**

(Continued From Page Seven)

verse of the Bible is here, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Over and over again, some fifty times, the world life is repeated. We hear about the "bread of life," "the water of life," "the way, the truth and the life," "the resurrection and the life" ("eternal life," "I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly."—Hugh T. Kerr, in The Challenge of Jesus.

**U. S. O. Ends Work**

The United Service Organization, which served millions of soldiers, sailors and marines during the recent war, has ended its work after expending a total of \$236,721,295 which was contributed by the people of this country and by service men themselves.

President Truman, in noting the end of this war effort, declared that the USO "fulfilled its commitment and discharged its war-time responsibility completely and with signal distinction."

**Despite The Debate**

While the politicians, statemen and commentators debate the question of inflation, it might be well to call attention to the fact that the "consumers' price index for the month of November established a new record high."

The price index is based on goods and services used by the moderate income family groups in large cities. It reflects the average change in retail prices for an assortment of goods, rentals and services, based on a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of purchases made by such families in 1934-35.

While the figures may not apply to all moderate-income family groups throughout the nation, the probability is that the record high level is being felt everywhere. The worst of it, so far as these families are concerned, is that the prices seem to be continuing their upward trend.

**Medals For Youth**

There is something to be said for the proposal of Representative Frank Leslie Chelf, of Kentucky, who would have Congress authorize medals for outstanding bravery on the part of any youngster who, at the risk of his own life, attempts to save, or saves, the life of a fellowman or playmate.

The Kentucky Congressman thinks that it is high time for the United States "to give encouragement and some inducement to these brave youngsters who have the character and moral fiber which makes up the citizenry of tomorrow."

We have no idea how the Congress would go about the selection of the



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Who's jamming a wrench in the gears?

**3 Unions Block Labor Peace—Refuse Wage Boost Already Accepted by 19 Other Railroad Unions!**

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Switchmen's Union of North America, representing 125,000 railroad employees, have refused to accept the offer of the Railroads of a wage increase of 15 1/2 cents an hour.

This is the same increase awarded 1,000,000 non-operating employees by an arbitration board in September, 1947.

This is the same increase accepted by 175,000 conductors, trainmen and switchmen by agreement on November 14, 1947.

Agreements have been made with 1,175,000 employees, represented by nineteen unions. But these three unions, representing only 125,000 men, are trying to get more. They are demanding also many new working rules not embraced in the settlement with the conductors and trainmen.

Incidentally, the Switchmen's Union of North America represents only about 7% of all railroad switchmen, the other 93% being represented by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and covered by the settlement with that union.

**Strike Threat**

The leaders of these three unions spread a strike ballot while negotiations were still in progress. This is not a secret vote but is taken by union leaders and votes are signed by the employees in the presence of union representatives.

When direct negotiations failed, the leaders of these three unions refused to join the railroads in asking the National Mediation Board to attempt to settle the dispute, but the Board took jurisdiction at the request of the carriers and has been earnestly attempting since November 24, 1947, to bring about a settlement. The Board on January 15, 1948, announced its inability to reach a mediation settlement. The leaders of the unions rejected the request of the Mediation Board to arbitrate. The railroads accepted.

**What Now?**

The Unions having refused to arbitrate, the Railway Labor Act provides for the appointment of a fact-finding board by the President.

The railroads feel it is due shippers, passengers, employees, stockholders, and the general public to know that throughout these negotiations and in mediation, they have not only exerted every effort to reach a fair and reasonable settlement, but they have also met every requirement of the Railway Labor Act respecting the negotiation, mediation, and arbitration of labor disputes.

It seems unthinkable that these three unions, representing less than 10 per cent of railroad

employees, and those among the highest paid, can successfully maintain the threat of a paralyzing strike against the interest of the entire country—and against 99 per cent of their fellow employees.

The threat of a strike cannot justify granting more favorable conditions to 125,000 employees than have already been put in effect for 1,175,000, nor will it alter the opposition of the railroads to unwarranted wage increases or to changes in working rules which are not justified.

A glance at the box shows what employees represented by the Engineers and Firemen make. They are among the highest paid in the ranks of labor in the United States, if not the highest.

Compare these wages with what you make!

Here is a comparison of average annual earnings of engineers and firemen for 1939 (pre-war) and 1947. Also shown is what 1947 earnings would have been if the 15 1/2 cent per hour increase offered by the railroads and rejected by the union leaders, had been in effect throughout the entire year 1947.	1939 Average Annual Earnings	1947 Average Annual Earnings	1947 Average Annual Earnings with 15 1/2 cent per hour raise
Road Freight (Local and Way)	\$3,966	\$6,126	\$6,787
Road Passenger	3,532	6,389	6,995
Road Freight (Through)	3,147	4,684	5,158
Yard	2,749	4,082	4,588
Road Freight (Local and Way)	2,738	4,883	5,398
Road Passenger	2,732	4,844	5,188
Road Freight (Through)	2,082	3,680	3,891
Yard	1,682	3,282	3,538

Railroad wages computed from Interstate Commerce Commission Statement M-300. Full year 1947 estimated on basis of actual figures for first eight months.

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