

## OFFICERS CAPTURE ERNEST SHEARIN AND ROY JOHNSON

### MONTH'S SEARCH IS FINISHED

Sherain Faces Half Dozen Charges; Johnson is Hospital Fugitive

Ernest Shearin, who has eluded Halifax County officers for a long time, facing a half dozen or so charges, bond skipper twice, and Roy Johnson, notorious for his Houdini escape from the Roanoke Rapids Hospital, leg in cast, one month ago, were both captured by Halifax and Pasquotank County officers early last Friday morning.

While the frogs croaked on the edge of the Great Dismal Swamp some six miles from Elizabeth City, Shearin and Johnson were asleep in a two story frame house which one of them had rented, ignorant of the fact the law's net was closing in on them as Chief Gray and Police L. E. Keeter of Roanoke Rapids, Sheriff Johnson of Halifax County, Sheriff Coswell of Pasquotank County and two deputy sheriffs from that county, closed in on their hiding place.

Frost and fog hung thick over the Swamp in the first gray gleam of the cold morning light as the officers surrounded the house. While Sheriff Johnson and the Pasquotank deputies guarded the doors and windows outside, Chief Gray, Keeter and Sheriff Cornwall kicked down the front door and entered the house. There was no one on the first floor.

Upstairs they kicked in the door of the first room and when they heard Shearin yell out in a second room. He hit the floor, gun in hand. The officers battered in the door to his room and ordered him to come out. "I will kill any man who comes in this room," Shearin said, according to the officers. The Sheriff replied that the might kill one of them but not all and someone would get him. Chief Gray told him to start shooting quick and get it over with. After more conversation, Shearin agreed to surrender. He passed out his gun, a wicked looking 45, and came out of the room with his hands up.

He was handcuffed to Chief Gray. In the meantime, Sheriff Johnson and the other officers had entered the room and arrested Johnson, who was unable to walk although he had discarded the cast from his injured leg.

Dorothy Faison and Marie Hammill were in the house with the two men and were also arrested. The Hammill woman was turned over to the Sheriff of Pasquotank while the Faison woman was brought back here. She is in jail under a \$200 bond to await Superior court.

The two men are in jail at Halifax and no bond has been named. They will be given a preliminary hearing next week.

Although the officers had warrants for Johnson and the Faison woman, their capture came as a surprise. They had information that Shearin, for whom a capias had been issued, was in the neighborhood, but did not know the other two were there. Last week, Chief Gray and Virginia officers had missed capturing them by fifteen minutes near Alberta, Va., and lost the trail near Franklin.

One of the three persons who took Johnson out of the second story hospital window is in jail at Emporia. He is Vance Vassell, who will be tried at Emporia today on another charge and then turned over to Chief Gray to be brought to this county. Another man and woman assisted Vassell and the officers hope to find out who they were soon. According to information the officers now have, the three persons entered the hospital via a ladder in the early hours of the morning of the escape, bundled Johnson, cast leg and all, to the window, where he was carried down on the back of one of the men. They sped in a waiting auto to Virginia and for three weeks stayed with relatives and friends in different parts of the State. (Continued on back page)

### SEND FIRE FIGHTERS TO SCHOOL

Citizens Donate to Fund to Send Five Members To Wilmington

The Fire Department members are feeling pretty good over the response shown by Twin City citizens to their request for funds to send five members of the Department to the four day State Firemen's School at Wilmington, April 21 to 25.

As is well known, this is a volunteer department and the boys receive no pay for their work. T. J. St. Sing is Chief and E. R. Myrick, assistant Chief. The Department is on the job day and night and gathers almost as quickly as a full paid department. They have cut the fire loss considerably here since organization.

In Rosemary, Chief of Police Dobbins took around a petition and the merchants and citizens responded nobly with a total of \$133. In Roanoke Rapids, members of the Department started yesterday afternoon and were finishing up today soliciting.

The following made donations to the cause: Roanoke Mills Co., Halifax Builders Supply Co., J. T. Chase, W. Manning, Gold Star Store, Norris Hannon, W. F. Joyner, R. P. Beckwith, G. C. Fitts, Rosemary Cafe, L. R. Harris, T. M. Jenkins, W. S. Ivey, B. F. Hedgepeth, Dr. W. E. Murphy, W. O. Iddings, H. H. King, E. Mack, H. M. Johnson, J. H. Cullom, J. C. Leath, W. L. Crowder, S. Fligel, J. J. Wade, Traynham & Grimmer, Hunts Store, J. R. Walker, J. L. Weisner, W. H. Marks, Geo. N. Taylor, Taylor's Drug Store, R. L. Chesson, Wagon Gro. Co., G. C. Grixard, Roanoke Hdw. Co., H. F. Solomon, Oak Stores, D. N. Etheridge, J. T. Cogdale, Northington Gro. Co., W. V. White. (Continued on back page)

### DEBATE ON PROPOSED TAX CHANGE

High School Debaters to Speak to You Thru The Herald

With an affirmative team which won all three votes of judges, the local High School team was eliminated from the State Contest this week when the negative team lost by a vote of two to one.

For some unknown reason the High School State Debating Society has ruled that both sides of a debating team must win in order to compete in further contest debates. As was the case here, many wonderful debating teams are dropped through no fault of their own. They may win but still they lose.

In order to give our readers an opportunity to know the type of speeches used by local teams and also to give publicity to the proposed constitutional amendment which will be voted on in November in regard to the classification of property for taxation, we are publishing for the next four weeks, the speeches of our local High School debaters.

You, the readers, are urged to follow the debates closely each week and act as judges. These High School students have made an intense study of the proposed amendment about which the general public knows little.

The first speaker for the affirmative is Miss Laura Nell Thrift. Her speech follows.

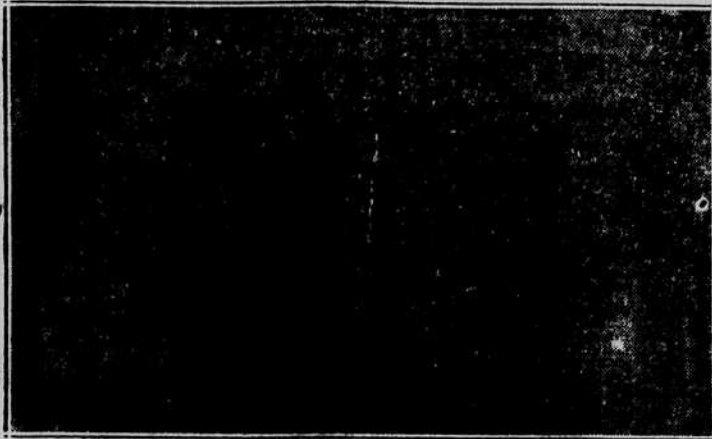
Mr. Chairman, Honorable Judges, Worthly Opponents, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The question for debate is "Resolved, That North Carolina should adopt the Proposed Constitutional Amendment, Authorizing the Classification of Property for Taxation."

"The present provision of the Constitution of North Carolina: 'Section 3 of Article 5. Taxation shall be by uniform rule and ad valorem. Laws shall be passed taxing by a uniform rule all moneys, credits, investments in bonds, stocks, joint stock companies, or otherwise; and also all real and personal property according to (Continued on page nine)

## CAROLINIANS—Know Your State!

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PICTURE OF NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE, NEW BERN

THE first newspaper published in North Carolina was established in 1755 at New Bern by James Davis. The paper was called "The North Carolina Gazette". During the Revolution printing of papers ceased and there is no record of a paper in the State until 1783 when Robert Keith started a weekly paper at New Bern. Keith said the people had learned the "Worth by the Want". There are now thirty-eight daily and one hundred and sixty three weekly papers in the State. The newspapers of North Carolina thru the broadcasting of facts about our State have been instrumental in building up community and State pride. Their public-spiritedness is manifest. The material benefit is negligible to most newspapermen who take special pride in producing a good paper filled with profitable and enjoyable information for people of their communities. Large corporations are today spending millions for news, paper advertising. Retail merchants and small manufacturers are fast realizing that newspaper advertising is a good investment.

### PRE - EASTER SERVICES AT THEATRE

Short Service at 11:30 Every Morning During Passion Week

On Monday, April 7, the ministers of Roanoke Rapids met in the study of the Methodist Church to discuss the advisability of holding special mid day services in the local theatre during Passion Week. All were agreed as to the value of such services and plans were discussed as to how the meetings might be arranged.

Manager Edgerton of the Peoples Theatre offered the use of the theatre building for this service, and it was decided to accept the offer. Mr. Hall was asked to express to him the appreciation of the ministers.

Beginning on Monday, April 14 at exactly 11:30 the bell of the Methodist Church will ring. At 11:35 the service in the theatre will begin and close promptly at 11:55. This will give everyone time to get home for dinner or to go by the school and get the children to take them home.

The Reverend and Mrs. E. D. Weathers of Rocky Mount, who will be here that week assisting Mr. Hall in special services at the Methodist Church, will have charge of the music. Both Mr. and Mrs. Weathers are talented musicians and their contribution to the services will be inspiring and helpful. The speakers will be as follows:

Monday, Rev. Hugh Bradley of the Presbyterian Church.  
Tuesday, Rev. A. P. Mustian of the Baptist Church.  
Wednesday, Rev. J. N. Bynum of the Episcopal Church.  
Thursday, Rev. E. D. Weathers.  
Friday, Rev. L. M. Hall of the Methodist Church.

It is hoped that the merchants of Roanoke Rapids will cooperate with the churches in these services as far as possible. It is the hope of the ministers of Roanoke Rapids that these brief noon day services may be a fitting preparation for the observance of Easter. Many other communities in the South are uniting in special services similar to this with splendid results, and there is surely a need for here as well.

Everyone is urged to come and join in these union services every day at 11:30 in the Peoples Theatre building. It is especially hoped that the men will come in large numbers as the plan for the services was specially designed so as to make it practicable for them to attend. The public may count on these special services beginning and closing on time, so you are asked to come promptly and worship.

Miss May Sutherland, London stenographer, is continuing her work despite the fact that she has produced a successful novel.

### METHODIST REVIVAL ON SUNDAY

A series of Evangelistic services will be held in the First Methodist Church at Roanoke Rapids beginning Sunday, April 13th and continuing thru Easter.

Rev. and Mrs. E. D. Weathers of Rocky Mount will have charge of the music and the work of the young people. Mr. Weathers is the pastor of one of the churches of Rocky Mt. Mrs. Weathers possesses a beautiful soprano voice and has visited our church before. Mr. Weathers was trained in evangelistic work at Wilona Lake, the home of Billy Sunday's evangelistic party. Both Mr. and Mrs. Weathers have done considerable work of this kind in the many churches of the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Leon M. Hall, pastor of the church will do the preaching. Plans for this meeting have been under consideration since immediately after Conference, when Mr. Hall was sent back here for his fifth year. One of the outstanding features of the coming meeting is the careful preparation that has been made. The Stewards as a body have pledged themselves to support this meeting by their presence and by visits in the interest of this series of services.

The Ladies Aid and the Epworth Leagues have likewise committed themselves in sharing the responsibility for the success of the meeting.

A feature of special interest will be the music. The two choirs have been combined in order that more effective service may be rendered. Thirty members of the Hi-League have volunteered their services as a junior choir.

The hour for the services will be 8:00 P. M. Fifteen minutes before this hour, prayer meetings will be held in the Sunday School department, one for men and one for ladies.

On Easter Sunday night the meeting will close with a pageant entitled "The Risen King."

### Johnson Announces For Legislature

D. Mac Johnson of Enfield has thrown his hat into the political ring with an announcement received by this newspaper yesterday. He, also, is running for the office of Representative as one of the two members to be selected by Halifax County Democrats in June, running to total aspirants to date to five. Mr. Johnson is a member of the law firm of Dunn & Johnson, Enfield. His announcement is as follows:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the House of Representatives subject to the Democratic Primary, June 7, 1930.

D. MAC JOHNSON,  
Enfield, N. C.

The company's program for 1930 calls for expenditure of large sums in expansion of its electric and transportation divisions in Virginia and Eastern North Carolina, more than \$500,000 to be spent in and around Norfolk in the immediate future. The principal local expenditure thus far announced is to provide for the erection of an office building here, the total cost of land and building being approximately \$400,000.

The company is also preparing for an extensive hydroelectric development in North Carolina where it took over several years ago the Roanoke Rapids Power Company and is preparing to expand the hydroelectric facilities of the Roanoke River. High tension lines are to be constructed through the territory intervening between that locality and its Eastern Virginia operations.

### DAM WORK IS HELD UP BY STATE

Says Wall Street Journal—Exact Reason Not Known Here

With everybody wondering when the work on the dam here will start and wondering at the delay, the Wall Street Journal last week reported that permits for four dams in the country were being held up by the Federal Power Commission for various reasons.

The reason attributed for the permit delay in the local dam work was given in the Journal as because of differences not yet settled between the Power Company and the State of North Carolina.

The exact nature of those differences has not yet been made public in the State, but this newspaper hopes to have some definite information by this time next week so that the public may know just where the delay is.

The Power Company has secured all the land and right of way necessary to start work, has completed preliminary surveys and soundings, and has applied to both the State and Federal Government for the necessary permits. In short, it seems to have gone as far as it can.

If the State is holding out its permit for some reason or reasons, the citizens should be acquainted with the exact nature of the State's action in this important matter.

The Virginia Electric and Power Co. subsidiary of Stone and Webster, yesterday placed on the market two million dollars worth of stock. Roanoke Rapids division quota of \$100,000 was sold yesterday, according to Manager J. T. Chase.

We quote below a newspaper dispatch from Richmond regarding the new stock and what the money will be used for.

"This is the third issue of six per cent preferred stock by the company under the Stone and Webster management. The first issue of preferred stock bore interest at seven per cent. Each of the issues have been for \$2,000,000.

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### AURELIAN SPRINGS STEPS OUT

Debaters Win; Student Wins Essay Contest; Athletes Honored

The Athletic Club of A. S. H. S., held a meeting Tuesday evening. The members of the girls and boys teams had as their guests their parents and the faculty. Mr. A. E. Akers was also a special guest.

At this time letters were awarded to Thorne, Butts, Morris, Crawley, Liles, Ruth Hamlet and Ava Qualls. Marvin Butts was elected captain for next year. Marvin Butts was elected treasurer of the club.

Joyce Scallings was chosen leader of the girls sextet for next year. Six members of the girls team received their letters, namely, Blanche Shearin, Mabel Butts, Catherine Taylor, Nan Liles, Ruth Hamlet and Ava Qualls.

There were a number of interesting talks made at the meeting. Chief among these were Messrs Matthews, Akers, Thorne and Jackson. There were others who spoke with much enthusiasm over securing a new gymnasium for next year.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting, and hope this meeting will be an incentive to greater work and cooperation in athletics for A. S. H. S.

Our school won another honor this week when we learned that Hannah Heptinstall won second place in a County wide essay contest on "Developing a Suitable Method of Taxing North Carolina Woodlands." This essay will be sent to State Forester Holmes in Raleigh, where a final selection will be made in the State-wide contest.

The debating team will journey to Chapel Hill April 17, as a result of the victory over Norlina and Littleton last Friday evening. Virginia Insko and Camilla Alston constitute the negative team, while Lorenzo Pittard and Henry Morris represent the affirmative team. We wish them much success.

### GIRLS ARE GUESTS OF LOCAL CLUB

Interesting Program at Womans Club With Girl Reserve

An interesting meeting of the Womans Club of Roanoke Rapids was held Monday afternoon in the vocational building, with Mrs. Fred Brown presiding. The matter of securing delegates to attend the Bi-Annual Federation meeting at Denver, Colorado, and to the State Federation meeting at Pinehurst, was discussed and Mrs. W. H. Pruden and Mrs. J. M. Jackson were asked to secure representatives from the club.

The president announced that a Flower show would be held by the Garden Department this spring.

The Better Homes Department, with Mrs. A. L. Taylor chairman, will have "Better Homes Week" from April 27 to May 3. The next regular meeting of the club will be held on Saturday, May 3, closing the "Better Homes Week," at the Country Club with a picnic dinner at 1 o'clock. It is hoped the every member of the Womans Club will be present at this meeting. Anyone desiring to pay their dues for the coming year can do so at this time.

A nominating committee composed of Mesdames C. L. Grimmer, George L. Hayes, A. E. Akers, L. M. Hall and J. M. Jackson were appointed to report at the next meeting.

The Civic Department had charge of the program for the day and the Girls Reserve Club and their Counselors were honored guests. A welcome was given by Mrs. Brown, telling the girls that they are the future members of the Womans Club and that when they become members they will have a nice club house in which to hold their meetings.

The president introduced Rev. Hugh Bradley, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who made a most interesting (Continued on back page)

### 40 YEARS IN PRISON FOR GANG

Which Robbed Seaboard Bank and Jackson Drug Store

A total of 40 years in prison was meted out to the five men and one woman, the gang which robbed the Seaboard Bank and the Jackson Drug store in December, when Judge W. A. Devin of Oxford passed judgment on them in Northampton Superior Court the first of this week.

Ralph Catlin, alleged leader of the gang, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison; Tracy Hart who fought extradition and denied all charges, being found guilty by a jury, was sentenced to ten years; Charles Callear, who broke down and confessed, spilling the beans on the rest of the gang, was sentenced to seven years, possibly earning a three year reprieve for his turning State's evidence; Joe Wilson and Albert Herholzer, who drove the two cars from Richmond, were given three years each; the woman, Bernice Pack, charged with participating in the robbery of the bank, also said to have been the cause of jealousy in the gang, was given a sentence of two years.

The drug store robbery was called first. All pled guilty except Hart. The testimony of the State was built for the most part on the tracing of the two cars used in the robberies and in the confession of Callear made to police in Richmond where he was arrested and later on the stand.

Callear told of the band getting together in Richmond under the leadership of Catlin and planning the Northampton County robberies. He stated he had made two other trips in North Carolina for similar purposes but it was not brought out where these robberies occurred or who was with him. He said all of the mob was from Richmond except Tracy who claimed Portsmouth as his abode.

Catlin told them about some soft pickings across the Virginia line. On the night of December 18 they came down, stopped in Weldon, passed thru Seaboard and pulled up in Jackson. While part of them waited with car engine running, the others entered the drug store, carried out the safe and some merchandise and stopped this side of Emporia to open the safe. Callear claimed he did not get any money from the safe.

He admitted going around with Bernice Pack and that Tracy Hart took her away from him, but said his confession did no come to get even with Hart or because he had been promised immunity by the State. As stated before, Tracy refused to submit and was tried on the drug store robbery. When he was found guilty, the gang decided to give in and all, including Tracy and the woman confessed to the robbery of the Seaboard bank at a later date.

On this job they brought a complete outfit for blowing a safe. While the woman and one of the men stayed outside as lookouts, the rest entered the bank, emptied the safety deposit boxes and blew the safe. Catlin, the leader gave the details of the second robbery.

Several local people were also tried at the Jackson Court. Ridley Smith, negro, charged with striking Wiley Mason, aged negro, with a car, was sentenced to from one to five years, and fined \$500, most of which was to pay the hospital bill and damages of Mason.

Den Faison pled guilty to operating a car while intoxicated and transporting liquor. He was given a two suspended sentence and given 72 hours to leave the state, a capias to be issued for him should he return within two years.

Claud Parks pled guilty to driving a car while intoxicated and sentenced to 12 months on the road.

### Aged Citizen Dies At Gumberry Monday

Mr. Frank Kee, age 80, one of the oldest residents of this section, died Monday noon at the home of his son, R. T. Kee at Gumberry. Another son, S. J. Kee, lives at Weldon. He was a relative of Walter Kee of this city. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at Bethel. Pallbearers were Paul and Walter Kee, G. C. Howell, R. E. Daniel, J. L. Bass, J. K. Sewell. The deceased was one of the oldest and most prominent families of the State. His wife died about 15 years ago.