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THE HERALD

OF THE TWIN CITIES—ROANOKE RAPIDS—ROSEMARY

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VOLUME 16.

ROANOKE RAPIDS-ROSEMARY, N. C. THURSDAY, MARCH 17th, 1930.

NUMBER 1.

CONVICT KILLED IN PRISON FARM RIOT, FIND MANY WEAPONS

11 SHOT BY GUARD

Who Is Exonerated By Coroner's Jury; Mur- derous Plot

Death of one of the ring leaders and the discovery by Coroner Billy Williams and other County officials of murderous weapons of every type hidden in the cells are the latest developments in the convict riot at Caledonia Prison Farm near Scotland Neck, Sunday night.

Theodore Lewis, one of the eleven injured during the riot, died Tuesday. Dr. C. L. Jenkins, camp physician, said that death was due to heart failure. Lewis was shot in the hip by guard Clyde Lane who fired four times with a riot gun at the feet of a group of convicts.

Tuesday night the body of the dead man was brought here and an inquest held by Coroner Billy Williams. Dr. Mitchell, County Health officer, and others, performed an autopsy before the jury which brought in a verdict of death by accidental shooting by guard Clyde Lane.

Although the man was shot in the thigh, it was apparent he had been struck by a shot which hit the concrete floor and rebounded, entering the thigh and ranging up through the abdominal cavity into the thoracic cavity causing death 48 hours later.

Prison officials made a search Monday and reported no weapons found in the dormitories at the Prison Farm but a later search by the coroner and party revealed an arsenal of instruments of every description. They were found in the mattresses and bed pads, secreted under the double bunks and in other spots cleverly concealed.

Deadly dirks and knives seemed to be the favorite weapon, any one of which would have brought instant death. Butcher, kitchen and hunting knives had been filed down to sharp pointed and keen edged instruments of death.

Other instruments were very crudely made, such as clubs of hickory and striking instruments made from wrenches. Home made sandbags and black jacks were found, any of which was a perfect "sleep producer."

Several battle axes had been made from hatchets, with one particularly evil looking weapon for skull cleaving made from a bush axe. Saws, files and similar devices were in great abundance. Part of the equipment was brought here by the coroner and have been seen by hundreds of citizens.

One club still has the blood on it from the wound received by Corporal Jones, who was struck from behind and knocked to the floor. It was soon after this incident the shooting occurred.

It all seems to have started about two weeks ago when the ring leaders began getting the weapons ready. They planned to kill the guards, take their weapons, go to the officers' quarters and gain possession of all the guns and make a wholesale delivery of the prisoners.

Two weeks ago, it is reported a convict stepped from the ranks and told a guard a certain prisoner was planning to kill the foreman with a knife. The foreman told the accused man to stand out of line, searched him and found a long knife tied to his leg.

From this time on, the prisoners became suspicious of one another. They were divided in opinion as to doing murder and making a get-away. Those who did not want to see bloodshed are said to have revealed some of the plans of the others.

The trouble Sunday night really started among the suspicious prisoner-fighters; each other. When the guard came in to quiet the disturbance, one of the ring leaders nailed him with a club. Lane came to the rescue with the riot gun and fired low to frighten the convicts away from the other guard. He was exonerated by the coroner's jury consisting of Jack Weisner, W. E. Moody, Norris Hannon, S. B. Jones, Buck Taylor and R. M. Hudson.

Eleven were wounded instead of eight as was first reported. None are serious except the fatality. Ring-

leaders are in solitary confinement and will be dealt with later. Below is printed an early account which has been changed in some detail in the above report.

All was quiet at Caledonia Prison farm near Scotland Neck, after the first serious outbreak in three years on Sunday.

Seven prisoners were in the prison farm hospital, three with buckshot wounds and four with injuries received in a free-for-all among themselves, but none was regarded as in serious condition. Harry Jones, guard who was beaten when he attempted to quell the rioters, did not remain in the hospital.

"Everything is quiet here. There wasn't much to it and we are having no trouble at all," said Captain N. E. Raines, camp supervisor, over long distance telephone Monday night.

Chester O. Bell, assistant to Supt. George Ross Pou, who was aroused at 5 o'clock Monday morning to speed to the scene of trouble, returned and reported that no further trouble was anticipated.

The ring leaders, he said were segregated—either in the hospital or in dark cells—but that disciplinary measures had not yet been decided upon.

"It was just a struggle among themselves," said Mr. Bell, who with Superintendent Pou investigated the riot.

Pending the arrival of officials from Raleigh, Captain Raines kept the 553 white prisoners locked up all morning, but Supt. Pou ordered them returned to work at noon and they went without protest.

Supt. Pou praised Guard Clyde Lane for his quick and cool-headed action in quieting the rioters after they had beaten Corporal Jones. Lane rushed in with a shotgun and fired low, wounding P. D. Cannon in the hip and Theodore Lewis and Robert Hyson in the leg.

The riot started about nine o'clock Sunday night in one of the cell house sections of the main dormitory housing over 500 convicts. There were 200 prisoners in the section when a general alarm was spread by disorder from throwing sticks and shoes, breaking out window panes and damaging property.

The three men wounded by buckshot were all Class "C" prisoners and all were sentenced from Buncombe County. Cannon began serving a five year sentence for breaking and entering in May, 1928; Lewis was sent up in January, 1928, to do five to six years for housebreaking and larceny, and Hyson came to the prison in April 1928, to do five to seven years for larceny.

The last serious outbreak at Caledonia was in May, 1927, when prisoners went on a destructive riot, damaging property and tearing up water-lines. Tear bombs and guns were rushed to the scene but the mutiny was quelled without bloodshed.

B. Marks Store Open As Usual Tomorrow

The B. Marks Store will reopen for business this Friday morning, according to manager Abe Norinsky, after being closed for several weeks. An announcement is made in the advertising columns of this issue regarding the opening. The biggest store in this section of the State, located on an important corner of the town, has caused that portion of the business section to look mighty dark, but the lights will be on every night starting Friday, says the management. A more detailed announcement will be made in this paper next week concerning future plans.

NO DAM NEWS

No news of the dam situation is forthcoming this week although Power Company officials are hopeful of getting matters settled with a State department in the next couple of weeks so that the Federal permit from the Power Commission may be issued. Citizens of Halifax and Northampton Counties are ready to do anything in their power to help expedite matters but the question at present is in much better shape so far as technical problems are concerned than it has been for several weeks.

Miss Helen Brown visited friends in Red Oak last week.

LOCAL BAND ON AIR THIS SATURDAY

Goes to Richmond for Broadcast Starting at Noon Saturday

The Rosemary Concert Band goes on the air again this Saturday noon at 12 sharp for an hour of concert and popular music over Station WR-VA at Richmond, Va.

S. T. Peace, president of Roanoke Mills Co., and of the Roanoke Bank and Trust Co., will make a five minute talk during the program, telling the world about the Twin Cities.

More than one agency is cooperating in making this broadcast a success. Manager J. T. Chase was in Richmond this week and arranged with officials of the Virginia Electric and Power Company to furnish one of the larger Power Company buses to take the band to Richmond and bring the boys back. The big bus will arrive here from Richmond late Friday afternoon and will leave here at 7:30 Saturday morning. Officials of the Power Company will meet the bus on its arrival in Richmond and will probably show the boys the times of their lives. Photographers will be on hand to take pictures of the band and bus.

The boys made a big hit with radio fans all over the country when they broadcast over WPTF at Raleigh some weeks ago. Fan mail and requests still come in to the station and to the director R. L. Martin.

We publish one letter in full from an admirer in Durham who wants to know if Rudy Valle is with the band. We have a feeling this refers to Dick Martin who has been doing solo numbers with the band. Another fan says the band is as good as Sousa's, which is going some.

Tune in on the boys this Saturday noon. Below we print some more of the favorable comment received from listeners in.

Program fine. Please play "Carolinian Moon." Mrs. Earnest Fleming, Roanoke, Va.

Music fine. Wish I could be with you. Thos. Harper, Erwin, N. C.

Please play "Tip-Toe." Mrs. Milton Wilson, Warrenton, N. C.

Listening in on your program. Congratulations. H. A. Jordan, Henderson, N. C.

Band concert is fine. Enjoying it. T. L. Kimery, Durham, N. C.

Enjoying program very much. It is beautiful. Mrs. Whitehead and family, Enfield, N. C.

Program equal to Sousa's Band. (Continued on back page)

Hunt Parker Out For Solicitorship

To the Democratic voters of Halifax County:

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for renomination as solicitor of this district, subject to the cation of the Democratic Primary, June 7th, 1930.

In sincere appreciation of the trust you have reposed heretofore in me by electing me as solicitor I have tried without fear or favor, to guard well your every interest and to see that in the courts justice was done, to high and low, to rich and poor. I shall greatly appreciate your vote and support.

Respectfully,
R. HUNT PARKER,

Allen Zollicoffer For State Senator

We are authorized to make the following announcement, given to this newspaper this morning by Allen C. Zollicoffer, prominent young attorney of this city.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of State Senator of North Carolina from Halifax County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary, June 7, 1930.

ALLEN C. ZOLLICOFFER,
Rosemary, N. C.

PRISONERS' MUTINY ARSENAL



This murderous collection of weapons, smuggled into the main dormitory at Caledonia Prison Farm, was unearthed by Coroner W. C. Williams of Halifax County following the riot Sunday night in which 11 convicts were shot, one fatally. Prison officials after their own investigation Monday said that no knives or other weapons were found in the convicts' quarters. Factional differences because of leaks in mutiny plans led to the disturbance, the first of consequence at the prison in three years, Supt. George Ross Pou. All was quiet at Caledonia yesterday. It was reported at the prison, the jury empaneled by Coroner Williams late Tuesday night returned a verdict that Convict Theodore Lewis died of gunshot wounds accidentally inflicted. Prison Physician C. L. Jenkins had stated he died of a heart attack.

POLITICS WARM UP A LITTLE

Strong Bailey Sentiment In County; Local An- nouncements

The political pot is warming up slightly in Halifax County, which many still speak of as the Banner Democratic County of North Carolina. In the 1928 Presidential election, when other counties were trailing like sheep behind Sheep Shearer Simmons, reconstruction day Democrats point to price and joy to the enormous majority polled in Halifax for Alfred E. Smith.

Local leaders say that the party members were never more unified as on that November day and they predict that while a lighter vote will be cast in the Democratic Primary in June 7th, the majority which Josiah W. Bailey will get in Halifax County will maintain just about the same ratio. They also predict his victory over Senator Simmons for the nomination with the surmise that Simmons can't make a heated fight and Bailey won't. The vote will be light, they say, but an overwhelming majority of those who do vote in the primary will be staunch old Democrats and young, who will vote for what they term "a real Democrat." They also expect a goodly number of those who strayed to the other side to return and wipe out an "evil deed" with a good one.

It is talked around here that Sen. Simmons, instead of making an issue of Raskob by demanding his resignation as Democratic National Chairman, has simply made out a worse case for himself because it was necessary for Mr. Simmons to join in with Republican leaders who were seeking to put Mr. Raskob in a bad light. In fact, it is the opinion in Banner County Halifax that Editor Josephus Daniels, who has been playing neutral in the Bailey-Simmons

(Continued on back page)

CLEAN UP WEEK FOR TWIN CITIES

Civic Department of Wo- mans Club Sponsors Clean-Up Week

The Civic Department of the Wo-mans Club of Roanoke Rapids met on Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Harvey Hazlewood to complete plans for Clean Up Week, April 28 to May 3. Mrs. W. F. Joyner, chairman of this department enthusiastically led the discussion of these plans.

The department plans to improve the appearance of Roanoke Avenue by planting two flower beds, one in Emery Park, the other in the vacant lot adjoining Joyner Motor Company in Rosemary. The boy scouts have volunteered their services in preparing these flower beds for planting, and various members of the Civic Department have donated cannas, zinnias and nasturtiums.

To aid in the advertising in this Clean-Up drive, The Herald Printing Co., donated to this department cardboard for fifty posters. The local teachers with the assistance of the students will design these posters in attractive and original patterns. These are to be displayed in the store windows of Roanoke Rapids and Rosemary.

Friday, May 2nd, has been set aside to clean up the cemetery. Everybody is asked to lend a helping hand to this urgent need.

A committee was appointed to call on the merchants to enlist their hearty cooperation in removing all rubbish on theirs and adjoining lots. Mayor Long has issued a proclamation printed elsewhere in this issue.

The civic department makes an earnest appeal to the Town Board, Rosemary Merchants association, Kiwanis Club, schools, churches and all other organizations to assist in making this a successful and profitable Clean-Up week.

The best advertisements to any locality are cleanliness and beauty. In order to make this favorable impression upon travelers and passersby, the Civic Department urges everybody to clean up streets, alleys and yards as well as vacant lots, making the Twin Cities a place of health and beauty.

Mrs. P. A. Cook, Mrs. B. O. Cooper, Mrs. J. G. Copeland and Mrs. Morris spent some time last week visiting friends and relatives in Rich Square.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

Whereas, this being the time to designate a week known as "Clean-Up-Week" for the Town of Roanoke Rapids; and whereas, it is very necessary for the health and well being of the community that there should be a general cleaning of all yards and premises, streets and alleys frequently, and especially during the Spring months,

Now, therefore, I hereby designate and set aside the week beginning the 28 day of April, 1930, and ending the 3rd day of May, 1930, as "Clean-Up-Week" for the Town of Roanoke Rapids, and ask that all citizens clean up all of their yards and premises and place all trash and debris in the alleys so that the same will be convenient for the trash wagons, and that they cooperate with the Town authorities in cleaning up the streets and alleys of the town.

This the 17th day of April, A. D., 1930.

T. W. M. LONG,
Mayor, Town of Roanoke
Rapids.

DON'T WANT CHASE TO QUIT ROADS

Members Present Road Ask Him to Reconsider Decision Not To Run

The four members of the present Halifax County Highway Commission in a joint letter, a copy of which was sent to THE HERALD, ask J. T. Chase, Chairman of the Board to reconsider his decision made and recently published in this paper not to run for the office again.

Two weeks ago this paper received a letter from Mr. Chase in which he stated he would not be a candidate to succeed himself as a member of the Highway Commission. He gave the press of other business matters as his reason with the explanation that he had given ten or more years to public office in the county.

In addition to his county office as chairman of the Highway Commission, Mr. Chase is a member of the City School Board, a member and officer of the Roanoke Rapids Hospital, a director in one of the local banks, and holds other public and business offices which take much of his time, in addition to his regular work as district manager of the Virginia Electric and Power Co., for the State of North Carolina.

However, the members of the Road Board are insistent that Mr. Chase continue as a member of the Board, stating that his experience both as an engineer and a past member of the Highway Commission makes him much needed on the board.

The letter received by this newspaper was sent by C. F. Gore, superintendent for highways for the county, and was signed by Messrs P. V. Randolph, F. M. Taylor, W. L. Bailey, and J. W. Harvey, the other four members of the commission.

Mr. Chase asked in his recent letter that a good man be selected from this township to take his place. As yet there has been no announcement for the office.

The letter to Mr. Chase is as follows:

Dear Mr. Chase.— We have noted your letter published in THE (Roanoke Rapids) HERALD stating that you will not be a candidate to succeed yourself as a member of the highway commission. As co-members of this commission, who have served with you and know your fitness and ability for this office, we do sincerely regret this decision.

We realize that every man has the privilege of declining to continue in public service whenever he so chooses, we also realize that there are other men who have the qualifications for this office but we believe that, at this time, with your past experience in highway matters you are needed as a member of this commission, and we do sincerely request and urge that you reconsider this matter and allow your name to be placed before the voters of Halifax County.

With very best wishes,
Sincerely yours,
J. W. HARVEY,
F. M. TAYLOR,
W. L. BAILEY,
P. V. RANDOLPH.
Copy to (Roanoke Rapids) THE HERALD.

BOY SLIPS DROWNS IN MILL POOL

Ernest Cross, 11, Falls Into Deep Water When Feet Slip Saturday

Unable to get a foothold on the slanting bottom of the reservoir of Roanoke Mill No. 2, his feet slipping and sliding in the slick ooze, Ernest Cross, age 11, plunged headfirst to his death Saturday afternoon.

While his 8 year old brother and a man who could not swim watched horrified, the boy, who slipped into the shallow water near the edge tried to reach the concrete bank, his feet flew out from under him and he plunged into twelve feet or more of water near the center of the reservoir.

Troy Holloman, working on the second floor of the mill, heard the boy scream and looked out a window to see him apparently jumping up and down in the shallow water. He called to him to get out for as Mr. Holloman explained to Coroner Williams, no one was allowed around the reservoir which is surrounded on three sides by the U shaped mill buildings and on the fourth side by a boiler room.

When he saw the boy lose his balance, Holloman ran to the elevator and hurried out to the water. Bob Wilkins, mill watchman, heard the commotion and ran out to the reservoir just in time to see the boy's feet disappearing in the middle of the pool. Mr. Wilkins could not swim and the boy never came to the surface again. Holloman, Tom Yates and Bob King dove into the water and found the boy on the bottom of the pool. He was rushed to the hospital but was dead on arrival.

The brother, Zolph, says he was sitting on the steps of the pool and his brother was sitting on the sloping side. Both were washing their feet. He says he told Ernest to come over and sit on the steps with him and when he started to get up he slipped into the pool.

The drowned boy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cross. Funeral services were held Sunday and burial was in Roanoke Rapids Cemetery.

EASTER SERVICES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SERVICES

On Friday from 12 to 1:30 o'clock there will be a service in commemoration of our Lords' crucifixion. The public is invited.

Services Easter 7:30 A. M. Celebration of Holy Communion.

11:00 A. M., special music, sermon and communion.

7:30 P. M., evening prayer and sermon.

Easter is the greatest day of the church year and we trust all people of this church and our friends will come for worship on this day.

Presbyterian Church

There will be a special out of town speaker at the monthly meeting of the Men of the Church this Friday night. Every man is urged to be present.

Special Easter services have been arranged for the Sunday morning service at 11 o'clock. The program will include Communion Service and special Easter music by a large choir. The public is especially invited to attend this Easter Morning service.

The regular Sunday night service will start at eight o'clock instead of 7:30. This time will be used the rest of the Spring and Summer.

Rosemary Methodist

The pastor, Rev. C. T. Thrift, will preach at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. In the morning he will use as his subject "Did the Body of Jesus, which was Crucified on Friday Come to Life Three Days Later?" At night he will speak on "Prohibition." The public is cordially invited to attend both services. Rev. Frederick Frederickson will preach at Smith's Church next Sunday morning.

Boy Scout Troop One, Roanoke Rapids, met last Friday night at the High School. After roll call they went down to the gym and played games. Troop Two met Tuesday night and agreed to dig flower beds for the Wo-mans Club to beautify the town in the approaching Clean-Up drive.

WHAT WILL YOU WEAR EASTER?

If you use the advertising columns of THE HERALD as a shopping guide, you will have no trouble in finding what you have been wanting for Easter—and where to buy it. The merchants of the Twin Cities send you their Easter Messages through this issue of THE HERALD. You cannot afford to overlook what they offer for the gay Spring Festival.