

UP AND DOWN The Avenue WITH THE EDITOR

To call a policeman or fire department Dial 668-1.

A special Christmas program at the High School assembly this morning was well attended by parents and other citizens.

Coming out of a side street, the car of Miss Evelyn Brown struck the car of drug tycoon Alfred Martin, the other day. Riding with Mr. Martin was his daughter, Margaret, who was thrown thru the windshield, suffering only a slight bruise on her forehead and broken glasses.

R. D. Furdy has been made manager of the Carolina Ice Co. of Roanoke Rapids and Weldon, ice, coal, and ice cream manufacturers.

Speedy work continues on the sewer lines with 90 men at work each clear day this week. The first ditches are now covered.

With the Christmas season on us, the necessity of safe installation and use of temporary decorative lighting in homes and show windows is stressed by City Inspector Henry Fitts.

Ed Woodruff killed his third deer this season Tuesday morning. It weighed about 100 pounds.

Joe Wofford, of New York City, who has been traveling around the world on one of Henry Ford's freighters, is spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Wofford.

Members of the Methodist Church gathered at the parsonage Tuesday evening of this week and gave the new pastor and his family a pounding which consisted of many good things to eat.

There are two new members of the Roanoke Rapids School Board, elected at the last meeting to fill unexpired terms.

The Virginia Beach newspaper reports the dismissal of the case against Dr. Edgar Cayce in New York, visited by several local citizens last year.

Born 6 a. m., Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1931, a daughter to Lawyer and Mrs. Julian R. Allsbrook.

NOTICE—to advertisers and Herald correspondents: The Christmas week edition of The Herald will go to press one day earlier than usual.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Weatherspoon and children spent the week-end here as the guests of Mrs. Clarence Grimmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hawley and son, Frank, Mrs. Howard Pruden and son, Bill and Mrs. Paul Heydeich, spent Saturday in Richmond, Va.

6 YEAR OLD BOY KILLS SISTER

W. JORDAN AMBUSHED ON TRACKS

Waverly Jordan, 48, well known Gumberry citizen, was ambushed and seriously wounded at 9 o'clock tonight as he was walking the railroad tracks to his home near the Northampton town.

He was brought to the local hospital at 9:15 with gunshot wounds on one side of his face and throat, some dangerously near the eye.

Mr. Jordan was walking home when an unknown person, hiding behind a box car, fired at close range at his side. He does not know who it was.

He was conscious at midnight. Officers from here left for Northampton County to aid in solving the mystery last night. They had not reported back at press time.

30 MORE WORTHY FAMILIES

Complete List of Needy For Xmas Opportunity—First Is Taken MANY RESPOND

Splendid response by individuals and organizations to the call of Associated Charities to take charge of Opportunities for Christmas Day in Roanoke Rapids was forthcoming after the last issue of The Herald listed fifteen families in need of help for that day.

Encouraged by the attitude, Rev. J. N. Bynum, president of Associated Charities, has given us a complete list of other families in the city which have been investigated and which have proved worthy of assistance.

Here are the new Opportunities. This is the last call.

No. 16. Husband, wife, six children and mother in law. Children from one to 12 years of age. Father has little or no work.

No. 17. Two old people with no support or family.

No. 18 and 19. Taken.

No. 20. Two old people with one small grandchild. Too old to work.

No. 21. Man and wife and three small children ages 1 to 10.

No. 22. Taken.

No. 23. Old lady, her son who is unable to work, his wife and a small boy.

No. 24. A widow whose husband only recently died, three children ages 6 to 11.

No. 25. Man and wife and two small children. Husband ill.

No. 26. A widow with a small daughter and a grown daughter whose husband has deserted her, with two small children. A very worthy case.

No. 27. Husband and wife and 3 small children. Husband's eyesight has gone bad and lost his job.

No. 28. Taken.

No. 29. Mother and four children from 3 to 12. Father in prison.

No. 30. Mother with three girls 8 to 15. Father in prison.

No. 31. Father and mother and four children, 2 to 7. Father out of job.

No. 32. One old man with no work or support.

No. 33. Mother and father and three small children. Husband not working.

No. 34. Mother and father and two girls, one to two years old, Husband unable to work.

No. 35. Mother with four children from 9 to 18. Husband has deserted family.

No. 36. Widow with four children. Needy.

No. 37. Mother and father and six children, 7 to 12. Father not working.

No. 38. Father and mother with six children. Father's work not adequate.

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CHAMPIONS OF NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE



Here are the Roanoke Rapids High School's football champions of the Northeastern Conference. The Yellow Jackets were undefeated in conference play and for the entire season won nine of ten games.

the picture left to right, are: Top row—Captain Brown, Coach Hoyle, Assistant Coach Poyner. Second row—Davis, Matthews, Glover, Davis, Cagle, Clark, Brown, Edwards, Bennett. Third row—Manager Sullivan, Webster, McCommons, Ogilvie, Edwards, Dobbins, Galt, McNeil, Assistant Manager Jenkins. Fourth row

—Pierce, Mencher, Womble, Hardison, Bounds, Sullivan, Riggins, Dean. Fifth row—J. McNeil, Gaylord, Thompson, Lowe, Murray, Dickens, Brown, C. Mills. Front row—Kitchen, Speight, Allsbrook, Tickle, Shell, J. Shell, Mills, Matthews. (Newton, regular end, was absent when picture was made.)

XMAS EVE PROGRAM ON AVENUE

Community Singing at 7 O'clock At Tree in Front of The Hospital

ALL INVITED

One thousand people from this city and surrounding territory are planned for at the Christmas Community Singing to be held here at 7 o'clock Christmas Eve.

The Community Tree was put up today and will be lighted by the last of the week. It is located next to the Episcopal Church across the Avenue from the Hospital.

The service will be short on next Thursday night. There will be no gifts given away at the tree, as explained before. This is simply a community get together for some singing of Christmas songs.

The Club, which meets on the same night, will eat supper and go in a body to the community meeting.

Members of various church choirs will take part. The songs will be printed in next week's Wednesday edition of The Herald, and extra copies will be furnished by The Herald at the singing. Everybody is expected to come and join in the singing.

Rev. J. N. Bynum will give a short Christmas talk. The songs to be sung are "Holy Night, Silent Night"; "O, Little Town of Bethlehem," and "O, Come All Ye Faithful."

Music will be furnished by Jay Saunders and his Rosemary Concert Band. This is all the invitation you need to come and bring the family and your friends. A special invitation is given to out of town folks.

Roanoke Rapids has taken on a real Christmas atmosphere. There are many beautiful store windows in both ends of the city and all the stores are chock full of gifts of every description.

Toys are going plenty good and useful gifts are being bought more than ever.

You are urged to read the ads in this issue of The Herald for suggestions as to what and where to buy. We consider this one of the best all-around issues of The Herald yet printed, which speaks well for the city in 1931. Out of town shoppers will make no mistake in coming here for their Christmas supplies and gifts.

Emperor Selassie of Ethiopia treated 10,000 warrior tribesmen to a dinner of raw meat in celebration of the first anniversary of his coronation.

A small balloon released in New York was found 24 days later in Nova Scotia, about 1,200 miles away.

Christmas Services At Methodist Church

The morning and evening service at the First Methodist Church next Sunday will be appropriate to the season. The morning subject will be "The Desire of the Nations." The evening subject will be "Taking Jesus Seriously." There will be special music rendered by the choir at each of these services. The public is invited.

SEVEN DIE HERE IN PAST WEEK

Unprecedented Number of Deaths in City in Past Few Days; All Natural Causes

ONE IN WRECK

Death took a heavy toll in Roanoke Rapids during the past few days with the passing of a half dozen local citizens.

James T. Smith, age 85, was buried Saturday from his home on Madison Street. Death came as a result of an auto wreck which took place two weeks ago.

Mr. Smith and his wife had hired a car to take them to visit relatives in Virginia. En route the car ran off a fill and turned over, injuring the aged couple. Mrs. Smith left the hospital last Thursday, the day her husband died.

Funeral services were preached by Rev. A. P. Mustian and interment was in Roanoke Rapids cemetery. Several children survive, among them Charley Smith of this city. Pallbearers were Ernest Lee, Jim Reed, W. H. Roberts, T. A. Acree, E. S. Windell and Doc King.

George E. Harris, 71, died this Tuesday at the home of Bud Martin on Henry Street. Funeral services were preached yesterday by Rev. D. M. Sharpe with interment in Roanoke Rapids cemetery. Several children here and in Virginia survive.

Pallbearers were Plato Cook, T. A. Acree, L. R. Britton, Buddie Coppedge, Jessie Padgett and J. L. Davis.

Mrs. J. R. Lassiter, 58, died today at her home in South Rosemary. She had been in ill health for several years and confined to the bed for nine weeks. The deceased had lived here ten years. Funeral services will be held this Friday afternoon by Rev. J. E. Kirk. The following children survive: Jule, Fletcher and Archie Lassiter, Mrs. J. D. Lang and Mrs. Clyde Holman, all of this city.

Leslie W. Epps, age 26, died last Thursday from pneumonia. He was buried Saturday at Pleasant Hill. A wife and three children survive.

Mrs. Mary Gordon, 71, died last

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TRAGIC END FOR CHILD LEFT ALONE

13 Months Old Baby Lost In Flames Which Destroy Country Residence

PARENTS RETURN

Left alone in a country house, while the aunt and other children were in the woods, Marion Powell, thirteen months old, was burned to death in a fire which destroyed the house about 10:30 yesterday morning.

Mary Powell, an aunt of the girl, was left with the children while the parents were at work in a field gathering corn. It is reported the aunt took the older children with her into the woods to "get a toothbrush," leaving the baby in its crib.

While they were gone, the house caught fire, evidently from a heater, and on their return, they found the house in flames and the heat too intense to rescue the baby. The parents, hearing the cries, rushed from the field just as the roof of the dwelling fell in and the last wall crashed.

The little iron crib was crushed with the heat and nothing but a few bones were found. These were placed in a shoe box and the father, Thomas M. Powell, a hardworking farmer, came to the city yesterday afternoon to report the death to Coroner Williams.

After questioning members of the family, the Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death.

The Powell place is a little more than four miles from the city limits on the old Halifax road. Two other children were with the aunt, a sister of Mr. Powell.

The toothbrush for which the aunt is said to have gone to the woods is of the homemade variety, consisting of black gum branches which are cut off and tied together, the ends used as a brush by being chewed. The same apparatus is also said to make a good snuff stick.

The father, Walter Bryant, had gone to work at Roanoke Mills No. 1, where he is on the night shift. The family was getting ready to retire and Mrs. Bryant left the room to lock the back door. Charlie picked up a single barrel shot gun which stood in the corner and raised it to his shoulder. As he swung it around the room, and at the moment it passed his sister's head, he pulled the trigger.

At the explosion, the girl dropped to the bed unconscious. The mother, hearing the report, rushed back into the room to behold such a scene as few mothers have ever experienced. Dazed and white—in the center of the room stood the boy, the smoking gun in his hand. On the bed, lay her other two children, both covered with blood.

On the walls, bed, floor, even on the ceiling—blood.

The gun had not been far from the girl's head; the entire load took effect just above the base of the brain and ranged up, taking off the top of the skull.

Ruby was never conscious. The screams of the mother and other children brought immediate aid from neighbors and a call was put in for help. Coroner Williams, just leaving his store for Kiwanis Club, with Officer Carl Green, rushed to the home. The girl was barely breathing. As they started to lift her up for the journey to the hospital, she died. It was 6:25 p. m.

The baby, its face covered with the sister's blood, was not hit by any of the shot, and fell unhurt from her arms to the bed. Mr. Bryant was called from the mill and arrived to find his wife in an hysterical condition, the four remaining children tearful and frightened.

"I didn't know it was loaded," said six year old Charlie. "I just picked it up and it went off." The boy seems to realize what he has done and is heartbroken.

The girl did not stay in that room; as reported, it had not been where the children could reach it until yesterday when Mr. Bryant went hunting. He went to work last night and this morning returned tired out. He says he remembered, as he lay in bed today, that the gun was still loaded, and made a mental note to unload it when he got up. And then he forgot it.

The entire city was shocked as the news spread late tonight. Funeral services will be held this Friday afternoon at the residence, which is out Tenth Street, near Clary's Store, on the edge of the city. Interment will be in Roanoke Rapids Cemetery. The Bryant family has lived here for many years.

Where Are Those Red Cross Sewing Machines?

The Red Cross is very anxious to secure some additional sewing machines and if any one can give them information in regard to the machines formerly owned by the Red Cross, during the war, it will be greatly appreciated. Please report same to Mrs. T. W. M. Long or Mrs. R. P. Beckwith.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY LAST EVE

Charlie Bryant Didn't Know Gun Was Loaded - Infant In Dead Girl's Arms

SISTER WAS EIGHT

One of the most horrible accidental shootings in the State's history took place tonight here when Charlie Bryant, age 6, first grade pupil in the Roanoke Rapids schools, pointed a gun at his sister, Ruby, 8 years old, and pulled the trigger.

The gun was loaded and Ruby died fifteen minutes later with the top of her skull blown off. When the shot was fired, she held in her arms the baby of the family, an infant a few months old. The babe was uninjured.

From the incoherent story of the heartbroken boy, Coroner Billy Williams, who arrived before the child died, was able to piece together the following tragic tale. Ruby was sitting on the bed with her back to the boy; she was holding and playing with the baby.

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