

Offering a Thorough Coverage of the Greater Roanoke Rapids Trade Territory

# "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL" THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

Eastern Carolina's Class A Weekly Newspaper "The Paper That Goes Home"

VOLUME 17.

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1931.

NUMBER 37.

UP AND DOWN  
**The Avenue**  
WITH THE EDITOR

The Womans Club will hold its regular meeting on Monday afternoon, January 4th, at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs. T. R. Manning. All members and prospective members are urged to start the New Year right by attending this meeting.

Perhaps it is because The Herald is a Democratic newspaper, its editor raised and educated amid the traditions of Southern Democracy; his later life taking him into the Republican North from which he returned a stauncher and more devoted Democrat than ever before; proud of the fact that he has aligned himself in maturer years with the Party which has been sneeringly called the Poor Man's Party by the Grand Old Republicans; that is the only reason we can figure why The Herald is thrown on the floor of the local Republican postoffice and allowed to remain there hour after hour while simple Christmas Cards, Sears-Roebuck Catalogues and other similar mail is given preference.

This matter of poor postoffice service for The Herald has been in evidence for a long time; but we have suffered in silence, with the knowledge that wordful prayers to our Republican brethren would go unheeded. Complain to Washington, say our good friends and supporters. As well complain to the Rock of Gibraltar. Washington under Postmaster General Brown, is as Republican as Maine (where we had to live for three years). Our complaint would bring a sweet letter and then that long silence which spells—N.A. (Nothing Accomplished). We've got something to do besides writing love letters to Republican Washington.

We bring our complaint to those who can do something about it. To the Democrats of Roanoke Rapids. Go to this Postmaster and tell him you want your Herald when they are put in the postoffice. You can demand service. You paid for your subscription; we pay the postage and you are the customer who is entitled to service.

This is Tuesday night. One of our subscribers just called us over the phone to tell us he received his Herald today; exactly six days after The Herald went in the Roanoke Rapids postoffice. The issue of Dec. 24 was in the postoffice on Wednesday night Dec. 23. This man got his on the afternoon of the 29th.

We know some people got their Christmas Day. We went in the postoffice on the night of the 24th and demanded the boxes be put up when we found The Herald undelivered. Those who had boxes got theirs because an under employee (we bet a Democrat) agreed to stay over and put them up.

We have done all we can. If you want The Herald on time, you must complain to the postoffice officials yourself. The regular Herald has been in the postoffice every Friday morning at opening time. Not a person in this city should have to wait later than Friday afternoon for his Herald any week.

Now we can say a lot of nasty things about the Presidential campaign of 1932 and what will happen to our postoffice officials then. We want. If the service improves, you won't hear another word out of us. If it doesn't, then look out for Dynamite.

We know they hate to see The Herald come in that door. We have so many subscribers, the postmaster admits it takes his crew two or three hours to put them up; we can't hold it if Roanoke Rapids likes our paper. All the more reason why it should be given preference. We are proud of the fact we have the largest paid up circulation of any newspaper in this section of the State. And we are going to see that our subscribers get the service they deserve. Even if we have to fight every Republican postmaster from Maine to Mexico.

To the 8,000 readers of The Herald we simply say, 'Forgive us for taking so much space for our own troubles. After all, you are the ones we strive to please and the ones to whom we should, therefore, come with our troubles.'

## ORDER FEDERAL BUILDING SURVEY

### State Engineers Survey Avenue

#### MAY GET STATE AID ON ROAD

City Council and Kiwanis Club Gets Action From State Department OFFER 3 PLANS

State Highway Engineers were busy Tuesday and Wednesday of this week making a complete survey of Roanoke Avenue from the bridge to the railroad, as promised the City Council last week by Highway Engineer Waldrop and District Engineer Gardner.

A committee from the Council and the Kiwanis Club appeared before the State Highway Commission a month ago and asked that the Avenue, a portion of Route 40-A be reworked by the State. The same committee had previously gotten the route number changed from County Highway 481 to the alternate State Highway designation.

N. L. Stedman, at that time a member of the State Highway Commission approved the plan and made the motion which called for the survey and estimates of cost of repairing the Avenue. He has since resigned, but his place has been filled with Leland Kitchin of Scotland Neck, and those who know Mr. Kitchin here say he will do all in his power to make this the first job for completion on his list.

The Mayor, City Council and a Kiwanis Club Committee met with Messrs Waldrop and Gardner here last week and three plans were discussed for the Avenue improvement.

1. The reworking of the present 18 foot road with a small concrete slab on each side, similar to the road between Warrenton and Norlina. The entire width not to exceed the regulation 18 foot highway.

2. Reworking of present road with an extension in width of one foot on each side; the extra two feet to be of concrete; total width of road 20 feet.

3. The reworking of present macadam road and the extension of that road to the curb on each side, making a practically new road double the width of the present road; the same width as that portion in the business section of the North end; at an approximate cost to the city of \$10,000, and an approximate total cost of \$40,000.

The purpose of the survey by engineers this week was to figure costs of these various plans to be submitted to the State Highway Department. Future action depends partly on what those estimates show to the Department; partly on what the City of Roanoke Rapids is willing to do.

Proposition number one is better than nothing, much better than what we now have. Plan number 2 is better still, but, according to Messrs Waldrop and Gardner, it is doubtful, as the policy of the State is to build roads as wide, no wider, as adjoining roads. Highways leading into Roanoke Avenue are 18 footers.

(Continued on back page)

#### Judge Moore Here

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—Judge Henry A. Grady will preside over the four weeks of court in Mecklenburg county, beginning January 8, taking the place of Judge Clayton Moore, who will spend the first two weeks holding court in Warren and the second two in Halifax County, according to an exchange of courts made in Governor Gardner's office.

#### CHRISTMAS CELEBRANTS IN COURT

Recorder Has Busy Day Tuesday With Liquor and Assault Cases

Christmas celebrations were responsible for most of the cases tried in Recorder's court this Tuesday. Liquor and assault cases predominated the docket.

William Smith pleaded guilty of unlawful possession of liquor. He was given 8 months on the roads suspended on payment of \$10 fine and costs. Defendant is to appear the first Tuesday in March and the first Tuesday in every month for two years to show he has been of good behavior.

Brantson Patterson was called on charge of assault and failed to appear. A judgment of Nisi Sci Fa, capias and continued was issued. Defendant was given ten days to show why he does not appear and pay his bond. Judgment absolute on bond to be discharged upon payment of \$50.

J. T. Harrison pleaded guilty to driving while drunk. He was fined \$50 and costs and license to drive revoked for five months.

M. S. DeBerry pleaded guilty to driving while drunk. He was also fined \$50 and costs and license revoked for five months.

John Newsome pleaded guilty to driving while drunk. Fined \$50 and costs and license revoked for five months.

E. F. Thomas charged with driving while drunk. Defendant called and failed. Judgment absolute on bond. Capias had continued.

James Lindsey and Hattie Vinson pleaded not guilty to charge of assault. A verdict of not guilty was given Hattie Vinson. James Lindsey was given 2 years on the roads.

Louis Vick pleaded guilty to injury to personal property. He was given five months on the roads suspended on condition the defendant pays costs and that he pay \$50 for the use of V. C. Vick, whose car was damaged. Defendant could not pay judgment and went to the roads, Dec. 29, 1931. Both defendant and V. C. Vick were from Roanoke Rapids.

Walter Hawkins, charged with removing mortgaged property. He was given no pros with leave. The case was discharged with the State reserving the privilege of reinstating the act.

J. C. Garner pleaded guilty to driving while drunk. He was fined \$50 and costs with license revoked for 5 months.

Valentine Daniel was found guilty of assault. Judgment suspended upon payment of costs in the amount of \$37.50.

(Continued on back page)

#### MAN DIES WHEN HIT BY AUTO

Driver of Car Speeds On After Hitting G. T. Rucker Monday Night NECK BROKEN

A hit and run driver killed a man here Monday night and, if he had just stopped a nd investigated, he would have discovered that the accident was unavoidable and he was not blamed by friends of the man who witnessed the death.

G. T. Rucker, age 45, a foreman at the Caledonia State Farm, met almost instant death when he ran in front of the car just a few hundred yards from the depot here on the highway to Weldon at 9:30 Monday night.

With Rucker at the time were Messrs L. G. Langley and overseers Bobbitt, Poole and Willard, all connected with the State Farm near Scotland Neck. They were in Rucker's car and had been shopping in Roanoke Rapids. They started home and parked the car on the right side of the highway and crossed the road.

As they started back across the road toward their car, two of the men saw a car coming at a high rate of speed, traveling toward Weldon. They saw they called to Rucker and told him to wait, but he started running across the road and was struck by the speeding car. His body was flung some twenty feet. His friends put him in the car and rushed him to the Roanoke Rapids hospital but he died en route. His neck was broken. The only other mark on the body was a bruise on his hip where the car struck him.

Those with him say the driver of the car which struck him appeared to slow up as he struck the man but then stepped on the accelerator and disappeared quickly.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomsa Whitten of this city, who were traveling toward Weldon, say the death car passed them at the old skating rink. It was traveling to a high rate of speed and appeared to be a new Chevrolet sedan (they could not tell whether 2 or 4 door) with light colored, either green or yellow, wire wheels and a 1932 license tag. The accident took place just a few seconds after the car passed them and they were the first to the scene.

W. G. Bunch, who owns the Lone Eagle Filling Station, between here and Weldon, states he heard a car, about this time, coming at terrific speed down the highway. It was the apparent speed which attracted his attention and he stepped to the door to see the Chevrolet with light colored wheels speeding past his place. The driver or owner of the car has not yet been located.

The body of the deceased was taken to St. Matthews, S. C., for burial on Tuesday. A wife and one child survive. Mr. Rucker has been employed by the State at Caledonia for many years and was well known and liked in the county.

Those with him absolved the car driver from blame, altho questioning the speed at which he was traveling at the time of the accident.

Circle No. 1 of the Ladies Aid Society of the Christian Church was entertained by Mrs. J. A. Pridgen at her home on Jackson Street last Tuesday evening. There were 20 members present and several visitors. Later in the evening refreshments were served.

Messrs Perry and Julius Jones and Wadleigh Pierce of Burlington spent the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Jones.

Norwood Hyman, U. N. C., and Waverly Hyman of Whitakers are visiting Mrs. L. J. Meade.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Wilson have returned from Winston-Salem, where they spent the Christmas holidays.

#### DEAD MAN FOUND IS STABBED

Knife Wielder Claims Self Defense In Killing Near Halifax Last Week AUSBY IS HELD

The searchlight of a truck spotted the body of a dead man on Route 40 last Wednesday night, six miles South of Halifax, and investigation showed it to be Willie Battle, colored, dead with a knife blade thrust just below the heart.

Coroner Billy Williams and Jailer Hux were notified and trailed a running man by his tracks from the scene of the killing. They arrested Aushy, colored, at his home and charged him with murder.

He was taken before Magistrate W. J. Mohorn at Halifax and pleaded guilty, claiming self defense. He made a full statement after the usual warning from the magistrate. The case will be tried in Superior Court.

Aushy says he and Battle left the former's house and were quarreling and cursing. He claims Battle threatened to kill him and also Henry Thomas. They continued walking down the highway cursing and finally Aushy claims Battle grabbed him and took out his knife and tried to open it with his teeth.

Aushy says he then got his own knife and stabbed Battle once. Then he ran because he thought Battle was following him.

It was apparent, however, that his run was unnecessary as the man must have died almost in his tracks. Mrs. Kate Jordan, near whose home the killing occurred, said she heard the two cursing and quarreling as they passed her house. Tom Ellen testified the death knife belonged to Aushy, as he traded it to him.

An unopened knife was found near the body.

#### Kling-Holt Wedding

A wedding of unusual interest to friends here occurred on Dec. 23 at York, Pa., where Miss Mary Nellye Holt became the bride of Mr. Joseph A. Kling.

Miss Holt is the attractive daughter of Mr. Wm. B. Holt, who formerly lived here, and the sister of Mrs. Pendleton Grizzard and Miss Florine Holt of this city. She has for the last few years been making her home up north. She has been a visitor here quite often since leaving and has always been a popular favorite among the younger set.

Mr. Kling is from Pennsylvania and a young man of splendid business ability. He holds a responsible position with the Pennsylvania Highway Commission. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Kling will make their home in York.

#### COMMUNION SERVICE

Rev. S. H. Bradley has returned from South Carolina and regular services will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday. Communion service will be held at the morning service.

(Continued on back page)

#### Fire Destroys Two Houses Wednesday

Two houses in South Rosemary, owned by J. E. Tickel, burned yesterday afternoon. Two Clary families lived in the houses and most of their household effects were saved. Fire started in the flue of one of the houses which burned to the ground. The next house caught from this one and was practically destroyed. No water made it impossible for the fire department to do any good. Neither house was insured.

#### SPECIAL ELECTION JAN. 12TH

Special Sanitary District Registration Books Close This Saturday, Jan. 2 500 ON BOOKS

The special registration for the Sanitary District Bond election on January 12 will close this Saturday, Jan. 2. All voters must have their names on the books before Saturday in order to vote for the bonds, which, when sold, will mean available funds for the actual installation of water and sewerage in this city.

There has been some question in the minds of the people about the need for this special registration. It is necessary because the Sanitary District, formed by law to effect the installation of this work, is different from the city lines. Just as it was necessary for a different registration for the School District, which extends as far as Tilghman's Cross Roads and Belmont, so it is necessary for a third registration for this Sanitary District.

In other words, the voters of Roanoke Rapids will be on three different registration books: (1) City and State; this is the old registration; 2, School District; 3, Sanitary District. It is rather confusing right now. For example, the School district registration was never needed in the past. The last legislature gave the people of that district the right to vote for school trustees, so a new registration was necessary. The same is true of the Sanitary District. We never had one of these until this year. And the boundaries of none of the three are the same.

Policeman Jeff Welch is the registrar for this Sanitary District election. Five hundred voters have registered to date. On Saturday, he will be at the High School building. The other days of this week he will have the registration books with him and anyone can register by seeing him any afternoon. He hopes to have nearly a thousand registered by the close of the books on January 2.

A vote "yes" for the bonds means a vote for steady work for 300 men for a year in Roanoke Rapids. It is a vote for water and sewerage because it is necessary to vote and sell bonds in order to have the money to do this work.

This temporary work going on now is but a drop in the bucket compared with the work that will be done after these bonds are voted and sold. Be sure and register and vote. But remember this: do not register unless you intend to vote. Because an absentee voter counts against the bond issue.

It sounds like a whole lot of bonds but the corporations, the mills, plants and all, the power company, everything from the river to the railroad is included. The corporations will pay back more than 75 per cent of the bonds in the next 30 years. That's the proposition agreed on when the Greater Roanoke Rapids was voted in months ago.

Register before Saturday. Vote "Yes" on January 12.

Larry Meade visited relatives in Whitakers this week.

Miss Joy Swain is spending a few days with Miss Hilda Hines.

(Continued on back page)

#### FIRST STEP FOR POST-OFFICE BLDG

Judge Kerr Gets Order From Department for General Survey Local Conditions

NOTHING DEFINITE

A survey for a Federal Postoffice Building in Roanoke Rapids has been ordered by the Postoffice Department, according to information received on December 21 by Representative John H. Kerr, which information was relayed to the local postmaster, J. L. Vest and to this newspaper, by the Congressman.

The stipulations in the letter from the Postoffice Department are (1) that the two postoffices be consolidated and (2) that the gross business per year exceed \$20,000.

The first part has been carried out with the linking of the two offices here under one postmaster. However, the second stipulation still falls some short of the required amount. The two offices, and also the consolidated office, will not do a gross business of \$20,000 annually; at least not, in a depression year.

Below we print the correspondence in the matter.

Warrenton, N. C. Dec. 24, 1931. Roanoke Rapids Herald, Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am enclosing you copies of correspondence between the Government and myself, and the Postmaster at Roanoke Rapids, N. C. After making such use as you see proper please return to my file at Washington.

With the Season's greetings, I am, Sincerely yours, JOHN H. KERR, M. C. JHK-J

Warrenton, N. C., Dec. 24, 1931. Postmaster, Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Dear Mr. Postmaster:

The enclosed letter from Mr. Nichol, Acting Fourth Assistant P. M. General, is a real Christmas greeting to the citizens of your community. Will you be good enough to post this letter of Mr. Nichol's in a conspicuous place in your postoffice building.

With the assurance that I will press this matter until we have a real creditable building at Roanoke Rapids, I am, with the season's greetings, Sincerely yours, JOHN H. KERR, M. C. JHK-J

December 21, 1931. Hon. John H. Kerr, House of Representatives. My Dear Mr. Kerr:

With reference to your recent personal call at this office, I am pleased to advise that we have today asked the Chief Inspector to have a Federal building survey made at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.

It is understood that the postoffices at Roanoke Rapids and Rosemary are to be consolidated and that the receipts of the combined office will exceed \$20,000 a year. Sincerely yours, (Signed) H. R. NICHOL, Acting Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.