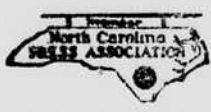


The  
**ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD**

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina  
HALIFAX COUNTY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER  
North Carolina's Only TABloid NEWSpaper



**CARROLL WILSON,** Owner and Editor

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**EDITORIAL**

**INCREASING CRIME**

We listened to a good sermon last Sunday on the subject of Crime as relates particularly to Roanoke Rapids. The text was that passage from the Bible wherein the Ten Commandments are handed down and, in view of recent happenings in our fair city and county, particular emphasis was laid on that commandment which says, "Thou shalt not kill."

The other night an elderly man was cut to death by a young man in this city. The tragedy is said to have had its inception in an argument over twenty-five cents. Not long ago, out in the county, one man killed another in an argument over the purchase of fifteen cents worth of barbecue. We remember the preacher's statement, "Life is Cheap in Roanoke Rapids."

These violent deeds come on the heels of the brutal and unsolved murder of Marvel Cullom and the death of a child hit by a speeding car. Last week four places of business were robbed. A short time ago, two men and an innocent bystander were wounded when bullets flew in all directions. Our courts are crowded every week with violators of the law while others go undetected and uncaught.

There is no argument to the fact that crime is on the increase and particularly crime of violence.

One appealing statement made by the preacher sticks with us: it is the innocent who suffer most. One man kills another. The dead man is gone. The other participant may be punished by due process of law, either by incarceration for a long period of years or by death. But the story does not end there: in fact, it only begins. There are left to suffer the dependents, the family, the relatives and friends on both sides. The wage earner and bread winner is gone. Whole families are thrown upon society for sustenance. We all foot the bill. There are expensive trials for which the public must pay. It is all wasteful, senseless, pitiful.

What is the cause? Who is to blame? What is the remedy? Rather a large order, that. Honestly, we cannot answer those questions even after hearing that sermon. The sermon left us with an awareness of those evils and their awfulness, but except for a wholesale religious revival, no solution, which in our faltering way, we term practical. And by practical we do not mean the cold use of square and rule: rather a tangible, workable solution which could change

He's Got His New Skates ————— By Albert T. Reid



a mass of ordinary, partly good, partly bad, weak, plug-uglies, in which the writer is included.

We offer no cure-all We suggest one or two first aid remedies which might see the patient thru the worst of it.

It is right and proper that the pulpit should take cognizance of conditions. There is no better way to make us aware of the facts. Their method of handling the case is individual; some doctors tell the patient he's going to die; others break it gently; still others keep him ignorant of the fact. And all methods work in some cases. Regardless we all agree the patient must be told he is a very sick person. Publicity, from pulpit, press, desk and stand.

This is already working. On all sides can be heard citizens in all walks of life discussing the situation, trying to figure out causes and solutions. This is a most wholesome sign.

There is always a disposition in times like these to blame the officers. Because of the hardships, dangers and thanklessness of their jobs, we have always sided with the officers. They are most important to society and the least considered. We do believe, however, that in emergencies their strength should be increased. When orders pile in at a mill, more people are put to work. When a periodical crime wave approaches, peace officers should likewise be increased. Not only that, but they should also be made to realize that public sentiment is with them and their work, made more difficult in times of stress, should be complimented when deserving.

Merchants, business and professional men, real estate dealers, property and home owners, will all agree with us that it is fine to have a lively town, but fatal to possess the reputation of being a sinful, lawbreaking, dangerous town. Roanoke Rapids is a lively place in which to live or visit. It must not be permitted to drift into the other category.

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