

# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

VOLUME NINETEEN

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1933

NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

## GUILTY MANSLAUGHTER GETS 15 YEARS

### GURGANUS SENTENCED 15-18 YEARS

Jury Out Four Hours Before Arriving At Manslaughter Verdict.

Wilmer Gurganus, charged with killing Joseph R. Jones in Roanoke Rapids on the night of November 16th, was found guilty of manslaughter Tuesday and was sentenced to from 15 to 18 years in prison by Judge R. Hunt Parker, Wednesday morning.

Justice moved swiftly in this case. It was less than 2 weeks ago that Gurganus slashed the throat of Jones in the latter's home.

He was guarded at the hospital where he was taken for treatment of a cut in his arm, his examining trial held, a grand jury indictment returned, the trial, conviction and sentencing—all in the space of less than a couple of weeks.

In pronouncing sentence and in his instructions to the jury, Judge Parker said that a crime wave was prevalent in Roanoke Rapids and this accounted for the speedy action of his court.

Chief witnesses for the prosecution were Mrs. Jones, widow of the 59 year old Roanoke Rapids man, and LeRoy, his 13 year old son.

Their story in substance was that after supper, Gurganus, who had been drinking, became violent when he was refused a loan of 25 cents, abused the elder man, who hit him, and then procured a straight razor and slashed Jones' throat and cut him several other times on the face and body.

Mrs. Jones said Gurganus went upstairs and got the razor. Others say he got it from a dresser on

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### SUNDAY MOVIES

The Parent-Teachers Association has endorsed a benefit picture show for underprivileged children of Roanoke Rapids to be given some Sunday afternoon at a local theatre.

They have asked Manager Lyle Wilson to donate one of the theatres and he agreed to do this and also donate the cost of any film they might choose.

The idea is not to charge admission but let each attendant make an offering as he enters the show.

This will be something new for Roanoke Rapids as there has never been a show open here on Sunday. The nearest approach has been Sunday midnight shows starting just after midnight.

## CLEARs COURT

### ON CHARGE CRIMINAL ASSAULT

Magistrate Thompson Clears Courtroom While Girl Tells Gruesome Tale

William Alligood, Weldon married man, was bound over to Superior Court without bond on a charge of kidnaping and criminal assault on a female, at the completion of preliminary hearing before Magistrate W. O. Thompson at 6:30 Wednesday night. Alligood made quite a demonstration in the court-room, which was excluded to the press and witnesses, and cried when the verdict was announced.

Sarah Taylor-Harris, local woman, and Glenn Melwood must also face the Superior Court on a charge of aiding and abetting in this same action, but were admitted bond in the amount of \$250.

The charges grew out of the alleged kidnaping of Aliese Pearson, 17-year-old girl whose father is dead, on the night of November 11th by the trio, and the alleged criminal attack by Alligood.

Miss Pearson, who lives in the country near Valentine, Va., just across the N. C. line, was visiting Luther Pearson, half-brother, who lives in the "Hornertown" resi-

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### 10 FREE TICKETS TO SHOW

Do you want a free ticket to the Minstrel on December 8th? There is a chance to get one.

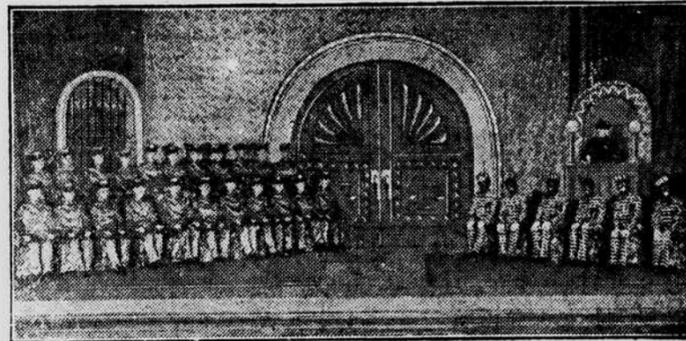
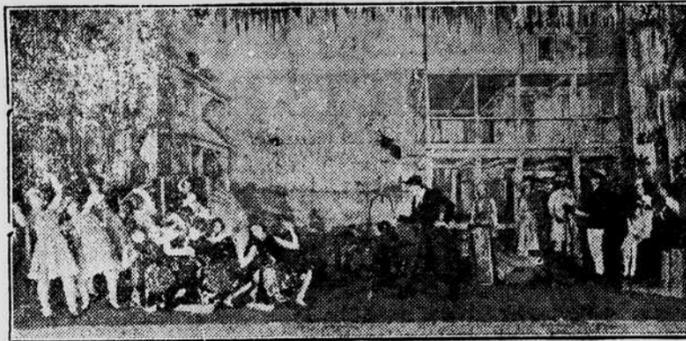
A picture of a prominent Kiwanis Club member, all blacked up and ready for the stage, arrived too late from the engraver to be printed in this issue.

However, if you will watch for handbills Friday, you will see this picture. Free 75 cent tickets will be given to the ten adults who identify this man.

Here is what you do: Take a sheet of paper and write down the name of the man you think this is, also his business or profession, then write a sentence or two about what you thought of any of the past Kiwanis Club minstrels you have seen, or if you did not see

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### 75 IN MINSTREL DECEMBER 8th.



Scenes from "Minstrel Fashion Plates", which will be staged at the High School auditorium here Friday night, December 8th. The curtain will rise promptly at 8:15. A cast of 75 will appear. This is the 4th Kiwanis Minstrel and will be the largest and best show they have yet staged. There are 13 trunks of costumes, props and scenery with the show. Admission is adults 75 cts. and children 35 cts. The proceeds go to the Kiwanis Fund for work with the Boy Scouts, underprivileged children and other work of like nature carried on every year by the club. Last year's Minstrel money went for Boy Scout work, milk for undernourished school children, etc.

The regular Minstrel Parade will be held on the day of the show, the exact time of day to be announced later.

### MATTHEWS BOND IS RAISED

The bond of E. A. Matthews has been raised from \$5,000 to \$15,000 by Judge R. Hunt Parker.

Matthews was brought into superior Court this week but Judge Parker continued his case until the January term of Superior Court.

The Judge explained that he did not believe he should try Matthews because he was Solicitor of the district when the embezzlement charges were brought and the indictment against Matthews is in the Judge's own handwriting as Solicitor.

He gave no reason for raising the bond from \$5,000 to \$15,000, but it is assumed there was a possibility of Matthews' filling the lower amount.

### MYSTERY NOT YET CLEARED

Charlie Fayed, 45-year-old city grocery employee who was found mysteriously injured in his truck last Wednesday afternoon, November 22nd, with the car in a ditch on a lone country road in Northampton county stubbornly maintains his silence as to what happened, or how he was injured.

No explanation as to whether he had an accident, or was the victim of foul play has been made, even to local relatives, and a brother who visited him from Norfolk, they say, and the episode still remains much of a mystery.

Fayed is being treated for his injuries by local doctors, and it is thought he may lose his right eye entirely. There were other

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UP AND DOWN  
The Avenue  
WITH THE EDITOR

#### THANKSGIVING DAY

The first Thanksgiving Day observed in America was that proclaimed by Governor Bradford of Plymouth colony in 1621, the year following the landing of the Pilgrims. During colonial days similar observances were held on various occasions.

President Washington by proclamation set November 26, 1789, as a day of general thanksgiving, but during the early history of the Republic such observances were irregular, and the several states generally set their own dates for holding them.

It was not until 1864, under President Lincoln, that the last Thursday was settled upon as Thanksgiving Day throughout the United States.

The fixing of this date is said to have been largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, an American author, who began agitating for a uniform annual date about 1840. Each year she wrote to all state governors asking that they name the last Thursday in November, and gradually they fell in with her idea.

On the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving Day wild turkey formed the chief constituent of the feast, and ever since turkey has been inseparably associated with the day's observance.

A boy baby was born on November 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack DeVane. The newcomer was christened "Pinkney" by his young brother, Jack Jr. Mother and son are doing nicely.

There will be a Musical Tea Thursday, December 7th, from 4:30 to 5:30 P. M., at the Woman's Club House, benefit of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church.

A special program of Indian music will be given, and there will be an exhibit of Indian relics. Also, articles will be on sale which were made on an Oklahoma Indian Reservation. Admission will be 25c.

Mrs. R. H. Tanner was moved to Duke Hospital from the local hospital Friday.

A car owned by a traveling man from Greenville left the road at the fill between the Roanoke Rapids bridges Monday night and was badly damaged. The four occupants were not injured. The car was "borrowed" by the brother of

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