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NUMBER FORTY-TWO

MATTHEWS GUILTY

UP AND DOWN
The Avenue
WITH THE EDITOR

James Whittaker, former resident of Roanoke Rapids, died Tuesday in Hopewell, Va., from pneumonia. Funeral services were held at the Williams Funeral Home here this afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sherry are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a son on Saturday morning. The young man weighed in at 7 pounds 9 ounces and has been named Charles Albert.

Along with thousands of other cities and towns, Roanoke Rapids celebrated the 52nd birthday of President Roosevelt with a dance at the Chockoyotte Country Club Tuesday night and will be able to send about fifty dollars to the Roosevelt Foundation for Warm Springs Fund for infantile paralysis sufferers. Intensely cold weather cut down the size of the crowd, many preferring to stay home by the fire and listen to the radio programs of the various Balls and the President's speech at 11:15 p. m.

On our editorial page in this issue we point out the growth of crime among the youngsters and advise with officers, parents and others as to the best way to handle this most serious situation. As we write this we do not have all the facts, but on the street today we hear from those coming back from Halifax where Superior Court is in session that four of these boys have been tried and the court's record is as follows: Two acquitted for lack of evidence; two found guilty and their sentences suspended.

In short, we have all four of the boys back with us, none the worse for wear and tear, with plenty of exciting tales to relate to their gangs. A suspended sentence means nothing in their young lives. All they know is that they have come in conflict with the Law and have come forth free, with perhaps the same kind of lecture that their parents, teachers or preachers have given them so many times in the past.

We do not wish to punish these boys and all the others who are running wild. We want to help them. But we seriously doubt if it will be done this way. They were charged with serious crimes. Others are occur-

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YOUNG GANG TERRORIZES

5 HOMES ENTERED BY BOYS

Wave Of Crime Among Youth As Four Escape Punishment

Five homes were broken in last week and four young boys were arrested in an epidemic of housebreaking, most of which bore the earmarks of youthful gangs.

Two of the four boys were given suspended sentences in Superior Court this week and two others were released because of lack of evidence.

Page Allen was caught as he entered the servant's home of Mr. and Mrs. Job Taylor one night last week. The place had been entered and ransacked before and the place was watched. Allen broke out a window and entered the building, being caught in the act.

He told police the names of two other boys who were with him but who had escaped. These boys were arrested but in court the Allen boy refused to testify against them and they were released. Allen was given a two year sentence, suspended, with an order to report at each term of court to show his good behavior. Another charge against him during that period is supposed to make the serving of the sentence mandatory.

Saturday night, Johnny Crutchfield heard someone cutting a screen in one of the downstairs windows. He and his brother ran out, saw and caught Maxie Cannon, who claimed to be 17 years old, but looks about 14. He said he lived near the Holiness Church and told a glib story of just playing around. This was after eleven o'clock at night.

On a charge of trespassing in Superior Court, prayer for judgment was continued for two years on condition that the boy appear at each term of court and show good behavior and upon payment of all costs before August term of court.

While Mr. and Mrs. Bill Batton, who live on Third Street, were out visiting early in the evening, a gang broke into a back door by pushing the key out

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Wafford Killer Found Guilty



Mae (Herself) West

LOS ANGELES . . . Glamorous Mae West's appearance in court to testify against Edward Friedman, alleged to have "done her wrong" in theft of jewels and cash amounting to some \$15,000, was the occasion for picture fans to pay her high personal tribute.

4 TO 8 FOR CAR KILLER

Negro Guilty Manslaughter In Death of T. W. Wafford, Here

Percy Willis, alias Percy Whittaker, Negro hit and run driver who killed T. W. Wafford here just before Christmas, was found guilty of manslaughter in Superior Court Monday and sentenced to from four to eight years in prison.

Willis entered a submission on the manslaughter charge but plead not guilty to the hit and run charge. He was found guilty.

Mr. Wafford was instantly killed Sunday night, Dec. 17, when struck by a car driven by Willis on Hamilton Street. The Negro and a companion, Lester Lee, did not stop and were not arrested until the following day.

The car had struck Mr. Wafford with such force that every major bone in his body was broken.

Woman's Assailant Gets Two Years

Seaboard Funeral

Thad Stevenson, 54, brother of D. B. Stevenson, of this city, who died in Portsmouth, was buried in Seaboard Wednesday afternoon.

He was a popular bookkeeper for the Seaboard Air Line and special services were held at Portsmouth before the body was placed in a special car for Seaboard.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson of Seaboard, two brothers, D. B., and L. G. Stevenson, and two sisters.

Mrs. Duval Murry has returned from a visit to her father, J. H. Pearce, in Colerain.

John Walker, 38 year old white man of this city, was found guilty of attempt to commit rape and sentenced to two years in jail in Superior Court this week.

He plead not guilty but was found guilty after trial and when sentenced was assigned to work his two years out on the roads.

He was charged with assaulting Miss Maude Rook at her home in Patterson Mills village two weeks ago. He knocked her down, beat her and otherwise mistreated her until police arrived in time to cause him to flee. He was caught after a chase and said he remembered nothing. He had been drinking.

END OF 6 YEAR TRAIL

Lawyer Guilty of Embezzlement Must Pay Penalty In Prison.

E. A. Matthews, former Roanoke Rapids lawyer, was sentenced to from four to eight years in the penitentiary on embezzlement charges in Halifax Superior Court this afternoon.

A large number of Roanoke Rapids citizens who knew the attorney when he lived here six years ago were summoned to court to testify as to his good character and reputation prior to the time when he fled the State and the United States six years ago.

It was then found that he had embezzled sums of money from clients who had been borrowing from finance and mortgage companies which Matthews had represented.

Matthews disappeared and was not heard from until last September. An indictment had been returned against him in 1929 charging embezzlement.

In September of last year, Matthews was arrested in Honolulu, Hawaii, after being recognized by former residents of this county who were serving in the army. He had been in Honolulu for about three years and for three years was living in California under an assumed name.

There were many legal tangles involved and some delay before Matthews was returned to Halifax County. Question of expense arose and county and state argued as which was responsible. It was finally settled with the county advancing the money and the State agreeing to pay back on arrival and trial.

ROBBERY ARREST IS MADE

Paul Todd was arrested last night by local officers charged with being one of a gang which broke in the store of G. N. Stanley on Tuesday night. He was placed in jail.

Total loot of more than \$100 was taken including ten dollars in money and a quantity of cigarettes, tobacco, canned goods and confections.

The Yale lock had been forced by prizing the two front doors apart. The time of the robbery was set at about 10:15 Tuesday night. The Stanley store is located on Second Street.

The police acted quickly in the case. Others are suspected.