

## 10,000 HERE FOR MERCHANTS DRAWING AND PROGRAM TONITE

A crowd of from eight to ten thousand people, according to police estimates, assembled in front of the Roanoke Rapids High School tonight when the Merchants Association climaxed a month's trade campaign with an awarding of prizes and a musical program patterned after the Major Bowes Amateur Hour.

This was the largest crowd, said old timers, that had ever gathered in this section for any celebration. The space in front of the Hinh School building West, North and South for a block was roped off from traffic and was filled with people. It was estimated two thousand automobiles were parked in the vicinity of the entertainment. Each car, carrying three persons, would have meant 6,000 persons rode to the spot. "A half a football stadium", as one observer noted, would have meant 10,000 people.

Happiest person in Halifax County tonight is Mrs. J. Frank West, who was awarded the new Chevrolet given by the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association. Mrs. West, wife of Dr. West, was so excited when her ticket was awarded the prize that the announcement to the crowd to hold their tickets in case of mistake caused her to turn pale with fright. This warning was justified because later in the evening another person thought he had won a prize only to find that he had confused two of six numbers.

The \$100 living room or bed room suite was awarded to Mrs. Lola Bryant who works in the spinning room of Patterson Mills Co.

The radio was won by T. J. Lewis of Hornertown. Mr. Lewis does not have electricity in his home but the Merchants Association has arranged it so he will have a battery set and will be able to hear the Duke-Carolina game (if broadcast).



**RED CROSS ROLL CALL STARTS** 

F. C. Williams buying the first Red Cross membership and getting his button from the Roll Call Chairman at the meeting of the Red Cross workers at the Baptist Church last week. Surrounding him are a part of the group of volunteer workers who are making the 1935 Roll Call one of the biggest in the history of the city. First official reports will be made tomorrow night.



Due to the efficient work of The Home Equipment Co. every person was able to hear the entire program from the public-speaking system installed by that company and F. E. Joyner of that concern was on hand to guard against any mishaps. The three blocks were flooded with lights installed by the Virginia Electric & Power Co. so that every person could easily read the prepared lists.

In the competition for prizes over the radio brodacasting system, first prize was won by the DeLuxe Orchestra; second prize was won by R. J. Grant and Johnny Summerill, a duo of hot-time singers; third prize by the Melody Lane Trio, radio stars.

Other spots on the program which drew applause from the crowd during the hour's entertainment prior to the prize awarding included Buxton, Britton and Cullom a trio which nearly entered the finals; Henry and William Love; and Miss Louise Wells.

Musicians heard on the program included Pal Tanner, Levy Young, Dewey Bailey, and other talented musicians of the city.

C. C. Shell, President of the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association, addressed the audience and thanked those who had made the Month's Trade Campaign such a success. He intimated that the same program, on an even larger scale, would be forthcoming at a later date.

The Association committee which worked on the details of the program were Messrs. C. C. Shell, H. S. Loy, A. N. Martin, F. M. Coburn, R. I. Starke and C. L. Wilson, the latter acting as announcer over the loudspeaker.

A meeting of The Merchants Association is called for next Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at which time the final reports of the Trade Campaign will be made and the question of Christmas lighting will be taken up. All members are urged to be present.

Late tonight, President Shell and the Board of Directors asked that the trading public be thanked for their interest in the Trade Campaign and that special thanks be expressed to those who contributed to the success of tonight's program.



Prof. Koch will read the famous "Christmas Carol" by Dickens here on Monday night, December 9th, at the High School Auditorium, under the auspices of the Roanoke Rapids Study Club. (See story inside).

## Young Men's Civic Club Annual Play

Advance se for Young Men's Civic Club 2. Annual play shatters previous records. Complete details inside. Chapter of the American Red Cross and the team majors, captains and workers are busy this week covering the territory. There are booths at the Post Office and at drug stores for those who have not been seen by the workers. First reports point to a very successful drive and official reports are to be

made at a short business meeting to be held at the basement of the First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. this Friday night. All workers are urged to be present for about 20 minutes. The drive lasts until Thanksgiving but it is hoped to wind up the Call here by the end of next week. Join and wear your Red Cross button until Thanksgiving.

SUNDAY opening of restaurants and filling stations was the subject of discussion at a special hearing of the City Board of Commissioners Tuesday afternoon. The present ordinance closes all places of business during church hours. Restaurants and filling stations were seeking exemption. A new angle presented itself when small owners thruout the city fought the exemption, their theory being close all or none. Action by the Board was deferred until all members of the Board were present.

DOT Bennett and his Collegians will play a pre-holiday dance here next Friday, 22nd, to be sponsored by the local Boy Scouts. The local orchestra made their first appearance here two weeks ago and drew much praise. With new numbers and a torch singer the band will be all set for a big affair here on that night.

WHAT is news? Frank B. Cox, publisher of the Douglas County Weekly Gazette, in Nebraska, answers the question in an advertisement in a recent issue. News is when you (Continued on Back Page)