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STATE OFFICIALS AGREE TO CONCRETE PROGRAM

Red Cross Aids Flood Victims

LACK OF FUNDS ONLY BLOCK TO ROAD PLAN

UP AND DOWN The Avenue WITH THE Editor

IF the majority of the people want to wait until we can get the money, we will be willing to start a concrete program over a several year period between Roanoke Rapids and Littleton, this program to start with a contract calling for the use of the funds we planned to use on putting that road back as it was. That, in brief, was what the State Highway Commission said yesterday about concreting the Littleton-Roanoke Rapids highway. In short, they have left the decision up to the people themselves. They say if we are willing to use a smooth, dusty, dirt road for a time, without complaining, they are willing to cooperate by laying concrete just as fast as they find the money to do it with. There could be no fairer proposition. They do not have enough money to do it all now. That is agreed by all. It should be a concrete road to bear the traffic and make costly repairs and detours impossible. That is agreed by all. What we must agree now is to take it when we can get it and pay no attention to the dust. We ought to be able to do that after all these years' experience. This may be our one and only opportunity to get concrete. Let's grasp it.

STATISTICS of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., according to J. F. May, their local representative, show among other interesting facts for 1935 the following: "The lowest alcohol death rate since 1921 was recorded in 1935, the second full year since the repeal of national prohibition. The 1935 death rate from this cause was 2 per 100,000, which marks a decline of 13 per cent in deaths from alcoholism among insured wage earners."

SPRING painting and redecorating is being done to the interior of the W. C. Williams Funeral Home this week.

CHRISTIAN Science meetings will be held, in the future, in the store building site of the old post office. The store windows have been appropriately draped for this use.

WORK continues on the installation of fixtures for the Wellworth 5c-1.00 Store which will open here in the near future in the 300 block of the Avenue.

ROCKFISHERMEN will be glad to know that Sen. Allsbrook talked with Bruce Ethridge of the Dept. of Conservation in Raleigh yesterday and the ruling re fishing in the Roanoke River was changed so that fishing for rock may be done up to the Highway bridge, as in the past. The first ruling was to a mile below Weldon. That no longer holds good.

FINAL inspection of the new Municipal Building will be made Saturday by W.P.A. officials. If everything is OK the building will be officially turned over to the city and moving day will be Monday. By the middle of next week all city departments should be in the new building: city clerk, Sanitary district, Mayor's Court, Fire and Police Departments.

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Emergency Call Sent Out Over Nation To Help

The Roanoke Rapids Chapter of the American Red Cross met in special session this afternoon in answer to a national call from Red Cross headquarters to send emergency relief to the victims of floods now raging in eleven states.

Our special quota is \$250. This is not to be confused with the annual drive which is mostly for local work. However, there will be no drive for funds. All citizens are asked to make donations. There will be Red Cross Stations to receive these Friday and Saturday at the local theatres and drug stores and at all mills in the city. It is hoped to receive the necessary quota in the two days.

The following telegram was received today:

Reports received late tonight indicate thirty eight thousand families in eleven states driven from their home in flooded areas stop this number expected to increase stop these people all look-

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Announce Bids To Beautify Grounds Around Postoffice

Sealed bids will be received until 11 A. M. Monday, March 30, 1936, for furnishing all labor and materials and performing all work for seeding and planting the grounds of the UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, according to L. G. Shell, Postmaster. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved by the Post Office Department.

Plans and specifications may be obtained from Mr. Shell.

Will Start Concrete Program If People Cooperate

Fifty representative citizens of Roanoke Rapids and Littleton appeared before the N. C. State Highway Commission at Raleigh yesterday afternoon and asked that the State build only a concrete highway between Roanoke Rapids and Littleton.

When Commissioner W. E. Woodard pointed out that it would be impossible for the State to concrete this 16 mile stretch this year because of lack of funds and the many calls on the Department, and asked if the people of this section would be satisfied with the same type of road as in the past, the delegation said No.

Mr. Woodard, as well as Chairman Capus Waynick and other members of the Commission admitted (1) that the old type of road between the two cities was inadequate to handle the type of traffic and (2) that concrete was the only answer to the problem, altho still saying they did not have the funds, and (3) that this part of Halifax County was entitled to the concreting of

this "missing link" on a main trunk line.

After compelling talks by Senator Julian Allsbrook, who was chief spokesman for the delegation, Joseph Pippen and Joe Wollett of Littleton, who led that group, Mayor Kelly Jenkins and C. C. Shell, president of the Merchants Association, the Commission, while taking no official action, agreed to start a concreting program to last over at least a three year period IF the majority of the people of Roanoke Rapids, Littleton and between would be willing to put up with the delay and dust in the meantime.

It was also pointed out that Roanoke Rapids, with 10,000 population and Littleton, with over 2,000, and the entire section of Halifax County had only 3 miles of concrete North of the A.C.L. R.R.

The new plans of the state, it adopted after assurance the people.

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No School Friday With Teachers Out

There will be no school here this Friday as all teachers are in Raleigh attending the annual session of the N. C. Educational Association.

New Athletic Fields At Roanoke-Patterson

The booming heard in Roanoke Rapids this week is not war on the Rhine. Clearing away stumps on the new athletic field for Roanoke Mills Co. employees, dynamite is being used to loosen the stumps.

The field will be located next to Roanoke No. 2 and will be an up to date softball diamond with bleachers at the Northeast corner.

The wooded section to the South will be fitted up with swings, benches and see-saws as a recreation park for old and young.

Most unique will be the bleachers at the Patterson Mill diamond in front of the mill. Here the seats are being built in a pine grove so the spectators will have a natural shade and roof.

A new parking space for cars has been arranged North of the playing field.

Softball will be under way in full swing at all the mills next week. The teams are playing this year as members of the State Softball Association.