



# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST  
TABloid NEWSpaper



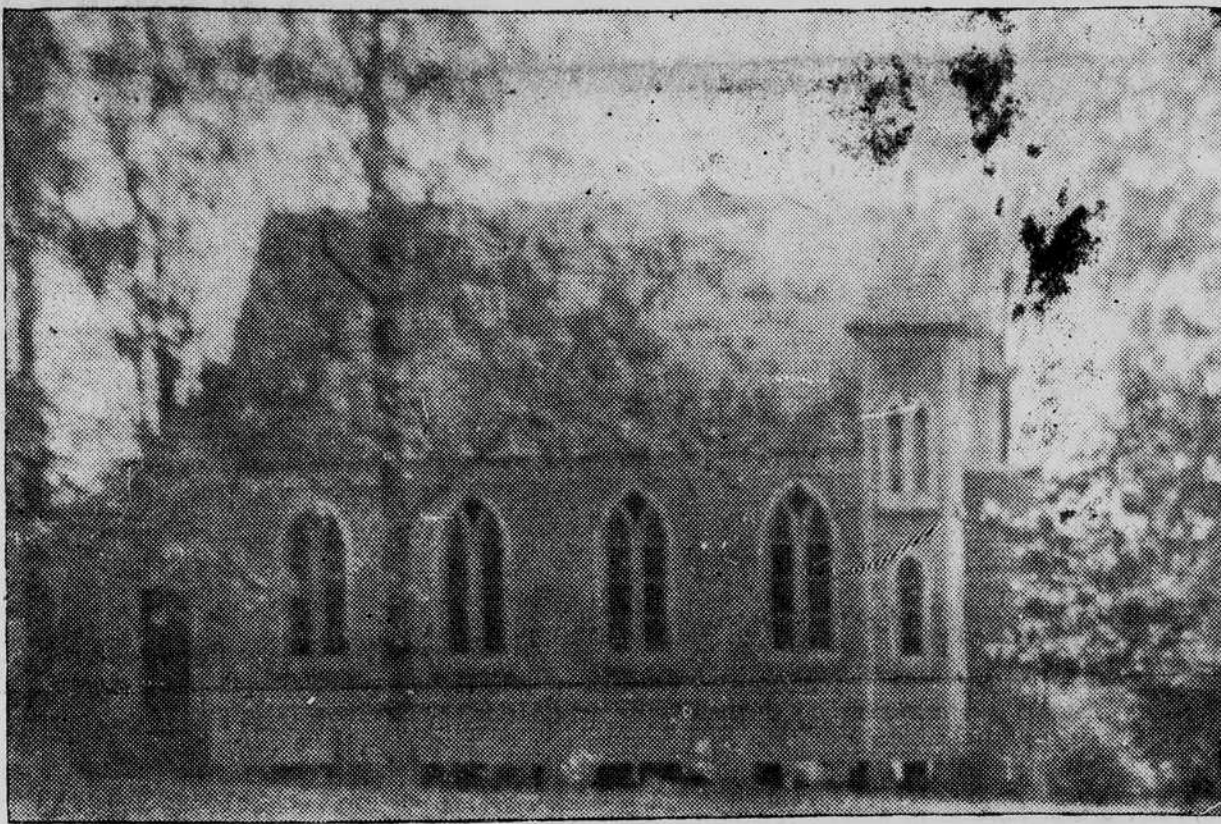
VOLUME TWENTY-FOUR

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, APR. 27, 1939

NUMBER 42

## WIFE DIES; MATE HELD



Church of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic Church at Halifax, N. C., where Tuesday, May 2, the Golden Anniversary will be celebrated. This church was built in 1889. An elaborate service has been arranged to which the entire county is invited. (Story on page 2)

### WOMAN DIES AFTER HORRIBLE BURNS AS CAR HITS PUMP

#### Girl Dies From Gun Shot Wound

Climbing down from a chair after fixing the window curtains, Pattie Mae Downtin, 18 year old colored girl of Littleton, struck a shotgun with her foot and died late Saturday night in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital.

She was shot in the abdomen as the gun discharged when knocked from the corner. She was brought to the hospital at 8 p.m. in a very critical condition, died less than four hours later.

With three-fourths of her body seared by flames, Ella Lynch, 30 year old colored woman, died at the Roanoke Rapids Hospital Wednesday afternoon and her husband, Willie Lynch, now faces a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

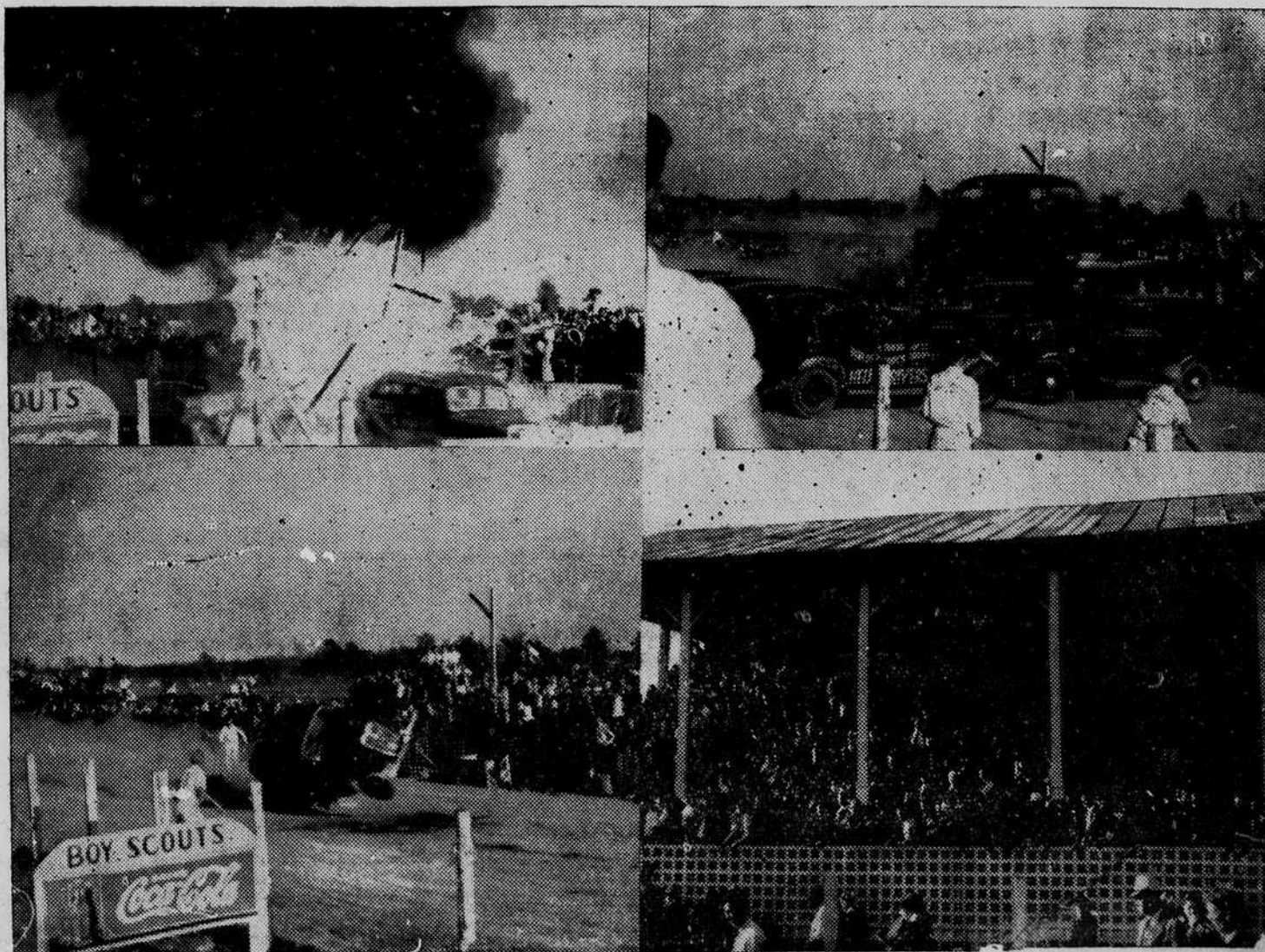
Coming into Roanoke Rapids from Weldon at 8 p.m. Saturday, the couple, with the husband driving, struck a gasoline pump near Roanoke Junction. The car drove thru the pump and landed against the porch of the filling station. The gas pipe was broken off and gasoline ignited setting the car afire with the two stunned riders inside.

The woman's clothes caught fire and she ran down the highway until stopped. Her body was terribly burned with all her clothing afire. The man was badly burned on the hands and face.

After treatment, he was placed under \$1,000 bond in Halifax jail on a reckless driving charge. He was brought back here yesterday in time to see his wife before she died.

It is reported that he hit the gas pump as he swerved after passing a car and either sideswiped or barely missed an oncoming car. Witnesses are a little vague as to just what happened.

### THOUSANDS SEE "HELL DRIVERS"



What "old timers" agree is the largest crowd ever to attend any event at the Halifax County Fairgrounds, gathered there last Sunday afternoon to see "Suicide"

Hayes and his "Hell Drivers" put on an interesting and highly exciting two-hour show. The crowd was officially estimated at 5,000. The State Highway Patrol, local

police and firemen were well in attendance, and the crowd was one of the most orderly ever to assemble here.

UPPER LEFT photo shows the

inimitable dare-devil driver, "Suicide" Hayes just after he had crashed his car thru a flaming boardwall, saturated with ten-gal-

(Continued on Back Page)

### POLLS TO BE OPEN 7 AM-7 PM

#### Race For Mayor Is Only One To Be Voted On Here Tuesday

The city election will be held between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on next Tuesday, May 2nd. North Ward voters will vote at the old B. Marks building at the corner of the Avenue and Second Street, while South Ward voters will vote at 1025 Roanoke Avenue, the store formerly occupied by Parker Sales Co.

Henry Fitts is registrar in the North Ward and Doug Worsham is registrar in the South Ward.

There will be only one race to vote on: for Mayor, with Mayor Jenkins opposed for the office by W. Bernard Allsbrook. Today, Mr. Allsbrook asked Mayor Jenkins, as chairman of the city board of elections, to call a board meeting to determine the appointment of assistants in the polls, one for each registered voter.

As this is a general election, absentee ballots may be used by those who will be out of the city or are too ill to attend the polls.