

THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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EDITORIAL

GROWING FIGURES

• • The history of Roanoke Rapids is printed each week in this newspaper and hardly a week passes without mention of a new building: residential, business or industrial. From time to time, during the past two years, we have mentioned the fact that Roanoke Rapids is a growing city but we did not realize to what extent until we received the figures on building permits for the past two years, 1938 and 1939.

These figures show that in the past two years residences, business buildings and industrial buildings in Roanoke Rapids were erected at a cost of almost a half million dollars.

Of this total, two hundred thousand dollars went into new homes in the city, \$166,000 into new industrial plants, \$37,300 into business buildings and over fifty thousand dollars into new school and church buildings.

A community the size of Roanoke Rapids, in which almost a half million dollars has been invested in a two-year period in homes, business buildings and industrial plants is nothing less than a much-growing community. And that growth is consistent and is apparently going to continue for some time to come. There is no sign of a decline in the figures for 1940 and we hear of plans which may bring further increases.

There is no need for us to boast that our city is steadily growing. The figures speak for themselves.

REST IN PEACE

• • Those who wonder why we continue to harp on safer driving probably do not realize the daily and weekly flood of driving statistics which come to our office, all showing the growing waste of life and property due to careless and reckless driving.

Were it only the careless and the reckless driver who was killed or injured it would be different, but it is shown that over half those who die from street and highway accidents are innocent bystanders: pedestrians or drivers of other cars which were being driven properly but which happened to be in the path of the reckless one or passengers of that same reckless driver, passengers probably begging him to drive slower and more carefully.

Great Britain has been at war with Germany for several months. Latest figures show that Britain's war dead, at sea and in the air, for the first three months of that war was 2,100. During that same period, here in the peaceful United States we killed 10,000 in auto accidents. Five times as many.



Halifax County showed a reduction of 25 per cent in highway deaths last year over 1938 which is a big step in the right direction. But we have a long way to travel yet, for 1938 was our peak year for killing folks on Halifax County roads and streets, a year which placed us on the map as the blackest spot in the State on a percentage basis.

A good 1940 resolution for every car driver in the county would be: I will drive more carefully this year than ever before.

NON-POLITICAL SPEECH

• • Underneath the good-natured ribbing of Republicans, the President, in his Jackson Day address Monday night, showed much more restraint than in many speeches. It was not a fighting speech at which ardent partisans could cheer loud and long. Much of it was in a good-natured vein at which no opponent should take offense. It certainly could not be called a political speech as we understand the popular definition.

Again the President stated he had not been a "good" Democrat all his life, having voted once for a Republican nominee for the Presidency. He pled guilty to giving political appointments to Republicans in his present administration. What the President was proving was that he was more interested in the welfare of his country than in his personal welfare or that of his particular party.

He said that events in the rest of the world were so huge and revolutionary that our puny, party differences here faded away by comparison.

What President Roosevelt is interested in, that which every true American should be, is the preservation of Democracy in America. That aim far overshadows selfish, partisan purposes. We must preserve our democratic form of government by putting the public welfare above selfishness, self-perpetuation in office or the continuance of any political clique in public power. We must see

to it that our government is not an instrument of exploitation against any class or group. We must make our Democracy one which will impress the rest of the world with our honesty and sincerity toward each other at home, as well as those abroad.

We think, we hope, that is what the President meant.

FACTOGRAPHS

Concrete roads are constructed thicker at the edges than in the center.

Ash in modern stokers for household use serves a useful purpose, according to engineers. It insulates the metal parts from direct contact with burning coals.

Mahogany is of pinkish cast when first cut, becomes golden brown or sherry color when exposed to light, and this color deepens with age if the wood has been properly finished when made into furniture.

Butterflies on California's Monterey peninsula are protected by the "full extent of the law," the only butterflies in the world, it is thought, enjoying police protection.

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