



# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST  
TABloid NEWSpaper



VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE

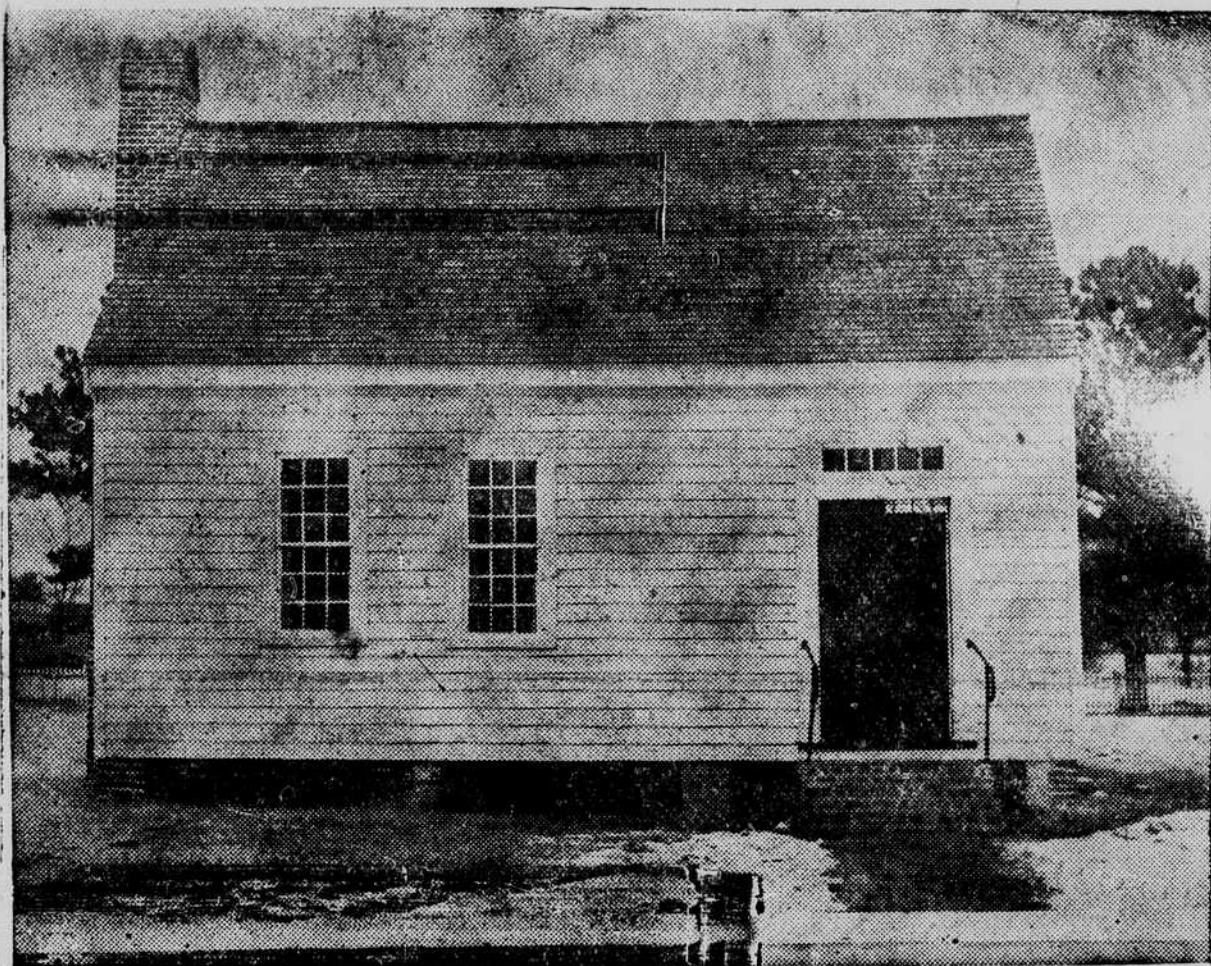
ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, Feb. 8, 1940

NUMBER 30

# MAN IS SHOT TONIGHT

## CONSTITUTION HOUSE OPENED



The old Constitution House shown above, in which the North Carolina Constitution was drafted in 1776, was opened officially to the public at dedicatory exercises in Halifax last Friday. The house has been restored by the D. A. R. and it is the State's first completed shrine. Hundreds of county, state, and national D.A.R. officials, as well as other officials and leading citizens from all over the state, attended the ceremony. Governor Hoey, who was to have been one of the principal speakers of the occasion, and Mrs. Hoey were prevented from attending by Mr. Hoey's recent illness.—Rocky Mount EVENING-TELEGRAM photo by Staff Photographer Barringer; Cut courtesy of the EVENING-TELEGRAM.

## PRESENT PLANS WILL MAKE CITY BIG BUS CENTER IF OK-ED

The Carolina Coach Company will start operation of a new series of bus lines immediately upon receipt of a charter from the Interstate Commerce Commission, which will give Roanoke Rapids five round-trips daily to Raleigh and to Richmond; 4 to Rocky Mount, with direct connections for all points south, and three to Norfolk. In addition the establishment of these new bus lines will make Roanoke Rapids an important terminal for the company, and will doubtless terminate in the company operating a bus depot here. They will store several of their large buses in the city at all times, and maintain a staff of mechanics and employees with headquarters in Roanoke Rapids, to service the large fleet of buses operated by them. This information was made public this week by W. G. Humphrey, traffic manager of the company.

The Carolina Coach Company applied to the State Utilities Commission several months ago for charters for the new bus lines. At

first they were opposed by the Greyhound Corporation and the Seaboard Airline Railway, but it is understood that all opposition has now been worked out and all that remains before starting actual operation of the new lines is a certificate from the Interstate Commerce Commission. This will doubtless soon be granted, at least, Carolina Coach Co. feels so confident of it that they this week conducted a tour over the new proposed routes with drivers of the company who will serve on the new lines.

Mr. Humphrey, accompanying one of the large, DeLuxe equipped, modern buses of the latest type, spent several hours in the city Tuesday, with the drivers. He expressed confidence that his company would carry on extensive operations in the city once the new lines are established. It is understood that passengers traveling the

lines from Norfolk to Raleigh would change buses in Roanoke Rapids, as one of the lines will be a direct bus from Raleigh to Richmond, travelling the



"Through sleet and snow . . . these couriers make their allotted rounds." Mrs. S. Ruth Moody, Postmaster of Henrico, N. C., sent in the above photograph of F. C. Myrick who carries the mail from Roanoke Rapids to that Post Office. Mrs. Moody said that Mr. Myrick never missed a day during the recent heavy snow, although he did have to get aboard a mule for a few trips in. One one trip he carried a parcel post shipment of baby chicks through safely.

## FRED NEIL SHOT BY VAN WARREN, BOTH OF HALIFAX

### Shooting Occurs In Bass Service Station After Argument; Extent Of Injury Not Known

## BULLETIN

Reports from the hospital, at 10:40 tonight, after an X-ray examination of Mr. Neil had been made, state that the bullet entered the injured man's stomach, probably puncturing the large bowel. It was further stated that he was critically shot with developing peritonitis. The injured man was being prepared for an operation to remove the bullet from his stomach.

Fred Neil, young Halifax man, was shot tonight about 9:00 in the right side just under the kidney by Van Warren, also of Halifax. Neil was brought to the Roanoke Rapids Hospital immediately after receiving the wound but the facts could not be learned about the seriousness of his condition when he was admitted. He is said to have been suffering considerably but was not unconscious.

The shooting, it is reported, resulted from a controversy of an undetermined nature, that the two men had engaged in some time before. It is said that Warren had been drinking.

Eye witnesses to the shooting, which took place in the Bass Service Station just across the street from the courthouse, were Raymond A. Bass, W. G. Bass, owner of the filling station, and Lacy Morris.

It is reported that Neil, who is employed by the County Board of Education as a plumber, and Warren had had an argument in the station earlier in the evening after which Warren had left the station to go home. In a few minutes he returned, however, and fired two shots at Neil, one taking effect in the right side, the other bullet missing its intended victim, passing between Bass and Morris, and lodging in the back of the room.

Eye witnesses say that Warren opened the front door, to the left of which Neil was standing by a refrigerator, entered the station, and opened fire without saying a word. After the first shot Neil fell partially across the room and behind Raymond Bass, Warren shooting at him the second time meanwhile. As Neil fell behind Bass, Warren placed the gun in Bass' stomach and appeared as if he meant to fire again. Mr. Bass stated tonight that he said, "Don't kill me too."

Warren then let the revolver drop to his side and walked to the door. At the door he was met by his wife who took the gun away from him. Warren then walked, it is reported, across the courthouse lawn and offered to give himself up at the jail. Jailer Pittman was not present at that time and Mr. Warren went to his home. Latest report tonight is that he was later arrested and placed under bond.

Mr. Warren, who is a brother to Nick Warren, County Commissioner, operates a small cafe, known as Doc's Place, in Halifax.

Neil was brought to the hospital by B. H. Wright, who is also employed by the County Board of Education.

## J. MASON TRAGEDY VICTIM

James E. Mason, 27, of near Weldon, was drowned Tuesday afternoon when he fell from a bridge on which he was working into Fishing Creek, a branch of the Tar River, about three miles south of Enfield on Route 301. The strange accident happened about 1:30 p.m. and the body was discovered by searching parties about five hours later.

Searching parties, under the supervision of Coroner T. M. Cooper of Halifax County grappled along the bottom of the creek from boats for hours before the drowned man's trouser leg was finally hooked by one of the grappling instruments. The creek is the dividing line between Halifax and Edgecombe counties.

Mason was working for the State Highway Department on a job of widening the bridge over the creek. Witnesses said that he was standing on a wooden platform below the edge of the bridge removing framework. He stepped back to charge his position, they said, and put his weight on the end of a loose board in the platform. The plank flew up and he dropped into the river, in which ice floes were still floating. He drifted slowly down the stream, unable to grab boards thrown to him by the other workers. He went under the water several times before he finally disappeared from view about 50 yards downstream. His friends on the bridge crew said that he was about the only man in the group who could not swim.

Funeral services for the drowned victim will be held at the Branch Funeral Home in Enfield Friday

(Continued on Page 4)