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## GUARD UNIT FAVORED

### "THE SINGING WAITERS"



Above is an exclusive photo by the Herald Staff photographer of "The Gay Nineties", one of the many hilarious scenes in the Kiwanis 10th annual benefit show, that was presented for the first time tonight to a packed auditorium.

The waiters, with mustaches like those the butchers sold to the gentlemen of the audience along with flowers for the ladies, are left to right: Will Dean, Leslie Towe, Bill Hodges, and Charlie Davis. The organ pounder is Graham Lynch.

### COUNTY AND CITY BOARDS VOTE AID TOTALING \$1200.00

Great strides toward qualifying for the establishment of a National Guard unit here have been made by the Committee-in-charge since General Van B. Metts was here last week. With a few more moves, which are said to be already underway, the city will be able to offer for the General's inspection every requirement which was stipulated at the meeting in which he discussed the requirements and benefits of a Guard Unit with the delegated citizens of the city last week.

First, the County Commissioners, in their regular March meeting last Monday, appropriated \$600 toward establishing and maintaining a Medical Unit in Roanoke Rapids, provided they found it legal to make such an appropriation and provided the city of Roanoke Rapids would appropriate a like amount. The local committee, designated by General Metts after the meeting here last Tuesday, appeared before the County Board and asked for the appropriation. It is composed of Ted Speight, chairman, Frank Vaughan, Frank Kemp, and Alfred Martin.

The members of the same committee, with the exception of Mr. Martin, appeared before the City Board of Commissioners on Tuesday and put the same proposition up to them. The City Board voted to appropriate another \$600 per year, with the provision that if the total amount of \$1200 per year were not needed to establish and maintain the unit, the city would be allowed to reduce their appropriation.

Another step has been made by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in that they have agreed to enlarge the building which they are planning to build to the extent that it will meet the requirements demanded by the War Department.

The committee, in conjunction with Dr. T. W. M. Long and other interested citizens, are working on the various angles in preparation to asking General Metts to come to Roanoke Rapids again soon to inspect their progress. In the meeting here General Metts told the citizens-group that he would come back to the city whenever they wanted him. It is expected that he will be here within the next few days.

The unit proposed here is a collecting unit, being made up of 66 men, including two officers. Income from the federal government in salaries for men and officers would amount to approximately \$9000 per year. Between \$12000 and \$15000 worth of equipment would be furnished by the government.

The local community—city, county, or private citizens—is responsible for some incidental expenses which will amount to not more than \$400. The local community is responsible for the quarters. And quarters call for an armory.

The time element may play a part in the final establishment of the Medical Unit here as the War Department has announced that the organization must be established and recognized by May 1.

### MINSTREL PRESENTED LAST TIME TOMORR'W

### 1200 Shake House With Laughter At First Performance

One hundred and fifty characters—handlebar mustaches, sideburns, hard hats, checked trousers, ruffles, knee length bathing suits, and all—stepped from the age-dimmed daguerrotypes of grandmother's picture album tonight and gave vent to the melodies, interpreted the dramas, and brought forth generally the atmosphere of the old stage productions which mama and papa used to see while holding hands under the turned-down oil lamps.

It all happened at the high school auditorium where the Kiwanis Club presented its tenth annual benefit show, "The Gay Nineties", under the able direction of John (Slim) Hutchings of the John B. Rogers Producing Company.

The packed crowd of 1200 or more cheered the hero, hissed the villain, whistled for the butcher, ate peanuts, and raised their voices to sing with those on the stage the old tuneful tunes, "Bicycle Built for Two," "After the Ball Is Over," "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie," and "When You Wore a

### GAY '90 BEAUTIES



"Strolling Through the Park". These girls, all dressed up in the outfits of the days of the "Gay Nineties", were caught flirting a bit with some sideburned, mustached buckeroo as they strolled through the park. These and many other entertaining performances may be seen Friday night for the last time at the high school auditorium where the Kiwanis Club is presenting its 10th annual benefit show, "The Gay Nineties."

Tulip". And everybody sang loud, as per directions.

At intermission time the patrons, entering the spirit of the days before the turn of the century, whistled for the butcher boys and ate peanuts and popcorn.

Immediately upon entering the huge auditorium, patrons found themselves in an atmosphere of the

stage shows of fifty years ago. Butchers hollered their wares, the orchestra played the melodies of the gayest of decades yet recorded in history, the nineties.

Featuring the show was the heart throbbing melodrama, "The Bitter Reckoning", or "Lady Halldayne's Fearful Secret." Mrs. Ed-

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### KELLY, HANFORDS DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED TODAY

#### Governor Hoey Gives Prisoners Life; Were To Die Friday

Death sentences given Roy and Wade Hanford and Roy Kelly in connection with the fatal shooting of Sheriff M. P. Robertson and Policeman Sonny Vaughan during a robbery of a filling station in Burlington on December 7, 1938, were commuted today to life imprisonment by Governor Clyde R. Hoey. The commuted sentences came as a result of further investigation on the part of Paroles Commissioner Gill and Governor Hoey after a petition with over 8000 names of citizens of Alamance County, the home of the Hanfords, and Montgomery

County, Kelly's home, had been presented the paroles board. Sheriff Earl G. Bruton, of Troy, was named as one of the signers.

Governor Hoey stated today that the question of commuting the sentences had been a difficult one to decide in view of the fact that all the defendants were bad characters and former convicts.

It was further pointed out this week that evidence introduced at the trial showed that Kelly and Smith were outside the filling station and that the Hanfords denied firing the shots, although one of the men was believed to have had a .32 calibre pistol.

In the opinion of the trial judge, N. A. Sinclair, "the police officer was slain by a bullet fired by Huffman, who was killed during the holdup."

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