



# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST  
TABloid NEWSpaper



VOLUME TWENTY-SIX

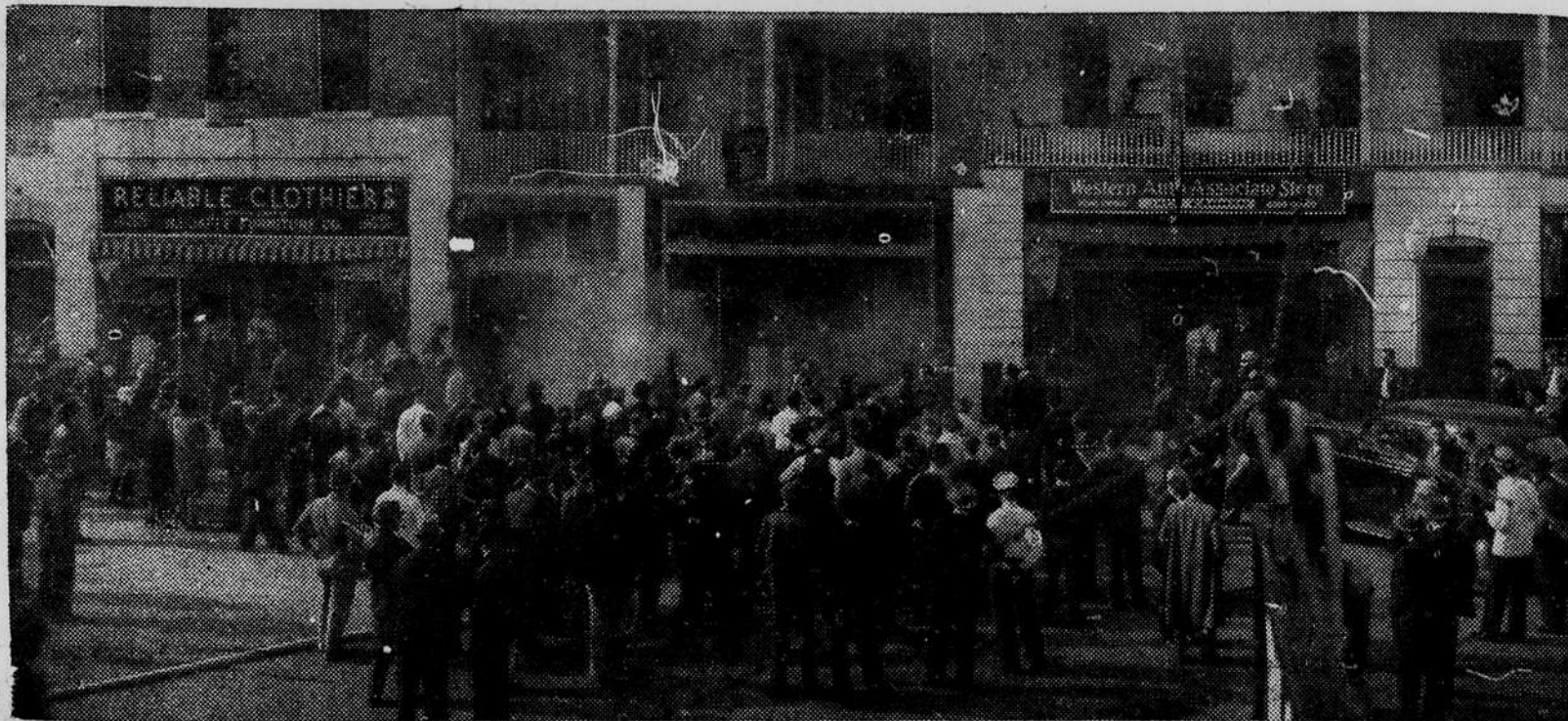
ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 1940

NUMBER 19

# FIRE GUTS DRUG STORE

## WORST FIRE IN DECADE TAKES DRUG STORE



With estimated loss at more than \$7,500, Roanoke Rapids experienced its worst fire in the past ten years or more, when Rosemary Drug Co. caught fire early yesterday afternoon. Manager A. N. Martin is in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital suffering from severe burns sustained when a can of alcohol blew up in his face, starting the fire. Scene by Brasington shows smoke pouring from the drug store and Cullom's Jewelry Shop next door. There are no firewalls between the drug store building and those on each side but the damage was confined to the center building.

## MARTIN IS BADLY INJURED

### Fire Yesterday Worst In More Than 10 Years

Roanoke Rapids' first two-alarm fire gutted the interior of the Rosemary Drug Company shortly after noon here yesterday. A. N. Martin, manager of the store, suffered painful burns about the face and left arm in the explosion that set off the blaze.

Gilbert Brown, clerk in the store, narrowly escaped the sudden flames with only a scorched face.

Estimated damage caused by the fire, water, and smoke has been estimated at more than \$7,500. Loss of merchandise, fixtures and equipment has been estimated at anywhere between 75% and 90%, amounting to a total of about \$5,600. Damage to the building was estimated at between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

The fire started from an explosion of grain alcohol in a five gallon can that Mr. Martin and Mr. Brown were attempting to seal. They had been pouring the alcohol into smaller containers and were in the process of sealing the larger can when the explosion occurred. They were using a flame to melt paraffin into a hole in the cork of the can.

Mr. Brown was holding the can for Mr. Martin to do the sealing. The can, when the liquid exploded, split along the seam, which happened to be on the side next to Mr. Martin. The burning liquid was hurled into his face and left arm.

The can, which was sitting on a table in the prescription department in the rear of the store, was ripped open, its sides, spread out by the explosion, protecting Mr. Brown from the shooting flames.

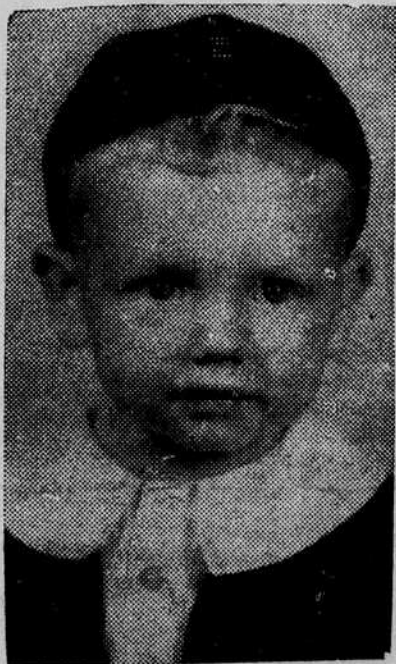
Carl Pridgen, who was standing by watching the men, was hit on the arm by a particle of the exploding liquid but succeeded in putting it out before he was burned.

After the explosion, Mr. Martin rushed out into the main floor of the store by way of the office at the right rear. Mr. Brown came out the door at the left. Customers and clerks pulled the burning coat from Mr. Martin and put out the flames. Coyt Temple, registered pharmacist who has been employed at the store for the past few weeks, wrapped his coat about Mr. Martin's head, and Joe Boone, clerk in the store, rushed him to the hospital.

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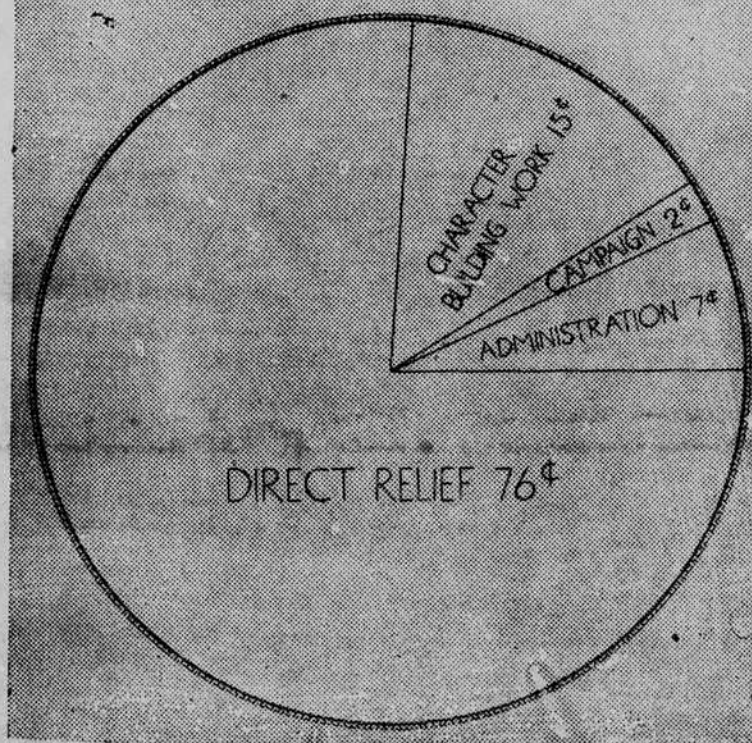
# Drive Starts Monday

## PRIZE WINNER



Pictured above is "Sonny" Cherry, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cherry, Jr., who won the Baby Contest prize at the Woman's Club Country Fair held in the high school gymnasium last Thursday afternoon. Brasington's Studio gave the picture from which the above cut was made as a prize to the winner.

### HOW YOUR COMMUNITY CHEST DOLLAR WAS SPENT



When you consider the services for human health and welfare which your dollars helped to buy this year, ask yourself if you are not fully satisfied with the returns on your investment.

When you make your pledge for 1941, please consider what you would subscribe to each of the 10 Agencies if they solicited separately—  
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## TO STRIVE FOR GOAL OF \$13,100

Everything is in readiness for the 1940 Community Chest Campaign drive which starts next Monday, November 25, T. J. Alford, campaign chairman, said today. The goal has been set at \$13,100.

All workers have been lined up and the necessary equipment for carrying out the drive has been acquired. Dozens of workers in the various industries, the smaller firms, and retail businesses have been gathering in meetings throughout the week for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the various aspects of the campaign.

Armed with this information, they will canvass the city next week for funds with which to carry on the work of the various relief and character building agencies in the city.

Posters will be placed about the city, bulletin boards will be put up, 24-sheet posters have been placed on theatre and General Outdoor Advertising billboards, flags will be displayed on the streets  
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