



THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABloid NEWSpaper



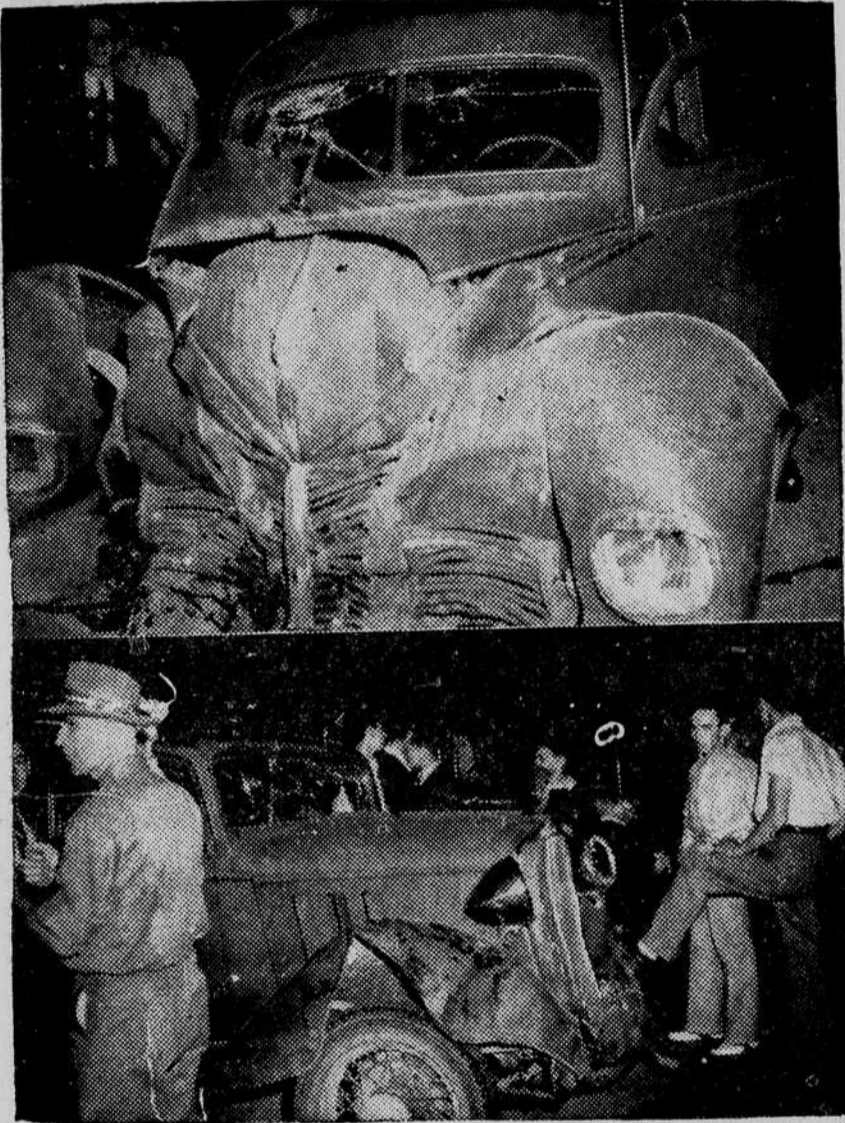
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ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1941

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Avenue Wreck



Above are the two cars which collided head-on at the intersection of Sixth Street with Roanoke Avenue about 8:15 Sunday night, May 18. Byron Gurley, City Commissioner of the South Ward, and Miss Elizabeth Wilder, High School teacher, were both injured in the car shown in the top photo. Gurley received possible fractures to ribs and a broken nose; Miss Wilder received a fractured finger and cuts about the face. She was not admitted to the hospital. C. A. Adams and Chas. Ennis Carr, both of Virginia, were the occupants of the machine seen in the bottom photo. Neither was hurt seriously. Carr was jailed at Halifax in default of a \$300 bond in connection with the accident. Complete details of wreck in this issue of Herald. (NewsKuts by Brigman)

WOMAN CAPTURES PROWLER IN CITY WITH STICK "GUN"

David Bellfield, Negro of near Vulture in Northampton County, had the tables turned on him in an alleged attempted burglary job here last Saturday night.

There was the story of Dillinger's much publicized jail break that he affected with a wooden gun, while others have been successful in robberies and what-have-you with dummy weapons of one and another kind. Yet it remained for David Bellfield, reputedly very timid until he got some fortified wine "under his shirt", to become the victim himself when he allegedly attempted to enter the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gray at the corner of First and Washington Streets.

Mr. Gray had retired for the evening when Mrs. Gray, who remained up, heard a scratching at the window. Thinking it was a neighbor, she cleared her throat to let the person know that she was still up. The scratching continued, after which she arose to investigate. Going toward the

door, she saw the screen partially open, then close again.

Picking up a stick that lay nearby, Mrs. Gray opened the door and stepped out. There near the door crouched a man. Mrs. Gray told the man not to move or she would "kill him". The man remained still, until she ordered him to get up and stand before the light that came out the opened door.

When he did this, she saw that it was a strange Negro and called her husband to come with his gun. Mr. Gray then entered the picture, holding the man at the point of the gun until Mrs. Gray could call Policeman Jim Adams. Mr. Adams arrived on the scene in a few minutes and placed the Negro under arrest.

After a hearing before the Mayor Monday afternoon, Bellfield was bound over to Superior Court under a bond of \$200 for attempting to break and enter. He was also fined \$5 and the cost for public drunkenness.

EXONERATE CHIEF

NEGRO DEATH

ACTION JUSTIFIED

GURLEY HURT ON AVENUE

Commissioner and Teacher Victims Collision Sunday

Byron Gurley, Roanoke Rapids Commissioner, Miss Elizabeth Wilder, teacher in the local high school, and C. A. Adams, of Chester, Va., were all injured in a 2-car automobile accident at the Sixth Street-Roanoke Avenue intersection here Sunday night about 8:15. Mr. Gurley was driving one machine, and Chas. Ennis Carr, of Hopeville was driving the other.

Mr. Gurley, who suffered a broken nose and possible rib fractures, remained in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital Monday afternoon. Miss Wilder was treated for a broken finger and slight lacerations about the face and shock. She was allowed to leave the hospital Sunday night.

It was learned later this week that Gurley also suffered a fractured ankle in the collision. His condition was pronounced "good" at the hospital today.

Adams, who was in the machine with Carr, suffered an injured ankle and abrasions about the chin.

The two machines collided head-on a few feet from the west curb of the Avenue at the corner of Sixth Street and the Avenue. The Gurley car was headed south while the Virginia machine was being driven north.

Carr was allegedly driving on the wrong side of the road, hitting the Gurley machine in the southbound traffic lane. He was being held in the Halifax jail early this week in default of a \$300 bond for driving drunk.

A large crowd of passing motorists and pedestrians gathered about the wreck scene and southbound traffic was directed around the spot for about an hour.

IS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR



F. C. Williams, above, accepted recently an appointment by Governor J. Melville Broughton to the Chairmanship of the Halifax County Unit of the United Service Organizations, created for the purpose of coordinating all war work in the county. Mr. Williams attended an organization meeting in Raleigh today.

Penny Joins Herald Staff

George A. Penny, formerly with the Dunn Dispatch, joined the editorial staff of the Roanoke Rapids Herald on Monday of this week. Mr. Penny will replace Zeb Denny, who is leaving the paper to accept the principalship of the Aurelian Springs school in the county.

Mr. Penny's resignation from the editorial staff of the Dunn paper came after he had been with the Dispatch since September, 1936, as editor.

Mr. Denny's resignation is to become effective as of June 1. He has been with the Herald since July, 1939.

VERDICT GIVEN AT INQUEST

Man Wounded By Chief Died May 16 In Hospital

That Herbert Johnson, Negro, came to his death as a result of a pistol wound from a pistol in the hands of Chief H. E. Dobbins, which act was justified in the discharge of his (Chief Dobbins') duties, was the verdict of the Coroner's Jury impanelled here Tuesday by Coroner T. M. Cooper in the investigation of the death of the Negro who died in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital late Friday afternoon.

The jury was composed of C. C. Shell, W. E. Moody, F. D. Wilson, M. H. Hedgepeth, Sam Young, and I. B. Rainey.

Witnesses who testified in the hearing were Policemen W. M. Erwin, Deputy J. W. Walker, Chief H. E. Dobbins, R. L. Harrison, John Black, W. C. Allsbrook, and Mrs. Jack Newsome.

Alter Mae Hatfield, the victim of the alleged attack leading up to the Negro's arrest, and Mrs. Sallie Hatfield, who was the victim at the time of the alleged assault, were called to testify after the jury had been given the case by the Coroner.

Mr. Allsbrook and Mrs. Newsome were asked to testify in regard to actions of the Negro, who was identified as being in the Allsbrook Five and Ten Cent Store on the Saturday before the alleged attack upon Miss Hatfield, where he allegedly insulted the women clerks in the store.

Policeman Erwin was the first to take the stand in the hearing. He said that he had received word through John Black that some colored man had assaulted a white lady and that they wanted to keep it quiet until the Negro came back to the store (John Black's). Mr. Black drove up (on the night of (Continued on Page 6, Sec. A)