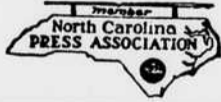


THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABLOID NEWS PAPER

By Mail — \$2. Yearly — In Advance
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA
THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN HALIFAX COUNTY



CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

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EDITORIAL

HOW LONG?

• • How long does a family have to live in Roanoke Rapids to become citizens of Halifax County and the State of North Carolina?

There are a few who would hold it against a family forever if chance had it they were born in another county or another State. These few would lead one to believe that nothing good ever came out of any soil but that of the county and State in which the few happened to be born. All the evil, these few say, which possesses men's souls and conduct, is brought into Paradise by foreigners born in another county or State than their own. (So must have spoken the Pharisees.)

There are a few who draw the line even tighter. They bring it down to towns. If you were not born in Hog Wallow, there's something wrong with you, they swear. And there are reports of a very few highly-tighty isolationists whose fine thread of conception of citizenship makes it necessary that one be conceived on a certain street.

It's about time that we all awakened to the fact that streets, towns, counties or States have been wiped out so far as lines are concerned. What modern science has not accomplished, this war has. All America is in the same boat.

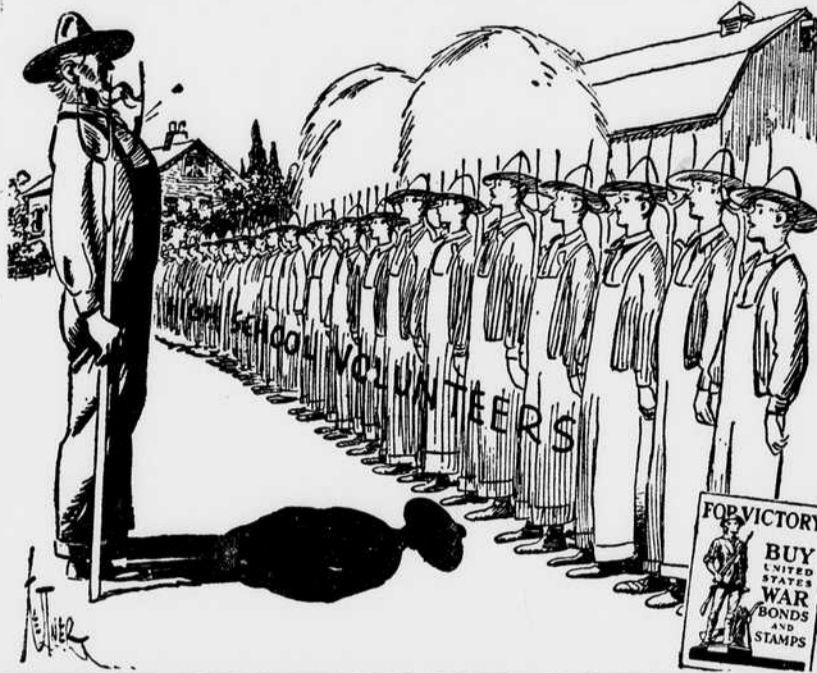
For 13 years, this writer has lived in the State of North Carolina. He came to this State by choice of his own and not because he happened to be born here. For that same period of time, when he chose Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County as a new home for his family, he has tried to be a good citizen. He hoped that eventually those who write the Blue Book of County Citizenship would put his name in. But alas, 13 years seems not enough and there appears little hope in the future.

Those who edit the Blue Book still scorn those who happened to be born in Kentucky. What about those many born in Virginia? How long must they live here to be accepted as citizens? How about those from South Carolina? Or Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and all the other States represented in Roanoke Rapids today?

How about those born and raised up in the mountains of North Carolina, as far away from Roanoke Rapids as Philadelphia and as different? Are they foreigners too? And the hundreds from other counties?

Let's get down to facts. The laws of the State of North Carolina say that a man and woman are citizens of North Carolina, Halifax County and Roanoke Rapids when they have been residents in Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County for four months and residents of the State for one year. That law establishes citizenship; it is not established by a few natives who thrive and wax eloquent because of the locality of their nativity.

At Your Service, Uncle



Something higher than the law of man also establishes citizenship in a community. Regardless of from where he came, regardless of how humble may have been his birth, a man is a good citizen, an indifferent citizen or a bad citizen by the simple yardstick of how he has treated his fellow-citizens in his daily conduct and in his dealing with them. That does not mean he must be a Casper Milque-Toast, bowing and scraping; nor a bully. It does mean he must be big enough not to take advantage of anybody weaker and brave enough to stand up to the bullies. It does mean that he must be kind to those needing and deserving kindness and firm as a rock in fighting those who would do evil, think evil or condone evil.

It is not where a man is born or how long he has lived on a spot that counts when the chips are down. It is what he is; what he has made of himself; what he will do when things count most. He may be a citizen of Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County only a few months or for years or for generations. His test of citizenship is how he stands up under fire, whether the foe be here at home or from over any one of the Seven Seas. According to official versions of this new war, you have them on all sides and shores.

PLEASE EXPLAIN

• • Halifax County lacked \$213.38 of reaching the goal of \$6,900.00 set for the United Service Organizations' drive, the money to be used this year for the men in the armed services here and abroad as a gift from civilians.

The Halifax County Board of Commissioners was asked to give from county funds or ABC funds, the sum of \$500, which would have represented part of the amount to be given by those in the county who did not give. The County Board of Commissioners (which is also the ABC Board) took no official action on the request. A second appeal was wired the Chairman of the Board last week, cutting the request from \$500 to \$213.38, the amount needed to reach the Halifax County USO quota. The answer to this second appeal was that the County Board of Commissioners could not legally give any money to USO from county taxes or ABC profits without a special act of the legislature. Such is probably true.

But how can the County Board of Commissioners explain how and why they spent more than \$1,000 from county funds as a contribution to the Worlds Fair in New York City; and further appropriated, according to good information, money from county funds to pay the past-due income taxes of a paid county official appointed by them? Money which the auditing firm advised be put back where it belonged?

One thousand dollars to the Worlds Fair; money appropriated to pay delinquent taxes of a high county official. But not one thin dime from

the same source to U.S.O. for the boys of Halifax County in the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Ask your County Commissioners to explain.

THE BOYS OR THE FUNNIES?

• For years we have been giving our readers a good "funny paper" along with the local-printed edition. This "comic section" has cost us an extra thousand dollars every year. Since the United States entered the war in December, this newspaper has been sending a copy free to hundreds of our local boys in the armed services. We are trying to spread it out so a few boys in every unit get The Herald but it is quite a problem and the expense is running into real money to print and mail these extra copies.

More and more of our men are leaving and the demands for The Herald increase. We hope we will be able to keep up our free offer to the men in uniform but we are faced with this problem: We must cancel our contract for the "comic section" or we must quit sending The Herald to the boys.

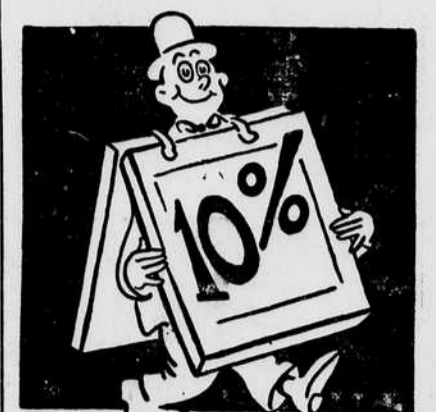
We leave it up to our local subscribers. Is it your wish that we continue sending you the funnies or that we continue sending The Herald free to the boys in service? Frankly, with the war hitting us like it is, we cannot do both.

FOOLHARDY

• It would be foolhardy of the American government to try to act in accord with the wishes of Pierre Laval. We can't do anything satisfactory to that traitorous skunk unless we help his friend Hitler win this war.

There is nobody fit to hold any position of authority in Washington who does not know that.

So why consult Laval about anything, except for record.



Ten Per Cent
OF YOUR INCOME
should be going into
U.S. War Bonds and Stamps