

Disastrous Fire

DESTROYS LAUNDRY PLANT SATURDAY

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!



THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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DRAFT OFFICIALS HERE SUED, ASSAULTED

JOHNSON'S LAUNDRY IS TOTAL LOSS

One of the most disastrous fires in the history of the city occurred shortly after midnight last Saturday when the plant of Johnson's Laundry, located in the south part of the city on the Littleton Highway, was completely destroyed. Estimate of the loss is placed at \$50,000.00, making it perhaps the most costly blaze ever to occur here.

The modern plant of the laundry and dry cleaning establishment was a blazing inferno when the fire was discovered by L. A. Daniel, who lives across the street. Daniel quickly summoned C. T. Johnson, owner and manager of the plant who lives nextdoor to the laundry. Johnson had left the building only thirty-minutes before the fire was discovered and after a last check-up of the premises had gone home and retired.

The City Fire Department quickly answered the alarm, but their efforts were to little avail due to the fact the laundry is outside the city limits and the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District, therefore the only water available for fighting the blaze was from a 5,000 gallon tank maintained by Johnson for supplying the laundry. (Continued on Page 8, Sec. A)

PROGRESS IS REPORTED ON THE AIRPORT

A representative group of citizens from Roanoke Rapids, representing various business groups and civic clubs, appeared as a committee before the County Board of Commissioners meeting in their regular session Monday at Halifax. They reported the county board as being favorable to the project and expressing themselves to the effect that some satisfactory arrangement can be made whereby the land may be purchased.

Pending the "go sign" from the war department, in the event the county does purchase the land, and, in addition, take care of the initial engineering work necessary to get the project ready for actual construction, the Civil Aeronautics Authority would then build the field and add the necessary equipment.

MOST COSTLY BLAZE IN CITY'S HISTORY



SHOWN ABOVE is what remains of the Johnson Laundry plant after fire reduced it to ruins here Saturday night, causing damage estimated at \$50,000.00. —Staff Photo

ESCAPE ATTEMPT

2 KILLED IN TRUCK CRASH NEAR WELDON

Two Negro men were killed and six seriously injured about 3:30 last Saturday afternoon when a truck in which some 25 or 30 colored workmen were riding left the highway about 3-miles from Weldon on the Halifax Road. The truck was owned by James A. Pierce, Weldon lumberman. It was being driven by LeRoy Turner, Weldon Negro, who is being held in jail at Halifax in lieu of \$1,000. bond. A preliminary hearing was given Turner in the jail at Halifax Monday night before D. C. Johnson, Weldon Justice of the Peace, at which time he was indicted for reckless driving.

According to reports the truck was returning to Weldon from some distance out in the country where the colored men had been "logging". It is said that Turner was driving too close behind another car and ran off the highway to avoid hitting the car in front. The truck hurdled a ditch and did not stop until it had run some 150-ft. into a field near the edge of the highway. The colored men were thrown from the truck and "piled up" in the ditch. The (Continued on Page 8, Sec. A)

A wholesale attempt to escape from the County Jail in Halifax was discovered last Saturday afternoon, and as a result some thirteen Negroes and one white prisoner will be indicted and tried at the next session of Recorder's Court for complicity in the crime.

Jack Whitehead, jailer, with the assistance of Corporal J. C. Long, and Patrolman Ernest Guthrie, of the State Highway Patrol, uncovered evidence in the case which tended to show that hack saw blades were smuggled into the jail on Tuesday of last week by one Timothy Mills, county Negro who had been released from the roads only that day. Those involved in the escape attempt had made good headway and had succeeded in partially sawing through three heavy steel plates at the rear of the individual cell blocks. It was also found that they sawed into one end of the heavy bars to the outside of the jail, which would have easily permitted their escape if they were successful in their attempt to free themselves from the individual cells.

Those who will be tried on charges ranging from smuggling, attempting to escape jail to aiding and abetting to escape include: Owen Zack Wiggins, white man, and the following Negroes: Timothy Mills, alleged to have smuggled the blades into the jail, May Patterson, trusty, Buster Revis, Wilson Harrison, Nat Peterson, Wilson Harrison, Marion Foy, Dawson Fason, William Rev-

USO QUOTA IS FINALLY ATTAINED

The \$6,900 quota set for Halifax County for United Service Organizations was reached this week, a month after the campaign started. The exact amount reported by Treasurer W. L. Medlin to County Chairman F. C. Williams was \$6,960.53.

Short of the goal last week, it was reached by the combined efforts of the Softball League of Roanoke Rapids with a benefit game, collections taken up in local churches and a portion of the sale of salvage rubber by Major New-some of the Salvage Committee.

The Treasurer's report to National USO showed total collections on July 31 of \$6,960.53; campaign expenses, postage, publicity, telephone and telegraph \$10.68; 10 per cent withheld as agreed for local USO work for the next year \$694.98; balance after deductions and amount remitted to National USO \$6,254.87.

In regard to the \$694.98 for local USO, Chairman Williams stated this money would be spent by the County Committee which will be called together soon to apportion the funds according to USO needs and amount raised in each community.

A dangerous situation directly affecting the war effort developed here yesterday afternoon with the Government Appeal Agent of Halifax Draft Board No. 1 assaulted by a draftee, coming on the heels of the news that the Chairman of the Board had been sued for slander by a Warren County doctor.

Judge Charley Daniel of Weldon, who in addition to rendering free service to the country as Government Appeal Agent, is Judge of the Halifax County Recorders Court, was in the draft board office in the Kidd Building here yesterday afternoon checking questionnaires.

Carl Haislip, former Roanoke Rapids citizen, now working near Chester, Pa., came into the draft office and demanded to see the Chairman of the Board. He was told the chairman, Mr. Mullen, was not in the office. Employees of the board in the office at the time were Mrs. Ellen Taylor, who succeeded "Swiftly" Faison as clerk of the board, Mrs. Alice Miller and Miss Jeanette Robinson. Haislip began to curse and talk abusively. Judge Daniel phoned for the police and Haislip left the office. Officer Carl Green arrived but Haislip had disappeared.

When the officer left the building, Haislip returned to the draft board office and accused Judge Daniel of being "Swiftly" Faison with whom Haislip had some words yesterday morning while being examined at the clinic. When Judge Daniel said he was not Faison, Haislip called him a liar and continued to curse and abuse. Judge Daniel sought to eject the man from the office and the presence of the three women. Haislip told the Judge to take off his glasses but the Judge refused and Haislip then hit the Judge in the mouth and ran from the office. Mrs. Taylor and Miss Robinson had left to find an officer. Haislip followed them down the steps, cursing and abusing them. He was arrested a short time later by officer Green and lodged in the city jail. He became so unruly there that he was taken to Halifax jail last night. He is reported to have said last night that he had rather be in the penitentiary than in the army and he hoped Germany and Japan won the war.

The cause for Haislip's anger appears to be that he was changed from 3A to 1A and ordered here for physical examination. His 3A classification was on the basis of a single man whose parents were dependent on him. Haislip has married since then but failed to report this to the local board.

He may face charges in Federal Court of assaulting Federal officers and seeking to impede the workings of the draft law. Suit for slander, asking \$25,000 (Continued on Page 8, Sec. A)