

REMEMBER

ROBERT E. MAY, Navy, May 8, 1942.
R. H. McCOMMONS, Merchant Mar., July 5, 1942

JAMES W. WHITBY, Navy, Oct. 26, 1942.
WILLIAM H. CAMP, JR., Navy, Nov., 1942.



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CITY HAS MOST DISASTROUS FIRE

LEADS SCOUTS



SCOUT BILLY ATKINSON who has organized a committee of Boy Scouts in the city to co-operate with the local salvage organization in collecting scrap material for the duration of the war. Details of Young Atkinson's plans will be found on Page 2 — this issue. *Turn Over.*

ONE HUNDRED YOUTHS HAVE REGISTERED

The second week of registration of 18-year olds under the new draft Wednesday showed a falling off of registrants from the number listed at the same time last week. Returns reported from the city office of Halifax County Local Draft Board No. 1, where Roanoke Rapids youths were to register showed they had registered a total number of 100 since registrations started December 10th, and of that number 58 registered during the first week.

This week's registration is for youngsters who reached 18 during September and October, while last week was for those who had reached that age during July and August.

A notice has been received by the local Draft Board from the United States Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard to the effect that their respective quotas for volunteer enlistments have been filled for the month of December. The Draft Board cannot accept any more volunteers for either branch until they have been further notified.

SMALL FIRE AT ROANOKE MILL OFFICE

A small fire was discovered in the men's room at the rear of the building of the general offices of Roanoke Mills Co., at the corner of Fifth and Jackson streets shortly before one o'clock Wednesday noon. Firemen answered a call to the new office building, and the flames were quickly extinguished. The damage done was negligible.

The blaze is thought to have been started from a stack of papers and forms stored in a corner of the room, which were located next to a hot radiator. Gordon Berkstresser, works manager for Roanoke Mills Co. No. 2 mill, had returned to the office a few minutes early, and had he not discovered the fire at the time, it would have undoubtedly gained serious headway.

ROSES WILL ATTEMPT NEW STORE HERE

Rose's 5-10-25c Stores, Inc., operators of 118 stores in the south, will not give up Roanoke Rapids as a location for one of their stores, if some possible means of establishing a new retail outlet for the city can be made, according to announcement made by the company this week. Their 7,000 square ft. floor space store was burned to the ground in the Smith Hotel Building fire Monday morning. It will be impossible to rebuild for the duration, and although no definite plans may be announced at this time, a company official said that the chain store operators are determined to "carry on" in the city in some way.

Rose's estimated their fire loss, covering stock and fixtures, at approximately \$25,000.00, and said they were protected by insurance. Temporary offices for refunding money paid the company on lay-away toys and Christmas merchandise have been arranged for, details of which may be found in a display advertisement in this issue. H. G. Patterson, resident (Continued on Page 12—Sec. A)

GOLDEN WEDDING



Christmas Day brings the fiftieth wedding anniversary for Mr and Mrs. R. O. Bray, shown above, who will observe their Golden Wedding at their home at 110 Madison Street, where they have lived for the past 39 years.

LOCAL GIRLS IN WAAC'S



Margaret Butler (above)



(Right) Lucy Claire Holloway and Pvt. Chas. Holloway

Shown above are two of Roanoke Rapids recruits in the WAAC's. Misses Butler and Holloway are at present in training at Daytona Beach, Florida. Miss Holloway is shown with her brother, Pvt. Chas. Holloway, now on duty with the army and thought to be somewhere in the Aleutian Islands. Two other girls from the city are WAAC's, Miss Bessie Hyman Bell, and Miss Ruby A. Moore, 200 Hamilton St. whom it was learned here only this week had officially enrolled with the recruiting and induction station at Fort Bragg.

IN HISTORY AS HOTEL IS TOTAL LOSS

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the Smith Hotel and two five-and-ten-cent stores Rose's and Woolworth's, in the main business district of Roanoke Rapids early Monday morning.

Damages from the fire, described by residents as the worst in the history of the town, were estimated at between \$175,000 and \$200,000.

The blaze was discovered at 2:30 a. m. on the second floor of the hotel over the Woolworth store. Fire Chief Wiley King said the flames were first seen near a linen closet and stairway of the hotel.

Four hotel guests were injured, none seriously, in the fire. All but two had been released from the Roanoke Rapids Hospital tonight, however.

A. E. Shanklin of Portsmouth, Va., suffered injuries to his ankles and legs when he leaped from the second floor of the hotel to the pavement.

Mrs. Joe Brown, wife of the night clerk at the hotel, who with her husband warned all the guests and helped them to safety, was still at the hospital receiving treatment for shock.

Mrs. Josephine Gray and Miss Willa Gray, both of Gastonia, were given treatment at the hospital for minor cuts and shock and were released.

Several others of the 33 guests at the hotel were given first aid treatment for minor burns and cuts.

Zero weather and snow and sleet greatly hampered firemen in battling the blaze. It was the coldest morning of the year. A strong north wind fanned the blazes and threatened an entire block for some time.

It was nearly three hours before firemen were able to bring the blaze under control. The fire was confined to the one building, however, by the good work of the Roanoke Rapids and Weldon fire departments.

The fire department of Scotland Neck and Rocky Mount sent trucks over the icy highways, arriving here at 5 a. m. The blaze was brought under control shortly afterwards.

When the fire was discovered the fire plugs in the block were frozen and it required some time to thaw them out enough for fire- (Continued on Page 12—Sec. A)