

# NEWS HIGHLIGHTS OF 1942

## FIRST THREE MONTHS OF YEAR CARRIED IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

To most of the readers of the Herald, the year 1942 will be "only a memory" when they glance at the above headlines and read the foregoing article. For many of our readers the memories will be most pleasant; others will recall the year with sadness; still others will be prone to forget "just what happened — where, and when." It is for this reason the Herald annually prints a brief summary of the events that have transpired during the previous year. The feature has proven to be a most popular one with readers. Many of our subscribers tell us they clip these articles and save them, for they represent a graphic "history" of our city, whose value will be enhanced as time progresses.

This week, in accordance with our usual custom, we give a brief resume of the more important news events in Roanoke Rapids and immediate vicinity, as recorded by the columns of the Herald for the first three months of the year 1942. News of the second, third and fourth quarters will follow in our next three issues.

January 1 — The new \$85,000 Armory (constructed with County and WPA funds) is dedicated Friday, January 2nd, with ceremonies participated in by the city's three civic clubs, starting with a big parade, and climaxed by a dance at the new Armory building. Officers of Birchwood Camp No. 55, Woodmen of the World, are installed for the coming year. Richard Manson, local Negro, held in jail at Wilson for alleged violation of the Selective Service Act. Air Raid Wardens appointed by Chairman A. Leonidas Hux to serve in various sections of the county. J. Winfield Crew, Jr., local attorney enlists in Army. Tire Rationing Boards for Halifax County are nominated. City exceeds goal of \$4,000 set by Red Cross for war relief. Deputy Sheriff C. F. Gray injured in automobile accident. Local Employment Office transferred to Federal control.

January 8 — Registration of local residents for civilian defense held Saturday, January 10th. Ed Wright, 55 year old local resident; Wiley Powell, 63 year old County Negro, are first Halifax County highway death victims. February 16th is set by President Roosevelt for registration of all male citizens between the ages of 20 and 44. J. T. Chase named chairman of Halifax County Tire Board No.

1; three local tire rationing boards of county hold joint meeting at Halifax. Drunk, reckless drivers abound at county Recorder Court. Curtis Shell patient at Duke Hospital. Rotary Club raises sufficient funds from staging Armory dance to outfit recreation room for Co. B, 105th Medical Regiment, at Fort Jackson, S. C.

January 15 — Only 750 people register for local civilian defense; C. W. Davis, director of Volunteer Service and Public Information for the Committee on Civil Protection, attributes small number registering to bad weather conditions. J. T. Chase is appointed County Administrator for Tire Rationing. January 27th set as date for voting on bonds in the amount of \$16,000, for underpass at Seaboard Ry. tracks, and \$12,000, for purchasing land and improving same for cemetery purposes. City High School Coach J. Cranford Hoyle honored by friends at banquet, following announcement he was leaving city. Traffic control signals arrive. County Health Department gives annual report of work. Superior Court starts at Halifax January 26th, with Judge Henry L. Stephens presiding. W. L. Medlin elected President of Kiwanis Club; W. J. Norwood is Division Governor. Lions Club will sponsor annual President's Ball. Norman Scrivener arrives to assume duties as new field executive of Halifax District Boy Scouts. Twenty-five Negroes leave for Army. Marine recruiting officers in city.

January 22 — Halifax County launches drive to collect books for men in armed forces. Bill Alligood is appointed State Softball Commissioner. City firemen are hosts to Roanoke Fireman's Association at a banquet in the Armory. Post Office receipts for 1941 top all past totals. The first monthly meet of the Scout Board is held in the Municipal Building. Major C. Newsome, local oil distributor, elected director of North Carolina Oil Dealers Association. Men 20 to 40 years old register for service in the armed forces. Dr. Robert F. Young, County Health Officer, urges campaign to kill rats in Halifax County. British War Relief plans to keep movement intact in this country.

January 29 — Defense workers are called to a mass meeting in the high school auditorium. Sponsors having been named, the annual President's Ball was held on Friday night. Local mills

launch Victory Bond drive among workers. Judge Henry L. Stevens of Warsaw charged the members of the county grand jury to do their duty in seeing to it that justice is done and the laws are upheld. 750 farmers hear plans for year talked over by Credit group in Weldon. Willie Gray Jeffries gets 30 years on murder charge. The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Roanoke Rapids Community Chest was held January 26 in the Municipal Building; E. H. Graves to head 1942 movement here. Work is begun on new garage for street department. Robert E. Kimball is transferred to Williamston branch of Virginia Electric and Power Co. Miss Jennie Manning of Bethel begins work as a special case worker for the blind in the county.

February 5 — Police cars driven by W. M. Erwin and A. J. Briggman collide on the avenue. Day-light saving time begins February 9. Local defense leaders begin F. E. I. course. Traffic signals are installed. Health courses are started in the county schools as a compulsory subject. Reverend R. V. Hope arrives to assume pastorate of the First Christian

Church here. Shearod H. Crumpler organizes a First Aid class in Enfield. Book drive nets 1200 volumes during first week. The local Rotary Club hears high school choir at luncheon. The Boy Scouts of Roanoke Rapids took an active part in the Annual Boy Scout Anniversary Week celebration. Gene Bricklemeyer named coach at high school. Local Girl Scouts begin annual cookie campaign here. City authorizes \$500 fund for Civilian Defense. Three new traffic laws are enacted by city fathers. More than 500 Civilian Defense workers attend mass meeting of defense workers. M. Eugene Starnes, Assistant County agent, stresses the loss of good timber by forest fires.

February 12 — Civilian defense leaders here call official test blackout to include the entire city and urban section of Roanoke Rapids. The drive for funds for Infantile Paralysis in Halifax County nets \$687.92. Frank Sherry, Shearod Crumpler, Chief of Police H. E. Dobbins and Gene Lehman complete a week's course at Chapel Hill in the various phases of Civilian Defense work. Dock Winifred of Enfield, and his colored helper,

John Higgins, were hurt as train strikes their truck. All aliens are ordered to register at Post Office; Employment Service advisory council is installed here. Chief of Police H. E. Dobbins begins war on stray dogs to eliminate any chance of a rabies epidemic here. A Leonidas Hux, chairman of the county civilian defense committee, requests survey of all vacant houses for purpose of housing refugees in county. Joseph Aycock, an employee of the Patterson Mill, dies from coming in contact with a high voltage electric motor there. Gordon Dobbins, son of Chief of Police H. E. Dobbins, underwent an operation in New York City. Foundation for new city garage is laid. Bond and Stamp chain letters are called illegal by postal officials. Annual Kiwanis Ladies night banquet is held with Dr. J. Cordia Lyons, Secretary of the Spanish-American summer school at the University of North Carolina, as principal speaker. Victory garden campaign begins in state. February 19 — Roanoke Rapids police investigate wave of petty robberies which swept the city this week. Four Portsmouth, Va.,

(Continued on Page 8—Sec. B)

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