



# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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## LOOMIS SENTENCE 15 YEARS

### COUNTY SALE EASILY TOPS BOND DRIVE

But Small Investors Urged To Respond To Last Days Of Drive

Halifax County has surpassed its Second War Loan quota by more than \$400,000, according to announcement made today by Fletcher H. Gregory, county chairman for the drive. Officials hope that tomorrow, Friday, April 30th, will find local people (particularly small investors) "pitching in" with purchases sufficient to boost the total to a half-million dollars above the quota.

The county's assigned quota was \$695,600. Sales reported up to press time today, show that approximately \$1,100,000 of the securities have been purchased.

The success of the campaign to date has been particularly gratifying to officials in charge of the drive from a standpoint of actual money invested in second war loan bonds, but it has also been disappointing from the standpoint of attracting the small, individual investor.

Gregory pointed out the principal reason for the county exceeding its quota by so wide a margin was that local industries and banks had subscribed generously to the securities. Small investors have been in the minority. He further expressed himself as hoping, however, that this type of purchaser with the aid of the week's pay check, would avail himself of the last opportunity to invest in the government's second war loan campaign.

### Next Meeting Of BPW Club To Be Held April 30th

The newly formed Roanoke Rapids Business and Professional Women's Club will hold their next meeting tomorrow night, Friday, April 30th, in the Municipal Building at 7 o'clock. Plans will be made at that meeting for Charter Night for the new club, which members hope to hold sometime in May.

The club is now in the process of being organized. Any lady engaged in business life of the city is invited to attend Friday night's meeting.

### Piano Students To Give Recital

Miss Kent Bentley, city music teacher, will present three of her students in a piano recital at the High School Auditorium on next Thursday night, May 6th, at eight o'clock. Misses Elizabeth Beckwith and Ruth Lee, and Billy Waters appear in this recital.

### TUESDAY WILL BE ELECTION DAY IN CITY

Three Candidates For Mayor; Commissioners Unopposed For Office

Roanoke Rapids voters will go to the polls on next Tuesday, May 4th, from 6:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. to decide who will be city mayor for the next two years. They will have their choice of three candidates. Kelly Jenkins, local attorney now serving his fifth term, is seeking re-election. He will be opposed by Jeff F. Welch and S. M. Thompson, both long residents of the city.

A. N. Martin, serving as city commissioner from the South ward, and W. P. Taylor, North ward commissioner, have announced for re-election. They are unopposed.

Polling places in the two city precincts will be the Rosemary Graded School Building for the South ward, and the vacant store building at 200 Roanoke Avenue for North ward voters.

S. C. Cook and A. M. Cameron will serve as registrars; election judges will be E. R. Myrick, J. W. Branch, J. A. Wood and W. G. Allgood.

The new mayor's term starts June 7th, and the successful candidate will serve for a two-year period.

### FISHERMEN IN NEARBY AREA HIT JACKPOT

The muddy waters of the Roanoke River are giving up hundreds upon hundreds of choice rockfish this season, and fishermen in the territory are experiencing the best season they have had in a number of years.

This is welcome news for hundreds of families, for in addition to the delicacy of this particular type of fish, their plentifulness comes in doubly handy this year because of the meat shortage.

The rockfish started running in earnest Monday, and fishermen are reporting record catches, some getting well over a hundred fish for a single night's work. Thus far net fishing only is effective, but this on a 24-hour basis. Sportsmen of the area are hoping the water will clear some over this week end making trolling possible.

The river started rising some ten days ago, and continued until the latter part of the week. When the stream started going down to normal, those engaged in fishing really "hit the jackpot."

### Has A Busy Day



Lieutenant George S. Wood, city youth, was awarded his silver navigator's wings at Hondo Army Air Field, Texas, a week ago this morning. That afternoon he was married to Miss Sarah Crawford Towe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Towe of this city. Complete details of the wedding will be found on page 11 - Section B; of Lt. Wood's winning his wings on Page 3 - Section B, this issue.

### CITY STORES DIVIDED ON WED. CLOSING

Grocers Start Closing At 12 Next Wednesday For A 4-Months Period

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association was held Tuesday for discussion of Wednesday afternoon hours to be observed by city stores throughout the summer months.

It is customary for the stores to observe a half-holiday Wednesdays through the month of June, July and August. Although sentiment was apparently for starting the early Wednesday closing in May this year, no definite action was taken by the board of directors Tuesday.

As a result, it appears that stores will not adopt the Wednesday afternoon closing on a 100 per cent basis until at least June, although all grocery retailers and city banks will start closing at 12 o'clock next Wednesday, and continue through the month of August.

A spokesman for city grocers at Tuesday's meeting reported a majority of them in favor of such a move, and a canvass made later by the secretary of the merchants association revealed all grocers to be in accord with the program. Announcement of the closing policy of other stores will be made at a later date.

### REFORMATORY FOR MAN WHO DUCKED EXAM.

Refusal To Take Draft Examination Gets Roy Finch 18-Mo. Sentence

Roy Finch, 23-year old city man was sentenced to 18-months in the Federal Reformatory for failure to report to the local draft board to take a physical examination.

Judge I. M. Meekins told the local youth that he would have to take the physical examination when he finished his 18-month sentence in the reformatory.

E. V. Kadell, FBI agent, testified that Finch ignored all letters written to him by his draft board and continued to decline to take his physical examination even when asked by the FBI to do so.

Finch was not represented by counsel and did not take the stand. However, when asked by Judge Meekins why he did not take the exam. Finch said, "Well, I wouldn't mind going to the Army if I knew that I was in good physical condition. But I know that I would land in 4-F, and I'd rather take the consequences." When questioned further about the meaning of "I'd rather take the consequences," Finch said nothing.

### MAN DIES OF ACCIDENT AT PAPER MILL

Funeral services for Bennie R. Berry, 36-year old employee of the Halifax Paper Company, were held this afternoon at 4 o'clock from the Williams Funeral Home, with Rev. R. V. Hope, pastor of the Christian Church, officiating. Interment followed in Roanoke Rapids Cemetery.

Berry died shortly before noon Tuesday, after suffering an electrical shock at the mill where he was employed as an electrician. The accident occurred some two-hours earlier, and although he was given artificial respiration he did not respond.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Bessie Berry, and five step-children, Johnnie, Edward, Virginia, Benjamin and Earnest Craddock, all of this city, although Benjamin is in the army stationed in Texas; his mother, Mrs. Lucy Berry; five brothers, Henry, Reginald, Russell and Clifford Berry, all of Roanoke Rapids, and Homer Berry, serving with the Navy; two sisters, Mrs. Florence Priest of Princess Ann County, Va., and Mrs. Mattie Lane of this city.

Berry came to the city some six years ago from Belhaven.

### BLANTON 3 TO 5 YEARS FOR INFANT DEATH

RICHARDSON GETS 15 YEARS

Lemuel Robinson Draws Two Years On Roads In Carnal Knowledge Case

Three cases involving Roanoke Rapids men, attracting more than usual interest were tried at this week's term of superior court in Halifax, with Judge Clawson Williams of Sanford presiding. The following sentences were made by the court:

George "Buck" Loomis, 28-year old city white man, was given a sentence of 15-years in States Prison, after he plead guilty to a charge of "intent to commit rape." The State accepted the plea, and Judge Williams pronounced sentence today.

Loomis was arrested by city policemen Wednesday afternoon of last week, for having lured a five-year old girl away from her home to the woods near the dye ditch of Roanoke Mills Co. No. 2. He admitted attempting to attack the child.

Carson Blanton, 28-year old city textile worker, plead guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter, and was sentenced to "not less than three, nor more than five years in States Prison."

The Blanton case is the result of the death of his infant son on Sunday afternoon, April 18th. Testimony at the Coroner's Inquest held in the city last week, showed that the baby was in a crib in a corner of the room of Blanton's home on the Roanoke Rapids-Weldon highway. The father admitted being drunk, and became angry at his brother when he left the house. Blanton threw a chair against a stove, then threw bed clothes on the floor, and upon his wife leaving the room, picked up a lamp and threw it in the corner where the crib was. The lamp shattered. The mother rushed back into the room to find the baby's head and face covered with blood. The infant was rushed to the hospital here where it died soon after arrival.

The third case involving Roanoke Rapids people was that of a mother and step-father of an eleven-year old girl, and a man who claimed to be her husband, facing various charges in connection with relations of the two men with the girl.

A jury found Allen Richardson, step-father of the girl, guilty of rape, and he was sentenced to 15-years in States Prison. In a scathing denunciation of the man, Judge Williams told him from the bench, in pronouncing sen- (Continued on page 8, Sec. A)