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LAST CANNING CLASS FRIDAY

NEGRO GUILTY MURDER

ALL HALIFAX COUNTY JURY ON THE CASE

Sentenced To Die In Gas Chamber July 9; Files Appeal Notice

A special venire composed of Halifax County men sitting as a jury in Superior Court in Warrenton today found Willie Smith, Negro, guilty of the murder of Vernon Powell, white Warrenton storekeeper, on December 31st. Judge R. Hunt Parker of this city, presiding judge at the May term of court in Warren County, sentenced him to die in the lethal gas chamber on July 9th.

Julius Banzett, Warrenton attorney who had been appointed by the court to defend the colored man, served notice of appeal, and was given 45-days in which to perfect his plea. The solicitor was given an additional 45-days in which to answer, thus the Negro's execution is automatically stayed. His case will probably be reviewed by the September term of the Supreme Court.

The trial of the colored man, who had confessed to robbing a city jewelry store here last year, was scheduled to get under way Monday. It was claimed that sentiment against him was strong in Warren County, and a special venire from Halifax County was summoned. The jury was selected by noon Tuesday, and actual testimony started that afternoon, requiring until late yesterday afternoon to finish. Lawyers addressed the jury last night, and Judge Parker consumed one-hour and 45-minutes in making his charge this morning. The jury was out only 30 minutes.

Additional details of the crime will be found on page 5—Section B, this issue.

City Officer In Hospital Here; Is Better Today

W. M. Erwin, city policeman since 1936, was stricken with a heart attack about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, and was taken to Roanoke Rapids Hospital where his condition was reported as improved today. Attending physicians stated that although he was seriously ill, he has a good chance for recovery unless unforeseen complications occur. He worked as usual Monday night, before the attack Tuesday morning. During his absence the North ward night beat is being policed by Troy Holloman, regular officer for that station.

Ray Rightmyer Is 2nd Lieutenant In Marine Corps.



LT. RAY J. RIGHTMYER

Raymond Jones Rightmyer, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jones Rightmyer, Sr., 1023 Roanoke Avenue, graduated recently from the Naval Air Training Center, Corpus Christi, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Lt. Rightmyer, former student of North Carolina State College, volunteered for flight instruction at the Olathe, Kansas, Naval Air Station.

F. C. Williams Appointed To WPB Committee

Frank C. Williams, Vice President and General Manager of Roanoke Mills Co. and Patterson Mills Co., of this city has been appointed a member of the Textile Industry Advisory Committee of the War Production Board.

Mr. Williams attended a meeting of the Committee in Washington last week and is expected to be called to Washington about once a month.

OLD CLOTHES DRIVE HERE IS SUCCESS

The Business and Professional Women's Club sponsored a drive for the past week to collect old clothes for Russian War Relief. A special committee from the club was formed, and representatives sent to call for the clothes in city homes Monday.

Miss Minnie Johnson, club president and chairman of the drive, reports that the club had great success in reaching its goal. A total of about 600 lbs. were collected.

140 AWARDED JR. FIRST AID CERTIFICATES

8th Graders Complete Course Of Instruction Offered By Red Cross

Shearod H. Crumpler, Chairman of First Aid, Water Safety and Accident Prevention of the Roanoke Rapids Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented Junior First Aid Certificates to 140 eighth grade students in Junior High School Assembly Tuesday afternoon. A special First Aid program was conducted by the students as a culmination of their work to earn their certificates. The classes were held in all the eighth grades as part of the regular course of study in history. They were taught by Miss Cornelia Clark, First Aid Instructor.

In presenting the certificates Crumpler expressed appreciation of the Chapter for the splendid work (Continued On Back Page)

BABY "LOST" ON STREETS; FIND PARENTS

3-Year Old Disappears From His Home; Gone For About 1½-Hours

The three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Stokes, 739-B Jefferson Street, strolled from his home shortly before noon today, creating quite a sensation in his household when he was missed, and in the city police department when he was found by city officer Jack Brigman.

The boy was picked up by Officer Brigman at an uptown service station about noon-time, after he had fallen and hurt his knee slightly. The officer took the boy to his home, and started searching for his parents.

A "tip" from a grocery store clerk led to the youth's identity. Brigman called at the home of the boy, and in the meantime the frantic mother had heard city police had picked up an unidentified child and had gone to the municipal building to claim her baby.

The little boy frequently wandered away from his home, she said, oftentimes getting on the city bus, which she declared he thoroughly enjoyed riding. This is the first time he has been missing for this length of time, though, she said.

E. L. DANIEL PRISONER OF ITALY

Private Edward L. Daniel of Roanoke Rapids, reported missing in action in North Africa on March 5, has been located and is a prisoner of the Italian govern-



PVT. EDW. L. DANIEL

ment, according to information received this week from the War Department by his wife, Mrs. Helen V. Daniel, 403 Madison St.

The Adjutant General's office was unable to tell Mrs. Daniel in what prison camp her husband was located. He was reported missing after action on Feb. 14th and word was first received here on March 5th. His last letter was received by his wife on Jan. 26th.

Private Daniel was an employee of Roanoke Mills Co. No. 2 until he entered the army in December 1941. His wife, the former Miss Helen Messer, lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Messer. His mother, Mrs. Peter Daniel, resides at 758 Charlotte St. Mrs. Luther Clary of Roanoke Rapids and Mrs. D. C. Clark of Durham are sisters and Clyde, Rufus and Arthur Lee of Roanoke Rapids and Sanford of Lawrenceville are brothers.

Rufus Britton Is New Night Desk Sergeant, Police Station Here

Rufus Britton, former city fireman, has been appointed new night desk sergeant at the municipal building here to handle incoming police and fire calls. He succeeds A. E. Stowe, who resigned the position last week to go to work for Hugh Camp, former city resident, at Franklin, Va.

HOUSEWIVES ARE URGED TO ATTEND

Specialists Instruct City Housewives; No Charge For Service

Roanoke Rapids housewives are going "all-out for canning" this year, if the crowds of ladies attending the free course of instruction offered at the Roanoke Mills cannery today may be taken as a fair indication.

Approximately 125 housewives, representing a fair "cross-section" of the population of Roanoke Rapids, attended the course of instruction at the mill cannery today. An even larger attendance is looked for tomorrow at the Armory, where the demonstrations will continue throughout the day Friday.

Friday's canning demonstration will be the last to be conducted in the city under the present program, and all housewives who may be able to can or preserve some fruits and vegetables this year are urged to attend the meeting. The program starts at 10 o'clock, and lasts until four p. m. There is no charge, or obligation for attending the meeting, and it is open to the general public, regardless of where they live.

Actual demonstrations at the classes are conducted by Mrs. Myra Scull, district supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, with headquarters in Windsor, assisted by Mrs. Irene Clark, home supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, whose headquarters are in Weldon.

On this morning's program at the mill cannery, Gordon Berkstresser, chairman of the Citizens Service Corps of Civilian Defense, opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks. He was followed by Frank C. Williams, Vice president and general manager of Roanoke Mills Company, who welcomed the ladies to the cannery. Then Alfred Terrell of New York City, president of Roanoke Mills Company, spoke to the ladies, complimenting them on their past efforts, and for their interest shown in attending the canning classes today.

Mrs. Evelyn Sandlin, head of the home economics department of the high school here then introduced Mrs. Scull and Mrs. Clark, who proceeded with the demonstrations.

The same programs of demonstrations will be conducted at the Armory tomorrow, and it is reported many constructive suggestions and helpful hints on canning are being passed along to the ladies at these meetings.