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BLOCKER FOUND NOT GUILTY

- LIEUT. CARLTON L. GRISSOM REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION

Grissom, 25-year-old son of Mrs. John A. Grissom, has been reported as "missing in action" by the War Department. The message notifying young Grissom's mother, was received yesterday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock. The action mentioned in the message was over Germany, and since Lt. Grissom is reported as not having been heard from since January 29, it is believed that he was in the large-scale raid over Frankfurt on that date.

A native of this city, Lt. Grissom was widely known. He received his education in the local schools and prior to entering the service in June, 1942, was employed by ne Rosemary Manufacturing Company. There are two other sons of Mrs. Grissom in the service, John Henry Grissom, believed to be "somewhere in the South Pacific," and Frank A. Grissom, USN, Bainbridge, Md. A fourth son, Horace W. Grissom, is employed in defense work in Newport News, Va.

Lt. Grissom, "Bootsie," to his hundreds of friends, was a pilot in the Eighth Army Air Corps, stationed "somewhere in England. In June of last year, he received his wings as a pilot at Douglas, Ariz., and soon afterward visited his mother at her home, 907 Madison street, this city.

Reported Missing



Above is 2d Lt. Carlton L. Grissom, reported missing in action over Germany since January 29. He is believed to have been among pilots of RAF bombers which staged a tremendous raid over Frankfurt, Germany, on that

825 Textile **Employees Here** In Armed Forces

A total of 852 employees of the three textile mills in Roanoke Rapids are now in the armed services of the United States, according to facets released this week by local mill officials.

Roanoke Mills Company has 363 in the service, Rosemary Manufacturing Company has 301, and Patterson Mills Company has

PUPILS WILL

As a climax to the Fourth War Loan campaign activities of the Roanoke Rapids High School students a big auction sale will be held tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. The auction will be held at 300 Roanoke Avenue, where Ike Rochelle, auctioneer, will "knock off" to the highest bidder for War Bonds, many articles of various sizes and kinds which have been donated by merchants of the city. The articles can only be bought for war bonds.

The Girls' Glee Club will furnish entertainment for the occasion.

Prior to the auction sale, a big parade of more than 1,000 students, is scheduled to form in front of the High School and go down Hamilton street, then to Roanoke Avenue. "Hitler's Funeral Procession" will be featured in the parade with many dummies and banners being carried by the marchers. The High School Band will furnish the music for the event, which will start at 2:40 p.m.

CITY AND COUNTY OVER BONDS LAG; AUCTION

Halifax County has gone over its quota in dollar sales for the 4th War Bond drive, but is still lagging in the sale of "E" Bonds, according to County Chairman F. H. Gregory.

The county quota was \$1,334,000 and a total of \$1,450,000 had been sold. The "E" Bond quota was \$552,000 but that amount has not been reached. However, the sale of these bonds will continue until Feb. 29th.

Roanoke Rapids had sold a total of \$338,000 as of March 14th of which \$122,000 was "E" Bonds, leaving \$42,000 in "E" Bonds yet to be sold here, says H. E. Lee, local Bond chairman.

It is hoped that a good portion of this will be sold tomorrow afternoon (Friday) when the High School students will hold a Bond Auction sale at the city park at the corner of Roanoke Avenue and 3rd St. Mr. Lee said he and Chairman Gregory were very appreciative of the fine work done the Roanoke Rapids High School in this drive, students there having sold about \$50,000 in bonds to date.

The students of the local schools have been a most important factor in past War Bond campaigns in assisting the county in raising its

Frank R. Thomas Joins The Herald

Frank R. Thomas has joined the staff of The Herald as news editor and advertising manager, succeeding Howard Hancock, resigned. Mr. Thomas comes to Roanoke Rapids from Lumberton where he held a similar position for a short time. Prior to that he was associate editor and advertising manager of The Roxboro Courier for two years.

A native of Georgia, Mr. Thomas spent several years in newspaper work in Springfield, Mass. returning South in 1941. He and his wife have an apartment at 217 Jackson street.

Postman Slips On Ice; Breaks Rib

L. R. Hasty, 327 Charlotte street, letter carrier for the Roanoke Rapids postoffice for 15 years, suffered a painful injury last Monday when he slipped on the ice-coated Hamilton street, in the 200 block, and fractured a rib in his left side. The accident occurred about 10 o'clock. Mr. Hasty is now confined to his home.

Lieut. Benton's Father Dies

The father of Lieutenant M. Scott Benton, U. S. N. R., died in Sunberry, Saturday and was buried there Tuesday.

Lieutenant Benton is on active duty with the navy somewhere in the Pacific and could not be immediately reached. He is a member of the firm of Allsbrook and Benton, Gay and Midyette.

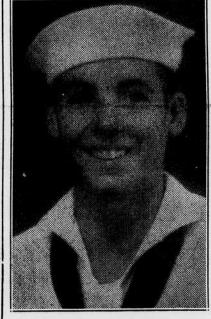
The only immediate survivors are Lieutenant Benton and his

Dwelling Damaged By Fire and Smoke

A two-story frame dwelling house located at 204 Jackson street, owned by Mrs. B. Marks, was damaged considerably by fire and smoke last Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Local firemen, arriving soon after the alarm was sounded, found the kitchen and dining room on the lower floor of the building ablaze, with the flames rapiding eating their way to the second story. The fire was quickly extinguished. Damage done is fully covered by insurance, overseas.

NO "LIQUOR STILL FOUND AT END OF COMMISSIONER'S

K. B. Blocker, who lives near Thelma, near old Gaston townsite, was found Not Guilty in Halifax County Recorder's Court Tuesday, on a charge of having in his possession equipment to manufacture liquor and the manufacturing of same. The warrant against Blocker was sworn out Novem-



Seaman Second Class Edred W. Strickland, son of Mrs. James E. King, 1332 Roanoke Ave., is now on active duty in Uncle Sam's Navy. Edred received his basic training at the Pensacola (Fla.) Naval Air Base.

IS IMPROVING

Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Pendleton of this city have received a telegram stating that on February 8, their son, 1st Lt. Cecil A. Pendleton, was making normal improvement. Lt. Pendleton was reported by the War Department as being wounded in action in the Bougainville area on Friday, February 4.

News of Lieut. Pendleton being wounded was carried in last week's issue of The Herald and since that time hundreds of his friends have made inquiry of his parents as to the extent of his injury. For the information of Pendleton's friends, his Lieut. father has released the following address of his son: First Lieut. Cecil A. Pendleton, 0-358127 (Hosp.), Theatre Directory, APO 502, care postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Safe Overseas

Staff Sergeant J. Wilton Dickens has sent his parents a cablegram, saying that he has arrived safely

ber 17, 1943, by sheriff Harry A. On Active Duty House. It was not even necessary for Blocker to take the stand in his defense, as the state failed to make a case against him.

Ed Gibson of Roanoke Rapids, against whom the sheriff had sworn out a warrant on a similar charge, was also found Not Guilty.

No evidence was presented by the state to show that Mr. Blocker had ever owned or operated a still and no still was found; although the Roanoke News of Weldon in it's issue of November 18, 1943, printed a front page article with the following headlines:

"Liquor Still Found At End Of Commissioner's Road"; and printed further, "Blocker lives at old Gaston town site near the end of the new road built 18 months ago by Highway Commissioner Carroll L. Wilson of Roanoke Rapids. This road has been the subject of much criticism, since up to now, its only apparent use was by Blocker who is supposed to be a catfish fisherman by trade, and Wilson and his friends attending fish fries, political meetings and parties at a shack or club house on the bank of Roanoke River, directly at the end of the road. Blocker has been serving this group as a host at these gatherings."

A jury in Halifax Superior Court last week found that all the charges made by the Roanoke News, including the charge that Wilson owned the shack, were false.

Mr. Blocker, who is a textile worker at Roanoke Mill Company No. 1, was one of the principal witnesses for Wilson in the libel suit, and sheriff Harry A. House was one of the principal witnesses for the Roanoke News of Weldon, although he was not called upon to testify. B. F. Turner, editor of the News, had testified that he printed the charges against Commissioner Wilson, based on information about the road and shack which he had received from sheriff House and J. R. Wrenn,

The Roanoke News further stated in the article, "A raiding party led by sheriff House found the still-site and complete whiskey making equipment near Blocker's

No such evidence was presented at the trial this Tuesday. Sheriff House, on cross examination by Blocker's attorney, did admit to he had done all he could again Wilson in the libel suit which Wilson had brought against the Weldon Roanoke News.

The state's evidence showed the supposed location was not near Blocker's home on the mainland but on an island in the Roanoke River some distance from the Blocker home and in Northampton County.