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TWO NEGRO MEN DROWNED

Jenkins And Welch In Mayor's Race

City Politics Are Warming Up; Election Will Be May 8

With the closing this week of the time for filing for city office in the coming election on Tuesday, May 8, the political "pot" may begin to boil with only two candidates for Mayor of Roanoke Rapids—Mayor Kelly Jenkins, who filed this week, and Jeff F. Welch who signified his intentions last week.

Welch and Jenkins were opponents in the 1943 election when at that time Mr. Welch was defeated by a small margin of votes.

Mayor Jenkins, who was first elected in 1931, held the office for four terms, being defeated in 1939 by Bernard Allsbrook. Jenkins was again elected in 1941 and 1943, making a total of six times he has been named as head of the city government.

Two other offices will be filled—election of two city commissioners—one from the North Ward and one from the South Ward. There will be no doubt, however, as to the outcome, for Commissioner Frank C. Williams in the North Ward, who has been a continuous member of the board since he was first elected in May, 1929, has no opposition. Neither has Virgil McDowell, who was elected from the South Ward in 1940.

Registration For Sugar To Be Next Week

The Roanoke Rapids War Price and Rationing Board will hold its registration for Canning Sugar April 25, 26, and 27, from 9 to 5 at the following places:

Littleton, in the Police Office.
Weldon, in the Fire Station.
Roanoke Rapids, Armory Auditorium.

One adult member of the family must appear in person and bring with him the War Ration Books No. 4 for all members of the family unit.

Legion Meeting Sunday, April 22

An important meeting of the Robert E. May Post of the American Legion will be held next Sunday at 3 p. m., at the Roanoke Rapids Armory. The permanent charter of the new post will be applied for with 100 active members, according to Commander Major Newsom. All members and war veterans desiring membership are urged to attend the Sunday meeting.

Opponents In Coming Mayor's Race



On the left is Mayor Kelly Jenkins, who is seeking re-election to the office, and at the right is Jeff F. Welch, his opponent. Mr. Welch was defeated by Jenkins two years ago by a small vote.

These Two Have No Opposition



Pictured here are Frank C. Williams (left) City Commissioner since 1929, and Virgil McDowell, Commissioner since 1940. Neither will have opposition in the coming city election.

Brake Inspection Campaign Begun

The brake inspection and repair campaign which opened in Roanoke Rapids and throughout the nation last Sunday, sponsored by the National Association of Police Chiefs, was requested by the late President Roosevelt as an important war effort by civilians. The campaign will continue until June 1st.

Chief H. E. Dobbins of the Roanoke Rapids police department, in discussing the campaign, said that

"all automobile drivers know when the brakes on a car are bad, and that it is a patriotic duty as well as a safety measure to have them fixed at once.

"Last year 850,000 persons were killed and injured by automobiles in the United States and 70,000 of these were permanently hurt. Of this staggering figure 16 per cent of the accidents was charged to

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Were Attempting To Cross Stream With Goats In Boat; River Dragged For Bodies

Sgt. Ferguson Escapes From Nazi Prison

Staff Sergeant Andrew F. Ferguson, husband of Mrs. Gracie Ferguson of this city, who was reported last January as missing in action in Germany, is on his way back to the states and "home."

According to a cablegram received by Mrs. Ferguson last week her husband was captured by the Germans and remained in a prison camp for 96 days, later escaping. Since that time she has also received two letters from him.

Sergt. Coley Awarded The Bronze Star

Sergt. Charlton D. Coley, husband of Mrs. Fannie S. Coley, Box 182, 107 Madison street, Roanoke Rapids, has been awarded the Bronze Star by Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, Commanding General, 81st Division, for heroic achievement in action against the Japanese in the Palau Islands.

During mopping up operations in the midst of a series of pinnales which formed a natural fortress, the squad in which (then Private First Class) Coley was a member, was checked in its advance by enemy fire. At this juncture Pvt. Coley voluntarily took charge of a part of the squad and with this group moved forward and routed the enemy troops who had been holding up the advance of his unit. In carrying out this maneuver, Pvt. Coley sustained wounds which made necessary his evacuation to the rear.

The official citation commends Pvt. Coley for his "display of initiative and courage" which "was an inspiration to his comrades." The "Wildcat" Division invaded the Southern Islands of the Japanese-held Palau Group, 500 miles east of the Philippines, on Sept. 17, 1944.

Woman Charged Theft Of Wine

Louise Ashe, negro woman, charged with theft of two bottles of wine from the Little Star store, was placed under bond of \$25 in Mayor's Court Monday for her appearance in Recorder's Court in Roanoke Rapids on May 3.

While attempting to cross "Little River" with two goats in a small row boat, two negro men, Ralph Prince, about 60 years old, and Ben Williams, 17, lost their lives by drowning Wednesday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock.

According to information given out this morning, Prince and Williams and another negro, Johnny Williams, had put the goats into a small boat intending to place them on the island between "Little River" and "Big River," about one and one-half miles below the Roanoke Rapids bridge, just below what is known as "Mary Taylor's Hole."

After leaving the shore and when about mid-stream the boat, from some unknown cause, capsized. Johnny Williams managed to swim to the bank and notified members of the negroes' family of the accident.

Sheriff J. C. Stephenson of Northampton County was notified and he, with several other men, reached the scene of the accident some time later. A party of men headed by Jordan Pierce of Roanoke Rapids dragged the river for several hours last night but no trace of the bodies was found.

The only witness to the drowning was a small colored boy who had been left on the bank of the river by the men.

Prince was a tenant on the W. J. Long farm and Williams lived on the farm of John W. Brown. The accident occurred on the Northampton County side of the river.

Harbour Is Winner of Air Medal

Lieutenant (junior grade) Clarence C. Harbour, USNR, of 1107 Hamilton Street, pilot of a carrier-based AVENGER torpedo bomber, has received the Air Medal for his combat feats in the Pacific.

Harbour has seen action in Formosa, the Bonin, Mariana, and Caroline Islands, Okinawa, and the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea. He has made 30 combat missions.

The son of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest D. Harbour of this city, Lieutenant (jg) Harbour is 22 years old. He attended Roanoke Rapids High School and North Carolina State College. He received his flight training at Naval Air Stations at Pensacola and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Norfolk, Va.