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## WELDON IS SCENE OF NEAR RIOT LAST SATURDAY NIGHT

### Police Break Robbery Of Donut Shop

Chief H. E. Dobbins of the Roanoke Rapids Police Department, announced today the "breaking" of the Donut Shop robbery case. The shop, located at 127 West Tenth street, and operated by C. M. Credle, was broken into on Monday night, January 28, and approximately \$300 in cash stolen. Last week Dolphus Williams, alias "Pigeon," and Linwood Easter, both negroes, were arrested and charged with several robberies to which they confessed. The Chief, while working on these cases, also obtained evidence against Williams and Moses Easter, cousin of Linwood, that has led to these two being charged with the Donut Shop crime. The two negroes are now confined in Halifax County jail with bonds set at \$500 each, pending trial.

### Heart Attack Is Fatal To J. W. Babb

James W. Babb, 44, of 206 Madison street, died last Sunday morning about 1 o'clock. Death was caused from a heart attack, it is said. Mr. Babb was taken ill Friday and was admitted to Roanoke Rapids Hospital Saturday night for treatment. It was after his admission to the institution that he suffered the attack. A resident of this city for many years, he was employed by Roanoke Mills No. 1. Funeral services were held from the home Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. Gordon L. Fries, pastor of the First Baptist Church. Interment was in Roanoke Rapids cemetery. Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Martha E. Babb, and several brothers and sisters; his wife, Mrs. Annie O. Babb; one son, J. T. Babb in the Navy somewhere in the Pacific, and five daughters, Lucy Mae, Margaret, Peggy, Carolyn and Doris Virginia.

### Woman Arrested, Alleged Bigamist

Ruby McDowell Gardner, 19-year-old white woman, is being held in lieu of \$500 bond as an alleged bigamist. She was arrested in Weldon Wednesday night by Deputy Sheriff J. L. Mountcastle. It is alleged that the woman married a man named McDowell from Delaware, who is now overseas, and then married Norris Gardner of Halifax last December.

### Local Red Cross 1945 Report

The following tabulated report of the activities of the Roanoke Rapids Chapter of The American Red Cross was issued this week by Doris Hedgepeth, executive secretary:

No. of Cases:	Army	Navy	Ex-Service	Civ.	Total
February, 1945	48	18	13	5	84
March, 1945	59	18	11	2	90
April, 1945	52	27	8	1	88
May, 1945	65	22	8	4	99
June, 1945	61	28	19	2	110
July, 1945	79	32	7	0	118
August, 1945	75	35	11	2	123
September, 1945	69	39	12	2	122
October, 1945	62	41	22	2	127
November, 1945	58	33	37	1	129
December, 1945	40	39	26	4	109
January, 1946	56	26	50	1	133
Office Report:	Phone Calls	Tel.	Int.	Visits	Letters
March, 1945	160	52	85	31	54
April, 1945	100	50	79	24	47
May, 1945	139	44	105	35	51
June, 1945	164	44	111	42	57
July, 1945	200	60	110	33	77
August, 1945	316	156	118	61	115
September, 1945	162	80	119	45	6
October, 1945	194	90	126	39	107
November, 1945	170	65	103	31	159
December, 1945	137	58	84	27	89
January, 1946	174	87	116	25	106

Total Expenditures February, 1945 - January, 1946  
Salaries, Telephone & Telegraph, Supplies, Loans, For Needy Families, Production, First Aid and Water Safety, Nurses Aid; Total ---\$5,043.89  
Proposed Budget for 1946-1947  
Local, \$5,100.00 - National, \$3,400.00 - Total -----\$8,500.00

### Mrs. Mabel Luter Is In Hospital

Mrs. Mabel Luter, wife of P. C. Luter, Jr., is confined to Roanoke Rapids Hospital suffering from spinal meningitis. Mrs. Luter, bookkeeper for The Herald, was taken ill last Friday afternoon. Reports today say she is steadily improving.

### Raymond Garner Now In Germany

Pvt. Raymond H. "Fuzzy" Garner, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garner, has arrived overseas and is stationed in Germany. "Fuzzy" was formerly connected with Barton Grocery Company. His new address is: Pvt. Raymond Garner, Co. M, 311th Inf., APO No. 751, Care Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

### Dynamite Being Used To Destroy Mosquito "Nests"

All these roaring, blasting, thundering sounds you hear these days are caused by Ben Lancaster, superintendent of the Sanitary District. Lancaster's department, in cooperation with the city, is using "atomic energy" in the form of dynamite to blast out ditches so they'll drain properly and rid the city of mosquitoes.

### Law Offices Are Opened

J. Winfield Crew, Jr., and his brother, Lunsford Crew, announced this week the opening of offices in the Kidd building for the general practice of law. The firm will be known as Crew & Crew. Lunsford Crew, who enlisted in the Navy July 30, 1943, was discharged February 1, with a rating of lieutenant junior grade. He served 30 months in the service and is a veteran of the battle of Okinawa.

### Cage Tournament Schedule

The schedule for the invitational basketball tournament to be held in the Roanoke Rapids Armory, starting next Wednesday, February 27, was issued today. Following is the schedule: Wednesday afternoon, 3:15, Aurelian Springs vs. Scotland Neck. Wednesday night, 7:30, Emporia vs. Enfield. Weldon and Roanoke Rapids drew "byes." Weldon will play the winner of the Aurelian Springs-Scotland Neck tilt on Thursday afternoon at 3:15. Roanoke Rapids will play the winner of the Emporia-Enfield game on Thursday night at 7:30. The finals will be staged Friday night, starting at 7:30 o'clock.

### Reuben P. Thornton, White Soldier, Near Death After Being Slashed By Negro Man

### Negroes Mob Weldon Chief On Thursday

Late last Thursday afternoon a fight broke out among negroes in front of the Weldon Hotel. Chief of Police P. R. Kitchin, called to the scene to break it up and arrest the participants, was mobbed by the negroes.

The Chief's blackjack and his gun was snatched away from him during the scuffle and he was assaulted with a club and brick.

Norfleet Clark, white employe of the Weldon Water Department, started to the aid of Chief Kitchin, but was stopped by a negro wielding a blackjack.

After Chief Kitchin freed himself from the struggle he recovered his gun and shot William Jones negro, in the foot and leg. As an aftermath of the affair, Jones and his wife, Annie Lee Jones, and her brother, Willie Clark, are in jail awaiting trial. Jones is charged with driving drunk, resisting arrest and assaulting an officer. His wife and the Clark negro are charged with assault and interfering with an officer.

### Wind Smashes Big Windows

During the severe wind and rainstorm last Tuesday night two large plate glass windows of McCrory's store in uptown Roanoke Rapids were smashed. Considerable damage was done to stock on display in the windows.

### Official Total In 'March of Dimes'

Last Week Cranford Hoyle, Roanoke Rapids chairman of the "March of Dimes" campaign, announced that \$1,082.64 had been contributed. Since then Mr. Hoyle has received an additional \$43.66. This makes a grand total of \$1,126.30 and officially brings the campaign to a close. In the report last week the Fire Department was left off the list of contributors through an oversight. However, Mr. Hoyle says the firemen gave a dance which netted a nice sum and was highly appreciated.

Weldon was the scene last Saturday night about 7 o'clock of a near riot as a result of a fight between Reuben P. Thornton, 22-year-old white soldier, and his uncle, Foy Allen and several negroes. Thornton was slashed across the chest with some kind of sharp instrument, either a long-bladed knife or razor, and is now in Roanoke Rapids Hospital in a serious condition. Reports from his physician, however, say that he has a "fair chance" of recovery.

The affair, it is said, started when Thornton and his uncle were returning up the street from the Center Theatre where they had been to take Allen's children to the show. Meeting four or five negroes, one of them, it is alleged, knocked Thornton off the street. Getting to his feet he remonstrated with the negro and a mixup ensued in which Thornton was getting the best of the fight. The other negroes, it is said, joined in the melee, and, of course, Allen plunged in to aid his nephew. It was during the free-for-all fight that the young white soldier was slashed. The wound was long and clean, giving evidence of a very sharp instrument being used.

Thornton was rushed to a doctor's office where he collapsed and after first aid treatment was brought to the hospital here.

H. L. Ward, Weldon police officer, was the first to reach the scene. Realizing the belligerent attitude of the crowd he summoned Sheriff Harry House. After getting to Weldon, the sheriff deputized several citizens, but was unable to quell the disturbance, and he called Raleigh for State Patrolmen. Shortly afterward several of the state policemen, led by Sergt. J. W. Welch of Ahsokie, arrived and the disturbance was quickly put down.

Investigation by the sheriff and other officers led to the arrest of four negroes, Amburs Boone, 19, of near Garysburg; John Sledge, 19, and Cleophus Scott, 18, both of Gaston, and Woodrow Hardy, 26, of Pleasant Hill. All four of these negroes had knives on their person with blades longer than allowed by law. They were locked up and after questioning Sunday and all but Sledge were released.

During the investigation three other negroes, Lonnie Sledge, 22, and Claude Sledge, 17, brothers of John Sledge, and James Moody, 18, all of Gaston, were arrested. These four are now being held in jail with bond set at \$5000, in connection with the affair and pending the outcome of Thornton's condition.