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Halifax Airport Is Leased to Brothers

Halifax County Airport is becoming a reality after several months of "ironing out details" and negotiations with probable operators of the field.

The field has been leased for operation to W. B. and J. H. Copenhaver. Construction work is getting the field ready for use will begin at once, said W. B. Copenhaver and it is planned to offer flying service by May 1. Included in the operations of the airport will be flying service, charter service, flight instruction, local flights and, as soon as possible will inaugurate flight training under the GI Bill of Rights.

W. B. Copenhaver has had 11 years of flying experience, 3000 hours as a commercial pilot. He has had both civilian and Army experience as an instructor, served four years in the service, two years as a primary instructor, one year in the ferry division ATC and one year in the China-Burma-India theatre "flying the Hump."

Operation of the airport will start with new planes equipped with all the safety devices offered in modern aircraft.

Back From Europe



Miss Ruby A. Wilkinson, daughter of Robert R. Wilkinson, 403 Monroe Street, arrived in New York on February 19 on the navy ship, U. S. S. Anderson, and is now visiting her father in this city. Miss Wilkinson just completed an extensive tour of duty with the Military Intelligence in Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Holland, France and England. She formerly served two years in South America with Military Intelligence.

Miss Wilkinson will leave here shortly for New York where she will start out on an extensive sightseeing tour of the United States, and return to the east coast in approximately three months.

Kitchen Will Go To School

Edward Scheidt, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Charlotte, announced today that P. R. Kitchen, Weldon's chief of police, has been selected to attend the 32nd session of the FBI national academy at Washington, D. C. The session will begin April 8 and last 12 weeks. Chief Kitchen has been granted a leave of absence by the Weldon Town Board in order to allow him to attend the school.

The FBI Academy was inaugurated in 1935 for the purpose of training police executives in the latest and most scientific methods in law enforcement. It is a distinct honor to be selected to attend the school as only a limited number have been invited. Each candidate is first thoroughly investigated by the FBI and must prove of good character and show aptitude for becoming an outstanding law enforcement official.

Central School P-T. A. Meeting

The Central School Parent-Teacher Association will meet Wednesday evening, March 20th at 8:45. A very interesting and valuable program has been arranged.

Gibson Visits Here, Decides On Business

B. T. Gibson, native of Bristol, Tenn., a lieutenant in the United States Navy, liked Roanoke Rapids and decided that when he got out of the service he was going to make this city his home.

A former sales manager for Sears Roebuck Company for six and a half years, with headquarters in San Antonio, Tex., Gibson entered the Navy in the spring of 1942. Stationed at Norfolk for a short while, he and his wife visited friends in Roanoke Rapids. Gibson was so impressed with the city he decided to send his wife, the former Miss Ophelia Hall of Lebanon, Tenn., and his little daughter, Jeanne, here to live when he went to sea. This he did and Mrs. Gibson served as secretary of the Merchants Association while her husband was off to battle.

Gibson went overseas in December, 1942, serving 11 months in the European theatre on board the USS Stevens. While at sea in the North Atlantic he was commissioned an ensign.

In the fall of 1943 he was transferred to the USS Pierce attached to the USN Fifth Fleet. Arriving in the Pacific his ship participated in the assault on Tarawa, said to have been one of the bloodiest engagements, and the Pierce was continuously in the combat area from that date, taking part in the assault on the Marshalls, Saipan, Guam, Pelelu and Angora. From these engagements his ship went to Leyte and took part in the initial battle there; then to Luzon in the Philippines where the Pierce received minor damage from a bomb dropped by a Jap suicide plane, in which action Lieut. Gibson received a naval citation. While in the Philippine area the Pierce participated in various other battles, including the reinvansion of Bataan Peninsula.

Leaving the Philippines, Lieut. Gibson's ship went to Okinawa and took part in the invasion of that Jap stronghold on Easter morning 1945, after which the Pierce returned to the states for repairs. (Continued on page 8—Sect. A)

Civic Club Council Is Organized Here

Three representatives each from five civic organizations in the city met last Friday night at the Municipal Building to form the Civic Club Council.

Membership of the Council consists of the Kiwanis Club, the Lion's Club, Business & Professional Woman's Club, the Rotary Club and the Merchant's Association. Ray Stevenson of the Lion's Club was elected chairman; Bill China of the Rotary Club, vice-chairman, and Mrs. Emma J. Edmondson, Business & Professional Women's Club, secretary-treasurer.

For some time there has been a need of coordination of the several organizations on certain projects where paralld line of endeavor were indicated. This newly formed group will meet on call whenever it is deemed advisable for a discussion, including all membership clubs. Having no power to commit any club without vote of that club, the Council is a recommending body to bring to the various clubs recommendations of projects and action where the aid of the five organizations is needed. The Council promises to be a lively one and the representative members take full advantage of their democratic right to discuss any question pro and con.

Miss Taylor Named Head Of Students



Miss Margaret Green Taylor, rising senior at Duke University was elected president of the Woman's Student Government Association at annual elections held on March 5 at the college auditorium. The new president will take the oath of office April 1.

The Duke co-ed has served as a member of the freshman advisory council, chairman of the transfer advisors, corresponding secretary of Woman's Student Government Association, Marshal 1945-46, Nurse's Aide, president of Sandals, sophomore honorary group; has membership in Pi Beta Phi, national social sorority; Tau Psi Omega, honorary French fraternity; Delta Phi Rho, athletic fraternity; Glee club and choir.

Miss Taylor is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George N. Taylor, of this city.

"Capping" Of Nurses Held On Thursday

The capping exercises of the Roanoke Rapids Hospital School of Nursing was held last Thursday night in the Nurses' Home on Jackson street at 8 o'clock.

The graduates and "cap" nurses marched in to the tune of "Follow the Gleam," and the class to be capped entered carrying the Florence Nightingale lamp.

Invocation was by Rev. Edmund Berkeley, pastor of All Saints Church, and the history of the cap was given by Miss Charlotte Whitehead. The caps were presented by Mrs. F. L. Starke, director of nurses, and Mrs. John Bounds, instructor of the class. After receiving the caps the nurses repeated the Florence Nightingale pledge.

An address on "Religion, Medicine and Psychiatry" was delivered by Mr. Berkeley and immediately following the exercises an informal reception was held in the Nurses' Home.

"Cue and Stew" For Red Cross

John Carras, owner and operator of the Rosemary Cafe, will again make his annual contribution to the Red Cross fund in the shape of a barbecue and Brunswick stew dinner. Each year Mr. Carras arranges this dinner and gives the entire proceeds to the Red Cross. The dinner will be served Friday, March 22, from 4 until 10 p. m., buffet style, and you can eat all you want, said Mr. Carras.

Old Clothes Campaign Is Big Success

Rev. Edmund Berkeley, chairman of the Victory Clothing Drive which ended last month, wishes to thank all committee chairman, every worker and committee usher and the entire city for their cooperation in making the drive a complete success. Thirty-three large wooden boxes and cardboard cartons were shipped to the nearest bonded warehouse of the Treasury Procurement Division at High Point, N. C., the total containing 11,120 pounds. The clothing was estimated at 14,560 pieces and the shoes at 1,140 pairs. There were four cases of shoes and 29 cases of clothing, and though there was an unknown number of friendly notes attached, it was not possible to estimate the number of letters written to European and Asiatic friends. "We especially appreciated the use of the State Guard Armory and the services of M. M. Moore, its caretaker, for all the trouble and inconvenience they were put to, during the drive. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone who helped. This was a worthy cause," said Mr. Berkeley.

Truck Stealing Charged To Men

Walter F. Pleasant, Alvis Parrish and Edgar Wall, young white men, charged with the theft of a truck from the Thompson Coal Company, were given a hearing Monday in Mayor Jeakin's court. The men were cleared of the theft but were found guilty of improper parking of the truck. Pleasant and Parrish drew fines of \$15 and costs each and Wall was fined \$5 and ordered to pay costs.

Lions Club Holds Its Tenth Annual Charter Night 'Feed'

The Roanoke Rapids Lions Club held its tenth annual Charter Night Banquet at the Junior-Senior High School cafeteria Wednesday night, March 6, at 7 o'clock. The tables were decorated with flowers and candles and the speaker's table had a three-tier birthday cake in the center with sweetpeas bordering the table. Each lady was given a corsage.

J. E. Knott acted as toastmaster and led in group singing of America. Rev. E. Berkeley led in prayer.

R. W. Stephenson, president, welcomed the special guests who were Mr. and Mrs. Allmond White of the Kiwanis Club, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. China of the Rotary Club, Miss Lib Brown of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Mr. and Mrs. Wyche Land of the Merchant's Association, Mayor Kelly Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Ready, representing the schools,

Mrs. Rudolph Northington, and District Governor and Mrs. Glover.

Ten-year chevrons were awarded the following charter members of the club by District Governor Glover: W. B. Allsbrook, D. E. Bennett, L. B. Brown, M. S. Burton, E. M. Daughtry, Wilton Dickens, J. C. Hoyle, H. B. Speight, C. S. Thompson, Lewis Taylor and W. S. Batton and J. B. Gurley who is at present a member of the armed forces.

The main speaker of the evening was W. E. Debnam, commentator and lecturer from Raleigh. He was introduced by McRae Faison.

The Home Economics department of the high school prepared the supper under the direction of Miss Martha Rob Cherry, Miss Evelyn Gwantney and Miss Christine Rogers.

A dance followed the supper at the VEFCO club house.