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Chief Issues Statement On City Jail Criticism

Radio Play Broadcast By Troop 6

Wednesday of last week Troop 6 presented over station WCBT the radio play, "Wanted—A Volunteer." The play was an appeal to the women of the community—an appeal to every woman with an interest in girls and a hobby to share. The cast included Senior Scouts Margaret Askew, Caroline Broun, Ann Grizzard, Dorothy Lynch, Betty Ann Mausteller, Patricia Wilson, and Libby Dean Clemmer, troop leader; Ed Knott, as president of the men's club; J. E. Mausteller, as mayor; Carlton Cannon and Senior Scout Roberta Fisher, sound effects. Mrs. J. E. Mausteller, radio chairman of the Girl Scout Council, directed the play. Mrs. W. A. Thorne, commissioner of the Roanoke Rapids Council of Girl Scouts, in a short talk following the play, announced the theme of the nation-wide leadership drive, "Bring Back the Old, Keep the Present, Interest the New."

The Girl Scout Council wishes to thank radio station WCBT and Jesse Helm, program director, for the time, courtesy and cooperation extended to the troop.

The real success of the play, however, will be determined by the number of leaders, troop committee members, and council members secured as a result of the radio publicity.

Federation Of Demonstration Clubs in Session

A meeting of the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was held today in the school auditorium in Halifax beginning at 10:30 o'clock. The morning session was devoted to an address on "Fifteen and Fifty," by Mrs. Harriet Pressley of WPTF, Raleigh. The afternoon program featured the accomplishments of the outstanding 4-H Club girls of Halifax County as well as the outstanding work of Home Demonstration Clubs. Hollister, Brinkleyville and Airlie clubs were hostesses for the day.

Corp. Dobbins Is Now Back Home

Corp. David Dobbins, son of Chief and Mrs. H. E. Dobbins, is at home after being overseas since July 1945. Dobbins was stationed in New Guinea, Manila and Korea. He expects to receive his discharge some time in December.

Banks To Close

All banks in the city will be closed next Monday in observance of Armistice Day, it was announced today. The post office will also be closed with the exception of one hour from 11 to 12.

Roanoke Rapids Police Chief H. E. Dobbins today released a statement concerning the recent "city jail criticism" by a grand jury committee. The chief, in his statement addressed to "To the Citizens of Roanoke Rapids," says: "I feel that the citizens of Roanoke Rapids have a right to know more about the condition of the City jail which has recently received unfavorable criticism by a few members of the Grand Jury who made an inspection of same about 8:45 Tuesday morning, October 22nd. This jail is inspected annually by County and State Inspectors—men who are unbiased and impartial, who have a right to criticize any existing conditions that need to be cleared up and demand that it be done, this being the job for which these men are paid, and never yet, since the construction of the present jail, has there been any such criticism as the members of the Grand Jury made. These inspectors visit all jails and other places of detention.

"If they have any criticism to offer, it is done in the form of a written report in a constructive manner. They neither broadcast their criticisms nor publish them in the newspapers, but instead they write them to the Board and offer in any way possible to help clear up those things that might be wrong. The jail is also inspected annually by an inspector of the Federal Government. This is done because of service men being detained for the Armed Forces, and the Federal Government makes an annual inspection to be sure that the jails in which the service men are held are clean and decent. For almost two years there were Shore Patrols and Military Police stationed here to assist the local officers in maintaining order at times so many service men were coming through Roanoke Rapids, and these Shore Patrols and Military Police were in and out of the local jail a number of times each week end they were in Roanoke Rapids. Many of these men were ex Chiefs of Police and Police Officers from cities of various sizes who had been accustomed to jails for quite a number of years. Also during the time the War Prisoners were here, the jail was frequently used by the Officers in charge there for the safekeeping of those who were unruly or attempted to escape. The jail is also visited frequently by local physicians who visit inmates requesting medical attention, lawyers, both local and out of town, Military Police from various military bases who come here for service men held for them, the Sheriff of this County and his Deputies, as well as Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police and Police Officers from this County and State as well as other states, the Recruiting Officers stationed at the local Armory, citizens of this community and others who are called upon to give bond for some of the prisoners, and other persons who have to go in the jail either on business or just to see what it looks like inside. It is used by State Highway Patrolmen

in this community and surrounding sections on numerous occasions. There has never been a word of criticism from any of the above sources. The City has a Health Officer who is a Medical Doctor in Roanoke Rapids, and he is called upon quite often to visit patients in jail. He has never complained of its condition.

The local jail is cleaned daily by a regularly employed janitor, and twice each week a colored woman is paid to assist him by scrubbing and cleaning the jail.

There are on an average of twenty people incarcerated each week end. Some of these are tried in Mayor's Court on Monday afternoon, and others are tried before Mr. W. O. Thompson on Monday night. There are those who are bound over to Recorder's and Superior Court and have to be placed

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Local Price Control Board Office Closed Last Monday

The price control board in Roanoke Rapids, serving the counties of Halifax and Northampton, was closed last Monday, E. B. Speight, local board chairman, announced today.

This step marks the conclusion of almost five years of patriotic service by hundreds of citizens in the two counties, who, through thousands of hours of volunteer work, have aided in preventing inflation and in the fair distribution of scarce commodities.

Members of Roanoke Rapids' Price Control Board stayed on the job for more than a year after the end of the war. Production has had a chance to catch up with demand. Now that President Truman has announced the program for accelerating the remaining wartime controls, Price Administrator Paul A. Porter has determined that the remaining functions of local boards can be continued by the District OPA Office at Raleigh.

Mr. Speight gave the following information as to the conducting of OPA business in the future.

Trade and consumer inquiries about price control formerly handled by Price Control Boards should be addressed to the OPA District Office in Raleigh.

Certificates of Transfer covering sales of used passenger automobiles may be obtained from principal auto dealers. Dealers should request additional supplies from the OPA Regional Mail Center at 23 Fairlie Street, NW, Atlanta, Ga.

Sugar rationing has been administered from the District Office since last January. In the future, sugar forms required by the trade and consumers may be obtained from the District Office, Sugar Ration Section, Raleigh.

Pending compliance actions by the board will be transferred to the District Office.

While the local board has been

Shooting Of Fireworks In City Limits Against Law

It is against a city ordinance to discharge fireworks within the city limits, said Chief of Police H. E. Dobbins today, and warned that anyone caught doing so will be haled into Mayor's Court.

"There is so much danger, especially to children, in the shooting of fireworks," said Chief Dobbins, "that parents should cooperate in helping to safeguard them. And then, there is always the hazard of starting a dangerous fire. Children don't pay much attention to where and in which direction they throw a firecracker after they light it. The result of this can be disastrous, both to the child and to property," the chief concluded.

Issuing a stern warning, Chief Dobbins said he will be forced to bring children and parents into court if they are caught discharging fireworks in the city limits.

Broad Plans Are Made By X-Ray Survey Committee

Enthusiasm, unequalled for any previous public health program, was shown by the members of the Working Committee for the Tuberculosis X-Ray Survey as they met last Friday night in the Municipal Building to map out final plans for this program. Practically all clubs, civic groups, radio and press, the schools, and all the industries were represented. William D. Norman, who will head the program in Weldon, attended the meeting, and Mrs. Margaret Parshall, public health educator, who has been assigned to Halifax County to assist in directing the educational program, was also present and assisted in the planning.

Each group represented was assigned a phase of the educational program. The Health Department assumed responsibility for the radio and press. Jesse Helms who was present from Station WCBT pledged full support of the program by giving liberally of radio time. Lionel Barrymore and an all-star cast will be featured each week for thirteen weeks in a radio dramatization on the various phases of tuberculosis control. All who have heard this program have been very much impressed and highly recommend it. "Spot" announcements will be made all during the day and special news stories will be scheduled.

Frank Thomas of the Herald has pledged its usual full support for this program and has already rendered invaluable service to the community in presenting it to the public. News stories, cartoons and human interest stories will be given prominent space. Also, pictures will be taken of interesting phases of the survey and will be carried in the Herald.

The Exchange Club, represented by Mr. Kidd, agreed to assume responsibility for having large streamers made for Roanoke Avenue and for the city buses, while the Junior Chamber of Commerce, represented by F. E. Neal, offered to assist in obtaining the cooperation of merchants in furnishing display space for posters designed for this survey. They will also arrange for space for special demonstrations prepared by the schools. A prize will be awarded the white and also the colored which will be judged by a committee headed by Mr. Helms.

The textile industries, represented by G. A. Berkstresser, J. E. McGee and J. H. Mayfield, offered their unqualified cooperation in presenting this program to their employees. Their interest in the welfare of their employees was exemplified by the enthusiasm which these executives offered valuable suggestions and accepted full responsibility for the educational program in their mills. The other industries of Roanoke Rapids have assured the Working Committee of the same splendid cooperation and have shown the same keen interest in their employees.

Mrs. Irma Edmundson, represent-

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Coggins Gets Into Trouble Over Check

Harold Coggins, Negro, got into trouble last week over a check and when his case was heard in Mayor's Court Monday he was remanded to jail under bond of \$300 for trial in Roanoke Rapids Recorder's Court today.

Involved with Coggins was a negro woman, Virginia Edwards. She was charged with stealing a check in the amount of \$41.40 made payable to George H. Winfield, another negro, but was acquitted.

Coggins, police say, admitted writing the name of "George H. Winfield" on the back of the check and as a result cashed it at Collins-Jones Company. He was charged with larceny and receiving stolen goods.

Exchange Club Is Sponsoring Dance

The Roanoke Rapids Exchange Club is sponsoring a dance which will be held next Tuesday night from 9 until 1 in the Armory. Roy Cole and his band from the campus of the University of North Carolina, with George Demas as vocalist, will furnish the music. Proceeds from the dance will go for the purchase of uniforms for the local high school band.