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GIBSON SHOT

'Time Race'

Vance Beard Charged With Shooting Brothers in Affray At Store on Saturday Night

Baseball Team Named 'The Jays'

C. B. Camp, assistant fire chief of Roanoke Rapids and an ardent baseball fan, was selected as winner of the \$25 prize offered by the Roanoke Rapids baseball team for the best nickname.

Camp suggested "The Jays" in honor of the Roanoke Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) who were responsible for the city's getting the much-sought franchise.

There were several entries suggesting the name on which the fireman won the prize, but Camp was adjudged the winner because his entry had the earliest postmark.

The uniforms worn by the players will have a big "J" on the jersey.

In a shooting affray at Vance Beard's store in Gaston last Saturday night, Eddie Gibson and his brother, Louis, were both wounded. Eddie is in Roanoke Rapids Hospital suffering from a serious chest wound but will recover unless complications develop. Louis suffered a broken arm from a pistol bullet.

The Gibsons are alleged to have been shot by Vance Beard, owner and operator of the store. Reports from the sheriff's office of Northampton county say that the two Gibson brothers went to Beard's store Saturday night, both armed. Beard asked them what they wanted. And it is said one replied: "We've come to kill you."

Eddie, it is alleged, then raised his rifle and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed. Louis is said to have fired two or three shots at Beard, who then went for his gun and began shooting, hitting Eddie Gibson in the chest and striking Louis in the arm. Warrants for all three have been sworn out.

The trouble is believed to have grown out of a relative of the Gibsons being at Beard's store a short time ago, and is reported to have been giving trouble. Beard it is reported, asked this relative to leave and upon refusing to do so, Beard slapped him, the man falling from the porch and breaking his wrist.

Police Form Association

The law enforcement officers of Halifax County met Wednesday night in the Municipal Building in Roanoke Rapids and formed an organization to be known as Halifax County Officers Association.

Aims of the new Association set forth at the meeting were: to encourage closer co-operation of all law enforcement agencies in seeking the detection and prevention of crime, the apprehension and punishment of criminals, and the exchange of all information helpful to the police; to foster and promote the highest standards of law enforcement work, and generally pledge and strive for the highest degree of respect for, and the maintenance of law and order.

The meeting was well represented by some 30 officers of the county, and every department was (Continued on page 8, Sec. A)

Ball

Expect Good Team Will Be On Field On Opening Day

The Roanoke Rapids entry in the Coastal Plain League has begun a race with the calendar—but latest developments in baseball activities here indicate that Roanoke Rapids will sport a good team, a good park and a good investment for its supporters when the Coastal Plain season opens on April 24.

The directors of the baseball team have been as busy as the proverbial one-armed paper hanger for the past several weeks. There have been all sorts of problems to contend with — and a lot of work to be done, even under the best of conditions.

The problem of building a team, building a park—and financing the entire operation—was begun late, because of the fact that Roanoke Rapids was not admitted into the league until January.

This week, the club announced that it had selected for its nickname, "The Jays," the monicker suggested by C. D. Camp of Roanoke Rapids.

Other developments in the baseball picture look like this:

(1) A total of 13 players have already been selected for "try-outs" during Spring practice which will get underway the first of April. Of these, seven are pitchers, three are outfielders, and a third baseman, a shortstop and a catcher. The team manager, of course, is a second baseman. And Stuart Martin hardly will be pushed very seriously for that berth.

(2) Manager Martin is in Florida at the present time, looking for players. And he has instructions from the local "brain-trust" to bring home the bacon. Martin knows his baseball talent, and it's a pretty good bet that he'll bring home some talent.

(3) The club directors have tentatively planned a huge celebration here on opening day. Roanoke Rapids will play Rocky Mount on April 24, and the natural rivalry which is bound to crop up with Rocky Mount makes that opening game especially appealing.

Professional baseball will be something new to Roanoke Rapids, and like many another newcomer to the city, it's having its trouble getting settled. A lot of problems have faced the directors of the team. There have been material shortages, for instance, in building a baseball park.

Then there were labor shortages, there's a transformer short-

School lunch room may be forced to close its doors after this month it was revealed today by Superintendent of Schools I. E. Ready.

Mr. Ready said that the money appropriated by the federal government to reimburse school lunch rooms, has been exhausted and, of course, the school has no money to operate it.

"Good, well - prepared, nutritious lunches," said Mr. Ready, "are as essential to the pupils in schools as books, and we deem the lunch room a very necessary part of the school system."

"The lunch room has been operated for years," said Mr. Ready, "and the low price of 20c per lunch was far below the cost. However, the federal appropriation made it possible to continue to serve these lunches to the pupils. Now that this money has been used up, the only way to continue was to raise the price of the lunch from 20c to 25c."

"This we did, but the patronage has fallen off so much that the lunch room is now being operated at a heavy loss."

"If the parents of school children are interested in having them

per day, then it is up to them to urge and insist that the children patronize the lunch room. On the other hand, if parents are not interested in the lunch room, it looks like now we will have to close it."

A deficiency appropriation by Congress could save the lunch room, but it is unlikely that this will be done. The closing of the school lunch rooms not only affects Roanoke Rapids, but will affect schools throughout the nation.

Asked what he thought was the cause for lack of patronage since the price of the lunches was raised, Mr. Ready said there were various reasons. Some parents simply do not have the money. Some children are given money for their lunches and then get out and "go up the street" and buy a "hot dog" and a drink and hold out a nickel or dime for something else.

The federal government reimbursed the schools 9c per lunch served, but this was not enough to more than break even some days, other days the schools suffered a loss. However, the lunch (Continued on page 8, Sec. A)

Johnson Gets 'Clean' Bill In Board Action

The special investigating committee, authorized by the current General Assembly in a bill introduced by Senator Julian Allsbrook, Monday found that County Commissioner G. H. Johnson "may have technically but unintentionally violated the law" in connection with his 40-month service as temporary supervisor of the county ABC system.

Roanoke Rapids' Mayor Kelly Jenkins had charged that the pay and per diem collected by Johnson during his service as head of the liquor system had been illegally drawn because, as Jenkins charged, Johnson could not legally have held the post concurrent with his service on the board of County Commissioners.

The special committee sent a resolution to the General Assembly recommending that the pay and per diem which Johnson had drawn (which amounted to about \$5,000) be recorded as just payment for services rendered.

Johnson served as head of the system from June, 1943, to February of this year.

"Flu" Hits Show

"Flu" hit the cast of characters for the Kiwanis Club minstrel which will be held tonight and Friday night in the High School auditorium. Sherrod Crumpler, Don Tillar and Henry Akers, three cast members, are ill and will be unable to participate. Substitutions have been made, however, by Pat Gorman, director, and "the show must go on."

Two Days Left To File Tax Returns

Only two days remain to file state and federal income tax returns. George C. Green, Jr., state deputy tax collector, will be in the court room in the municipal building through next Saturday to aid in filing your state returns.

Full Complement

The Roanoke Rapids police department is now filled to its capacity for the first time in several years. The force now comprises the chief and ten officers. The newest addition is Carl Benton, former Raleigh detective sergeant, who assumed his duties last night. Benton is married and the father of two children.