

# STREETS, SIDEWALKS WILL BE PAVED

## Roanoke Rapids To Have Huge Semi-Centennial Celebration

Elaborate plans are now being made by the Roanoke Rapids Lions Club for the staging of a gala three-day celebration — July 2, 3 and 4 — commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Roanoke Rapids, "North Carolina's fastest growing city." Much work has already been done by the Lions and some of the plans are in definite shape.

Cooperating with the Lions in arranging for this mammoth semi-centennial are the City commissioners, the Merchants Association and civic

Some of the arrangements already completed call for parades, nationally known speakers, vaudeville shows, street dances, hill-billy shows and dances, boxing and wrestling matches, a beauty contest and baseball game.

The celebration will not go lacking for entertainment and excitement. There will be many prizes given away each night and a big semi-centennial prize will be awarded at the conclusion of the festivities.

The Herald and Radio Station WCBT will carry further announcements of the details and plans as they are developed.

## Radio Time Change Next Sunday A. M.

Radio fans were advised today to remember the time change when they start dialing in their favorite programs Sunday morning.

The local radio station said that all programs of national origin will be carried one hour earlier beginning Sunday morning and continuing throughout the latter part of September.

However, the local station has arranged to do great amount of transcription work, thus maintaining some semblance of order. Fullon Lewis, Jr., will continue to be carried locally at 7 p. m., as will the Burl Ives show, Henry J. Taylor, and True Detective Mysteries.

## Eagle Stores Opening Next Wednesday

Eagle Stores Inc., a 50-to-100 organization, with home offices in Charlotte, will open a new store in Roanoke Rapids next Wednesday morning next to the Rosemary branch of the Roanoke Bank and Trust Company. This is part of an expansion program being inaugurated by the corporation which now operates 43 stores in North and South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

F. H. Shook, district superintendent, of Gastonia, has been here for several days assisting in the arrangement for the opening.

R. E. Palmer, of Reidsville, will be manager of the Roanoke Rapids store.

## Silver Wedding Anniversary to Be Celebrated

Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Gantt, of 1308 Washington street, will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary by renewing their matrimonial vows in St. John's Catholic Church at the 7:30 Holy Mass next Saturday morning. The jubilants with their family and friends will receive "our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and unite their voices in solemn thanksgiving to the Almighty for all His benefits." St. John's Junior Choir will render the music under the direction of Miss Doris Fahey, organist.

The celebrant of the Jubilee Mass will be Rev. Father Peter M. Dinges, and Ben Stadler and Jack Stadler will be the acolytes. Mr. and Mrs. Gantt and their family will entertain at their home during this eventful day.

## Books Will Close Friday Afternoon

The registration books for the city election May 6, will close at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon. All persons not registered on the city registration books will not be entitled to vote. Any prior registration for county or other elections will not entitle persons to vote in the city election.

## Women On Landscaping Committee Okey Plans

At a recent meeting of the Board of City Commissioners, Mayor Kelly Jenkins appointed Mrs. C. A. Wyche, Mrs. A. Melkie and Mrs. W. P. Taylor on a committee to examine the landscaping plan for the new cemetery prepared by Mr. Gillette, landscape architect, of Richmond.

Mrs. Wyche appeared before the board and favorably commented on the layout and suggested a few changes agreed upon by the committee.

All curb and gutter work has been completed, streets have been opened up, the service area is practically finished and the seeding will begin next week. Street paving in the cemetery will start during the summer. Landscaping will begin in the fall.

Members of the Garden Club of Roanoke Rapids assisted in planning the landscaping of the new cemetery.

## Littleton Lions Sponsoring Show

In an effort to raise funds with which to build a Boy Scout hut at Littleton The Lions Club of that town is sponsoring a comedy play, "Womanless Wedding," at the Littleton High School auditorium Friday (tomorrow) night at 8 o'clock.

After the show a drawing for a new electric refrigerator will be held. The wedding party will include: Bride, D. W. McPherson; groom, G. A. Threewitts; bride's father, E. L. Crawley; best man, Hal Northington; matron of honor, W. W. Johnston; minister, D. A. Rose.

The public is urged to attend this show. All proceeds will go to the Scouts to build their hut.

## Stores Start Wednesday Afternoon Closing May 7

As has been the custom for many years the stores in Roanoke Rapids will begin their annual Wednesday afternoon holidays on May 7—first Wednesday in the month—and continue through the month of August. This action was taken at membership meeting held last week by the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association.

The question of increasing the holidays during the year which consist now of the Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, was brought up. Some members had previously expressed views as being in favor of Easter Monday and Labor Day being added as holidays. After some discussion the association voted to let the holidays stand as they have been.

New members added to the association included Tar Heel Sporting Goods Company and Roanoke Motor Sales.

Guests at the meeting were Frank Neal of the Jaycees, Harvey Woodruff of the Lions Club, William Swafford, assistant manager of J. C. Penney's and Milton Wick, new owner of The Herald.

## Ministers of County Express Views on "Sunday Practices"

Ministers of Halifax county have requested that their stand on "Sunday Practices" be made known to the public. The following is the expression of the Interracial Ministerial Association of Halifax County:

We, the ministers of Halifax County, representing both races, believing that the churches are charged with the responsibility of the welfare of the community, and believing further that man's welfare is dependent upon his worship of God, find it necessary to speak a public word of caution about tendencies that are threatening.

Worship is primarily putting first things first. That includes, among other things, a Day set apart as the Lord's Day. The right use of this Day is menaced by an increasing commercialization of recreation which seizes on Sunday as the best day for the box office.

Consequently, many are being drawn from the orderly and quiet enjoyment of the public and private worship of Almighty God. And it is this use of Sunday which keeps our life wholesome and cleanses our motives for the common daily activities.

Therefore we appeal to those who, for whatever reason, are conducting any commercialized recreation on Sunday, such as horse racing, carnivals, professional baseball, moving pictures, etc., to remember their professed regard for the public welfare. The attraction of these Sunday activities is based on popular support; that is, they are open for the public, because the public expresses its desire for them by attending them. The problem, then, admits of no solution apart from the withdrawal of this Sunday support. At least let this be done by those who hold the Christian view of Sunday.

## City Swimming Pool May Become Reality

A city-owned and operated swimming pool for the children and adults in Roanoke Rapids may become a reality if suggestions and plans are carried out, Howard Pruden, city commissioner said today.

Sometime ago Commissioner Pruden, knowing that the Health Department was going to condemn the Rosemary swimming pool this year, suggested to the City Board of Commissioners that the city build a pool and other recreational facilities for the children. Pruden told the board that he was sure the piece of land located between Sixth and Seventh streets and Monroe and Madison, owned by the Rosemary Manufacturing Company, could be obtained in a satisfactory manner.

After considering his suggestion, Pruden asked the commissioners for a tentative approval of the project so negotiations could begin for the site. The board named Pruden and Commissioner F. C. Williams as a committee to investigate the matter.

Mr. Pruden today said that he had a talk with William Manning, president of Rosemary Manufacturing Company, and that Mr. Manning took the matter up with Simmons & Company officials in New York and those officials, said Pruden, agreed to deed to the city of Roanoke Rapids the land sought for the swimming pool, free of charge.

The next move made in the matter was last Tuesday night when Mr. Pruden gave the information to the Recreation Committee at its meeting. The committee, it is said, plans to take the matter up with each participating agency in the recreational program here from there it is expected the project will be placed before the city commissioners and an estimate of the cost obtained.

"Roanoke Rapids certainly needs a swimming pool and recreation hall for its children," said Mr. Pruden, "and this is an opportunity to have it for them, provided, of course, the cost isn't prohibitive."

However, the matter is going to be pushed to a final conclusion and it may be that the kiddies will have a pool and other recreational facilities where they can play and enjoy themselves during the hot summer months.

## Officials of Organizat'ns Are Delegates

Three officials of two organizations which are most active in promoting the development and control of the Roanoke River and its tributaries will be delegates to the 37th annual convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington, D. C., on Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3.

The Roanoke River Flood Control Committee and the Roanoke River Basin Association have been invited to send delegates. Judge W. H. Burgwyn of Woodland, chairman of the Roanoke River Flood Control Committee, will represent that organization at the Congress if his Superior Court duties in North Carolina will permit. Bolling Lambeth of Bedford, Va., chairman of the Roanoke River Basin Association, will represent that group at the Congress.

Eric W. Rodgers of Scotland Neck, secretary of both the Roanoke River Flood Control Committee and the Roanoke River Basin Association, has been appointed by Governor R. Gregg Cherry of North Carolina as one of the official delegates to the Congress representing the State of North Carolina.

## Recreation Committee Holds Meet

The recreation committee, made up from agencies contributing to the operation of school playgrounds for the children in the city during the hot summer months, which has functioned for the past year, met Tuesday night in the office of Superintendent of City Schools, I. E. Ready.

Present at the meeting and agencies represented were:

George Taylor, chairman, School Board; J. C. Hoyle, secretary to the committee; Joe Talley and Supt. Ready, schools; Howard Pruden, Board of City Commissioners; William Hodges, Community Chest; Ben Lancaster, Rotary Club; George Hayes, Kiwanis, treasurer of the committee; Dot Bennett, Lions Club; Jerry Brown, Exchange Club.

A reorganization meeting of the committee will be held in May at which time the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Business & Professional Women's Club will be invited to have a representative on the committee.

The committee approved a recreation program to be carried out this year at the school playgrounds, which includes Rosemary, Clara Hearne and Central, and the John Armstrong Chalmers colored school playground. A budget of \$3,000 will be required to finance the program and the participating agencies will be asked to contribute this sum.

The Rosemary swimming pool which has been operated for several years in connection with the recreation program will not open this season. Dr. Robert Young, district health officer, has refused permission for the opening of the pool, having condemned it because "it is a menace to the health of the children."

The program this season at the playgrounds calls for games of all kinds. The local post of the American Legion will sponsor a junior baseball team under the direction of Cranford Hoyle. Other recreation features will be provided for the kiddies and it is expected each playground will have a man and woman supervisor.

Coch Hoyle, who last year was supervisor of the playgrounds, will again take over the work this season. His assistants will be announced at a later date.

## Majority Property Owners Have Signed Petition Calling For Improvements; Work To Get Under Way in Summer

Mayor Jenkins announced today that a majority of the property owners had signed a necessary petition requesting the City to improve certain city streets in Roanoke Rapids known as Street Improvement Project No. 1.

The Mayor stated that the Board of Commissioners would call a special election so that the people in Roanoke Rapids could approve or disapprove a bond issue for this proposed work. The streets proposed to be paved, curbed, etc., in Project No. 1 are as follows:

Washington Street — First to Fourteenth Streets.  
Jefferson Street — Seventh to Ninth Streets.  
Madison Street — First to Fifth Streets.  
Monroe Street — Second to Fifth Streets and Seventh to Tenth Streets.

Henry Street — Eighth to Eleventh Streets.  
First Street — Hamilton to Washington Streets and Jackson to Madison Streets.  
Seventh Street — Hamilton to Jefferson Streets.  
Ninth Street — Hamilton to Jefferson Streets and Jackson to Madison Streets.  
Eleventh Street — Jackson to Madison Streets.  
Fourteenth Street — Hamilton to Washington Streets.

The Mayor stated that the Board of Commissioners has designated the above improvements as Project No. 1. He further stated that the next project, known as Street Improvement Project No. 2, which was passed by the City Council on October 1, 1946, will consist of paving, curb and gutter on Williams, Charlotte, Jefferson, Madison, Henry, Franklin, Vance, Cedar, Rapids and Preston Streets and practically all cross streets in the city.

Philip D. Freeman, of Norfolk, consulting engineer, has completed plans and specifications for both projects. The mayor said that if the majority of voters in Roanoke Rapids approved this work construction should begin this summer on the above streets in Project No. 1, together with construction of new sidewalks.

Definite plans have already been completed to start the paving of sidewalks in the city in connection or along with the first paving project, the mayor announced.

The street committee, composed of Virgil McDowell and M. D. Collier, has exerted every effort to get both of these projects under way, both members spending considerable time in getting signatures to the necessary petition.

## Jax vs. Tarboro

The Roanoke Rapids High School baseball team will meet Tarboro High in a conference game at Simmons Park next Monday night, it was announced today. The game will start at 7:45.

## Cancer Fund Campaign Will Continue Several More Days

The campaign for funds to fight the dreaded disease of cancer, which has been going on for some time will continue until May 1 or possibly longer, said Mrs. Gordon A. Berkstresser, local chairman.

Contribution boxes have been placed in stores and other public places for the convenience of the public, she said.

The campaign is going along nicely, stated Mrs. Berkstresser, but we will have to get many more contributions in order to attain the quota set for Roanoke Rapids.

In making an appeal for funds Mrs. Berkstresser issued the following statement:

"Unless we act, one in every eight of us now living in America will die of cancer.

"That means 184,000 persons this year—one every three minutes of every hour of the night and day.

"Cancer is the chief cause of death among women between the ages 35 and 55. It is the second largest cause of death among men.

"No age is safe from cancer, including the years of childhood. The

most vulnerable years, however, are those of middle and later life. These age groups form an ever-increasing proportion of our population. Consequently, far greater numbers of people are falling victim to cancer. This is resulting in a large number of deaths, despite an increasing proportion of cured cases.

"The American Cancer Society is working to count cancer out in these three ways:

"1. By educating people to seek medical aid at the first indication of cancer.

"2. By providing the earliest possible and most competent diagnosis and treatment.

"3. By research seeking better knowledge of the cause and more effective methods for cure of cancer.

"Right now, through early recognition and effective treatment, there is hope of saving more than a third of cancer's victims. This proportion may constantly be increased through medical research."

## Three Negroes Victims of Blaze

Three negroes, George Alexander, 30; his wife, Ernestine Barfield, 22, and Sara Elizabeth Barfield, 14 months old, were burned to death early last Saturday morning when their sawmill shanty three miles west of Enfield caught on fire. A coroner's jury gave suffocation as the cause of death, evidence showing the negro man and woman were drunk. This makes a total of 13 negroes to lose their lives by fire in Halifax county in the past 90 days.

## Parkers Here For An Overnight Visit

Roy Parker, professor of journalism at the University of North Carolina, publisher of several weekly newspapers, and Mrs. Parker were guests last night of Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Murphrey. They were on their way to Richmond to visit John J. Buffalo, Mrs. Murphrey's and Mrs. Parker's father, who is a patient at Medical College of Virginia. After undergoing a major operation last week Mr. Buffalo's condition is still unfavorable, according to his physicians.

## Lions Contest

In connection with the semi-centennial celebration the Lions are offering a prize of \$25.00 for the best authentic story about the development and growth of the city of Roanoke Rapids. The stories will be used in a souvenir booklet to be distributed to the patrons of the various functions staged during the celebration. These stories must be in the hands of the historical committee of the Lions Club not later than June 1, 1947. Contributions should be mailed to Bob Deany, chairman, box 601, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

**Skepticism:**  
I have a life-long friend, Jerome Joachim, publisher of an excellent newspaper in Berwyn, Illinois. He and I were room-mates at college. We were associates in the newspaper business at Niles, Ohio, until he bought his newspaper at Berwyn. And no finer, better, or more interesting companion ever lived than Joe, as we always call him.

When I was contemplating the purchase of this newspaper, I called him by long distance phone to tell him of the proposed venture. "What?" he said. "Buy a newspaper in North Carolina? Are you crazy? Have you lost your mind?" In spite of what I told him of the glories of this state, he still ridiculed my opinions and proposals.

After this newspaper was purchased I sent him a letter telling him what I had done. He became so curious to find out just what kind of judgment I had that he sent me a wire last Tuesday saying he was coming to check up on me.

**Conversion:**  
Joe arrived about eight o'clock Thursday evening. We drove down Roanoke and other nearby streets. His eyes opened as he saw the beautiful store window fronts, the lovely homes, the colorful trees — dogwoods, red oaks, black pines, bushes and flowers and blossoms of brilliant hue such as only the comfortable and slightly warm climate of North Carolina can produce — many new stores, countless new homes in construction, new baseball stadium, activity in all directions.

We came to the Herald office, and there in utter humility he said, "I guess you are still sane, Mitt. You are now in a very wonderful city. I wish I were here, too."

The next morning we met the office force and other individuals around town. That was enough, for he then knew what I had learned and what Eric Rodgers, editor of the Scotland Neck Progress, so aptly stated—here live the "most gracious and kind-hearted" people in the world.

By noon Joe wanted to see more. He wanted to see the coast. He wanted to see the rural sections.

**On to Manteo:**  
Driving east of Jackson we saw a negro plowing. Joe instantly got an inspiration. He wanted to interview this negro and learn something about the economic conditions of North Carolina negroes. We came to a halt and called the negro. "What crops did he plant? What kind of a share deal did he have with the landlord? What was his income? Was he happy?"

The negro said he had a very kind landlord who had loaned him some money with which he had started farming. His income last year was over \$1,500, and he had a free home and barns. He owned two mules, a horse, and a pony for his children. He had just purchased and completely paid for a 35 acre farm, and in addition to farming his land, was also farming a 31 acre tract for his landlord. He raised peanuts, tobacco, cotton and corn, and he cut timber during his spare time. He had four children and was very happy. He said that living on the land and being close to God had made him as happy as anyone in the world.

Joe's eyes popped! He compared this negro with the many unfortunate negroes who work in the Chicago area and expressed the conviction that the North had much to learn from the South as to interracial affairs.

We went through Elizabeth City, later crossed the three-mile long bridge, saw the soft sandy shores—where Joe took off his shoes and socks, so he could wade in the salty waters of this Carolina beach—climbed the amazing mountains of sand, viewed the spot at Manteo where Sir Walter Raleigh planted the "Lost Colony" over three hundred years ago.

The trip home was most enjoyable . . . for he was a converted man! His skepticism had turned to desire to live and work in the progressive state of North Carolina.

William James, world-famed physiologist of Harvard University, once said, "The human mind resists that which it does not know."

Joe was living proof of that statement. What he did not know, he disbelieved.

And may we add: when one is disbelieved and then is converted, his faith is as strong as the mountains of the earth.

Needless to say Joe will be coming back to North Carolina!

## Peter Wants a Watch

Peter Luter, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Luter, Jr., will celebrate his sixth birthday Friday, April 25th. Peter has his heart set on a Mickey Mouse watch, "one that really ticks."

His parents think he is a little too young for a watch but he has tried so hard to learn to tell time they feel he should be rewarded for his efforts.

As his birthday approaches, Peter is constantly and diligently studying the clock as a reminder to them that he's "smart" enough for a watch. And he has informed them that instead of a party with ice cream and cake which is "baby stuff" he wants a wienie roast and (See RAMBLINGS, page 8, col 4)