

Roanoke Ramblings

By MILTON WICK

It's Going to Be Big . . .

According to "inside information," the Roanoke Rapids semi-centennial celebration to be held here on July 2, 3 and 4th, is really going to be a "bang-up" affair. The Lions Club, sponsors of the event is leaving no stone unturned to see that "everybody and his brother" is given an opportunity of enjoying three full days of fun and "get-together" with their neighbors and former citizens of our community who are expected to include these three days in their summer vacation plans by coming back to the old home town for the festival.

Not the Best, But . . .

The Roanoke Rapids Jays . . . up to now . . . haven't proven to be the best ball club in the Coastal Plain League. But have you stopped to think what a job the Jaycees undertook to get organized ball here? They started from scratch . . . and we do mean scratch . . . had nothing on which to build foundation except a determination to give Roanoke Rapids and vicinity organized ball. This determination has worked wonders, and we are confident that ere long the Jays, backed by this same determination, will be "hitting on all six" and will be at or near the top in the percentage column.

An Excellent Move

At the regular meeting of the Lions Club last week Joe Talley made a move that the club establish a student's loan fund to help deserving boys and girls of our city go to college. The suggestion met with hearty approval, and a committee was appointed to investigate and study the proposition. This is a fine gesture on the part of the club, and we know of no more worthy undertaking than to see that our young people who otherwise might have their education limited to high school training, are given a chance to get just a little further along the road of preparation to fight and win the battles of life.

Florida Works Wonders

That broad and happy disposition so noticeable in Mr. A. Melik the past few days isn't the result of a promotion with the company he has long been associated with, but the result of two weeks spent down at Indian River Plantation in Florida. Mr. Melik says he and the "Missus" had a wonderful vacation, but after two weeks' rest he was ready to return to Roanoke Rapids . . . and Patterson Mills.

Queen for a Day

Competition was keen in the Baby Contest held at Vance Street School in connection with Fun Night last Friday. All the "Little Darlings" were entitled to "wear a crown" if all their charm and personality could be taken into consideration. But, like in any contest there has to be a winner, runner-up and losers. Little Donna Braswell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abner Braswell, won first prize, and Gwendolyn Tudor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tudor, was awarded second prize. There were 28 other contestants — all little darlings, who took part in the spirited race.

They All Had Fun

Over at Vance Street School last Friday night, children and grown-ups gathered for the annual "Fun Night," and that's exactly what it turned out to be. It was inspiring to see the "old folks" turn loose and enjoy themselves along with the younger set. And, while they were watching the "cash customers" at the different concessions" taking in the money—and from the expressions on their faces they were mighty well pleased. Incidentally, the proceeds from Fun Night go for the purchase of playground and other needed equipment for the school, and the net profit was \$330.00.

Basking in the Sun

Carroll Wilson, former owner and publisher of this newspaper, left Tuesday night by plane for Florida, where he is now basking in the sun . . . regaining his health while also enjoying the good fishing available and the marvelous "scenery" in them there parts of the country. Carroll, according to reports, left Roanoke Rapids with a full set of teeth . . . something he hasn't enjoyed now for several months. And, quoting Mrs. Luter, our charming secretary, "He should look smazzy in that two-tone sport jacket he was wearing on election day."

Coming Up . . . Dance Revue

"Tapping Toes of 1947" the annual dance revue presented by the Perdue School of Dancing is just around the corner. Date—Friday, May 16th. Time—8:00 p. m. Place—Roanoke Rapids High School auditorium. This show promises to be bigger and better than ever before. This event is sponsored by the Girl Scouts. See your favorite Scout for tickets.

High School Activities

Mr. Findley and the High School Band have done it again—given Roanoke Rapids a splendid band concert. The efforts of these young people and their director are an inspiration to all who attend this annual event. The audience was small but appreciative and all of the numbers on the program were enthusiastically received. The band is an asset

Passes Away



Pictured above is John Carras, widely known in this city, who died this morning after a long illness.

John Carras Dies Suddenly

John A. Carras, 50, local restaurant operator until May 1, when he sold The New Rosemary Cafe, died this morning at the Roanoke Rapids hospital, 10 a. m. today.

There was more than a heart-rending tear in the death of Mr. Carras. He had had a life of hard work, saved his money and was about to return to his native Greece to spread cheer and food to his half-starved countrymen. But death interrupted his last attempt at charity.

Mr. Carras was most charitable. He had given liberally to most every cause in this city. He was a regular contributor to the impoverished residents of his home city in Greece. Annually he donated the drive dinner to the local Red Cross; recently he had given a dinner to the building committee for his church.

The deceased was born in Greece and had been a resident of this country for 36 years, coming from his native land to Oxford, N. C. He is survived by his widow, Nellie Stetney Carras, a sister, Harriet of Carras, Greece; and a cousin, George Petronis, of this city.

Mr. Carras was a member of the Episcopal Church, the Sudan Temple Shrine and the Rotary Club.

Mr. Carras was a member of the Episcopal Church, with Rev. Edmund Berkeley presiding.

Relief Goods Are Shipped By Littleton

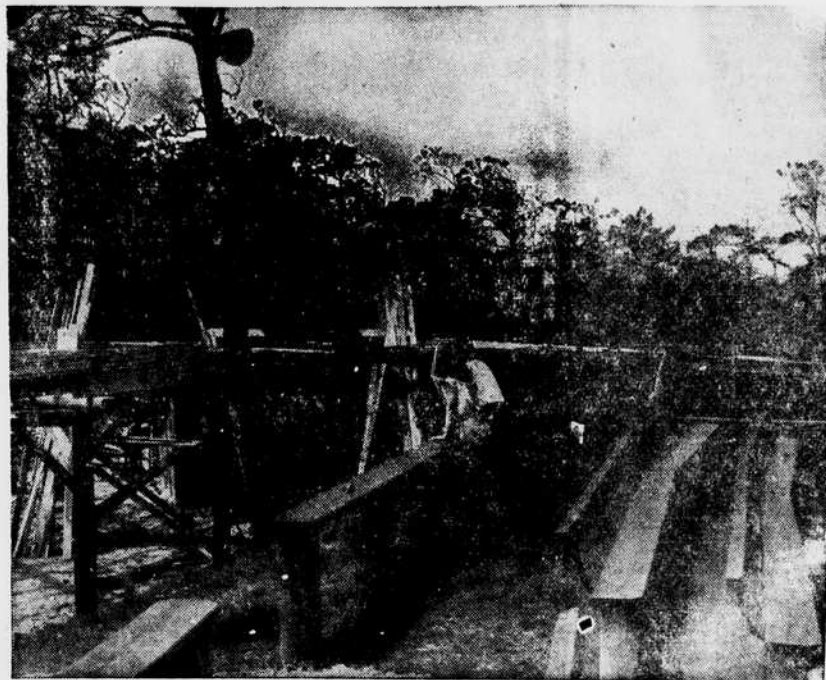
Littleton citizens shipped 362 pounds of relief goods to the Church World Center, New Windsor, Md., on April 29. The contribution was sent in by Mrs. C. E. Foster, and included clothing, shoes and bedding, all much needed supplies in the war devastated lands abroad. They are now being sorted and packed for shipment and will shortly be on their way overseas.

This donation from Littleton came as towns and cities all over North Carolina joined in the collection of goods for overseas relief on a statewide basis. The campaign to gather clothing and shoes for war victims abroad began on April 20 and will last through Mother's Day. Goods collected throughout North Carolina are being shipped out through the New Windsor center, the oldest and largest of nine such collection and processing depots set up by the Church World Service, the official overseas agency of the Protestant and Orthodox churches. The goal of the drive is a pound a person from everyone in the state. Already many thousands of pounds have been received.

Fox in Hospital Result Accident

S. H. Fox, Oxford merchant and owner of The Betty Shoppe here, is a patient in the local hospital, suffering from a fractured hip and other injuries sustained when his automobile struck a bridge abutment near the city last week. Fox traveling alone enroute to Asheboro and other Eastern Carolina towns, where he has stores, when the accident occurred.

to the school and public interest in its activities is growing. The local Exchange Club and Junior Chamber of Commerce are to be complimented on their efforts to equip the band with new uniforms. Another important annual concert is that of the High School Glee club to be held in the auditorium tonight at 8 o'clock.



RAIN SHELTERS AT FORT RALEIGH—A couple of visitors look over the work in progress in the Waterside Theatre at Fort Raleigh, where The Lost Colony on July 1 will begin its seventh season. Rain shelters and new comfort stations are being constructed on each side of the entrances to the theatre. To help finance this and other permanent improvements, the Roanoke Island Historical Association has asked contributions from the people of Northeastern North Carolina and the Norfolk area of Virginia.

New Fire Truck Is Purchased By City

Commissioners R. I. Starke and W. P. Taylor, together with Mayor Kelly Jenkins, composing the fire committee, purchased a new fire truck for the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department from the American La-France Foamite Corporation on April 15. The contract has been received and duly accepted. Delivery has been promised at an early date.

A short, compact and highly maneuverable fire engine is provided by the cab-ahead-of-engine design. This truck is the 1947 La-France model and is most modern and streamlined in that it is an invader, 750-gallon pump and hose car with booster system and a three-piece 35-foot aluminum ladder. Improved accessibility to all operating units and equipment, with increased storage space, has also been provided. Some of the important features of the new truck are five equipment compartments, seating capacity for five men, automatic pump packings and a great deal of maintenance equipment. All controls for the pump are located at a central panel convenient for the operator.

With the addition of this new truck the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department's equipment has an equal rating with other cities comparable to the size of Roanoke Rapids.

Design emphasis has been placed on meeting the operating requirements of the Fire Department. The complete apparatus presents a definite impression of efficiency and utility, combined with a pleasing appearance.

(Editorial)

MAYOR KELLY JENKINS

The present mayor will step aside at the conclusion of this term, having been defeated for re-election by J. T. Chase.

When he retires from office, midnight June 1st, he will then have held the highest office the City of Roanoke Rapids can bestow upon any citizen, for approximately 14 years, every term since incorporation with the exception of one, 1940-41, when Bernard Allsbrook was victorious.

He has held office longer than 99 percent of the mayors of American cities, a record which probably will stand for many years to come.

He has been incorporated Roanoke Rapids' first mayor and has been associated with this city's formative years.

Mayor Kelly Jenkins now can step aside with the knowledge that his name will rate with the history of Roanoke Rapids as long as those records exist.

MAYOR-ELECT J. T. CHASE

All citizens of this city are looking forward to the approaching term of Mayor-Elect J. T. Chase.

This is not his first experience as mayor, for he was mayor of the original community for some six years, 1912 to 1918. He was city commissioner for eight years and a member of the school board, years ago. And he has a wealth of experience in civic and public affairs.

He is a man of considerable capabilities who has risen from the ranks on the basis of sheer ability. If this is a criterion he should become a mayor who has only Roanoke Rapids' interest at heart.

He has one job to do: a full-time job as he says—that of being mayor of this city.

We wish him well, and may Roanoke Rapids profit by having J. T. Chase as mayor.

Uniform Closing Saturday Nights City Merchants

Roanoke Rapids merchants are in accord on Saturday night closing of their stores, according to an announcement made today by the Merchants Association. Here to fore several stores have had different Saturday night closing hours, but after much discussion all stores are now agreed to close every Saturday night at 7 o'clock beginning May 17.

The buying public in this area is urged to cooperate by shopping early.

Ruby A. Wilkerson Writes Poem to Her Worthy Mother

Ruby A. Wilkerson, former resident of this city, has written the Herald publisher a letter requesting publication of a poem she has written in honor of her mother and all mothers. Miss Wilkerson's letter and poem are reprinted herewith:

"I am enclosing a poem entitled 'A White Rose,' which I trust you will consider for publication in your Mother's Day edition of the Herald, which should be on May 7 inasmuch as a Sunday edition is not published.

"My mother was very upright, outstanding, well known and beloved in her community there in Roanoke Rapids. I believe all who knew her will enjoy reading this poem written to her memory, and even those who did not know her, but who also will be wearing a white rose for their own dear mothers, will certainly derive a great deal of pleasure from the sentiment expressed in this poem.

"I should like at this time to request information as to possible yearly subscription of the Roanoke Rapids Herald."

A WHITE ROSE
(In memory of my Mother, deceased June 29, 1945, her 61st birthday.)

On Mother's Day, I shall be wearing a rose,
In memory of one now in silent repose.
One that is white as the glistering snow,
For the dearest person, I ever shall know.
On Mother's Day I shall be kneeling in prayer,
Dear Mother, by your grave, with tender care,
I'll kiss the cool tombstone that stands all alone,
And think of you, Mother, in days that are gone.

I'll place a grand wreath there, in peaceful rest,
And pluck from its beautiful flow.

ery breast
A white rose as splendid, as the love you impart,
Its fragrance as sweet as the song in your heart.
Each petal as pure as the gold in your hair,
A stem just as graceful as your hands so fair,
With leaves just as fresh as the smile on your face,
A White Rose that God fashioned—none can replace.
And over my heart, I shall pin it with pride,
To tell all the world you are still by my side.
Though you have retired to God's kingdom above,
Your presence on earth is your immortal love
For all who still cherish your memory sincere,
Who also will wear the White Rose for you, dear,
Its shimmering beauty, a symbol divine,
Of God's own creation, dear mother of mine.

Alumni Club Meet Friday Night, 16th

A meeting of the Upper Halifax State College Alumni Club will be held Friday night, May 16, in the Community Center Building at Weldon, it was announced today. The guest speaker for the evening will be Col. Harrison, chancellor of State College. Other guests who will be present include John Von Glahan, athletic business manager of State; Beatty Feathers, football coach; basketball Coach Case and members of the State College championship basketball team which played in the national tourney in New York's Madison Square Garden recently.

Mrs. Josey Resigns From County Board of Education

Mrs. R. C. Josey, Jr., of Scotland Neck, prominent in civic and educational life in Halifax County for years, has resigned from the Board of Education after a 10-year membership. Mrs. Josey tendered her resignation this week in a letter to the board which read as follows:
May 7, 1947.

"To the Board of Education of Halifax County:
"Since attending two meetings of the newly-organized Board of Education, I am thoroughly convinced that I can be of no benefit to the schools or children as a member of this board; therefore, I tender my resignation to take effect immediately.
"Mrs. R. C. JOSEY, JR."

Newsome Is Ordered Pay Repair Costs

John P. Newsome, white, was found guilty this morning in Roanoke Rapids Recorder's Court on charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol and was ordered by Judge Daniel to pay \$127.90 for the use of C. S. Marks, Jr., and \$50 fine and \$34.00 for E. H. Vaughan.

Newsome's trouble started when he was arrested for running into Marks' car and also hitting Vaughan's parked automobile on Hamilton street. Prayer for judgement was suspended on condition that he pay the sum ordered by the court.

Two other cases disposed of were: George Mason, negro, driving drunk. He was fined \$50.00 and costs, which made a total of \$76.

Charlie Bowser, negro, charged with speeding and hitting the automobile of Harvey Taylor, was ordered to pay a fine of \$20 and costs.

Celebration Booklet Now Taking Form

The souvenir booklet for the Semi-Centennial is beginning to take form as local citizens contribute an item here and there about varied topics. The prospects for an interesting publication are promising.

The booklet will contain a brief history of the city as compiled from early editions of the Herald and other publications available, and from the memories of some of the older citizens of the city. J. T. Chase, mayor-elect, has promised his aid as has Charles Emory, son of Major Emory, who was directly responsible for the beginning of the city, according to information at hand.

Odd items about the city and its many colorful people will be used as fillers throughout the booklet. These are expected to prove interesting to the great majority of Roanoke Rapidsians as well as citizens of Halifax and the adjoining counties.

People having odd bits of information about the city are urged to pass along to the historical committee of the Semi-Centennial Celebration. The dead line for accepting contributions is midnight May 31.

County's Vital Statistics For Month of February

—In Halifax County during the month of February, this year, there was a total of 166 births and 41 deaths. The causes of deaths were listed as follows: accidents, 2; cancer, 5; heart diseases, 12; infant deaths, 4; intracranial vascular lesions, 6; nephritis, 5; due to pregnancy, 1; miscellaneous, 6.

Thus it can be seen that the leading causes of death are still heart disease and cancer. Leading heart specialists throughout the county have repeatedly warned that people in the older age groups must learn to live with less strain if they expect to avoid heart disease. This warning is given to physicians and other professional groups where the incidence of coronary occlusion is particularly high.

With reference to cancer, one of the most far-reaching research programs of this disease is under way at the present time that has ever been attempted. Dr. Oschner, a famous surgeon from New Orleans, reported at a recent meeting that it is hoped the research workers will find the answer in the not too distant future as to the food and the other elements that are necessary for the growth of cancer, and that when

these elements are discovered, a plan might be worked out whereby the cancer cells can be deprived of these necessary elements and therefore the growth can be arrested. Therefore, the main emphasis in cancer research at the present time is in a thorough study of all phases of growth, not only of cancer cells, but of normal cells as well.

Good Adv But The Price Is Left Out

Godwin-Wilkes Motors, Inc., has a good ad on the front page of Section B in this issue, but there is something wrong with it. The only place in the ad where a price is quoted—there is no price. But if you'll read it carefully you'll find that you can get your brakes on your car re-lined and necessary brake drums turned for only 14.95. The offer lasts through May 31. That's fair enough, isn't it? So is this explanation.