

What Roanoke Rapids Makes - Makes Roanoke Rapids

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Burglars Empty Two Safes; Smash One, Snatch Other

An investigation into the disappearance of one small safe, weighing between four and five hundred pounds, and the jimmying open of a larger one went into its second day Wednesday morning with one development: recovery of the missing strong box reported about 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Gone from its customary location in the Seaboard depot early Tuesday morning was the smaller safe containing an amount of money estimated by company officials, according to police, to have been between \$200 and \$250. It was recovered Tuesday afternoon by an officer from the sheriff's department working in conjunction with a special agent of the railroad when it was found in a clump of bushes on a dirt road leading from South Rosemary to Smith's Church about a half mile south of a creek, where the burglars had pried it open.

The second burglary, believed by Sheriff Harry House to have been directly connected with the Seaboard depot job and also reported Tuesday morning, occurred in the office of the Roanoke Builders' Supply Company on the Roanoke Rapids-Weldon highway sometime late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. Exact amount of the loss was not disclosed, although F. J. Rightmyer, owner, told investigating officers that the safe contained all the cash from Monday's sales.

House, who took personal charge of the investigation, declared he believed the burglars to be amateurs as the method employed in opening the two safes was very crude. Entering the builders' supply building through a back door on the east side, the men drilled the rivets out of the safe door with an electric hand drill found on the premises, pried the door loose and hammered the lock off.

The railroad safe, when found, showed marks of the same sort of treatment. Jimmy Rainey, manager of the builders' supply company, had worked until 10 o'clock Monday night, which placed the time of the robbery between 10 p. m. and 7 o'clock Tuesday morning when Mark Harris, another employe, had opened the building for business and discovered the burglary.

In an apparent preparation for a quick get-away if necessary, the thieves knuckled out a section of plaster wall partitioning the office in which the safe was kept from the room in which their entry point was located. Contents of the safe were in disarray and, in addition to removing all the cash and checks, the prowlers had lifted the firm's bank book.

In the depot, a window on the south side of the building (next to the tracks) was jammed open and the burglars lifted the safe physically, carried it out of a door, loaded it into a vehicle and departed. Officers advanced the theory that the safe had been carried out in view of the fact that no marks showing evidence of its having been skidded out were apparent and residents of nearby houses did not hear the robbers at work.

The sheriff said Roanoke Rapids and Weldon police were working with his office on the case with Weldon Chief of Police E. R. Kitchen handling the fingerprint work for the investigators.

When he arrived "the river was out of banks," the genial city tax man recalled this week. "Coming in through Weldon," continued Akers, "I saw water in the ditches in the south side of town so I went on uptown where I've lived ever since."

Akers first came to North Carolina in 1905 when he came from six years of school teaching in Virginia to Henderson schools. He stayed at Henderson until the appointment to head the local school in 1908.

One hundred and sixty-two pupils and three teachers besides himself made up the Roanoke Rapids school personnel in the fall of 1908, he related. In one of the earlier classes he remembers Julian Allsbrook (now state senator) as having been under his tutelage.

Akers was appointed county superintendent of schools in July, 1915, a position he held for 22 years, and has been tax collector for the City of Roanoke Rapids and the schools since July 1, 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Pearson and son, James, and Mrs. H. E. Cameron and children, Hugh and Addie Lee, spent Saturday in Emporia.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Jenkins has returned from Savannah, Ga., where they attended a convention held by the presidents' club of the Durham Life Insurance Company, of which Mr. Jenkins is a leading representative. The convention was held at the General Oglethorpe Hotel.

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County Health Officer Gives Information On Polio and Experiments

By Dr. Robert F. Young, County Health Officer

The season is again at hand for poliomyelitis, more commonly known as infantile paralysis. During the past few years, the incidence of this disease has been gradually increasing with 1946 setting a new record as having more cases of the disease reported than any year since 1919. There were eight cases reported in Halifax County during 1946, whereas only four were reported during 1946, and one during 1944. It was interesting to note that during the past year the fatality rate of this disease was lower than in previous outbreaks and, also, there was a lower ratio of cases resulting in paralysis; however, it is too early to determine whether or not the virulence of the disease is decreasing.

In the June 28, 1947, issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. Albert B. Sabin of Cincinnati, gave some interesting findings in "The Epidemiology of Poliomyelitis." Dr. Sabin stated that "the abundance of the virus in human stools together with the demonstration of its presence in sewage has, by analogy with the bacterial enteric infections, naturally raised the question of the possible role of flies and drinking water in the causation of epidemics of poliomyelitis. The first extensive work on flies in relation to outbreaks of poliomyelitis was done in 1941 by Drs. Paul and Trask and their associates, who recovered the virus from flies trapped in rural areas close to a potential source of virus in the form of exposed recently evacuated human feces, and simultaneously by Ward and myself, who recovered the virus from flies trapped in urban areas. Three years later Ward, Melnick and Horstmann carried this work a step farther during an outbreak in North Carolina by demonstrating that the food which was exposed in homes of poliomyelitis patients became contaminated with enough poliomyelitis virus to be capable of establishing the infection in chimpanzees that ate it. The high incidence with which virus could be demonstrated in flies caught even in some of the cleanest and most sanitary urban areas cannot, it seems to me, be

dismissed as an incidental finding without epidemiologic implications. It must mean that at some time or other, somewhere in the vicinity within a radius of one or more miles, the flies must have had the opportunity to pick up the virus."

Dr. Sabin revealed in his article that recent studies have revealed that the presence of the virus of poliomyelitis is more persistent and found in greater abundance in discharges from the alimentary canal or in human stools than found in the respiratory tract. Dr. Sabin feels that as a result of these studies the transmission of the disease is more likely brought about through discharges from the alimentary tract than from discharges from the respiratory tract that is brought about by coughing or sneezing. This observation seems to be borne out by an experiment in which extracts were taken from masks worn by poliomyelitis patients in the acute stage of the disease, and even after these patients had coughed and sneezed into these masks only a very small percentage of them were found positive with the virus of infantile paralysis.

It has been thought for some time that insects must play an important role in the transmission of poliomyelitis since the seasonal incidence of the disease is during the summer months and early autumn, particularly during the late summer. These observations are presented in an effort to give the public a progress note on the work that is being done on the dreadful disease at the present time and are not to be considered to be all-inclusive since much more work, of course, will have to be concluded before definite conclusions can be drawn. These observations do, however, emphasize the importance of good, safe sanitation in any community with particular reference to water supplies, sewage disposal and the control of swimming pools. Since it was recently pointed out that the house fly plays an important role in the transmission of typhoid fever, it is important for us to note that this same insect might play an even more important role in the spread of poliomyelitis.

ent acreage and to continue to receive a fair price for their tobacco. Tobacco Associates, Inc., will work in this country and in foreign countries trying to maintain the present rate of export. The assessment being voted on will be used to pay the expense of operating Tobacco Associates. Landlords are requested to notify their tenants about this referendum, advising of time and places to vote.

The following places have been designated for Halifax County tobacco growers:

Airle Community, Harris' Store, Aurelian Springs, J. H. Liles' Store, Brinkleyville, J. T. Aycock's Store, Burlington, Parks' Store, Darlington, School House, Dawsons, DeBerry's Store, Essex, R. I. Pullen's Store, Glenview, T. M. Sykes' Store, Halifax, AAA Office, Weldon, Town Hall, Hardrawe, School House, Heathsville, Neville's Store, Hobgood, Town Office, Hollister, I. A. Crawley's Store, Littleton, Town Hall, Palmlyra, Mizelle's Store, Ringwood, Anderson's Store, Rosemeath, G. E. Cotten's Store, Scotland Neck, Town Hall, South Rosemary, Harrison's Gin.

Henderson Man Talks to Local Junior C. of C.

The Roanoke Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce heard Bloys W. Britt, executive secretary of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, discuss the organization and operation of a Chamber of Commerce in a speech last Thursday night at the local Junior C. of C.'s regular meeting. Britt, who was accompanied by Ed C. Joyner, member of the Henderson organization's board of directors, also discussed the plan for construction of a new hotel in Henderson.

Local Man Earns N.R. Commission



Frank C. Williams, Jr., a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve upon completion of his studies, it has been announced. Williams, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Williams, Sr., of Roanoke Rapids, received a degree in commerce from the university.

Company Honors Four Employees For Long Service

Honoring four employees who have been in the service of the company for 25 years, the Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company last Friday night gave them a banquet in the Blue Room of the Rosemary Cafe.

The honorees were Mrs. Martha B. Herring, teller for the company in Roanoke Rapids; Miss Sue Butts, teller in Weldon; Mrs. E. L. Thorne, teller and chief operator in Ashokite, and Mrs. Lucille T. Quinn of Littleton, teller in the Weldon group.

The private dining room of the cafe was beautifully decorated for the occasion in yellow and white, and a delicious steak dinner with "all the trimmings" was served.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Maier of Weldon and Miss Gladys Davis of Roanoke Rapids greeted the guests at the door and H. Dall Holderness, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the company, acted as toastmaster.

The honorees were given orchids when they entered the dining room and after the speeches and dinner L. W. Hill of Tarboro, president of the company, presented each of them a 25-year service pin, using very appropriate remarks.

Enjoying this delightful affair were: Miss Margie Elks, Mrs. Amy Griffin, Mrs. Janie Riddle, Miss Lucy Gay, Miss Mary Alice Gay, Mrs. Roberta Howard, Miss Joe Little, Miss Dorothy Williams, Miss Lillian Norman, Miss Beulah Tetterton, E. J. Eastman, Miss Mattie Holland, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Grimmer, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Maier, Mrs. Nellie Vaughan, Mrs. Ethel Browder, Miss Marian Browder, Mrs. James Mountcastle and Miss Sue Butts, all of Weldon.

Miss Corinne Hofer of Enfield; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clark, Mrs. Lena Weaver, Mrs. James Riddick and Mrs. Carleton Walston of Scotland Neck.

Mrs. Minnie G. Ammons of Jacksonville, N. C.; Miss Norman Harrison of Maxton, and Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Creech of Fayetteville.

L. E. Thompson, Miss Jimmie Faucette, Miss Sadie Bell of Rocky Mount.

Mrs. Kate Wooten, Miss Elma Lawrence, Miss Virginia Rodgers, Miss June Cornelius, Miss Em Pender, Mrs. Anease Horne, H. Dall Holderness, Miss Elizabeth Battle, President L. W. Hill, J. T. Sadler, J. K. Avant and Miss Emily Austin, all of Tarboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pitts and Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Dixon of Henderson.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Hilton and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Davidson of Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thorne, Francis Thorne, Alan Thorne, Mrs. Calie Cooper, Miss Vivian Powell, Mrs. Bessie Liverman, Mrs. Murrell Holloman and Miss Louise Mobley of Ashokite.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Cullen and Mary Elizabeth Topping of Littleton.

Mrs. Martha B. Herring, George Warren, Custer Kilpatrick and Haywood Draper of Roanoke Rapids.

Old timers say the "Brass" Ankle Hotel got its name from a woman who, while wearing golden yellow short boots, lifted her long skirts in order to display the leather covered ankles. She lived at the Hotel, hence the name.

Pool Halls Face Midnight Closing Under New Law

Roanoke Rapids pool halls, said by several members of the Board of City Commissioners to be at present staying open until the early hours of the morning, will close at midnight under a new ordinance passed Tuesday afternoon by the board in its regular meeting.

Half Year Shows Continued Rise in Home Building

Although building permits in the amount of \$417,550 for the first six months of the present year fall \$128,300 short in valuation of construction in comparison with the \$545,850 worth granted up to and including June 30, 1946, that all important item of "new home construction" shows an increase of \$171,400 from \$147,600 worth in 1946 to \$318,900 worth this year.

In the latest compilation of comparative figures released from the city building inspector's office, other construction took a decided drop. Last year in the first six months, permits for construction labeled in the classifications "commercial, industrial and remodeling," had been issued in the amount of \$398,250, as compared to this year's \$98,550 worth.

Comparisons of the month of June for the past two years show:

June, 1946: Four permits for new home construction were issued for a total of \$137,000 and one permit for remodeling was granted in amount of \$80. Total was \$14,500.

June, 1947: Sixteen permits for home construction for \$64,250 combined with three permits for other building were granted for a total of \$67,750 worth of building.

The comparison for June reveals a healthy \$53,250 increase in this year's figures over those of last year.

The following permits were issued during the last week in June: Home construction: B. E. Crowder, one-story frame residence on Cedar street between Fourth and Fifth streets (five rooms), estimated cost of \$3000.

Remodeling: E. B. Manning, repairs to roof on Monroe street between Ninth and Tenth streets, \$500.

House Committee Recommends Fund For Buggs Island

Washington (June 27)—The House Appropriations Committee today recommended a \$3,800,000 appropriation for the continuation of the Buggs Island project on Roanoke River during the next fiscal year, and also placed the stamp of its approval on two other North Carolina projects.

In addition to the Buggs Island sum—a cut of a million dollars from the budget recommendations—the committee recommended a \$100,000 appropriation for continuing the deepening of the Cape Fear River Channel at and below Wilmington, and an \$85,200 sum for a flood control project on the Neuse River in the vicinity of Goldsboro.

The Neuse River allocation was the amount requested by Reps. Barden and Kerr, a member of the War Department civil functions appropriations subcommittee which prepared the bill, but the Cape Fear River appropriation represented a \$200,000 cut under figures recommended by Army Engineers.

At the office of Rep. Clark, it was indicated he would seek to amend the bill on the floor of the House to restore the sum cut from the bill by the committee.

The Buggs Island appropriation, although cut a million dollars under the recommended amount, was still among the ten largest of nearly 100 flood control appropriations. It is a pet project of Rep. Kerr.

The bill contained no appropriations for the Yadkin River flood program and sources close to the committee said the strong opposition which had been shown at hearings to the project had made it easy for Republicans economy-welders to leave the requested appropriation out of the bill.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Liles and family of Norfolk were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Gibson of Roanoke Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Liles of Aurehan Springs.

Miss Francis Wilson and Miss Elizabeth Wilson of Richmond spent Friday here with their parents.

Chicken Dinner His Method of Saying Thanks

There's quite a difference in fighting fires and eating fried chicken, but Roanoke Rapids "smoke-eaters" this week proved themselves as adept at devouring the tasty delicacy as they have proved themselves in combating flames.

They got the chicken, incidentally, as a result of having proved their fire-fighting prowess last month in extinguishing a blaze at the home of C. W. Cook, about a mile south of South Rosemary, outside the city limits.

When the fire boys arrived in answer to the call, chances of saving the house in any way, shape or form, seemed to be (in the words of one of the firemen) "almost hopeless."

But they went to work with a determination and, aided by the efforts of several willing persons living nearby who hauled water to keep the truck tank full, succeeded in salvaging enough so that Cook would be able to continue living in one room.

Last week, with plans completed for rebuilding his home, Cook began to take stock of what the firemen had done for him and decided to express his appreciation in some material way.

So last Thursday evening he called all the firemen in and set them down at tables in the fire station. Menu: fried chicken and all the trimmings.

In the words of Fire Chief W. C. King, "Mr. Cook was the first person outside the city limits requiring our services who so generously expressed his appreciation for those services. We want to thank Mr. Cook for his generosity and his thoughtfulness."

DR. AND MRS. JARMAN

Tuesday evening, June 24, Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Jarman entertained with a lovely family dinner honoring Mr. and Mrs. Tom Long, who were guests of relatives here.

Flowers throughout the home were both lovely and colorful. About 23 guests enjoyed this delightful affair.

The charter for the town of Roanoke Rapids went into effect February 23, 1897. The city jail was such a popular place in 1922 that on April 20 of that year the city commissioners were forced to enact an ordinance making it a misdemeanor or punishable by a \$50 fine to "loaf, loiter or congregate around the town lock-up or jail" unless one had permission to visit an inmate.

The present 30 year franchise, granted by the city to the Virginia Electric and Power Company went into effect on September 3, 1926.

The first fire chief for Roanoke Rapids, B. R. Weeks, was appointed by the board of commissioners on March 2, 1920 and was authorized to organize a volunteer fire company.

September 9, 1931—J. L. Vest, postmaster of the South Ward, told the board of commissioners that the Federal government had decided to consolidate the city's two post offices.

Pool rooms were banned for several years by refusal of the city commissioners to issue a license for the operation of same starting with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921. They weren't given licenses until that motion was repealed on July 5, 1927 by a different board.

THE COLONEL

Friends may remember Geln Thompson who left here about twelve years ago and entered West Point. The Colonel Thompson of the U. S. Army Air Force now is and he's being assigned to "off Manila where he'll be air attache to the infant Philippines Republic. The Colonel, although a native of South Carolina, came to Roanoke Rapids with his parents back in 1912 at the age of one. He left Tuesday for San Francisco where he'll board a boat.

Flashing Through the City Files

C. A. Barkley, Chief of Police, was called before the commissioners on April 6, 1920 to explain why he failed to arrest the person who had cut Mr. B. S. Webb. According to minutes of the meeting, "Mr. Barkley's explanation was not very satisfactory."

Also on April 6, 1920 the mayor and board of commissioners ordered the chief to stop the sale of a tonic known as "Beef, Wine & Iron" in certain stores in Roanoke Rapids.

SIAMSE TWINS

N. A. Cates was in the office Friday morning proudly displaying what he appropriately called a "Siamese Squash." Two perfectly formed four inch long squash grown together in the manner of the famed Siamese Twins were a novelty to him and to us, although he said he had seen twins (two growing from the same stem) before. The oddity was product of his garden at 837 Jackson Street.

FAMOUS TELEGRAM

Back in the days when he ro the Spanish-American War was fighting in the house now occupied by one Harry S. Truman and the Rough Riders were sitting around telling tales of how they had whipped the Spaniards at San Juan, there came to the young town of Roanoke Rapids a man with five or six million dollars coupled with an open mind as to how it should be spent.

John Armstrong Chaloner, a young New Yorker, upon whom fortune (in the shape of blood relation to the fabulous Astor clan and an inheritor of no small amount of coin therefrom) had ro only smiled, but had grinned from ear to ear, met in the person of one Major Emory, a man with an idea and without a hope of obtaining one single red cent.

It was a situation leading to the natural consequence of a merger of fortune and idea.

T. L. Emory had once wanted to operate a grist mill in the town of Weldon, but owners of an old canal had refused to furnish him with the necessary power.

"All right," he had declared, "I'll build my own power plant."

At the time John Armstrong Chanler had appeared on the scene Emory was very nearly broke in attempting to make good the boast of no interest in the old Major, the young dreamy-eyed New Yorker seemed the answer to his every need.

He had quickly sold the millionaire on his idea and together they had conspired to build not one but several enterprises.

As a result of this spending of the family millions in a manner which seemed to them very haphazard, the family of John Chanler laid a very carefully concealed trap and sent a man named Stanford White to North Carolina to fetch John back home, to the Empire State of New York for a visit.

Now, to digress a bit, it may be said that Stanford White, whose name occasions no interest in the minds of the present generation, was one of the foremost figures of his time in the architectural world, having designed no few industrial plants. (It was White, incidentally, who designed the original mill village house in Roanoke Rapids.)

But, to return to John: White was sent to lure him back to New York and this he did. With a

(Continued on Page 4—Section 1)