

Roanoke Ramblings

His Own Fault.
"Sir, your daughter is going to marry me."
"Well, what did you expect—hanging around our house every night?"

August's Birthstone.

There came to the Rambler's idle glance one afternoon this past week (as he mopped the perspiration from his furrowed brow) the following bit of irrelevant, immaterial information in a release from some agency or another and he passes it on to you in the fervent hope that someone will feel it a matter of life or death to know the true birthstone for those persons born in August.

"August's birthstone," says the story, "is a choice of the sardonyx or the peridot (pronounced pair-a-joe, it says here). The sardonyx is a brownish red opaque gem. It is found mainly in Brazil or Uruguay (so never mind hunting any out around Simmons Park, Junior, I don't care if you did see a fielding gem out there last week.)"

"The peridot stems from a Greek word which means 'golden gem.' (Its color, varying from yellow to green, is no doubt responsible for its name.) (No doubt.) The most desirable shade is a soft bottle green, which seems to lose the yellow undertone at night, and is often incorrectly called the evening emerald. The most important known source of this gem is St. John's Island in the Red Sea. (See there, Junior.)"

"Both stones have acquired a series of legends. Probably the most famous of the known sardonyx gems is a ring to the Earl of Essex by Queen Elizabeth. When Essex was held in the Tower for execution, he sent the ring to Elizabeth as a sign of his peril, and a mute plea for help. However, the ring fell into the hands of his enemies, who made certain that the Queen never saw it and Essex was executed."

Then, mumbled the Rambler to himself, when they brought the basket containing the head of the executed Earl to the elated Elizabeth, she probably exclaimed excitedly — "I like to put all my exes in one basket!"

EXODUS, NEMESIS AND PRACTICAL ECONOMY

King Cotton — take a back seat — your peanut crop is outmoded — yep, even that golden leaf of tobacco is only to be used on rotation or crops from now on — at least that was what we thought when we went by Mack's Truck Station about a mile North of Weldon on 301 one day this week for it looked to us as if some farmer were "rising automobile" new ones too.

Then we found out that a nationally known automobile manufacturer who has an assembly plant in Norfolk and who was faced with a strike-bound plant had decided to move all those shiny new F-ords down to North Carolina for distribution to dealers scattered throughout the Southeastern states.

Before we found that out we were ready to help the man gather in the gathering from his bountiful harvest. It sure was a pretty sight — about 500 pretty brand-new F-ords — at least we were told they were — rds.

ANOTHER MADE HAPPY.

"Dear Company," a certain one testimonial to a certain patent medicine manufacturer. "After taking only one bottle of your wonderful medicine, my arm is gone but the pain remains."

HERE AND THERE

This is about another newcomer to our town — Dr. E. C. C. Murray is the name — formerly of the U. S. Army in Topeka, Kansas — a native of Missouri and visitor to Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County on several occasions previously — will be connected with the Rosemary Clinic — yes, the Doc is married and has two children — a boy, aged 15 — a girl, aged 17 — They're all here.

TIP TO ARMY VETS.

Requests for your American Defense Service Medals and World War II Victory Medals should be addressed to the Commanding Officer, North Carolina Military District, Decorations Division, Box 311, Raleigh, North Carolina.

FAMOUS FOLK

Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall's acceptance of an invitation to appear on the program of the fifteenth Annual State 4-H Club week at State College, August 18-24, brought to three the number of famous folk who will appear in North Carolina in the near future.

Dorothy Thompson will speak in Raleigh Municipal Auditorium the morning of August 26th, addressing attendees of arm and home week, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower will also be on Farm and Home Week's program on the 26th.

Lamb prices are likely to decline through early fall marketings increase, but because of the small lamb crop the decline will be moderate if consumer spending continues high.

What Roanoke Rapids Makes — Makes Roanoke Rapids

VOLUME XXXII

Hobgood Negress Held On Murder Charge Following Butcher Knife Wielding

Verdict of Inquest Jury Sends Nancy Shelley To Jail Tuesday

Nancy Shelley, 38-year-old Hobgood negress, was in Halifax County Jail this week without privilege of bond after a six-man coroner's jury, impaneled in Hobgood Tuesday night by County Coroner Rufus M. Britton, returned a verdict that she killed another Hobgood negro, 37-year-old Pete Shields, with a butcher knife in a Sunday fight at the slain man's home.

Ollie Watson, 75-year-old negro, was bonded at \$50 as a material witness in the case, according to Britton, who, with Deputy Sheriff J. A. House of Hobgood, investigated the slaying.

Watson testified that Shields and the woman had planned to kill him on the assumption that "somebody's gonna knock him in the head and get his money so 't might as well be us." The woman told him about it after she had gotten mad at Shields and when he told Shields she had told him, he quoted Shields as saying, "I'm going over there and kill that woman."

The woman, who admitted in her testimony that she had lived with Shields for 14 months, said that Shields had her bent over a table and was about to kill her with a case knife when she reached back over her head, grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed him with it.

According to the testimony at the inquest, the fight started on Saturday night at Watson's house but the killing took place on Sunday morning in Shields' home. After the hearing the woman was jailed to await the term of Halifax County Superior Court.

Shields' funeral was held Wednesday. Halifax 29th In Vehicle Count. Halifax County with an estimated motor vehicle registration total of 8,763 ranks 29th in the state and Northampton's 4,715 ranks the neighboring county in 59th spot, according to an announcement released this week by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Guilford, with 42,387, and Mecklenburg, with 41,653, are the top two counties in the state in this regard.

Record Crowd Friday Night

The 2850 paid attendance at the Friday night doubleheader between the Jays and Tarboro was a new record for the season, club officials announced.

The average of soybeans alone for all purposes in North Carolina is estimated at 368,000 acres or 6 percent larger than the 342,000 acres grown alone for all purposes in 1946.

The Local Week . . .

Superior Court Convenes 11th. Superior Court term in Halifax County will open August 11th. Judge J. Paul Frizzelle of Snow Hill, will preside. Among cases due to be tried during this term are those of the State vs. Lefty A. Downing on a larceny charge; the State vs. E. B. Bowman and George Lewis, charged with grand larceny and receiving stolen property; and the State vs. Howard N. Bass, charged with obtaining money under false pretense.

Firemen Called Friday Night. A fire in Northampton County at a crossroads near Lebanon Church Friday night caused all firemen of the Roanoke Rapids department to be summoned. A gas tank was thought to have been on fire but when firemen arrived they found their services were not needed.

Stolen Car Found Burned. A 1938 model Ford coupe belonging to W. G. Bunch, of Roanoke Rapids, stolen from Simmons Park last Friday night, was found Sunday near Garysburg, Va., completely destroyed by fire. Local police are continuing their investigation.

Negro Indicted In Accident. Robert Shearin, colored, was indicted this week on a charge of careless and reckless driving after an automobile accident near Bounds' Crossroads (one and one-half miles southwest of Pierce's) resulted in a broken jaw for another Negro (identified by Shearin as William White), said by sheriff's deputies to have been a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the accident. Only the front end of the automobile was damaged.

Police Hunt Stolen Car. Police this week were hunting a black Ford coupe, license number, North Carolina 192-929, belonging to John M. Strickland,

Conservation Officers Mark Two Big Events Tenth Anniversary and Billionth-Acre Mark Celebrated Jointly

Farmer — supervisors of the Fishing Creek soil conservation district this week joined the supervisors of 1,900 other districts throughout the nation in observing two major events in soil and water conservation history.

First is the tenth anniversary of soil conservation districts; second is the reaching of the billion-acre mark in soil conservation districts.

"The nation's first soil conservation district was created by landowners in North Carolina August 4, 1937," said Chairman Simmons of the local district. "That district is the Brown Creek soil conservation district which includes the farm where Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, now chief of the soil conservation service, was born and reared."

Chairman Simmons said that the soil conservation district movement has made much faster progress than the pioneers in soil and water conservation first thought possible.

"We had no idea when the first districts were being organized by farmers, that in ten years we would have districts covering a billion acres," he said. "I believe that here is proof that landowners, when given an opportunity, will take the leadership in solving their own soil and water conservation problems. Each district is organized by farmers and controlled by them under authority of a state law."

Farmers in 1937 voted to organize the Fishing Creek soil conservation district. Since that time soil conservation service technicians assigned to the district have assisted 575 farmers to plan and begin applying complete farm soil and water conservation programs on 90,133 acres.

Serving with Mr. Simmons on the board of supervisors is George Aiston.

"Farmers in the southeast took the lead in the district movement from the beginning," said District Chairman Simmons.

Today, according to reports by Dr. T. S. Buia, southeastern regional conservator of the soil conservation service, 317 soil conservation districts cover more than 206 million southeastern acres. These districts contain more than 87 per cent of the farms in the nine southeastern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South

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Fugitives Recaptured Near Snow Hill After Six Days of Freedom

Arthur Goff, 26, formerly of LaGrange, and Ernest Eubanks, 18, formerly of Swansboro, who escaped from the Halifax County prison camp Monday, July 28, were recaptured about 3 o'clock Sunday morning at the home of Goff's brother, about 12 miles north of Snow Hill, after Deputy Sheriff Carraway of Greene County had notified Halifax prison officials of the fugitives' location.

Capt. A. J. Griffin, superintendent of the prison camp, and J. T. Thomson, prison supervisor of the First Division, accompanied by one guard, recaptured the pair, who offered no resistance. The officers reported that there was no one else at home at the time and that the prisoners were a closet of the house and the other in a room.

Youth Succumbs From Injuries Friday Morning Thomas R. Deever's Rites Held Here Saturday Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted from the residence here Saturday afternoon for Thomas Randolph Deever, 17, who died last Friday in Roanoke Rapids Hospital from injuries received in a swimming accident the previous Sunday. The rites were conducted by Rev. D. A. Hudson and interment was in the Roanoke Rapids cemetery.

Deever and a group of teenage boys were swimming in the Roanoke river at Weldon Sunday afternoon, July 27, when young Deever and Harold King, 18, swam across the river. After resting the boys dove off an old rowboat for the return swim and according to King, the Deever boys failed to come up. When he did finally rise to the surface he was in an unconscious condition with blood coming from an open wound on his head. He was rushed to Roanoke Rapids Hospital where examination revealed a fractured skull and other injuries.

He died Friday morning. Coroner Rufus Britton conducted an investigation into the accident, but deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Surviving the boy are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Deever, and two brothers, Donald and Robert, all of Roanoke Rapids.

Local Station Blasts Editor For Criticism

The news room of the local radio station, WCBT, Friday night blasted the editorial writer of The Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News for the paper had condemned after the radio station for production several weeks ago that the Northampton County grand jury would fail to indict the seven men charged with the attempted lynching of a Rich Square last May.

WCBT's broadcast was published in a Raleigh paper and later was distributed by a national press association. Obviously ridiculing the station's prediction, the Greensboro paper charged that "the broadcaster sounds to be as if (WCBT) was engaging in something closely related to contempt of court."

The paper went on to say that "we do not intimate that the grand jury will do any such thing. We assume that it will do its duty under law."

In its blast back at the Greensboro paper, WCBT scoffed at what it termed "the courageous Greensboro Daily News, whose editor sits in his ivory tower some 170 miles away and attempts to interpret a local situation which he apparently knows nothing about—and certainly has never attempted to cover first hand."

WCBT charged that the Greensboro editor was indulging in "editorial dramatics," and emphasized that the station had taken no stand on the Northampton situation.

"WCBT reported only the facts and the sentiments of Northampton County as concerned a most unfortunate situation. In light of a rather ungracious editorial, our Greensboro friends might have done well to follow suit in the fellow news reporter," the broadcast concluded.

Former Deputy's Wife Ill. Mrs. J. W. Walker, wife of Deputy Sheriff J. W. Walker, of Wake County, formerly of Roanoke Rapids, is convalescing from an operation at the Roanoke Rapids Hospital. Mr. Walker was formerly a deputy sheriff here.

Heads Lions



Fred W. Smith, Ventura, Cal., is the new president of the International Association of Lions Clubs. He was advanced by unanimous vote from the first vice-presidency at the 30th annual convention of the association which closed in San Francisco last week. Smith succeeds Clifford D. Pierce of Memphis, Tenn.

Star Witness Finds Self Defendant

Gaston Boys Sentenced On Breaking, Entering Larceny Charges

Whereas he had, only a few hours previously, been the star witness in the case of the state against Eddie Warrick, 22, of Gaston, Clifton Beard, another Gaston youth, Monday found himself the defendant on similar charges of breaking and entering and of larceny in a trial before a Northampton County jury in Jackson.

It came about when Warrick, on trial for an April 1st entry into and theft of \$50 from a Gaston store owned by E. W. Clements of Roanoke Rapids, testified that Beard was his accomplice in both the theft and an ensuing trip of several days into Virginia.

His testimony was in direct contradiction to that of Beard who had claimed on the witness stand just prior to Warrick's appearance here that, although Warrick had spent the night at his house, Beard had stayed at home while Warrick went after the money.

The jury returned a finding of guilty for both of them after an indictment had been sent in to the Northampton County grand jury charging Beard and had been returned in the form of a true bill within a few minutes.

Judge J. Paul Frizzelle sentenced Warrick to three years on the breaking and entering charge and two years on that of larceny with the two sentences to run concurrently. Beard drew two years on each charge, with the two sentences also to run concurrently.

Clements testified that his store was broken into on the night of April 4 (after a similar robbery about a month and a half before had netted burglars over \$100) and \$50 in cash money had been taken away.

Warrick testified in his own defense, saying that both he and Beard had been members of a gang of young boys who, about six years ago (and according to Warrick under the tutelage of an ex-convict, Simon Garrett) had engaged in a number of robberies before they were caught. He said that, at the time, he had turned state's witness and had been placed on probation. He claimed about 13 months' naval service since that time.

Romancos Play Last Home Game Saturday Night

The Rosemary Romancos will play their last home game Saturday night when they bring to this city for the second time the powerful Pepsi-Cola team from Norfolk.

The Pepsi-Colas, currently are leading the fast class AA major softball league, and topped the locals here earlier in the season, 4-3, when Sid Johnson, brilliant young Norfolk hurler, tossed a four-hitter at the Romancos while his teammates were touching Russ Deberry for five hits and four runs.

Since that time Johnson has hurled two no-hit games while Deberry has tossed four no-hit games. This should indicate a great hurling duel for Saturday night.

The Romancos will take a fine record into the game against the youngsters with 33 victories and only four defeats.

Turkey productions from 1929 to 1944 nearly doubled, but the number of farms raising turkeys in 1944 was about one-third that of 1929. Consequently, the average turkey farm was raising more than five times as many in 1944 than 1929.

\$188,720 City Budget OK'd By Commissioners At Tuesday Meeting

Nine Local Men Face Trial Here Today In Recorder Court Here

Nine local men, arrested during the early part of last week on gambling charges and arraigned before Mayor J. T. Chase Saturday morning were scheduled to face trial in recorder's court here today, after having been bound over from the preliminary hearing.

The men were listed by local police as: Silas Hendley, charged with assault with a deadly weapon and gambling; Joe (Pete) Wells, Jr., charged with gambling, operating a gambling house and engaging in an affray in which a deadly weapon was used; Garland McGee, charged with aiding and abetting in gambling, and six others, Hassell Bridgman, O. C. Baily, Claude Barnes, Lindsey Shearin, J. C. Warwick and Basil Davis, charged with gambling.

Governor Orders Further Hearings Kidnap Charges

Seven Men Released By Northampton County Grand Jury

North Carolina's Gov. Gregg Cherry Tuesday threw the weight of his office against the decision of a Northampton County grand jury which returned no true bills against seven white men charged with the alleged lynching attempt upon a young Rich Square negro last May.

Cherry condemned the grand jury for not returning a true bill and termed its action as a "miscarriage of justice." He ordered that another trial be set for an adjoining county to Northampton — quite possibly Halifax.

Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, presiding, declined to comment on the grand jury's decision when it was announced shortly before noon Tuesday. He said that any statement made by him might become cause for a change of venue inasmuch as the grand jury's action did not preclude further action.

It could not be determined immediately where the next phase of the unfortunate Northampton County story might be written. However, it is quite probable that Halifax County may be the selected county.

There was no demonstration when the grand jury's findings were announced by Solicitor Ernest Tyler. And when Godwin (Bud) Bush, the young negro who was charged with attempted rape and who was the object of the alleged attempted lynching, was freed by the grand jury, there was no show of emotion. Bush simply muttered, "Thank God."

Later Bush told a reporter that he was glad the Rich Square men had been released. "It was all a mistake," he said, "and it's all over now."

But North Carolina's governor has stepped in and, in the meantime, Northampton County this week is still in the national spotlight.

Program for Shriners' Day

The Sudan Temple Band will present a concert on Roanoke Avenue between 10th and 11th streets next Wednesday in connection with Shriners' Day to be observed here on that day.

The program for the day was announced this week as follows: The parade will leave the grounds and form on Hamilton street at 5 p. m., in the following order:

First: The potentate's car; second, the band float; all other cars to follow in order as they come with the last car containing the Shrine Club members.

The parade will proceed south on Hamilton street from initial point near Roanoke Rapids Army, turn west at 12th street, then turn north on Roanoke Avenue to First street, turn west and return south on Jackson street, continuing to the Country Club.

All cars and the band float will leave the Country Club at 7:45 and park in the open lot on Hamilton street, except the band float and the potentate's car, which will remain on Roanoke Avenue between 10th and 11th streets for the band concert. This space will be roped off for that purpose.

Local Shriners have invited the public to the band concert which is scheduled for about 8 p. m. In case of inclement weather the concert will be given in the high school auditorium.

Bird Season Limits Cut This Year

Nimrod Information Is Released By Wildlife Resources Group

North Carolina hunters will go after migratory game birds this season under sharply reduced limits, according to Federal regulations just announced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The season for ducks and geese will run from December 8 through January 6. This is a cut to 30 days from the 45-day period in effect last year.

The daily bag and possession limits for geese were set at one, and the bag limits for ducks was reduced to four a day, with a possession limit of eight. Last year's regulations allowed a goose bag and possession limit of two, and duck limits of seven daily and 14 in possession.

After two open seasons, the government this year has taken brunt off the open list in North Carolina and other states bordering on the Atlantic.

Shooting hours for migratory birds also were reduced. This year the shooting day will run from sunrise to one hour before sunset; last year the hours were from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour before sunset.

The State's usual split season on doves was reduced by two weeks. The first period will extend from Sept. 16th through 30th, and the second part from Jan. 1st through 31st. The second portion is two weeks shorter than last year's.

Other regulations are the same as those in effect last year. The season on snipe, rails, marsh hen, and gallinules will run from September 1st through Nov. 30th.

Licenses for the 1947-48 hunting season in North Carolina have been distributed by the Wildlife Resources Commission and may be obtained from district fish and game protectors and their agents. The licenses are valid from August 1st.

Federal Seasons and Limits

Federal migratory game bird seasons and limits for North Carolina for the season of 1947-48 were listed as follows: Open season on dove from September 16-30; bag limit per day of ten and possession limit of ten. Also from January 1-31 with same limits. Duck, December 8-January 6; bag limit of four and possession limit of eight with possession of one wood duck in daily or possession limit lawful. On American and redbreasted morganeers, the daily limit is 20, singly or in the aggregate and no possession limit.

Geese, December 8-January 6; bag limit, one, possession limit, one. Scoters (sea coots), December 8-January 6; bag limit of seven; possession limit of 14. Coot, December 8-January 6; bag limit 25; possession limit 25.

Sora, September 1-November 30; Rail, marsh hen, gallinule, September 1-November 30; bag limit of 15; possession limit of 15. (These limits are 15 in the aggregate of all kinds.)

Shooting Hours

On waterfowl, coots, rails, marsh hen and gallinules, each day except Sunday from sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that the hour for the commencement of hunting of waterfowl and coot on the first day of the season shall be 12 o'clock noon. On doves, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Duck Stamps

Persons over 16 years of age are required to have a valid federal migratory bird hunting stamp in possession to take migratory waterfowl. These may be obtained from first and second-class post offices.

Law Enforcement Meeting

The Halifax County Law Enforcement Association met last night in Scotland Neck with President Harry House, Halifax County sheriff, presiding.

After dinner, the program was turned over to Julian Bracy who introduced Recorder Court Solicitor Dickens, J. I. Walston, town commissioner of Scotland Neck, J. A. McDowell, town clerk, and W. D. Harding, Scotland Neck businessman, who made the principal address.

Shriners' Day Here

Wednesday, August 13

All Shriners, both visiting and local, are requested to park their cars in the open lot on Hamilton street, between the Armory and high school building. The program for the day will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Herald.

Streets Will Get Largest Portion; Police And Firemen Next

The city commissioners disposed of quite a few pressing matters in their Tuesday meeting, the most important of which was approval of a city budget of \$188,720.33 for the fiscal year 1947-48.

This figure showing an increase of \$60,865.35 over the budget of \$127,854.98 for the past fiscal year discloses that operating this city of Roanoke Rapids is getting into the realm of big business.

The \$46,085.20 allotted for use on the streets was the "largest" received by any one department and it was followed by the police department with \$36,904; the sanitary commission with \$30,192, and the fire department with \$29,164.55 (of which \$3,219 will be used as one-fourth payment on a new fire truck scheduled for delivery in the fall).

Other allocations were: health department, \$411; administrative \$9,000; street lights and power, \$6,180; tax department, \$4,827.50; unpaid bills, \$2,927.45, and emergency fund, \$2,100.

Other Business

Dr. T. J. Taylor and M. C. Newsom, Sr., requested that the city consider buying a pulmotor to be used under the supervision of the fire department. The fire commissioner took the matter under advisement.

Permission was granted Roanoke Rapids Shriners to have a parade from 5 to 6 p. m., on Wednesday, August 13, and a band concert the same night in the 1000 block on Roanoke Avenue.

B. E. Lancaster, representing the sanitary commission, appeared before the board and wanted to buy the four city-owned lots located behind the municipal building on Hamilton street for the purpose of building offices for use of the water department only. The board voted to sell the lots.

'Stu' Martin Night At Simmons Park Next Tuesday

The Roanoke Rapids Jays and their skipper, Stu Martin, will be honored next Tuesday night by the organization responsible for the Jay's existence—the Junior Chamber of Commerce—in ceremonies at Simmons Park during the intermission between a double-header baseball game with Tarboro.

The ceremonies have been announced as "Stu Martin Night" by the Jaycees, but the Jaycees have incorporated several features into one observance. Simmons Park, for instance, will be officially dedicated by the Jaycees and Stu Martin will, for the first time be called before the loudspeaker to accept the congratulations of an admiring assemblage of fans.

The Jaycees have invited Ray Goodman, president of the Coastal Plain League; Dick Herbert, sports editor of the Raleigh News and Observer and George Earnhardt, president of the Tarboro baseball club to attend as special guests. Each will make a few remarks during the ceremonies.

The Jays, though cellarites of the Coastal Plain for the greater part of the season thus far, have finally developed into the ball club for which Stu Martin has been seeking, and sports writers around the league are predicting that the Jays will crack the first division if they continue their present brand of baseball.

That, considering the lack of time which Martin has had to develop a team, is regarded as a remarkable feat by most sports fans.

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The Jaycees began work on getting the franchise last September — and at that time it seemed a hopeless cause. Several towns were bidding for any possible franchise, and President Goodman insisted all along that there would be no vacancy—or, at least, that he had heard of no possibility of one of the 1946 teams dropping out of the league.

The Jaycees continued to gamble on the possibility, and spent considerable time and money on travel and personal contacts to

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