

County Will Have New Airport

City Authorizes Purchase Five New Traffic Lights

Teague's Successor Assumes Duties Here

Corporal Logan B. Lane, a native of Goldsboro, a highway patrolman with eight years service, arrived in Roanoke Rapids Monday after having been assigned here for permanent station effective October first.

5 Local Men Join Army In September

Five Roanoke Rapids young men enlisted in the United States Army during September, figures released today by the local recruiting sub-station show.

Civic Clubs Send Members To Buggs Island

Buggs Island, Va. — Plans have been virtually completed here for a public tour of the Buggs Island project on the Roanoke River on October 17.

Local Unit of Teacher Group Express Willingness To Aid Community Projects Here

The Public Relations Committee of the local unit of the North Carolina Education Association met September 29 with Miss Omara Daniels presiding.

National Girl Scout Leader Visits Here

Mrs. Lucy Stroup, from National Headquarters Girl Scouts of America, visited the Roanoke Rapids Girl Scout Council yesterday.

Cotton Market To Open Monday

Roanoke Rapids will have a cotton market starting next Monday when Dean Cotton Company, Inc., of Tarboro, will open their new business at the Farmer's Warehouse next to Simmons Park.

Wanted To Rent 2 Houses

A 3 or 4 room house, preferably just outside the city, or as far as a mile outside.

ABC Violators

Several persons, arrested recently as a result of an investigation into illegal liquor sales by state Alcohol Beverage Control agents, who have already been tried in Recorder's Court, will be sentenced at this Tuesday's session of court in Halifax.

High School PTA Meets

The Roanoke Rapids High School Parent Teachers Association will hold its first meeting of the year next Thursday night, October 16th, in the high school library at eight o'clock.

Fights Extradition

A Roanoke Rapids man, Joe Goddard, was arrested Tuesday in Newport News, Va., and local police said he was wanted here for abandoning his wife and three children.

Fire Saturday

City firemen were called out at three o'clock Saturday morning when fire broke out in a building located near the Weldon highway.

Music Club Meets

At a meeting of the Weldon Music Study Club, the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Sterling B. Pierce; vice-president, Mrs. W. A. China; secretary, Mrs. J. B. Dunn; treasurer, Mrs. W. B. Joyner.

Wrenn, Mitchell, Dickens Vote Majority Approval After Heated Discussion

Maddrey, Allsbrook, Pruden, Others Pick Up Verbal Gauntlet Flung Down by Davis On Halifax County School Set-up.

A 3-2 vote of the county commissioners Monday afternoon made possible a \$200,000 airport for Halifax County.

Twice approved, then delayed last month when Commissioners John Davis of Enfield and C. Shields Alexander of Scotland Neck voted against it, the project was assured of completion when G. D. Dickens, chairman of the board, cast his ballot with those of Commissioners: Junius Wrenn of Roanoke Rapids and Meade Mitchell of Weldon to form an approving majority.

The vote followed a recess for lunch which had been preceded by a not always unquiet visit from approximately 70 prominent citizens from Weldon-Roanoke Rapids-Littleton area, led by Dr. Crocker Maddrey who had led the fight for the project since its inception.

Hearing Starts Quietly Enlivened at times by heated verbal clashes in which Davis and Alexander figured prominently, the open hearing started off quietly enough when Dickens welcomed the group at 11:25 a. m., stating the board would be glad to hear anything anyone had to say — either for or against the project.

Dr. Maddrey, acting as spokesman for the delegation, took the floor and for the next 15 minutes approximately recited the history of the proposed airport from its beginning on April 2, 1945, when the board of county commissioners voted approval.

"We came down here again on October 7, 1946 and you gentlemen again approved the project," Maddrey began. "The county now has an investment of \$32,000 in the chosen site. Through the efforts of our representative in Congress from this district, Judge J. W. Sigafoos, the federal government was raised to \$73,000. The approximate cost of this airport to local citizens will be \$105,000, although this is a flexible figure and it may be more or it may be less. At any rate, 25% of the cost will be borne by the government and 75% by citizens of Halifax County."

"Everything is ready for continuation of this project except the approval of the board of county commissioners and we respectfully request you gentlemen to vote in favor of it," Maddrey concluded.

Citizens Testify Introducing William Manning and submitting a letter from F. C. Williams, Maddrey told the board that their respective companies had a tax evaluation of approximately \$12,000,000. Manning said he was wholeheartedly in favor of the project and Williams' letter ostensibly was in the same vein.

Maddrey then called on Mayor J. E. Chase of Roanoke Rapids who told the board that, although he had never ridden in an airplane and never expected to, he would venture the opinion that in a few years the skies would be filled with them. He pointed out the enormous tax evaluation of the Littleton-Roanoke Rapids-Weldon area and asked the board if the citizens in that area were not entitled to some consideration for the amount of money they contributed to the county treasury.

Then followed Mayor J. T. Maddrey, of Weldon; D. W. Seifer, Weldon business man; Jack Vincent, representative of the Roanoke Rapids Jaycees; Don Tillar, president of the Roanoke Rapids Kiwanis Club; B. Copenhagen, manager of the present airport; Fred Bounds, president of Weldon Rotary Club; Ben Lancaster, president of the Roanoke Rapids Rotary Club; Howerton Gowen, Roanoke Rapids businessman, who gave several logical reasons as to why the county should have an airport — "Industry is moving South, gentlemen! And we're not getting our share of it!" Gowen repeated vehemently several times, "10,000 acres of cotton, peanuts and tobacco have been dusted this year in crop-dusting procedures from airplanes. These planes can land anywhere, but they must have some specific spot in which to be serviced." Gowen said he knew of a concern interested in a certain industry in the Weldon area and in a questionnaire sent him the question asked, on the third question, "What is the setup on air travel—do we have to go to Rocky Mount or Emporia every time?"

Allsbrook Came From Court Then State Senator Julian Allsbrook, who obtained permission to leave the courtroom in order to express his view in the hearing, expressed 100% endorsement of the project.

"One need only go down farther into the South to see how far ahead the great State of North Carolina really is," he declared, "and it has not been done by any direction from Raleigh—it has been done by the efforts of the communities in this state. We, in Halifax County, have 1/60th of the area and population of the 100 counties in North Carolina. We rank 14th in amount of wealth. I'm surprised as to the need for this hearing. I thought you gentlemen had already approved this project. We need this airport as a step forward. It has my 100% endorsement."

Takes Herald To Task After Maddrey declared his case at an end, C. Shields Alexander who had cast one of the dissenting votes at the last session of the board, rose to his feet to explain his position in the matter.

"An editorial in a Roanoke Rapids newspaper," said the Scotland Neck commissioner, "would make it appear that I voted to block this airport in order to obtain a hospital. That is not true. Anything I vote for or against something it will be regardless of faction or party or friendship—it will be decided by my conscience and my convictions."

Davis Defines Stand Following Alexander's remarks, John Davis stood up and said, "I'll tell you exactly why I voted against this airport. Our schools are crowded—many are without toilets. What comes first in Halifax county—our little children or our airport? I say the little children."

Dr. Maddrey picked up the challenge—"To put our schools in the condition in which Mr. Davis wants them would cost one million dollars. If schools must be fixed—I say—FIX THEM TODAY! Float a bond issue. Raise the tax rate. Let's don't wait ten years doing nothing if our schools are in as bad shape as they are pictured."

Maddrey then pointed out where the county might possibly get the money. 28,000 people in the Roanoke Rapids-Littleton-Weldon area last year paid \$152,000 in taxes to the county. Money from the ABC stores goes into the county treasury and 61.4% of sales from these stores was made in that area.

Davis returned to his feet to agree on the airport location. He said, "If there's to be an airport—whether now or later—it should be in the Roanoke Rapids area. I don't dispute that."

Commissioner Wrenn, a veteran of 13 years on the board, explained that in the budget this year was an item of \$182,000 capital outlay for schools, and that \$225,000 a year for schools could be obtained without raising the tax rate. Then he declared, "I'll still vote for the airport." Davis replied, "Mr. Wrenn has not taken the tour of schools I have or he would know they've done away with several of the rural schools."

Then The Fireworks Julian Allsbrook asked what the tax evaluation in the county was for 1946—when told it was \$40,000,000, Allsbrook estimated it would be at least 50 million this year.

"If our schools are so bad," said the Senator, "Let's get the school experts down here and have them look over the situation. No one is a better friend to public education in this state than am I—I think my record will bear me out in that statement. But, gentlemen—let's move right now to meet this school situation!"

On the latter statement, Allsbrook drew a round of applause and Davis, obviously nettled, rose to his feet and declared, "I'm going to vote to raise the tax rate 35 cents the next time whether anyone likes it or not!" Then he sat down.

And thus it went—Alexander wondered aloud whether air travel was going to cause a big loss in collectable taxes from railroads and Howard Pruden, Roanoke Rapids city commissioner, answered with the statement that trucks and buses hadn't run the railroads out of business, and neither would airplanes.

At the wind-up, around 12:30, Edenton, without a win nailed to their flagpole yet this season, finds itself in the same position as the Jax a week ago. The Aces were beaten 25-12 in their opening day battle with Kingston and were firmly trounced by the league-leading Washington Pam-Pack, 34-12, in their last appearance.

Three Players Out of Friday Grid Game As Yellow Jackets Journey to Edenton

Juvenile Delinquency, Communism Covered During Course

Chief of Police T. J. Davis returned this week from Washington, D. C., where he had taken a week long training course at the FBI National Police Academy.

Rotarians See Veteran Film At Monday Meet

The Roanoke Rapids Rotary Club was treated to an excellent program Monday night when Elton C. Parker, manager of the local office of the North Carolina State Employment Service, and James M. Kennedy, Jr., and L. A. Wadsworth, of the Raleigh office of the NCSES showed some enlightening films.

White Cane Sale Indications Good Bullock Reports

Although final tabulations on the Lions Club's White Cane Sale will not be known until after the club's next meeting this Tuesday night, Thurman Bullock, chairman of the committee in charge, said last night that indications pointed to a very good collection.

Interracial Meet

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke Rapids will sponsor a negro conference on October 19 at 2:00 p. m., at Quincey Baptist Church.

BPWC Meeting Tonight Closes Week's Program

In observance of National Business Women's Week, the local BPW Club opened the week's activities with a lunch at the club house on Jackson Street, Sunday, October 5, with Mrs. J. P. Priest as guest speaker. Mrs. Priest's subject was "How are we facing the future spiritually?" The meeting was well attended.

Bids Friend Goodbye; Train Amputates Leg; Weldon Negro Dies

Stepping from a train in the Weldon depot after bidding a departing acquaintance goodbye, Charlie Roy Jones, 29 year old negro, was fatally injured when his right leg and crushing his shoulder Monday afternoon.

County Coroner Rufus Britton, who investigated the accident, said the death was accidental and no inquest was necessary.

Local Police Chief Returns From FBI Retraining School; Anderson Retires As Prexy

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Hasn't Named Starters

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