

Roanoke Ramblings

TO A SEVEN YEAR old boy who has been in bed for five months with rheumatic fever, Kenneth Parrish, of 1023 Washington Street—a visit by anybody would be welcome. But when Bob Steele, the famous Western movie star, is the visitor then you can't blame Kenneth for probably saying "Gee!" Well, says Mrs. Forrest Parrish, Kenneth's mom, that's just who walked in to visit the boy who next Tuesday will celebrate his seventh birthday. Somehow the word got to Bob Steele, who was appearing in person at a local theater last week, that Kenneth would like to see him. Graciously, he obliged. Of course all the kids in the neighborhood had to get a peek at the cowboy star and, added Mrs. Parrish, "It looked like the grown-ups were just as interested as the kids."

WE HOPE YOU'VE had patience with us while we had our fling at playing amateur detective in the now (probably) infamous "Case of the College Students." Well, "A Friend" (who probably wishes we'd shut up about it all) sent us a little post card this week which said "The boy who is attending Louisiana College is Rudolph 'Caesar' Etheridge, majoring in chemistry and engineering. Thought you would like to know." Thanks are due to you for that was the general idea.

IT WOULDN'T be asking too much, though, now would it, if we asked you to listen to our final fling at telling you who's "studying where?" We would like to mention that Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Covington's 12 year old son, Clayton, is up at Stanton Military Academy at Staunton, Virginia. They tell us that Clayton reads the Herald. But if you won't bear with us on that one then we won't do it.

OK, SO WE'LL change over for awhile. In that embattled city of Trieste, between Italy and Yugoslavia, there is at present stationed PFC Eugene A. Lewis. Eugene wrote the Herald a letter on stationery which reads in big bold letters—"Trieste Free State—A Great Experiment in Democracy."

...area to come thru the American lines — "I was one of the men that was out on the French Line on R-Day. I was located about a quarter of a mile back of outpost 5 and 6. I was awake the night that Yugoslavians tried to come out against 5. There weren't any shots fired on either side of the line. We were alerted and couldn't go back to sleep all night but nothing happened. The next night was quiet but we stayed out there 11 days and then we came back to the company but one of our companies stayed out there. Well, I want to thank you for sending me the paper and I hope to keep on getting it."

SOME MORE BOYS—P. F. C. Leonard H. Boulden, of Roanoke Rapids is coming here. He's being discharged. That's what the army informs the Rambler, but, as is oft the case with the army, they forget to tell us when they did give a vague hint that he's been in the Marianas and Bonin Islands in the Pacific. Now the navy, being specific on the Pacific tells us that Lucy M. Clary, Mrs. J. C. Clary's boy, of 103 Madison Street, has completed recruit training at San Diego, Calif. Naval Base and has been promoted to seaman second class. Have to give the "swabbies" two points on that one.

YOU ARE PROBABLY THINKING that this whole column is going to be about boys. You are absolutely right. In the inner folds of this paper there's a story about Coach Cranford Hoyle's Junior Varsity football squad. Inadvertently, the name of Kenny Vernelson, one of the members, was left out. Kenny has been with the team since he moved to town recently.

NOW SO FAR we've covered boys being visited by movie stars, boys coming home from the service, boys being promoted in the service, and boys playing football and studying at military academies and colleges. Charles E. Matthews, Jr., who was formerly a resident of Roanoke Rapids when his parents owned Matthews Drug Co., got married the 14th of this month to Miss Carolyn Lagle of Mocksville. And to all the rabid Jays' baseball fans—LeRoy Carlton, the chunker, married a Weldon girl, Mrs. Gerline Harris.

STILL MORE BOYS will be happy if you remember that this show next Wednesday night at the high school isn't just an after school party. It's a fund-raiser for \$400 a week to take it on the stage professionally. Grown folks have gotten a big thrill out of seeing it too.

JUST TO SNEAK ONE last bit one by you, Thomas Garfield Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. L. Matthews' boy, is a student at Mercer College at Macon, Georgia.

Miss Betsy Vincent of Richmond spent the week end with her parents Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Vincent. Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Gregg of Burlington attended the funeral of Raymond Johnson Monday.

What Roanoke Rapids Makes
—Makes Roanoke Rapids

THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

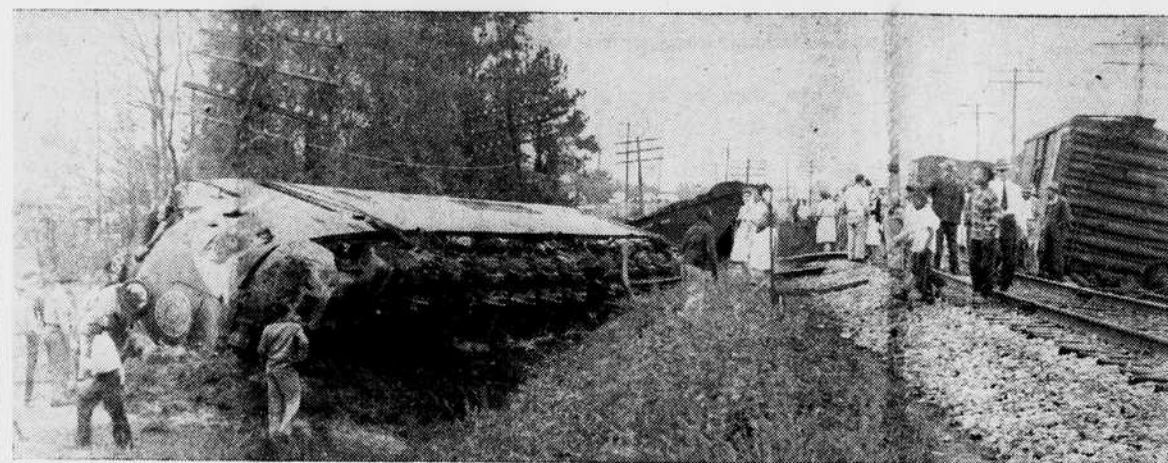
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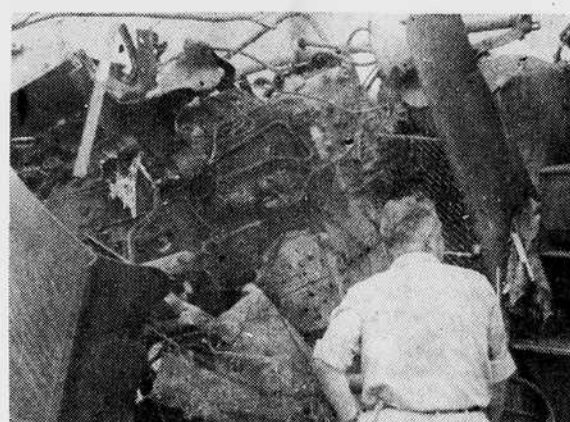
NUMBER 50



THE SCENE FRIDAY MORNING—Throngs of people crowded around the scene of the collision of an east-bound freight and switch engine which happened Thursday night about 8:15 one half mile east of Roanoke Junction, bordering the Weldon-Roanoke Rapids highway. The Diesel at the left rests in soft mud on the south side of the tracks near the highway.



A FALLEN MONSTER—The switch engine, badly battered, lies on its side like a sleeping iron mustang as local citizens inspect its dented armor.



ONCE AN ENGINEER'S CAB—An unidentified observer takes stock of the tangled mass of the thousand gadgets that were once a part of a switch engine's controls.

Investigation Continues Into Train Smash-up Here; Switchman Dies of Injuries

Seaboard Air Line railroad officials today were continuing their investigation of the collision last Thursday night about 8:15 between an east-bound Diesel-powered freight and a steam switch locomotive at a point one half mile east of Roanoke Junction in which switchman Raymond Johnson of Roanoke Rapids was fatally injured.

CREWMEN LISTED

R. M. Stone, S.A.L. Superintendent with offices in Raleigh told the Herald that the following men comprised the crews of the two trains:

On the Diesel: H. L. Robinson, Conductor; N. C. Howell, engineer; G. A. Bordeaux, flagman; D. D. Fleming, brakeman and R. L. Brown, fireman.

On the switch: J. M. Stanley, conductor; Raymond Johnson, switchman; R. H. Wood, switchman; L. S. Griggs, engineer and Sidney Lewis, fireman.

"NOT 40 M. P. H."

"I hope nothing more is said about train's traveling 40 miles per hour," Stone told a reporter. "If it had been going 40, it would have torn up half of Roanoke Rapids."

Stone said he could not, at the present time, place any estimate on the amount of money the tragedy cost the railroad as investigating officials had not finished their work.

Evidence uncovered to date

indicates that the switch engine pulled out in front of the main line freight from a siding leading to Patterson Mill Co. Johnson, who had apparently been stationed at the switch, was hit by a flying piece of rail after running about 50 feet out into a field north of the tracks.

He died in Roanoke Rapids hospital early Sunday morning.

LEATHERS FIRST THERE

W. H. Leathers, of 425 Sunset Road, told the Herald "I was sitting at home listening to the radio about 8:15 Thursday evening when I heard the collision. I got my flashlight, went over the fence and across the highway to the place where the Diesel and the switch were overturned.

"There was nobody there at all—not even any firemen. About two or three minutes later some of the trainmen came up and one of them (I think it was the engineer of the switch engine) heard somebody groan out in the field. We found Johnson over there lying face up with a piece of the rail under his shoulders.

FUNERAL RITES

Funeral services for Raymond Johnson, Seaboard railroad employee, who succumbed to injuries received last Thursday night when hit by a piece of flying rail near the scene of the freight-switch engine collision, were held Monday afternoon at 2:30 from the Rosemary Baptist Church, with the Rev. B. Marshall Whitehurst, pastor, officiating.

Johnson died early Sunday morning at Roanoke Rapids Hospital to which he had been removed following the accident.

Survivors include his wife, the former Rebecca King; one daughter, Jacquelyn; one son, Horace; one sister, Mrs. Paul Overton; and one brother, Lewis Johnson.

Interment was in Roanoke Rapids cemetery.

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"I flagged down a taxi and told the driver to call an ambulance and the police. The ambulances got there within about five minutes. I'd like to say that they really answered that call in a hurry. Buster Seay and Dr. Kronke came up next and then after that more and more people starting coming up."

HUNDREDS VIEW SCENE

From Thursday night, shortly after the wreck, until Sunday afternoon when the Diesel was finally replaced on the main line, hundreds of motorists stopped their cars along the highway and watched the emergency crewmen (some from the ACL in Rocky Mount) get the main line open (they had it open for the first train Friday morning) and replaced the derailed cars on the track.

A platform of cross ties was placed under the Diesel and the two wreckers lifted alternately until it was placed on a specially constructed siding. From then on, it was just plain "sweat and work" for section gangs as they built the rails in front of the giant engine so it could be moved onto the main road-bed.

The switch engine was badly smashed up by the impact, with the cab suffering most of the damage. Soft mud on the south side of the tracks where the Diesel came to a stop probably averted more damage to the larger engine.

Schoolboy Traffic Cops Hope to Get Raincoats

An entertainment worthy of vaudeville—in fact, vaudeville would like to have it—will return to Roanoke Rapids next Wednesday night when Ernest E. Pressley, of the Charlotte police department, brings his trained dog act back for a second showing.

In addition to his six dogs, Pressley has a pigeon named "Oscar" that imitates a jay-walker suddenly struck by more than a "passing fancy"—in other words, by an automobile.

Although Pressley's act has been used (under the sponsorship of the Charlotte police department and the North Carolina State Automobile Association) to spread the gospel of safety to school children in the state, on this occasion he will modify his show somewhat to present to an adult audience what can only be described as professional entertainment—a whole hour of it. (Of course, if the conscientious fellow decides to slyly slip in a sermon in safety—well?)

Thelma Garris, principal Vance Street School, "Officer Pressley and his educated dogs offer a most delightful hour of entertainment while at the same time making the audience safety-conscious."

Imogene Booker, Central School: "I was very much impressed with the safety lessons presented by Officer Pressley and his well-trained dogs. Important rules of safety were brought out by the difficult performances of the dogs. These performances were not only educational, but entertaining and held the attention of the children from beginning to end."

All proceeds of the show, being sponsored by the Safety Committee of the Roanoke Rapids Lions Club of which Houston Fuller is chairman, will go to purchase uniform raincoats and heavy jackets for school student members of the School Safety Patrol.

Many times, in rain or extreme cold weather, these youngsters cannot man their posts. Officer Pressley and the Lions Club feel that, to be effective, the Patrol must always be on the job. For that reason they are bringing this show here once again and will turn over all profits to school officials for purchase of these needed items of equipment.

Littleton Negro Sentenced To 3-5 Years In Hit-Run Case In Superior Court

Pleading nolo contendere to charges of reckless driving and hit and run driving in Superior Court in Halifax Monday, McColey Hawkins, colored, of Littleton, was found guilty and sentenced to not less than three nor more than five years in State's prison.

Hawkins was arrested September first by deputies the day after a hit and run driver had sideswiped an automobile driven by W. B. Ormond, of Roanoke Rapids. The accident caused Ormond to lose his arm.

Alfred Hawkins, Alexander Hawkins and William A. Martin, charged with aiding and abetting the 25-year-old negro in hit and run driving, were each found not guilty.

James Stegall, Howard Edwards, J. J. Jones, N. H. Melver, J. C. Beal and Kenneth Severas, of Norlina, were fined \$500 for malicious destruction of property in connection with the destruction of a fishing pond on property belonging to Tracy Qualls.

Lefty A. Downing plead guilty to larceny and was sentenced this morning to from one to three years.

Ottis J. Reynolds, representing E. B. Bowman and George Lewis, on trial along with Lefty on charges growing out of the disappearance of four hogs belonging to Lefty's father, Roger H. Downing, last July 8th, moved for a non-suit as to Bowman at the conclusion of the State's case and it was granted. Lewis was freed at the conclusion of the State's case against him.

In other Superior Court cases this week, Edward Smith, alias Buster Smith, Scotland Neck negro, plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to from three to 10 years. He was charged with stabbing another negro, Nathaniel Smith, causing his death.

Etta Bowers, Hobgood negroess charged with the murder of Johnnie Fleetwood, plead guilty to manslaughter and was given from seven to 15 years in State's prison.

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City Provides Cemetery For World War II Fallen

At a special meeting of the Board of City Commissioners last Friday, called by Mayor J. T. Chase, the board provided a special lot in the new cemetery for a final resting place for local men killed in action in World War II. The action was in response to a request by a delegation from the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Sgt. Dick Collins, commander of Post 3702, V. F. W., today released the following statement of appreciation for the commissioners' action:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Halifax Post 3702, wish to sincerely thank the Mayor and City Commissioners of Roanoke Rapids for the action taken this week in providing a special lot in the most beautiful section of the new cemetery for the boys of this city who made the supreme sacrifice for our freedom in World War II."

Vets To Maintain Plot

"The idea of the separate memorial plot is to have all World War II veterans of Roanoke Rapids killed overseas buried together, with uniform markers as furnished by the Quartermaster General The Veterans of Foreign Wars of this city will maintain and preserve this memorial plot and hold a Memorial Day service each year on 30th of May. When all bodies have been returned a suitable monument will be erected and dedicated to those who are buried in the memorial plot."

Game Commission Appoints Norton For Law Supervisor 3rd District, Halifax, Northampton Territory

William H. Norton of Smithfield was appointed law enforcement supervisor of the Third District of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at a recent meeting of the group in Asheville.

The Third District includes Halifax and Northampton, Edgecombe, Nash, Franklin, Johnston, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

The Commission decided to enlarge the enforcement staff so that every county will have a resident fish and game protector as soon as possible.

Clarifying policy regarding the seizure by protectors of devices used in illegal hunting, the Commission adopted a resolution that "the law enforcement officers and protectors be and they are hereby requested and instructed to seize all instruments and devices used in illegally taking game birds and animals, and hold the same to be disposed of as provided by law." (The law provides that disposal of such seized devices lies in the discretion of the court.)

Approximately 50 citizens of Roanoke Rapids, in company with several hundred others from various counties in North Carolina and Virginia, attended an Army-conducted tour of the Buggs Island Dam Project west of South Hill, Virginia, last Friday.

The tour opened in the morning at 10 o'clock when the party gathered at the Observation Platform to hear an explanation of the project by Col. George C. Derby and his staff and continued with a tour around the portion under construction.

A luncheon was served to the visitors at the Buggs Island Dam cafeteria at 12:30 and speeches by various dignitaries concluded the day's activities.

Mrs. S. E. Perdue has just returned from a month's study in Richmond at the Elinor Fry School of Dancing.

The Local Week . . .

PAIR SENTENCED

Harry H. Rose and Jessie D. Pruitt, arrested by city police week before last on charges of entering parked automobiles in the vicinity of Rosemary Mill and removing property therefrom, were each sentenced to 90 days on the roads last Thursday by Judge Charles Daniel in Recorder's Court here.

The trial of Howard Horton, charged in two warrants in the same case, was continued for one month.

143 BALES GINNED HERE

The Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, reports that 143 bales of cotton were ginned in Halifax County from the crop of 1947 prior to October first, as compared with 151 bales for the crop of 1946.

VOCATIONAL TEACHERS MEET

On October 20th, the vocational Home Economics teachers of Halifax, Bertie, Hertford and Northampton counties held their regular monthly meeting in Roanoke Rapids High School library.

After a short business meeting

the group met at the Colonial Frozen Foods Locker. There Quentin Gregory discussed interestingly the processing and storing of frozen foods. Following this, the group was served ice cream with frozen fruit.

The next meeting will be held in Rich Square in November.

ATTEND STATE MEET

Margaret Lou George, Lois Taylor, Roy Ravel, Swain Loy, George Pappendick, James Warren, Miss Vernie Eddins and Mrs. J. B. Hunsinger attended the 21st North Carolina Student Council Congress which was held in Elizabeth City Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

AT THE STATE FAIR

The Home Economics and Textile Departments of the local high school sponsored a combined exhibit at the State Fair last week and came off with a third prize.

The students from the Home Ec classes showed garments, draperies and napkins made from cloth woven in the Textile Department machines illustrated the pertinent and sections from the card to the opening frame.

Manford M. Lawrence, former Scotland Neck Fire Towerman, has been appointed County Forest Warden by State Forester W. K. Beichler, with the joint approval of the Halifax Board of County Commissioners, it was announced today by David J. Martz, District Forester of Rocky Mount.

As an employee of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Forestry and Parks, Lawrence will reorganize and supervise Halifax's forest fire fighting organization, as well as promote the over-all intensive fire control program sponsored by the N. C. Forest Service.

This program is to be promoted primarily through public schools. (Continued on page 4—Sect. A)

Rufus Allison Rogers, 73, whose two sons, George and Robert, were both killed in action during World War II, died of a heart attack in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital Monday night.

Mr. Rogers, who lived on Route 2 near Halifax, was a prosperous farmer.

He was the son of the late Calvin and Virginia Browning Rogers.

Funeral services were held from the graveside at Taber Church, Auralon Springs, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. (Continued on page 4—Sect. A)

First Returned Body Arrives For Reburial

Funeral services for Halifax County's first soldier killed in action overseas in World War II to be returned to this country for reburial, Private First Class John Wayne Thomas, will be held Friday afternoon from the W. C. Williams Funeral Home Chapel at 4:00, the Rev. Gordon L. Price, officiating.

Private First Class Thomas was killed in action on Saipan Island at the age of 20. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas of 1005 Cedar Street.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, of Roanoke Rapids, will have charge of military ceremonies at the grave. Sgt. Dick Collins, commander of the local post, announced this morning.

Navy Men Held In Slashing

Two sailors off the USS Spokane, a cruiser stationed in Norfolk, Va., were in Halifax County jail without privilege of bond this week as a result of a switchblade knife late Saturday night of Harold W. Fields, 26 year old Atlantic Coast Line railroad employee, in Weldon.

Fields, who was with the ACL wrecker crew engaged in clearing up the wreckage of the Seaboard freight and switch collision, was in McGuire Hospital in Richmond with a severe gash in his left thigh.

Weldon police arrested C. P. Johnson, 22, of Mississippi, and C. C. Lunsford, 20, of Tennessee, on charges that Johnson hit Fields with a bottle and Lunsford cut him with a knife in an 11:40 p. m. street altercation on First Street in Weldon Saturday.

Jackets Journey To Elizabeth City For Fifth Battle

By WILEY WARREN

The Roanoke Rapids Yellow Jackets will attempt to break back into the win column tomorrow night at Elizabeth City when they'll meet Coach Honey Johnson's outfit in a homecoming affair.

It'll be a clash between Yellow Jackets and all indications point to it as the week's conference headliner.

The coastal city's Jackets defeated the locals 14-0 in last season's game. (Continued on page 4—Sect. A)