

# Roanoke Ramblings

"DON'T RUN MY ad any more, Doug," said John Carr to our shop foreman one day last week. "What's the matter, John?" Doug asked. "Wasn't it right?" "It's too right, W. Doug," replied Carr, who does carpentry and furniture repair in his backyard over on Hamilton Street. "I ran it twice and I've got so much work now I'll never catch up!"

FROM THE STATE publication of the N. C. State Employment Service, we see that Elton C. Parker, manager of the Roanoke Rapids office, a former interviewer and supervising interviewer in Rocky Mount, has been promoted to placement specialist, State office. We wonder if Elton will be leaving us?

AS IF GRAHAM Norwood didn't have enough bad luck last week when he fell down and cut his finger so badly the doc had to put four clamps on it, he has lost his clothes. His mom, that's Mrs. Ruth Norwood over at the cafe, got the clothes and was going to put them in Graham's grandmother's car so that lady could take them home for washing. What happens is that Ruth puts them in an identical 1939 model Ford, green in color and a two door top, and they have now "vamoosed." It all happened Tuesday night about 9:30 and the folks who drove off with them may have been to the show. In case they haven't discovered them—right now—let's everybody with a green '39 Ford look in the trunk.

JUST IN CASE any of you former Leathernecks are interested—November 10th will be the 172nd anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps.

A PROPHECY is oft without honor in his own country, but we don't want Mr. W. Henry Overman to think that adage applies to him. We're keeping tabs on his football predictions in The State magazine contest and we see that so far this season he has only made two bad guesses. (By the way, only four have perfect records and nine are in Mr. Overman's category with two bad guesses.)

DOING A GOOD JOB with the Boy Scouts over in Weldon is Walter Christie (known as "Chris"). Chris is a native of Georgia—he came from Decatur and everyone from Weldon with whom we've talked says he's the right man for the job with the boys. Of course, when we talked with Chris we didn't find it out—the man's too modest! On the side, he works for the telegraph company.

MRS. J. H. CULLOM, of Box 368 in Roanoke Rapids, sent us an interesting souvenir this week, a memento of the First Armistice Day in Roanoke Rapids—29 years ago. It was a faded handbill printed here on November 11, 1918, and found in her husband's safe after his death recently. We think it worth reprinting here:

**THE WAR IS OVER**  
Firing Ceased at 8 A. M. This Morning

**THE HUN IS WHIPPED**  
Roanoke Rapids Township Helped To Do It.

Citizens — One and All — Meet at the Central School House (Roanoke Rapids) Tonight (Monday) 8 P. M. To Celebrate.

Speeches — Band — More Speeches All Business is to Stop at 7 P. M. Monday — No Fire — BOYS GET BUSY. Bon Fire in Center Base Ball Park at 10 P. M. Tonight.

J. T. CHASE, MAYOR

WE FINALLY FOUND the Roanoke Rapids D. C. Clark (yes, at 79 Hamilton Street) and that was all a mistake about his having shot that deer. He said he took a ribbing about the deer, but we assured him that we were really informed he had gotten one of the animals. We were bound to promise not to be telling about his getting a deer again unless it be so.

FOOTBALL KEEPS COMING to everyone's mind these days. We are just inexcusable in our delay in reporting this to you, but young "Doc" Murphy got into the Wake Forest line-up for a spell when the Deacons trounced George Washington University a couple of weeks ago. And Jack McKenzie is playing freshman football at E. C. T. C. this year. He played with the Jack-ets last season.

WE MET Mr. J. A. Greene this week. He came in to tell us about the Exchange Club's having two guests from the senior class at the high school—boy and a girl—at each of their meetings from now until the end of the school year. That's a mighty nice gesture, Mr. Greene, and we feel sure the seniors will appreciate that.

THE FAISON-CANNON office has a new employee as Betty Wynne Ingram has started working there.

An estimated 13 million pounds of milk were produced on North Carolina farms during September. This is eight million pounds less than for August but four million pounds above production in September a year ago.

Chief of Police Thomas J. Davis tendered his resignation to the Board of City Commissioners and the Mayor Monday afternoon and said he had "received such a good offer from the Greenville city officials that I just couldn't turn it down."

The resignation, which is effective the 15th of this month, was officially made public at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners Tuesday afternoon and elicited much comment, all of which was in praise of the fine record the popular officer had made since assuming the duties of chief here last November 11th.

Davis, who came here in June 1946, served three months on the local force as a night policeman and was elevated to the top post in the department upon the transfer of former chief H. E. Dobbins to the tax collector's office.

"I regret very much leaving Roanoke Rapids," Davis told reporters, "but I feel that I must accept the Greenville offer due to the greater possibilities there and the fact that the police department over there is a larger organization."

"I appreciate the cooperation of the mayor, the city commissioners, the citizens, the radio and the press," he continued. "Any progress we may have made in law enforcement in Roanoke Rapids has been due entirely to that fine cooperation."

**Larger Police Force**  
Greenville, minus a chief since the resignation of Jim Tanner over a week ago, has a 23 member police department and hired Davis on the basis of a recommendation from the North Carolina Institute of Government.

The Board of Aldermen in Greenville were summoned to a called meeting Saturday night to consider the recommendation. They unanimously elected Davis to succeed Tanner.

**Has Outstanding Record**  
Throughout his career, Davis has an outstanding record. He served 14 years with the Burlington force and was chief at Laurinburg for 15 months. He graduated from the Institute of Police Government course at Chapel Hill in 1937; spent six months in 1938 studying fingerprint identification under W. F. Whitley (who was later to become director of the Bureau of Investigation for Wake County and the City of Raleigh) and was graduated from the FBI National Police Academy with the 17th class.

**Nothing But Praise**  
Since news of the resignation became known, nothing but praise for his work here has been heard. From many citizens have come expressions of regret at his leaving, but wishing him good luck in his new post. In his letter of resignation, Davis said he would not move his family to Greenville until about January first and, under then, he would be in and out of town about twice a week. He declared that he would be more than willing to assist whomever is chosen to succeed him in any way that he could and if he could ever help any of the officials or citizens of Roanoke Rapids he wanted to be called on to do so.

## October Comparisons Show 1947 Building Surpasses Last Year for First Time

The \$181,850 worth of building permits in all classifications issued by the city during month of October sent this year's building total to \$777,950 worth with \$422,500 worth in new home construction and \$355,450 for other building. Totals last year at the same time (end of Oct.) found home building running at \$252,000 and other at \$469,005 worth, for a total of \$721,000. In October of 1946 permits were issued for \$15,000 worth of new homes and \$2100 worth of other building, for a month total of \$17,100. This October saw \$43,000 worth of home permits issued and \$138,850 worth of other permits for a total of \$181,850 worth.

**NOVEMBER PERMITS**  
This week, in the first three days of November permits were issued for five new homes at a total cost of \$29,500 and for two other non-residential building projects at an estimated cost of \$9,150 for a total of \$38,650 worth during which the total of new homes in the city this year was brought to 95. The permits were: to Brown Furniture Company for repair work on building on Roanoke (Continued on page 4—Sect. A)

### \$11,000 Appropriation

The Board of County Commissioners has approved the request of the Board of Education for an additional appropriation of \$11,000 for completing the renovation of an elementary building and cafeteria in Scotland Neck, providing the funds can be obtained. It was announced this week by County Schools Superintendent W. Henry Overman.

In addition, the two boards made plans to visit schools in the County Administrative Unit for the purpose of inspecting the physical condition of the buildings and equipment. It is expected that as a result of these visits, a program of planning for the improvement of the school plants will result. November 12th and 19th have been set as the days for visiting. Other days will be decided upon at a later time.

## Jackets Meet Greenville Here Friday

By WILEY WARREN

Returning their attention to the Northeastern Conference after that embarrassing 33-6 loss to Oxford, Rock Vendors' Yellow Jackets entertain Greenville's Greensies here Friday night in a homecoming affair.

The contest is scheduled to get underway at 8 o'clock. Greenville comes here with a 1-3 record in loop play. The Greensies beat Tarboro 14-6 while the Jax subdued the Tigers by a 26-13 count. Comparing the scores, the Jackets prove to be 19 points better.

Last week Greenville defeated Williamson 13-0 in a non-conference tilt. Mildly speaking, no one seems to know the trouble with Yellow Jackets. Oxford possessed a good club and was the best team that the Jax have played, but they weren't 27 points better.

Venters and his assistant Danny Cagle have drilled the Jax on every phase of the game this week in efforts to improve the squad. Numerous tackles were missed in the Oxford tilt and the Jax mentor hopes to have corrected these faults. No official starting line-up was posted, as Venters revealed the probability of many changes. Greenville won't be taken lightly by the Jackets. In past performances, the Greensies, like the Jackets, appear to be a hot and cold outfit.

Roanoke Rapids is listed in the favorite's role, but as one observer put it—"only eleven men can play at one time."

### Fall Church Festival

The Woman's Society of the First Methodist Church will sponsor a fall festival at the church annex on Friday, November 7, 1947. Beginning at 5:30 P. M. a supper will be served where a personal choice can be made for a delicious plate of oysters, fried or stewed, country ham, or chicken salad, along with hot rolls and coffee. At the same time, there will be for sale home made cakes, pies, and candies. Also, garden produce, plants and flowers and household wares. A special display of infant wear will be on sale. Entertainment for the children will be provided in the form of movies, fishing, games and a doll show.

Heading the various committees are the following: Gen. Chairman and Asst.: Mrs. D. L. Wheeler and Mrs. W. G. Collier, Food: Mrs. A. Edwin Akers, Household Arts: Mrs. Blair T. Gibson, Plants and Flowers: Mrs. J. W. Harrell, Amusements: Miss Sara Cannon, Supper: Mrs. Allmand White. The public is cordially invited.

## City Officials Dig First Grave in New Cemetary



First grave in the new city cemetery was begun by (left to right) Mayor J. T. Chase, City Commissioner Marvin D. Collier and City Street Manager George Justice recently, while Murphy Gowens (behind Justice), W. C. Williams and Joe O'Neal look on.

## Education Week To Be Observed Locally

(Editor's Note—The Herald is pleased to print the following article submitted by the Roanoke Rapids Teacher's association in connection with observance of American Education Week.)

week of November 9-15 and learn some of the answers. Open house will be observed in each school as follows: Central School Tuesday; Clara Hearne School Wednesday; Rosemary School Thursday; Vance Street School Thursday; Sixth Grade Building all week; High School -- no definite time.

"THE SCHOOLS ARE YOURS!" That is the slogan chosen by the National Education Association for American Education Week which is November 9-15. Each day of this week has a specific topic. They are: Sunday, Nov. 9, Securing the Peace; Monday, Meeting the Emergency in Education; Tuesday, Building America's Future; Wednesday, Strengthening the Teaching Profession; Thursday, Supporting Adequate Education; Friday, Enriching Home and Community-Life and Saturday, Promoting Health and Safety.

Ask yourself a few questions concerning the schools of Roanoke Rapids: Who is Superintendent of the City Schools? Answer—Mr. J. E. Ready.

How many elementary schools do we have? Answer—four and the sixth grade building. The High School is composed of Junior High and Senior High. Who is your child's teacher? Who is president of your P. T. A.?

These are just a few of the more simple questions. There are many more. Visit your school during the week of November 9-15 and 7-45 p. m. both over the local station, WCBT.

## Jimmie Wright Killed Sunday in Plane Crash

Jimmie Langford Wright, 23, of Roanoke Rapids, an ensign in the Naval Reserve, was killed last Sunday morning about 9:50 when his Gruman Avenger torpedo bomber collided with another piloted by Vic Dean McGinley, about 30, of Virginia Beach, at an altitude of about 500 feet as their VA-62, Norfolk Naval Air Station Reserve squadron was operating out of Norfolk on a routine gunnery mission.

Wright, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wright, of Route one, Roanoke Rapids, was decorated for his work at Iwo Jima during World War II.

As of Wednesday night, the bodies of the two crash victims had not been found although Navy search planes had been circling the area for four days.

Surviving in addition to the parents are five sisters: Mrs. R. G. Harris, Mrs. David I. Wall Mrs. Bryant Gray, Mrs. Mary Belle Setteau, all of Roanoke Rapids, and Mrs. R. D. Jenkins of Littleton; and four brothers, Edward, Paul, Woodrow and Rabb Wright, all of Roanoke Rapids.

McGinley was the father of a six weeks-old daughter.

## Auction Sales Tuesday - Thursday

The Herald apologizes for an error in the advertisement of Rochelle Realty Company appearing on page 5 —section B, of this issue. The ad is titled "2 Big Auction Sales," Tuesday, November 11th, which is CORRECT.

BUT — just underneath there is "4 Big Auction Sales, Tuesday, November 13th." THIS IS INCORRECT and should have read: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th. The error "slipped by" for which The Herald is very sorry.

## The Local Week . . .

**TWO SENTENCED**  
Eddie Gibson and Lewis Gibson, Gaston men arrested by Constable John Dixon on charges of engaging in an affray in which a deadly weapon was used, were sentenced to six and nine months respectively, in Northampton County Superior Court at its last term. Eddie Gibson was released on probation by the court after sentences were pronounced. The charges grew out of a shooting affray near an establishment owned by Vance Baird in Gaston recently.

**WHITE SCHOOLS CLOSE**  
All white schools in the County Administrative Unit will have a holiday on Friday, November 14th, it was announced today by County Superintendent W. Henry Overman. The action is to enable teachers to attend the District Meeting of the North Carolina Education Association in Raleigh on that date.

**KIWANIANS ELECT**  
The Roanoke Rapids Kiwanis Club elected the following officers for 1948: President, Dr. W. D. Hall; vice-president, Edwin Akers and secretary-treasurer, George Hayes.

**SLUGGED, ROBBED**  
John Barnette, an employee at Speight-White, returning from a business trip to Durham, was knocked unconscious and robbed

## Decline To Name Successor To Davis Without Presence Of 2 Absent Commissioners

Glancing around the commissioner's table in their room in the municipal building Tuesday afternoon and finding two members not present, the members of the board of City Commissioners decided to meet in special session tonight to fill the position of chief of police left vacant by the sudden resignation of T. J. Davis Monday.

Commissioner M. D. Collier, ill at his home, and Jimmie Sears were the two not able to be present and, although some members present indicated their willingness to select the new chief right then, they finally agreed to postpone any possible action on choosing a successor to Davis until tonight's specially called meeting at 7:45.

When Davis' letter of resignation was formally read to the board by Mayor J. T. Chase, varied comments of regret at losing Davis were heard. All members in attendance

said they had received numerous phone calls in regard to a possible successor. Pruden said, "I hated to hear that letter read. But I'm gratified to know that so many people are taking an interest in the police department. It hasn't always been that way."

A. M. Cameron expressed regrets also at losing Davis, but declared, "I think he was a bit too hasty. He should have met with the board and given us a chance to try to meet the Greenville offer!"

Mayor Chase summed up the feelings of most local citizens when he said, "The man has ruined us! He's just been too good!"

**Armory Inspection Due**  
A letter from Capt. Raleigh W. (Buster) Seay, requesting an appropriation of \$2,000 from the city board, county board and school board for initial repairs to the Roanoke Rapids Armory and an additional appropriation of \$75 per month for maintenance of the structure, was read to the board by the mayor.

After reading of the letter, there was a pause after which Mayor Chase gave an informal report of conditions as he found them on a recent visit to the armory.

He described the place as filthy in general with several exceptions and said the kitchen, in particular, was one that "you wanted to get out of as quickly as you possibly could."

After a discussion he appointed W. H. Pruden and R. I. Starke a committee of two to look into the situation and prescribe needed remedies before the board acted on Seay's letter.

**Maps Contracted For**  
Rives Manning, representing the City Planning board, as chairman of the Highways and Streets Committee of that body, appeared to ask for an appropriation of \$150 for having some maps made of the highways leading into the city. The commissioners voted to appropriate the necessary sum and a small additional sum to purchase several of the maps for the city's use. Manning gave a summarized report of work done by the Planning group, citing the approval of the airport project as the result of one phase of that work.

**Traffic Lights**  
Representatives of two firms bidding on the contract for new traffic lights appeared before the board. One recommended lights at Seventh and Hamilton; Tenth and Hamilton; Fifth and Jackson; Tenth and Jackson; Fifth and Roanoke Avenue and an Eighth and Roanoke Avenue. He also recommended that all lights on avenue be synchronized and timed so that a motorist proceeding at a moderate rate of speed would be able to drive from one end of town to the other without having to stop at all. This, he said, would necessitate the purchase of 7,000 feet of cable and the entire cost of the seven new lights, as installed, would be around \$4,000.

The board took his recommendations and those of the representative of the other firm on under advisement and it was reported they would act in giving consent.

**Cemetery Report**  
Mayor Chase gave a report on the cemetery. He said there are 815 lots of which "there should probably be reserved seven for war dead, 16 for connecting the old and new cemeteries at some future date and 42 lots in a section for pauper graves." That, the mayor pointed out left 750 for sale at prices ranging from \$125 to \$450. (He said these were only estimated prices and merely made in order to give the board a working figure to start on.)

He suggested that the city invest \$50,000 for bond retirement and use the other \$107,000 for a maintenance fund. If invested at five percent, this sum would bring in about \$9,000 yearly for upkeep of the cemetery.

**Parking Meters**  
A motion was passed by the board that parking meters be installed in the congested areas of the city at the discretion of the city commissioners and that parking meter manufacturers be notified so that they may submit bids at the next regular meeting of the board on December second.

Lane said a parking light was (Continued on page 4—Sect. A)