

Roanoke Ramblings

What Roanoke Rapids Makes - Makes Roanoke Rapids

THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 1948

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This Was All Very Nice . . .



FIVE ROANOKE RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. (left to right) Earl Waters, Lola Cates, Margaret Outland, Ann Grizzard and Earl Rook, enjoyed a bit of sledding in front of the Rosemary Baptist Church two weeks ago. (See picture at bottom of page).

Father-Son Banquet Here To Start Boy Scout Week

The annual Boy Scout Father and Son Banquet tomorrow night at the High School Cafeteria will inaugurate activities for Boy Scout Week in the Halifax District, it was announced today by H. J. Hines, District chairman.

Scouts and their fathers from Enfield, Halifax, Littleton and Weldon, in addition to those in Roanoke Rapids, received invitations to the banquet.

Hines reported that a gala program has been planned for the occasion, including the showing of a film on Scouting, a stunt or skit by each troop with awarding of a prize for the best performance and awards to the best dressed Scout present and to the troop showing the most improvement for the year.

A trophy will be presented to the Scout who is adjudged the "Best All-around Scout in the District." Scoutmasters have been asked to submit the names of their outstanding Scouts who may qualify for this award which is presented annually by Clyde Liske.

Two Januaried Neck and Neck in Building Race

January of 1948 trailed the same month of last year in total amount of building permit evaluation, but it was by only \$425 and it was without benefit of a \$20,000 permit issued last January for the construction of the grandstand at Simmons Park.

The comparative figures were: Jan. '48 - \$5,000 \$40,000 \$45 January 1947, homes \$5,000; other \$40,000; total \$45,000.

January 1948, homes \$31,700; other \$12,875; total \$44,575. Permits were issued for six new home construction projects this year in the first months as contrasted with one lone permit issued in January of 1947.

With the issuance of three more permits - all for new homes - this week, the total for 1948 so far is \$55,075 with \$42,200 of the evaluation having been issued in connection with the construction of nine new homes within the city limits.

Wins Bet By Herald Files C. J. Joyner of 401 Monroe Street came into the Herald office Friday afternoon in search of some information. Seems he and Henry Cashwell out in West Rosemary were having an argument about when a truck crashed through the river bridge and destroyed an entire section of the bridge. (Before you go any further, see if you know.) Well, Mr. Joyner, who came to Roanoke Rapids in 1917, said it happened in 1922. The Herald files were searched thoroughly (the Rambler, Mr. Joyner and several of the staff can vouch for that) and the exact date was disclosed. It happened on Thursday morning May 1st, 1930 and the story was in the issue of that date.

Said Mr. Joyner, the happy winner, "Thanks". Memories Do Fail But that's no reflection on Mr. Cashwell's recollection. Many another local citizen this week was finding out that memories do fail.

For instance, the snow. When was the last big one? Answers ranged from 1927 to 1936 with correctness dependent upon what you call a big snow. The opinion of the majority was that 1927 was the biggest of the three and that the one of 1936 was about the same as this week's fall.

Some Snow Stories Some lively tales were springing up around town as a result of the snowfall. The Rambler caught a few of them. For instance: Tom Alston, janitor at the Municipal Building, spent from about 11 o'clock Sunday morning to about one o'clock that afternoon shoveling snow away from the front of the building. Just as Tom had about cleared it all away and stepped back to admire his work—you guessed it—about 2000 pounds of the stuff catapulted off the roof narrowly missing Tom and two passersby.

Mused Tom as he looked at the white mountain of snow ruefully - "Now I'll have to do it all over again." The Firemen Had Their Moments As Well The firemen were having their turbulent times Saturday night and early Sunday morning. After answering 1 call Saturday night the boys had retired in hopes there would be no more work for them. At about a quarter to four they were awakened by an unfortunate motorist whose vehicle was stuck right behind the fire station. They got him out and went back to the station.

In a few minutes he was back. After one trip around the block, he was stuck again. As they told about the incident Sunday morning, the smoke-eaters were knocking on wood at their good fortune in not having any calls until the streets had been scraped. They didn't care either, they said, if they didn't have any calls afterward. They are one group of city employees no one minds seeing idle from their profession.

Taking A Trip The Rambler walked on down the Avenue and at the junction he encountered a Mr. Strickland and friend (whose name we did not catch) both of whom were trying to get back home to Weldon. Mr. Strickland is an employee of the telephone company and said he would not have left his home if his boy, Curtis, hadn't been in Roanoke Rapids Hospital after having been hurt in an auto accident South of Weldon Friday. His truck was snowed under, said Mr. Strickland, but he walked over since he was bound to visit his boy. Well we strung along with him for awhile when we met Chief Pete Davis going back toward Roanoke Rapids. "Where in the heck do you think you're going?" asked Pete. "Oh, just looking the situation over, chief," we replied. "Well, next week I want to write a piece in the Herald about you," he said as he drove on sadly twisting his finger around his ear to indicate insanity.

On The Way Out We're getting a little ahead of our story though. Up around 10th Street we saw Jack Vincent looking wistfully at the Vincent-Rochelle grader on the lot across from Howard Pruden's place. Jack wanted to use it to "un-snowbound" himself, but he couldn't. It was snowbound too. "Jack Earman saw a dog out in the snow this morning with up" said Vincent as he expertly whizzed a snowball past our ear and struck a telephone pole for a called strike. "He took the dog in the house and put it by the heater to warm up. Sure wish I could get that grader out!"

Two Suicide Tries Fail But Persistency Wins Death For 24 Year Old Enfield Negro

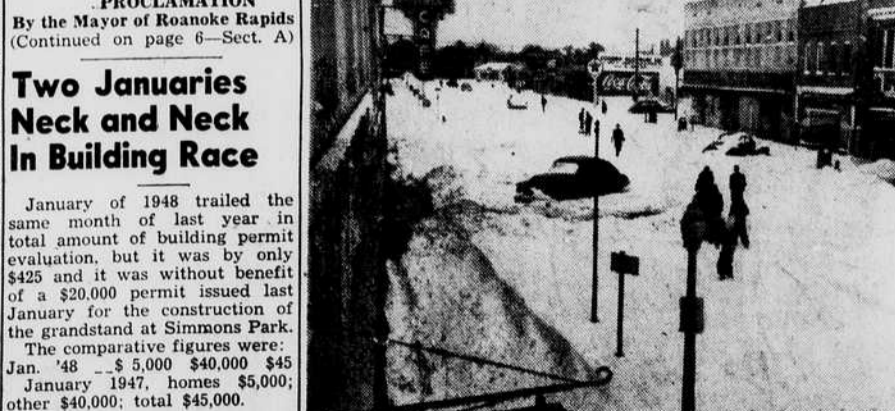
Thwarted by his five drinking companions in two previous attempts at suicide, Willie Barnes, 24 year old Enfield Negro, succeeded on a third try when the jacket, to which the other Negroes were clinging, slipped from his body and he fell under the wheels of a truck sustaining fatal injuries.

The accident, which was investigated by State Highway Patrolman A. S. Godwin, Jr. and Deputy Sheriff C. O. Strickland, occurred at about six o'clock Monday evening at a point near Beach Swamp north of Enfield.

The driver of the truck, who was released after a coroner's jury had found him blameless, was listed by Coroner R. W. Britton as A. P. Cooper of Bowling Green, Florida. The vehicle was traveling north as were the (Continued on page 6—Sect. A)

Hoyle E'ected 1948 Community Chest Prexy

... But This Wasn't Particularly Enjoyed



ROANOKE AVENUE uptown looked like this Sunday morning after snow had fallen continuously from late Saturday night until early Sunday. Depth of the snow, the largest here since about ten years ago, was estimated as from 14 to 17 inches, but the wind had piled drifts waist deep in some places in town.

The snowfall Saturday night and early Sunday morning in general disrupted the Roanoke Rapids routine. Some of the things it caused were: The shutting down of Roanoke Rapids schools for two days (Monday and Tuesday). Although Weldon schools and all schools in Halifax County Administrative Unit had lost a week's time the snow was on roads, local schools had continued "business as usual."

This week, the other schools in the county were still closed but the Roanoke Rapids children returned to their classrooms yesterday. An announcement was made at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

Permits were issued this week to: J. E. Davis, for a one story block residence with four rooms at 1227A Jefferson Street at an estimated cost of \$1,500; to E. A. Wrenn, for the construction of a one story residence at 413 Rapids Street with four rooms and bath, at \$5,000; and to F. M. Rightmeyer, for a one story frame residence with four rooms and bath at 3003 Marshall Street, at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

Eight Month Old Child Dies of Suffocation

Ruth Glendora Hovis, eight month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow D. Hovis of 1833 East Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, Va., and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hovis and Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Biggs of Roanoke Rapids, was found dead in her crib at her home about 11:15 last Friday morning.

Police officers who investigated, said the child evidently worked her way under the bed covers and death was caused by suffocation. Apparently the child gave no outcry, police reported. The tragedy was discovered by her mother.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. M. J. Shanks, pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Survivors, in addition to the parents and grandparents, include one brother, Danny, age two, and one sister, Julie, age three.

Man, Stricken As Puts Car-Chains On, Dies Here

A South Dakota man, George E. Melody, 57, died in Roanoke Rapids Hospital at eight p. m. Sunday after he had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage 4 hours earlier while putting chains on his Florida - bound automobile two miles north of Weldon.

Melody, a veterinary surgeon, his wife, his wife's sister and her husband, a Mr. and Mrs. Pierce of Alliance, Ohio, were en route from Washington, D. C. to Florida at the time. Forced to park beside the road due to traffic congestion on Highway 301, they had decided to put the chains on their instead of waiting until they got to Weldon.

Pierce said he and Melody got out and Melody began attaching the chains. Suddenly, said Pierce his brother - in - law slumped over. Thinking he was merely resting, Pierce finished putting on the chains and told Melody they were ready to go. When he didn't answer, Pierce got him in the car and drove into Weldon in search of a doctor.

Advised to get him to the hospital immediately, Pierce took him to Roanoke Rapids where he died without regaining consciousness.

The body was shipped Tuesday to Gettysburg, South Dakota and funeral rites will be held there tomorrow morning.

JAYCEES MEET 13th

The Roanoke Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce will meet Friday night, February 13th, instead of next Thursday night. President Frank Neal announced today.

The Local Week . . .

DOLLAR DAY POSTPONED was reported. Because of the bad weather Silver Dollar Days planned for February 5, 6 and 7th have been postponed until February 19, 20 and 21st, the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association announced.

This week the group will hold its annual meeting with election of officers Wednesday night at 7 o'clock at the Rosemary Cafe.

SATURDAY NIGHT FIRE

Firemen were called to a residence at 204 Hamilton Street Saturday evening at about 8:15 where some sills under the house had caught fire from a blow torch. Firemen said one of the occupants had been trying to thaw out the water pipes under the house with the blow torch and the wood caught fire from the sparks. Only minor damage.

DIMES DANCE STAURDAY Postponed twice due to inclement weather, the VFW Saturday night dance this week will be for the benefit of the March of Dimes. D. E. Bennett, chairman of the President's Bull committee of the Lions Club, announced today. All proceeds will be turned over to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Halifax Chapter.

City Board Will Look Over Paving Plans Wednesday

\$20,000-\$25,000 Damage Is Estimated After Fire Razes Lumber Company Workshop

Flames swept through the workshop of the Turner Lumber Company four blocks from Weldon's main business district in the early hours Saturday morning, causing damage estimated by Weldon Fire Chief Lynn Medlin as between approximately \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Believed to have started from a coal stove on the inside of the building, the fire was spotted at about 4:30 a. m. by night watchman Morton Harlow, who summoned firemen.

Medlin said 10 members of the department responded, but that they were unable to save the building. They then concentrated their efforts on preventing the spread of the blaze to other buildings.

The Weldon fire chief said they fought back the flames for about an hour and a half in protection of surrounding property and experienced great difficulty due to the 19 degree temperature which caused the water to freeze almost as soon as it emerged from the hose.

Extra Police Called Out When Record Crowd Jams Uptown Theatre Entrance

Weldon Man Injured When Car Overtures On Ice-Covered 301

Curtis Strickland, 30, of Weldon, was in Roanoke Rapids Hospital this week recovering from head injuries and face cuts received when a 1941 Penn-Willys Strickland, slid off U. S. Highway about four miles South of Weldon on Highway 301 and overturned several times.

The driver received a bruised back and scratches in the accident which happened at about five o'clock Friday afternoon, but was not hospitalized. Curtis Strickland was taken to the hospital by A. L. Hux who happened by at the time. His condition was reported Sunday afternoon as "not serious" by relatives.

Local High School Graduate Nominated For Military Academy

William Guy Britton, Jr., 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Britton of Jackson, a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School, has been nominated for appointment to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

At present stationed with the Army in Korea, young Britton's nomination was announced Tuesday by Representative John H. Kerr.

Open New Firm Here

The Carolina Auto Top and Seat Cover Co. has been opened at 110 Jackson Street in Roanoke Rapids by H. O. Keeton and W. C. Morgan, formerly with the Virginia Auto Top Company of Richmond.

The new firm offers complete reupholstering of the interior of automobiles, manufacture and installation of convertible tops, seat cover tailoring, welding of seats and quite a few other services.

James Stephens Buys Out Business Partner

James Stephens, who for the past ten years has operated David's, downtown clothing store, in partnership with L. S. Nichols of Durham, has bought out Nichols' interest in the business. He announced this week.

Nichols, who had part interest in the business, made his home in Durham and did not take an active part in operation of the store, which was opened in Roanoke Rapids October 1, 1937.

City Board Will Look Over Paving Plans Wednesday

A special meeting of the board of city commissioners of Roanoke Rapids has been called for next Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of approving plans, specifications and contract documents relative to and to make preparation for advertising for bids on, the city street paving project.

The way having been cleared by action of the voters in a special election January 6th, in which they approved the issuance of \$404,000 in city bonds for the purpose, close observers of the local scene estimated that work should start by April first.

Phillip Freeman of Norfolk, consulting engineer on the project, will be in Roanoke Rapids to go over the final drafts with the board at the meeting.

Lengthy Session Tuesday The commissioners met in a lengthy session Tuesday and disposed of several matters of business. The topic which came in for longest discussion was the notice given recently by the Sanitary District that fire hydrant rental, heretofore \$7.06 per year, would have to be increased to \$20 in view of increased costs. Objection was voiced by several of the commissioners, and action on the matter was postponed until such time as all board members were present. The city has 199 fire hydrants at present with several more on order. Sanitary Board members Robert Cleaton, M. C. Newsum, Sr., and M. H. Hedgepeth had met with a committee from the board of commissioners regarding the project. (Continued on page 6—Sect. A)

Kiwanians Join Pleas For Special Session

The Roanoke Rapids Kiwanis Club has added its official voice to those of other civic and business clubs in the city as regards petitioning for a special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of raising teacher's salaries and educational appropriations.

In their Thursday night meeting, the Kiwanians petitioned the Governor of North Carolina to call a special session and, in the petition, pointed out the rapid rise in the cost of living and the anticipated loss in teacher personnel due to such rise.

A gala home-talent Ladies Night was planned for February 12th. The event, an annual affair, attracts some 150 ladies, special guests and members, the Kiwanians reported. The main portion of the program was presented by the Education Committee which stressed knowing fellow members, better and practice of the Sermon on the Mount.

City's Transit Company Will Increase Service

Roanoke Transit Company, operator of the local city bus system, has been granted a franchise to transport passengers, baggage and light express on routes in and near Roanoke Rapids, and from Roanoke Rapids to Garysburg, the State Utilities Commission has revealed.

The franchise, which was granted Tuesday, specified that the firm shall operate not less than three round trips daily between Roanoke Rapids and Garysburg and that the trips shall be timed to meet shifts changes at the local mills. Issuance of the order followed a public hearing held here January 29th.

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