

# Roanoke Ramblings

We Won't Quibble  
Last Thursday, the Rambler told what he thought was a right swell little story about a customer asking Johnny Wilbourne what Johnny Crutchfield thought he was doing and didn't he know "Prima Vera" meant springtime in Spanish.

Comes now the words of wisdom from Chet Chase saying don't we know better than to hang our ignorance out on the clothes-line for all to see and why don't we look up the word "Prima Vera" in the encyclopedia before we do. Avers Chet, the words Prima Vera mean a kind of Central American tree which has a very hard trunk of wood.

Chet, as we wrote, "primavera" in Spanish also (Border Mexican anyway) means springtime. It so happened that the words as spelled in last week's column meant the tree which we are now up and sawing off the limb behind us.  
(Anyway, Johnny Crutchfield said it was still news to him about Prima Vera being a tree. Somebody here in the office said they thought it was a first cousin to Primo Carnera.)

**Ill In Hospital**  
The many friends of Ellis Crew, popular manager of radio station WCBT and resident of Pleasant Hill, will be sorry to learn that he is ill in a Richmond hospital.

**John Chasing John**  
The recent court sentence on John Brown, colored street department employee, had us reminiscing yesterday — the Rambler and Constable John Dixon of Gaston.

Constable Dixon says he remembers Brown's escapades from away on back and, on one occasion, came near to having his head blown off by a shotgun in the hands of the Negro who was recently given a life sentence.

It happened that Brown was wanted in Northampton County on a certain charge and the Gaston constable at that time requested assistance from the then police chief Dobbins of Roanoke Rapids. Dobbins dispatched Dixon, who was on the local force at that time, and another local officer.

They searched through a road through a particular section of the woods near Gaston where Brown was thought to be hiding out before giving up the chase.

Several days later, Mrs. Dixon's colored wash woman told her that Brown had told her, "I could have shot Mr. Dixon the other day."

And, upon checking up later, Dixon said he found out that Brown had been in a tree under which he had walked several times and could, indeed, have shot him.

Says Dixon, he learned his lesson about hunting in woods, especially in the summer time when there are lots of leaves on the trees.

**Attends Convention**  
Naff Capel of Weldon was among the 400 delegates who attended the annual convention of the North Carolina Production Credit Association at Atlantic Beach this week.

**At Summer School**  
Miss Elizabeth Wyche and Miss Dorothy Howard are attending the summer sessions at Woman's College in Greensboro.

The regular monthly dinner meeting of the Roanoke Rapids Business and Professional Women's Club will be held tonight at the Rosemary Cafe, according to an announcement made by Miss Josie Moore, president of the local BPWC.

**Harness Horse Racing**  
Some of the South's fastest (Continued to page 16)

**Two Escape Road Gang Early Today**  
Two long term prisoners fled from a road gang operating out of the Jackson Prison Camp while working near Lehman Sand Pit in the vicinity of Murfreesboro at nine o'clock this morning.

Camp authorities identified them as Raymond Snider, serving one six to 12 month sentence and two three to five year terms from Columbia County on larceny and burglary charges, of Jacksonville, N. C., and James Edgar Waters, of Hickory, serving 29 years on an armed robbery charge from Lincoln County.

Up until the time of going to press today, there were no further reports as to whether the men had been apprehended.

**Bicycle Stands**  
The Imperial Theatre has placed bicycle stands near the White Way taxi stand in uptown Roanoke Rapids. Boys and girls are asked to park their bikes in these racks and not in the front of the theatre.

# What Roanoke Rapids Makes — Makes Roanoke Rapids

VOLUME XXXIII

## Hearing Delayed At Warrenton

**Champion Raises Bond; Other Three Remain In Warren County's Jail.**

Warrenton, June 8 (Special)—Preliminary hearing in the case of four Warren County men facing charges in connection with the death last Saturday of Willie T. Jones scheduled to have been held today, has been postponed due to the fact that all lawyers could not be present.

Meanwhile, Joseph Champion, arrested as a material witness in the case, has been released under \$2000 bond. Gilbert and Grady Faulkner, whose bond was set at \$5000 each, and Phillip Lynch, under bond of \$2,000, have been unable to raise the amounts and are still in the Warren County jail here.

The men were arrested last Saturday morning after Jones was pronounced dead by Dr. Hunter of Warrenton when he arrived at Jones home in North Warrenton in response to a summons by Lynch and Champion.

A coroner's jury has ruled that Jones "came to his death from blows on the head inflicted with an automobile pump and crank handle," and, although testimony at the inquest tends to show a fight between Jones and the two Faulknors, all men connected with the case have denied hitting the victim.

The case is attracting considerable attention here as all of the young men are well known in Warrenton and vicinity.

## County Board Meets, Sets School Dates

Tentative opening dates for schools in the Halifax County Administration Building next fall were set at a recent special meeting of the Halifax County Board of Education as follows: all white schools on September 1st; all colored schools on August 30th.

In other business, the Board authorized the re-advertising for sale of the South Rosemary School building and land.

At the regular meeting of the Board held June 7, the Board, at the request of the principal and committee of Hobgood School, passed a motion recommending that the school bus now operating on Oak City School for high school pupils be discontinued and that all high school pupils from Hobgood be transported to Scotland Neck School.

**MEET AT WOODLAND**  
Woodland, June 10 (Special)—A general meeting of the W. M. U. of the Woodland Baptist Church will be held at the church Friday, June 11, at 3:30 p. m. The Bessie Harrell circle will be in charge.

**RECORDER'S COURT**  
Halifax County Recorder's Court will meet in Halifax on next Tuesday, June 15, 1948 and will have its regular term of court in Roanoke Rapids next Thursday, June 17th.

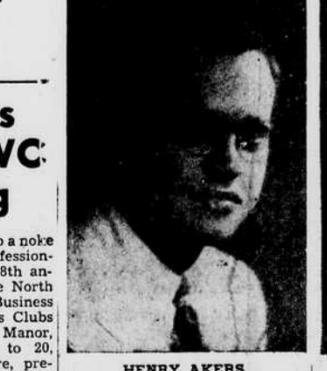
**Two Escape Road Gang Early Today**  
Robert Jones, white resident of Scotland Neck, RFD, pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon in Halifax County Superior Court during the term held the week of May 31st and was sentenced to not less than 20 nor more than 24 months on the roads. His attorney filed notice of appeal to the Supreme Court.

In other cases, S. L. Denson, white, of Whitakers, charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicating beverages, was found not guilty.

# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1948

## Veterans Head Local Civic Clubs



**HENRY AKERS**  
Henry Akers, new president of the Roanoke Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce, announced today the appointment of Jaycees who will serve on the organization's standing committees during the coming year.

Akers, who is a charter member of the local Jaycee group, headed the Community Chest drive for Roanoke Rapids last fall. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and served in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Other recently installed Jaycee officers include: Harvey Woodruff, vice-president; Paul Green, secretary; George Netherton, treasurer; Frank Neal, chairman of the Board of Directors; Joe Talley, Raine Wilson, Carlton Cannon and Bill Edwards, Jr., directors.

Following are the committee chairmen and members appointed by Akers:  
Civic Improvement: Monroe Starke, chairman; Arnold Hughes, R. C. Brown, and John Wilbourne, Jr., directors.

House and Entertainment: Buster Seay, chairman; Bobby Martin, Douglas Keeter, and George Nash, Jr.  
Projects: Frank Neal, chairman; Jack Vincent, Joe Hatem and Frank Rightmyer.

Resolutions: Lunsford Crew, chairman; Graham Shell, Jim Joyner, and Walter Falsely.  
Youth Welfare: Joe Talley, chairman; Hubert Speight, Wells D. Tillery, I. B. Bunn and Bill Shell.

Health: Tommie Boone, chairman; Gene Shell, Joe O'Neal and Willis Hux.  
Awards and Scrapbook: Kindred Powell, chairman; James (Continued on Page 16)

## Rotary Barbecue

Members of the Roanoke Rapids Rotary Club enjoyed a barbecue and Brunswick stew dinner last night at Hockaday's Pond. The affair climaxed an attendance contest in which club members who missed the most meetings financed the dinner for Rotarians who attended more regularly.

Chairman of the losing side's committee was W. G. Bunch. Serving on the committee with him were Jack Stokes and Roger Albright.

## McClung Is New Managing Editor

Guy M. Leedy, assistant publisher of the Roanoke Rapids Herald, announced today that William A. McClung would assume the duties of managing editor of the Herald June 14.

McClung, who for the past several months has been managing editor of the Radford, Va., News-Journal, formerly was city editor of the Daily Advance in Elizabeth City and a news-caster over radio station WGAL.

He is well-known to residents of Northeastern North Carolina and during his two years as city editor of the Daily Advance covered many stories and sports events in the area.

McClung's newspaper background includes experience with the Bluefield, W. Va., Daily Telegraph and Sunset News as sports editor, reporter and photographer.

**Starts AP Bureau**  
He served as correspondent in charge of the Associated Press bureau in Bluefield, W. Va., in 1946 and put that bureau in operation for the AP. He also worked in the Huntington, W. Va., bureau of the Associated Press.

**Navy Veteran**  
McClung served as a photographer's mate in the Navy during World War II and spent 16 months in the Southwest Pacific where he was attached to an aviation squadron. He was discharged from the Navy in October 1945.

He is married and has twin daughters and a son. The McClungs will reside at 304 Hamilton Street.

## Local Attorney Retained For Dail's Defense

The firm of Crew and Crew, Roanoke Rapids attorneys, has been retained as counsel for the defense by Bonnie Dail, 21 year old Weldon man, charged with first degree rape in Edgecombe County.

Dail was arrested June 1st in Weldon by Weldon police chief P. R. Kitchin and State Highway Patrol Corporal Logan B. Lane on request of Tarboro authorities after a teen-aged Tarboro white girl had reported she had been criminally assaulted on the night of May 26.

Trial is scheduled for the next criminal term of Edgecombe County Superior Court which begins on September 13th. Also engaged as attorney for defense is the Tarboro law firm of Fountain and Fountain.

**FRACTURES ARM**  
Warrenton, June 9 (Special)—Mrs. Calvin Weaver, teacher in the Wise school is recovering at her home in Warren Plains from a fractured arm she sustained several days ago at the school.

## Flash Wind, Hail Storm Hits Warrenton Inflicting Damage To Tobacco Crops

Warrenton, June 8 (Special)—A flash wind, hail and electric storm hit Warrenton and vicinity yesterday afternoon at about 1:30 o'clock, disrupting telephone communications and uprooting several trees in the city.

Two trees on the courthouse lawn were twisted off and one on the John Kerr law office building corner had a large limb torn off.

While no hail was reported in Warrenton, in the Axelle and Elberon sections, there was reported some amount of it. The tobacco crop on the farm of Mrs. Mattie Frazier in the Axelle section was severely damaged by hail and wind, with the wind breaking the tobacco plants off at the ground.

## Employment High In City, Vicinity

**Weeks Denies All Charges**  
Irwin K. Weeks, former driver's license examiner for Roanoke Rapids, Murfreesboro and vicinity who was named in connection with an investigation of an alleged bribery "racket" by State Highway Patrol Sgt. A. W. Welch on May 27, told a Herald reporter this week that "I have no comment to make other than that I am not guilty of any of the charges made against me."

Weeks was interviewed in Roanoke Rapids. He is now working for the Imperial Distributing Company of Tarboro, after having resigned from his position as license examiner on Monday, May 24th.

According to news stories emanating from the Roanoke-Chowan area, Sgt. Welch and other officers were investigating what they termed a "driver's license bribery racket," claiming it had been going on in Murfreesboro and Roanoke Rapids for several months.

Although much publicity has been given the investigation of the case, no arrests have been made nor have any formal charges been filed.

Weeks assumed his duties as driver's license examiner here on September 29th after attending a school for examiners in Chapel Hill. He is a resident of Scotland Neck and is Sunday School superintendent at Nahalah Presbyterian Church in the Rosehatch community.

**Textile Workers**  
Textile workers comprise a good percentage of the workers in the Employment Office files but McNeil added that the office has orders to place them with local textile industries with time to time. The two major textile industries in the city have been fully staffed for some time, but there is still turnover which offers opportunity for the dependable worker.

During April and May the local Employment Office reports that reception contacts decreased by 20 per cent as compared to the end of the previous reporting period (covering February and March). Female contacts decreased by five per cent and veteran contacts decreased by 33 per cent.

Two hundred twenty-eight active applications were on hand in May, an 18 per cent decrease from the number on hand in April.

## Baseball Fans Warned Keep Autos Locked

Local baseball fans were warned today by the Roanoke Rapids police department to keep their automobiles locked while attending ball games at Simmons Park.

Six juveniles, colored boys, were apprehended Tuesday night for ransacking cars parked near the park.

One other instance of criminal activity was reported by the department as it indicated it was investigating a break-in at Willie's Place on East Ninth Street.

A total of \$50 in cash, a German Luger pistol and nine cartons of cigarettes made up the loot garnered by thieves who made an entry into the establishment, operated by Willie Thortis, Sunday night.

## 3 Correspondents Added By Herald

Three new correspondents have been added to the Herald staff recently it was announced today by Guy M. Leedy, assistant publisher to the publisher.

Mrs. Lawrence Denton of Woodland has been appointed correspondent and representative in Woodland, Potocasi and George.

Mrs. Jay Warren has been named correspondent in Conway.

Miss Pearl Grant is the new correspondent in Jackson, succeeding Mr. C. Kitchin Ramsay.

## 5 Members Local BPWC At Meeting

Representing the Roanoke Rapids Business and Professional Women's Club at the 28th annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was held at Mayview Manor, Blowing Rock, June 18 to 20, will be: Miss Josie Moore, president of the local BPWC, Miss Viola Glover, Miss Mary Gurley, Miss Lois Lyles and Mrs. Gertie Shell.

The theme of the convention will be "We Accept Our Responsibilities." This theme will be carried out in a program which will include panel discussions on the following topics: "Our Federal Responsibilities," "We Accept Our Citizenship Responsibilities" and "Our Responsibility for Improving International Relations."

The principal business session of the Convention is scheduled for Saturday morning, with election of officers taking place in the early afternoon.

Entertainment features on the program include a trip to Grand Mountain and a reception in honor of Dr. K. Frances Scott of Northampton, Mass., first vice-president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, who will be the National representative at this meeting.

**WOODLAND BIBLE SCHOOL**  
The Daily Vacation Bible School is being held at the Woodland Baptist Church, June 7 through June 11 from 9:00 to 11:0 a. m. with children from all churches in attendance.

Rev. Mr. Cooper, pastor of the host church, and Rev. Mr. Grant, pastor of the Methodist Church, are in charge and teachers are Mrs. Katherine Lee, beginners; Mrs. Irene Vaughan, primary; Mrs. Wingate Joyner, juniors; and Mrs. Hannah Vaughan, intermediates.

**Nutrition Group To Meet 18th At Greenville**  
Wilson, June 10 (Special)—Miss Florence Cox of Halifax, chairman of the eastern region of the State Nutrition Committee, will preside over a meeting of the eastern regional nutrition meeting next Wednesday, June 18, in Greenville.

Outstanding speakers for the meeting will be Dr. J. D. Messick, president of Eastern Carolina Teachers' College; Dr. W. J. Peterson, head of the department of nutrition in research at N. C. State College in Raleigh; and Mrs. Harriet Pressly, who has the Woman's Hour over Station WPTF in Raleigh.

Dr. Messick will speak on "Resource Recognition in Eastern North Carolina," with emphasis on human resources. Dr. Peterson's topic will be "Nutrition Needs of Dairy Products in Eastern North Carolina." Mrs. Pressly will speak on "The Effects of Publicity on Better Nutrition."

**Halifax County Has Successful Clinic**  
A very successful eye clinic was recently held in the offices of the Halifax County Health Department in Halifax, at which time a total of 73 children were given a complete eye examination by a specialist appointed by the State Blind Commission.

Dr. Matthew S. Brown of Roanoke Rapids was appointed by the State Blind Commission to hold this clinic. Sixty of the children examined were found to be in need of glasses and two were referred to hospitals for operations. This clinic was sponsored by the North Carolina Commissions for the Blind, Halifax County Welfare Department, Halifax County Health Department, and the Scotland Neck Lions Club.

During the preceding months the Public Health Nurses and Teachers screened the children in the grammar grades through out the county, exclusive of Roanoke Rapids and Weldon. Roanoke Rapids and Weldon have their own programs which are conducted throughout the year.

A representative of one of the optical companies was present during the clinic which ran for two days and who filled the prescriptions for the children who needed glasses. These glasses were made available at a special rate for these children and are paid for by the Welfare Department and the Scotland Neck Lions Club.

All children were investigated by the Halifax County Welfare Department in order to determine their eligibility for this clinic. All other children who were not eligible for this special rate were urged to make appointments with eye specialists for a complete examination.

All of these children will be followed up by the nurses to determine the program made in getting the necessary defects corrected. These vision clinics are of inestimable value in preventing serious vision defects later in life and in some instances in preventing total blindness. More over, by correcting these vision defects these children are placed in much more favorable position to maintain their work in school and to prevent repeating of grades.

By special permission from the State Board of Education, Mr. Overman, Superintendent of Public Schools, furnishes transportation for these children to and from the eye clinics. The representative of the State Blind Commission judged this clinic to be one of the best they had ever attended.

Even though the clinic was quite successful there still remains a large number of children who were not able to receive this service because of the lack of funds to render a complete program. It is hoped that in the years to come this clinic can be developed to the point so that all children who are eligible for this service can be cared for.

This inadequacy brings to mind again the pressing need for an inclusive program which would provide corrections for all defects found among school children. The children in England and in other countries are guaranteed this service while United States, the wealthiest country in the world, does not provide such a program for its children.

## Construction And Other Outside Work On Increase During April And May

According to a report just released by the local Employment Office, a high employment level has existed in the Roanoke Rapids area during the past two months.

Construction work and all other outside work has been on the increase during April and May, stated Fred W. McNeil, Jr., manager of the local office, and he added that it has now reached its highest level in all probability for the summer season.

Recently there has been a demand in construction work for replacements only, with the exception of demand for short time construction laborers, said McNeil. Many persons who were actively seeking work through the local office, have labor market by going back to farm work during the past two months period.

**Analysis Given**  
An analysis of the active registration file made on May 24 showed the following distribution of applicants: five applications were in the professional and managerial group, 28 in clerical and sales, 13 in service, 10 in agriculture, 41 skilled, 84 semi-skilled, and 47 unskilled.

It is interesting to note, pointed out McNeil, that we have a slight surplus of clerical workers at this time since they have been relatively scarce for the past several years here.

**Baseball Fans Warned Keep Autos Locked**  
Local baseball fans were warned today by the Roanoke Rapids police department to keep their automobiles locked while attending ball games at Simmons Park.

Six juveniles, colored boys, were apprehended Tuesday night for ransacking cars parked near the park.

One other instance of criminal activity was reported by the department as it indicated it was investigating a break-in at Willie's Place on East Ninth Street.

A total of \$50 in cash, a German Luger pistol and nine cartons of cigarettes made up the loot garnered by thieves who made an entry into the establishment, operated by Willie Thortis, Sunday night.

## Prison Heads Hold Meeting At Raleigh

Division Prison Supervisor J. T. Thomason of Roanoke Rapids was among 13 prison chiefs of the state penal system who attended a meeting in Raleigh yesterday with Director Clyde O. Robinson of the State Prison Department and Chief Inspector Kyle Matthews.

With spring growing into summer and prison gardens growing greener, the prison department officials are said to have been concerned with plans for canning and preserving. Spring and summer also mean that escapes and attempted escapes will probably become more frequent, and the group discussed ways and means of discipline and escape prevention measures.

Others present were: Paul E. Mallison of Greenville; second division, E. N. Fearsall of Burgaw, third; J. R. Hooks of Wilson, fourth; J. M. Barnes of Greensboro, fifth; C. B. Wickler, Asheboro, sixth; J. Frank Biles of Albemarle, seventh; J. M. Horn of North Wilkesboro, eighth; Fred L. Alley of Shelby, ninth, and R. C. Reid of Asheboro, tenth.

In addition, Tom Edison, State Women's Prison Superintendent, J. M. Toler, superintendent of Caledonia prison farm, and J. M. Harrison, superintendent of Camp Polk farm and camp, attended the meeting.

**Two Permits In Building Issues**  
Building permits for June are lagging well behind June of 1947 as only two permits have been issued so far this month. They were to D. W. King for construction of a garage at 1028 Washington Street at an estimated cost of \$700; and to Walter Kidd to build a two story residence with six rooms and two baths at 1006-1008 Hamilton Street, at an estimated cost of \$4000.

Telephone connections were quickly restored after the storm had passed and it could not be learned today to what extent the damage to the crops will amount to over the county.

The storm was the first of four to hit here yesterday and was the most severe, lasting for about half an hour. The other three produced heavy rains but no wind or hail.