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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTE 25 CENT TAX INCREASE

Miss Leathers Named New Executive Secretary Of Roanoke Rapids Red Cross

Miss Betty Leathers was elected Executive Secretary of the local chapter of the American Red Cross at a Board of Directors meeting last Thursday. She will succeed Mrs. Frank B. Neal, present secretary of the chapter, whose resignation becomes effective August 1.



Miss Leathers, who has held the position of Church Secretary of the First Baptist Church for the past year, is a graduate of Winthrop College, Rich Hill, S. C. While in college she was circulation manager of the college newspaper, secretary of the Senior Class, a member of the YWCA cabinet, on the Baptist Student Union Executive Council and a member of the student senate. Miss Leathers, who majored in sociology, worked at a camp for underprivileged children in New York state during a recent summer. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Henley Leathers of this city.

Four new members of the board of directors of the Roanoke Rapids chapter of the American Red Cross took office at the Thursday meeting. They were: Otis Brown, representing Patterson Mills; George Wilkins, representing the downtown business section; Ken Johnson of radio station WCBT and W. A. (Bill) McClung of the Herald.

Three more directors at large will be named with the week to represent the Rosemary Baptist section, the Roanoke Rapids Hospital and the VFW.

Warrenton High School Principal Resigns Position

Warrenton — Paul W. Cooper, principal of John Graham High School of Warrenton for the past 13 years, has resigned to accept a position as principal of Cary High School of Wake County.

He, Mrs. Cooper and their two sons, Paul and David, will leave Warrenton for Cary July 15. Cooper came to this county from Enoree, S. C., in 1923 as principal of the Afton-Alberon School. In 1933 he became principal of the Littleton High School and remained there until he accepted the position as principal of the local school in 1935.

While there Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have been active in civic and church work and both have been particularly interested in Scouting. Cooper has also been active in the Lions Club, having held several offices.

13,000 State Drivers Lose Auto Licenses

Raleigh.—In North Carolina, 13,062 motorists lost their right to drive last year because of traffic law offenses and practices detrimental to safety, the Motor Vehicle Department announced today.

This was an increase of over 5,000 from the 1946 total of 8,035. Department officials stated that the sharp rise in license revocations and suspensions indicated a progressive tightening of control measures to curb the dangerous driver. North Carolina's highway patrol was doubled last year from 213 to 423, this meant a double force of patrolmen on the roads to apprehend drunken and reckless drivers.

The revocation and suspension report showed that 9,069 of the 1947 revocations were for drunk driving. This was around 70 per cent of all revocations and suspensions. Officials noted that the average of drunken driving revocations for the nation as a whole was around 40 per cent, while for this State it ran to 70 per cent.

The Department pointed out that from 70 to 80 per cent of all highway accidents are caused by the driver himself—his carelessness and sometimes ignorance of traffic rules and regulations. In an effort to curb this human element as the cause for accidents, the last legislature passed the Driver Re-Examination Act, which requires that all drivers must be re-examined for a new license. The Department reports that of the drivers already re-examined, around four out of ten have failed the test on the initial try.

Gainor said the report was being turned over to the Attorney-General's office to determine whether charges should be brought in the case.

Welch specified that the alleged racket consisted of the issuance of drivers' licenses to applicants previously rejected.

Warrenton Group Sets \$110,000 Hospital; Name Site Committee

Warrenton—A \$110,000 appropriation was agreed upon for a hospital to be built in Warrenton by the local hospital board meeting with Dr. John A. Ferrell, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, and the County Board of Commissioners last night.

The sum will make possible a 35-bed hospital, W. A. Holt, secretary and treasurer of the Hospital Board, said today. Local appropriations will amount to one-fourth the total cost of the building, with funds available from the State Medical Care Commission, meeting three-fourth of the cost. Holt explained.

Dr. Ferrell, who met with the group to give exact cost of the construction, advised that a committee be appointed at once to select the hospital site.

His suggestion was acted upon at once, with Page Perkins being named chairman of the committee. Appointed to serve with him were James Hundley and John Wilson. The three will select a suitable site and more definite construction plans will be made within the next two weeks, Holt stated.

The \$110,000 local appropriation was raised by a bond issue voted in Warrenton County in March. A 12 cents tax to be used in supporting the hospital was also levied at that time.

First plans formulated for the hospital called for a 50-bed accommodation, but Dr. Ferrell, in a letter to Holt, advised that a standard hospital require \$12,000 a bed, which would make necessary appropriations amounting to \$152,000 as the county's share of the funds.

The local group decided last night that \$110,000 was all that the county could afford at this time, and that a 25-bed accommodation hospital would be built.

In advising the group of desirable qualifications for the hospital site, Dr. Ferrell pointed out that the site should be centrally located and accessible by highway and sidewalks. It should consist of from three to six acres, preferably not less than five, he advised. Room for expansion should also be considered, he warned. Other considerations to be remembered, he told the group, were nearness to the city water and sewerage facilities.

Before the site is selected, Dr. Ferrell said that it would be well for the hospital trustees to ask the Medical Care Commission and the State Health Department to inspect them before actual purchase of the site is made.

Scotland Neck Negro Found Dead In Home

Scotland Neck, (Special)—James H. Smith, 65, Negro, was found dead yesterday noon by some men working on the right-of-way near Smith's home four miles south of here.

The workers reported that they went to Smith's house for some water and saw him lying on the kitchen floor with a shotgun across his legs.

Smith, who lived alone on his 25 acre farm, was last seen about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon working on his porch. Corner Rufus Britton, who investigated the death, said that Smith had been shot in the right eye with a 12 gauge shotgun. The front door of the house was locked, the back door was open. Britton said the man died sometime between 6 and 12 p. m. Saturday night.

An inquest will be held here Monday evening.

Roy Parker Ill In Richmond Hospital

Roy Parker, professor of journalism at the University of North Carolina, and a widely known newspaperman, was taken to Johnson-Willis Hospital in Richmond last Sunday suffering from severe throat hemorrhages. Parker, whose home is in Ahoskie, has been in ill health for several months.

Polio Case Reported

Warrenton—One case of Polio has been reported in Warren County. The victim, who was crippled by an attack, is from Norlina and is now being given medical attention in a Durham hospital.

Passerby Saves Weldon Woman From Killing Herself By Breaking Fall In Woman's Leap From Second Floor

Weldon—Mrs. Pauline Perkinson of Weldon was thwarted in a suicide attempt Sunday when her leap from an apartment over a downtown store was broken by a passing pedestrian.

Police officer Ward of the Weldon Police department, who witnessed the jump gave this version.

Ward said that he saw Mrs. Perkinson jump from the second story of the M. F. Fried store building and land on a woman who was passing at the time.

The woman who broke Mrs. Perkinson's fall was identified by Ward as Mrs. George Dumas of Nanjemoy, Md.

Mrs. Dumas was examined by Dr. W. G. Suiter, who reported that she suffered minor injuries only, which included a bruised arm and some shock.

Mrs. Perkinson, who was knocked unconscious in her leap from the building, was taken to the Roanoke Rapids Hospital where she was examined. Mrs. Perkinson suffered a fractured leg and is being held at the hospital under observation until the full extent of her injuries can be ascertained.

Action Taken At Meeting Of Three Members With Davis, Alexander For The Raise; Dickens Arrives Late

Present at the closed meeting were: Commissioners John B. Davis of Enfield, C. Shields Alexander of Scotland Neck and Junius Wrenn of Roanoke Rapids. Also present were Irwin Clark, Halifax County attorney, and Frank D. Wilson, Register of Deeds.

Dickens Comes Late
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, D. G. Dickens of Littleton, arrived after the tax increase motion had been passed by a majority of the quorum present. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a. m.; it began at 10:45 a. m. Dickens expressed strong disapproval of the action taken and indicated that he would have voted against the tax increase.

Meade H. Mitchell, another Commissioner, was out of town and unable to be present.

At the meeting Davis moved that Wrenn act as chairman in the place of the absent Dickens. This motion was seconded by Alexander and carried. Davis then moved that the county tax rate be raised five cents for general county expenses and 20 cents for the benefit of the schools. This motion was seconded by Alexander. Voting for were Davis and Alexander. Voting against was Wrenn.

Check Forger Being Held In County Jail

Rexford Joyner, 25, white, of Rockingham and Roanoke Rapids, is being held in the Halifax County jail under \$5,000 bond to await trial on charges of check forgery in Halifax and Richmond counties, police reported today.

Joyner is reported to have forged the name of W. S. Dean, city, to five checks drawn on the Rosemary Branch of the Roanoke Bank and Trust Company in amounts totaling approximately \$250. The checks were made out to fictitious persons, and, according to bank officials, the signature of Dean was the "crudest kind of forgery."

The following stores cashed the checks: Patton Grocery, R. I. Starke Grocery, J. M. Butts Store, Standard Grocery, and M. C. Morris.

Joyner was picked up by local police last Friday night. He will be tried during the August term in the Halifax Superior Court.

Joyner has also been charged with check forgery by Sheriff Holland of Richmond County where he is said to have forged the name of A. R. Williams, Rockingham, on checks totaling approximately \$250.

Ernest Nethery was found guilty of speeding and was fined \$10 and costs.

Elmer H. Daughtry was found not guilty of assault and reckless driving. He was fined \$50 and costs.

Buck Wright was found guilty of reckless driving and speeding. He was fined \$50 and costs.

James Thomas Reeves was found guilty of driving with a license. He was fined \$25 and costs.

Charles F. Todd was found guilty of driving drunk. He was fined \$10 and costs.

Calvin L. Spense was found guilty of reckless driving and was fined \$10 and costs.

Recorder's Court met in Halifax June 15, 1948.

Andrew Mitchell was tried for bastardy and non-support. The Court found that the defendant had violated the terms of the judgment entered June 20, 1944, and that he is in arrears in the amount of \$345. It was ordered that the defendant be confined in jail for a period of 10 months to be assigned to work the roads. The execution of the sentence to be suspended upon condition the defendant pays in cash the sum of \$100 for the use of Margaret Doyle and the sum of \$20 monthly thereafter, payment to be made through the office of Dept. of Public Welfare of Halifax County.

George Rohanna was charged with speeding but the case was not pro with leave.

McCoy Hunter was found guilty of driving while drunk and fined \$100 and costs and license was revoked for 12 months.

Charles Henry Stephenson was found guilty of speeding. He was fined \$10 and costs.

Cyrus Jones was found not guilty of driving while drunk.

McCoy Wiggins was charged with possession of illegal liquor. Prayer for judgment was continued upon payment of the costs and on condition he remained on good behavior for two years.

Cleveland Batts was charged with the manufacture and possession of liquor. He was sentenced to two years in jail to be assigned to work under the direction of State Highway and Public Works Commission.

Roy Rogers was found not guilty of carrying a concealed weapon.

Willie Lee Hunter was found guilty of abandonment and non-support. He was given eight months in jail to be assigned to work under the direction of State Highway and Public Works Commission.

Almost half of all Navy officers on active duty have risen from enlisted service, Bureau of Naval Personnel statistics show.

(Continued on page 6)

Dog Tags On Sale; 400 Sold Here In Past Two Weeks

Approximately 400 Roanoke Rapids dog owners, men, women and children, streamed into the city clerk's office during the past two weeks to buy the required 1947-48 license which expires June 30. A total of 550 tags have been sold during the past year. It is estimated that the city's dog population is in the neighborhood of 700.

Dog tags for the coming year will go on sale at the city clerk's office July 1. The new tags will be effective from July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949.

Anyone who's been trying to think of a name for his dog might get an idea from some of the following that appeared on dog tag applications:

"Fiddle-Duck" (Johnnie J. Balme, owner); "Butcherboy" (John Lackey); "Trash" (E. L. Coker); "Smut" (B. G. Gray); "Big Dog" (Thomas Pruden); "Jiggs" (Dallas Joyner); "Blitz" (J. W. Harrell); "Leap" (Beanie Jones) and "Wimpy" (T. J. Alford).

Other interesting names include: "Cinder Lou" (N. I. Campbell); "Debutante" (E. C. Langford); "Button" (W. C. Lynch); "Cheater" (Cary Massey); "Ring" (A. R. Johnson); "Tinker" (F. C. Brown); "Bullie" (I. D. Rainey); "Boss" (J. C. Leggett); "Rip" (J. R. Meikle); "Black Gal" (Ernest Hux); "Little Bit" (J. P. Little); "Bozo" (Cranford Hoyle); "Sniffy" (G. L. Tickell); "Sparky" (H. M. Tickell); "Dinkie" (W. T. Phelps) and "Termitte" (J. P. Maurice, Sr.).

Rev. C. E. Carroll To Fill Pulpit At Warrenton Church

Warrenton—The Rev. C. E. Carroll has accepted a position as assistant minister of the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church for the summer. He will conduct services in the absence of the Rev. C. W. Robbins, pastor, who is conducting a revival in Macdon.

The new assistant preached his first sermon at the morning service Sunday.

Peddler Arrested Here On Larceny Charge

James Odom, 25-year-old Utah shoe peddler, is being held in the Halifax County jail under \$300 bond on charges of grand larceny. According to police, Odom entered Rightmyer's rooming house last Friday night and took \$82.50 belonging to Kenneth Van Kurin, U. S. Marine Corp. of Camp Lejeune. Hearing was waived and the case was bound over to Superior Court.

Exchange Club Hears Rev. Maides

The members of the Roanoke Rapids Exchange Club heard the Rev. John T. Maides discuss "The Kind of Person I Would Like to Be," at the club's regular meeting last week.

The club is planning several interesting meetings for the future and has rented several films on the work of Boy Scouts to be shown during those meetings.

Attends Scout Meeting
Woodland, — S. R. Motzom, chairman of the finance committee of the Choway Boy Scout District, attended a board meeting in Greenville last week.

Receives Degree
Ruth Norman Ekstrom (Mrs. Karl E.) of Weldon received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Public Health Nursing from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing of Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, at Commencement exercises held June 16. Degrees were awarded to 1100 students. Mrs. Ekstrom is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Norman of Weldon.

Wgt. Mahaffey
Tokyo, Japan, June 1.—Corporal John T. Mahaffey, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Mahaffey, 925 Franklin Street, Roanoke Rapids, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the United States Air Force in Japan. Sgt. Mahaffey is assigned to the Airways and Air Communications Service. Prior to entering the service in 1946 Mahaffey was a student at Roanoke Rapids High School.

Why Not?
Why Not organize a Little Theatre group in Roanoke Rapids? We've heard that there's a lot of good ham that's just waiting to be cured. Besides furnishing entertainment for this area, who knows what Barrymore or Helen Hayes might be uncovered? The project could be a very good one for some civic organization. Think of the money that could be raised periodically for worthwhile causes.

Merchants Directors to Meet
The Board of Directors of the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association will hold its regular monthly meeting in the office of the Association Thursday morning, June 24.

Shuford, Kiwanis Speaker
Forrest Shuford, N. C., Commissioner of Labor, will speak to the Kiwanis Club at its regular meeting July 1st.

New Stop Lights
The city has installed stop lights this past week at the following intersections: Jackson and Fifth Street, Jackson and Tenth Street, Hamilton and Seventh Street, Hamilton and Ninth Street and Hamilton and Tenth Streets.

Named Notary
Mattie Lee Taylor, Halifax, was appointed a notary public by Governor Cherry last Thursday.

Local Sea Scouts Go To Florida For National Meet

Six members of Sea Scout Ship 208 of Roanoke Rapids will leave Saturday to attend the National Sea Scout Rendezvous in Jacksonville, Fla., lasting one week.

Members who will attend are Skipper Fred Cooper, Dwight Elting, Bob Murray, Noah Sadler, Donald Taylor, and Billy Murray.

While at the rendezvous, the local scouts will stay at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station and will be treated to an ocean cruise on a navy destroyer. They will also be given flights in naval planes.

Big social climax of the meeting will be a dance. Dates will be secured for the Scouts for the affair.

License Probe Report Is Given Attorney General

An investigation report on an alleged driver's license racket was turned over to the office of the state Attorney General Thursday by officials of the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Contents of the report, submitted by Highway Patrol Sgt. A. W. Welch, were not made public, but some two weeks ago, Welch said that a man named Ervin Weeks of Scotland Neck, a license examiner, and Edmundson Branch, a Negro taxi driver of Ahoskie, were under investigation.

In Roanoke Rapids, Irwin R. Weeks of Scotland Neck told the Herald following publication of the details of the investigation that he had no other comment to make except that he was not guilty of any irregularities. Weeks had been a license examiner for Roanoke Rapids and vicinity for several months, but resigned on May 24th.

Sergeant Welch spent an hour in conference with Assistant Director S. L. Gaynor, Jr., of the Highway Safety Division Thursday afternoon but declined to comment on the case.

Gaynor said the report was being turned over to the Attorney-General's office to determine whether charges should be brought in the case.

Welch specified that the alleged racket consisted of the issuance of drivers' licenses to applicants previously rejected.