

Daily Herald

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5c Daily; 10c Sunday

Blast Wrecks Building On Portland Waterfront



Fire burns in the wreckage of the Dock Commission office on the waterfront at Portland, Ore., after the building was shattered by a mysterious explosion. Walter Kraft, an engineer for the commission, was blown 200 feet but escaped with his life. A five-mile area was jarred by the explosion which some thought might have resulted from seepage from a nearby gas main. (AP Wirephoto).

\$16,250 in Building Permits Issued In October Run Total Nearer Three Million Dollar Mark for the Year

Cold weather and rainy days cut Roanoke Rapids' building permits down again during November, according to figures for the month which were available today, however five permits amounting to \$16,250 issued during the month ran the cumulative total for the year to within \$13,025 of the three-million-dollar mark.

With one more month still to go, the city has issued permits for building in the amount of \$2,986,975 for an all-time high in Roanoke Rapids' comparatively short history.

Even with a December lull in building contemplated, it is expected that the three-million figure will be exceeded by the end of December.

All November building permits were issued for residential construction, running the 1948 total to \$326,565 for residences. Permits for industrial and commercial construction total \$2,660,410 for the year.

October was one of the slowest months of the year reported so far, with \$22,600 in permits being issued then and tapering off to the lower sum for November.

During November five permits were issued as follows: to Drew Shearin, permit for an addition to a residence at 1020 Washington Street at an estimated \$1,000; to Cullen Beever, a five-room residence on Pine Street at an estimated \$2,000; to Mrs. Fan Taylor, a four-room residence at Sixth and Franklin Streets at an estimated \$5,250; to R. H. Garner, a two-room residence at Seventh and Rapids Streets at \$3,000; and C. F. Ogletree, a four-room residence on Rapids Street at \$5,000.

Auto Lane To Be Here Until Next Wednesday; Schedule Is Changed

E. G. Whitehurst, lane supervisor for Mechanical Vehicle Inspection Lane No. 38 which opened again here this morning, said today the schedule for his lane has been slightly altered from a schedule published earlier and requested that all motor vehicle owners in this area keep up with the schedule so they might visit the lane nearest them before the inspection deadline for all cars expires on January 1.

The lane will remain in operation in Roanoke Rapids on West Twelfth Street from now until next Wednesday afternoon. This morning owners who have not previously had their vehicles inspected started through the lane, which is in Roanoke Rapids for the last time this year.

Whitehurst said the lane will be set up in Jackson for three and one-half days from December 10 through December 14. At return to Gatesville it will return to Halifax County and be in Enfield for four days, December 20 through 23. Lane 38 will spend its last four days of operation during the year at Scotland Neck on December 27.

The local lane supervisor said recent inspection trips to the various towns in the district have been "slow". He said there has been little response to the lane's visits, and he said he feels certain there are a number of vehicle owners who still have not had their cars checked in spite of the lateness of the month. He said many of the car owners have neglected bringing their automobiles, trailers or other vehicles because they feel certain they will not pass, and as a result they are liable to indictment for not having the cars approved by the end of the year.

Lane 38, he said, has handled 26,903 inspections so far this year prior to the opening of the lane here today. Whitehurst said of that number more than twice as many cars have been rejected on their initial inspection than (Continued on Page Sixteen)

New Anesthetist At Local Hospital

Mrs. Loma Porath of Shreveport, Louisiana, began her duties as anesthetist this week at the Roanoke Rapids Hospital, it has been announced by Mrs. Carlee B. Jenkins, Director of Nurses.

Mrs. Porath came to Roanoke Rapids after having worked previously in Hendersonville. She took her nurse's training at Shreveport Charity Hospital and was trained as an anesthetist at the Grant Hospital, Chicago.

River Up To 40.3 Feet; Still Rising

The Roanoke River was reported at 40.3 feet this morning at Weldon by L. M. Shearin, weather forecaster.

Shearin did not predict a crest for the swollen stream, but added that it was continuing to rise and that indications were that the flood would not be too severe.

Local High School Students Will See Driving Demonstration Friday

Automobile drivers are often heard to remark, "I can stop it on a dime." The students of Roanoke Rapids High School will participate in a series of tests to determine the size of that "dime" at various speeds Friday, at 2:30, it was announced by Principal J. W. Talley today.

The tests will be conducted on Hamilton Street, in front of School.

This program is being brought to Roanoke Rapids, under the auspices of the local Lions Club, and according to J. C. Hoyle of the club.

The demonstration will be conducted by George M. Tewksbury, Jr., assistant safety director of the Farm Bureau insurance companies, with a specially equipped automobile. Yellow paint bullets fired from revolvers mounted on the front bumper of the car will show graphically how much time each driver requires to place his foot on the brake pedal and how far the car travels before coming to a full stop.

In operation, the driver being tested will be signaled to stop by the unexpected firing of the first gun and by the flashing of a red "stop" signal above the radiator of the car. The first shot will mark the pavement at the spot the signal is given; a second shot will mark the street where the brake pedal is first depressed, thus showing the driver's reaction time; and the third gun will be fired when the car is stopped, showing the distance required for stopping.

Because of extreme hazards in making emergency stops at high speeds, the tests will be limited to 20, 30 and 40 miles per hour. Police drivers will be used for the high-speed tests.

Reds Claim Capture Of Suchow

San Francisco, Dec. 2—(AP)—The Chinese communist radio today claimed the capture of Suchow, big nationalist base 200 miles northwest of Nanking.

The red radio, in a broadcast monitored by the associated press in San Francisco, said the city fell to its armies yesterday. There were no immediate details.

(Pilots dropping rice to the isolated city reported in Shanghai that red forces were within a mile of Suchow, abandonment of which was ordered by the Chinese government earlier in the week.)

Local Man Faces Charge Of "Peeping"

Roanoke Rapids police said they have completed the investigation of an alleged "peeping Tom" case and set the case for a hearing before Mayor W. Bernard Allsbrook next Monday.

Linwood Tudor, Roanoke Rapids man, was arrested Tuesday night by local police after he had been reported peeping in windows in the 200 block of Jackson Street. Police said residents whom they did not name, had seen Tudor in the vicinity of several homes and had observed his actions before calling the police. Tudor was being detained by residents in the block when the police arrived on the scene, it was reported.

He was charged with peeping into bedrooms in a secret manner, the same being then and there occupied by a female person. Bond for his appearance Monday was set at \$300 and he was released pending the hearing.

19 Shopping Days Until Christmas



Visit The Local Stores For The Finest In Gifts

\$10 to \$15 Thousand Damages Caused by Fire in Beckwith Home

A fire which started in the furnace room in the basement this morning swept through the home of Dr. R. P. Beckwith, at 906 Monroe Street causing considerable damage to the home and furnishings before it could be brought under control by local firemen.

An unofficial estimate of damage to the house and furnishings was set at between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The house was owned by the Rosemary Manufacturing Company and was insured. Dr. Beckwith said the furnishings, many of which were saved by volunteers, were partially covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered by neighbors who called the fire department and an alarm was set off at 11:05. When firemen reached the house they said the flames had gained considerable headway in the basement and had swept up a back stairway and into the walls between the plaster and weather boarding.

At the time the fire was discovered Mrs. Beckwith was out town shopping and Dr. Beckwith was busy at his office.

A second alarm was sounded after assistance had been requested in trying to bring the fire into check and the second of the city's fire trucks went to the scene. Both trucks were stopped on East Tenth Street and had to lay long lines of hose to the house.

Three large hose lines were brought into action and firemen battled for more than an hour and a half to subdue the stubborn blaze. Because of the manner in which the fire had spread through the house and into the walls it was necessary to chop holes several places in an effort to try to get water to the flames.

A dense smoke rolled through the entire house, making it impossible for some time for anyone to get inside to save any of furniture or personal belongings of the family. Because of the

heavy smoke firemen had to resort to smoke masks in trying to get closer to the source of the fire and one of the firemen was overcome for a short time by the smoke. Several of the firemen had to be relieved from time to time because of the heavy smoke's driving them away from their positions.

Smoke, fire and water damage to the interior of the house was considerable and large areas of rafters and cross beams were charred by the flames.

The flames were finally brought under control about 12:45 and firemen stayed on the job until after one o'clock making sure it was completely extinguished.

The fire attracted a large crowd of spectators, many of whom volunteered their efforts in removing the furnishings from the house when it became possible to go inside and many others helping the firemen subdue the blaze.

Continuance To Be Asked For Allen

Warrenton, Dec. 2—(AP)—Attorneys for J. Edward Allen, former Warren County School superintendent, were expected to ask a continuance of an embezzlement hearing for him in recorder's court here today.

Allen was taken to Duke Hospital in an unconscious condition Tuesday. Yesterday physicians said he had regained consciousness and his condition was "fair." They added that the nature of his illness had not been determined.

Julius Banzet, one of Allen's attorneys, said last night that Allen is too ill to appear in court and that counsel would request a continuance.

The former school superintendent was ordered to appear in court today for a hearing on charges of embezzling \$20,372.85 in county funds and forging 126 checks drawn on the county board of education.

Allen was already under indictment on charges of embezzling state funds, false pretense and forgery.

Parking Meter Contract Extension Granted; Those Favoring Will Be Heard

Mayor W. Bernard Allsbrook said today he has requested and received a 30-day extension on Roanoke Rapids' contract with the Karpark Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, which will give the city Commissioners until January 3 to decide whether or not they want the city's 370 parking meters or retained.

At the same time the Mayor said he will call a special meeting of the Board "one night next week" to hear evidence in favor of keeping the controversial meters. Allsbrook said he has been requested by a group of people in favor of the meters to call the meeting of the Board in order that they might present material to show that parking meters should be retained.

Today there are unconfirmed rumors of a "number of petitions" being circulated throughout the city and surrounding territory by proponents of the meters. Advocates of the meters said there are several petitions being circulated and said these will be presented to the Board next week as evidence that the meters are wanted by a majority of the people.

Mayor Allsbrook said he had originally planned to call a special meeting tonight or tomorrow. (Continued on Page Sixteen)

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ROANOKE RAMBLINGS

By PAT NANTZ

Little Frances Fuller Johnson was one of the many children who visited in Raleigh to see the Christmas Parade Saturday. She also went sight-seeing and visited for the first time in the State Capitol, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Johnson and her sister, Faye...

Shirley Glosson, a sophomore at the Roanoke Rapids High School, celebrated her sixteenth birthday, Tuesday, ... George Gray, of the fifth grade, is celebrating his, today... here's wishing you both have many more just as nice as this one...

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Langford will be interested to know that they have named their baby daughter, Cezette Elsie... Cezette is a French word meaning "angel from heaven"... and the Langford's say that is just what she is...

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Massey are visiting relatives in South

Auto Licenses Go On Sale At City Building

Roanoke Rapids residents who own and operate automobiles in the city started buying city license tags here today, when 1949 city tags went on sale in the Municipal Building.

The tags will be on sale daily, and local motorists have been urged to get theirs as soon as possible. The city license plates sell for one dollar each.

Chief of Police T. J. Davis said all cars being operated in the city by local residents will have to have tags by January 21. He said those operating cars without city plates after that time will be subject to indictments and fines under the city ordinances requiring city tags.

The Roanoke Rapids license plates are similar to the North Carolina tags which went on sale yesterday, being yellow with black numerals.

Colder Weather Is Predicted

...by the Associated Press. ... The weather man buttoned up his overcoat today and observed that "the fine fall weather in the Carolinas has about come to a climax."

The third straight day of below-freezing temperatures has convinced him that winter is just around the corner.

There are low pressure areas developing in Southern Florida and western Texas that may bring some rain to the two states either late tonight or tomorrow, but they are not expected to be more than occasional showers.

Asheville slid down two more degrees from yesterday with a frosty 23. Elsewhere in North Carolina, Greensboro reported 23 for the second day; Rocky Mount had 29; Raleigh 30; Mount Mitchell 31; Charlotte 32; Winston-Salem and New Bern 33; Elizabeth City 35 and Wilmington 42.

Weather

North Carolina — Increasing cloudiness today followed by occasional light rain tonight and Friday; No important change in temperatures.

Old Father Roanoke Says:

Old Father Roanoke continuing critically ill, the Herald has a chance to run letters from readers about the column.

Dear Father Roanoke: An injustice has been done. It is such a great injustice that I just have to crawl out of my retirement (as you have done) and shout about it.

The injustice is this. In today's Herald, a story said that E. M. Boyd, of the Mt. Carmel section near Seaboard, had been awarded the corn prize by P. H. Jameson.

Now I contend that you should have been the winner. Go to bat for it and I'll back you up!

An Old 49'er Myself

Editor, the Herald: I started buying the Daily Herald after I heard the news dealer in Ahoskie say he was selling nearly 100 more Herald's than he used to and the reason was a column by Father Roanoke. After reading the column for 3 days, I think a lot less of the people of Ahoskie.

Michael Alec Wallingsworth

Editor, the Herald: I have your letter asking what I think of paying 25 cents a day for a column called Old Father Roanoke. The author writes about 680 words a day for 25 cents. For the same sum, you can get a week's subscription to the Congressional Record; some weeks, it contains 2,000,000

words, 30 years worth. You'll find much funnier stuff in the Congressional Record. But the 82-year-old author is a home town boy and you may not want to offend him. The column might be worth a nickel a day if the Old Man agrees to spend the nickel in your soft drink machine so you make a fat profit on this expense. Otherwise, throw out the column. That's my advice; you asked for it.

Editor, Manhattan Daily Planet, New York.

I have narrowed down the writer of Father Roanoke to one of three: Mayor Allsbrook, Postmaster Shell, and Henry Loy. Come now, which is it?

Mrs. T. X. Twitchum, Emporia, Va.

Editor's Reply: Madam, their problems sometimes make those distinguished gentlemen feel like 82, but they're not there yet.

Dear the Herald: Could it be Blair Gibson? High School Boy

Editor's Reply: It could be, but it ain't.

This space, if the Old Man's illness continues, meaning that he doesn't pass away, will be given over to an indignant letter from "Bub Skinner alias Carl Churchill," denying authorship of the Old Father Roanoke column.

Three Selected For Conservation Committeemen In Fishing Creek District; Election Dec. 6-11

Halifax—Three local farmers have been nominated for candidates for Halifax County Soil Conservation Committeemen, according to Mr. L. G. Barnhill, Supervisor of the Fishing Creek Soil Conservation District. These men will be voted on in an election to be held the week of December 6 to 11, 1948. The man receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to serve for three years.

The candidates are: D. B. Barnes, R-1, Enfield, W. D. Harris, R-1, Enfield, and J. E. Wood, R-2, Enfield. The man elected will fill an office vacated by reason of expired term. The Soil Conservation Committee represents Halifax County in developing and directing a soil conservation program. They will set up annual soil conservation goals and with assistance from personnel of Agricultural Agencies, develop plans for meeting these goals. Complete soil and water conservation plans prepared for farms in Halifax County will also be approved by this committee.

All land owners, tenants and (Continued on Page Sixteen)

Inquest In Fatal Auto Mishap Tonight

Weldon.—A coroner's inquest into the highway death of Dr. Henry Fendell, New York City and Miami, Fla., physician, near here on November 6 will be conducted at the Rowe Funeral Home here tonight by Halifax County coroner Refus Britton.

Two material witnesses are under bond to appear at the inquest to determine whether there was criminal negligence in the death of the doctor.

Aldie Finch, Clayton Negro and driver of the truck which collided with the Fendell car, is under a \$2,000 bond. Finch was driving a truck belonging to the Central Oil Milling Company of Clayton which hit the Fendell car almost head-on, killing the doctor instantly and injuring his wife, mother and sister.

J. C. Blanding, Halifax Negro, is under a \$1,000 bond in the case. Blanding was the driver of a log truck which Finch said caused the accident by forcing the Fendell car out of its lane of traffic and into the truck driven by Finch.

State Highway Patrolmen who conducted an investigation of the fatal wreck and other witnesses are expected to testify in tonight's hearing.

Interdenominational Training School Attended by More Than 250, Is Termed Successful By The Rev. W. R. Stevens

More than 250 teachers and prospective teachers attended the first cooperative interdenominational training school sponsored by the Roanoke Rapids and Weldon Ministerial Associations.

The three-day training school came to a close last night at the First Presbyterian Church here.

The speakers during the training session were: Mrs. Weaver, Greensboro, Methodist Conference of North Carolina; Mrs. W. R. Stevens, of the Rosemary Methodist Church; The Rev. Fon Scofield, Richmond, director of visual education of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board; the Rev. Robert Bradshaw, Wilson Methodist Church; Dr. Joseph Geddy, professor of New Testament in the Presbyterian General Assembly's training school in Richmond.

Roland Johnson, superintendent of the Rosemary Methodist Sunday School, was the general superintendent in charge of the training school.

Two forty-five minute classes were held each night and last night the training school was closed with a social affair following the classes and conducted by all of the ladies of the churches under the direction of Rudolph Williams, chairman of the hospitality committee.

The Rev. W. R. Stevens, pastor of the Rosemary Methodist church, who was chairman of the steering committee for the training school, said, "It exceeded our fondest expectations and is a tribute to the cooperative spirit of the ministers of Weldon and Roanoke Rapids and I hope will become an annual affair sponsored by the ministerial and lay groups of the two cities.