

1948 Building Permit Figures Total Record \$3-Million Here

ROANOKE RAPIDS

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Farm Parity Ratio Dips To Low Level

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—The farmer isn't doing as well financially as he has been for the past six years.

'Parity ratio' — the yardstick for measuring farm prosperity — has dipped to the lowest level since September, 1942, the Agriculture Department announced late yesterday.

Parity ratio is based on the relation between prices farmers get for the things they sell and the prices of the things they buy. It includes an allowance for interest and taxes.

As of mid-December, the parity ratio stood at 109 — one point higher than the September, 1942, figure. The December ratio was a drop of one point from mid-November, 13 points below January, 1948 and 24 points under the record high of 133 in October, 1946.

Average prices received by farmers in mid-December were the lowest since February, 1947. The price index for all farm commodities during the month slid three points to 268-39 points, or 13 per cent, below last January's record high of 307. This index is based on August 1909 — July 1914 prices.

During 1948 crop prices dropped much more than livestock prices.

Taylor Rites Are Tomorrow

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon for J. Roy Taylor, who died at his home early yesterday morning following a short illness.

The services will be conducted from the Taylor home at 1401 Washington Street at three o'clock tomorrow by the Rev. J. U. Teague, pastor of the Galatia Baptist Church in Northampton County, assisted by the Rev. B. Marshall White-Hurst, pastor of the Rosemary Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids.

Burial will be in Cedarwood cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Craethie Pope Taylor; one son, R. D. Taylor; one brother, Earl Taylor; one sister, Mrs. Eugene Hudson; his mother, Mrs. J. G. Taylor; and one grandson.

Time Names Truman Man Of The Year

New York, Dec. 30—(AP)—President Truman is Time Magazine's 'man of the year' for 1948. It is the second time he has been so honored by the news magazine.

Time said in its Jan. 3 issue—released today—that the President's election 'was a personal victory almost without historical parallel; a victory of the fighting spirit.'

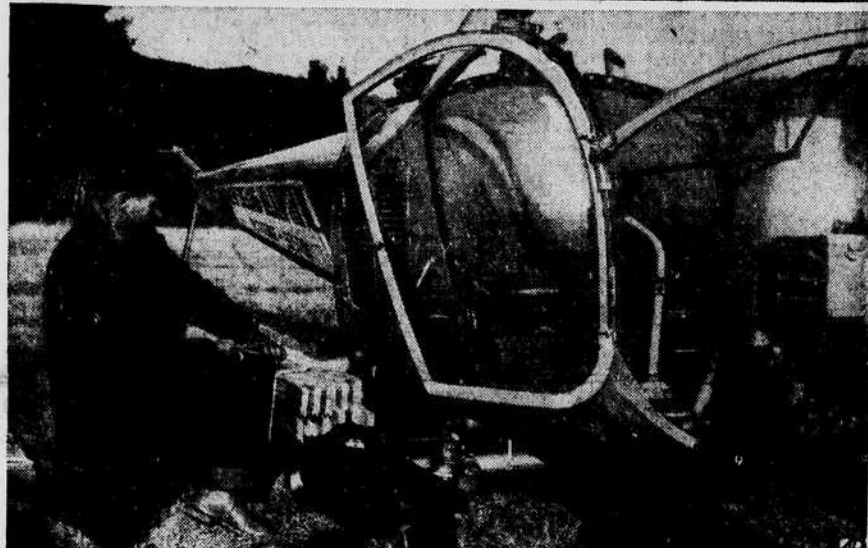
Mr. Truman was selected by time as 'man of the Year' for 1948, the year of the atom bomb. The magazine said it chose Mr. Truman because the President 'somewhat unwittingly, somewhat against his own will, became more than any other man responsible for the bomb. Its use in 1945 and its future.'

New Extension Of "Stop Russia" Policy Includes Huge Program Of Military Aid To West Europe

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—The government set to work today on final plans for a great new extension of America's 'Stop Russia' policy — including a multi-billion dollar program of military aid to Western Europe.

Officials hope to complete the planning project promptly. Their recommendations are expected to provide the basis for President Truman's foreign policy address to Congress, probably next month.

An announcement late yesterday disclosed that Mr. Truman has ordered the State Department to coordinate all planning of foreign military assistance programs. The Department then must mesh these with American Economic assistance like that going to Europe's Marshall plan



OPERATION WINDMILL—Materials for a fire lookout tower on top of 3,260-foot Mt. Pequawket, near Kearsarge, N. H., are ferried in by helicopter. Top: Pilot Edwin Packer hovers over the area. Bottom: Everett Ward of Bartlett, N. H., secures lumber on side of machine. Project in less than 2 weeks saves labor of estimated 15 men back-packing load over 5-week period.

Old Fitzhugh House Destroyed By Blaze

Weldon—A two-story frame house located on the Old Fitzhugh estate on the new highway between Roanoke Rapids and Garysburg was completely destroyed by fire last night about 10 o'clock, Deputy Sheriff J. L. Mountcastle reported today.

Mountcastle said two families lived in the house, but that no one was injured in the blaze. The Weldon Fire Department stood by for a call but when the fire was discovered it had gained too much headway and could not be brought under control.

The house was located in front of one now occupied by John Fitzhugh.

Patterson Overseer Ill In Hospital

Paul B. Thompson, overseer at Patterson Mills, is a patient in the Roanoke Rapids Hospital. Mr. Thompson is suffering from pneumonia.

His Reason For Missing Church Is No Longer

Dayton, O., Dec. 30—(AP)—I can't come to church because the benches are too hard for me to sit on through an entire service," a parishoner told the Rev. James Thomas of the South Park Methodist church a few months ago.

So, today workmen began installing 160 new theater-type seats with rounded backs and air cushions in the church, one of the city's largest.

Mr. Thomas wrote the man telling about the new seats and "now I expect to see at least one more member in church next Sunday."

ROANOKE RAMBLINGS

By PAT NANTZ

It was reported this morning that Mrs. C. E. Pierce and Mrs. T. O. Wilson were elected to serve as secretary and treasurer of the local art club, which is growing steadily in membership. They decided, at the meeting last evening, to name the club, The Roanoke Rapids Art Group.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Pittman, Reapa Morgan and Billy Nixon spent the day in Richmond, yesterday and reportedly had an enjoyable time.

Mrs. Joyce Tanner was confined to her bed yesterday with the flu. She will remain there for about seven days and has expressed her desire for visitors who are not too afraid of catching the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bunch had as their holiday guests, Miss Elizabeth Faison of Portsmouth; while Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bounds' guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Bounds and son, Freeman of Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Cantor of Madison street have returned to their home here, after having spent two weeks in New York

City visiting with Mr. Cantor's parents, Dr. and Mrs. G. G. Cantor. While there, they also visited with Mr. Cantor's brother, Jerry, who is a college student there.

Friends of Mrs. Lillie W. Brown of Jefferson street will be interested to know that she did not remain in the hospital after having been treated for burns yesterday. The burns resulted when Mrs. Brown attempted to remove a kettle of boiling water from the stove, when it began to boil over. The burns occurred mostly on her arms and hands.

Harry Lee Holliday, Jr., two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Holliday of 208 Jackson street, was taken to the local hospital Monday and underwent an appendectomy on the same day. He is reported to be in much better condition now. He is anxiously waiting to return to his home to see his little friends.

Marion Weathers and Betsy Hodges left today to return to their home in Tarboro. They have been visiting with friends here since Monday.

U. L. Smith, Grant and Matthews Get Promotion At Roanoke No. One

Officials of the Roanoke Mills Company announced today that three long-time employees at Roanoke number one had been promoted.

U. L. Smith, who has been overseer of the spooling, warping and slashing department, has been promoted to overseer of the weave room at Roanoke Number one.

Succeeding Smith as overseer of the spooling, warping and slashing department is Clifton G. Grant, who has been promoted from a second hand in the weave department. Clifton G. Grant, who has been promoted from a second

Truman Plunges Into Plans For New Congress

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—President Truman—safely back from his Christmas holiday after a dramatic talk-down landing through fog and rain—plunged in earnest today into preparations for the new congress.

Mr. Truman gave a group of top officials some long, jittery moments yesterday while his plane groped down a radar lane to a National Airport runway after circling in the mist for more than 40 minutes.

As cabinet members and other government officers stood anxiously in the rain, the President, by his own word, was "reading and sleeping." worried? "Oh, my goodness, no!"

Mr. Truman returned from a week with his family in Missouri to a deskload of work. These matters were awaiting his attention for relay to Capitol Hill, where the Democratic-controlled 81st Congress goes to work January 3.

The annual state of the union message, which he will deliver in person on Wednesday; his economic report and then his budget requests for the year starting July 1; and a vital foreign policy wrap-up which Congress will get later in the month.

Despite that heavy schedule and the tricky landing which wound up his Christmas holiday, it was a smiling, jaunty chief executive who greeted the relieved crowd of about 100 persons at the airport.

Forrestal Asks For More Power Over Military

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—Secretary of Defense Forrestal set the stage today for a possible new fight in Congress with his plea for greater power over the nation's armed services.

At the same time, the Cabinet officer declared this country must help re-arm non-Communist Europe even though the cost "may necessitate hard decisions by our people."

For itself, the United States "is less vulnerable today" that it was when the Army, Navy and Air Force were unified a year ago last September, Forrestal said.

But he added that his is not enough: "We must do all in our power to re-create the confidence and hope of Europe."

Forrestal did not say what "hard decisions" he had in mind. But plainly he meant the possibility of higher taxes and more shortages at home while more American dollars and goods are poured into the dike being erected against Russian Communist aggression.

His first annual report, made public last night, was devoted largely to a review of the military establishment under his direction, together with recommendations to the white house for changes in the unification law.

But it was spiced by a terse but intriguing notation that military scientists are working on an "earth satellite vehicle program" — perhaps a man-made moon from which great destruction might be heaped on any threatening nation.

The chief, but not unexpected, recommendation from Forrestal was that the unification act be amended to give the defense secretary more direct authority over the three armed services.

400 New Homes Built In City Last Three Years, Huge Industrial Expansion Accounts For Record

Approximately 400 new homes have been built in and around Roanoke Rapids during the first three post-war years, and 1948 figures on all building indicate the city hit its highest construction peak with over three million dollars in permits issued during the year.

Issuance of permits totaling \$28,250 for new construction in the city during December ran the building permit total to \$3,015,325 for the year for an all-time high, however residential building permits issued during 1948 indicated a recession from the peak \$504,200 in 1947 when post-war home construction reached the high-water mark.

Year	Residential Construction	Number Non-Residential Construction	Total
1946	\$345,000	44	\$486,955
1947	504,200	104	423,330
1948	353,065	48	2,662,160
Totals	\$1,202,265	196	\$3,572,446

Last year there were permits issued for construction of 104 residences in Roanoke Rapids, with 48 permits issued in 1948 and 4 in 1946. Permits are for building within the corporate limits alone, and it is estimated there were over 200 homes constructed in sections just outside the corporate limits during the same three-year period since the last war year of 1945.

An indication of the growth of the city can be gained from the figures showing both residential and industrial expansion. In the past twelve months the 48 permits issued by the city for residential construction and expansion totaled \$353,065, which was slightly higher than the 1946 figures of \$345,000. Permits included the building of new homes, the renovation of old homes into apartment and the construction of additions to homes and apartments already existing.

Suburban Development

Figures are available only for construction proposed or contracted within the city, however estimates on home construction and the development of suburban sections inside the metropolitan district of the city during the past year run well past the \$300,000 mark, and in several of the developments — Rosemary Park, Belmont, South Rosemary and others—the number of new homes which have been put up since the war ended is estimated at well over 200.

And despite the growth of residential construction the availability of houses in the city remains as acute as ever an indication that Roanoke Rapids is still "bursting at the seams" with new residents.

Industrial Building

It was industry, however, which supplied the big boost and put the building permits in the three-million-dollar class, in that of the total amount of permits issued, a total of \$2,662,160 went to industrial and non-residential construction.

One Roanoke Rapids company — the Halifax Paper Company, Inc., accounted for the biggest items on the list by securing permits in April for the construction of a recovery building at an estimated cost of \$1,325,800 and work on the pulp mill of the plant at a cost of \$599,585 for a total of \$1,914,535. Another construction boost of \$610,000 was provided in February, when the Rosemary Manufacturing Company secured a permit for re-roofing two of its plants at a cost of \$360,000 and an addition to the finishing plant at a cost of \$250,000.

The two companies accounted for nearly two and one-half million dollars of the record year, however other industrial expansion and renovation accounted for another hundred thousand dollars in building. Business in the city build new stores and renovated their old ones to add to the record.

Continuous Growth Seen

Comparative figures in building for a three-year period indicate that construction has been on the upgrade since the war was concluded. In 1946 non-residential construction accounted for 81 per cent of the total building permits issued.

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—The Carolinas claim both the oldest and youngest members of the 81st Congress convening next year.

Rep. Robert L. Doughton (D-NC) at 85 is the oldest.

Rep.-Elect Hugo Sims, Jr. (D-SC) at 27 is the youngest.

Doughton is entering his 20th consecutive term in the house.

Sims, like Doughton, served in his state legislature before coming to Congress.

Banks To Close New Year's Day

All of the Roanoke Rapids banks will be closed New Year's Day, January 1, 1949, bank officials announced today.

Truman Apparently Determined To Hold Military Expenditures To Lowest Figure That Is Safe

By John M. Hightower

Washington, Dec. 30—(AP)—President Truman apparently is determined to hold military —costs next year to the lowest figure he considers safe in the present uneasy state of the world.

He is said to be eager to avoid straining this country's production to a point where rationing and price controls would have to be clamped back on.

The President's advisers believe he will ask Congress once again next week for standby controls. But that barring some great new world emergency you probably can count on getting through the next year of huge foreign aid and rearmament programs without any new home front curbs actually in force.

The question of controls arises because everything this nation does aboard has its effects at home. It works the other way around, too. And as chief of both domestic and foreign

Freeze Tonight Is Predicted

By the Associated Press

Rain ended in the Carolinas today, clearing the way for a fair and cold New Year's eve.

Freezing temperatures were predicted for tonight. The forecast was for 28 to 32 degrees in the northwest portion of South Carolina, 22 to 26 in the North Carolina mountains, 26 to 30 in Piedmont North Carolina and 30 to 34 on the coast.

The year will be ushered out with fair and cold weather tomorrow, the forecast said.

State's Highway Fatalities Decrease

Raleigh, Dec. 30—(AP)—Highway fatalities in North Carolina are about 13 per cent fewer than in 1947.

The 1948 toll had reached 726 last Tuesday, compared with a total of 836 for all of last year, according to Motor Vehicles Commissioner Landon C. Rosser.