

# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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Member North Carolina Press Association

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## EDITORIAL

### WATCHFUL WAITING

● ● Those who travel over the State tell us there is very little interest so far in the race for governor despite the fact that there are six announced candidates, largest number in the State's history.

Broughton, Cooper, Grady, Gravely, Horton and Maxwell are the six the voters will choose from. With such a field, a second primary is almost a certainty.

We believe the rest of the State is like Halifax County. Here we have certain things which interest us locally, just as they have in every other county of the State. With the rest of the State, we will wait until the second primary to get all hot and bothered. With the field then narrowed down to two men, the chances of being on the winning side are so much improved.

It's been a long time since Halifax County has been on the winning side in a gubernatorial race. The county has suffered accordingly, especially in the matter of highways which have a way of going with Highway Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor.

### KEEPING UP INTEREST

● ● Committees from service and civic groups of Roanoke Rapids met Monday to discuss various phases of the proposed National Guard unit for Roanoke Rapids.

Most concrete proposal came from the Veterans of Foreign Wars who plan to erect a building of their own here in the near future and who offered this building as a temporary armory for the proposed unit. This offer did much to encourage the meeting to invite the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard here in the near future for the purpose of gaining additional facts and of making an official request for the unit.

One point brought out in the discussion deserves special mention at this time: that of keeping up interest in the unit after it is organized. Many of us are full of ideas to help our city grow. We become enthused over a new project and all goes well until something else comes along to claim our time and attention.

In the matter of a National Guard unit, there is apparently right much interest at present. We believe that interest will continue because it is a project very near and dear to all who ever wore the uniform and the service organizations here will see to it that interest does not lag. Local doctors will also be interested as it will be a medical unit and they can do a large part in keeping interest up to a successful level.

### GIVING CHEST CREDIT

● ● Within the past month we have celebrated in

### ANOTHER 'CHUTE JUMPER OUT OF LUCK



Roanoke Rapids, along with the rest of the nation, the birthdays of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, those fine organizations which have done so much in building boys and girls of the country into splendid citizens.

In articles showing the work that had been done here by the Scouts no mention was made of the part that the Community Chest plays in keeping these organizations going concerns. Each year now a certain portion of money from the Community Chest drive is set apart for Scout work and, while this fact may not be mentioned every time, when you read about the activities of the Girl Scouts or the Boy Scouts you can truthfully comment mentally that that is where part of your donation to the Community Chest is going.

And while on the subject of giving the Community Chest due credit it is well to mention the Dental Clinic which also is aided by the Chest. A large percentage of the cost of this clinic for the school children is borne by the Kiwanis Club from the proceeds of the annual show (this year on March 7th and 8th). The balance needed is provided by the Community Chest.

### PRESS OPPOSES DISCRIMINATION

● ● At its annual meeting, the New York Publishers Association passed this significant resolution by unanimous vote: "Resolved that it is the belief of this Association that retail merchandising, which so intimately touches the pocketbooks of wage earners and consumers generally, should be free from all unjust, punitive and discriminatory taxation, local, state and Federal, in whatever form imposed."

This is not an isolated instance—press associations in many states, representing big dailies and little weeklies, have gone on record with similar resolutions. And that is a highly important fact. For America's working newspapermen are second

to none when it comes to understanding and analyzing America's problems. They know full well that millions of families have an exceedingly difficult time in making both ends meet—and that the higher costs which inevitably follow punitive taxation would be a harsh blow to their welfare and standard of living. They know that American retail merchandising, under the open competitive system, has done a superb job in serving the customer at lowest cost, and distributing the products of farmer and manufacturer. They realize the immense dangers political destruction of this proven, established system would involve.

### THE LONG PULL COUNTS

● From all we can read, business generally is dropping off and there will be a spring lull with an upturn in business to start about June, with prospects for a good fall and winter business. This latter, experts tell us, will be good enough to make 1940 as good a business year as 1939.

Immediate thought is to look for poor business for the next three months in several key industries of the nation, steel in particular. The retail business, however, will not be affected to an important extent.

Brightest thought is that here in Roanoke Rapids we probably will feel the slump very little. Our mills, the backbone of the community, are working well and the immediate future for most of them is bright. Modern equipment, a well established product, a reputation for square dealing and a good sales campaign have enabled them to compete favorably in the industry. As we look back, we in Roanoke Rapids have always fared a little bit better than most other communities, even during the slumps. On the long pull we have been very fortunate.

