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EDITORIAL

GOD, KEEP AMERICA

● ● Time Magazine, leading national weekly, picks for its cover and feature story each week a man of that week. The man is one the editors choose as being most timeworthy for that week. Many of its choices have been criticized by many readers.

It is not our purpose to choose men of the week and continue such a policy, but as we write tonight there are three men who are uppermost in our minds for what they have done which makes them newsworthy.

We are thinking first of the President, who, this week has made a most profound decision. He has traded 50 of our destroyers for some vital air-bases. There are those who may say this is an act of war. We shall wait and see. It appears to us that those ships, which we do not need now and which we can replace with more modern ships, may save England, our last line of defense. It appears, further, that, with those new air bases, on English islands near the Panama Canal and from Newfoundland to South America, we have something you can put your teeth in. We name the President because he did what he thought was best for America, did it on his own, is willing to stand or fall on what he did. Our praise to a courageous man.

Biggest employer of people hurt most by the flood here is Roanoke Mills Co. No. 1. Worst hurt to Roanoke Rapids is for the old river mill, which just kept rolling along, to close down. Most damaged, in dollars and cents, was that same old reliable.

Yet, two weeks after the flood, new cloth was coming off some of the looms at Roanoke No. 1.

If you want to see a bee-hive of activity, you can find it down on the river. A mill, without power, flooded looms, demolished switch plant, buckled floors, mud knee deep, ruined cloth and machinery, and with a center section sunk for four stories, is today producing. Not to capacity, for sure, but as one crew moves out, another moves in; as the carpenters, electricians, mechanics finish, the folks come back to work. That's the story of a business miracle which amazes those who said it would be many weeks or many months before old Roanoke No. 1 turned a wheel.

We make no mistake in naming the man who has slept little and worked long, a man who has planned it and has seen that those plans were executed, a man who, in a local crisis, has shown that he possesses leadership when leadership and executive ability is needed; a man, who says that the fidelity and loyalty of his people has been worth more than all the loss. We name Frank Williams.

HANDS ACROSS THE RIVER



He has been thru the mill. We got a title once. We give him one now. A General.

Third man we are thinking of is a young fellow of our town. Not as well known as our first two, but he has done something this writer would probably never do. He has sacrificed headlines, glory and the acclaim of the crowds for his team and a team-mate.

Russ DeBerry had a chance to hang up two North Carolina records as a softball pitcher in the recent State Tournament. Pitching for Roanoke Rapids he did just that. It will be many a year before that new popular pastime breaks those records in the State play-off. We are proud of DeBerry for his records.

But, in that crucial third game it was another pitcher's time. He could have had the glory of winning the deciding game. He went to the coach, told him to let the other fellow pitch because he had the golden opportunity of hanging up some records that would stand for an age in North Carolina softball . . . refused to pitch that last game, altho it was his time. Incidentally, he played field sensationally, sacrificed in the winning run of one.

That young man, quiet, unassuming, hard-working, thought-provoking, Dick Lee. A real team-mate.

So there we are near the end of this week. But what a week. A President with courage. A local Leader with real generalship. A Boy who is a real team-mate. Americans all.

God, Keep America.

LEST WE PERISH

● ● Hearts went into the throats of those who know the true water situation when the first fire alarm since the flood was blown just before midnight last night.

Luckily for everybody it was just a trash pile set afire by alley walkers.

But it could have been a real fire . . . your home or mine—your business or mine . . . The place where you have a job or the place where we have a job.

What would have happened to your family or mine had that been the case? All we know is that on last Saturday, August 31st, 1940, which was 13 days after the flood, the supply of water for the city of Roanoke Rapids was the lowest since we used to have sidewalk pumps and out-houses on the alleys.

Had that fire last midnight been a real fire,

taking from our system the water necessary to fight a real fire, there would not have been enough water left in your pipes to wash your teeth. Roanoke Rapids would have been without water, just like Weldon was for days, with no drinking, washing, cooking or flushing water. What little water we would have had would have been trucked in from neighboring towns and doled out to us in buckets. That is the picture as honestly as we can paint it.

Some few are trying to say we are putting them on the spot in this water shortage proposition. We tell them here, where everybody can see it, that we do not blame them . . . we blame all of us, including the writer, for not knowing and educating ourselves about the most precious thing we have, as individuals or as a community, . . . our pure water supply.

It is to be hoped . . . this is our reason for getting so bothered about the question . . . that we will so inform ourselves in the future that never must we go to our spigot or our commode and no water responds and never must the mills close down because of lack of water. The record shows that we were mighty close to just that for the past two weeks.

It took a crisis like this to show us all how much we take things for granted as long as the spigot runs. There is probably no blame which can be attached to any one group alone. It is a responsibility for all of us to share, that, come what might: war, pestilence, flood, acts of either God or man, we must be prepared to give our people and our industries that which they must have first of all: water.

Lest we perish.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for their kindness shown us during the recent illness and death of our husband and grandfather, J. S. Moseley, and for the beautiful floral offerings. We especially want to thank Dr. Martin and Dr. Weathers of the Roanoke Rapids Hospital.

Wife and granddaughter,
Mrs. J. S. Moseley &
Mrs. B. F. Wells.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our husband and grandfather, J. S. Mosley, who left us two weeks ago today. Hundreds of thoughts of one so dear, often bring a silent tear. A beautiful remembrance of one so dear, until memory fades and life departs, you will live in our hearts.

Wife and granddaughter,
Mrs. J. S. Moseley &
Mrs. B. F. Wells.