

THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABLOID NEWS PAPER

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN HALIFAX COUNTY
Member North Carolina Press Association

CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

Entered as Second Class matter April 3rd, 1914, at the post office at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, under Act of March 3rd, 1879.

ADVERTISING - PRINTING - EMBOSSEING

EDITORIAL

"AN OPEN SECRET"

(Editorial in The Scotland Neck Commonwealth, July 24, 1936)

"Boasting of Roanoke Rapids' 10 to 1 vote 'against the sales tax, the old machine organization and the putrid condition which exists in State politics,' the Herald of that place opines that the 'solidity of the Roanoke Rapids vote for McDonald reminds one of the solid vote which Scotland Neck can cast for a local candidate.'"

"Snatching a fond dream from the future, the Herald visualizes thus: 'It also leads one to wonder what will happen to Halifax County when the day comes that Roanoke Rapids, with its 4,000 votes, decides to follow the example set by Scotland Neck and the lower end and casts those 4,000 votes for one candidate. That day may be some time off, when those in the early thirties are in their late forties. It may come sooner. But come it will, when the folks in Roanoke Rapids realize they are the political laughing stock of the county politicians because Roanoke Rapids has the unenviable reputation of never being able to agree with itself. The few hundred votes majority which it musters for some candidate, after the usual split, are worth no more than the same few hundred votes which Hollister precinct can give to most any candidate.'"

"A few years ago the county's mill section, using Scotland Neck's pattern to form a working organization to get the people to the polls, put into application some of our 'wrinkles' and voted to merge two mill towns and a train junction into a 'city.' That time it was a successful emulation, the Herald declaring that 'Roanoke Rapids' organization work compared favorably with that famed Scotland Neck voting organization.' The paper concluded that 'organization and team work are necessary to success—and we speak not only of elections, but of any movement wherein more than one person is interested.'"

"There, brother, you found our secret then, but seemed to have lost it in recent years. You have the medicine and you have the Dr. Apparently, something is lacking in the application, or you have the wrong medico."

OUR CASE DIAGNOSED

Our "boast" of the solid (10 to 1) vote in Roanoke Rapids for Dr. McDonald, our "fond dream" of the day when Roanoke Rapids may cast its 4,000 votes as a unit for any candidate, even as Scotland Neck, and our solid vote of five years ago when we voted to "merge two mill towns and a train junction into a city", all came in for gentle drubbings from our esteemed contemporary, "Bumps" Madry, editor of The Scotland Neck Commonwealth in his last issue.

Diagnosing our pitiful case, Editor Madry re-

CARO-GRAPHICS ~~~ by Murray Jones, Jr.

DIPLOMATS

AT LEAST 23 TARHEELS HAVE REPRESENTED THE U.S. AS AMBASSADORS, MINISTERS, ETC.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATE?

IMMIGRANTS

246,276 OF THE POPULATION OF N.C. ARE NATIVES OF OTHER STATES

IGNORAMUSES

IN 1862 N.C. WAS THE MOST ILLITERATE STATE IN THE U.S. - 1 OF EVERY 7 WHITE PEOPLE OVER 20 COULD NEITHER READ NOR WRITE

DID YOU KNOW THAT
IN WILSON, IN 1913, JAMES R. DANIELS TELLS OF HAVING SEEN A FROG AND A FISH THAT FELL OUT OF THE SKY FOLLOWING A SHOWER

?

DID YOU KNOW THAT
WILLIAM BLOUNT WHO WAS ONE OF N.C.'S REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN THE CONSTITUTION, LATER SERVED AS A U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

?

THE EDITORS OF CARO-GRAPHICS INVITE YOU TO SEND IN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

minds us of the secret we had found five years ago, when Roanoke Rapids presented an almost solid front on the successful battle to enlarge the city limits. He opines we have lost that secret in recent years. Verily, verily, he speaks the truth.

Like a great sleeping Gulliver, Roanoke Rapids lay supinely on its back while the Lilliputians fastened it to the ground with their tiny webs. Only once in five years has this giant awakened long enough to feel its power, shake off the shackles and remember the Scotland Neck secret. That was in the vote for McDonald.

Our Scotland Neck friends can give us credit only for admitting our shortcomings, submitting to a frank self-analysis and welcoming, as we do, this diagnosis from our friends. After all, we are still in a state of infancy—a new town—a huge, lumbering infant aching with growing pains. That day we so fondly dream of will come when we have grown up, settled down and acquired the polish and finesse of the adult communities of the county.

Despite the loss of this secret of "organization and team work", Roanoke Rapids has forged ahead these past five years, with today more stores, more people, more jobs and less jobless than ever before. New streets, new homes, new buildings, new sidewalks, new water and sewage system, new postoffice building, new municipal building, new fire department, new schools—all have come somehow.

But as Editor Madry might well say, "Man cannot live by bread alone". And this is but a list of some of the material accomplishments.

When it comes to politics, we have truly lost the secret and must continue to doff our hats to united Scotland Neck.

THOSE THANKLESS JOBS

It is with regret we hear of Dr. John Martin resigning as City Health Officer. He probably has his own reasons and they are good ones for Dr. Martin has never been found lacking when the call comes for unselfish service to his community. As a matter of fact, he has kept this thankless job of City Health Officer for several years without charging the city a penny. All he has gotten has been cussings from some property owner who was too stingy or too shiftless to clean up his premises. But those days are over and whoever takes over the job will find all the hard work accomplished. We take this occasion to thank Dr. Martin for having held a thankless job so long.

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