Empty Stockings

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★ ★ ★ ★ Final

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1945 18 Pages—Price Five Cents

Fund Goes To New High Record

Charlotte News readers contributed a most generous $7,038.53 to the News Empty Stocking Fund this year, the largest amount ever donated to this fund.

Hundreds should have been especially happy yesterday morning, those who gave so generously and the hundreds of underprivileged persons who had a Merry Christmas when they expected none at all.

The spirit was wonderful this year.

The list of donors was the longest in the history of the Empty Stocking Fund. Every one seemed intent upon seeing that not one needy and deserving person was neglected. There were calls, letters, notes, checks, dollars, dimes. And they came from the young, the old, the wealthy, those who could have used some help themselves.

And their contributions kept coming.

On Christmas Eve, young men proved that they are a lot more thoughtful than their mothers give them credit for, sixteen of the smaller fry sent in the $5 that they came by while caroling the other night. The lads were Joe Townsend, Tom Ray, Claude Plumlee, Harvie Jordan, Billy Black, Charles Harris, Jimmy Boyer, John Glover, Joe Ratcliff, Charles Reid, Curt Rogers, Bill Kuykendall, David Laughridge, Jerry Goddard, Carl Weber and McIlardy Mauldin. The older young men had the right idea too. Five young service men came in Christmas Eve morning, bringing a contribution of $25. They wanted no names used, but it should be all right to say that the five service men are live of the very nicest in Myers Park.

Those who received were thoughtful too. Brigadier Wesley W. Bouterse of the Salvation Army has a letter to prove it. He received the letter with a check which The News Empty Stocking Fund had provided. The remarkable letter read:

"Dear Sir:

"I was very much touched upon receiving this check from the Empty Stocking Fund.

"I think a mistake has been made as I have no children and old-age assistance from the Welfare. At Christmas, my friends give me gifts of money which I use for clothing and extras. If I accepted this money, I would feel as though I were cheating some one else.

"I wonder if you have an old couple on your list who live at ——? They are very old and very poor.

"I am grateful for your gift, but I know there are people more needy than I."

It should have been a Merry Christmas for all.

Detailed reports on what was done with the Empty Stocking Fund will be presented in stories until Dec. 31.

Total Amount acknowledged to date	$7,000.53
Mrs. Anne McClellan	5.00
CBRE Unit, 11	5.00
Susan Anderson Class, First Baptist Church	5.00
Mrs. Howard A. Niven	10.00
Ella R. Springs	5.00
Total	$7,038.53

Schooner Is Missing

WILMINGTON —(AP)— The Coast Guard announced today that a search was being made for the two-masted schooner Valmore, which has been missing with a crew of four aboard since yesterday.

The crew consisted of J. V. Watters, Dick Williams, Paris Willis and J. T. Willis, all of Morehead City.

The Valmore, owned by Frank Cohen of New York City, was being towed to New Smyrna Beach, Fla., by a shrimper, the Dunworkin, but was cut loose after the Dunworkin's engines failed amid heavy seas and high winds at Frying Pans Shoals. The Dunworkin was later wrecked and washed ashore near here.

Capt. Howland told the Coast Guard his ship's motor power went bad and its forecastle was washed away. He said, however, that he had one engine working so he decided to cast off the Valmore over Frying Pan Shoals, where he figured it could anchor itself. The Shoals are near Southport.

After cutting the towing hauser, he related, he began maneuvering his craft back to the Valmore only to have his remaining engine go dead. He said he lost sight of the schooner in the oncoming darkness.

In addition to Capt. Howland, other members aboard the Dunworkin were Paul Williams, the father of Dick Williams, and W. A. Howland.

The Coast Guard said the Banks Fishing Corporation of Raleigh owned the Dunworkin, which was making her first voyage as a shrimper. She was a reconverted schooner on her way to join the Banks' fishing fleet in Florida, the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard announced that air-sea rescue units from Charleston, S. C., today had joined tow boats from Ft. Oak Island station in the search for the Valmore.

CONGRESSMAN ERVIN KILLS HIMSELF

Ministers Clear Up Last Conference Details

PATTON'S BODY LIES IN STATE—Military police stand guard over the flag-draped casket of Gen. George S. Patton Jr., as the body of the former Third Army commander lies in state at the guest house of Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes in Heidelberg, Germany. (Signal Corps Radiotelephoto from Acme).

Storm Is Ignored

President Is Gay On Visit At Home

By ERNEST B. VACCARO

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — (AP) — President Truman went merrily about celebrating the Christmas holidays today as his home folks showed every disposition to allow him to do it in his own way.

His round of Yuletide calls spread to Kansas City, where friends were invited to drop into his office in the Federal Building for an exchange of season greetings.

Mr. Truman covered plenty of territory upon his arrival here yesterday by plane from Washington through sleet and storm. He went immediately by automobile over icy pavements for a 25-minute visit with his mother, 93-year-old Mrs. Martha E. Truman, at nearby Grandview.

Mayor Roger T. Sermon of Independence made it clear that there will be no official observance of the President's visit.

UNOFFICIAL VISIT

"He came home to spend the holidays with his family and close friends," Sermon told reporters. "I expect to drop by for a handshake. That is all. We want the President to feel free to come and go as he pleases, just like any other home-town citizen coming home for Christmas."

After his visit to the Federal Building, aides said, the President probably will drop by several places in Kansas City for handshakes with old friends. However, they said, no definite program has been arranged, leaving the Chief Executive free to follow his whims.

His delayed departure from Washington, putting him in Kansas City at 5:55 P. M. (E. S. T.) prevented his customary appearance at three Christmas dinners. Upon his return to Independence from Grandview, he ate turkey and trimmings with Mrs. Truman, his daughter, Margaret, and Mrs. Truman's family.

He hopes to eat with his mother at Grandview, and his aunt, 96-year-old Mrs. Joseph T. Noland, who lives across the street from him in Independence, before he leaves here for Washington Friday.

His arrival at his Independence home at 8 P. M. (E. S. T.) last night was the signal for a hearty "Merry Christmas" from more than 100 townspeople gathered outside the "Little White House."

CAROLS ARE SUNG

As he entered his home carolers serenaded him, concluding with the familiar "Silent Night."

After dinner, he went by the home of Mize Peters, Treasury Department representative for Western Missouri, for a few minutes, before returning to his home at 9:30 P. M., tired, but happy, and ready for bed.

He had had a full day. Expecting to leave Washington at 8:30 A. M., he had to wait until 12:06 before weather conditions permitted a take-off. Sleet was falling as the "Sacred Cow," his big C-54 plane, took to the air.

The President had told friends that he did not want to miss Christmas with the homefolks and break a coming-home record of 27 years.

He drove about Independence, Kansas City, and Grandview over icy pavements. A severe Winter storm had made the trees heavy with ice along the route.

GREETED BY MOTHER

His elderly mother greeted the President with a kiss at the doorway of her home. She and her daughter, Miss Mary Jane Truman, were surprised and delighted at his making the drive to Grandview Christmas night, in spite of the weather.

Pickets Back At Plants

DETROIT —(AP)— Pickets in the General Motors strike returned to action at some factory gates today after a four-day Christmas weekend holiday.

Striker representatives and heads of General Motors meanwhile prepared for their first negotiation meeting since they had appeared before President Truman's fact-finding board in Washington last week.

While picketing resumed at General Motors' four big plants in Flint Mich., an additional 2,000 to 3,000 office and salaried workers were permitted entry. This took place at the Bisher body and Chevrolet plants.

TOKEN LINES

Only token picket lines appeared at those two factories and at AC Spark Plug, where 2,200 salaried employees have been working for some time.

Salaried workers at Buick, however, encountered larger picket lines and remained off the job. A spokesman for Buick Local 599 said the plant would continue to be picketed because of its larger number of gates and the possibility that "unauthorized persons might enter."

The UAW-CIO's strike leadership has left to each union local the decision whether to permit the entry of salaried workers at its plant.

According to prior announcement, the resumed negotiations today between General Motors and the union were scheduled to embrace only local issues. It was reported possible, however, that the negotiators might go into major strike issues.

Truman Will Make Speech

KANSAS CITY, —(AP)— President Truman revealed today that he will address the country by radio shortly after his return to Washington on the overall legislative program and the state of the nation.

The address, he said, will include not only an explanation to the people of his legislative proposal for ending strikes but will review his entire legislative program, much of which has been stalemated in Congress.

Coast Guard To Return From Navy To Treasury

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Federal departments concerned with the Coast Guard service today were drawing up final plans for its return from the Navy to the Treasury.

One source who did not wish to be quoted directly reported that the changeover would be effected possibly within 15 days, through one of President Truman's first 1946 executive orders.

In peacetime the Coast Guard is an arm of the Treasury Department. In time of a national emergency it moves into the Navy

Holiday Toll At 414

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black crepe replaced the green holly in scores of the nation's homes today as mourning for victims of violent deaths over the Christmas holiday.

A survey disclosed approximately 414 persons were killed violently, with more than one half of them victims of automobile accidents.

The traffic fatalities numbered 218 while at least 61 persons died in fires. Violent deaths by miscellaneous causes accounted for 127 victims. These included deaths by shootings, freezing, a tornado, train and airplane crashes and accidents in the home.

The heaviest single toll over the holiday was taken in a hospital fire in Hartford, Conn., with 17 persons fatally burned. Six other persons in Meriden, Conn., died in a fire at a home.

Texas and California reported the most deaths by violence, 47 and 46, respectively. The fatalities in Texas were 29 victims of traffic accidents and 18 by miscellaneous causes, including 15 slayings. California topped the country in motor deaths with 35.

In New York 21 violent deaths were reported, including six in traffic accidents, while Illinois motor mishaps, all in Chicago, totaled three.

HEAVY SNOWS

Heavy snowfalls, rain and sleet in many parts of the country kept highway travel at a minimum over the holiday.

The violent deaths by states, listing in order traffic, fire and miscellaneous causes:

Alabama 0-1-0; Arizona 10-0-0; Arkansas 2-0-0; California 35-2-9; Colorado 10-0-0; Connecticut 0-23-2; Florida 0-0-4; Georgia 1-0-0; Idaho 1-0-2; Illinois 3-1-11; Indiana 8-0-1; Kansas 1-0-0; Louisiana 3-2-3; Maine 0-0-5; Maryland 6-0-1; Massachusetts 0-0-2; Michigan 8-1-2.

Minnesota 2-2-0; Mississippi 3-0-3; Missouri 6-3-3; Nebraska 2-0-1; New Jersey 2-8-4; New Mexico 8-0-3; New York 6-4-11; North Carolina 2-0-0; North Dakota 1-3-1; Ohio 9-2-1; Oklahoma 6-0-2; Oregon 1-0-4; Pennsylvania 7-3-2; South Carolina 0-0-7; South Dakota 1-0-0; Tennessee 2-0-1.

Texas 29-0-17; Utah 0-0-2; Washington 1-0-1; West Virginia 2-5-1; Washington, D. C. 0-1-0.

States not listed did not report any violent deaths.

Leukemia Victim Dies

NEW YORK —(AP)—Four-year-old Joyce Erickson, flown here from Jacksonville, Fla., to receive treatment for lymphatic leukemia, died after eating her Christmas dinner, the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center reported today.

Agreements Reached On Major Issues

Moscow Parley In Last Stage

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — The Foreign Ministers of the United States, Russia and Great Britain met this afternoon to clear up the last few details of their conference, hoping to complete by night agreements on a number of details.

They gathered at Speridonika Palace at 2:30 P. M. (6:30 A. M. Eastern Standard Time). Agreements were reported reached on main questions. Informed quarters said the area of agreement was greater than anyone, including perhaps the ministers, had hoped when they met.

The hour of issuance of the final communique was doubtful. A British informant said yesterday the bulletin would be issued at 2 A. M. tomorrow (6 P. M. today EST), but latest indications were that no definite time had been set.

FRENCH MOVE AWAITED

French assent to the procedure on drafting peace treaties for European states still was awaited. The French have indicated, however, they would not object. China already has agreed to the formula.

Secretary of State James F. Byrnes telephoned the French Foreign Office Monday afternoon, but was informed that Foreign Minister Georges Bidault was out. It was not announced whether Bidault has called back. One of the issues that broke down the earlier conference of Foreign Ministers in London was French insistence on being a party to all European peace treaties.

Diplomatic sources said the atmosphere of futility which prevailed after the breakdown of the London conferences of Byrnes, Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin has been eliminated and the Big Three now were reunited in a spirit of collaboration.

The conferees were said to have struck up a more intimate acquaintanceship between themselves, producing a real measure of admiration for one another.

CONTROL OF JAPAN

One of the accords was said to deal with control of Japan, which was high on the list of complicated problems on the agenda. Whether an agreement was reached on the No. 1 problem, control of atomic energy, remained a matter of speculation.

It was reported, however, that the three Foreign Ministers also discussed the American-British-Canadian, policy on world control of atomic energy during their meetings.

Another important question on the agenda was the withdrawal of British, American and Russian troops from Iran, but the outcome of discussions of this problem also was undisclosed.

Men Trapped In Coal Mine

PINEVILLE, Ky. —(AP)— Between 30 and 35 miners were trapped in a deep coal mine here today when ten underground miners closed their exit. W. E. Lewis, mine operator, said.

Mine rescue squads from other companies in Bell and Harlan Counties were summoned to aid in the rescue work. One crew entered from an air shaft but had to return when it ran into a slate fall.

There was only one entrance to the pit and mine officials said a steady stream of black smoke had been coming out of the entrance since the explosion.

A. A. Fish, mining engineer for the company, said names of the men were not available immediately. The firm employs about 100 miners but the day shift was not operating at full capacity because of the holiday yesterday.

MR. ERVIN . . . Pictured in his temporary office at the Courthouse here last Summer.

Death Creates Vacancy

Special Election Will Be Ordered

By TOM WATKINS
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Statutes of this state provide that the Governor shall call a special election for the appointment of a successor to fill the unexpired term of Congressman Joe Ervin who took his own life in Washington on yesterday, Chase Brenizer, chairman of the Election Board said here today.

Gov. Gregg Cherry informed THE NEWS in a long distance telephone conversation that tomorrow he will "go into the matter" of setting a date for the election. He added that pressing affairs of state will prevent him from going to Morganton for the funeral services.

There is little likelihood, it was believed, that the vacancy created by the death of Congressman Ervin will remain open long.

Chase Brenizer, chairman of the Mecklenburg County board of elections, after conferring with authorities in Raleigh, said that the District Congressional Committee of which Senator Joe L. Blythe of Mecklenburg is chairman, will likely submit nominations in the near future. Other members of the committee are Mrs. Stella H. Lowe of Avery, A. P. Causby of Burke, Wade Lefter of Catawba, Thomas Rhodes of Lincoln and V. B. Hensley of Mitchell.

Efforts to locate Senator Blythe for a statement concerning a prospective meeting of the committee were unsuccessful. The Republican Committee also will probably submit nominations.

The names of several persons, well known in political circles, immediately bobbed up for consideration as possible for nomination in the election to be called by Gov. Cherry. They include former Mayor of Charlotte, Ben E. Douglas; Major H. J. Hatcher of Morganton, director of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol; Hamilton C. Jones of Charlotte, well known attorney who has sought the Congressional seat on several occasions, and Frank K. Sims, attorney recently discharged from the U. S. Navy.

At the same time there were suggestions in several quarters that Mrs. Ervin be elected to fill the unexpired term of her husband. However, there was no indication that she knew of or approved such a suggestion.

The law outlining the machinery for election of this type is in some respects a bit vague, it was stated, since provisions for a primary are not outlined.

It was felt in authoritative quarters that arrangements for the election will be speedily handled not only because of the turbulent national situation but because of the necessity for representation in the National Government by citizens of this district and State.

ABLE CONGRESSMAN

Mr. Ervin, as a freshman Congressman, gained a wide-spread reputation for his forthright position on important matters, and he ably represented his district. He was largely responsible, among other important things, for getting a Veterans Hospital located in Charlotte. His frequent letters to the "folks back home" were carried in The Charlotte News and were widely read and quoted. Mr. Ervin sought to keep the people informed on all matters and the way he voted as well.

At the time of his death Mr. Ervin was working with Mayor Baxter and other City officials in an effort to solve Charlotte's pressing housing problem. Recently, too, he had given much time in the nego-

See PLAN SPECIAL on page 5A

Ervin Rites Tomorrow

Funeral services for Representative Joe Ervin, whose death occurred on Christmas Day at Washington, will be held at 3 P. M. tomorrow in Morganton.

The services will be held at the home of his mother, where he spent his boyhood, with the Rev. Joe B. Clower Jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial will be in the cemetery at Morganton.

The body is expected to reach Morganton early tomorrow morning.

This afternoon Roy Palmer, president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, issued a statement urging that all members of the board of directors of the organization attend the funeral.

In commenting on this announcement Clarence O. Kuester, executive vice president of the organization, said that Representative Ervin had served Charlotte well both as a citizen and as a member of Congress.

Indonesian Has Narrow Escape

BATAVIA —(AP)— Premier Sutan Sjahrir of the unrecognized Indonesian republic had a narrow escape from death today when an unidentified assailant fired at close range into the automobile in which he was riding with an Indonesian companion.

Dutch At London Discuss Indonesia

LONDON —(AP)— Premier Willem Schermerhorn and a party of high Dutch Government officials arrived here from The Hague today to inaugurate discussions of the Indonesian situation with Prime Minister Attlee and other members of the British Government.

California Tragedy

Three Killed, Another Missing And Five Injured In Explosion

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—(AP)— Three persons were killed, a fourth is missing and five others were injured, none seriously, when an explosion of a butane gas truck destroyed a warehouse-apartment building here today.

The dead were tentatively identified as Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson and Caroline Sue Stovall, ten, all residents of the apartments on the upper floor of the two-story building.

Frances Watson, another resident, was unaccounted for but friends said they believed she was out of the city on a holiday visit.

The injured included Anthony Berta, truck driver, who explained the explosion: "I stepped on the starter and the butane just took off."

All available fire equipment fought the blaze, and had it under control within half an hour. Police regulars and reserves were called out to patrol adjacent blocks, where the force of the explosion had shattered virtually every window. A bank a block away was put under heavy guard.

Chapson said patrolmen reported some residents of the twenty apartments had escaped to the street, which was littered with broken glass, metal window frames and fragments of brick.

The building housed the Santa Barbara Distributing Co.'s beer and soft drink bottling works, located at Chapala and Cota Sts., only a block from the main artery, State St.

Police and sheriff's telephone exchanges were jammed with calls from residents, many of them miles away, inquiring about the blast.

Body Found At Home In Capital

Ill Health Is Believed Reason

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Representative Joe W. Ervin of Charlotte, was found dead of asphyxiation at his home in Washington yesterday.

He was alone at the time of his death, said District Coroner McGruder McDonald, and his body was found in his gas-filled kitchen by his friend Lamar Caudle, assistant attorney general, and his son, who were calling to pick Ervin up for Christmas dinner at their home.

Ervin was slumped over in a chair, Caudle said, with a pistol and a straight-edged razor in his hand. The kitchen doorway was stuffed with blankets, the window shades down, and the radio playing softly. Caudle, chief of the Justice Department's Criminal Investigating Bureau, told one reporter, adding that Ervin's feet were placed on a chair in which an unfinished cigarette remained.

A note on the doorstep addressed to the assistant attorney general warned that the house would be filled with gas. Two other notes found on the dining room table were addressed to Representative Ervin's wife, Susan, visiting in Morganton during the holidays, and the other to his brother, Samuel, former Superior Court judge at Morganton. Contents of the notes were not disclosed.

"I spent 30 minutes with the Congressman," Christmas eve, Caudle said, "he complained of his injured leg and mentioned recent heart trouble, but in spite of his ailments, he was cheerful."

JUST OUT OF HOSPITAL

Ervin had just been released from Walter Reed Army General Hospital, Caudle related, having recently fallen outside his home and injuring again a leg which had undergone five operations for osteomyelitis. The fall had prevented him returning to Morganton for the holidays with his wife.

Caudle said he had tried to telephone the Congressman at about 10:30 yesterday morning without success. When they reached the house, they found three gas jets and the gas oven turned on. Caudle further revealed that the note found on the doorstep, besides warning of the danger, contained a request that Ervin's aged mother, Mrs. Samuel J. Ervin of Morganton, be told he died of a heart attack.

It asked him to make funeral arrangements and not to get an expensive casket, expressing apology to Caudle for the task thus given.

According to a brother, Dr. John W. Ervin, the Representative had suffered from the bone disease for several years.

Representative Ervin, a native of Morganton, graduated from the University of North Carolina, where he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. He practiced law in Charlotte for about fifteen years following his graduation and was a member of the American Bar Association.

He was one of ten children. His brother, Hugh Tate Ervin, a civil engineer, Morganton, and a sister, Mrs. Laura Hall of Richmond, Va., Miss Eunice Wood Ervin, Morganton, and Prof. Joseph Conyers Ervin of the University of Missouri faculty.

Mr. Ervin was elected to Congress last November from the Tenth District.

His death left the House lineup at 240 Democrats, 190 Republicans, two independents and nine members in three vacancies. Four Democratic Representatives Dickstein, New York; Ramspeck, Georgia; Weaver, Pennsylvania, and Woodrum, Virginia have announced their resignations to be effective at year's end.

Ervin's death led to a false report at police headquarters yesterday afternoon that the victim was former Sen. Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina. Police said they did not know how the report originated. Reynolds is at his home at Palm Beach, Fla.

Kenneth Romney, sergeant-at-

See JOE ERVIN on page 5A

WEATHER

Clearing today, continued cold, followed by fair and cold tonight. Thursday fair and moderately cool with lowest temperature tonight 15 degrees to 20 degrees.

Temperature at 9:30 today

High and low last 24 hours at Weather Bureau, Douglas Airport, 36 and 15.