

10-YEAR-OLD GIRL CRASHED TO DEATH BY TRAIN

Tragedy In Their Faces

A 10-year-old girl who was spending the rainy night beneath the Southern Railway underpass at N. Graham St. was instantly killed by a locomotive at dawn today.

Mamie Lillian Duncan of East Marion was huddled with her brother and sister at the time of the tragedy.

The children's father, Henry N. Duncan, 54, had gone to a cafe a half block away in search of coffee for the shivering, destitute family, which had spent several days wandering in search of work.

Mamie apparently never saw the switching steam engine which crushed her.

"My brother and me just saw it when it was right on us," seventeen-year-old Hazel said later.

"We weren't asleep then. We were sitting there on the track. We got under that place to get out of the rain.

"We were sitting there spelling words. I was trying to learn my little sister how to spell."

Hazel was dry-eyed, but the strain in her face showed the shock of grief. Her smaller

By TOM PASTERNAK
Charlotte News Staff Writer

brother Alvin looked around with the same strain of shock.

"My little sister never saw it. It was right on us. I didn't hear it coming. I grabbed for her, but I didn't get her."

LEAP TO SAFETY

Alvin and Hazel leaped off the track as the big engine rolled toward them. They pressed themselves against the concrete abutment of the underpass on Southern's main line.

When the locomotive hit Mamie, they screamed.

High up on Graham St., coming back from the cafe, Mr. Duncan heard the engine bell clanging.

"When I heard that," he said, "I ran up the street. I got to the bridge, and there was a crowd of people looking over the rail. There was 75 or more people. I looked down, too.

"That's a steep bank. I don't know how I got down there to the tracks.

"I started down when somebody said a little girl was cut up pretty badly."

He rubbed his reddened eyes.

"We run into bad luck, I guess."

Mr. Duncan then told the story of wandering through the Carolinas in a search for work which ended with the tragedy.

He had taken his three children from their home at East Marion last Thursday and had headed for Gaffney, S. C.

"I was a Union News salesman (news butcher on a train), but I got sick. I been piddling around."

He had a little money for train fare, but not enough to get to Gaffney, where his brother, Leonard, lives.

"I run out of train money at Union Mills, S. C.," he explained, as he sat with his two older children in the Salvation Army home on N. Poplar St.

"We had to get off the train there. It was a long distance to Gaffney — about 60 miles, I reckon. We walked most all the way to Gaffney."

His brother took Mr. Duncan and the three children to Blacksburg, S. C., yesterday and put them on a bus for Charlotte. Leonard gave his brother a little money.

Mr. Duncan and his children got to Charlotte about dusk yesterday. He wanted to look for work, but first he had to find a place

See **GIRL KILLED** on page 7-A

The Charlotte News

Final

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Truman Drafts Foreign Report On Coal Miners

Henry N. Duncan sits with his son Alvin and daughter Hazel at the Salvation Army on N. Poplar St., grieving over the death of his youngest child, Mamie. The family had spent the night

Bethel May Be Named To State Post

Charlottean May Step Up

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Possibility of the appointment of Dr. M. B. Bethel, City Health Officer, as state health officer in succession to Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, resigned, developed today.

According to reliable information from Raleigh, a good deal of support is being developed for Dr. Bethel's appointment as North Carolina health officer.

When queried about these reports from Raleigh, Dr. Bethel said: "I am entirely content with my job here and am happy in my work. I would not lift a finger in my own behalf, but, of course, if the position is offered me I can not deny it."

Dr. Bethel came to Charlotte in 1945 from Concord, where he had served for seven years as health officer for Cabarrus County. Since coming to Charlotte, Dr. Bethel has shown himself to be one of the most progressive health officers in North Carolina and his position in the state's public health service was recognized last year when he was chosen president of the North Carolina Public Health Association.

It is known here that in the last year or so overtures have been made to Dr. Bethel regarding the state's top health position but nothing definite developed until Dr. Bethel it is natural to assume that the salary for the state position would be adjusted.

Initially efforts were made to secure the services of Dr. Thomas Parson, who has resigned as director of the U. S. Public Health Service but he has declined the nomination. In the future, the possibility of this development came as the reports from Raleigh that Dr. Bethel is receiving strong support for the appointment.



NEW STAFF PHOTO BY TOM FRANKLIN, STAFF WRITER. Henry N. Duncan, his son Alvin and daughter Hazel, who were ten-year-old Mamie Lillian Duncan was killed by a locomotive this morning, is shown here. The place where the child sat with a brother and sister is marked in the circle. The other two children leaped to safety against the concrete abutment.

Congressmen Await Major Statement

Message Delays Tax Cut Action

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman called off some appointments today to work on the report he will give Congress tomorrow on world conditions.

At the Capitol, speculation continued that he may have some major pronouncement on stepped-up Russian pressure on non-Communist Europe, both in the White House and in the Senate.

The Senate put off until Thursday the start of debate on tax cutting. It had planned to take up tomorrow the \$4,700,000,000 tax-cutting bill its Republican-controlled Finance Committee has prepared.

Democratic Senators, who were called into a conference to lay plans for holding the cut to \$4,000,000,000, spoke up at their meeting without any decision.

Senator Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, the Democratic leader, said the message was that they should hear Mr. Truman before making plans.

"The President's message, he added, 'might present a situation that would require us to attempt to reduce taxes.'

More than 100 Democratic children in Congress are expected to make a statement on the issue of the nature of the message and what they would say to the legislators. But Barkley said Mr. Truman has not informed them of his message until the time what his message will contain.

In a brief House speech, Rep. Cox (R-Or.) said he hopes Mr. Truman will tell Congress that "one more act of aggression by Russia means war."

"That's the only thing that will stop the Russians," Cox said. "The money we have sent abroad has been more than canceled by the sale of the Communists."

Cox said Mr. Truman will be disappointed "if his purpose is to stampede the House into accepting the Senate version of the Marshall Plan."

White House officials turned to the House on the "redaction of the White House" got the impression that some of the more

See **TRUMAN TON** on page 7-A

Senators In Plane Crash

Here is an air view (left) of small plane after it crash-landed on the frozen Kennebec River near Vassalboro, Maine, with Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Republican Presidential aspirant, and Senator Owen Brewster, Republican of Maine. Both escaped injury. Right: Taft (left) and Brewster are all smiles later in a hotel at nearby Bangor. Taft is on a campaign tour of Maine. (AP Wirephoto).

Supply To Steel Mills Is Cut Off

70 Per Cent Of Diggers Idle

PITTSBURGH — (AP) — The flow of coal to this steel capital came to a dead stop today as thousands more bituminous miners joined the "pensioners walkout" of the United Mine Workers.

More than 280,000 miners, or 70 per cent of the nation's 400,000 soft coal diggers, were idle in the two-day old work stoppage. They seek 100 monthly pensions for veteran miners.

All major steel industry and commercial mines throughout Pennsylvania, Uniontown area were shut. The U. S. Steel Corp., leading steel producer, was losing 10 million dollars daily, while forcing its own workers to work on a 12-hour shift.

Other steel firms affected included Jones & Laughlin, Republic, and its children, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube.

In Washington, U. S. mediation against miners' President Lewis, there was some question whether the court could find any way to stop the walkout. They were unwilling to do. The strongest possibility was to mediate as long as the union would not demand a settlement.

Even should President Truman seek another injunction against Lewis, there was some question whether the court could find any way to stop the walkout. They were unwilling to do. The strongest possibility was to mediate as long as the union would not demand a settlement.

All 29,000 members of the United Workers had their jobs in Illinois and large quotas had stopped work in 11 other states.

In West Virginia, 64,000 out of 100,000 had walked out of the pits. In Pennsylvania, 14,000 in the West Virginia, employing 14,000, was shut down today. J. J. Ardigo, secretary of the West Virginia Operators Association, said he had no idea when the men would go back. Ardigo added:

"As long as the men are able to get their jobs, they will work. Maybe when the workers are willing, the companies won't be willing and the walkout number will be large."

In Pennsylvania, 39,000 out of 95,000 had quit. "An operators' spokesman said the union is not ready to return to work until the walkout number is over."

In Ohio, the number of idle grew to 7,300 out of 16,000 and in Michigan, 1,500 out of 3,000 were growing rapidly. Three of the state's largest mines were shut and the walkout number of idle workers, which has 3,000 miners, saw little change.

A union spokesman predicted 100 per cent absenteeism by nightfall.

Germany Is Voted Into Aid Program

PARIS — (AP) — The European recovery conference voted unanimously today to include Western Germany in the scope of the Marshall Plan.

Portugal proposed that Spain also be included. Action on this suggestion was deferred. The recovery program will be financed by the United States at an estimated first year cost of \$5,300,000,000.

The conference of the sixteen nations charged its experts to draw up statutes of a permanent organization and articles of a treaty to include the reconstruction of Europe.

Karl J. Burckhardt, Swiss Minister of Finance, said Switzerland "would like to reaffirm its confidence in the nations co-operating to restore Europe. He said Switzerland would make the 'fullest contribution'."

British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin said in a closing speech: "I am convinced that the fate of Europe and the world will be decided by the intensity of our work during the next few months. The war against poverty and want will be won. We must be ready immediately to go into action as soon as the European reconstruction program is decided. We must bring hope and security to the working masses and liberty to all."

The German resolution and all the other decisions of a committee of officials were adopted unanimously. Greek Foreign Minister Constantinos Tsaldaris, however, entered a reservation for his country on the program report to the U. S.

The reservation was on a point in the report predicting Europe could be self-sustaining at the completion of the recovery program in 1947. Tsaldaris said the "reduction of aid to Greece" which he said was one of the results of the report of American observers sent there, had made it "less likely" that this goal would be achieved by Greece.

The conference also adopted a resolution on the German program, to be submitted to the United States.

Foreign Minister Oesten Under of Sweden told the conference his Government believed that "the moment has arrived to take a de-

3 Nations Agree Palestine Threat

By LARRY HAUCK
NEW YORK — (AP) — The United States, Russia and France agreed in principle today that a threat to peace actually exists, the U. N. then would be in a position to use force to restore order in Palestine.

The United Nations Palestine Commission in its second monthly report meanwhile predicted strife, bloodshed and chaos in the Holy Land this Spring.

The five-nation commission charged with carrying out partition of the Holy Land sounded this warning in its second monthly report to the Security Council, released here and at Lake Success.

The document was circulated to delegates as the big powers stated their hopes for peace in Palestine on Jewish and Arab acceptance of truce proposals. After ten days of apparently fruitless consultations, the big nations yesterday appeared to reach this conclusion: There is a threat. If the council finds a threat

Menace To Peace

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Strike Hits Meat Output

CHICAGO — (AP) — Many meat packers, members of the United Workers are striking today by a strike of 100,000 CIO United Packinghouse Workers seeking wage increases.

The strike went into effect at 12:01 A. M. local time despite an eleven-hour plea by President Truman for a delay until a Fact-Finding Board investigates the dispute.

Industry spokesmen predicted that the nation's meat production will be cut in half within a few days if the strike continues.

A union spokesman estimated approximately 140 plants of all major and many independent packers are affected by the walkout.

Some 150,000 other packing plant workers, members of AFL and independent unions who have set up work questions with the packers, also are working.

CIO picket lines formed at struct plants across the nation.

An industry spokesman estimated packing plants not affected by the strike could step up the nation's meat production to nearly 50 per cent of the normal 300,000,000 pounds a week.

Most experts agreed, however, that it would be considerably less than that.

The union committee, after receiving Mr. Truman's telegram urging the work stoppage be delayed while a special board of inquiry investigated the dispute, telegraphed the President "the strike must proceed."

An industry spokesman said that a strike action at this time would obviously serve no fruitful purpose in promoting a solution of this wage issue. The committee told President Truman.

Mr. Truman had the union it is not mandatory that the union it is not to continue at their jobs until the fact finding board reports to him on April 1.

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Tornado Hits Alabama Town

FLORENCE, Ala. — (AP) — Approximately 75 houses, 100 automobiles and a badly damaged store were destroyed or badly damaged today when a tornado struck East Florence.

Clyde Anderson, business man, said 200 or more persons were homeless in the suburbs and that property damage would exceed \$500,000.

All communication lines into Florence were out. Facilities into Sheffield and Tusculum, south of the Tennessee River, were also ripped.

News reports to Sheffield police said a large grocery warehouse was demolished and approximately 100 houses damaged.

The storm struck about 2 A. M. and accompanied by a torrential downpour.

The State Highway Patrol district office at Decatur, Ala., said several persons were reported injured. Sheffield police said one woman was in a Florence hospital.

If Walkout Continues

CHICAGO — (AP) — What will be the effect on house workers' strike against the big four packers mean to Mr. and Mrs. Consumer?

Economists and statisticians agreed today that, if the strike continues many retail meat markets will have less meat on their counters within two weeks.

Government and industry spokesmen said they could not make any predictions as to the number of pounds of meat which may be available, or the prices per pound, however, because too many uncertain and variable factors are involved.

Shortages will be spotty, they said, but in some cities will have

Meat Strike Effects To Be Felt On Retail Counters In 2 Weeks

more meat available than others. And prices probably will increase as meat becomes scarce, since there are no price controls which apply to meat sales in the U. S.

Production of meat will continue, but at a greatly reduced rate. Some estimated that packing houses not affected by the strike could step up the nation's production to nearly 50 per cent of the normal 300,000,000 pounds a week. Most experts say it will be considerably less than that.

Pork will be more plentiful than beef, lamb, or mutton. There is a seasonal high percentage of dressed pork in the country.

Here are some figures on the meat situation for the country.

On March 1, there was 1,033,400,000 pounds of Government-inspected dressed meat in storage throughout the country.

However, this figure includes 188,000,000 pounds of meats which are not sold over the counter in butcher shops. The meat is the kind used for manufacturing ham, sausage, soup and other products.

The amount of pork in storage March 1 was 70,000,000 pounds. However, much of this was ham and bacon stock in the process of curing or waiting to be cured. Some of the cured meats would not be ready for sale in two or three months or longer.

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WEATHER

Cloudy and warm with showers tonight. Wednesday partly cloudy. Thursday temperature at 5 P. M. today 28 high and low last 24 hours 63-28. High tomorrow 68-50. Low tomorrow 48-31. More Weather Data on page 7-A