

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas

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### NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING . . .

U.S. 100

We doubt there are visions of sugar plums swimming around in this young man's head—he's probably never heard of 'em except that certain rhyme. But you can bet he's not leav-



They Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Buster! a red fire engine on shiny new tricycle on his mind as David Shaw settles down for the big sleep—on the one just before Santa comes.

## Beria And Pals Are Liquidated By Firing Squad

### Soviet Closes Case Of Ex-Police Boss

By RICHARD KASCHER  
MOSCOW (AP)—The Soviet Union closed the books today on Lavrenty P. Beria. The government announced that the longtime boss of the secret police (MVD) and six of his henchmen were shot by a firing squad yesterday after a secret five-day trial. The Soviet Supreme Court found them guilty of high treason.

Beria, 54, held the Soviet Union's highest honors and had been elevated to the No. 2 Kremlin post of first deputy premier and interior minister after Joseph Stalin died nine months ago. Three months later, in June, Premier Georgi Malenkov's government arrested him and denounced him as a traitor to the state and communism.

The execution announcement today was the first disclosure that Beria's trial had been going on since Friday behind locked doors.

The hearing opened two days after the Soviet press published indictments against Beria and announced the names of the six other defendants. The papers at the trial start by blaming Beria for the seven as the vilest kind of betrayer and reported that mass meetings throughout the country unanimously calling for his death.

In past cases of executed traitors, their bodies have been cremated and disposed of without further announcement.

The eight-man tribunal, under Marshal V. S. Konev, a World War II hero, passed sentence after "The guilt of all the accused was completely proved by oral and written confessions," the government newspaper revealed.

The official announcement said Beria and those who had conspired with him to overthrow the government were "restored to capitalism."

As early as 1919 Beria "occupied the post of secret agent" in Azerbaijan, Kobulev, ex-embassy minister of internal affairs; S. A. Goglidze, internal affairs chief in the Soviet Far East; and several internal affairs ministers in the Ukraine, and L. E. Vladimirov, internal affairs investigations chief.

## Truce, Russian Changes Cheering

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Christians the world around looked forward today to one of the most joyous observances in years of the birth of Jesus. They were buoyed by the greatest hope for peace—justified or not—since the start of the cold war.

Although officials were skeptical, millions in Europe felt the threat of war had ebbed with the signing of the Korean truce and indications that the Soviet government was paying more attention to the welfare of its people at home than to spreading the Communist flag abroad.

The end this year of the fighting in Korea and the release of thousands of Communist-held prisoners also brightened homes throughout prosperous America. Here, as in other lands, traditional Christmas Eve festivities and ceremonies were the order of the day.

## Dacam Corp. Will Erect Plant Here

By EMERY WISTER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
New shop and office buildings will be erected here by the Dacam Corp., makers of spinning machinery.

The two structures will be erected by McDewitt & Street in Charlotte on a site at Gardner and Chamberlain Aves. The property is near the plant of the Old Dominion Box Co. On the basis of construction costs the building on one with a price of \$500,000.

Grover Currie, manager of the Dacam Corp., said the shop building will have 20,000 square feet and the office about 4,500 square feet.

The buildings will be of brick, concrete and steel construction, and will be one story in height. Mr. Currie said construction will begin early next month and is expected to be completed by the end of May. The office building is air-conditioned.

The plant, now located at the rear of 228 Turner Ave., will be moved to the new location when the building has been completed.

The Dacam Corp. makes carding and spinning machinery. The machines do not manufacture cotton, but open cotton and place products in them for other manufacturers. The machines are used by wool bottlers and other type plants all over the United States.

The Dacam Corp. employs 70 persons. Mr. Currie said the new shop building will provide much more space than is available in the present structure and that the payroll will be expanded when the new structures have been completed.

## MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING



MORRIS JOHNSON JR.

## Police Hold Man In Knife-Slaying

By DONALD MACDONALD  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
Held for the slaying of his neighbor, a 25-year-old sheet-metal worker told police today that he got off work yesterday about 5 o'clock and came on home with his brother-in-law. They were all in the house talking about this argument between my brother and Huntley.

"I favor my brother a lot," said the accused man. "Huntley must have taken me for him."

"I got off work yesterday about 5 o'clock and came on home with my brother-in-law. They were all in the house talking about this argument between my brother and Huntley."

"A little later I was out on the street talking to my stepson when Fred Altman (of 1315 E. 10th St.) came up to me and said, 'I heard Huntley is after your brother.'"

"The next thing I knew, I saw Huntley coming toward me. And he was in a hurry, too."

"He said, 'G. D., you, I'm going to kill you.'"

"My stepson told me to run because Huntley had a pistol at my feet."

"I was there minding my own business," Johnson said, "when the man came on me—I had to do something."

The 1900 block of E. 10th St. is near the end of Jackson Ave. Just past Piedmont Junior High School.

Police said Huntley was employed by S. H. Dunca & Co., Inc., 218 W. 1st St. The firm handles drycleaning and laundry supplies and is distributor for Amestean Generators.

Johnson is employed of a sheet-metal worker with the Charlotte Roofing Co.

"I don't know how many children of his own but has six stepsons. His wife, however, is expecting a baby in about four months."

Ralph Johnson (brother of the accused man) told police that Huntley and he got into an argument at "Bob's Place" at 533 Louise Ave. Johnson told officers. Ralph Johnson said Huntley struck him several times with a . . .

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## POWs Cancel News Parley

By GEORGE A. McARTHUR  
PANMUNJOM (AP)—Twenty-two Americans who disavowed home for communism failed to show up today for a news conference they had requested to explain their choice.

Instead, three Koreans—also convertant asson—of mms peared.

They said the Americans had changed their minds about talking.

The Koreans denied reports that fear instead of belief in communism was holding some of the Americans.

"Look into the matter and see," they urged Indian custodian troops.

The Americans backed for a Christmas Eve trip back to their main prison compound in the near future, leaving the area where they spent the final days of Allied efforts to win them home.

The explanation period ran out Wednesday midnight (10 a.m. Wednesday, EST).

At the main barbed-wire compound, all the former Allied soldiers who have chosen communism will be reunited—22 Americans, 1 British, 327 Koreans. They were separated when 250 Koreans attended Allied explanations and the others halted.

The prisoners will observe Christmas with a special menu of beef, chicken, pork, fruit, wine and beer furnished by the Communists.

They also planned special athletic events Christmas afternoon.

The 22 Americans will spend the next 30 days at the main compound here, like all other prisoners who have refused repatriation, are due to be released Jan. 22 as civilians.

## Selection Of Coty Ends Long Wrangle

PARIS (AP)—France's new President, 71-year-old Conservative Sen. Rene Coty, drove triumphantly into Paris today. The nation's weary parliament had elected him went home to a Christmas tree and prospects of a new year fraught with strife and division.

Coty, generally unknown to the public and no relation to the performers, was elected last night for a 7-year term to succeed Socialist Vincent Auriol. The new chief of state will take office Jan. 17. Premier Joseph Laniel's cabinet then will resign and France once more will have no control over the government.

Coty's election, at the palace of Versailles eight miles from the capital, ended a week's voting deadlock unprecedented in French history.

Previously no more than two ballots had been required to name a chief of state. Thirteen were held at a two-day pace before Coty—received the necessary majority of the more than 900 members of the National Assembly and Senate.

Coty got 477 votes—438 were needed to elect—on the decisive ballot. Marcel-Edmond Nageolet, Socialist and former governor general of Algeria, polled 229.

Coty's views on the European army are not even publicly known. He was ill when the Senate debated the project, and has never taken a stand. Though he has been in Parliament nearly 30 years, he is known chiefly as a member of the Conservative, "free enterprise" independent party, and an advocate of constitutional reform to strengthen the executive and eliminate the frequent changes of government.

As President, he is supposed to have no control over policy. The post is symbolic of the continuity of the state and by tradition above politics. His duties are largely ceremonial and social, though he must select a new premier whenever the assembly turns the cabinet out of office. Even then the assembly has the last word—it must okay his choice and his cabinet.

## Comic Dictionary

INFATUATION  
The feeling that makes a young man want to call a girl by his last name.

## 9 Persons Die In Two Fires

ELLINGTON, Mo.—(AP)—Flames swept through the frame houses in southeast Missouri early today, killing nine members of the two families. Eight might frighten tourists away proved unfounded. The greatest influx of visitors

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Five other persons were injured. The fires, one near Ellington about 6 a.m. (CST) and the other some 20 miles to the southeast near Poplar Bluff four hours earlier, came on the coldest day of the year. The temperature was slightly above zero.

They were attributed by survivors to overheated wood stoves.

Six of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Jones, a fire near Ellington. The parents were seriously burned.

Two of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rogers, 34, and two of his three children perished. Three other persons were injured.

## Body In N. Y. Identified As Ex-Elon Athlete's

PATSCOQUE, N. Y. (AP)—Authorities have identified a body found on Long Island as that of Joseph Golombek, missing Air Force sergeant and former college athlete. The victim, police say, had been beaten and possibly buried alive.

An anonymous letter, saying a "friend" had been "accidentally" fatally injured in a hunting mishap, gave instructions which led searchers Tuesday to a shallow grave under a brush pile in a lonely area near Great South Bay.

Under the brush and about 18 inches below the earth was the body, face up, the mouth stuffed with leaves.

A ring on the dead man's wrist, a class ring from Elm College in North Carolina, bore the initials "J. G." and the date 1947. College records showed a Joseph Golombek graduated from the school that year and had been a star football player.

A laundry tag on clothing led police to Portsmouth, Va., which

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## Santa Requested Them To Forgive Violators

ALBION, N. Y. (AP)—Add yuletide cheer: no overtime parking tickets this week.

Instead, the village gave officers a "Santa Claus" tag saying: Santa Claus asked us to let it go this time."

## Snow In Midwest, Rockies

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
St. Louis (AP)—Snow fell in mid day drizzling over most parts of the nation as annual total of the United States topped 27 inches. Eight inches or more over wide sections of the Midwest and Rocky Mountains regions.

The cold air which chilled the Midwest earlier this week extended to the Atlantic seaboard today and into the Deep South and Texas.

A warning was reported in the north central region.

Temperatures dropped to below freezing as far south as Laredo and Corpus Christi, Tex. It was 11 in Lubbock and 16 in Amarillo, today.

## Santa Facing Much Dry Sledding

Tex., early today. Readings were freezing and below in sections of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia.

It was 11 above in Pittsburgh. The New York's was compared to a high of 56 yesterday.

The northern Midwest got relief from the cold as easterly winds from the northern and central planes moved eastward and south.

Temperatures advanced 10 to 20 degrees in the plains yesterday as compared to Tuesday.

There was a few sub-zero readings in the Rockies and Utah, Colo., reporting a low of 13 early today.

## OUR WEATHER

Fair and cold today and tonight. Friday, some cloudiness and not quite so cold.

Low temperature this morning, 25 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight, 20 degrees.

High temperature yesterday, 52 degrees.

High temperature expected today, 48 degrees.

Sunrise, 7:29 a.m.; sunset, 5:16 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 6A

authorities said, was the last known home address of the 21-year-old Golombek, stationed at Westover Field, Choctawhatchee, Miss., got a 12-day leave on Nov. 4. At the expiration of the leave he was to report to Camp Killebrew, N. J. When he failed to show up at Killebrew on Nov. 16, Golombek was declared AWOL.

Rosen and Johnson said they last saw Golombek on Nov. 8 while he was on leave from Westover. They said he visited them in their Manhattan hotel and

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## EVENING PRAYER

O Eternal Spirit, give us humbly received one soul that may be With this vision, give us courage to cross every barrier to meet their needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.