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FINAL

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OUR PARK NEEDS: I Can We Get More Parks In County?



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)

In Or Out Of City, Children Will Play Metropolitan Commission Plan Gathers Steam

Why are there so few parks and recreation areas outside Charlotte's city limits? What can be done about the park shortage on the city's crowded west side? What happens to the park board "surplus?" Is the Park & Recreation Commission following the far-reaching recommendations of the Allen Report on park facilities? These are some of the questions that will be explored in a Charlotte News series, starting today.

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Parks and playgrounds like those inside the city limits may someday dot the perimeter area as well. And that "someday" will be someday soon if members of the United Community Services' special park and recreation study committee have anything to say about it.

A majority of the committee spoke up strongly today for a "Metropolitan Recreation Commission" with jurisdiction spreading over all of Mecklenburg.

Some of them suggested legislation by this year's General Assembly empowering the county assembly to set up such a body. It would have the responsibility of seeing to it that rural residents are not short-changed in the recreation area.

The present Park & Recreation Commission's authority ends at the city limits line. Its members can't build parks in the mushrooming perimeter area. As a result, some areas just outside the city are building up without provision for the parks its residents need.

Abolition of the Park & Recreation Commission and establishment of a park board for the whole county were urged in the Allen Report, made by the county's recreation consultants last year. The U.C.S. committee's recommendations are the first

move toward implementing the Allen suggestion.

GRIER SUPPORTS
One of those supporting a county-wide recreation board today was Joseph W. Grier Jr., who is also a member of the Park & Recreation Commission.

"We need recreation in the county," he said, "and we need a consolidated body, I'm sure, to get it."

"I think the best way to achieve this may be to do it in steps. But among the other members of the committee, the sentiment is pretty strong for taking a plunge."

Mrs. Ernest DeLaney Jr., another committee member, said she thought the legislation should be introduced in this year's General Assembly — even though it might be a while before the metropolitan commission is established.

BOARD REEDED
A county-wide board, she said, is "the only way" to meet recreation problems outside the city.

She noted that the Allen Report is founded on the "school-park" concept — construction of parks and playgrounds for neighborhood use at school sites.

"But there's nothing that can be done at Cotswold School, for instance," she said. "The park board's authority doesn't extend that far because Cotswold is two blocks outside the city limits."

Another committee member, Arthur H. Jones, when asked if he favored a metropolitan commission, said:

"Yes, indeed. The problem is wider than the city limits. We have metropolitan status in Charlotte, and the time to set up a county-wide board is now. The county is pretty well charted by the Allen study."

Mr. Jones is a former superior.

See MORE on page 2-A

MORE BONDS, LESS BOOZE TWO REASONS

Hospitalization Cost
Rises; Departmental
Requests Go Higher

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The county's 1957 tax rate is going up, up and up, and where it's going to stop, no county official will predict.

It's still early for budget making, but this much they know: 1. The tax rate will get a three-cent boost from payments to be made on newly issued bonds. 2. Reduced ABC funds — equal to at least three cents on the tax rate — means another source of revenue will have to be increased. 3. Most departmental requests so far are higher than the current approved budgets.

HANDWRITING ON WALL

Already the handwriting is on the wall. And bits of conversation at recent County Commission meetings show worried officials. "It looks terrible now," Commission Chairman Sid Y. McAden said, commenting on the county's financial situation.

Persons in search of funds are accustomed to cold receptions from commissioners, but recent receptions have been even cooler. The board, when possible, has postponed purchases and commitments until the next fiscal year which begins July 1.

Commission concern does not mean that the county is going broke, but it does indicate a tight situation until more funds are available.

COUNTY TO BORROW

Mecklenburg will borrow money to begin the 1957-58 fiscal year since 1957 taxes are not payable until July 1.

Commissioners will get their first official word on the new budget at April 15 when department requests and the tentative tax rate is formally presented.

Days of whittling figures and compromises with department heads will follow before the budget is adopted and the tax rate set May 1. County Auditor Mrs. Ethel D. Byrd said about two thirds of the departmental budgets are in her office now. The larger ones, such as schools and public assistance, are still out.

FRIDAY DEADLINE

Final deadlines for all requests is Friday, she said. During 1957-58, Mecklenburg will have to pay \$170,000 in principal on bonds. The payments amount to over three cents on the tax rate. Interest is not included in the figure.

Frank K. Sims Jr., ABC board chairman, has notified the county it will receive \$500,000 during the next fiscal year, which is approximately \$170,000 less than 1956-57.

At budget-making time last year commissioners got the ABC board to draw from its working capital, and funds received by the county were more than ABC profits.

Allocations to the county for the fiscal year are from profits only and they are less than last year. ABC sales for the first eight months of this fiscal year are less than they were during the same months last year.

Increased cost of operation will

See COUNTY on page 2-A

Flaming Navy Plane Carries 11 To Death



Tree Limbs, Heavy With Snow, Lean Across Snow-Draped Cars On Denver Street

(AP Photos)

Explodes Following Takeoff

CHINCOTEAGUE, Va. (P) — A Navy Neptune bomber "exploded in a great ball of fire" shortly after takeoff today and carried its 11 crewmen to death in a flaming crash on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

The twin-engine long-range aircraft ran into trouble a minute after it left the strip at the Chincoteague Naval Air Station. There was a sputtering noise, a witness reported, when the plane was only a couple of hundred feet in the air, then a window-rattling blast and the plunge to earth in a big plume of smoke.

It slammed into a plowed field on the farm of Dennis Hurley, two miles south of the air station near the Maryland line.

The Navy said the propeller driven aircraft had taken off for Cherry Point, N.C.

The 11 occupants had no opportunity to jump at such a low altitude. All apparently were hurled in the burning fuselage in the 10-foot hole it made in the sandy soil.

Earl W. Darby, who runs a general store in the small community of Atlantic, said the plane exploded in the air and "fell to earth in a big plume of smoke."

"I jumped in my pickup truck and drove to the field where it came down."

"All I could find was a man's shoe and man's foot," Darby said. Darby, who said he was one of the first on the scene, declared that the "big plane ripped up a hole in the ground and the main section of the plane buried itself in the hole—about 10 feet deep and 25 feet long."

TURNED BACK
Darby added that he saw the plane shortly after it took off, about 7 a.m. It appeared to be headed south and in his judgment was not over 200 or 300 feet above the ground when it turned back toward the base.

He said there was a "backfiring noise" as the plane flew back over Atlantic and suddenly "it exploded in a great ball of fire."

The explosion jarred buildings in the town and rattled windows, Darby asserted. When he arrived at the field, he figured the cauldron shurley and a couple others just arriving not to go near the plane because it might explode again. There was another small explosion in one of the wings, he said.

Shortly after, fire trucks and other vehicles from the Naval station arrived, Darby said, and he left. He said he saw no other bodies and figured most of them were in the main fuselage, buried in the hole. The wreckage was still burning three hours later, Darby said.

Our Weather

Fair to partly cloudy and warm with scattered showers.
Low this morning — 55
Low tomorrow morning — 55
High today — 75
High yesterday — 64
High tomorrow — 79
Sunrise today 6:09 a.m.; sunset today 6:45 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

Massive Storm Heads From Rockies To Plains States

DENVER (P) — A massive, snow-moving storm bulging with moisture poured rain and snow over a vast area in the parched Great Plains and Rocky Mountain states today.

Rain or snow soaked drought-stricken land from Montana and the Dakotas southward through Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico

and the Texas Panhandle. Forecasters said the weather system did not appear to pack the vicious wallop of a blizzard 10 days ago that snarled transportation, trapped travelers and killed thousands of cattle.

Winds on the plains were not expected to exceed 25 or 35 miles an hour. The heavy moisture in the snow will probably prevent severe drifting. The storm 10 days ago was accompanied by winds up to 60 and 70 miles an hour.

PRECAUTIONS URGED

Livestock men throughout the area were warned to take precautions. Cattle that survived the storm starting March 23 were reported in weakened condition and the new storm posed a serious threat to them.

Upper air soundings showed the storm was bearing moisture at levels up to 20,000 feet and would have a plentiful supply to spread everywhere on its south-easterly path from the Rockies.

Severe icing conditions accompanied the storm and some commercial airline flights were cancelled.

ONE FATALITY

Ground transportation was reported interrupted, although the death of one Colorado motorist was blamed on the storm. Gerald A. Bowker, 30, of Burlington was fatally injured last night when his car skidded on U. S. Highway 6 about 50 miles west of Denver and crashed into a snowplow.

Cities along the eastern slopes of the Rockies were expected to receive from three to six inches of snow. Mountain communities were receiving heavier snowfalls.

Forecasters expected the storm to clear out of eastern Utah and western Colorado late today. It'll move away from the eastern slopes of the Rockies by Wednesday. If the present Weather Bureau timetable isn't upset.

The body was found about 10 miles west of Omaha near the Douglas County Hospital Annex. The severed hand was with the body.

Sheriff's officers said the body had been dumped on the spot where it had been found. An on-the-spot search produced no clues.

Six teams of Detectives joined deputies on the case. Marfi's weeping mother told them her son "had no enemies." His seven brothers and sisters among them a twin brother Ronald, reported their brother had been in good spirits.

TALKED WITH GIRL
Donald's girl friend told officers of a telephone conversation with the youth about 10-30 last night in which they talked of records and dates.

Marfi said quit school about a year ago. He had been working off and on for a junk buyer, and was to have gone to work at 6 a.m. today.

WHAT'S THIS?
BOONVILLE, Mo. (P)—Kathryn Jayne Kempf, 17, was tapping her toe in time with the radio music in her date's car. Accidentally, her foot touched the starter. The car, in gear, took off and struck another parked automobile, resulting in \$25 damages.

FATHER ARRESTED
A physician said the victim died from a lack of insulin at 11:32 p.m. Earlier that same day, the girl's father, John Melvin Lowe, 37, was arrested here on a public drunkenness charge. He was carrying a box of insulin in his pocket.

STATESVILLE (P)—A coroner's jury has requested a grand jury investigation in the case of Amy Lillian Lowe, 22, an acute diabetic victim who died March 16 from lack of insulin.

The request for a grand jury investigation came from a coroner's inquest last night. The next grand jury convenes in May.

INSULIN TAKEN FROM LOWE
The insulin was taken from Lowe in a routine "frisking" at the jail. Lowe was incoherent and "cried when they took a nearly empty bottle of wine and from him," according to Public Safety Director W. T. Ivey.

NOT INFORMED
Ivey said Lowe did not inform police the insulin was for a sick person. An investigation showed Lowe had come to Statesville with his son.

After Lowe's arrest, the son returned to their home near Leno, some 20 miles from here, got money and returned to Statesville for more insulin.

The girl's mother gave Amy a "normal" shot from this supply 11 p.m. However, the physician, Dr. D. L. Myers, said the girl apparently did not respond because she had not had a dose for nearly four days.

NEARLY DEAD
Dr. Myers said Amy was "nearly dead" when he arrived about 11 p.m. It was the first time the physician had visited the family.

After the girl's death, the physician posted bonds for Lowe. Lowe pleaded guilty to public drunkenness and was fined.

—VICTIM'S FATHER ARRESTED—
Insulin Death Probe Asked

Brown Announces He'll Run Again

Richard H. Brown today announced his candidacy for reelection as a member of the City School Board.

Appointed to the Board in June 1956 Mr. Brown is serving out the term of J. Gordon Christensen, which will end at the municipal election May 7.

Mr. Brown is one of three school commissioners whose terms expire this spring.

Already Ben S. Horack has announced his intention of seeking reelection but J. P. Hobson has not disclosed his plans.

Son of Lutheran missionaries Mr. Brown was born in Kumamoto, Japan. His father, Dr. Charles L. Brown, was serving as executive secretary of the United Lutheran Church's Board of Foreign Missions at the time of his death.

Mr. Brown attended school in Baltimore and was married to

See BROWN on page 2-A



MR. BROWN

What's Inside

- Business — 6A, 7B
- Classified — 9-11B
- Comics — 8B
- Crossword Puzzle — 7A
- Earl Wilson — 7A
- Editorials — 4A
- Everyday Counselor — 12A
- Keeping Our Sanity — 9A
- Memo to Caesar — 12A
- Obituaries — 7B
- Radio-TV — 4B
- Serial — 12A
- Sports — 5-8B
- Theaters — 10A
- To Your Good Health — 7A
- Worry Clinic — 2A