

Cold Drying Up That Ol' Mountain Dew

By BOB SLOUGH
News Staff Writer

Sub freezing weather has little effect on the big-time commercial moonshiner but to the small time operator it means sad news in terms of cold cash. When temperatures drop to a frigid 13 degrees like they did last night the fermentation of mash stops unless proper precautions are taken to heat the mash vats. Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit officials say. Big-time liquor makers make arrangements to get under cover, however.

Commercial moonshiner moves his operation underground or into barns, ATTU officials here said today.

The extremely cold weather may have caught some of the smaller operators with their vats unheated. "Nobody was exactly looking for the cold weather we're having now," according to one agent in the office of Charles S. Nicholson Jr., supervisor-in-charge of ATTU in North Carolina. "It hurts the outdoor operations," the agent said. "If the vats aren't inside a building or underground the cold weather will definitely affect the fermentation."

Most commercial operators allow their mash to ferment in vats before putting it through the still that produces liquor, the agent explained, and heat is an element necessary to the fermentation process. That's why commercial moonshiners move indoors during the winter months.

Big-time operators set up their underground operations by scooping out a hole in the ground with a bulldozer and covering the top with logs and dirt. ATTU men call the underground still covering a "cave." Bad weather, snow and ice, also has

its effect on the movement and supply of illegal liquor. ATTU agents said. It's unhandy to transport a load of liquor over a snow-covered road.

Even though illegal liquor supply and small-time operations are affected by the cold weather ATTU agents have their work cut out for them.

It's almost Christmas and the demand for illegal liquor picks up about this time of year.

If cold weather continues, however, the small-time illegal liquor maker is going to have trouble meeting the demand.

The Christmas I Remember Best



(Sixth of a series by prominent Charlotteans)

They Were All The Best

By LEGETTE BLYTHE

Ever since The Charlotte News invited me to write about the Christmas I remember best I have been trying to select that one Christmas from the more than half a century of Christmases I've had.

But I can't do it. Though I have done a bit of traveling in strange and exotic lands, I have never spent a Christmas in Paris or Cairo or Honolulu or Istanbul. My every Christmas, in fact, has been spent right here in prosaic but to me delightful little Huntersville, within half a mile of the house in which I was born, more than half of them in the house in which I now live.

So Christmas to me—and the children—has always been centered around the home and family. Among our fondest memories of our parents was their enthusiasm for Christmas and what it meant.

One record I believe our family does have I doubt if another anywhere can match it. And that is our being together on Christmas day. My brother and I—Charles is four years younger to the day—have had our Christmas breakfasts and dinners together ever since he was born, without exception. My sister Frances, Mrs. Charles Dudley, had missed but one Christmas being with us and she talked with us on the telephone that day. And Rachel, Mrs. J. McIver Jackson, the youngest, has missed but two. In all our lives, I mean—and the four of us have had many Christmases.

And none of us has ever missed a Christmas with our children. That alone has made all our Christmases days of delightful and tender memories. We have a Christmas tradition, too, that I believe is unique.

We always have Christmas breakfast and Christmas dinner—the middle of the day dinner—together, the whole family, the two brothers and two sisters, their husbands and wives, the children, and here recently, to add a new delight and tremendous enthusiasm to the season, the grandchildren.

Breakfast we have at our house, usually long before daylight, and when the children were young we were often through eating before 6 o'clock. We eat by candlelight and the meal has become somewhat traditional—fruit juice, scrambled eggs, grits maybe, sausage or ham—and often it's Virginia ham from Esther's home up in Halifax County beyond Danville (I'll give 'em a tip; it's going to be Virginia ham this Christmas), hot biscuits, blackberry jelly, and until they grew out of it milk for the kids, and gallons of scalding coffee for us older ones.

Then breakfast over, everybody piles into the big room (150 years ago it was the drawing room of our great, great, great uncle Robert Wilson over in Hopewell and no doubt it has seen some wonderful Christmas doings) and before a roaring fire and a huge Christmas tree brought from the woods and not bought on a Charlotte lot, for getting the tree and decorating it have always been an important Christmas chore) we give the Christmas presents.

Usually the presents are all given out, the wrappings have been consigned to the fireplace flames, and the room has been restored to a semblance of order by 8 o'clock. Then we may get a short breather—we didn't in the days when the kids were young—before going up to Frances' home for the big Christmas dinner.

Her big house in front of the school was our parents' home where most of our childhood—and Rachel's and all but a year or so of Frances'—was spent. There in the huge dining room in which the Christmas dinners of our childhood were wonderful occasions of festivity warmed by family intimacy and solidarity, we still have our big meal—the turkey and dressing, ham, salads, vegetables, ambrosia—and truly fit for the gods—more hot biscuits, more steaming coffee. We have wonderful cooks in our family.

After the Christmas dinner we begin to scatter. On numerous Christmas afternoons we have gone with the children to visit Esther's home in Virginia. Charles and Mac with their boys have gone to South Carolina to her mother's. But, usually we are all back in time to have a meal, all together again, with Charles and another with Rachel.

Our Christmases may seem a bit staid to some who crave the excitement of lively places and new faces. But we like ours as they have been through the years—simple, warm, loving and loved—after the fashion of that very first one, we dare to feel, and in the spirit of that young villager whose day it is.

So, for the life of me, I can't remember which Christmas was best. They have all been best.

(Mr. Blythe is a former Charlotte newspaperman who devotes full-time to the writing of books which have brought him national prominence in the literary field.)



MR. BLYTHE

NATO Ministers Reject Reds' Ultimatum On Berlin

We're Alone? Other NC Cities Feed Their Kids

By ANN SAWYER
News Staff Writer

Does Charlotte stand alone in North Carolina with its problem of hungry school children? Indications are that it does.

Mrs. Anne W. Maley, director of the lunchroom program for the State Department of Public Instruction, told The News: "We have very few complaints about youngsters not getting meals where needed."

The 1,800 Tar Heel schools in the National School Lunch Program served 6,341,435 meals last year. Between six and eight per cent of these lunches were served free to children who cannot buy lunch, Mrs. Maley said.

For the most part, needy hungry children are pretty well taken care of in North Carolina, she said. "One rule for the lunchrooms on the National School Lunch Program is that they take care of needy children."

The lunchrooms in the program—and almost all in the state—are this year will receive about \$6 million in federal commodities and about \$3.5 million in cash reimbursements from the state.

As a condition of accepting this help, which must be used to reduce lunch costs for all children, the lunchrooms must feed what is called a Type A meal—a balanced plate lunch.

Mrs. Maley said there can be no exceptions to this rule in North Carolina.

To offer less than a balanced meal would be to defeat the purpose of the program. More often, she added, it is the child on the free lunch program who most needs a balanced meal.

In other North Carolina school systems, Mrs. Maley said, the communities have accepted part of the responsibility for supplying free lunches to needy children.

"It definitely is a community responsibility when the schools can't do it themselves," she said. Communities have various ways of meeting this responsibility.

In several cities, United Fund supports the program. In some rural areas, Mrs. Maley said, the people raise money through community programs, movies, talent shows, brunswick stews.

Some of the city systems use the same type of promotions, and often get support from men's or women's service clubs, PTA's, and churches.

As for the possibility of in-

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Carl Eder After Arrest

'Why, Oh Why?'

Father Confronts Slayer Of Family

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UP)—Thomas Pendergast stared at the lanky, 17-year-old youth who had just confessed slaying Pendergast's wife and four children.

"Why did you do it?" he screamed. "They were all I had in the world."

Young Carl Eder slumped in his chair at the police station. His mouth opened and shut several times but no sound came out. Finally he blurted: "I... I didn't want to, Tom."

The meeting between Pendergast and the 16-year-old runaway New York youth he had befriended Monday night after Eder had been captured in a beach community a few miles north of San Diego.

Police had been looking for him since Friday when the bodies of Mrs. Lois Pendergast, 37, and her four children were found in their home. The mother had been shot,

the children slashed and stabbed with a knife.

SHORT FIGHT The 6-foot-3 teen-ager, whose description had been widely broadcast, was recognized by a resident of Mission Beach and arrested by an elderly policeman and a lifeguard. After a brief show of defiance the boy started crying and admitted he was Eder and that he had killed Mrs. Pendergast and the children.

"I just flipped" his captors quoted him as saying.

At the San Diego police station, officers said they got a detailed confession from the youth. Pendergast picked up as a hitchhiker six weeks ago and took into his home because he felt sorry for him. They said Eder told them he became angry because one of the children, Diane, 4, was making a lot of noise. He stormed into the bedroom and threw the girl on the floor, cutting her head.

GETS PISTOL Mrs. Pendergast rushed up, took the child into the bathroom to bandage her and told Eder to call a doctor. Instead, the youth got a pistol from the garage and came back and shot the mother.

He killed Diane and her brother Alan, 2, by cutting their throats with a hunting knife. And when David, 9, and Tom, 5, came home, he took I will try again next year.

Hold Hope For Talks On East-West Issues

PARIS (UP)—The Foreign Ministers of the Atlantic pact countries today flatly rejected Russian pressure on Berlin but held out the possibility of high-level talks with the Soviet Union on East-West problems.

The Western leaders agreed, however, that such talks could not be successful under the threats of any Soviet ultimatum on West Berlin.

U. S. Secretary of State Dulles told his colleagues in the North Atlantic council that Soviet Premier Khrushchev will not risk war over Berlin.

"Therefore we can proceed with confidence," Dulles asserted. He added: "We must not give an appearance of success to a bold and reckless move. In this respect he (Khrushchev) is like Hitler—if we give him an inch, he will take a mile."

A NATO spokesman said the majority of the 15 foreign ministers agreed with Dulles' position. He described the broad lines in this way:

"Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's proposals are unacceptable. The West must stand firm and cannot tolerate the unilateral violation of international agreements. The West is agreed that it is always ready for discussions on the reunification of Germany."

"The allies are strong enough not to be frightened by threats of Soviet propaganda," Dulles said.

GERMANS JUBILANT The outcome of the short opening meeting was greeted jubilantly by the West Germans.

"It was a first rate meeting," said German press spokesman Felix von Eckhardt.

The ministers decided there would be further consultation by the Big Three after the NATO sessions to determine how to frame replies to the Berlin notes from Khrushchev.

The keynote of the morning session, the NATO spokesman said, was "the complete and unqualified solidarity of the alliance in support of the three powers principally responsible for Berlin."

West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano also lines up in support of future talks with the Russians. He said these talks are essential to a solution of the Berlin question which is a world problem, not just a German or European concern.

However, von Brentano said the Soviet ultimatum must first be flatly turned down.

Dulles recalled that at the 1955 summit conference in Geneva the Russians agreed that the four powers were responsible for the reunification of Germany.

Dulles appeared before the NATO ministers with a prepared map showing the demarcation line between East and West in Germany.

Three janitors in Le Conte Hall, a physics building, heard shots at 12:50 a.m. and one of them saw a man run out. Another, looking out a window, saw him vault a railing into an eight-foot light well, then climb out and flee.

Police found Marx dead from "at least two bullet wounds."

Anthony Santana of nearby Pittsburgh, a janitor, led Police Sgt. George T. Martin to the light well from which he had seen the gunman flee. Martin, hearing a noise in the well, found and captured Hampton.

Hampton admitted the killing, Martin said, accusing Marx of "messing around with my wife." Hampton offered no resistance. He was quoted as saying he had dropped the death weapon, a .22 automatic, when he vaulted into the light well the first time. He drove away from the campus before discovering his loss and then returned for it, he added.

Sgt. Martin found the pistol. Other police found five discarded cartridges at the scene. Hampton was not placed under formal arrest immediately.

Man Admits Killing Student

BERKELEY, Calif. (UP)—A German physics student was shot to death in a University of California laboratory today and a campus policeman captured a jealous husband who admitted the killing.

The victim was Wolfgang L. Marx, 26, identified by a campus spokesman as a German citizen from Herrnhut who served two years in the U. S. Army as an electronics technician in the Far East and came to the University from New York. He had been a research assistant student at the university.

Captured was John W. Hampton, 31, who said he was unemployed.

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Our Weather

Sunny, with slowly rising temperatures, today and tomorrow. Fair and cold tonight. Low this morning — 13 High expected tonight — 15 Low expected tomorrow — 12 High expected tomorrow — 37 High expected today — 40 High expected tomorrow — 45

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Stars Over Bethlehem On Page 6A

Business	8A, 10A, 12A
Classified	9-11B
Comics	8B
Crossword Puzzles	12A
Earl Wilson	5B
Editorials	4A
Everyday Counselor	8A
High School	12A
Radio-TV	5B
Serial	14A
Social Security Game	12A
Sports	6-7B
Theaters	9B
To Your Good Health	12A
Women	2-4B
Worry Clinic	8A

—THE LIGHTER SIDE—

Crime Pays, With Discount

(From AP Reports) John Richard Gilmore, 19, paid a \$15 fine to a Springfield, Mo., court for stealing nine old tires valued by the owner at \$12.

But police figure Gilmore still made crime pay. He had peddled the tires for \$137, officers said.

Request Honored "Don't send me to county jail," pleaded Duke Collins, a veteran of many arrests. "I

can't stand the smog downtown," so a Los Angeles judge, who had found Collins guilty of drunkenness, sentenced him to 30 days in the city's smog-free jail in the San Fernando Valley.

She's Welcome A Philadelphia traffic policeman found time for a bit of Christmas courtesy. Mrs. Mary Constanine, packing a child for a chance to cross the street. Finally the policeman held up traffic to permit her to cross. "Thank you, officer," she called out. "You're welcome, taxpayer," was the reply.

Eternal Hope A letter to Santa Claus opened at the Newark, N. J., post office, made a list of not unusual requests, and concluded with: "I hope I get most of these things, but if I don't I will try again next year."

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