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Add Winter Woes: Giant Water Pipe Endangered

By DONALD MACDONALD
News Staff Writer

One of Charlotte's life-lines is in grave danger of breaking. If the disaster should happen, half the city's water supply would be exhausted after four days.

That water you take for granted would have to be rationed.

That bath you enjoy each morning would become a luxury you couldn't afford.

That house of yours would be less safe against an increased threat of fire.

To meet this emergency City Council yesterday authorized an

expenditure of \$17,500. The money is needed for an urgent repair job on at least one concrete pier which supports a 36-inch raw water main. In a remote section of Long Creek township, this raw water main with two others of lesser size—carries approximately 20 million gallons of water on a semi-day under the usual pressure conditions. The huge concrete "artery" extends underground from the Catawba River Pumping Station (approximately 2 miles away) to an exposed point where it crosses Long Creek.

Then it returns underground

and pipes water for 5½ more miles to the Hoskins Reservoir. From the reservoir, where enough water is kept for a four-day reserve, the water is carried 3.6 additional miles to the city's filter plant on Beauty's Ford Road.

The extreme weather conditions of this winter are blamed for undermining one of the big pipe's supporting piers at the Long Creek crossing.

Usually sluggish Long Creek, now in spate from rains and snows, has hurled its torrents upon the pier and has eaten away at earth beneath it.

One of the sections of the con-

crete pipe has moved a few inches out of line as a result.

It's only six inches out of line, mind you. But that's enough for utility engineer Richard D. Campbell to realize the imminent danger. The "twist" in the concrete pipe was detected by one of several crews which checks the raw water mains regularly each month.

No damage has been detected to piers which uphold the two cast iron pipes running parallel to the larger concrete line. One of the pipes is 30 inches in diameter and the other is 24 inches.

See WATER on page 2-A



Flooded Long Creek's Waters Swirl Around A Pier Base Over Which Engineer Dick Campbell Stands



Debt Limit Up

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower today signed a bill temporarily lifting the national debt ceiling by 5 billion dollars to 280 billion.

Fuchs Near Goal

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Dr. Vivian Fuchs has only 184 miles of easy territory to cover before reaching Scott Base. It was reported today. His expedition will be the first to cross the frozen continent by land when it reaches the British Commonwealth base.

Mack Back Again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Communications Commission member Richard A. Mack, central figure in tangled charges of pressures in a Miami TV case, faces House investigators today with a chance to give his side of the story.

Quicker Tempo

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force told the missile-aircraft industry today to quicken the tempo of production, warning that there will be no contracts for those firms which fail to keep the pace.

Questioning Wanted

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said today he will seek to question Secretary of State Dulles soon on Dulles' differences with Harold E. Stassen over disarmament negotiations.

Intervention Asked

TUNIS (AP)—Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today called on the NATO powers to intervene to end the conflict between France and the Algerian rebels.

MOON BOOMERS MAY BE SPACE CLAIM JUMPERS

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—Things may be getting a bit crowded on the moon.

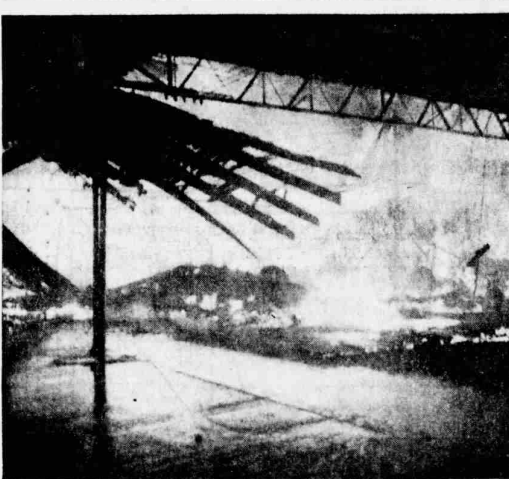
Two Phoenix men who claim ownership of the moon have learned that someone else staked a claim several years ago.

William E. Dudman, Jr., a hotel clerk, and John B. Steel, presently unemployed, filed warranty to the moon last week with County Recorder N. C. Moore who insists the deed was drawn up legally.

Now it turns out that Professor Andrew Kenneth Primus of New Orleans, who died Feb. 13, filed a similar claim several years ago in Cook County, Ill.

"Well, it's still ours unless proven otherwise," Dudman commented. "That's for the courts to decide."

33 Men Killed As British Airplane Rams Mountain



Flame Wrecked Merry-Go-Round

These are the ghostly remains of the merry-go-round, one of several rides destroyed by fire last night at Ocean View Amusement Park, Norfolk, Va.

Earlier Request

FCC Man Won't Resign Under Fire

WASHINGTON (AP)—Richard A. Mack said today "of course" he will not resign from the Federal Communications Commission. He swore he was not "influenced or swayed" by appeals from friends in a contested television license case.

Mack further told a House investigating subcommittee under oath that he is getting rid of his interest in a Miami insurance agency which won the insurance on the successful applicant in the contest for Miami's TV Channel 30.

Mack said that he was only last Monday when he read the newspapers that he knew this agency, Sembler-Sheldon Insurance Agency, Inc., had obtained the business from Public Service Television, Inc.

Mack acknowledged borrowings totaling \$4,900 since 1950 from Miami attorney Thurman A. Whiteside. He said all but \$250 has been repaid.

"Mr. Whiteside has never in his life attempted to use any financial obligation of mine to influence any actions, either private or official," Mack said.

A Republican member of the committee said earlier that Mack should resign immediately, and it he didn't, should be removed from office.

Mack had told reporters before going into the hearing room that he was not going to resign.

Mack, who 3rd grad last.

Today's Weather

Cloudy, with showers or thunderstorms this afternoon, occasional showers tonight and a chance of showers tomorrow.

Low this morning 40

Low tomorrow morning 40

High today 52

High yesterday 52

High tomorrow 56

Sunrise today 6:55 a.m.; sunset today 6:17 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

Knowledge said he believes it advisable that congressional leaders be informed as to the nature of the understanding, even though the details are not made public.

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80 Dead Or Hurt

Tornadoes Cripple 13 Areas In Miss.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Tornadoes bombarded 13 areas in Mississippi last night, leaving destruction and nearly 80 dead, dying and injured persons.

Five of the dead were in the hard-hit rural area between Rich-ton and Waynesboro, near the Alabama line. Three were at the Farm Haven community near Canton, one near Jackson and one near Walnut Grove, 40 miles east of Canton.

One of the Farm Haven victims was Sally Day, a Negro woman reported to be 110 years old.

The first twister reported was in the Jackson area.

"A MILLION BELLS"

Mrs. Leland Bolton, a 27-year-old housewife of the Luckney community east of here, said she was setting the table for supper when the rains and hard winds came.

"It sounded like a million bells," she said. "All I could think about was my babies and family. Only the good Lord saved and an icebox held off the falling debris when the roof fell in."

The twister also hit in the Fan community of the same area, killing 3-year-old Cathy Jones. Hospitals in the Jackson area reported a dozen injuries.

Several dozen were reported hurt in the devastated Rich-ton-Waynesboro area.

Percy H. Clark, 56, said he and his wife, 49, heard a sound like a train as they sat in their living room.

"WE WERE GOING"

"The next thing we knew we were sitting under it," he said. "We heard a roaring and all at once we were going."

He said his pickup truck was carried 100 feet and deposited in the top of a pine tree.

In the same area, the twister ripped up the house of Mrs. Simpson said. "He was a swell boy, always smiling, pleasant, adding something to your day—as he did with his answer about Walden Pond."

George Keith, editor of the Carthage newspaper, said the town was "literally torn up" with 30 or 40 houses damaged.

Twenty injuries were reported in the Poplarville area of Pearl River County.

Frankfurt, Germany (AP)—Max Pruss, captain of German-ian famed great Zeppelin, today announced plans for construction of a new 200-passenger airship to put his country back in the dirigible business.

"Our new Zeppelin is ready in blueprint," Pruss announced. "Large airships have a great future. We know the Americans are working on atomic-powered Zeppelins."

Noninflammable helium gas to

Blizzard Hampers Rescuers

BOLTON, England (AP)—A chartered British airliner with 42 persons aboard smashed against a snow-covered mountain today, only five minutes from its destination. A policeman at the scene said 33 persons perished.

An injured stewardess, the only woman aboard, and the cockpit struggled through knee-deep snow to a television relay station on top of the mountain and gasped out the first word of the disaster.

Helicopters, snowplows and a mountain rescue team sped through a blizzard to the scene.

The twin-engine Bristol Way-liner, later operated by Silver City Airways, was carrying automobile dealers from the Isle of Man to the Irish Sea on a one-day junket to Manchester, only 15 miles from here, to inspect a battery plant.

"Oh, my God! My God!" cried a shocked official of the battery firm when told of the crash.

JOVIAL PARTY

Wrecking and jovial, the party of 39 businessmen boarded the plane at Isle of Man airport for the 100-mile flight, some carrying goodbyes to wives and children. There was a crew of three aboard.

Thirty-five minutes later, with visibility cut by heavy clouds and the blizzard, the plane smashed its way against Walden Hill, near the bleak moorlands of Lancashire and only 400 yards from a lonely TV tower manned by five engineers.

Stewardess Jennifer Curtis stumbled out of the wreckage with Col. William Hovarth. Shocked, injured and hurt, they staggered upon into the TV station and gasped.

"The plane has crashed."

DEEP SNOW

The snow was so deep that no vehicle could get within a mile of the wreckage.

But bulldozers and snowplows roared through four-foot drifts, opening the way for ambulances when the call for help went out from the TV station. Rescuers, lugging stretchers, blankets and medicines, struggled on foot the last distance.

Three helicopters took off from a nearby Royal Air Force base



VIEW SHOWS PIPE BEND

Runaway Blimp Causes Concern

LAKEHURST, N. J. (AP)—A gusty 40-mile-an-hour wind wrecked an experimental blimp from its moorings early today and sent it bouncing off into the pine barrens south of here.

The blimp, long as a football field, was found three miles away several hours later by a helicopter pilot. It was largely deflated and the Navy theorized the rubberized fabric of the airship had been torn open by a tree.

When the blimp first broke away at 1:40 a.m. the Civil Aeronautics Administration warned all aircraft over this area to be on the alert. No flights were watched, however.

Two sailors who were on watch in the gondola jumped to safety when the blimp broke loose. They were slightly injured and taken to the Ft. Dix military hospital.

The blimp—its engines removed—had been moored at a mast here for about a year. The Navy has been using it to test the effect of weather on a moored blimp over a prolonged period.

Today they found out one effect. The 300-foot-long airship has a swivel attachment to the mast to keep it always headed into the wind, like a moored rowboat.

Something happened to the connection in gusty winds and rain that swept the airship today and it broke.

Because the airship was in equilibrium at ground level, it did not rise high into the air but was bounced through the woods by the winds, said the public information officer at the air station.

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NC Straight Rail Stretch U. S. Longest

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200-PASSENGER AIRSHIP—Giant Zeppelins Coming Back

inflation the dirigible, he said, has been promised by the U.S. Interior Department on the condition the airship is usable on the North Atlantic route.

HINDENBURG CAPTAIN

Pruss, now 66, was in command of the Hindenburg when it went up in flames over an explosion while landing at Lakehurst, N. J., in 1937. The disaster killed 36 persons and ended the Zeppelin transatlantic service.

A committee backed by the

German Zeppelin Foundation with considerable funds at its disposal, has just finished plans for the new airship, Pruss said.

The new Zeppelin would be capable of carrying 200 passengers plus 70 tons of freight across the Atlantic at a cruising speed of 100 miles per hour.

Pruss said, adding that Zeppelins were very economical to operate.

"All aeronautics progress made over the last 20 years will be embodied in the new ship," said Pruss.