

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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13 Die In Crash

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Thirteen persons were killed and 17 injured in the collision of a bus and an oil truck on the main highway between Aleppo and Banias in North Syria, reports said today. All the injured were hospitalized, some in serious condition.

Fire Threat

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Some 150 fire fighters battled today for control over a stubborn blaze that already had leveled more than 150 acres of grass and timber land 30 miles northwest of this central California town.

New Fighting

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Fighting broke out in Beirut again today when 80 rebels tried to break out of Basta Moslem quarter and were repulsed by security forces.

Real Fireworks

LEGHORN, Italy (AP) — Fourth of July fireworks from an American beach party zoomed off course in a big wind last night and set fire to several cabins on a neighboring Italian beach.

Travel Ban Eased

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The ban on travel to the outer regions of Indonesia by foreign diplomatic personnel has been lifted for all areas except Celebes and the Moluccas.

Levees Strengthened

HAMBURG, Iowa (AP) — The levees of the Nishnabotna River at Hamburg in the extreme southwest corner of Iowa were piled high with sandbags today to hold back the flood crest that wrought havoc in the upper reaches of the watershed.

This Mom Went Back To College

Story and Pictures on I-B

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Foster (Right), Attorney James Wood Read Statement

Father To Be Freed

JEFFERSON, Ga. (AP) — For the first time in nearly two years the shadow of the electric chair no longer darkens the life of a slim, mild-mannered South Carolina house painter and father of seven children.

James Horace Wood, 40, of Greer, S.C., is still in jail at Jefferson, but now he can count the days until his release.

Authorities say he will be here 10 days before legal technicalities are cleared up.

The door to freedom was opened for him yesterday when Charles Paul Rotherchild, 35, a 35-year-old former Cairo, Ill., patrolman, confessed killing a Jefferson merchant.

Foster's case was sentenced to die in the electric chair for that crime — in September, 1956, and again this June. Both times appeals delayed his execution.

STATEMENT

Rotherchild signed a 2,300-word statement at Columbia, S.C., where he is serving a 5-year burglary conspiracy sentence. In the statement he detailed how he planned the robbery that resulted in the slaying of 60-year-old Charles Drake in June 1956.

The former patrolman said Foster's death sentence "has been constantly on my mind and conscience."

"What Foster means to me can be stated from the following Bible verse, St. Matthew 5:10, 'Blessed righteousness' sake. For there is righteousness' sake. For there is the kingdom of Heaven.'"

"Foster has definitely been persuaded," he continued, "May God return him to his wife and family and may he live a long and happy life."

FINGER MAN

Rotherchild named A. D. Allen, a used car dealer at Windsor, Ga., as the finger man in the case. Allen now is in Federal Prison at Atlanta in the first year of a 5-year liquor case sentence.

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Violence Kills 21 In Carolinas

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least 21 persons had died violently in the Carolinas as the long Fourth of July weekend neared its midway point.

The count at noon showed 14 dead in North Carolina and seven in South Carolina.

In North Carolina Governor W. W. Carter said a car carrying four young men drove out from a restaurant near Weldon.

The crash killed three brothers and their companion: Roger William Boone, 20, Benjamin Baggett Boone, 14, John Taylor Boone, 18, all of Spring Hope, and Neddie A. Taylor, 23, of Raleigh.

Corner Carter cleared truck driver Paul Outlaw of Miami, Fla.

Mrs. Barbara Jean Murphy, a 16-year-old bride from Cleveland, died when her husband's car hit a tree near Smoketown.

Chare Howell, 50, Negro, of Ft. 1, Meren, was killed near Meren when the car in which he was riding struck a tree and overturned.

Wille G. Collins, 21, Negro, died when a speeding car overturned on a rural paved road six miles south of Hertford. The driver of the car, Gene A. Morgan, 21, also Negro, was charged with manslaughter and speeding under existing traffic conditions, the State Highway Patrol said.

Jasper Turner, 34, of Portsmouth, Va., drowned in the Chowan River near Winton when he fell from a motorboat. His young son, Alan, also fell into the water but was rescued by David Mad-drey who dove 15 feet to snatch the boy's limp body.

Devey Lee Gibbs, 12, of Ft. 2, Guilford College, drowned in a little pond of a neighbor. He slipped while wading.

STEPPED ON BODY

A man told the lieutenant at Lake Silver near Raleigh that he thought he had stepped on a body. The lieutenant found Sammy Allen, 13, of Zebulon, drowned in shallow water.

Police said a Negro couple at Rocky Mount, Wile and Lillian Bottoms, died in a murder-suicide killing. Police said Wiley killed his wife and then himself while three children watched.

Cedric Shepard, 40, Negro, of New Ben, was stabbed to death in what police called a "drunken brawl." Officers charged Hardie Brock, Negro, of Trenton, with the killing.

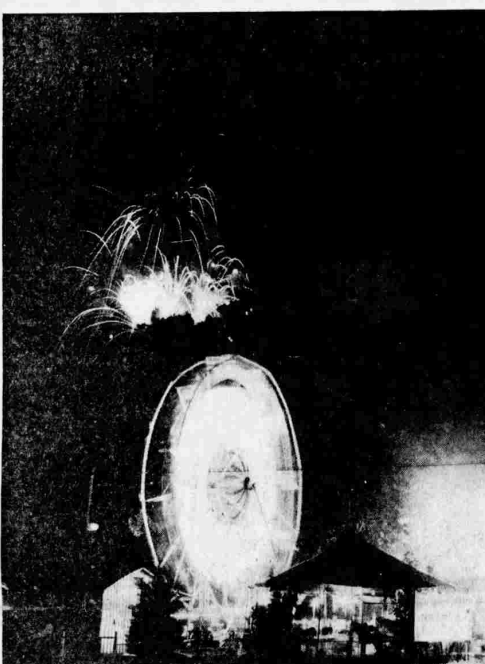
Ennis Johnson, 30, was found shot to death in the bedroom of his Charlotte home. Police said he had been several bullet holes in his back.

South Carolina counted at least seven dead, six by traffic and one by drowning.

Mrs. Walter Thomas, 31, of Milstead, Ga., was killed near Harberville when struck by a car while walking across a road. The Thomas family was en route to Myrtle Beach.

Kenneth G. McCaskill, 29, of Bennettsville, was fatally injured and searched for shell casings.

See VIOLENCE on page 3-A



Fireworks Light Up The Sky

Informal fireworks exhibitions are banned by North Carolina law, but the Fourth of July still wouldn't be complete without the popping of firecrackers and

sizzling of Roman candles. Folks yearning for the good old noisy Fourth got a lot of pleasure from a sanctioned exhibition at a park here last night.

289 By Noon

U.S. Heading For New Death Mark

| Death toll Noon EST | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Traffic | 181 |
| Drowning | 69 |
| Miscellaneous | 29 |
| Total | 289 |

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traffic deaths piled up at a record clip Saturday as the half-way mark was passed in the three-day Independence Day weekend.

Safety officials saw a glimmer of hope, however, in the grim statistics. The death rate rose a little after racing through the Fourth at a pace far above estimates made by the National Safety Council.

The NSC has forecast a record high 410 deaths during the 72-hour period. At the midway point fatalities were in line with advance estimates.

"Deaths are running tragical on schedule," said Ned H. Dearborn, NSC president. "But as huge as the death toll is, it is running at a rate slightly lower than during the early hours of the holiday. We urge drivers to exercise the utmost caution to bring the toll down."

MAIN CONCERN

The mounting traffic toll is the current concern of safety officials. During the first half of the observance, highway deaths ran one-sixth ahead of those occurring during the recent Memorial Day weekend. That observance was marked by 371 traffic deaths, a record for a three-day Memorial Day holiday.

The previous record three-day weekend toll for a July Fourth observance was 407 deaths in 1955. A four-day July Fourth holiday period claimed a record 491 in 1950.

Generally fair weather greeted motorists clogging the highways Friday during the early hours of the weekend. But thunderstorms and showers put a damper on driving conditions Friday night.

Some 45 million cars were expected to roll up 12 billion miles on the nation's highways, according to an NSC estimate, for the holiday period—from 6 p. m. local time Thursday to Sunday midnight.

Man, Knife Put Fear In Outing

MYRTLE BEACH, S. C. (AP)

A man wielding a knife threatened passengers and crewmen of a pleasure boat 35 miles offshore here during a Fourth of July cruise. He finally was subdued after he was accidentally wounded in the shoulder.

Policeman Hubert Anderson at nearby Ocean Drive said the melee occurred aboard the boat "Hurricane," when William B. Newton, 35, of Louisville, Ky., began lashing wildly with a knife. No one was injured.

The officer quoted a crewman, Jimmy Bell, as saying that Newton had been argumentative most of the trip and at one point attempted to throw Bell overboard.

When Newton was ordered to quiet down, Bell said Newton grabbed a knife and began waving it in the air, shouting, "I'm a knife."

Newton was subdued and transferred by the Coast Guard from the boat to a Myrtle Beach hospital where his condition was described as not serious.

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Oregon Factory Explodes

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A fireworks plant on the eastern edge of Portland blew up in a shower of fire and debris early today. A child was killed, and at least 20 were injured.

Firemen took the body of a small girl from the wreckage of a house near the explosion. They were investigating reports two other persons may have been in the house. The names were not available.

Providence Hospital said it had admitted 18 with injuries. The hospital staff was too busy to provide more information immediately.

Firemen were looking also for a watchman reported to be in the plant.

The Signal Fireworks storage plant—two buildings 100 feet long—blew up with a thunderous roar that awakened most of the city at 1:45 A. M.

2 HOUSES WRECKED

The explosion wrecked two houses, smashed doors and windows of a nearby motel and lifted off part of the roof. Debris from the wrecked plant and houses covered the streets around them.

The heaviest damage was confined to a two-block area around the plant, but smashed windows were reported 30 blocks away.

Elderly residents of a nursing home a block away were removed temporarily from the building. Some were in a state of shock.

Fire Marshal Dale Gilman said there was no way of knowing immediately what caused the explosion. Howard Gross, Portland, owner of the plant, could not be reached immediately.

C. I. Starr, 85, was asleep in a motel a half-block from the explosion.

"You'd have thought it was a big explosion coming down from the sky," he said. "I was in bed. The doors and windows blew out, and there was smoke and flame everywhere. Somebody, I think it was the fireman, took me out the back window. I grabbed all the clothes I could, and they helped me get out a back window."

HEARD 10 MILES

The explosion, heard more than 10 miles away, aroused the city and brought people by the thousands. Police and firemen had lines set up as far as four blocks away holding back the curious while they sought the fire and searched through the ruins.

The plant was located on the edge of a residential district and business area. Telephone lines were tangled. Broken windows in the shopping area were common.

Lynnan Lee, a telephone operator, said: "This is pretty bad. The two big warehouses were flattened, and houses close by are badly damaged."

"I'm in the motel office," Lee continued in a telephone call. "The windows are knocked out here and the furniture is just rolled up in a ball."

Private Talk Ends Meeting

PARIS (AP) — Secretary of State Dulles and Premier de Gaulle completed their formal conferences today with a half-hour private conversation at the Premier's official residence.

Neither French nor American officials gave any indication of what Dulles and de Gaulle talked about while they were alone, first inside the official residence and later in the garden.

The morning conference, attended by aides and both men accompanied by a telephone call. De Gaulle walked with Dulles to the automobile waiting to take the secretary back to the U. S. Embassy. The Premier, looked extremely serious.

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—DISCHARGED BY RAF FOR INSTABILITY—

Angry Ex-Airman Wrote Bomb Letter

LONDON (AP) — A jobless farm worker who was discharged by the Royal Air Force for mental instability said today he signed his name and address to a letter saying a U. S. pilot would drop an A-bomb near England.

But the photostatic copy which the Soviet Embassy released two days after receiving the letter was signed only "W."

British newspapers suggested the Russians had pulled a double-trick in publishing the letter while knowing it to be a hoax in order to serve their propaganda campaign. In reporting it to the British Foreign Office, Soviet officials said it was "probably a hoax" but didn't mention knowing the writer's name and address.

A small-town British reporter tracked down the letter writer yesterday. He was William Stanley Whales, 34, of Ipswich, who hasn't been near a warplane for almost a year.

When police questioned Whales today, he denied any political motive but said he only wanted to attract attention to his grievances against the British government.

Whales told newsmen he wrote Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik three letters. One was the threat to drop an A-bomb, another protested his failure to get a gratuity after the RAF discharged him and the third complained that the government had requisitioned his father's farm, Whales said.

NOT AVAILABLE

The Soviet press attack which made public the one letter was not available today and no one at Moscow radio said in an English-language broadcast to Britain that U. S. pressure might force the British government to declare the

letter a forgery even if it proved genuine.

In a written confession given to the Ipswich reporter, Whales accused the Russians of altering the meaning of the published letter by omissions.

Whales said he wrote it to gain attention to his grievances against the RAF but the Soviet Embassy deleted those grievances before giving copies of the letter to the British Foreign Office and the press.

LETTER INTENT

The letter, a mailed public screed to come from a U. S. airman who planned to drop an atomic bomb in the North Sea near Britain and then fly to Russia to seek asylum. Maybe a few people would be killed, but Russia's peace campaign would get some support, the published letter said.

The letter was postmarked last Saturday at Ipswich, 68 miles northeast of London. The Soviet

Embassy said it was received Tuesday and made public Thursday. It was the first time a bomb threat was dropped.

The British Foreign Office said it suspected a hoax. The Russians copied the publicly disclosed letter and said it was a forgery.

It was reported Stuart Weston of the British Press Association the RAF but the Soviet Embassy deleted those grievances before giving copies of the letter to the British Foreign Office and the press.

Thinking over possibilities, Weston told Whales to drop the letter. He asked Whales to drop the letter and then fly to Russia to seek asylum. Maybe a few people would be killed, but Russia's peace campaign would get some support, the published letter said.

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