THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas

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No Specific Blame Fixed

CHIEF FILES BLAST REPORT



News Staff Photo—Jeep Hunter

Mrs. H. L. Rayburn: Throws Another Load In The Dryer

—SHALL WE GATHER AT THE DRYER?—

Society Gets A New Look

By JULIAN SCHEER
News Staff Writer

The social life of Charlotte has changed.

Changed in just 12 days.

Historians may as well record the fact right now.

The month of July in the year 1959 was a month when the city's social life moved to the automatic laundry. To be more precise, it moved to the coin operated dryer.

This sociological report will be read this afternoon, according to our survey, by a great number of people in automatic laundries. Why? That's where your friends are, friends.

A SOGGY TUNE

There's been a steady chorus of rain drops playing a sad and soggy tune on Mecklenburg County and a new beat has been added to the rhythm, the beat being the whir and whine of the automatic dryer.

Wanna find your wife?

Wanna find your husband?

Wanna find your neighbor?

Wanna find a bridge game?

Go to the automatic laundry. Since the rains came, these places of business have been doing a booming business day and night. Washers have been running, but dryers have been racing. No use to try to use the clothesline, so the dryers have been working overtime.

DRYER UP

"Our dryer use has quadrupled," says Mrs. Alys Honey who operates an E. Blvd. washcrette.

Mrs. Charles Hicks, 1914 Ewing Ave., and Mrs. W. D. Pierce, 2130 Lombardy Cir., are prime examples of dryer users. They usually drop coins in the washers only but they kept dryers busy during recent rainy days.

"As many men as women have been in, too," adds Mrs. Honey, which just goes to show that men like dry clothes as well as women, children and babies.

Weather report: Rainy and (automatic) dryer.

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Rain Hits Area 11 Days In A Row

It rained today.

It rained yesterday and for nine days before that. And unless there's a change in the weather it'll rain again tomorrow.

Dog day clouds, pouring out their sorrow on the Carolinas, have brought 11 straight days of rain. The month's precipitation totals 4.03 inches, just .64 inch short of the July Normal of 4.67 inches.

Only a trace of rain fell yesterday and today's precipitation started with a brief early morning shower. But the rains gave the city a 5.09 precipitation excess for the year.

The July rains broke a long, hot dry spell which cost farmers thousands of dollars in ruined crops.

Up until the rains started on a daily basis, rain had fallen on just one day this month.

Although the rains brought humid weather to the Carolinas they helped break the high summer heat.

Temperatures have exceeded 90 degrees on only 7 days this month and the 96 of July 2 is the month's highest reading.

A high of 89 is forecast today, another 89 tomorrow. Low here this morning was 70 degrees and another 70 is forecast for tomorrow.

Doctor Accused Of Slaying Wife

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)— A prominent West Covina, Calif., doctor was held today on suspicion of murdering his pretty estranged wife near their fashionable $80,000 home Saturday night.

California officers are coming here to pick up Dr. Bernard Finch, 43, and return him to West Covina, a suburb of Los Angeles.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Finch yesterday at the apartment of 22-year-old Carol Pappas Tregoff. She is a cocktail waitress who was formerly a nurse in the doctor's clinic.

Dr. Finch denied knowledge of the gunshot slaying of his wife, Barbara, 33. Finch said he came to Las Vegas Friday and had been here ever since.

But Miss Treoff and Finch's Swedish housekeeper told different stories.

ASKS DIVORCE

Miss Tregoff told police she drove Finch back to West Covina Saturday night so he could ask his wife for a divorce. She said when he confronted Mrs. Finch outside their home, his wife pulled a revolver from her purse.

Miss Tregoff said she fled and hid in bushes six hours before driving back alone to Las Vegas.

Marie Anne Lidholm, 19, told West Covina police the doctor and his wife had been separated since May.

When Mrs. Finch came home Saturday night, the housekeeper said she heard her scream for help from the garage.

Then, Miss Lidholm told police: She entered the garage, saw Mrs. Finch lying on the floor with a cut on her forehead and the doctor standing over her.

When she knelt to help Mrs. Finch, the doctor grabbed her and threw her against the wall.

The housekeeper said she was dazed. When she looked up, she said, the doctor was holding a gun and ordered her and Mrs. Finch to get into the car.

A few moments later, Mrs. Finch bolted from the car and ran towards the hillside home of her husband's parents.

Miss Lidholm said as she went to telephone police, she heard a shot. The housekeeper said she came to the United States from Gothenburg, Sweden to learn English and was employed by Dr. Finch last September.

Police said they believe Dr. Finch stole a car to return to Las Vegas.

Mrs. Finch was the mother of two children, aged 11 and 6. The older child was by a former marriage.

Her former husband, Lyle Daugherty, is now married to Finch's ex-wife, Frances.

IT WASN'T MUCH, BUT IT WAS RAIN

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)—Did it rain or did it not in Charles Coval's backyard?

If it did, the missile engineer can lay claim to witnessing one of the tiniest rainstorms on record Sunday. At 6 a.m., and continuing through most of the day, rain —or reasonable facsimilie—came down in a 20-foot square area on Coval's property.

"I know it sounds screwy," said Coval, "but I can't find the source anyplace else. It's got to be rain."

The San Diego Union sent a reporter out. He came back convinced it was rain although there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

Impossible, said the Weather Bureau.

Separate Talks Held On Steel

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's top mediator today resumed efforts to get talks going again in the strikebound steel industry.

Joseph P. Finnegan, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and three key aides went into a private morning discussion with contract negotiators for the basic steel industry.

A similar session with the United Steelworkers Union's team was scheduled in the afternoon.

Rapidly spreading economic effects of the nationwide strike lent an air of urgency to the meetings.

Nearly 90 per cent of the country's steelmaking capacity is shut off. Steel production losses entering the sixth day of the walkout totaled about 214 million dollars.

A half-million striking steelworkers counted pay losses amounting to some 50 million dollars.

OTHER IDLE

Approximately 40,000 workers in related industries, chiefly coal and transportation, have been furloughed.

Under orders from President Eisenhower to press for quick settlement of the dispute, Finnegan was seeking some way to budge industry and union leaders from their entrenched positions.

Finnegan sounded out both sides last Wednesday, first day of the strike. He came away saying he could see no quick or easy solution.

He said nothing could be gained by trying to get negotiators together immediately, put off further peace moves until today.

The union demands a wage increase and improved fringe benefits. The industry contends any boost in labor costs would be inflationary; wants to eliminate what it calls certain wasteful work practices. Steelworkers had been averaging $3.10 an hour.

DAILY REPORTS

President Eisenhower has been receiving daily reports on the strike situation from Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell.

The President has declined to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act to force reopening of the mills, or to appoint a government fact-finding board to study the issues and make recommendations — a procedure under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Two senators and two representatives Sunday criticized President Eisenhower's handling of the dispute.

Long Cancels Second Trip To Jaurez

EL PASO, Tex. (AP)— After a day of telephone talks and attendance at church services yesterday, Gov. Earl K. Long of Louisiana planned, at last notice, to go to Denver today.

He had reservations, it was learned last night, in the Colorado city's Brown Palace Hotel.

The governor cancelled a planned second trip to Juarez, Mexico, across the Rio Grande from here, last night. His plan to go to Denver today also upset a previously announced itinerary that was to take him to Phoenix, Ariz., Colorado Springs, and Monterrey, Mexico.

HEARS SERMON

Yesterday morning, twitching his hands nervously, Long heard Dr. W. Herschel Ford thunder, "You can't live with the devil six days and live with the Lord on Sunday," as he attended services at the First Baptist Church.

After the services, Long said, "That's good preaching. It was only 35 minutes long. In the country they used to preach for an hour and a half. That's too long for an old man to sleep."

A little later he told newsmen his plans for the next few days were a mystery.

"I'm leaving here in a balloon," he said. Then he told newsmen with him he's argued and cursed and tried to dodge.

"Contact me in Kansas City July 25. I'm going to fr yto lose myself between now and then."



AP Photofax

Moscow Bound

Twins Stephanie and Megan Conlow, 4½, had a good laugh as they awaited a plane at Idlewild Airport, New York that was to take them to Moscow. The Peter Conlow family will represent a typical American family at the United States exhibition in Moscow.

Higher Wages

American Income At Record High

WASHINGTON (AP)—Personal income of Americans climbed in June to a record rate of $382,900,000,000 a year. This is more than ½ billion dollars higher than the May rate.

Announcing the figure today, the Commerce Dept. said the rise was chiefly a reflection of higher wage and salary payments due to stepped-up hiring by industry and a lengthening workweek in factories generally.

The report of the rise in personal income came atop a weekend report from the department that national output in the first quarter of 1959 reached a rate exceeding 470 billion dollars a year.

The term personal income, as used by government economists, includes all payments to individuals, including wages, salaries, rents and dividends.

Wage and salary payments in June were reported at $261,100,000,000, an increase of $1,300,000,000 from a month earlier and a gain of nearly 12½ billion in annual rate from the January figure.

On the other hand, government "transfer payments" — unemployment compensation and other federal payments which surged upward in the business recession —dropped somewhat from the May figure.

The department said that bigger factory payrolls last month contributed half the advance in total wages and salaries, the major payroll gains were in the metals, machinery, stone, glass and clay industries.

The prospect appeared, however, that the steel strike will cut deeply into the wage and salary payments for July when the next personal income report is issued a month hence.

STEEL CUT COMING

Steel industry sources estimate that the 500,000 idle steelworkers are losing about 70 million dollars a week in earnings. This figure does not include income lost in the transportation and steel-using industries which may feel secondary effects of the nationwide shutdown.

Crowd Argues As Child Dies

STOUFFVILLE, Ont. (AP)— An excited crowd anxious to help save the life of a boy after he was pulled from a nearby lake yesterday pushed away a man trying to breathe life into the boy and hampered the efforts of a young lifeguard.

While the crowd milled and argued over the best method of artificial respiration, David Laur, 8, of Toronto, died on the shore of Shadow Lake six miles north of this village and 14 miles north of Toronto.

Frank Samon Jr. of Toronto, who tried breathing into David's mouth to revive him, said "It was an awful mess. I started to use the mouth-to-mouth method and the kid seemed to come around a bit.

"Then 15 or 20 people started pushing me away. They were pulling the boy's arms and legs and everything."

Emmett Shandoff of Toronto, 15-year-old lifeguard at the privately-owned Shadow Lake Park, said it was "like a backyard squabble with everybody pulling at the boy and arguing about the best method to use."

It was the third Sunday on the job here for Shundoff, who was awarded a bronze medallion last month by the Royal Life Saving Society.

City Code Change Is Recommended

By JOHN KILGO
News Staff Writer

A detailed report of the fire department's investigation of the July 9 explosion which injured 13 persons was made to the City Council this afternoon by Fire Chief Donald S. Charles.

The report described events leading up to the explosion but fixed no blame.

It did say:

1. The sodium-filled vat that exploded should not have been in the building, but it isn't clear who should have moved it.

2. Fire prevention officials checked the building often prior to its being vacated in 1956, and were told by a chemist that no "dangerous or hazardous or explosive materials were used in the building."

3. No explosives or other hazardous materials were found in the building when the Fire Dept. surveyed it on Aug. 20, 1957.

4. It was recommended that companies who store hazardous chemicals should make written reports to the Fire Prevention Bureau. Failure to make these reports would be violation of the city ordinance.

The report which went to the council this afternoon was divided into three parts.

Chief Charles made a report, Deputy Chief W. O. Dowdy made another and these was a separate recommendation made for the city code as it pertains to fire safety.

HERE'S STORY

From the reports, here is the complete story of events leading up to the explosion.

On rainy July 9, the Suggs Demolishing Co. was tearing down the old building on Templeton Ave.

Henry Suggs, foreman on the job, said at 2:45 p.m. the tank containing the sodium began to smoke and give off fumes.

Suggs said he called the Charlotte Chemical Lab and was told there was no danger.

However, he was told to keep his men away from the smoking vat. Officials said they would examine the vat on Friday morning.

The demolition team quit work that Thursday at 3:45 p.m. because "of the heavy downpour of rain."

FIRE REPORTED

At 4:02 p.m. a small fire was reported in the building.

Asst. Chief George Barnett was in charge of firefighting operations at the scene.

When firemen arrived, they found the trouble to be in a heavy metal vat about five feet long and four feet high.

A small blaze encircled the

See NO BLAME on Page 2-A

Our Weather

Considerable cloudiness, warm and humid through Tuesday with scattered mostly afternoon and evening thundershowers.

Low this morning	73
Low tomorrow morning	70
High today	89
High yesterday	88
High tomorrow	89

Sunrise today 5:23 a.m.; sunset today 7:35 p.m.

More Weather on Page 4-A

—WHAT'S INSIDE—

All-Star Game, Golf Tourney Share Honors

TWO BIG SPORTS EVENTS take place in the city tonight. Loop-leading Gastonia meets the Sally League All-Stars at 8 p.m. at Griffith Park. An hour earlier the first shot will be hit in The News' 12th annual Hole-In-One Golf Tournament at Carolina Golf Club. For details, turn to Page 2-B.

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THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION in Charlotte which does a lot of good work for you. Its name—the Social Planning Council—is rarely heard and a lot of the work it does never makes headlines. Turn to page 1B for the first of three stories on the Social Planning Council.

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Business	7B	Radio-TV	6B
Classified	8-10B	Serial	5A
Comics	11B	Sports	2-5B
Crossword Puzzle	4A	Theaters	8B
Earl Wilson	4A	To Your Good Health	11A
Editorials	10A	Women	6-9A
Obituaries	7B	Worry Clinic	4A





HAROLD AARON—leaves Henderson courtroom after testifying members of a textile union approached him last May to take part in an alleged dynamite plot.

Judge Checking Transcripts Of Dynamite Plot

HENDERSON (AP)—The state today sought to introduce transcripts of tape recordings of an alleged dynamite plot by union members against the struck Harriet-Henderson Cotton Mills.

As the trial of eight members of the Textile Workers Union of America entered its second week, Judge Raymond Mallard excused a Vance Superior Court jury in order to compare the transcripts with the recordings.

Assistant prosecutor, Jack Hooks, said if the transcripts are found accurate, they will be offered as evidence at the afternoon session.

The state said a State Bureau of Investigation tape recorder was hidden in a Roanoke Rapids motel room while several of the defendants allegedly conspired to dynamite a power substation, the boiler room and offices of the South Henderson plant of the struck mills.

The meeting took place, according to the state, in a room used by a key state witness, Harold Aaron.

It is around the Leaksville machinist's testimony that the prosecution is building its case against the eight defendants, including Carolinas TWUA director Boyd Patio.

The 32-year-old Aaron, a former TWUA member, Saturday revealed himself as an undercover agent for the State Bureau of Investigation.

He testified one of the eight contacted him in May about dynamiting vital installations at the mills. "I felt like with as much violence as was going on in Henderson I felt like if I hadn't told him (Mill President John D. Cooper), somebody would have been killed."

Evening Prayer

O merciful God, we thank Thee for the power Thou hast given us to lay hold of things unseen. Strengthen our faith from day to day and increase our love for Thee and for all mankind. Teach us to serve Thee more acceptably; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

20 JUL 20