Blast Site Had No Explosives In '57

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ FINAL

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(AP Wirephoto)

Ida Pereira, 25, trips the light fantasty on the stairway in New York's West 68th St. police station. She was arrested with Esther Huerta, 21, (right) and ex-convict James Meschel, 31, hiding his face in the backround.

NO LATER BUILDING CHECK MADE

Locked Doors Blocked 1958 Inspection

By JOHN KILGO
News Staff Writer

The old Charlotte Chemical Laboratories' building, 310 Templeton Ave., contained no explosive chemicals at the time a survey was made by the Fire Dept. on Aug. 20, 1957.

The much-talked-about survey of the building which was ripped apart by a sodium explosion on July 9 was made public today for the first time.

Thirteen people, including 11 firemen, were injured in the blast.

The survey was made by Capt. J. D. Greene of station number 2 on South Blvd.

SHOWN BUILDING

The survey states that Capt. Greene and his company were shown around the building by Crawford Ellis, a man who was working in the building on Aug. 20, 1957.

Efforts by The News to contact Ellis today were unsuccessful.

The survey states that firemen were told no explosion hazards, no inflammable liquids and no dangerous chemicals were stored in the building.

When the survey was made, the building was three stories high.

2 FLOORS UNUSED

Firemen said only the first floor was being used to manufacture a "product called contact mass, which is a mixture of cilite, caustic potash etc."

They said production in the building at that time was "small." Only four men were working in the building when the survey was made.

Firemen reported machinery was stored in the building, and that vats and tanks were being used for mixing purposes.

The sodium that exploded was stored in a vat.

FLOORS OIL SOAKED

The survey also stated that the "elevator housing and some of the wooden floors were badly oil soaked."

Firemen reported part of the main floor was full of rubbish.

They noted that the housekeeping was only "fair."

When the survey was made, high weeds were around the building and some trash was found at the rear of the building.

It was reported that there was not much stock in the building, and no electrical hazards were found.

The upper two floors were be-

See SURVEY on Page 2-A

Blast Case Defense Offers No Testimony



(AP Wirephoto)

John Chupka (left) of New York, secretary and treasurer of the Textile Workers Union of America, and Boyd E. Payton, Carolinas director of the TWUA, hold conference at Henderson conspiracy trial.

Henderson Dismissal Is Denied

HENDERSON (AP)—Defense lawyers offered no witnesses or other evidence and rested their case today in the conspiracy trial of eight men accused of plotting to dynamite installations of the struck Harriet-Henderson Cotton Mills.

Judge Raymond Mallard denied 26 more motions by the defense—making a total of 29—to have the charges against the Textile Workers Union of America members thrown out.

Judge Mallard and the attorneys agreed to a time limit of three hours for the arguments — 1½ hours for each side. The case was not expected to go to the jury until Thursday morning since Judge Mallard announced that his charge probably would take from two to three hours.

Both sides chose Franklin County attorneys to make the final arguments—Charles T. Green, a former U.S. district attorney, for the state, and Hill Yarborough of Louisburg for the defense.

Twenty-four of the motions denied today were for non-suit on each of the three counts against the eight defendants.

The defendants include Boyd Payton, Carolinas director of the Textile Workers Union of America, Lawrence Gore, an aide to Payton, and Charles Auslander, a minor TWUA official.

The others were Johnny Martin, Robert Edward Abbott, Warren Walker, Malcolm Jarrell and Calvin Ray Pegram.

STATE RESTS

The state rested its case Tuesday and defense attorneys planned to confer last night on whether to offer testimony if their motions should be rejected.

The men are charged with plotting to blow up a boiler room, office building and power substation of the South Henderson plant of the Harriet-Henderson firm.

The judge also rejected a defense motion for a mistrial.

Judge Mallard said he wanted to study evidence in the case overnight before ruling on the motions in behalf of each of the defendants, particularly the case against Jarrell.

He said the "highest amount of evidence" appeared to be against Jarrell, who witnesses have said was to have driven a car to and from the dynamitings. There was testimony that Jarrell was dropped from the alleged plot.

Dave Feller, one of the defense attorneys, based a plea for a mistrial on the argument that the defendants were indicted illegally.

He argued that under the conspiracy law, one "agreement" (to commit a crime) constitutes a crime.

Geneva Hopes Dim

Ike Says Cut Debt First, Then Taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower said today there must be some payment on the huge national debt before any tax reduction can be justified.

The President, at a news conference, identified himself as the source of news dispatches Tuesday saying, among other things, that he sees no real hope for any tax cut during his last 18 months in office.

Eisenhower, in those news dispatches, also said the chances for any summit meeting with the Russians had grown increasingly dim.

At his meeting with reporters today the President said substantially the same thing, but added that he still does have hope for progress at the foreign ministers talks in Geneva.

On the point of taxes, Eisenhower was asked whether he believes a reduction is impossible.

START PAYING

He replied that the government should start to pay off the big national debt. Estimates are, he said, that interest on the debt in the fiscal year starting a year from now will total about $8,700,000,000.

And payment on the debt has not yet started, he observed.

The news conference ranged over these other topics:

POLITICS — Eisenhower declined to assess New York's Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller as a possibility for the presidency on the Republican ticket.

NIXON VISIT — As for Nixon's imminent visit to Russia — he leaves later in the day — Eisenhower said the Vice President is not going to the Soviet Union in the role of negotiator of East-West differences.

The trip, the President went on, is a good-will gesture in connection with the opening of a U. S. exhibit in Moscow.

CIVIL RIGHTS — Eisenhower said once again that progress in the field of civil rights cannot be made entirely through the enactment of laws. There must be much dependence, he added, on the education process and on acceptance of moral responsibility in that area.

He made that comment when told that Roy Wilkins, head of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, had said the Negroes may have to support the Republicans because the Democrats in Congress have come up with a big fat zero in the civil rights legislation field.

West Awaits Berlin Answer

GENEVA (AP)— Andrei Gromyko is expected to give the Soviet answer today to the Western demand that he cut his price for a truce over Berlin. His speech could decide the fate of the Big Four conference.

Some Communist informants hinted that the Soviet foreign minister might back down slightly from his insistence that the West grant Communist East Germany equality with West Germany by creating an all-German committee to negotiate on unification.

Alternatively, he might try to stave off a final showdown by suggesting some new approach to the whole problem and calling for a further study of the possibilities of a compromise.

Top Western officials said they had no indication that any Soviet concession was in the making. In a 90-minute secret talk Tuesday with the three Western foreign ministers, Gromyko refused to budge from the Soviet insistence on giving the East Germans equal status with the West Germans.

U.S. Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville pressed Gromyko repeatedly to discuss the Western counterproposal for a continuing Big Four conference on unification with East and West Germans sitting in as advisers.

They also tried to find out whether Gromyko would be willing to put his own committee proposal aside and give first priority to a Big Four deal to remove the Communist threat to West Berlin.

Western diplomats said Gromyko dodged and avoided direct answers, saying, "You know my position." Lloyd reportedly denounced Gromyko's tactics in a brief angry clash.

All three Western ministers told Gromyko they intend to break off the conference soon unless they begin to make progress toward an agreement. Herter had given him a similar warning on Monday.

Western officials said if the Russian's reply in today's formal big four session was completely negative, the conference probably would collapse next week.

The Western move to break off talks probably would take the form of a proposal for a long recess. There also has been some talk of proposing negotiations be continued through a meeting of deputy foreign ministers or ambassadors.

If Gromyko refused in an effort to keep the talks going, the West would be faced with the choice of staying or walking out.

Eye-Popping Party

Booze Parlor Was Never Like This

NEW YORK (AP)— The neighbors thought it was an after-hours drinking den — so many taxis kept dropping folks off. Someone called the cops. A routine checkup began.

Then plainclothesman Richard Jankowski followed one couple past a careless doorman early yesterday. His eyes popped. A booze club was never like this.

Around a luxuriously furnished living room lolled 50 men and women on divans. In one corner was a well-stocked bar. But in the center of the room was a 20 by 15-foot swimming pool.

Cavorting about in it was a nude couple.

A few minutes later the panic was on. Jankowski followed the two as they retired amid audience applause. He flashed his badge. Someone shrieked a warning.

THREE LEFT

By the time his partner, Vincent Leonard, got through the front door only three people were left to take into custody. The rest had fled through a rear exit.

Booked for staging an indecent performance were Esther Huerta, 21, the distaff swimmer; James Meschel, 31, ex-convict and renter of the suite; and Ida Pereira, 25, whom police called Meschel's chief party-throwing assistant.

They also were charged with possession of marijuana.

Police said Meschel rented the $450-a-month apartment several months ago in the sedately residential brownstone house on West 86th St., just off Central Park.

To cover expenses, Meschel, according to the officers, passed the plate. The guests were always generous.

In felony court, Magistrate Thomas H. Cullen Jr. fixed bail of $1,000 each and set a hearing for next Tuesday.

Living Costs Set New High

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cost of living rose four-tenths of 1 per cent in June to a record high.

This was the largest monthly increase in 14 months.

Announcing the rise, as measured by its consumer price index, the Labor Department said today that all major items in the living costs of city families advanced.

However, Commissioner Ewan Clague of the Bureau of Labor Statistics told newsmen the upsurge of prices was "not a sign that the index is about to take off."

He said the increase was largely seasonal, due to a sharp advance in foods, chiefly fresh fruits and vegetables.

The rise took the price index to 124.5 per cent of the 1947-49 average. This is six-tenths of 1 per cent higher than a year ago.

The increase will mean wage boosts of 1 or 2 cents an hour for about 600,000 workers whose union contracts have escalator clauses calling for periodic adjustments of wages to the cost of living.

About 200,000 men in the trucking industry and 100,000 workers in aircraft plants will receive a 2-cent hourly increase. About 200,000 electrical manufacturing workers and some employes in other industries will get boosts averaging about 1-cent an hour.

Dives In Flames

7 Airmen Killed In Plane Blast

ANDOVER, N. H. (AP)—An Air Force plane crashed in flames and all seven crewmen perished early today.

Officers at Pease Air Force Base from which the plane was flying on a routine training mission said all seven bodies were recovered.

The victims were not identified, pending notification of next of kin.

The craft was identified as a KC97 propeller-driven tanker plane.

The crewmen of a companion plane flying a mile to the rear and a state trooper on the ground said they saw the plane plummet in flames through an overcast.

The plane struck down near a saw mill on the farm of Bud Keyser about a mile and a half south of the village of Andover in south-central New Hampshire.

State trooper Joseph Humphrey said he was checking cottages just before 2 a.m. about three miles away when he saw the burning plane come down through an overcast.

He rushed to the scene but found all personnel aboard dead.

Mrs. B. H. Keyser, on whose property the plane crashed, said she and her husband were awakened by the "screaming whistle" of the fiery craft as it spiralled to the ground.

"There was an explosion when it hit the ground," she said.

"We had called the fire department," Mrs. Keyser said, "but that plane was burning so badly all the water they put on it couldn't seem to put the flames down."

Lighter Side

Excuse Good In Or Out Of Court

(From AP Reports)

Boxer Art Aragon is free of an assault charge brought by his former wife, but his reputation as a fighter probably is damaged beyond repair.

When a witness told the Van Nuys, Calif., court that Georgia Aragon knocked Art down during a brawl at her home on July 12, Aragon bounded from his seat and shouted, "I slipped, your honor, I slipped."

Nothing To It

Dorette Lemon, a Portland, Ore., housewife, entered a contest to name a mystery lemon pie and won the prize.

Her suggested name: Lemon Dorette.

He'll Fight It

Lee Hill appeared in a San Francisco court to fight against two overtime parking tickets. He got them back in May but refused to pay, arguing he bought 54 minutes of parking but got only 30.

The point at issue, he said, is not that these two particular machines were out of order, but that "thousands of them are working improperly throughout the city.

"They're worse than Las Vegas slot machines," he declared.

Winged Auxiliary

New York police have seized 30 pigeons they say may have been used as narcotics carriers. Narcotics squadmen reported finding five ounces of heroin and the birds in a Bronx apartment at 1 a. m.

The apartment was occupied by Tony Santana, 31, released from jail four months ago after a narcotics conviction.

FIRE PREVENTION

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower has proclaimed the week beginning Oct. 4 as Fire Prevention Week.

Heart Ailment Fatal To Douglas McKay

SALEM, Ore. (AP)— Douglas McKay, 66, long-time Oregon political figure and President Eisenhower's Secretary of the Interior from 1953 to 1956, died today of a heart ailment.

Evening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, as we pray this day, open our eyes to man's need; his hunger, his fear, his uncertainty, his need of Christ. Lead us into knowledge of Thy will. Grat us the desire to fulfil Thy purposes. Use us to meet the needs of others. In the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

Our Weather

Considerable cloudiness, continued warm and humid through tomorrow, with scattered showers and thundershowers appearing mostly during the afternoon or evening.

High yesterday	80
High today	87
High tomorrow	88
Low this morning	72
Low tomorrow morning	70

Sunrise today, 5:24 a.m.; sunset today, 7:34 p.m.

More weather data on Page 3-A

—LOSING LASSES SING HOMESICK BLUES—

Automation Calls Miss USA Shots

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)— A simple adding machine tabulates smiles or tears tonight for 15 American beauties in the Miss USA finals of the Miss Universe pageant.

Tonight's winner mixes with 33 foreign lovelies Thursday in the international beauty contest. Fairest of the fair will be selected Miss Universe on Friday.

The 48 American contestants Tuesday night were pared to this select 15:

Miss Alabama, Pat Sullivan; Miss Arkansas, Donna Sue Needham; Miss California, Terry Lynn Huntington; Miss Colorado, Diane Lee Gardner; Miss Florida, Nanita Greene; Miss Georgia, Dorothy Gladys Taylor; Miss Iowa, Kay Nielson; Miss Louisiana, Mary Margaret La Bianco.

Miss Maine, Carolyn Komant; Miss Maryland, Diane White; Miss Missouri, Barbara Stell; Miss Nevada, Joy Blaine; Miss New York, Arlene Nesbitt; Miss Texas, Carolgean Douglas, and Miss West Virginia, Wilda Sue Estep.

Stern-faced judges and a crowd of 3,500 in Memorial Auditorium watched while the girls paraded in evening dresses and bathing suits. Then the girls nervously sat backstage while an adding machine decided the winners from judges tally sheets.

Announcement of the winners' names brought applause from the crowd, smiles from the victors, and tears from some of the losers —who had come from as far away as Alaska and Vermont.

While the finalists posed backstage for photographers, beaten suit-clad losers, carrying their bundled evening dresses, trouped to the parking lot and were driven back to their hotel.

"I'm not going to cry now," said Miss Michigan, Susan Westergaard, 20, of Detroit. "But to tell the truth, I think I'll cry later."

"I just want to go home," said Miss Illinois, Arlene Kaye. "I don't feel like I'm part of the program any more." She was consoled by her roommate, Miss Japan, who is statuesque Akiko Kojima, 22, a Tokyo fashion model.

Miss Wisconsin, blonde Charlene Krause of Milwaukee, agreed with Miss Illinois. "I feel homesick, all of a sudden," she said.

California Village Is In 'One Hole Of A Fix'

JACUMBA, Calif. (AP)—This town is goin' down.

Not downhill or downtown—just plain down.

The 300 or so folks who live in this farming community two miles from the Mexican border figure they're in a hole of a fix. The mystery began a week ago when a small crack appeared in the ground near the town's emergency airfield.

It lengthened to 75 yards Monday and became a hole 150 yards long, 5 feet deep and 3 feet wide Tuesday.

It all but swallowed a tractor cutting across a field. A tow truck had to haul it out.

When rancher Hank Ketchum recovered his tractor, he noticed that water from his irrigation ditch was vanishing down two nearby holes. He had to dam up his irrigation ditch.

A 1-year-old-girl who went to look at it was buried up to her knees when the ground gave way beneath her. She was pulled out unharmed.

Geologist Don Weaver has an explanation.

Jacumba is about 150 feet above an ancient lava shelf. Run-off water from a nearby Mexican mountain range has caused subterranean erosion. The result: the shelf is caving in and the earth is settling. There were cloudbursts and flash floods here two weeks ago.

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