Booby Trap Blasts Bodies Of Britons Hanged By Jews

HOME CANNING

"Can while you can," says Helen John Wright, our well-known home demonstration agent. And then she goes on to tell all the do's and DON'Ts of canning. Turn to the Woman's Section.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final Edition

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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CHARLOTTE MAN KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE WRECK

PEACH QUEEN—Pretty Helen Bolton, eighteen-year-old Rockingham girl, smiles happily after being selected Queen of the 1947 Rockingham Peach Festival yesterday. Queen Helen reigned over a day-long program which included a civic parade and a street dance in her honor.

Miss Bolton Reigns At Festival

Rockingham Honors Peaches

By CHARLES MARKHAM
Assistant State Editor, The News

ROCKINGHAM—In a day-long display of civic pride, Rockingham paid homage yesterday to Richmond County's million-dollar peach crop as personified by 1947 Peach Queen Helen Bolton.

Miss Bolton, an attractive 18-year-old brunette, reigned over the first annual Rockingham Peach Festival, an event planned by its civic-club promoters to coincide yearly with the harvest of the Elberta peach in the county.

Members of the Rotary and Civitan Clubs, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Merchants Association staged a program which at various times during the day attracted an estimated total of 10,000 persons. Although their civic enthusiasm was diminished somewhat by an oppressive heat, the celebrants thronged the flag-lined streets during a 25-minute parade; returning in the cool evening, they witnessed a fireworks display and fashion show before adjourning to the town square for street dancing to the music of Dean Hudson.

Many of the visitors observed the festival as a respite from the arduous task of harvesting the 400,000 bushels of peaches which Richmond County produces to earn its laurels as the "Peach Capital" of the state.

Early arrivals witnessed a "water polo" match on Franklin St. in front of the Courthouse. At 10 A. M., selected teams from the Rockingham and Hamlet fire departments demonstrated their prowess with the hose, as they attempted to push a wooden ball across the street with proper applications of pressure. At the expense of their dignity, they found relief from the early morning sun by diverting streams of water upon each other. While Rockingham was having its "day," it was quite hospitable to its Hamlet neighbors; the match was declared a draw. The scoring methods were obscure, but a by-

See PEACH CROP on page 11-A

Explosion Occurs As First Body Cut Down

British Soldier Is Wounded

JERUSALEM — (AP) — A cunningly contrived booby trap today blasted to bits the bodies of two British sergeants hanging from a tree near Natanya 24 hours after Irgun Zvai Leumi had slain them in reprisal for the execution of three Irgunists by the Palestine Government.

One British soldier was wounded by the blast and Associated Press Photographer James Pringle was knocked to the ground. Pringle's camera was destroyed by the explosion, which blew pieces of flesh over an area of 50 yards.

The blackened and bloody bodies of the two sergeants were found hanging five miles from Natanya.

The booby trap exploded as the first body was being cut down.

The remains of the second body were cut down by policemen, Associated Press Staff Correspondent Carter Davidson reported from the scene.

NOTES FOUND

Official sources said that notes found on the spot said the two sergeants had been hanged by Irgun as "British spies". The men were members of a special investigation squad.

The booby trap mechanism apparently had been attached to the arm of one of the bodies. The explosion uprooted several nearby eucalyptus trees and pieces of the bodies were found 300 yards away.

Jewish settlement police were the first to find the bodies and reported the discovery to Mayor Oved Ben Ami of Natanya about dawn. He in turn notified British authorities.

Until the bodies actually were discovered some doubt had remained that Irgun actually had carried out its threat to kill the sergeants, despite an anonymous telephone call yesterday to the Associated Press by a purported Irgunist saying the men had been slain. The telephoner asserted that the area around the bodies had been mined and that approach was dangerous.

A doctor who was called to the scene said he believed the two men —Mervyn Paice and Clifford Martin—had beene dead about 24 hours.

Irgun Vzai Leumi, Jewish underground organization which kidnaped the sergeants on July 12 at Natanya, had promised to kill them in retaliation for the hanging of three of its members at Acre Prison two days ago.

News Supplement Called Outstanding

Business Leaders Of City Praise Piedmont Edition

Liberal praise for the Carolina Piedmont special supplement to The Charlotte News of last Wednesday was voiced today by numerous men widely-known in Carolina finance, business and industry.

The opinion seemed to prevail among business leaders that this supplement not only is notable as a presentation of the tremendous and diversified industrial activity of the Piedmont area but also should be an outstanding contribution to advancement of the area's economy.

Unlike most special supplements dealing with industrial and commercial affairs, practically all of the text matter in this supplement was written by widely-known men who are recognized leaders in the affairs of which they wrote. Thus the supplement's text was given the quality of authoritativeness which, as expressions of Charlotte business men have revealed, is expected to be convincing to those thousands in distant cities who will receive copies.

Here follow the brief comments from men representing a cross-section of the Piedmont Carolina industry, business and culture:

C. O. KUESTER, executive vice-president, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce: "First, I'm glad to see The Charlotte News promote Piedmont Carolina with this special edition. Second, Charlotte is in the center of the Carolina Piedmont and it is our duty to promote the area unselfishly. Third, at this particular time, when we have heard so much talk of recession, it is refreshing and very timely that this supplement should indicate that our best days yet are ahead. Fourth, the articles appearing in this supplement are authoritative, convincing and well written and the whole make-up is impressive."

CHARLES H. STONE, a leader in the chemical industry and chairman of the Charlotte Park & Recreation Commission: "The information in the special section is in readable form, and the articles written by industrial leaders give facts that are quite valuable. It's a splendid edition, very constructive, and I sincerely hope that it can be put into the hands of many people in other regions. Most of us here know what a fine area we have; this edition can help inform others."

JAMES B. MARSHALL, former city manager, consulting engineer for the Charlotte Planning Board: "I read the Piedmont edition of The News with a great deal of interest; it was an inspiring thing. It will have

See LEADERS LAUD on page 8-A

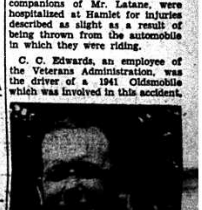
3 Others Injured In Crash Near Ellerbe

Rites Tomorrow For Mr. Latane

Spencer T. Latane, 38, of Charlotte was killed and three other Charlotte men were injured in an automobile crash last night near Ellerbe.

Yancey Knight and Joseph Lowd, companions of Mr. Latane, were hospitalized at Hamlet for injuries described as slight as a result of being thrown from the automobile in which they were riding.

C. C. Edwards, an employee of the Veterans Administration, was the driver of a 1941 Oldsmobile which was involved in this accident.



MR. LATANE

The car was described by Highway Patrol officers as a total loss. He was booked on a technical charge of manslaughter, said a report from Rockingham, seat of Richmond County.

Investigating officers reported that Mr. Latane was thrown about fifteen feet from the automobile when it overturned on Highway No. 73.

Mr. Knight, 22, of 1114 Woodside Ave., sustained bruises and a severly lacerated right hand when thrown also upon the roadway.

Mr. Lowd, about 21, of 5026 Van Buren Ave. sustained severe lacerations and painful bruises. He is a son of Mrs. J. B. Lowd of 831 Central Ave.

Mr. Latane and Mr. Lowd are co-owners of a grading contractor's business here and lately have been engaged in a grading project near Rockingham according to Mr. Lowd's mother.

FUNERAL FRIDAY

Funeral services for Mr. Latane, whose residence is at 2208 Greenway, will be held at 11 A. M. tomorrow at the chapel of J. M. Harry & Bryant Co. He was a member of the Tabernacle A. R. P. Church. The Rev. E. N. Orr, pastor of that church, will officiate at the funeral services and burial, which will take place in Elmwood Cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Latane are his widow, the former Miss Louise Boovey; a daughter, Doris Jean Latane; his mother, Mrs. J. W. Latane of 127 W. Morehead St., Charlotte; two sisters, Mrs. J. S. Walters of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. J. R. Coward of Charlotte; and two brothers, J. W. Latane Jr. and B. C. Latane, both of Charlotte.

Mr. Latane was the son of Mrs. Murial C. Latane and the late J. W. Latane. He was born and reared at Lilesville. He has been a resident of Charlotte during the past eighteen years and much of that time was engaged in the grading and construction industry.

Phillips Case Story

Stretcher Witness Tells Of Bigamy

LILLINGTON — (AP) — A young woman, brought into court on a stretcher, testified in the wife-murder trial of Charlie Phillips today that the accused 31-year-old Angier tenant enticed her into bigamous marriage in 1945.

The witness, Mrs. Jack Walters, twenty, was brought to Lillington from Raleigh in an ambulance to help the State build its case against Phillips, who was convicted at a previous trial and sentenced to die for the pistol slaying of his 28-year-old wife last Aug. 28.

Use of the stretcher was made necessary by the fact that the young witness gave birth to a baby in Raleigh last Friday.

Mrs. Walters told the court she went through a marriage ceremony with Phillips in South Carolina late in November, 1945. She did not know, she said, that he was married and the father of two children. They lived together only three days, she testified.

MARRIAGE ANNULLED

She first learned of Phillips wife when she went to Rex Hospital at Raleigh where he had been taken for an appendicitis operation and found Mrs. Phillips there, she said. She later had her marriage annulled.

She quoted Phillips as denying that he was married, and still later, after admitting the fact, as telling her he wanted to marry her again if he could.

The next witness was Mrs. Etta Watson, mother of Phillip's wife. She declared her son-in-law made life for his wife "a misery", with constant cursing, drinking, and mistreatment.

Living directly across the street from the couple, she testified she heard the shot that killed her daughter. On going to the home, she said, she found her daughter fatally shot.

She declared she accused Phillips of killing his wife, and told him, "Now, you've done it."

Phillips replied, she said, "She tried to commit suicide. I knocked the pistol and it went off and shot her."

34,000 Auto Workers Idle

DETROIT—(AP) — Nearly 34,000 auto workers here were idled today by strikes and production cutbacks while additional hundreds faced layoffs next week.

The Ford Motor Co., threatened with a strike by the CIO United Auto Workers, notified 22,000 employees not to come in today or tomorrow because of a parts shortage resulting from a strike at the Murray Corp. of America.

Earlier Ford laid off 4,500 due to the strike at Murray, where 7,000 UAW-CIO members are demanding protection from civil liability suits for unauthorized work stoppages under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Chrysler Corp. said a shortage of car frames usually supplied by Murray will force a 50 per cent cutback in Dodge truck production effective Monday, necessitating layoff 1,300 employees.

D. S. Harder, Ford vice-president, said the company might have to cuts its work week to two days if the Murray strike continued.

Negotiations between Murray and the UAW have been recessed until Monday over the union's demands. The strike has been in progress since July 23.

Meanwhile, the UAW-CIO executive board scheduled a meeting Saturday to consider strike action against Ford. The union's Ford department asked authorization for a walkout by 107,000 workers to support demands for a "no penalty" contract clause similar to the one asked from Murray.

Some 14,000 workers idled by excessive heat yesterday were called back to their jobs at Chrysler and the Hudson Motor Car Co. today. Eight thousand at Hudson and 6,000 at the Dodge main plant had been sent home when ventilating systems failed in the 93-degree heat.

Striking Drivers Picket Father

PITTSBURGH—(AP)—Truck drivers James and Robert Gray, members of the AFL-Teamsters Union, don't have far to go to take up their picketing duties in the 40-day-old household movers' strike.

The Gray brothers are picketing their father who—with two other sons, William and Carl—runs a moving business here.

"Two of the boys go to the carriers' meetings," says Father Gray, "and two attend union meetings. Yet we manage to keep it level and in good humor."

U. S.-British Talks Set

LONDON —(AP)— British arranged high-level economic talks with the United States today in a renewed bid to stave off her looming economic crisis.

The Government's Board of Trade said its president, Sir Stafford Cripps, would fly to Paris this afternoon for a conference with William L. Clayton, U. S. Undersecretary of State for economic affairs, and the British press said they would consider slashing Britain's imports from America to save dollars.

Meanwhile, the British people took calmly disclosures that the Government's almost immediately would cut its armed strength, scale down the nation's standard of living and call for longer working hours to save Britain's economy.

Few newspapers commented editorially on the revelations, which followed a "crisis" meeting yesterday of Prime Minister Attlee and his Labor members of Parliament. Those that did wrote approvingly.

"It is high time that they (the Government) took this step, though it will mean a still more austere way of life for everyone," said the Conservative Yorkshire Post, owned by the family of former Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden."

Warplane Probe

Hughes, Meyer Will Take Stand

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Howard Hughes and his globe-trotting publicity man, John Meyer, will take the stand side by side tomorrow in the Senatorial investigation of Hughes' wartime plane contracts.

Senator Ferguson, Republican, Michigan, announced today that arrangements have been made for the joint appearance of the Hollywood millionaire and the man who said he spent lavish sums to entertain Government officials in Hughes' behalf.

Hughes' appearance was arranged by Ferguson after the Michigan Senator was assured by Thomas Slack, attorney for Hughes, that Meyer will be available for testimony tomorrow.

ENTERTAINED MANY

The publicity man already has testified behind closed doors that he spent large sums to entertain many persons, including Elliott Roosevelt, son of the late President, and Secretary of Interior Krug.

Krug has denied being present at some of the parties where Meyer listed him as a guest. He expressed vouchers obtained by the committee from Hughes' files. The younger Roosevelt has made no statement on the case.

Ferguson's announcement was made after a session in which the Senate War Investigating Committee heard testimony that top military leaders turned down a mass flying boat program in July, 1942, yet contracts for three boats were made later with Hughes and Henry J. Kaiser.

LOVETT TESTIFIES

Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett testified that the joint (Army-Navy) chiefs of staff declared in July of that year that the diversion of materials to such a program would be "inadmissible" because everything was needed for fighting planes.

At the time the joint chiefs of staff objected to a big cargo plane construction program, the members were Admiral William D. Leahy, chief of staff of President Roosevelt; Gen. George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff; Admiral Ernest J. King, chief of naval operations; Gen. Henry H. Arnold, commanding general, Army Air Forces, and Brig. Gen. William J. Donovan, director of the Office of Strategic Services.

Kaiser had urged a program to build 500 huge cargo planes.

Two former Defense Plant Corp. officials who were assigned to the Hughes cargo plane project in California followed Lovett on the stand.

High points of their testimony:

1. J. H. Roper, who was principal engineer for RFC, said the Hughes contract "was the only project where there was any departure" from regular RFC procedure. He said the agency had "no responsibility" for design or whether "the materials were proper" or for the cost.

2. M. Robert Edwards, former DPC supervising engineer, said he went to the Hughes plant in 1943 and after he had been there only a few days knew that the three flying boats could not be built for the contract cost of $18,000,000.

Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, said today an aircraft expert's appraisal of Howard Hughes' F-11 photo-reconnaissance plane as "a hot wagon" indicated Elliott Roosevelt had grounds for purportedly pushing wartime construction of the ship.

Pepper told a reporter he thinks the crief question before the Senate War Investigating Committee

See HUGHES, MEYER on page 15-A

Await Local Rent Action

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Federal Rent Control Office, with a wary eye on Congress, has decided against further action on its own to lift ceilings from any of the 616 areas remaining under control.

Future policy, an agency official told a reporter privately today, will be for the Federal office to check the decontrol question to the local advisory boards authorized under the new rent law enacted last month.

Although the law provides that Housing Expediter Frank R. Creedon, who administers rent regulations, may lift ceilings if conditions warrant, it also gives the local boards a strong voice in their own areas.

The official emphasized that the new policy is not delaying any decontrol actions "since none are up for approval at present."

LIKELY TO WAIT

However, he said that should the agency—before the boards are set up for business—develop evidence that decontrol "might be warranted" in any of the areas, "it likely would wait for recommendations from the local board rather than going ahead on its own."

Another official said information which "might lead to decontrol of some fringe sections of several areas" is being gathered and will be submitted "when the boards are ready to begin their studies."

"Certainly Congress wanted the boards to have a strong voice in operations of the new law," this official said, "and it seems only right they should pass on decontrol matters."

Congress when it returns in January will have to decide shortly whether it wants to extend controls beyond Feb. 29, the new expiration date.

Control officials said it is up to the various governors to decide how quickly the boards will begin functioning."

Eye-Witness Account

Booby Trap Blast Is Described

(Editor's Note: Carter L. Davidson, chief of the AP Bureau in Palestine, gives an eye-witness account here of the booby trap explosion which destroyed the bodies of two British sergeants near Natanya today. Davidson and AP Photographer James Pringle were knocked down by the explosion.)

By CARTER L. DAVIDSON

NATANYA, Palestine—(AP)—The blackened and blood-stained bodies of two young British sergeants were found hanged to twin eucalyptus trees in a forest preserve about four miles south of this seacoast resort today.

When British soldiers started to cut down the bodies, a booby trap exploded. It blasted the bodies of Sgt. Clifford Martin and Mervyn Paice to bits and scattered the pieces for hundreds of yards.

The booby trap, which had been concealed behind Martin's body, wounded one grenadier guardsman in the face and threw several bystanders to the ground, including Associated Press Photographer James Pringle and myself. Pringle's camera was ruined. The blast uprooted the two death trees and sprayed the area with a blanket of dirt and debris.

BIBLICAL SETTING

The scene of the hangings, which Irgun Zvai Leumi "communiques" said were carried out as "military execution by the Jewish resistance to the enemies of our homeland", is an isolated eucalyptus grove in the heart of one of several Government forestry reserves in the plains of Sharon, scene of many battles of Biblical times.

Pinned to the bodies were Hebrew-language inscriptions telling of the "arrest" of the two men, and their "trial, conviction and execution in the name of the Jewish struggle for a homeland."

A stench of death permeated the whole area in the forest. The faces of the two young Britons showed their deaths were caused by strangulation by crudely-fashioned nooses. The ropes were bound around limbs close to the four-inch-thick trunks of the trees. Their hands were tied behind them. Their feet were bound together and their eyes were blindfolded by their shirts. Their undershirts and Army trousers were stained

See BOOBY BLAST on page 16-A

'Favorite Son'

Ohioans Launch Boom For Taft

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A full-fledged drive to land the 1948 Republican Presidential nomination for Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio was rapidly taking shape today.

The 44-member Ohio Republican Committee and the State's Republican Congressional delegation were holding separate meetings in Columbus. Advance indications were they would formally launch a "Taft boom" on a "favorite son" basis.

Tonight, Ohioans will have a Taft rally at Columbus. The Senator will speak and his address will be broadcast over 250 stations. GOP leaders from half a dozen other states will attend.

Ohio Sen. John W. Bricker, 1944 Republican Vice-Presidential candidate, observed the way for Ohio party members to unite behind Taft by announcing he (Bricker) is not a candidate and backs his Senate colleague.

As for Taft himself, he has said he will withhold any formal announcement until after he makes a cross-country tour this Fall. Taft said today he wants to be certain "there's a good chance to win" before definitely deciding to run for the nomination.

Thus far, the only avowed candidate is former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota. Both he and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, a prospective candidate, have preceded Taft into the West.

Stassen is now on the Pacific Coast and Dewey is in his native Michigan, stopping on his way back to New York from a Western visit.

The West, which looms as the major 1948 battleground, also is beckoning to others.

In Washington, Sen. Claude A. Pepper, Florida Democrat, announced he plans a cross-country speaking tour in the Fall in an effort to "keep our Democratic Party liberal."

Perhaps tipping off what he intends to tell the Westerners, Pepper said in an interview that the record of the GOP Congress has buried "any hope or idea that the Republican Party might become the people's party, or liberal."

Taft has said he intends to discuss Congress' record and all issues, domestic and foreign, on his trip. He has called on other GOP leaders to speak out.

This has been widely interpreted as an indirect argument that Dewey, the 1944 nominee, is not going out.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and hot today, tonight and Friday with scattered afternoon showers. Better by night and sunrise.

Temperatures at 7:30 today: [illegible]
High and low last 24 hours: [illegible]
Sunset today: [illegible]
Sunrise tomorrow: [illegible]
More Weather Data on Page [illegible]