

The Old Testament Story of Ruth is told today by Fulton Phillips in the Illustrated Edition of "The Greatest Book Ever Written." Turn to Page 9-A for the inspiring story.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS Final

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Elizabeth Becomes Ruler



George VI, for fifteen years King of England, is shown with his daughter Princess Elizabeth, the new ruler of the British Empire, in a photo taken last June after doctors had ordered the monarch to take a long rest. He died peacefully in his sleep early this morning. (United Press Telephoto).

World Mourns With Royal Family And Hails England's New Ruler

Monarch Succumbs In Sleep At Age 56

LONDON—(AP)—Weary King George VI died today at 56, ending a 15-year reign that brought England the glory and the drags of victory. His daughter Elizabeth, 25, immediately became England's sixth queen.

Tired and spent by disease, George VI died in his sleep at Sandringham, the royal estate where he was born. He had suffered from lung cancer, but apparently a blood clot was the immediate cause of death.

More than half the world—the bits of England that lie around the globe and the peoples that are akin—lowered flags in respect to the man who became King against his will but developed into just the steady sort of monarch Britons love.

NEW QUEEN WEEPS

The new Queen, namesake of her mother and of the "Good Queen Bess" who ruled England almost four centuries ago, received word of her father's death while she was on a projected around-the-world tour, now called off. Elizabeth was with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, in Kenya, East Africa. She received the news tearfully, and then started planning her return home. She and the Duke will fly here tomorrow. The formal coronation likely will be in the early Summer, but she already is Queen.

The King's body is expected to lie in state in Westminster Hall, the great hall of the Houses of Parliament, for several days next week. The funeral will take place at Windsor Castle, on a date to be determined after Elizabeth consults palace advisors and the Government.

The Duke of Windsor, whose abdication-for-love in 1936 brought his brother to the throne, was 19 when he came home for the funeral. He is sailing from New York tomorrow.

George VI was the youngest king to die since William III died in 1702 at the age of 51. George V was 58 when he died, George V was 71 when he died.

At 25, Elizabeth is the second youngest British monarch. There was perhaps no more eloquent tribute to be heard than the one she uttered: "He was a good man."

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See KING on page 12-A

Windsor Will Attend Funeral

NEW YORK—(AP)—The Duke of Windsor announced today he will go to London to attend the funeral of his brother, King George VI, but that the duchess will remain in the United States.

The duke, who as Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry the former Wallis Warfield Simpson, will depart for Southampton on the liner Queen Mary.

The duchess has visited England since she married the duke in 1937, but she never has been received by the royal family.

His brother-in-law was seen in seclusion in his suite in the Waldorf Towers.

His secretary, Miss Anne Seagraves, said the duke was "terribly shocked and surprised over the passing of his brother."

A plane to the duke was being saved on a British Overseas Airways Corp. plane that left London at 5 P. M. EST today. It was understood he does not like air travel.

The duke and duchess were at the hotel until the king's death was announced.

Miss Seagraves said first word of the duke's passing was relayed to the duke by the press.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Table listing classified ads and other content: Classified Want Ads, Comics, Crossword Puzzle, Editorials, Fiction, Fulton Courier, Garden, Health, Home, Humor, Illustrations, Letters, News, Puzzles, Sports, Theaters, What's Going On, Women's Page.

NEXT TEST IN HOUSE

Committee Approves UMT Bill

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The House Armed Services Committee today approved a compulsory Universal Military Training (UMT) bill. The vote, taken in closed session, was reported as 27 to 7. The legislation is due to face a House test this month. It provides for the induction into a security training corps for six months of training of all eligible males when they become eighteen years of age. After serving six months, the trainees would be liable for re-

Masked Witness Tells Of Red Massacre Of Poles

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A tense witness yesterday testified that he saw Polish officers being shot by Russian soldiers in Katyn Forest—a scene of one of the greatest mass executions of all time. In all, he said, he and two companions saw 200 Polish officers put to death. The witness, identified as an escaped prisoner of the Russians and former Polish soldier, told a special House subcommittee that some Polish officers were thrown alive into a vast pit among the corpses. In short Polish sentences, the witness said his name and background were withheld—described killings in an eerie flood-lighted forest near Smolensk, Russia, in October, 1939.

SIX PRISONERS SHOT He said "I saw prisoners being shot" while with two companions, he lay strapped in a tree within the forest. The stocky witness wore a pillbox over his head to conceal his identity from the Russians. He said they take reprisals against members of his family behind the Iron Curtain. He spoke and saw through slits in the crudely white mask. The subcommittee, headed by Rep. Madden (D-Ia.), is investigating the murder of some 10,000 Polish officers in Katyn Forest. Earlier witnesses have said the Russians did the killings. The Soviets always have blamed it on the Germans.

The masked witness said he saw the first two doomed Polish soldiers taken to the edge of a huge pit about 100 yards from the tree in which he was hidden. Acting on each event he described, the witness gave this account: Four Russian soldiers escorted the officers. They jerked back the officers' heads and stuffed sand in their mouths. Then the prisoners' arms were

See WITNESS on page 12-A

OUR WEATHER

Fair and rather cold again tonight with expected low temperature of 39 degrees and possible showers. Thursday, fair and cool. Highest yesterday 53 degrees. Lowest this morning 27 degrees. Sunrise, 7:18 A. M.; sunset, 5:27 P. M. More Weather Data on Page 12-A

WHY "METEOROLOGY"? How did the term "meteorology" come to be chosen for the science of weather? Today we know meteors are "a host of falling stars—small bits of matter in outer space that burn up brilliantly when they come in contact with the earth's atmosphere. But originally, "meteors" was a general term for any atmospheric phenomenon, and so pertained to weather. Even now, meteors have some bearing on meteorology; observations of them give meteorologists some information about the extreme upper atmosphere, up to nearly 200 miles aloft.

Evening Prayer

O Lord, Bless our cause if we are right. Stir with them that strive with us, against Thee. Give us grace to be righteous, and to strive with us. We pray that Christians may strive earnestly to enthroned Christ. We plead for true uprightness and friendship among all nations. Amen.

HEDY LAMARR SAYS FOUR MARRIAGE FLOP

HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—Actress Hedy Lamarr says her fourth marriage, "on which I had placed such high hopes," is a flop. She plans to seek an "immediate divorce from Ernest (Ted) Stauffer and 'resume my life where I left it eight months ago.'" The screen beauty married Stauffer, former band leader who now runs a night club in Acapulco, Mexico, here last June. She said in a statement last night: "Actually it really was a marriage. I believe that Ted and I were both frightfully lonely and it seemed at the time that if one another we had found what we were looking for. I, at least, was mistaken."

Brannan Fires Two Officials

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary Brannan today fired the director and assistant director of the Agriculture Department's commodity office at Dallas, in connection with current investigations of shortages of Government grain. The discharges of Director Laitham White and Assistant Director James Solomon become effective at the close of business Friday. They have been off duty since late in December, pending a department investigation.

President Truman Attends Ickes Rites

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Truman will attend the funeral services today for Harold Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior who died last Sunday. The President arranged to pay his final respects at the church services for his longtime associate.

After Truce Is Obtained

Reds Urge High-Level Talks On Korea

United Nations Command would agree to the third point. The Red proposal identified only as "other questions related to peace in Korea." But it was the Dallas area that several commercial storage concerns had been charged with converting Government grain to their own use, mainly for speculative purposes. The Red's three-point plan was their outline of principles for two continuing talks between the governments of countries fighting in Korea. That would be the final clause of an armistice. Two other clauses still are unsettled. Other developments: 1. A subcommittee working on exchange of prisoners agreed to inspection of POW camps by joint Red Cross teams of belligerent nations and turned their discussions over to staff officers. 2. Staff officers debating means of supervising the truce met for only 10 minutes. Nam Il's proposal in the main

HEIRESS TO TRADITION

Elizabeth 1st Ruling Queen Since Victoria

LONDON—(AP)—The death of King George VI today brought Elizabeth I first reigning queen, since Victoria died 51 years ago. And the coming to the throne of serious and gray-eyed Elizabeth re-ived a medieval superstition—that British waxes fat and prosperous with a woman's reign. The belief grew out of the foundling of an empire by another Queen Elizabeth—500 years ago, and his long expansion under Victoria in the 19th century. The new queen, only 25 years old, today was in far-off Kenya, at East African colony, at the beginning of a five-month tour of Africa, Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand. With her 30-year-old husband, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who east aside princely Greek titles and became a British citizen to wed her amid great splendor November 20, 1947. They had intended to complete their empire-cementing journey by continuing around the world, with side visits to the Panama Canal and to Bermuda, British colony of the Atlantic coast of the United States. Now they must return at once.

New Queen To Fly To London

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period of mourning for the court when her grandfather, George V, died, court mourning was ordered for nine months.

MOTHER SURVIVES George VI's mother, Mary, at 84 has outlived both her husband and her son.

It was at Sandringham that Edward VIII was king for a few months. The dead king at that time was his brother, George V, who became king Dec. 11, 1901, when Edward gave up the throne for the woman he loved.

There were tears in many eyes as word of the king's death spread. Elizabeth, before she was crowned, was perhaps no more eloquent tribute to be heard than the one she uttered: "He was a good man."

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