



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas

Charlotte, North Carolina, Saturday, January 1, 1955

26 Pages—Price Five Cents

ESTABLISHED DEC. 8, 1888

## Well, The Party's Over . . .



(New Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)

. . . So Let's Settle Down

### Usual Crowd At The Square

## City Gives '55 Welcome

**By ERWIN POITS**  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
From noisy night clubs to quiet churches, Charlotteans rang out the old and rang in the new last night. Fireworks blasted despite their liveliness and horns honked long and loud at the instant 1954 bowed out to incoming 1955. Independence Square was filled with crowds of "Happy New Year" wishes.

Charlotte night clubs reported packed houses. At midnight the patrons were greeting the new year with a potpourri of party favors, horns, and notions. And welcoming 1955 on a more serious note were thousands of churchgoers who attended the midnight services of churches throughout the city. At 12 bells they were bowing in silent prayer or reverently wishing each other, the best for the new year.

**FETZER BABY FIRST**  
At Mercy Hospital, 30 seconds after 1954 had begun, the first baby in the new year was born. It was a girl, born to Mrs. Eva Mae Felzer of 609 Selwyn Dr.

storebreaking was reported. A policeman found four doors open on the street entrance at 3:15 a. m. A case of assault with a deadly weapon of office equipment was taken, and a safe was found open.

and the other at 11:30 last night. The first traffic accident in the county occurred early this morning at the intersection of Sgaw Creek Rd. and North 29. No one was injured when a car driven by

### Fireworks Explosion Hurts 3 Gaston Boys

**GASTONIA**—Three teen-age boys were injured about 12:30 this morning by an exploding firecracker and one of them, 14-year-old Robert Hardy, is believed to have suffered permanent loss of both eyes.

Memorial Hospital, are in Garrison General Hospital. Three other boys who were in the back seat of the car were not injured. The windshield of the car, both front windows of the car, and one of the back windows, were blown out. Even the car radio was ripped from its mountings and left dangling, and the upholstery was completely torn.

**FIRST ACCIDENT**  
Police reported the first traffic accident for 1955 in the city at 12:16 a. m. a car being driven south on N. Graham St. by Emily C. Eaves of 2808 Luck Rd. collided with the car of James B. McElroy, traveling in the same direction.

Someone said that an attempt was made to throw the explosive out of the car window, but that the window was rolled up. However, a full investigation will be made today according to Asst. Police Chief Ernest E. Rankin.

Miss Eaves said the car driven by McElroy cut over into her lane. No one was injured, but McElroy was charged with failing to yield the right of way.

**"Aw, quit your kidding"**  
Whereupon the visitor stripped to his shorts and went to bed. When police arrived in response to Mrs. Berry's call they awakened Carl R. Carlson, 50, who had mistaken apartment No. 6 for his own. No. 8. They booked him on a drunk charge.

### This Baby Arrived At 0:00:01 A. M.

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**—One of the first 1955 babies in the West was a 7½-pound daughter born at an Air Force lieutenant and his wife at the Great Falls Air Force Base.

**CASE SEWED UP**  
TOKYO—A tailor here puzzled himself by underselling the competition. Police seized the case today. They said he stitched his cut-rate suits from cloth snatched from other tailor shops.

### OUR WEATHER

Cloudy and mild with occasional rain today, tonight and Sunday.  
Low temperature this morning, 44 degrees.  
Low temperature expected tonight, 42 degrees.  
High temperature yesterday, 53 degrees.  
High temperature expected today, 57 degrees.  
High temperature expected tomorrow, 58 degrees.  
Sunset 5:52 a. m.; sunset 5:22 a. m.

**QUEEN HELEN HANCOCK** of Denver University gets firmly kissed by Sen. Earle C. Clements of Kentucky after he crowned Miss Hancock queen of the All American City Basketball Tournament at Owensboro, Ky. (AP Wirephoto).

### EVENING PRAYER

Gracious Father, in Thy good providence Thou bringest us again to the ending of an old year, and the beginning of a new one. Thou dost give us a fresh, unspoiled page on which to write God, for Jesus' sake, help us in this coming year to write on our page only those things pleasing to Thee, and that will glorify our Lord, Amen.

# Segregation, Money To Occupy Assembly

## Reds To Free 3 Americans-- For A Price

Conditions Of Note Are Not Made Public

By WARREN ROGERS JR.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia was reported today to have offered for a price to free three Americans held prisoner for years inside the Soviet Union.

The proposal, according to informants, was put forward yesterday in a note handed the U.S. Embassy at Moscow. Except to acknowledge receipt, the State Department has been unusually reticent about this note.

Secretary of State Dulles, asked about it at his news conference yesterday, said he was not yet aware of the note's subject or its content. Later, when enough time had elapsed to allow for transmitting its text to Washington, department spokesmen refused to discuss it.

The three imprisoned Americans are William T. Marchuk, 33, Brackerville, Pa.; William A. Verdine, 29, Shaks, La.; and John H. Noble, 31, Detroit.

Marchuk and Verdine, AWOL from the Army in West Germany, were picked up by the Russians at Dresden in February, 1949. Noble, taken as a boy back to Germany in 1938, has been a prisoner of the Russians since 1945.

This week the Soviets released 35 Austrians they had held as World War II prisoners. One among these told Vienna newsmen he had seen the three Americans at a prison camp southeast of Moscow. He said all three appeared in good health and still expected to be released shortly.

The United States has made See REDS on page 2-A



LIND

These are three of the aides Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations secretary general, has taken with him on his mission to Peiping to seek the release of 11 American fliers.



ALM

They are (left to right), Per Lind, executive aide; Miss Aase Alm, Norwegian secretary; and William Ranalle, a personal aide on the staff. (AP Wirephoto).



RANALLE

## Hammarskjold, Mendes-France Talk

### U. N. Leader Stops In Paris

PARIS (AP)—U. N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold talked for an hour at Orly airfield today with Premier Pierre Mendes-France, then left for New Delhi en route to India.

Hammarskjold will confer in Peiping with Premier Chou En-Lai on the release of 11 U. S. airmen held as spies. He will seek also the liberation of other U. S. personnel held by the Reds since the end of the Korean war.

There was no statement on this day to say to reporters after the talk with Hammarskjold.

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## Schools, Taxes Are Problems For Legislature

Secrecy Law Likely To Be Considered

By NOEL YANCEY

RALEIGH (AP)—State finances with the possibility of tax increases and the issue of school segregation were the problems on the minds of legislative leaders as they prepared today to head for Raleigh next week for the start of the 1955 General Assembly.

A number of other subjects were mentioned by seven legislative leaders in telephone interviews, but all of them mentioned state finances as the top problem.

Most of those contacted agreed that the state can take no final action until after the U. S. Supreme Court hands down a ruling implementing its decision that segregation is unconstitutional.

One who disagreed with this course was Rep. Sam O. Worthington of Pitt who asserted, "I think we should put ourselves in position to circumvent it if any way we can." He added that, "I don't think there is any use in waiting to hear what the Supreme Court is going to say. I think we know what they are going to say."

Rep. John W. Underhill of Orange said he did not want "to take up a lot of time discussing segregation when we can't do anything about it until the Supreme Court hands down its decision."

Some agreed with Rep. Larry I. Moore of Wilson that the legislature should adopt some sort of policy statement on segregation to tell the court how the state feels about eliminating segregation. Rep. W. B. Redman of Beaufort said he thought the legislature should adopt some such action.

He said the segregation problem "is as serious and requires as careful thought as any situation that has ever arisen in North Carolina" and "I think it is of importance that people throughout the country should know how North Carolina feels on this question."

**PICTURE TOO DARK?**  
Moore and Worthington were hopeful the state's revenues program would not be as drastic as it has been pictured and the amount of new revenue to be raised for the next biennium would not reach the 50 million dollar figure which has been mentioned in advance speculation on the budget proposals of the Advisory Budget Commission. But said Moore:

"Unless things improve greatly we are going to have pretty car-

See MONEY on page 2-A

## It Is Official Now: Liberace's No Genius

It is official now: Liberace is no genius. The Soviet quick-thrill sketch of the picaresque magazine Krokodil has taken a long look at pianist Liberace and decided he is no genius.

Liberace (somehow the Russians make the name come out Leberice, rhyming with nice) was originally intended by his papa to be an undertaker, says an issue of the magazine just reaching here.

"Yes," it adds, "Papa Leberice came melancholy, but suddenly a great idea occurred to him. He began to chat with the audience. Wildly sent into the gloom, empty expanse his sugary smiles and told tasty anecdotes."

The casual listener might have been proud at that moment, the article continued, that he was

See LIBERACE on page 2-A

## Bitten Boy Is 'Critical'

**SPARTANBURG (AP)**—Roger Starkley, the 8-year-old boy who was attacked and viciously chewed by two dogs yesterday in the city, is in a critical condition in Spartanburg's General Hospital today.

The boy was bitten and chewed by the dogs Thursday when he was on an errand to a neighbor's home at R. 1, Wellford, about nine miles from here.

Doctors said more than 150 stitches were required to close his wounds and he may lose an arm and a leg.

Many people who read of Roger's plight began sending contributions to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stokely.

Mrs. Stokely said the family lost its home three years ago by fire and had just begun to get back on its feet when tragedy struck. She said yesterday that her husband recently took a pay cut when production at the plant where he works was curtailed. Then the dogs jumped Roger nearly killing him.

The Roger Stokely fund was started yesterday. The Stokely's minister, the Rev. Lewis Montgomery, said that citizens of the small Wellford community would get behind the fund.

## Holiday Toll Rises To 40

**By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
Violent deaths brought sorrow to some homes on the first day of the new year.

A survey of violent deaths since 9 p. m. Friday showed 40 persons had lost their lives in motor accidents in the first hours of the New Year's holiday. Three others died in fires.

Two highway accidents in widely separated points in Indiana killed six persons.

The National Safety Council estimated that traffic mishaps would cause 200 deaths during the holiday, somewhat less than the 322 killed during the Christmas week-end.

Some 331 deaths were reported in an AP survey of a nonholiday day of stretch of 54 hours Dec. 10-12.

## AWOL From Camp Lejeune

**GASTONIA**—An AWOL Marine of the Mount Holly-Stanley section of the Mount Holly-Stanley section of the Marine Corps is being held in Gaston County Jail.

The young Marine said that he left Camp Lejeune Marine Base last Monday without permission to come home the same day and stayed around the house.

"My father had been cursing my mother and the rest of us," he said, "and had often hit my mother. He threatened to kill her, and I knew that it would have to be her or him."

"I went into the house and got the .12 gauge gun and loaded both barrels. Then, when I saw him coming toward home, I told my mother and the rest of the family to go into a back room. I waited just inside the screen door in the kitchen and fired the shots when he stepped out of the car on my

Officers quoted the boy as saying his father had been extremely mean to the entire family. He said that he is one of eight children, having three brothers and four sisters. He was glad that he did it, and would do it again, officers said.

The 19-year-old Marine said he has hired no lawyer as yet, but

## WHAT'S INSIDE

DREW PEARSON HANDS OUT brass rings to some of the big and little people who did good deeds in '54. His column is on the editorial page, 4-A.

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