

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

***** FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper in The Two Carolinas Charlotte, North Carolina, Friday, September 16, 1955

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GRY ELEPHANT LOOSE IN COUNTRY

Army Officials Ask Peron To Step Down

Government Claims New Revolt Quelled

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Circles in close contact with the army said today unnamed officials in the army had called up President Peron to resign.

There was no official confirmation. Federal police headquarters near the Congress Building were evacuated, possibly indicating fear of an attack.

Peron was reported to have gone to the Army Ministry about 3 a. m.

This report came on the heels of government announcements that armed rebellion had flared at three key centers in the interior and had been "rapidly" crushed. The government also declared a terrorist plot had been smashed in Buenos Aires with the arrest of 100 civilians. This was the fourth reported plot aimed at upsetting Peron since the major revolt of June 16—just three months ago today.

REPORTED LEADER

The state radio said "it is understood" the chief of the rebel forces is former Gen. Domingo Felix Videla Balaguer, who was accused Sept. 8 of leading the Rio Cuarto garrison in a conspiracy which was crushed. Four days later, Gen. Balaguer was reported under arrest, but this never was confirmed officially.

Despite earlier government announcements that the situation had been "fully dominated," there still appeared to be rebel activity in some areas this afternoon.

The surrender of 300 rebel troops in Entre Rios Province was announced.

SIERGE EXTENDED

A state of siege—virtual martial law—was extended to the entire country. Previously this applied only to Buenos Aires.

Peron proclaimed the state of siege and the House of Deputies, completely dominated by pro-Peron deputies, approved it in just five minutes.

Our Weather

Mostly fair and warm today. Generally fair tonight and tomorrow and not quite so cool tonight.

High yesterday—89. High today—90. High tomorrow—88. Low this morning—59. Low tonight—62. Sunrise, 6:06 a. m.; sunset, 6:29 p. m.

More Weather Data on Page 6-A

KEEP SCHOOL BUSY

CHILDERS, Okla. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Alsopch provide one-fourth of the attendance in the Childers school's first grade. The Alsopchs' triplets—Terry, Jerry and Larry—are in a class of 12. The 6-year-old triplets have five other brothers and sisters in the school.

Tonight's Turnout Could Provide Answer

Does Charlotte Really Want To Watch College Football?

By BOB QUINCY

Charlotte News Sports Editor

The case of Charlotte versus college football will be aired tonight at 8 p. m. in Memorial Stadium.

Jury will be composed of 22 heavily muscled gentlemen, selected with great care by the colleges of Davidson and Catawba. While settling a personal grudge, they'll weigh the city's plea for extended service in their particular department.

If enough witnesses are provided, Charlotte certainly should shake the rap of being indifferent to intercollegiate competition. About 8,000 are needed to sway the decision. Davidson and Catawba will perform the lone collegiate game here this fall, something of a slim program for a town of 150,000 whose past has been studied with glittering performances.

Why the lack of activity? SOME HISTORY

In part, it goes back to a game played here in 1949 between Wake Forest and South Carolina. It was one of 67 contests on the Memorial Stadium schedule and by the time the



WEARING a gas mask is Frank Stone, one of the 40 motorcycle riders for a blue-print company who went on strike because of Los Angeles smog. The management provided the gas masks as the strike was settled. (AP Wirephoto).

Carolina Coast Area Is Alerted

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A weekend hurricane alert was sounded by the Weather Bureau today for the Atlantic Coast between North Carolina and Florida as Hurricane Ione, her winds built up to 90 miles an hour, pushed west-northwestward at a forward speed of about 12 miles an hour.

The Atlantic storm was expected to move west-northwestward at about the same forward speed for another 12 hours and swing around to a more northerly course later that.

"Although the movement of Ione beyond the next 24 hours is indefinite, the hurricane may affect some section of the U. S. coastline from North Carolina to Florida before the weekend is over and all interests in this area should keep closely in touch with weather bureau advisories over the weekend," said forecasters in an 11 a. m. EST advisory.

Small craft were advised not to take extended trips out into the Atlantic. Ione at the time was near latitude 24.4 north, longitude 89.9 west. That placed the center 480 miles east of Nassau and 650 miles east-southeast of Miami. Her 90-mile winds were wrapped over a small area near the center.



Marion Diehl . . . Lonely In Memorial Stadium

Other Elephant Stories

Vicki Hasn't Corner On Tales

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Charlotte may well be called the elephant town. The current rampage of Vicki, the elusive elephant which has up to now defied all efforts at her recapture, is not Charlotte's first headline incident involving an elephant.

Two major elephant stories previously have been nationally reported in a Charlotte dateline.

A couple of other minor events of elephant escapes and illness have occurred here with resultant local interest.

The first incident goes back into the distant past and actually occurred on Sept. 27, 1880.

That was when Chief, the big elephant of the John Robinson Circus, killed his handler, John King, who is buried in Elwood Cemetery here.

The tombstone weathered by the passing of 75 years bears the image of an elephant and tells the story of King's death by Chief.

GOOD FOR YEARS

This incident passed into local lore and for years was the subject of exciting conversation among youngsters who heard the story from equally excited adults.

Some reports are that Chief was taken to the grave each year and each time bellowed a mournful cry during the burial place of his master.

When the circus arrived in town that September morning of 1880, Chief was surly and unmanageable and even though other circus hands refused to go near the animal, King entered the boxcar. The vicious animal grabbed him and pummed him against the wall, smothering out his life.

In the years that followed Chief became more and more unruly until it was necessary to put her to death in Cincinnati where it is said the carcass was cast in metal and as still in a museum there.

AGAIN IN 1941

In November 1941, Charlotte, with the help of circus elephants, stepped into the limelight again.

This was the sudden and sensational illness of 11 elephants of Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus which that year showed at S. Tryon St. and Tremont Ave.

The circus was here that year on Nov. 3 and arrived in the city on Sunday, Nov. 2.

During the night of Nov. 3 a greater part of the elephant herd became ill and when the circus moved on 11 of the ailing elephants were too ill to be moved.

Quickly the incident created great local interest and in no time the story became one of national interest.

Hundreds flocked to the circus not to watch the agonies of the pathetic animals, many of which were writhing in pain on the ground.

Circus people were at a loss to explain the widespread illness among the herd and at first it was thought that the illness had been caused by contamination of hay and other feed.

POLICE WORK

The Charlotte Police Dept. working with investigators of the Burns Detective Agency, began an investigation to trace the source of illness.

From information developed by Chief Frank N. Littlejohn of the Charlotte Police Dept., the investigation turned to the possibility of intentional poisoning by a dis-

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Dogs Joined The Search For Vicki But Were Called Off Later

Will Vicki Fiasco Lead To New Law?

By HARRY SHIFFORD

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Mecklenburg County Commissioners took an "it's not our red wagon" attitude toward the great elephant hunt going on in the county today.

But they said it is the duty of the county to protect the health and welfare of its citizens so Mecklenburg officials do have a hand in the matter though the county police.

In the meantime, there is some speculation that a new law, one regulating the keeping of wild animals, may come out of the present situation.

Commissioner Sam McInnes said today he thinks some such law ought to be passed, and added that such a state law might as well originate from Mecklenburg, considering the current case.

MIGHT GO ALONG

Commissioner John McEwen indicated he might go along with an effort to get a wild animal law, but Commissioners Herbert Craig and Craig Laving couldn't be reached for comment on either the elephant hunt or a proposed law.

Commission Chairman Sid McAllen, keeping a wary eye on the search for Vicki, the disappearing elephant, remained in a calm "let's wait and see" mood today.

"I don't know if the county should do anything about it or

See WILL on page 6-A

Pachyderm Flees Cops, Handlers

By EMERY WISTER

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Vicki, the angry elephant, was still at large today.

Breaking out of her hiding place in the thickly wooded area behind the Pilot Freight Carriers terminal off Wilkinson Blvd. last night, Vicki boldly crossed the only traveled road and disappeared into the woods on the other side.

This happened about 10:30 o'clock last night. The elephant was reported seen at a number of places, including

(For more about Vicki, see Inquiring Reporter column on second front page.)

the McCoy Service Station about a quarter of a mile from where she crossed the road.

She is also known to have crossed the Old Dixie Rd. leading from the boulevard to the airport. However, searchers are not certain where she went after reaching this road as there are wooded areas on either side.

REPORTED SEEN

Several persons have reported seeing the elephant. One report placed her in front of the Big Springs Methodist Church off the Old Dowd Rd. about 7 a. m. today.

Caretakers on the Caldwell estate on this road said they had been told that Vicki was in a large lake, and it is believed that Vicki might be in this vicinity. Elephants always seek water.

The Old Dowd Rd. is slightly south of the Dixie Rd. which was the main entrance to the airport before the new terminal was opened.

CROWDS GATHER

Early this morning, huge crowds gathered at the area behind the Pilot Freight Carriers building, thinking that Vicki was still in the woods.

When searchers returned there about 11:30 a. m., they found the crowd awaiting them.

The searchers, headed by circus handlers of Ring Bros. Circus and the Sheriff's posse, had two problems on their hands today.

Not only did they have to catch the elephant, they had to find her first, something they did not have to do when she was last seen.

HOARDS BROUGHT

The searchers assembled on the Dixie Rd. this morning and prepared to search thoroughly for the elephant. With them were three boundlogs owned by Tom Mangum. The idea was to set the dogs loose and let them track the elephants.

However, elephant handlers prefer that the dogs be kept on leashes, and in the discussion that followed it was decided not to use the dogs.

Another plan to catch Vicki, which involves building a trap with bulldozers, to be abandoned when Vicki is left her original hiding place.

The bulldozers had already begun to work this morning when it was found that Vicki had left.

At noon today, the elephant men were the track to locate Vicki. Some thought the animal could not be in the Dixie Rd-Dowd Rd. area because it has long thickly populated. They believed that if the animal had gone into that area she would have been seen by more persons.

It was reported today that Jack Parlow, operator of Airport Park Ring Bros. Circus, He did not go on the search today and was not available for comment.

SIXTH DAY

Vicki's unexpected decision to leave the tract of land across Wilkinson Blvd. came as she began her sixth straight day of freedom. The elephant pulled away from a handler last Sunday morning. Until last night, she had camped in the same tangled highway to which she first headed.

All efforts to capture her have been fruitless.

What's Inside

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Evening Prayer

O Lord, forgive us for not witnessing for Thee as Thou hast commanded. Give us courage and strength to serve Thee faithfully. Use us daily in Thy service, O Lord. We pray in Thy name, before whom we humble ourselves in faith. Amen.