



Loading Docks, Ship Lost

6 Men Feared Dead In Tanker Explosion

1,500 Men Fight Fire At Refinery



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Harris) THOMAS WALTER TAYLOR, accused of murder, sits between his attorneys in the courtroom today, awaiting the selection of a jury. On the left is Marvin L. Ritch, T. O. Stennett is on the right.

Sheriffs Out On Streets To Round Up Taylor Jurors

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Sheriffs deputies today went out on the streets to round up 50 more prospective jurors for the trial of Thomas Walter Taylor, husband and father charged with first degree murder.

Taylor's wife, a slim brunette, was sitting in the courtroom today, composed, was seated between his attorneys.



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Harris) Jury candidates were drawn from a hat this morning by five-year-old Boyle Cole in Criminal Superior Courtroom. From a special venire, a jury is to be chosen to try Thomas Walter Taylor for his life. Young Boyle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Crest Cole, 1215 Fordham Rd. Bailiff Walter C. Cuthbert, Sr., and Deputy Clerk James E. Crowe watched the youngster draw the names.

'Triangle' Slaying First Since 1951

The trial of James Walter Taylor today brings to Mecklenburg Criminal Superior Court his first white "triangle" slaying since the famous Helms case of 1951.

But, in many respects, the Taylor shooting lacks the sensationalism that brought spectators to the hot July courtroom to hear Mrs. Amelia Hargett Helms tell why she shot and killed Mrs. Hazel Becham.

There are parallels, however. Both Taylor, charged with fatally shooting Talmadge Alton Parker after hiding in the trunk of his wife's car, and Mrs. Helms contend their victims were breaking up their homes.

Both defendants left their homes with weapons. Mrs. Helms with a pistol and Taylor with a combination rifle - shotgun.

Earl Long Wins Easily In Louisiana

Pro-ike Candidate Is Beaten Solidly

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
NEW ORLEANS — Former Gov. Earl Long stormed down the comeback trail to landslide victory in the Louisiana governor's race today, leaving the administration of pro - Eisenhower Gov. Robert Kennon in the dust.

Mayor deLesseps Morrison of New Orleans, the only candidate in the five-man field in the Democratic primary who could have forced the race into a Feb. 21 runoff, conceded at 2 a. m.

Building his lead constantly as rural returns trickled in, the 69-year-old Long rolled toward the majority vote needed to avoid a runoff with the second-place candidate.

UNOFFICIAL RETURNS
Unofficial returns from 1,725 of the state's 2,039 precincts showed: Francis Greenberg 50,710
Earl Long 340,702
James McLemore 28,843
deLesseps Morrison 159,105
Fred Proulx 64,473.

The Republicans did not hold a primary to nominate a governor. Thus Long's victory assured him an unprecedented third stay at the 45-room mania that his brother E. J. built.

AMAZING STRENGTH
Long showed amazing comeback strength in this the nation's first state primary of the presidential year. After failing to name a successor four years ago, he swept through large city but one and every parish but one.

The exception was Orleans county name for New Orleans, where the 42-year - old Morrison found the strength to force the race down to the wire.

With all five candidates in agreement on segregation, law enforcement and industrial development, the race boiled down to the traditional Long vs. anti-Long battle. Morrison's city organization and Proulx' administration backing were unable to change that picture.

BEER INSPECTOR, OWNER FIGHT
JACKSONVILLE — Inspector Onslow County beer inspector Hubert Harrell and the owner of a tavern which was closed temporarily on Harrell's recommendation engaged in a fist fight here early today, police reported.

Harrell snore out a warrant charging Marvin Morgan, owner of Morgan's bar, with assault. Morgan in turn charged Harrell with assault.

The altercation was in front of the police station at about 1:30 a. m. Neither man was hurt seriously. Morgan's place of business was closed for 90 days by the state ABC board on Harrell's recommendation.

Auditorium Also In Black

DOMES SHOWS PROFIT

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The Auditorium Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium show a net income of \$23,377.90 in a financial statement released today.

That is the amount the city's new entertainment facilities cleared in the period from Sept. 11, 1955, when the buildings opened, to Dec. 31, 1955.

The gross income, counting proceeds from events, concessions and parking facilities, was \$9,344.08.

From rental fees alone, the auditorium made \$6,850 and the coliseum \$38,162. Just one attraction, the week-long Ice Capades, paid more than half of the latter figure — \$24,277.01.

Net income from operation of concessions was \$8,776.28. Net income from parking facilities was \$2,479.01.

These figures were included in a statement given to the Auditorium-Coliseum Authority by Has-Kins & Sells, accountants, at a meeting, the week-long Ice Capades, paid more than half of the latter figure — \$24,277.01.

Mr. Cochran said, "I am very much pleased with the financial record of the two buildings to date, especially considering all the initial difficulties we faced. I am very much encouraged."

The financial statement was to be given to the City Council at its meeting this afternoon.

Since the auditorium and coliseum are owned by the city, neither the cost nor the depreciation is included in Auditorium-Coliseum accounts or in the Has-Kins & Sells report.

The buildings cost \$4,698,000 in three bond issues which mature in 30 years. Sixteen persons are employed by the Auditorium-Coliseum, not counting maintenance and parking lot operators.

General and administrative expenses for the 3 1/2 month period total \$21,966.18. Salaries and wages for 82 employees cost \$1,195.00. Heat, lights and water for the mammoth buildings cost \$4,789.16. Supplies and equipment cost \$2,654.50. Insurance cost \$687.73. Guard service cost \$1,119.05. Telephone cost \$53.22. Truck maintenance, gas, oil, etc., cost \$46.68.

Other expenses, all of less than \$1,000 for office supplies, employees' retirement system, professional fees, telephone, and allowance and truck maintenance.

Seaman Tells Story Of Escape From Burning Ship's Engine Room

By STANLEY MEISLER
LAKE CHARLES, La. —

"I made some promises down there," said Frank Toto today as he left his hospital bed to restate in a chapel about the four hours he spent trapped in the engine room of a blazing tanker.

About 18 of his buddies may have died in the explosion that cracked the tanker Salem Maritime last night at the Cities Service Oil Co. refinery some six miles from Lake Charles.

To Toto, a 25-year-old Brooklyn, N. Y., seaman, with a wife and six-month-old son, the blast seemed almost like a routine accident when it came.

"One of the fellows had just said it's time for coffee when the ship began to rock. A valve fell down, the third fireman explained."

"I kept looking around to see what's wrong with the engine. I don't dream the whole ship could be on fire."

Then another seaman, George Emley, his face and hands burned, rushed into the engine room. He shouted to Frank and Fred Gentry of Maywood, La., to stay in the engine room.

The three men decided to use the double bottom as a last resort.

"But the first thing we did was search for our coffee. We found it in an adjoining room. It was still hot. It seems funny looking for coffee then, but you know it's funny when you're desperate."

A new idea, during the slow winding hours, came to the three trapped seamen.

"Maybe," Toto explained, "if somebody knew we were in there, they'd come and save us. We pulled on the whistle for five minutes, but the air gave out. We tried to generate steam to blow the whistle, but the steam always condensed."

The whistle grew quietly into a key of hope. They had to grab it and blow on it themselves. Toto decided to climb to the top of the engine room even though he knew sudden whiffs of flame could slash him.

"I climbed pretty high and it climbed higher and it still climbed higher and it still wasn't hot," said Toto.

"So I called Emley and Fred. I got them to take a chance on getting out of the engine room."

No flames seen. They opened the engine room door. A gust of wind slapped them but there were no flames. They were now on a deck with portholes. It was their chance to

The Balance Sheet

OVENS AUDITORIUM-CHARLOTTE COLISEUM AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF NET INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 1955 (BEGINNING OF OPERATIONS), TO DECEMBER 31, 1955

EVENTS INCOME:
Buildings rent:
Ovens Auditorium \$ 6,850.00
Charlotte Coliseum 30,162.70
Sales of services 2,714.45
TOTAL \$47,747.15

LABOR EXPENSES:
Event \$ 7,403.95
Other 2,118.40
TOTAL 9,602.35

INCOME FROM EVENTS \$38,144.80
Income from operation of concessions 9,575.20
Income from operation of parking facilities \$50,344.08
Miscellaneous income 2,479.01
TOTAL \$50,344.08

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:
Salaries and wages \$ 3,950.50
Supplies and wages 5,675.00
Heat, lights, and water 4,789.16
Insurance 1,058.73
Office supplies and expenses 990.17
Employees retirement system 453.91
Professional fees 649.00
Guard service 1,119.05
Telephone 453.22
Truck maintenance, gas, oil, etc. 46.68
TOTAL 21,966.18

NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD AND RETAINED EARNINGS, DEC. 31, 1955 \$23,377.90

Cities Service headquarters in New York identified the ship's master as Capt. John Ruggan of Milton, Mass., and said the vessel carried a crew of 41 including the captain when it sailed from Boston in southern Louisiana.

Information reached New York this morning was that 12 of the seamen had been accounted for, five of whom were hospitalized. New York officials said, however, it was not known immediately how many were aboard the ship at the time of the blast since a number may have been ashore.

Crewman John Klegado of Avoca, Pa., one of those rescued by the tug, said he was standing by the engine room when the ship with two other men, but was unable to give any account of them after the blast.

"Anybody who was on that ship after I left it just won't be around to talk about it."

No cause was given for the explosion. The tanker, loading in three holds at the time of 20,000 barrels of fuel oil, had been loading for more than six hours and was almost full when the explosion tore the vessel's assunder and left it a flaming hulk.

But Fred couldn't fit through a porthole. He's a real big guy. And we weren't going to leave him behind. We had been through this whole thing together," said Toto.

So they climbed still higher, to a deck where they could jump out. And again, there were no flames. The ship was still burning. "The wind had blown the flames from our side of the ship to the other," said Toto. "I even was able to run to my room and get a picture of my wife and kids."

Like a miracle, they waved their flashlights. A light answered. A light palmed alongside. "So I called Emley and Fred. I got them to take a chance on getting out of the engine room."

They opened the engine room door. A gust of wind slapped them but there were no flames. They were now on a deck with portholes. It was their chance to

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