



Present Structure 'Inadequate'

County Building Proposed As Courthouse Supplement

No Bond Allowed

Steele Waives Death Hearing

Twenty-two-year-old Robert F. Steele, charged with the "reasonless" killing of his wife, waived preliminary hearing in City Recorder's Court today.

The young defendant carried a Bible and wept into his handkerchief during the brief proceedings. He will be held without bond in the County Jail until his trial comes up, probably this month, in Mecklenburg Criminal Superior Court.

Steele shot his 20-year-old wife, Martha Ann Greer Steele, as she brought a 5 a.m. breakfast of biscuits, bacon and eggs to the bed in which he was lying yesterday. He told police he didn't know why he shot her.

The two were childhood sweethearts who quit Harting High School five years ago to get married. They had two daughters, three and four years old.

The Steeles lived in an upstairs apartment at 427 Woodvale Pl., a street that leads off W. 4th St. and dead-ends at a field near a switching line of the P. & N. Railroad, where young Steele was employed as a signman.

When police answered the emergency ambulance call yesterday, they found Steele in the front bedroom holding his daughters and sobbing. "We were playing."

Later, he told detectives he didn't know why he shot his wife. "I wouldn't have hurt her for anything in the world," he said.

Police received this story of what happened.

Two other couples visited the Steeles Saturday night. After talking in the apartment for a while, three men went to the Meritt Grill, five blocks away on W. Trade St. While they were away, they drank beer. One of the others had a drink of whisky, but Steele "didn't think my stomach could stand it."

Steele arrived home, told his wife he was hungry, and when she went to the kitchen to cook breakfast, took his .32 calibre snub-nosed revolver from a dresser drawer.

He held the gun in one hand while he read a newspaper in bed.

When his wife set the tray holding his breakfast on a table beside the bed, he stuck the pistol under the newspaper without looking at his wife and pulled the trigger, Steele said.

The bullet struck her in the face. Steele asked a telephone operator for help. She called an ambulance. Mrs. Steele was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital.

For some time after he was brought in, young Steele was too distraught to be questioned, police said. He repeated over and over that he didn't know why he killed his wife.

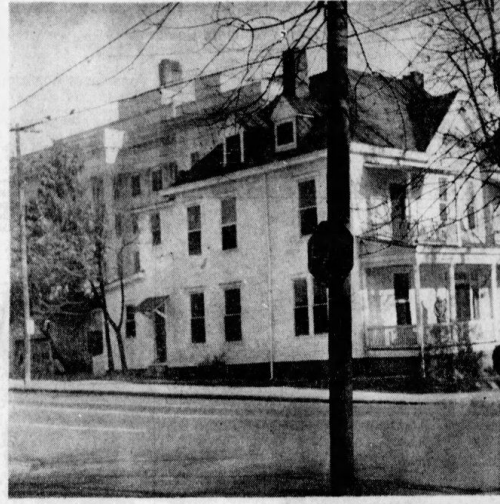
Steele, who carries a steel plate in his head as a result of injuries in an auto accident some years ago, spent much of yesterday reading a family Bible in his cell.

A. gave my wife two Bibles for the children for Christmas," he said. "But I guess this is the only Bible the police could find to bring me."

A steady stream of visitors came to the police station to see him. The father of his dead wife, J. M. Greer, 72, E. Vanhook Ave., said, "Booby is a good boy. He said it was an accident."

Police took the Steeles' little girls to the Greers. Deborah Ann and Donna Ray are here.

See STEELE on page 3-A.



Site For Proposed County Office Building, With Courthouse In Background

Reasons Are Listed

Portion Of Text Of Bar's Report

A portion of the Bar Association report:

"For several years the Mecklenburg Bar Association through its members, committees and organizations has given extensive and continuous study to the ever increasing problem of adequately and properly housing the expanding activities of Mecklenburg County as a subdivision of the government of the State of North Carolina. The results, in outline of these studies are respectfully submitted herewith for your consideration, with the assurance that the Mecklenburg Bar Association stands ready, at any and all times, to meet with the Board or its members for the purpose of amplifying or documenting in more detail this report and the recommendations."

"I. We are of the firm opinion that a carefully planned office building designed to house the activities of Mecklenburg County and other related municipal or state governmental functions should be erected on the southeastern segment of the 'Court House Square' and that piecemeal enlargements or remodeling of the County Court House should not be attempted for the following among other reasons:

- (1) The present County Court House was erected approximately thirty years ago when Mecklenburg County and its governmental operations were still in the 'rural county court house' era and the County Court House was designed and built in keeping with that era.
- (2) Since the Mecklenburg County Court House was erected, governmental activities, federal, state and county, have been enormously expanded.
- (3) The governmental activities of Mecklenburg County and other related governmental functions have long since outgrown the present Court House beyond question.
- (4) Such departmental activities as the Tax Office, the Register of Deeds Office, the Clerk of the Superior Court and the Department of Education are severely handicapped for lack of space.
- (5) Mecklenburg County Elections Office.
- (6) North Carolina Department of Public Welfare.
- (7) Juvenile Court Division.
- (8) Family Division.
- (9) Aid for Dependent Children Division.
- (10) Applications Division.
- (11) Finance Department.
- (12) Statistical Department.
- (13) North Carolina Department of Revenue Offices.
- (14) North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Office.
- (15) The Van Ness residence contains:
- (16) The Mecklenburg County School Library Department.
- (17) The Mecklenburg County School Supervisor of Music.
- (18) Instructional Supervisor for Mecklenburg County Negro Schools.
- (19) Mecklenburg Cooperatives.

See TEXT on page 3-A.

Most Heart Specialists Say Ike Is Fit To Run

WASHINGTON (AP)—Among 246 polled, twenty-nine of these did not heart specialists giving definite negative direct answers.

The two questions asked and the answer's health, three out of five replied, as given by the magazine, is he is physically fit to seek a second term. The others say he is about the nature of the President's illness, and assuming a normal convalescence in the next few months, do you think Mr. Eisenhower can be regarded as physically fit to seek a second term?

Yes: 122 (49.6%)
No: 84 (33.8%)
No answer: 40 (16.6%)

Questionnaires were sent to the 414 doctors contacted by the American Board of Internal Medicine, a group of heart specialists. Of this number, 275 or about 67 per cent replied.

He said dynamic was used and plenty of it."

He'll Study Caviar But Won't Eat Any

LONDON (AP)—Jon Miller of the London Zoo has Kremlin permission for a visit to Russia to study fresh water fish that produce caviar.

Miller said his study of the life and habits of the sturgeon will take him up and down the Volga particularly the waters around Saratov.

He said he had met caviar? "I hate the stuff," he said.

Attorneys Outline Area Needs

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A new County office building to supplement "inadequate and outdated" courthouse facilities was proposed by local attorneys today.

A five-page report—outlining the needs for a modern office building—was presented to the County Commission today by J. W. Alexander Jr., president of the 26th Judicial District Bar Association, formerly the Mecklenburg Bar Association.

The attorneys recommended the erection of "a carefully planned office building designed to house the activities of Mecklenburg County and other related governmental functions" to be erected on the southeastern segment of the "Court House Square."

The bar association opposed piecemeal enlargements or remodeling of the present courthouse, according to the report.

It was recommended that the new building be paid for by the issuance of bonds, approved by the people.

Neither size nor cost of the proposed office building was included in the report.

In compliance with a request by Superior Court Judge Francis O. Clarkson, head of the study committee, Commission Chairman Sid Y. McAden appointed two commissioners to study the report and make recommendations to the commission.

They are Commissioners Herbert Garrison and Sam McIninch. Approximately a dozen attorneys appeared before the commissioners today at the report, the result of several years study by the bar, was presented.

Attorneys Guy T. Carwell and Fred B. Helms urged the commissioners to solve the problem of inadequate space created by an expanding county with a growing population.

It is the thinking of the attorneys that the present courthouse, built in "rural county courthouse" days, should continue to be used for traditional county governmental functions such as Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, tax offices, Sheriff's Department and County Police.

In setting forth the reasons for needing more space the attorneys pointed out that an increased population has meant more litigation and work in the various courts. At present four sections of the courthouse are used for courts and two more are needed.

Both the Clerk of Court and N. C. Industrial Commission need separate courtrooms in which to hold hearings, according to the report.

It was proposed that the new building, located at the rear of the Law Building, would be connected with the courthouse by corridors or other means.

Commission Chairman Sid Y. McAden told the lawyers that the board "realizes the condition of the courthouse."

"It's purely a question of how to finance," he said.

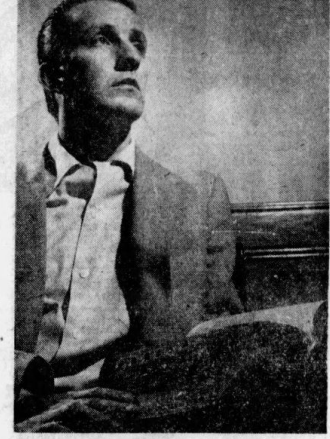
With the sale of three million dollars in school bonds in '54, he said, the county will have about one million dollars bond issuance leeway.

Evening Prayer

Eternal Father, help us to know the comradeship of Thy presence in the quiet sanctuary of the soul. Teach us to reorganize and value Thy nearness and so find joy in Thy companionship this day. We pray in Thy Saviour's name. Amen.

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Robert Steele: "I Don't Know Why"



The Steeles Lived Upstairs In This Woodvale Pl. Apartment House

In Message To Congress

Ike Calls For Soil Bank

By OVID A. MARTIN
Associated Press Farm Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower asked Congress today to vote a soil bank plan to help up the present lowering surplus of farm products as part of a nine-point program to ease the plight of farmers.

In a special message to Congress, Eisenhower called for urgent attention to the "paradox facing our farm families." He said: "Although agriculture is our basic industry, it finds their prices and income depressed amid the nation's greatest prosperity. For five years, their economy has declined. Unless corrected these economic reversals are a direct threat to the well being of all of our people."

Eisenhower's outline suggested additions to existing controversial programs which agricultural officials said would cost more than an extra billion dollars in government resources.

Farm income declined slightly more than a billion dollars last year.

The recommendations said, at using present price-depressing crop surpluses to reduce output. Farmers who help to cut back production would be offered government surpluses as compensation.

The program lays much of its immediate emphasis on the soil bank or "storage reserve" plan under which farmers would be encouraged—but not compelled—to reduce plantings until surpluses are trimmed and markets grow enough to buy agricultural products.

Encouragement for idling crop land would be offered in the form of cash payments as well as surplus stocks of such crops as cotton, wheat and possibly corn, rice and peanuts.

If the program were authorized by Congress and Congress took full advantage, the payments and the amount of the surplus crops that farmers first suggested by the administration last year.

5. Greater aid to stabilize farming in the drought-plagued Great Plains.

6. A 25 per cent increase in federal appropriations for research aimed at finding new uses, new markets and new crops for agriculture.

7. Assurance that the federal government will always supply adequate credit to meet farmers' needs.

8. That the federal government make refunds to farmers of gasoline taxes collected on motor fuel used for nonhighway purposes. It was estimated this would save farmers \$60,000,000 a year.

9. That Congress consider placing a dollar limit on the amount of price support aid that could be given to a single farm.

10. A speed-up of the rural development program for low-income areas.

INVESTIGATION IS ORDERED ON REPORTED CANNIBALISM

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—The Indian government called today for fullest details on reports that a number of holy men belonging to a cannibal cult have been arrested for eating children.

Indian newspapers said 21 child-eating Sadhus—holy men—have been taken into custody in various parts of North India.

The Sadhus wear flowing yellow robes and belong to the Aghori sect. Some of them are reported to have confessed the existence of cannibal cult among them for centuries.

The reports said that three skulls of children have been found at a secret hideout near Meerut.

The Indian government call for details today was dispatched to the Uttar Pradesh state government.

Death Penalty Asked For Heroin Peddlers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Daniel D. Brien said today drug addiction is responsible for nearly 50 per cent of all crimes in major cities, and for 25 per cent of all those reported in the nation.

Reporting that the traffic in illicit drugs has "trebled" in this country since the end of World War II, he asked legislation under which the death penalty could be applied to smugglers and peddlers of heroin in extreme cases.

Daniel headed a Senate Judiciary subcommittee which investigated the illegal narcotics traffic during 37 days of hearings in 11 cities. The subcommittee, in a preliminary report, said it is in a preliminary report, said it is in a preliminary report, said it is in a preliminary report.

1. Legislation to permit federal narcotics agents to tap telephones under "sealed court orders" and to use such evidence in courts, so they can get at the "big operators" who work behind the scenes.

2. Negotiation of a treaty with Mexico for a mutual fight against the drug traffic across the border.

3. Complete outlawing of the sale of heroin, which he said is used by 80 per cent of the addicts in this country.

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See STEELE on page 3-A.



MRS. STEELE