



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL

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## No Defense Offered

# 15 To 20 Years Given Steele In Wife's Death

## Short Trial Finds Judge 'Sorrowful'

By DONALD MACDONALD, Charlotte News Staff Writer

Entering a plea of no defense to second-degree murder, youthful Robert Franklin Steele was sentenced today to not less than 15 nor more than 20 years.

Steele's trial for the Jan. 8 pistol slaying of his 20-year-old wife took little more than two hours in Mecklenburg Criminal Superior Court.

Judge J. C. Rudisill, in passing sentence, said he was "sorry for him . . . just as sorry as I can be."

"We can be thankful there are good folks on both sides of the family to take care of the children."

Judge Rudisill called the deceased Mrs. Martha Ann Grier Steele "an exceptionally good woman."

For the first time in his experience, Judge Rudisill said, none of the defense witnesses had complaints against the deceased party.

Judge Rudisill said that Steele was "courting trouble" when he left the couple's apartment at 427 Woodvale Pl. with a male companion to buy illegal whiskey. The state presented evidence which showed that Steele and one of two men who visited Steele's department earlier that evening had left the apartment to visit a bootlegger's house on Summit Ave.

The youthful husband and father, who was represented by Attorney Warren Stack, did not take the stand in his own defense. His plea left his fate in the hands of the judge who could have given him a maximum of 30 years.

During Mr. Stack's concluding remarks to the court, Mr. Steele sat with bowed head and wept.



AN IMPRESSED MAYOR from Sioux Falls, S. D., Fay Wheelon (right), was shown the auditorium-coliseum by Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem James S. Smith. The visiting mayor spoke to the Gene Autry audience yesterday. He said he was impressed with Charlotte's multi-million dollar entertainment facility and indicated that Sioux Falls could use one like it. (See pictures of audience on page 1-B).

## Plane Crash Near Cairo Kills 52

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—A big French Cloudmaster with 64 persons aboard crashed and burned in the desert just outside Cairo today. Airline headquarters in Paris said 52 persons, all French or Vietnamese, perished.

Six crew members and six passengers, including two children, were brought to a hospital here. The plane's commander, Capt. Charles Bilet, was seriously hurt.

The plane was on a flight from Saigon to Paris and was trying to land at Cairo. Reports from the scene, where the Egyptian army and American pilots were helping with rescue work, said 42 dead had been counted.

The big DC8 cloudmaster was arriving enroute to Paris from Saigon with 55 passengers and a crew of 9. It was operated by the privately owned Transport Aeriens Intercontinentaux.

The survivors reportedly included the plane captain and five other members of the crew.

Airport officials saw the big plane wheeling overhead in the landing circuit. Then it disappeared.

## 3 ENGINES QUIT

An airport official said surviving crewmen reported two of the plane's engines stopped just before it was to land. They said the captain tried a forced landing in the desert but the plane burst into flames when it touched down. Crew members in the pilot's cabin escaped through the emergency exit in front of the plane.

An Egyptian Army officer rearing the coliseum are real showpieces said that at least was left of the plane was its burned-out skeleton.

No passenger list was immediately available nor were the nationalities of the passengers known.

## Mayors Hearty In Praise Of New Buildings

By DICK YOUNG, Charlotte News Staff Writer

Charlotte had more than its quota of mayors today, come to see our five million dollar Charlotte Coliseum and David Overton Auditorium.

En route home from last week's White House Conference, Mayor William W. Donaldson of Pontiac, Mich., and Mayor Fay Wheelon of Sioux Falls, S. D., were amazed at Charlotte's new entertainment facility.

Said Mayor Wheelon: "The only thing wrong I can see is that it's here in Charlotte and not out in Sioux Falls."

Mayor Donaldson equally impressed said that the auditorium and the language of the law does not mean the examination can be taken by members of the white race only.

He set forth its position in a mimeographed statement given commissioners and read by the Rev. H. J. Givens, pastor of Belleville Presbyterian Church and study committee of the Charlotte branch of the NAACP.

"It is our position that, within the framework of city and county governments," the statement reads, "the opportunity of each individual to obtain useful employment should be provided with complete disregard for race, color, creed and national origin."

"Without this equality of opportunity the individual is deprived of the chance to develop his potentialities and to share the fruits of society."

"It is the contention of the NAACP branch that section 5 of the civil service act, which refers to the examination being taken by white people, is unconstitutional."

COURT POSSIBLE

There was every indication at today's meeting that the Negroes would take the matter to court if necessary. This question was contained in the prepared statement given commissioners.

## Delegation Appears County To Request Police Exam Ruling

By ANN SAWYER, Charlotte News Staff Writer

A ruling will be sought from the Attorney General on whether Negroes are eligible to take the Mecklenburg County Police Civil Service examination.

The decision to ask for the legal ruling was made today by County Commissioners and the Civil Service Board, after a conference with a delegation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

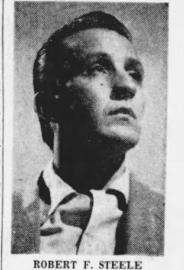
In making the motion, Commissioner Sam McNinch said the board would know what course to follow after the decision is rendered.

"WHITE PERSONS"

The 1953 act creating a Civil Service Board for the County Police Dept. says that the examination "shall be competitive and open to all white persons who are qualified voters of Mecklenburg County."

Members of the NAACP contend that "regardless of whether the law is constitutional or not, neither the commissioners nor the Civil Service Board has any power to declare it unconstitutional."

Mr. Dockery said court action would be necessary before Negroes could be permitted to take the examination. He made his statement after Kelly M. Alexander of Charlotte, president of the state NAACP, asked if "any relief given these men would have to be determined by the court."



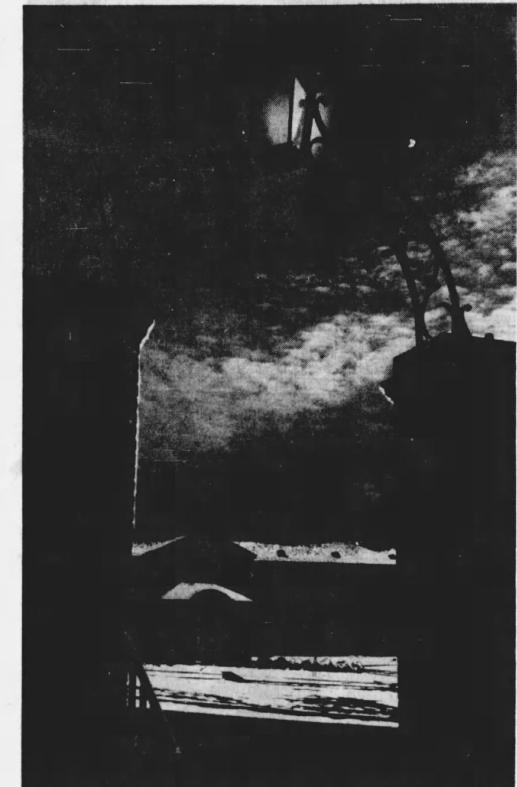
ROBERT F. STEELE

Character witnesses painted a picture of a happy marriage, and no evidence supplied by the state could contradict this.

NO BRANDY GIVEN

Detective John Severs quoted a statement made by Steele upon his early morning arrest in which the youth claimed he pulled the trigger of a .32 caliber revolver while he was reading a newspaper. He could give no reason for having done so.

Officers said earlier their investigation showed Steele was lying in bed reading the paper while his wife prepared a breakfast for him. When she returned to the bedroom with a tray of food, Steele told police, he fired the revolver without looking up from the newspaper.



A MEN'S DORMITORY, sprinkled with snow, is framed by this lantern arch on the new Wake Forest College campus at Winston-Salem. Craftsmen using forge and anvil have turned out scores of wrought iron railings and arches which are currently being installed. All told, there will be 14 of these arches. (Irvine Grigg photo)

## Broader Aspects Object

# Case Fund Case Reopened

WASHINGTON (AP)—A special Senate committee headed by Sen. George (D-Ga.) suddenly called new public hearings today on the \$2.50 million campaign fund offer to Sen. George (R-SD) during the Senate case bill fight. George said the group had decided to expand the scope of its investigation.

After a morning closed-door meeting, George announced it would reopen public hearings.

George said Donald R. Ross, who resigned last week as U.S. district attorney for Nebraska, may be one of the witnesses. He gave no reason for the decision to call him.

George said the committee also will call back to the witness stand Howard B. Keck, president of the Superior Oil Co. of California, and Elmer Patman, a lawyer for the firm.

"GENERAL PATTERN"

George said that in resuming the public hearings the committee had decided to look into "the general pattern" involved in the campaign fund.

"Reporters asked whether this meant a search for evidence that other senators may have received offers similar to the one to Case. "In a general way," George replied.

In previous hearings, the committee developed that John M. Neff, of Lexington, Neb., a lawyer lobbyist for Superior Oil, left \$250,000 bills with friends of Case for the senator's campaign fund.

Testimony was that Neff got the money from Patman who testified it came from Keck's personal funds.

INTRODUCTIONS TOLD

It was brought out also that Ross introduced Neff to Nebraska's two Republican senators, Hruska and Curtis, to discuss the natural gas bill.

Ross is a former mayor of Lexington and a longtime friend of Neff.

Ross said in resigning as U.S. attorney that he had done nothing wrong but was concerned that his activities might bring "unwarranted criticism" to the Justice Department.

George said his committee's main assignment still is to look into the offer to Case, but that its study of these might have had some effect on the "general pattern in so doing."

Other members are Sens. Hayden (D-Ariz.), Bridges (R-NH) and The (R-Minn).

The committee has subpoenaed Keck's bank check books, and George indicated that staff aides' fields operated by U. S. companies, ordered and paid for the 25-ton tanks last year.

President Eisenhower embargoed the shipment for two days last week after protests from Israel and members of Congress.

The ship had been scheduled to sail last night but a delay developed when the crew of about 30 suddenly demanded a war zone bonus.

R. H. Bennett, port captain for the Hellenic Lines, said the dispute was settled by giving the seamen war risk insurance policies.

## Quartet To Boost Trade

# Dowdy Part Of Team In Mission To Italy

George W. Dowdy, vice president and general manager of Belk Bros. Co. here, has been appointed a member of a four-man trade mission to Italy.

Mr. Dowdy will sail from New York March 3 and will return May 8.

He was appointed to the mission, one of four to be sent to Europe, by the Dept. of Commerce.

The purpose of the mission, said Mr. Dowdy, is to stimulate trade and assist Italians in importing more goods from the United States. The mission will encourage Italian business men to increase their exports, aid their business and bring about a better understanding of U. S. policies and objectives in the area of foreign trade.

TO SELL MORE

"They must sell more to us so that they may buy more," said Mr. Dowdy. "We will endeavor to show them where they can obtain specific products without recommending any particular brands."

Mr. Dowdy will visit several cities in the northern part of Italy's industrial area will also attend the International Trade Fair in Milan April 12-27.

Serving with him on the mission will be Rene Lutz, deputy director of the office of economic affairs, Bureau of Foreign Commerce, who will head the group; Richard G. Lurie, editor in chief

## Tank-Laden Freighter Sails

NEW YORK (AP)—The freighter James Monroe sailed for the explosive Middle East today with a controversial cargo of 10 tanks for Saudi Arabia.

An employer spokesman said the ship's crew carried war risk insurance of \$100 each.

President Eisenhower embargoed the shipment for two days last week after protests from Israel and members of Congress.

The ship had been scheduled to sail last night but a delay developed when the crew of about 30 suddenly demanded a war zone bonus.

R. H. Bennett, port captain for the Hellenic Lines, said the dispute was settled by giving the seamen war risk insurance policies.

## Evening Prayer

O God, illumine our darkness with the certainty that Thou art ever at work, undoing the evil that man has done. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Post Office Says Its Illegal

# Pens Are Links In Chain Letter Scheme

By EMERY WISTER, Charlotte News Staff Writer

The old chain letter scheme has taken a new twist in a fanatical deal here, promising participants as much as \$24,414 for \$1.

But, says the Post Office Dept., it's illegal.

And today Post Office Inspector Ferd M. Hayes said a local firm is under investigation.

"I have one case on the company now," said Mr. Hayes, who declined further comment until the investigation has been completed.

The company, which works through "sales agents" who are appointed, does not list its address on "contracts" which the agents sign and fill in. Agents are merely instructed to mail contracts to Post Office Box 406, Mr. Hayes said he could not divulge the name of the company or individual using this box, but said he was confident the scheme was being worked in conjunction with another business.

How many persons have become involved in the scheme, has not been learned. But the number apparently is increasing day by day as the "chain" of agents lengthens.

This is how the scheme works: A friend approaches you with a rood thing. He has just become a sales agent for a company which sells ball point pens. He offers you the same proposition, pointing out that you will receive a commission on all the pens sold by other persons who become sales agents as a result of your appointment.

The only thing you have to do is buy a ball point pen for a dollar. He sends in the dollar with a "contract" together with

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## Eisenhower Prolongs Vacation Until Weekend

THOMASVILLE, Ga. (AP)—President Eisenhower today decided to prolong his vacation until Friday or Saturday.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty told newsmen meanwhile "there isn't a thing to report" in commenting on a report that Eisenhower had decided to announce late Friday, after the stock market closed whether he will seek a second term.

President has indicated he will disclose his political plans around March 1, possibly at a news conference.

In response to questions, Hagerty said today he was assuming that Eisenhower's next news conference will be Feb. 29 in Washington. The press secretary declined to say, however, whether the President's answer to the big question would come at that time.

Feb. 29 is a Wednesday and Eisenhower usually meets with newsmen on Wednesday mornings when he is in Washington.

Eisenhower arrived in Georgia last Wednesday for a vacation at the plantation home of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey.

Hagerty announced today the new plan is for the President to fly back to Washington either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

PROLONGS STAY

The press secretary said Eisenhower has decided to prolong his stay a few days because he is getting a head start on a health standpoint from his vacation.

Also, Hagerty said, Eisenhower has no Washington engagements which require his mid-week return.

Select FOREMOST Milk Products at your favorite store.—AdV.

## Our Weather

Gradual clearing and mild this afternoon. Fair and cooler tonight and Tuesday.

Low tonight—53.

High yesterday—69.

High today—65.

High tomorrow—58.

Sunrise 7:04 a. m.; sunset 6:10 p. m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A