

AIRPLANE PARKS AT COLISEUM



AN AIRPLANE LANDED on the Coliseum parking lot yesterday to the accompaniment of curious stares from adults and excited shouts from children. Top photo shows the plane over the Coliseum dome as it started its landing glide. Lower, the plane has landed, kicking up dust clouds of fast. Bottom, Lt. Jack Higgins, the Coliseum electrician, who piloted the National Guard plane.

Light Plane Proves Coliseum Parking Lot Makes Good Airstrip

Practically everyone has been fuming and fussing at the city, claiming that the Charlotte Coliseum parking lots are too small. Yesterday National Guard pilot Lt. Jack Higgins proved them wrong. He landed an airplane on the unpaved lot to the right of the big dome. It happened just before 2 p.m. The Home and Flower show was opening in the Coliseum and men, women and children were coming to the Coliseum in large numbers. Suddenly an airplane flew over the building. Rather low, everyone seemed to think, almost low enough to land. It did almost. Coming in from the east, it fabricated across the paved lot, skimmed over the unpaved one, then zoomed back into the air, turned sharply and headed into the sun. That did it. Children, just out from school, broke into excited shouts as they watched the plane turn over Owens Auditorium, glide over the big dome and head back for the lot again. But the pilot didn't intend to land—not this time. He was just making certain that a plane could be landed there. This time he made it. He put his light liaison plane down, using no more than half of the lot, turned around and taxied back to the road separating the unpaved lot from the paved one. The pilot, it seems, was merely on a dry run. He told the large crowd of greeters that awaited him that he was just making certain that a plane could be landed there. Seems the National Guard plans a big equipment display on the lot Saturday, which is National Guard Muster Day. Among the equipment to be displayed is this light plane and the only fly to get it there was to fly it there. Lt. Higgins did it. Then just to show how easy it was, he took off and landed again. Then he took off again and said he would be back Saturday morning. It's the first time a plane has landed on the lot, but in a way it was old stuff to Lt. Higgins. You see he's the Coliseum electrician, and parks on the lot every day.

Glide On Rented Skates At Coliseum To Cost \$2

A schedule of skating fees and skate rentals for the 11 days of public ice skating in the Charlotte Coliseum March 20th has been set by the Auditorium-Coliseum Authority. The schedule, adopted by the authority at a meeting yesterday, is as follows: Skating fees, Adults \$1, children .50. Spectators, adults .50, children .25. Skate rentals, \$1, both for adults and children. The Coliseum will be open for skating each night in the period except March 24 when the arena will be used for another purpose, and March 25, a Sunday. However, the rink will be open to skaters between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday, the same hours making picture theaters and other places of amusement are permitted to operate. The hours the rink will be open at night have not been set. Authority chairman Claude Cochran said this will be settled at a later meeting. Young boys and girls under the age of 14 will be admitted to the rink and stands at children's prices. Those over 14 will be charged adult fees. "We are not trying to make money, we are not trying to lose money," said Mr. Cochran. "We just want to break even. We don't know what this is going to cost us. We can't tell until we try it. Later, if we can make an adjustment in prices we will be happy to do it. But we must break even." Mr. Cochran said he hoped ice skating will be a permanent thing in the Coliseum. "But we haven't gone beyond the March dates."

Our Weather

Partly cloudy today. Considerable cloudiness tonight. Mostly cloudy to muggy with little chance of light scattered rains. Low this morning—28. Low tomorrow morning—28. High today—63. High tomorrow—55. Sunrise 7 a.m.; sunset 6:13 p.m. More Weather Data on Page 9-A

Delay To Deactivate Shell Loading Plant

24th Minister Arrested For Bus Boycotting

Negroes Plan Prayer Meeting For Justice

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a Negro minister whose home was bombed while he was actively leading the Negro bus boycott in Montgomery, was arrested today for boycotting.

The 27-year-old pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist church in downtown Montgomery, was among those indicted by a grand jury Tuesday on charges of violating Alabama's antiboycott law.

King's indictment was kept secret under Alabama law until he was arrested.

He returned today from a series of speaking engagements in Tennessee and Sheriff Mac Butler said he surrendered voluntarily. He was released on \$200 bond after being booked and fingerprinted.

NUMBER 14

He was the 24th Negro minister taken into custody as sheriff's officers rounded up the defendants named in the wholesale indictments. More than 50 other Negroes also have been arrested.

The total number of defendants named in the grand jury indictments was first announced as 415, but the sheriff's office said today it would be about 90.

Some of the defendants were listed by initials on one writ and by their full names on another, making it appear at first that they were different persons.

King's home was damaged by a dynamite explosion the night of Jan. 30. He was away from the house but his wife, their 7-year-old daughter and a neighbor were there. None was injured.

The young Negro minister, a militant spokesman against segregation on city buses, told a news conference in Chicago recently that the boycott is part of a worldwide revolt of oppressed peoples.

Negroes made plans for a mass meeting here tonight to pray for "justice to prevail."

And to emphasize their determination, boycott leaders proclaimed tomorrow "prayer-plenary day," they said every "race-loving" Negro will shun all motor vehicles and walk wherever they go on that day.

Scores of Negroes crowded outside the Montgomery County Jail yesterday and watched quietly as 73 of 115 persons indicted for boycotting were brought in and booked.



Inside The Depot: Where Will These Mountains Of Cases Go?

'Back To Indians' Go 46 Million Primer Caps

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

In the guard shack off York Rd., the clipboard log read: "2936—Colors proper and on time 0000."

It was the start of another day at the U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot.

It was also the beginning of "race-loving" Negro will shun all motor vehicles and walk wherever they go on that day.

Just so," said another, "I get my 22 months in before retirement."

The two men greeted the news of the Navy's deactivation of Charlotte's most famous military installation — the first official news they had received — with carefree nonchalance.

Through the barrier, down 2nd St. to the Administration Bldg., things were quiet on a Thursday morning. The early morning sun had brushed the frost off the grass, a child's red wagon sat on the side of the road and the steam heat made the heavy air in Lt. Comdr. H. L. White's large, carpeted office.

A few minutes earlier he, too, had received the news of the "immediate" deactivation from a News reporter.

"Immediate!" he said. "How immediate can it be with seven million projectiles, six miles of conveyor track, 900,000 . . ."

Word had not yet come from Washington. For 135 civilian employes and three Navy personnel, it was "a real Washington birthday present" or "another bad Monday"—a mild, but expected, shock.

They were proud of themselves. The Navy Dept., they knew, considered the job they were doing a good one. But the thought of dumping it all, was a little awe-inspiring — especially if "immediate" meant anything.

How immediate, they said, can the loading of 46 million primer caps? Or 34 million tracer gas-kets? Or 37 million rotor discs?

How do you get rid of 7 or 8 million in machinery, buildings, 14 miles of railroad track, 36 miles of paved roads, 900,000 square feet of covered building space?

Comdr. White was surprised. So was administrative officer H. A. Mooney and superintendent of ordnance C. F. King. It looked like a staggering job.

What about the 1,100 acres of land leased for grazing? Or the acres and acres of ammunition cases rusting in the fields? What about the half million projectiles that would take more than 100 railroad box cars to cart away?

The installation, they pointed out, had been doing a tremendous job. It was doing it on a budget of about \$600,000 annually. For instance, from June 1953 to June 1954, \$40 million of 40 millimeter shells had been shipped out of the depot. The figure jumped to \$52 million the next year. "Production"—which is really salvage and assembly of non-live 44 mm shells—was going full blast now.

When U. S. Rubber Co. operated the Depot, 10,000 employes were on the payroll. Suddenly the firm pulled out. In two weeks the payroll dropped from 10,000 to 500.

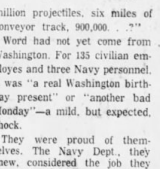
Production stopped but orders previously requested still flooded in. The parts piled up in fields and buildings.

Then came the Korean War. Needed were 40 mm shells and the Depot swung into action again.

The salvage program has continued, a task of reworking parts and assembling them. Right now orders are going out to installations in other parts of the country.

Then Feb. 23rd, 1956. The beginning of the end.

LT. COMDR. H. L. WHITE Reassignment Is Coming



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Nineteen Left Homeless After Fire Destroys Bungalow At Biddleville

By CHARLES KURLAT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Nineteen people were homeless today after a fire destroyed the bungalow they all lived in.

The frame house at 2022 Vinton St. in Biddleville was swept by flames shortly before noon yesterday. Everything in it was lost.

Two brothers, George and Robert Mackey, their wives, their mother and their 14 children lived in the house.

SEK QUARTERS

The families were looking for temporary quarters today. They have decided to tear the gutted remains of their own home down and rebuild on the spot.

In the meantime, Robert's wife, Arlene, conceded the families are going to be a little crowded. The nine members of her family spent last night in the five-room house of her mother, Dora Alexander, at 1100 White St. Mrs. Alexander has nine in her family, too.

The elderly mother, Mrs. Sarah Mackey, was at home when the fire started yesterday. She escaped unharmed.

Then the others came back from the school and visited to neighbors to find the house in ruins. They are Robert and Arlene and their children, William, 14, George, 12, Robert Jr., 11, Gaynetta, 5, Eugene, 7, Eric, 5, Sylvia, 4, and Earl Kent, 2 months.

The children of George and Arlene moved in with her parents last night.

The burned-out house had nine small rooms. The children slept three to a bed.

The reason 19 people were living in the house which is about the size of a normal five-room house, is that George's own house burned down about two years ago, Arlene Mackey said.

All of the youngsters stayed home from school today because their clothes went up in flames along with everything else.

Robert Mackey is a postal clerk. George is a plasterer. Arlene and Geraldine are maids.

Education Director John Fletcher Jr. of Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, where Arlene is employed, moved today to give the families temporary help. Some church members have contributed money, and Mr. Fletcher helped the 19 people enough food for lunch.

A church truck is being used to pick up furniture from contributors and a small amount of clothing has been collected.

Robert Mackey stood outside the charred house with his family today and speculated that he would be able to find a place to live before the week is over.

"But we're going to tear this house down and start in building it back as soon as we can," he said.

Speculation Over Uses Pops Again

By EMERY WISTER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The Navy will release the Navy shell depot near Charlotte, Rep. Charles R. Jonas told The News today.

The congressman said high Navy officials had informed him the 7,200-acre military reservation of the York Road about nine miles south of the city "was of no further use to the armed services."

A date of June 30, 1957, was set as the time the Navy will release the depot now being used as a salvage and reclamation base.

The announcement thus brought a definite end to rumors the Navy was planning a highly-secret nuclear weapon base there but started a new chain of speculation that another branch of the armed services or private industry might find use for it.

ARMY SURVEY

Several months ago the depot was surveyed by a team of Army engineers. Questioned about this, Pentagon officials would not comment about any plans they may have for development of the depot.

A Navy spokesman in Washington this morning said the Navy's announcement to release the depot was only a "statement of intent" to deactivate it.

NO COMMENT

Asked if he thought another branch of the armed service would take over the reservation he replied:

"It's much too premature to say now."

Lt. Cdr. H. L. White, depot commander, confirming a statement that employment at the depot will remain at the same level, said that in 1949 and 1950 he was required to move out all missiles, parts and shell — loading equipment at the depot.

"But we won't be getting any more in," he added. "Materials to be salvaged will now move the other way."

MILLIONS SAVED

The Navy established a salvage millions of dollars have been saved at the depot in 1949 and saved through cleaning, painting and rehabilitating missiles and present 123 persons are employed various pieces of equipment. At there.

Articles of equipment are now available for shipment to other Navy depots and stations. All these materials must be shipped out as well as the heavy equipment used in loading shells.

The depot was built at a cost into the \$20 million and went into See NAVY on Page 9-A

Leaders See Opportunity

Government leaders were pleased today at the prospects of a boost in Mecklenburg's industrial development through the release of the U. S. Naval Ordnance Depot on York Rd.

Both Mayor Van Every and S. V. McAden, chairman of the County Board, received the news with delight.

Eventually these facilities may be available for private industrial uses and the two officials saw in this a fine opportunity to give impetus to Mecklenburg's industrial development.

"I am delighted that this property will be put to adequate use and I can see the possibilities of greater growth for our community," said Mayor Van Every.

And Mr. McAden said: "I think it's a fine thing. It will add greatly to the county's development, particularly to nearby Pineville."

Evening Prayer

O Thou who rulest the raging of the storm and whose ear is ever attentive to even an infant's cry, bless those in peril of land and sea and air that they may find a sure haven in Thy mercy and in Thy presence find fullness of strength and joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.