

The Charlotte Observer

Foremost Newspaper Of The Carolinas

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1956

50 Pages

5 Cents

1,811,300

People Live in the CHARLOTTE 36-County Market Area

The Observer is served by the Associated Press, Chicago News World Service, Washington, Raleigh and Columbia Bureaus.

Hen Wetter

THE CAROLINAS — Scattered showers today; cloudy Friday.

CHARLOTTE AREA—Light rain. Expected high 53; low tonight 34.

Temperatures High 64; Low 35 Year Ago High 53; Low 35

Vol. 87, No. 306

Air Force Research Chief Out

Gardner Quits Post In Dispute Over Missiles Program

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Trevor Gardner announced Wednesday he is quitting as chief of Air Force research because he disagrees with the way the Pentagon is handling high-priority research and guided missile programs.

Gardner told a news conference "a crash program is badly needed" to develop intercontinental ballistic missile—the new atomic weapon that Soviet Russia is also striving to perfect.

He said this country is not getting the kind of ballistic missile program it should have because of "lack of support of the research and development program for the Air Force."

In a formal announcement, Gardner stated:

"Because of an honest difference of opinion about the importance and scope of the Air Force research and development and guided missiles program in relation to the threat, I have submitted my resignation to the President through Secretary of the Air Force (Quarles and Secretary of Defense) Wilson.

"I expect it to be acted upon within the next few days."

President Eisenhower asked about the guided missiles program at a session with reporters earlier in the day, said the United States is giving top priority to the development of these weapons and is not complacent about its position in relation to Russia in the field.

The administration proposes to spend \$1,200,000,000 on the program during the next fiscal year. Eisenhower said this was all that could be profitably spent with the scientists and resources now available.

While the Soviet Union might be ahead of this country in some phases of research, the President told his news conference, the United States holds the lead in others.

Gardner is now Assistant Air Secretary for Research and Development. He formerly was with the California Institute of Technology, where he worked on government atomic research contracts.

Five Children Die In Blaze

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—Five children ranging in age from 2 to 6 suffocated Wednesday when a flash fire whipped through a house. Four other persons were injured, one critically.

The dead were Vicky Dungey, 6; Sherry Dungey, 4; Eugene Dungey, 2; Naomi Trice, 4; and Harold Trice, 3.

Harry Beadie, 80, a boarder at the house, was critically burned. He and Diane Dungey, 5, burned seriously, were rescued through a window.

Gilbert Peake, 70, owner of the house, was slightly injured. His daughter, Ernestine Connor, 33, injured a leg in jumping from a second floor window.

Firemen said the blaze started in the kitchen and apparently swept through the two-story frame home so fast that the young children couldn't escape.

Alabama Official Says Mob Was Trying To Kill Coed

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—(AP)—A University of Alabama official formally reported Wednesday that a riotous mob was "trying to kill" a Negro coed when she was surrounded while meeting classes there Monday.

Jeff Bennett, assistant to President O. C. Carmichael, said he made the report to Gov. James E. Folsom, who is ex-officio chairman of the University Board of Trustees.



Will You Run? A Tough Question The President Seems To Be Asking And Answering Himself I'll Say Later

Eisenhower Hints He'll Make Decision Known By March 1

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Eisenhower told a news conference Wednesday he ought to have by March 1 the information needed for reaching the big decision about a second term. While he offered no definite dates, he said he would probably make the announcement by the end of the month or soon afterward. The President said the announcement probably would be made at a news conference. That pointed toward Feb. 29 or March 7 as possible dates. Ordinarily, those would be conference days.

Probably the Chief Executive said, the announcement also would require a longer explanation than he would give at a news conference. That might mean a TV-radio appearance.

As usual, Eisenhower gave no conclusive indication that he is inclined one way or the other at the moment.

He did say that if he decides against seeking re-election and Chief Justice Warren wants to try for the Republican presidential nomination "he would have no opposition from me; of that, I am sure you." Yet he made it rather clear he wouldn't tap Warren on the shoulder and tell the Chief Justice he wants him in the White House.

As for his youngest brother, Milton Eisenhower, who is president of Pennsylvania State University, who also has been mentioned as a GOP presidential possibility, the Chief Executive said, "If he has any political ambition, it is unknown to me."

Against the background of his Sept. 21 heart attack, Eisenhower was asked how he feels. Unquestionably, he said, there are times when he feels "more tired than I, think, I would have."

See IKE Page 2, Col. 4.

Our Tax Bill Tops Total For 50 Other Counties

By HOKK MAT Observer Staff Writer

Who pays the most taxes in North Carolina? For years, Mecklenburg County has claimed a lion's part in producing state revenue.

Charlotte City Treasurer L. L. Ledbetter has proved the claim is founded on fact.

In a survey compiled to promote the Feb. 14 sale of \$3,000,000 in county school bonds, Ledbetter reports this:

Not only do Mecklenburg residents pay more state taxes than any other single county, but their state tax contribution totals more than that of 50 other counties combined.

And his list of 50 covers a wide range of the state from the mountains to the Piedmont to the seacoast.

Commenting on his findings, Ledbetter said:

"We do not mean to reflect on other counties in North Carolina less fortunate than we. Our purpose is to show the wealth of this community and what we mean to the state of North Carolina."

The city treasurer's analysis was based on figures obtained from the North Carolina Research Institute.

In 1954, it showed Mecklenburg's people contributed \$18,132,715 to the state's revenue coffers.

The local tax outlay was 10.2 per cent of total taxes collected by North Carolina's government. And Mecklenburg was one of 10 North Carolina counties which poured 41 per cent of the state's taxes into the Raleigh treasury.

The nine big tax producers besides Mecklenburg were Forsyth, Guilford, Durham, Wake, Gaston, Buncombe, New Hanover, Cumberland, and Alamance.

Fifty counties whose combined state taxes were less than Mecklenburg's \$18 million were: Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Macon, Swain, Jackson, Transylvania, Polk, Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Stokes.

Alexander, Yadkin, Davie, Lincoln, Anson, Montgomery, Caswell, Person, Chatham, Granville, Franklin, Warren, Hoke, Scotland, Bladen, Brunswick, Pender, Duplin.

Jones, Greene, Pamlico, Martin, Washington, Hyde, Dare, Tyrrell, Bertie, Northampton, Hatteras, Gates, Camden, Currituck, Perquimans, Curwain.

Lovelorn Husband Frees 4 Hostages

Wife Agrees To Go Back To Kidnapers

Gunman Held 40 Officers At Bay In Wild Episode

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex.—(AP)—A disgruntled husband Wednesday kidnaped four persons and held more than 40 officers at bay for hours by threatening to kill his hostages.

He finally surrendered when his estranged wife promised to return to him.

Officers said Leonard Rollins apparently was angered because his wife had filed suit for divorce.

After holding three hostages, including his wife, into a bar southeast of here, Rollins threatened: "I'm going to kill somebody before I leave here. When I do, I'll walk out the door and let you shoot."

But Rollins released all but his wife, then surrendered his pistol meekly after his wife agreed to return to him.

Officers gave this account of the wild episode:

Rollins went to the home of U. S. Smith where Mrs. Rollins was employed as a housekeeper. He tied up Mrs. Smith and her two children, Pat, 18, and John Allen Smith, 22.

Rollins held them captive for three hours, then forced them to accompany him to Mrs. Rollins' home. He released Mrs. Smith but made his wife a captive.

Mrs. Smith notified officers. Rollins forced his wife and the Smith children into a car and headed out of town. With officers in pursuit, Rollins suddenly pulled up to a barn and herded his frightened three hostages into the building.

Officers pleaded with Rollins. He released John Allen Smith as he held a gun at the head of Mrs. Smith's sister, Pat. Later, he let go his youngest son, John Allen Smith, 22.

WHERE TO FIND THE FEATURES

Bridge 21B Puzzle 11B
Classified 15-10B Radio-TV 20B
Columns 24B Sports 16-30A
Comics 20-21B Star Gazer 21B
Editorial 12B Theaters 12B
Finance 13-14B Wiggans 21B
Hopper 12B Winchell 21B
Obituaries 11A Women 47B
(Observer Phone—ED 27321)

Baseball's Grand Old Man, Connie Mack, Dies

PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—Connie Mack, who helped pioneer baseball from the sandlots to the No. 1 sport in the nation, died Wednesday at the age of 93.

Known around the world as the grand old man of baseball and one of the most beloved men in the history of the game, Mack—born in East Brookfield, Mass., Dec. 25, 1862—died quietly with his wife, four daughters and one of three sons at his bedside.

He had been falling steadily since his fall of hip and breaking his hip last Oct. 1. He made two visits to the hospital in an effort to regain the full use of his legs.

The end for the man who changed his name from Cornelius McGillicuddy to Connie Mack to fit a baseball box score, came at 5:20 p.m. (EST) at the home of one of his daughters, Mrs. Frank Cunningham, in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

The family physician, Dr. Harlan Gopadze, said Mack had been doing "very nicely" until Tuesday morning.

"Then he went bad. He just suddenly seemed to be going out of the picture. His heart just couldn't stand up at his age."

(For more details, see sports page 16A.)



Pat Smith Is Supported By Friends After Escaping Gunman

Bustling N. C. Ports To Ask \$4.5 Million For Expansion

By SCOTT SUMMERS Observer Staff Writer

Business is busting its britches at North Carolina State ports and the Legislature will be asked to buy Wilmington and Morehead City a \$4,500,000 pair of pants.

Col. Richard S. Marr, executive director, told members of the State Ports Authority at a meeting here Wednesday that:

1. State ports are operating in the black for the first time in Wilmington and Morehead City. They showed a \$53,000 net profit for the first half of the fiscal year, compared with a \$7,000 loss during the corresponding period a year ago.

2. Business is booming and expanded facilities are needed. New ship-docking facilities in pair of berths) are needed at Wilmington, along with an extra transit shed, and two more warehouses are needed at Morehead City, he said.

A development survey was suggested to Governor Luther Hodges.

3. New roll-on, roll-off facilities are needed at both ports to take care of the first "new innovation in shipping in years"—the McLean truck-ship plant whereby trucks are loaded, driven aboard ship for transport, then rolled off to deliver goods inland.

4. Tar Heel ports have a foot in the door toward cracking the cotton-shipping trade, now monopolized by Charleston, S. C. Tobacco exports are growing.

5. North Carolina congressmen should be asked to push a bill through Congress giving the state ports the inactive federal shipyards at Wilmington.

Edwin Pate of Lenoir, SFA chairman, presided over the directors' meeting here. On hand also were W. Avery Thompson of Halifax, secretary-treasurer; Harvey W. Moore of Charlotte; Henry A. Linberger of Belmont; J. Harry White of Winston-Salem; Harold F. Coffey of Lenoir; Raymond Bryan of Goldsboro, vacationing in Florida, was the only absent board member.

The board agreed with Marr that expansion is necessary if the ports are to grow as Tar Heel leaders have envisioned.

It also agreed that a qualified consultant firm should make a study of potential for the ports and of needs to meet that potential. This should be outlined to the Governor, they said, with the executive committee (Pate, Thompson, Bryan) authorized to act after consulting with Hodges.

They said either a bond issue or direct appropriation will be sought from the Legislature.

Pate originated a unanimously-voted motion of praise for Marr and his work in putting the ports on a paying basis.

Marr reported that already this year three ships have had to be turned away from Wilmington because of inadequate berthing space.

NAG, NAG FOR SAFETY

Hodges Tells Women To Yak At Speeders

RALEIGH—(AP)—Gov. Hodges Wednesday urged women to use their "most persuasive abilities" in driving faster than the law—even to the point of nagging—in an effort to reduce the state's traffic death toll.

The Governor declared the "situation is so serious" that "if nothing else prevails, nag your husband about driving safely, observe traffic rules and regulations, and 'yag' traffic laws should apply with reasonable uniformity throughout the state."

He added that every organization "should participate in the effort to reduce traffic accidents."

Hodges said that "despite energetic enforcement coupled with an extensive safety program, motor vehicle accidents increased 18 per cent in 1955 or even more than the mileage went up—9 per cent."

The Governor stated that road mileage in North Carolina has increased some 11 per cent since 1953, but fatalities have been held close to the 1953 level.

He said, "Nag the children about looking before they cross the street, and speak sharply to yourselves when you find you are driving faster than the law allows."

Hodges told a luncheon meeting of the Raleigh Woman's Club that many people have expressed the opinion to him "that one of the most serious problems in our highway safety program lies in the courts."

He said, "They speak particularly of the local courts being inferior to the Superior Court, including those of the justices of the peace. Instances of favoring treatment, such as reduced charges, deferred post-convictions, and so forth, are often cited."

The Governor noted that one of the most important things citizens could do to help in the highway safety program "is to have yourselves aware of what goes on in the courts and to insist that they are properly run."

Select FOREMOST Milk Products at your favorite store. Adv.

See Tonight's Preliminary GOLDEN GLOVES

Action-Packed Fights

Watch the leather fly tonight at 7 o'clock at the Coliseum! Tickets priced from 25c for general admission to \$1.75 for reserved seats. Don't miss this exciting card... sponsored by

The Charlotte Observer For the benefit of The Observer's Fresh Air Fund.

Today's Chuckle

What this country needs is a good five cents.