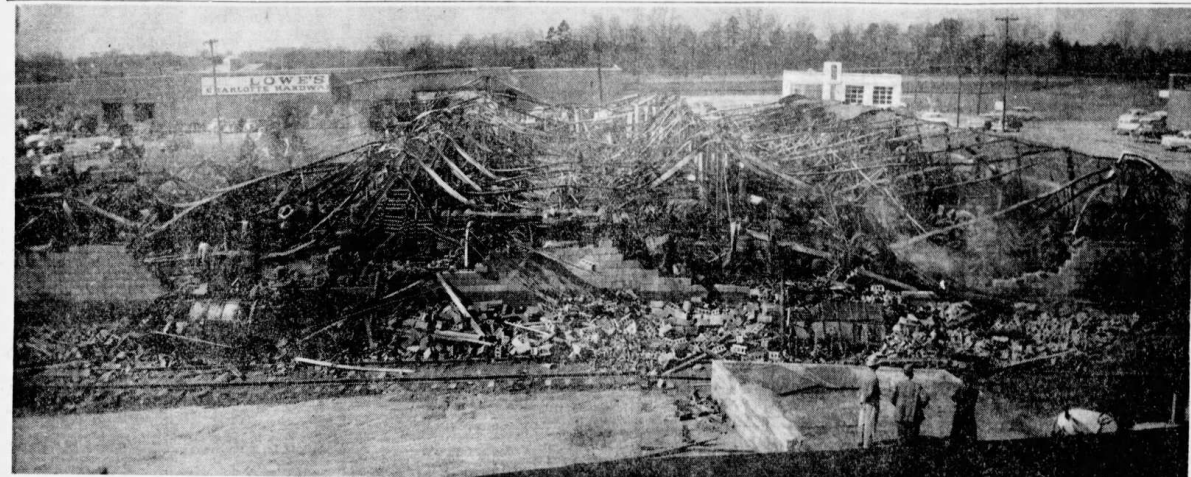




Nine Ships Driven Aground NORTHEAST STORMS TAKE 44 LIVES



This Scene From the Rear of the Ruins Shows the Roofless, Tangled Wreckage That Was the J. I. Case Tractor Co. (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Franklin)

Two-Foot Snowfalls Recorded

NEW YORK (AP)—The Northeast coast hurled off from underneath a staggering heap of snow and sleet dumped on it by a fierce late winter storm that cost 44 lives. Nine ships were driven aground.

A vast area from Virginia to Canada and as far west as Ohio was rummaged and battered by the raging tempest which also raked coastal areas with gales and driving rain.

Land, sea and air transportation were brought to a standstill in many places, and nine ships were smashed aground by the fury of the winds.

FOUR NAVY SHIPS

Four of the vessels—three destroyers and a frigate—were loose from their moorings off Newport, R. I., and were flung helplessly shoreward. An open launch was found with the bodies of three Navy men in it.

At Scituate, Mass., 30 crewmen were hauled to safety over ropes from the grounded 7,000-ton Italian freighter, the Etrusco.

70-MILE WIND

Winds up to 70 miles an hour tossed it to within 50 yards of the beach and ripped its hull open. For several hours the fearful gale prevented rescue efforts and aroused anxiety for the safety of the crew.

A rudderless, gasoline-filled tanker, the Sylvia, narrowly escaped disaster off Newport, unable to steer, the vessel allowed helplessly as the powerful winds thrust it nearer and nearer shore.

When it was within two and a half miles of the beach, a shift in direction in the wind came to its rescue. It was taken in tow later by a seagoing tugboat. There were 15 crewmen on the tanker.

Most of the storm deaths were attributed to automobile mishaps or over-exertion while shoveling or battling through giant snowdrifts.

Some points in New York state and Maine recorded total snowfall of nearly two feet. Wind whipped up into mountainous drifts. Hundreds of places got more than a foot of snow.

A freak electrical storm lasted a half hour over eastern Pennsylvania. Thunder rumbled over New York City while snowflakes fell late in the evening.

Northern and central Ohio were buried under more than 10 inches of snow in some areas. Sixteen inches fell at Ulica, N.Y., Airport, and at Ulica, N.Y., Airport. A foot of new snow, burying it to a depth of 30 inches.

Western Maryland had up to six inches, plus sleet and rain throughout the storm, spawned on a low pressure area early yesterday over the ocean, faded in West Virginia. But a new storm sprang up in Georgia, then streaked northward.

GALE WINDS

Gale winds caused abandonment of control towers at Stewart Field, Fort Base, Newburgh, N.Y., and Suffolk County Air Force Base at Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

Outside the storm-swept Eastern areas, generally dry and fairly normal weather prevailed. Rain which hit the Southeastern states appeared muted. In the central part of the country snow flurries were reported in Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Gentle clear weather prevailed in the Rocky Mountain region and westward to the Pacific Coast.

First To Announce Sen. Blythe Seeks Return To Raleigh

By JULIAN SCHIEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Mecklenburg State Senator F. J. (Jack) Blythe announced today he will seek reelection to the high state office.

In his statement to The News, Mr. Blythe said, "I wish to announce that I will seek reelection to the state Senate."

EXPRESSES THANKS

"In making this statement, I particularly wish to again express my appreciation to those who so loyally supported and voted for me in 1954. It is my hope that my record in the 1955 legislature has been acceptable to the people of Mecklenburg County.

"The experience which I have received in having served as senator in two sessions of the legislature will be of considerable benefit should I be accorded the opportunity of serving the people of my county again.

"Should I be elected, I will serve all the people of Mecklenburg County to the best of my ability."



SEN. BLYTHE

Reds Silent On Denunciation

LONDON (AP)—The Kremlin's top leaders in London were quiet today about reports leaking out of Moscow that Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin as a homicidal murderer.

The denunciation by the first secretary of the Communist party was reported to have caused riots in Tallinn (Tallin), in Stalin's home state of Georgia, protesting the denouncing of the one time dictator.

Georgi Malenkov, for years Stalin's secretary and known as his "eyes and ears," showed up two hours late for an appointment on his tour of British power stations.

The lack of punctuality is unusual in a Soviet official.

Malenkov, a deposed premier, is here in his new role as Soviet minister of power stations.

Lights blazed in Malenkov's room in the Soviet Embassy until way past midnight last night.

Earthquakes In Lebanon Take 172 Lives

By JAMES SCOTTON
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A wind estimated at 25 to 30 mph is listed as the chief factor in turning a controllable blaze into a fire which raged through the main building of the J. I. Case Tractor Co. on Mount Holly Rd. (Charlotte and may build even last night and did nearly a million dollars damage.

The exact cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but one thing is certain. The J. I. Case Tractor Co. is going to stay in business.

Mr. Cripes said equipment loss could reach a million dollars, but that an inventory would have to be made before the burning was saved to determine the exact loss. The burned warehouse was owned by the Gladie Bros. Implement Co. of Charlotte and was valued at \$155,000.

WIND DANGER

Pincha Fire Chief George O. White Jr. was among the first to respond to the 6:55 p.m. alarm. He said much of the equipment and building might have been saved if it had not been for the wind. However, the wind carried the blaze across the entire rear of the building before firemen were able to get into operation.

He said the fire must have been smoldering for some time before breaking out in the open.

Mr. Cripes said he does not know if an investigation will be requested by the company's national office in Racine, Wis.

Volunteer firemen from three departments and one company of Charlotte city firemen fought the blaze for nearly two hours before bringing it under control. At one time 100 firemen pulled the fire and the station.

Firemen managed to push one tractor out of the burning building and several pieces of farm equipment parked alongside the building were pushed away before falling bricks drove the firemen back. The rest of the farm equipment in the building was destroyed.

At the peak of the fire, bricks from the front wall covered the lawn. Steel girders were twisted by the heat of the fire at the rear of the building.

Crowds were constantly endeavoring themselves by getting too close to the blazing structure to see the arrival of Mecklenburg County Police and State Highway Patrolmen, who held them back.

The Case Co. leased the burned building five years ago for operation here John H. Marshall, manager of the local branch of the company.

Green Thumb, with a suspicious-looking Tam O'Shanter on his head was Richard McGovern.

The Marines were there too, for as Sgt. H. B. Malone said, "We were at Montezuma and Tripoli, so we certainly don't want to be left out at this one."

LOST TRIBESMEN

Harry J. Golden, editor of the Carolina Israelite, was there too. "After all," he said, "everybody knows that the Irish are just one of the lost tribes of Israel."

"And," he said, "don't forget that 'Quinn' is just another way to pronounce 'Cohen.'"

Mr. Cole passed out 150 green slips which were redeemable at the end of the parade for \$1 each—a fitting touch of fiscal generosity.

The idea came up rather suddenly.

O Thou gracious and eternal God, who hast given to us the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, quicken in our hearts, we pray, the spirit of gifts that we may find Him who is our Saviour and our Lord. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

Damage Near Million Dollars Fire Destroys Case Tractor Building



A Burned-Out Tractor Rests Amid Debris

With Parade Along Tryon St. Irish Celebrate Their Day

Charlotte held its first St. Patrick's Day Parade today as Irishmen and friends of Irishmen, 200 strong, marched up Tryon St.

Led by radio personality and Irishman Grady Cole, the group sang and shouted its way along, preceded by a motorcycle escort of city policemen.

Near the front of the parade was the "official" vehicle, a cart pulled by a lawnmower. Riding in this vehicle, dressed as Mr. Green Thumb, with a suspicious-looking Tam O'Shanter on his head was Richard McGovern.

The Marines were there too, for as Sgt. H. B. Malone said, "We were at Montezuma and Tripoli, so we certainly don't want to be left out at this one."

LOST TRIBESMEN

Harry J. Golden, editor of the Carolina Israelite, was there too. "After all," he said, "everybody knows that the Irish are just one of the lost tribes of Israel."

"And," he said, "don't forget that 'Quinn' is just another way to pronounce 'Cohen.'"

Mr. Cole passed out 150 green slips which were redeemable at the end of the parade for \$1 each—a fitting touch of fiscal generosity.

The idea came up rather suddenly.

O Thou gracious and eternal God, who hast given to us the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, quicken in our hearts, we pray, the spirit of gifts that we may find Him who is our Saviour and our Lord. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

Two-Foot Snowfalls Recorded

NEW YORK (AP)—The Northeast coast hurled off from underneath a staggering heap of snow and sleet dumped on it by a fierce late winter storm that cost 44 lives. Nine ships were driven aground.

A vast area from Virginia to Canada and as far west as Ohio was rummaged and battered by the raging tempest which also raked coastal areas with gales and driving rain.

Land, sea and air transportation were brought to a standstill in many places, and nine ships were smashed aground by the fury of the winds.

FOUR NAVY SHIPS

Four of the vessels—three destroyers and a frigate—were loose from their moorings off Newport, R. I., and were flung helplessly shoreward. An open launch was found with the bodies of three Navy men in it.

At Scituate, Mass., 30 crewmen were hauled to safety over ropes from the grounded 7,000-ton Italian freighter, the Etrusco.

70-MILE WIND

Winds up to 70 miles an hour tossed it to within 50 yards of the beach and ripped its hull open. For several hours the fearful gale prevented rescue efforts and aroused anxiety for the safety of the crew.

A rudderless, gasoline-filled tanker, the Sylvia, narrowly escaped disaster off Newport, unable to steer, the vessel allowed helplessly as the powerful winds thrust it nearer and nearer shore.

When it was within two and a half miles of the beach, a shift in direction in the wind came to its rescue. It was taken in tow later by a seagoing tugboat. There were 15 crewmen on the tanker.

Most of the storm deaths were attributed to automobile mishaps or over-exertion while shoveling or battling through giant snowdrifts.

Some points in New York state and Maine recorded total snowfall of nearly two feet. Wind whipped up into mountainous drifts. Hundreds of places got more than a foot of snow.

A freak electrical storm lasted a half hour over eastern Pennsylvania. Thunder rumbled over New York City while snowflakes fell late in the evening.

Northern and central Ohio were buried under more than 10 inches of snow in some areas. Sixteen inches fell at Ulica, N.Y., Airport, and at Ulica, N.Y., Airport. A foot of new snow, burying it to a depth of 30 inches.

Western Maryland had up to six inches, plus sleet and rain throughout the storm, spawned on a low pressure area early yesterday over the ocean, faded in West Virginia. But a new storm sprang up in Georgia, then streaked northward.

GALE WINDS

Gale winds caused abandonment of control towers at Stewart Field, Fort Base, Newburgh, N.Y., and Suffolk County Air Force Base at Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

Outside the storm-swept Eastern areas, generally dry and fairly normal weather prevailed. Rain which hit the Southeastern states appeared muted. In the central part of the country snow flurries were reported in Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Gentle clear weather prevailed in the Rocky Mountain region and westward to the Pacific Coast.

What's Inside

Books	182
Classified	48
Comics	38
Editorials	6A
Features	2B
Obituaries	2A
Radio-TV	7A
Serials	2B
Sports	43B
Theaters	10-12A
Women	89A

As Voting Date Approaches Stevenson, Kefauver Step Up Pace

MOOREHEAD, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota's presidential primary moved toward its Tuesday climax with Adlai Stevenson and Sen. Kefauver (D-Tenn.) making simultaneous pitches for votes for their Democratic delegate slates here today.

Stevenson said he would deliver a national farm policy address in a luncheon at the University of Minnesota College Fellows as part of a Greater Moorhead Day celebration.

Kefauver, whose supporters were turned down in pleas that their candidate be invited to address the same audience, said he is a only congressman. She also crowd.

Evening Prayer

O Thou gracious and eternal God, who hast given to us the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, quicken in our hearts, we pray, the spirit of gifts that we may find Him who is our Saviour and our Lord. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

Peach Growers Watch Thermometers Nippy Weather Follows Deluge

"If winter comes can spring be far behind?"

Charlotteans have asked that question throughout what has seemed a hard winter which has brought rain, wind, snow and ice.

Last night they asked it again as the temperature dipped to a freezing 29 degrees, following on the heels of 1956's heaviest rainfall and some high winds.

The Weather Bureau said total rainfall amounted to 2.30 inches, 67 coming in the past 24-hour period, and that winds reached velocities of 22 miles per hour yesterday afternoon.

But comes a cherry note as spring as the weatherman calls for the present cold front, to bring snow tomorrow and "spring" like weather "to return to Charlotte."

Today's high of 33 will match that of yesterday, then will shoot to 38 degrees tomorrow and 50 Monday. Low temperature tomorrow evening will be a freezing 28. There will be no frost tonight.

Peach trees in Mecklenburg apparently came through last night's cold without damage—but peach growers are hoping it won't drop any lower tonight.

The same story comes from Spartanburg County, S. C., heart of the Palmetto peach belt.

Peach trees in Spartanburg County are in bloom and that extensive damage was apparent there. The temperature dropped as low as 31 degrees during the night in Inman, S. C., where Mr. Prince lives.

If the temperature stays below freezing for as much as three to five hours tonight, Mr. Prince said some damage can be expected. But that's not predicted by the weatherman.

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

Our Weather

Fair and cool today. Fair and cold tonight with freezing temperatures, or frost likely. Sunday, fair and some warmer.

Low this morning—29.
Low tomorrow morning—28.
High yesterday—53.
High today—53.
High tomorrow—58.
Sunrise 6:31 a.m.; sunset 6:32 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A