

# Officials Wrestle With Elusive Park Surplus

By DICK YOUNG Jr. Charlotte News Staff Writer

An elusive park and recreation commission "surplus"—a writhing that's set off the third boiling park board controversy in postwar years that has turned up to be the most baffling statistical mystery that ever plagued City Hall.

Estimates of the park board's so-called "surplus" have ranged from \$750,000—furnished by a sensationalizing newspaper reporter—to \$28,374.03—the figures of Park Superintendent Marion Diehl. Nobody, it appears from their

published statements, is more confused than park commissioners themselves.

THEY'LL GO into a public meeting at 10 a. m. Tuesday in an effort to find out:

1. Exactly how much, if any surplus, they have.
2. Why they weren't told the board had such a fat bank balance.
3. What damage, if any, the City Council's two-cent slash of the eight-cent tax levy will do to the park program for the coming year.

Meantime, efforts to pinpoint

the exact amount of the surplus have been frustrated by a fog of contradictory statistics.

NOT UNTIL yesterday, when Superintendent Diehl gave The News figures on the board's current financial status, did anything approaching a realistic estimate of the situation become possible.

And newsmen attempting to pin it on Mr. Diehl's figures found them confusing.

Mr. Diehl said that on June 28 the board had \$204,286.86 in its account at the American Trust Company.

Against that cash balance, he applied "accrued and anticipated expenses" of \$214,922.83 to arrive at his "surplus" figure of \$89,374.03.

A closer look at Mr. Diehl's expense figures, however, showed he had included \$83,000 for salaries in July and August. HE HAD NOT included in his cash balance a \$50,000 certificate of deposit that will be payable in August.

The negotiators said they would accept accounting procedures Mr. Diehl was applying right in not counting money he won't get until later.

But the same practices, however, he was wrong in figuring on salary expense that won't be incurred until one and two months hence.

If you eliminate both the July-August salary expense and the \$50,000 certificate of deposit as not properly reflecting the current financial status of the park board, you'll get a figure of \$134,374.03.

MOST ACCOUNTANTS would say that a fairly accurate estimate of the board's current cash situation.

Mr. Diehl maintains, however, the \$65,000 can't be included in the present cash balance because it's needed as a reserve

for heavy summer-month salaries.

If you grant Mr. Diehl that point, the \$80,000 certificate of deposit—which is the same as money in the bank—should also be counted.

Adding the \$65,000 to expenses and the \$20,000 to cash on hand, you'll have a "surplus" figure of \$139,374.03.

At this point, it gets even more complicated.

Mr. Diehl said that from June 1 through June 27 he had written checks totaling \$83,487.64. He could not say how many of these checks had cleared through the

board's account at American Trust Company and thus had already been deducted from the cash on hand.

ASSUMING THAT all of the checks but \$10,000 worth had already been accounted for, the park board's minimum "surplus" would be \$129,374.03, and its maximum "surplus" would be \$144,374.03—depending on which of the two methods of figuring you prefer.

If you're not hopefully confused at this point and want to see what effect the Council's two-cent park tax levy cut will

have on the 1956-57 park program, here are some more skull-busters:

One cent of the tax rate will produce a gross \$38,000 in revenue. Deduct 5 per cent, as the city does, for non-collected taxes and you get \$36,100.

The Council cut two cents, so the park board can figure on being \$22,000 poorer this year as a result.

And granting the minimum surplus figure given above of \$129,374.03, the park board will still have an operating cushion of \$57,174.03.

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

\*\*\*\*\* FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper in The Two Carolinas

Charlotte, North Carolina, Saturday, June 30, 1956

34 Pages—Price Five Cents

## How Park Surplus Grew, Grew

By WALDO PROFFITT Charlotte News Staff Writer

Where did the Park & Recreation Commission get all the money?

This question has been asked dozens of times this week by city officials, citizens and newsmen. In an effort to get the answer, Charlotte News staff members this morning analyzed the official audits of park operations for the years since 1951.

DONE BY CPA

All of the annual audits were prepared by James E. Remis, Certified Public Accountant.

The answer to the question as disclosed in the audits is this: The Park Board simply took in more money than it spent over a period of four years, put it in the bank and let it stay.

In Fiscal '52 the board heaped a surplus of \$11,156.26. In 1953 it added \$54,071.21 to the surplus. In 1954 the surplus account was swelled by an additional \$104,941.63, while in 1955 another \$79,386.30 went into the kitty.

## Controversy Dogs Park Board Steps

1951-1954 and to \$242,774.58 in 1955.

Why the accumulated 1955 surplus of \$258,774.58 is not precisely the same amount as the sum of the individual surpluses for previous years is \$258,262.90 could not be immediately ascertained from an inspection of the audits.

The difference between the two figures is \$514.68. It is.

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## NEGOTIATORS FOR STEEL STILL TIED

Stephens Says Another Deadline Meeting Planned

NEW YORK (AP)—Steel wage negotiators met for three hours today and reported "no change" in a deadlocked effort to avert an industry wide strike at midnight tonight.

The meeting ended at 1 p. m. just 11 hours before the walkout of 650,000 workers was scheduled to start.

"No change," John S. Stephens, chief industry negotiator, told newsmen in response to questions as to whether there had been any progress.

The negotiators said they would meet again at 4 p. m.

The steel companies have insisted on a five-year agreement to supersede the present two-year pact. The union says it cannot bind the steelworkers to so long a contract. The company later said its demands for four years and four months.

The steelworkers are "but a ready hand" against acceptance of the industry offer, union president David J. McDonald said yesterday.

The Eisenhower administration. See STEEL on page 8-A.

## Explosion Gas Truck Creates Havoc In City

CINCINNATI (AP)—A gasoline truck trailer overturned and exploded here today, setting fire to 20 stores and residences and destroying at least four parked automobiles.

One woman died as she was being helped to safety from her burning home. Authorities said her husband was injured, either to a heart attack or shock.

The accident and fire occurred near the intersection of Harrison and State avenues and close to the end of the heavily traveled Western Hills viaduct.

Approximately 50 persons were routed from their homes as burning gasoline sprayed over the frame buildings.

Larry Whitaker, 26, of Cincinnati, driver of the double rig truck, said the second trailer overturned just as he turned off State into Harrison.

"I jumped out of the cab as soon as the trailer overturned," Whitaker said. "The trailer exploded and showered flaming gas everywhere."

The woman who died was Mrs. May Barnett, 52.

Her husband, Stanley, said they heard the explosion but stayed in their home until "windows began cracking and flames began shooting in."

He said he helped his wife, who had been in ill health, out of the rear door of their home and she fell to safety. She was carried to a neighbor's porch and died in her husband's arms.

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## Anti-Red Polish Revolt Continues

### Gunfire Is Heard In Poznan

By REINHOLD ENSZ

BERLIN (AP)—Travelers told today scattered fighting between armed workers and Polish troops is continuing in Poznan, the Polish industrial city torn by bloody anti-Communist rioting.

Three Western businessmen who arrived in Berlin from Poznan this morning said rifle and machine gun fire and occasional bursts from anti-aircraft guns sounded throughout the city during the night.

The men, who refused to be quoted by name, reported isolated groups of armed workers still were battling troops backed by tanks and jet planes. Poland's Communist government claimed yesterday that the revolt has been crushed.

CEASE FIRE?

The travelers said they heard reports in Poznan that the embattled workers offered a cease-fire in the condition that all persons arrested in the revolt be released and all troops be withdrawn from the city.

Reliable reports from Western sources received earlier in Berlin told of sporadic gunfire in Poznan last night.

The three businessmen said they and other foreigners leaving Poznan were taken to the railway station under police escort. They said food was running short and hotels had been ordered to conserve water. Candles were issued to hotel guests in case of power failure.

Other businessmen arriving in



MR. STICKLEBY

### Stickleby Elected Charlottan New Lions President

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—John I. Stickleby, Charlotte businessman, was elected president of Lions International here today.

The thousands of Lions who packed the Fontainebleau Hotel for the organization's annual convention, applauded enthusiastically as Mr. Stickleby was elevated from first vice president to the presidency.

The election was the highpoint of the convention which some 30,000 delegates representing 130,000 clubs in 75 countries attended.

The North Carolina Lions, president of all of their new President, presented him with a solid gold gavel for him to use.

Thursday night, the Tar Heel delegates and their wives staged a musical revue in the Orange Bowl and had the 30,000 delegates and their wives humming "Carolina Moon" and other Carolina favorites.

TAR HEEL TALENT

North Carolina talent was in the show which drew enthusiastic applause from the crowd which terminated at Broadway quality.

Gov. Luther Hodges, who yesterday praised Mr. Stickleby as "this energy, service initiative and ability" was among those who applauded the program.

Mr. Stickleby, who succeeds Humberto Valenzuela of Santiago, Chile, as president, heads his own company, the John L. Stickleby Co. in Charlotte.

He was elected third vice president of Lions International in 1953, and according to tradition each year he will serve until the convention next year.

Mr. Stickleby, a member of the Charlotte Central Lions Club, plans to spend most of his year in office reclining the globe and visiting Lions clubs in his and other countries.

TWO-MONTH TOUR

He will leave Miami for Europe for a two-month tour that will return to Charlotte on a brief rest. On Nov. 22 he expects to be in Melbourne, Australia. He'll be home by Christmas, but will stop en route in the States and Singapore early in the year. He will go to Latin America and Mexico (he'll visit Africa and perhaps Israel).

### Ike Wins First Aid Bill Fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower could count a substantial victory today in Senate passage of a \$4,562,000,000 foreign aid authorization bill but his mutual security program still faces a series of tough congressional hurdles.

Ahead lay first a compromise of this bill, and then House and Senate battles over actual appropriations.

The senate passed its version of the legislation 54-25 last night and sent it to conference with the House.

The Senate beat down every attempt to put in amendments opposed by the administration, including two big across-the-board cuts in the \$4,562,000,000 program recommended by its Foreign Relations Committee. Instead, it added \$900 million for two special programs. The amount is still about 340 million below Eisenhower's request.

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See MILLER on page 8-A.

### Monroe Witness Fatal Crash



NEWLYWEDS (AP)

### Evening Prayer

That last said, "Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek." O God, take away every cloud that would separate Thy face from us. In Christ's name Amen.

### Our Weather

Partly cloudy and continued hot today, tonight and tomorrow with scattered afternoon and evening thunder showers.

Low this morning—66.  
Low tomorrow morning—68  
High today—95.  
High yesterday—97.  
High tomorrow—97.  
Sunrise today 5:11 a. m.  
Sunset today 7:42 p. m.

More Weather Data on Page 5-A

### 1955 Act Gives Park Board Surplus Leeway

By DICK YOUNG Sr. Charlotte News Staff Writer

The check of annual reports shields the Park Board in its policy of not formally budgeting surplus funds.

A new provision in the county fiscal control act which also applies to the municipal government and its subordinate agencies gives the governing body authority to use what surplus funds are deemed advisable.

Among the City Hall for years there has been the impression that the municipal finance act required the immediate budgeting of all surplus funds and this policy has been observed by municipal budgeteers.

A new provision was included by the 1955 General Assembly in the fiscal control act affecting operation of the county government which George B. Livingston, municipal

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Approximately 50 persons were routed from their homes as burning gasoline sprayed over the frame buildings.

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The woman who died was Mrs. May Barnett, 52.

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### Monroe Becomes Mrs. Miller

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—The sound of the crash, the noted couple swapped their ring and ran to the wedding. Miller carried Miss Sherboff, bleeding profusely from a severe neck artery, the side of the road, and helped her into Ira Slade, 18, driver of the car, from the front seat.

They returned to Miller's nine-room country home at Roxbury, Conn., after the five-minute ceremony. Miller said today that he and his bride plan to remain at Roxbury until they go to England next month for our honeymoon, if it can get a passport.

Amplifying the statement, Miller said:

"I don't see any reason for not getting a passport—I'm planning on getting it."

The simple single ring ceremony was witnessed by Miller's cousins, Morton A. and Florence J. Miller.

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