

# Persons Injured In Atomic Lab Blast

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas  
Charlotte, North Carolina, Monday, July 2, 1956

Established Dec. 8, 1888.

30 Pages — Price Five Cents

## Dellinger Revives Proposal

### No Radiation Hazard Seen On Outside

Explosion Origin Not Made Clear

NEW YORK (AP)—An atomic research laboratory in Queens was rocked by a double explosion today. The Atomic Energy Commission swiftly investigated and said there was "no radiation hazard" outside the building.

Nine persons were injured in the blasts at the Sylvania Electric Products Co.

The company said the explosion was not of nuclear origin. Reports that it might have been nuclear spread swiftly through the city.

**MANY INQUIRIES**

The AEC office switchboard was swamped with inquiries.

The blasts, coming within six

feet of each other, damaged the

second floor of the metallurgy laboratory at Sylvania Electric Products

company's 56-acre plant in the Bayside section of Queens.

The plant reportedly is part of Sylvania's long-term program for peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Some 30 firemen, 20 policemen and one photographer were detailed at the plant for examination to check effects of radioactivity.

Other reporters and photographers were barred from the plant because of the top-secret nature of the research being performed there.

The AEC office in Manhattan said the work was classified and confirmed that a team of investigators were on the way.

**300 IN PLANT**

Police said at least 200 employees were in the plant when the first explosion ripped through the second floor laboratory at 2:40 a. m.

Two Roman Catholic priests administered last rites to at least five of the injured.

Police said 25 windows were smashed in the laboratory and people in the neighborhood likened the two explosions to " tremendous claps of thunder."

**What's Inside**

ONE OF THE BEST informed persons in Charlotte business circles is J. A. Daly of The News. A good example of his research is on Page 5-A, where he expounds on the uses and future of vermiculite.

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**Negroes May Extend Boycott To Merchants**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The leader of the Negro boycott that caused suspension of segregated city buses threatened today to extend it to downtown white merchants unless what he called "a quiet intimidation" is stopped.

The Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Negro Inter-City Council, told a mass meeting of about 500 members last night.

"It really appears that our city policemen have decided to run us out of town—that is off of Monroe and Adams streets." These are the main business streets.

"It seems they don't recognize that we are in town not to break laws, but to pay bills and to have business and patronage to stores that are friendly to us these."

Steele told his men later that police appear to have opened a campaign of harassment and intimidation of Negroes in the downtown area.

The boycott, in protest against segregated seating, resulted in suspension of service Saturday by Cities Transit Co., which had operated the city bus franchise since 1949.

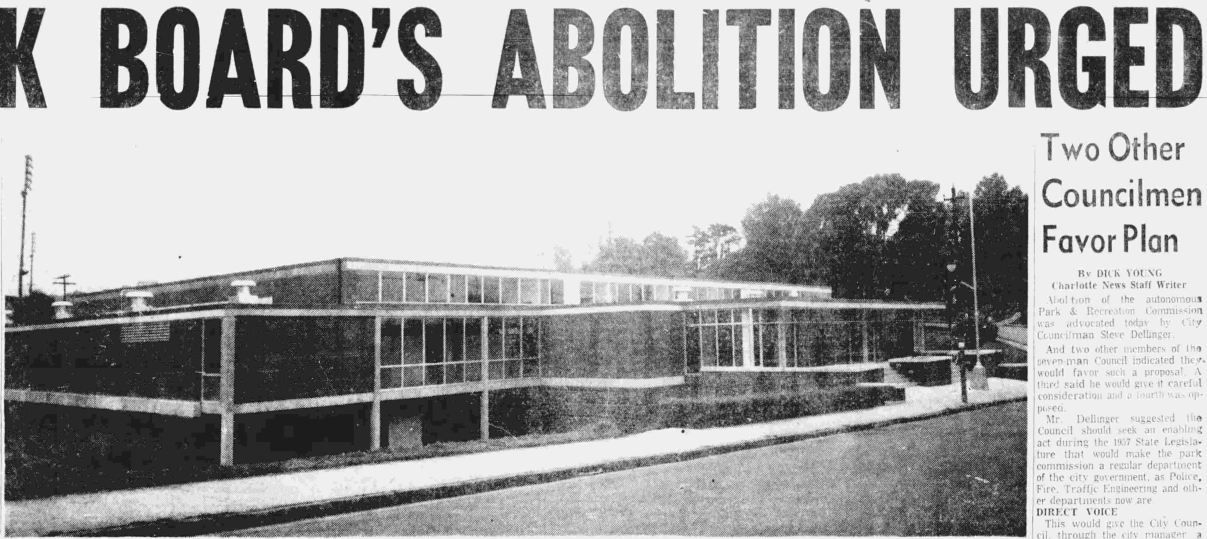
Steele said police are rude and snub Negroes at police headquarters to a "third-degree" for violations that ordinarily mean nothing more than a violation ticket placed on the windshield.

Police officials were not available for comment.

The council's transportation committee plans to use a church-owned bus and two station wagon cabs to augment a volunteer car pool that has been riding to Negroes during the past month.

Emergency transportation for Tallahassee's white citizens will be the subject of a special City Commission meeting sometime today.

Mayor Fred Winters said last night "we are going to have to do something" about substituting for the suspended bus service.



Here's The New \$440,000 Park Center

## The \$90,000 Question

How Will Park Board Finance Center's Extra Cost?

By JULIAN SCHIEF, Charlotte News Staff Writer

When the doors swing open for the city's new Park Center in mid-July, Charlotteans will have a \$450,000 structure. Remember the figure — for the building, as being erected with \$324,000 of insurance money received when the old Army burned.

The story of the Park Center's construction is a rather strange one, for the costs will far exceed the money allotted for the building.

However, Park and Recreation Commission officials say all is right with the building and taxpayers won't be asked for a nickel.

How much did the Commission have to spend? Insurance money amounted to \$324,000.

Then the Commission received \$17,000 from the city. This was the Commission's share of the city's 1955 tax surplus. This money—\$351,000—was then placed in a local bank with notes to mature when bills came due.

How much will it actually cost? The Park Center bids now

total \$440,462.02, according to figures compiled by City Treasurer, L. L. Ledbetter. This is a breakdown of construction — Grade \$265,400.00

Paint Contractor Refutes Tieup With Board Member

With the park board under a public microscope, the question arose today as to a paint contractor for special enameled work at the new Park Center.

A connection between Consolidated Painters, the job bidder at \$1,100, and Joe Murnick, park board member who is in the paint business, apparently does not exist.

W. A. Alexander, president of Consolidated, told The News that Mr. Murnick has no connection with the firm. He said he was, in fact, requested by Mr. Murnick not to use his brand of paint in the work and another brand was used.

Marion Diehl of the park board said the contract was let on a bid basis and he also understood that Murnick told architect James Maleoin "not to let a drop of my paint be used on the job."

Electric 3,960.00  
Handing—Bastler 17,020.00  
Dialing—Air Cond. 67,570.00  
Painting—Consolidated Painters 1,400.00  
Architect—J. A. Maleoin 23,183.72  
Sealing—Universal Equipment 30,710.10

TOTAL—Contracts \$440,462.02  
Less—A lot of simple mathematics \$31,207.01 to spend, \$409,255.01 to pay out—a difference of \$89,127.01

\$20,000 SET ASIDE  
This adds up to nearly \$90,000 the Park Center will cost, exclusive of a few extras, more than money originally on hand.

Park and recreation officials say it is simple. First, included in the \$440,000 cost is \$67,276 for heating and air conditioning. The air conditioning is a luxury item. Heating, while not a luxury, of

See \$90,000 on page 2-A

## Little Hope Survey Team Seeks Answer

By ANN SAWYER, Charlotte News Staff Writer

A survey of singly Little Hope Creek, which trickles through Madison and Selwyn parks, will be made by the Mecklenburg Drainage Commission.

The three-man board today was asked by the County Commissioners to survey the creek and come up with recommendations for clearing it.

W. D. Alexander, drainage commission chairman, said his board need signed petitions from land owners before they can do the work.

It is necessary, Mr. Alexander said, for land owners to sign petitions giving the commission a right-of-way to put a ditch where it belongs.

When commissioners visited the stream they found stagnant water standing in a creek bed that was congested with undergrowth and juncos reek.

The drainage commission, which already has visited the creek, will make a survey and report over their recommendations for the creek's remedy at the July 16 commission meeting.

## Commies Close Polish Border

BERLIN (AP)—The Red Polish army today sealed off the East German border to intercept rebel workers fleeing from a massive police roundup in the city of Poznan.

West German travelers arriving from Poznan, where workers staged a bloody three-day revolt last week, said the Communist army has heavily reinforced its frontier garrisons and Red tanks for the first time are patrolling the Oder River.

Thousands of steel-helmeted troops were reported blocking highways leading west and removing Polish suspects from cars and trains.

The travelers, who refused to be quoted because of their contacts in the east, said a giant surge was under way in Poznan in the case. Poznan has asked the State Department, an agency which has sealed off the border to catch all who might be trying to flee westward, one reliable woman traveler said.

## Appendicitis Won't Stop Prospector's Claim Fight

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP)—A stricken prospector, who has staked out a uranium claim at the busiest down-town intersection of this Southern Oregon town, was suffering from appendicitis today.

Earl Sheridan lay moaning inside the tent which he has pitched along the curb after he was seized with pains shortly before noon yesterday.

A doctor was called but Sheridan refused to move.

"If I leave here now, I'll lose everything. I know I'm on the verge of becoming a millionaire. This is a great strike and I'm going to stick with it," he said.

He claims that he located a rich strike of uranium under the street by Geiger counter tests. He claims a belongs to him because he is a descendant of George Nurse, who founded the town and decided the streets but retained the mineral rights.

Sheridan staked out his claim last Friday, he pitched his tent nearby and started digging up the street.

He says he won't move until the officials of this town or about 7,000 recognize his claims and allow him to mine.

He has retained State Sen. Harold Boyin to handle legal aspects of the case. Boyin has asked the State Department, an agency which has sealed off the border to catch all who might be trying to flee westward, one reliable woman traveler said.

## Beauty Test Threatened By Jersey Court Action

NEWARK, N. J. (AP)—The Miss America pageant, the annual contest of beauty and talent, is the latest alignment to feel the threat of extinction as the result of a New Jersey Supreme Court ban on games of skill played for prizes.

First it was scratch-off, pickerno and other boardwalk games. Then Essex County Prosecutor Charles V. Webb ruled Saturday that the \$2,000 in prize money could not be paid to top finishers in the state Professional Golfers Assn. championship.

Yesterday, Webb said the famed Atlantic City beauty contest probably is illegal. He said it is a competition for prizes and therefore falls under the court law.

Lenora Slaughter, executive director of the pageant, quickly replied.

"Not by the widest stretch of the imagination could any contest that offers educational opportunities to girls such as the Miss America Pageant be considered illegal. All competitive school-sport affairs are exempt from the law."

Pageant officials were to consult their attorney today and then ask the state attorney general for clarification of the State Supreme Court ruling, which said that games which use equipment bearing numbers on which something of value is bet are illegal.

## Two Other Councilmen Favor Plan

By DRUK YOUNG, Charlotte News Staff Writer

Abolition of the autonomous Park and Recreation Commission was advocated today by City Councilman Steve Dellinger.

And two other members of the seven-man Council indicated they would favor such a proposal. A third said he would give it careful consideration and a fourth was opposed.

Mr. Dellinger suggested the Council should seek an enabling act during the 1957 State Legislature that would make the park commission a regular department of the city government, as Police, Fire, Traffic Engineering and other departments now are.

This would give the City Council through the city manager a direct voice in operation of the park program.

Such a set-up has been urged several times in the past, the latest being during the administration of Mayor Victor Shaw.

City Manager Henry A. Yancy has long been an advocate of such a system, as a result of his experience in other cities where the recreation department was a regular function of the city government.

Councilmen who favored Mr. Dellinger's plan made it clear, however, that they would not advocate abolition of the park board because of the present controversy regarding the surplus shown in recreation operations.

These council members wanted it understood that in urging the change in the recreation set-up they are not prejudging the park board because of the present controversy regarding the surplus shown in recreation operations.

The Allen Recreation advisory paneling the commission with a Metropolitan Recreation Commission to administer a parks plan for the whole county.

President F. Elwood Allen said Charlotte's present recreation facilities are "only one-third what they should be in measure up to national standards."

He feels that closer supervision of the system's operations would be afforded if recreation were a regular department of the city.

Regarding tomorrow's park board meeting, Mr. Dellinger said, "I don't think we have any

See PARK on page 2-A

## Our Weather

Partly cloudy and continued but through tomorrow with widely scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms.

Low this morning—69

Low tomorrow morning—70

High today—86

High yesterday—96

High tomorrow—97

Sunrise today 5:12 a.m.

Sunset today 7:45 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A



Stricken prospector in tent (AP)