



Fearful parents tore open gate in this dam on nameless stream.

## Parents Worried By Little Stream

**By JIM SCOTT**  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A dam across a small, nameless creek which runs through the Beechwood Acres development, just west of Charlotte, has people there fearful and angry. They are angry at the dirty residue left behind when the gammed up waters recede.

They are fearful that a small child will fall into the deep water behind the dam and drown. They are so angry and fearful that they have torn down the dam time after time only to have it rebuilt by the mill that uses it.



This water hole is also source of concern.

**MUDDY TRICKLE**

The creek on which the small, concrete dam is built is normally just a muddy trickle. It begins at a spring in the northern part of Mecklenburg and ends, still nameless, in Irwin Creek. Only after a heavy rain or when the dam is closed is there any deep water in the creek.

It is the same creek in which a three-year-old boy drowned last Friday. It's since Friday that much of the fear has been evident in the neighborhood.

The dam is used by the Spatek Corp. which occupies the old Chadwick-Hoskins Mill buildings at 20 S. Hoskins Ave. After the water gets five or six feet deep behind the dam a pump forces the water into a reservoir in the mill maintains to provide water for its sprinkler system.

**FOR FIRE PROTECTION**

The dam is an absolute necessity for fire protection for the mill, says R. L. Reid, office manager and assistant treasurer of the firm.

To Mrs. Sam Dover, with an infant daughter and a four-year-old son, the dam is one fearful ache. The dam is only 100 feet from her back door.

"I watch them all day," says Mrs. Dover. "I watch them every minute. But I keep thinking, They could go down there. They could be there right now—in the water."

The dam is actually on the property of Sam Dover. But when the mill owners sold the land to the developer, they retained the right to use the dam and the creek water.

Officials of the development company say they have been trying for some time to tap into the water line which the developer laid into Beechwood Acres.

**ALSO WATER BOX**

Mr. Dover says the dam isn't the only hazard. Beside the dam there is a cement lined "water box" which is kept filled with water on the way to the mill reservoir.

The water box is covered with heavy planking, but Mr. Dover says he has seen boys lift the planking. He says he once chased away a group of boys who were trying to drown a dog in the water box.

The four families that live closest to the dam have 10 children, ranging in age from 1 1/2 to 14.

**TOLD NOT TO PLAY**

Jimmy Cherry, 6, one of these children, has been told over and over again not to play near the dam. Says Jimmy, "I never play there, but sometimes I look."

It's this natural curiosity of

children that all of the parents in the neighborhood fear may end in tragedy.

The mill has tried to help the situation without interfering with its water supply. It broke a hole in the original cement dam and put up a wooden gate. This way the water could be dropped to its natural level as soon as the pumps filled the reservoir.

Mill officials say that residents smashed the gate and they were forced to use sandbags to stop up the water and allow the pump to operate. Residents in the area also tear up the sandbag barrier every time it is put up, they say.

**DAM DESTROYED**

Mill officials say they would only need to dam up the creek three or four times a year to refill the reservoir—if the people would stop destroying their dam. But residents claim that the dam is closed and the water backed up almost every week.

People in the neighborhood first tried to get help from the

County Board of Health. Inspectors agreed it was a dangerous situation. But residents say they were told that someone would have to develop malaria before the dammed up waters could actually be considered a health hazard.

Now a petition is being drawn up to be presented to the County Commissioners when they meet next Monday.

"We're all angry," says Mr. Dover, "but mostly we're afraid. We just can't wait for something to happen, but we don't know what to do."

But, he said, looking at the trickling water running through the smashed dam, "we'll have to do something."

**LEAVES HOSPITAL**

HOLLYWOOD — Former actress Marion Davies has been released from Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, where she has been under treatment after suffering a slight cerebral stroke.

—What's Inside—  
**It's Not Too Early—Or Hot—To Think About Ice Hockey**

**THE CLIPPERS**, Charlotte's entry in the Eastern Hockey League, will play 30 games at the Coliseum during the 1956-57 season. Sandy Grady gives the complete dope on the schedule on Page 6B.

**A CEMETERY** can be a lonely, sad place. First Presbyterian Church's cemetery is no exception, but a young 27-year-old resident has found happiness in the spot for a little while. Charles Kurall tells how in his Outline column on Page 2B.

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# 2 Bills Would Split Planned Amendments

## Over 600 Attending Hearings

**RALEIGH** — More than 600 persons crowded the State Highway Commission auditorium today as a special session of the Legislature began public hearings on legislation to meet the school segregation crisis.

The hearings, which began with an explanation of the "Pearsall plan" proposed by the Education Committee on Education, got underway after the House had received bills to change the plan.

At the start of the hearings, House Speaker Larry I. Moore told the big audience, "No demonstrations for speakers will be tolerated." He said morning, afternoon and evening sessions would be held until all wishing to be heard on the school measures have been heard.

**18 REQUESTS**

Moore read a list of 18 individuals and groups who have requested permission to speak at the hearings before the entire membership of the Senate and the House. Of the speakers present at the start of the hearings, only two indicated they would speak for the Pearsall proposals.

Chairman Thomas J. Pearsall of the state's Advisory Committee on Education led off with a review of the committee's deliberations which resulted in recommendation of the "Pearsall plan." He was followed by other committee members, Atty. Gen. W. B. Rodman Jr. and Dr. Charles F. Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction, who explained the measures.



Hodges delivers historic message to joint legislative session.

## Governor's Plan Gets Big Jolt

**By JULIAN SCHER**  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

**RALEIGH**—Governor Luther Hodges' school legislative program received its biggest jolt this morning.

Rep. E. K. Powe of Durham dropped in the House hopper at 9:05 a.m. Two bills that would split the Pearsall plan's constitutional amendment for local option and education expense grants.

Under Rep. Powe's proposed legislation, Tar Heels will get a chance to vote separately on those two major provisions of Gov. Hodges' program for maintaining segregated schools.

The one-package plan of Gov. Hodges has been the most criticized feature of his program.

**CALLS ON HODGES**

Rep. Powe, The News learned, called on the Governor this morning to modify him of his plans to introduce the measure splitting the amendment proposal into two parts.

How much strength Rep. Powe can muster for his plan was a questionable matter.

Anticipating the possibility of such a move, Gov. Hodges urged the legislature in his speech last night to go along with his single-amendment plan.

**HODGES THINKING**

"If there are two amendments as suggested by some, the people might vote for the attendance grant and against the local option. In such an instance, members of one race could take over a public school building vacated by the other race and the latter have no recourse," he declared.

"If the people vote for local option and against attendance grants, a school might be closed because of the other race and could they attend another public school."

"You see, these amendments should stand together," he said. "Meanwhile the vote is 13 to 1 against the Pearsall Plan as school legislative program as school Speaker Larry Moore called the roll of speakers requesting time at the opening of public hearings here."

In the sultry, crowded State Highway Building auditorium opponents of the legislative measures outnumbered the proponents, requesting three hours of hearing

## Witness Says He Saw McKeon 'Raise A Bottle To His Lips'

**By BEM PRICE**  
PARRIS ISLAND, S. C. — A crisp young Marine said today he saw S Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon "raise a bottle to his lips" just before he led the disciplinary march of 36 recruits to their deaths.

However, Pvt. David H. McPherson of Chatham, N. J., said he was unable to say if McKeon actually had taken a drink.

McKeon is facing a general court-martial for leading 74 members of Platoon 71 into a march last April 16, which resulted in 36 deaths.

**MILD REPRIMAND**

Just prior to McPherson's appearance the defense sought to call 100 ex-Marines as witnesses and earned a mild reprimand.

In his testimony the day's first witness said he was called to McKeon's room about 8 p.m. April 16. The march began about 8:30 p.m.

Sgt. McKeon was standing out in the hallway," McPherson said. "He followed me in. He asked me, 'What is wrong with you, McPherson? Why aren't you doing something to help the platoon become better disciplined?'"

"He slapped me once or twice with the back of his hand. Then he told me to sit down."

McPherson said they then quieted by discussed the platoon.

As the discussion continued, McPherson said, McKeon walked across the room and picked up a bottle. The witness continued: "He brought the bottle over, saw him raise the bottle to his lips. It was a clear bottle with a label marked vodka. He asked, 'Would you like some?' I said it was up to him, it didn't matter. He said, 'I couldn't have any anyway. He asked me if I liked vodka. I told him I did.'"

"What did he do with the bottle?" McPherson was asked.

"I'm not sure, sir. I guess the last time I remember seeing the bottle it was in his hand."

Before McPherson's appearance, defense attorney Emile Zola Berman was told by the court to see if he couldn't iron out his witness problem with the prosecutor.

Maj. Charles B. Sevier of Jacksonville, Ill.

The Navy law officer, Capt. Irving N. Klein of New York City, was functioning as a Judge, asked Berman if he had complied with the technical provisions of the law in asking the government to call such a large number.

When Berman said he hadn't been a part of a previous indication that Sevier would not agree to call a list of 17 witnesses previously requested, Klein said:

"It is not wholly fair to say that the trial caused prosecutor to not comply with the request when you have not complied with the provisions of the code."

By the time the trial opened today eight survivors of Platoon 71's death march had testified they were "good boys" and McKeon was a Marine they admired.

## Marine Recruiting Off 'Drastically'

**By BEM PRICE**  
PARRIS ISLAND, S. C. — The raw recruit input at this Marine training center has dropped off drastically this month.

That much is known, Maj. Ralph Woods, public information officer, insisted the figures are unclassified.

Normally, such a information can be obtained at the drop of a hat, but currently this base is, as they say, "real shoo." Until today such input figures were distributed throughout the recruit command with no classification label.

**CORPS CAN'T WIN**

More and more it is becoming obvious that this is one court-martial the Marine Corps is going to lose no matter what charges are laid on S Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon.

If the sergeant is convicted thousands of ex-Marines are reported to scream "foul," judging by the letters, telegrams and telephone calls pouring into this base.

If the slender former drill instructor is freed there is a fear that mothers—and maybe even some Congressmen—are going to be outraged. In any case, as one officer put it, "The corps we've got ourselves into keeps getting smaller and smaller."

**PLY ON SPOT**

There is a deep and almost wrathful feeling here that the corps has been put on trial unnecessarily.

The opinion seems to be that the commanding Gen. Randolph McC. Pate, put them there with one statement in his comment before the House Armed Services Committee.

When he has agreed to testify about the disciplinary trial march of April 8, led by McKeon, in which 36 recruits drowned, Pate said:

"The Marine Corps is, in a moral sense on trial as to its responsibility."

**TRAINING THE ISSUE**

Using Marine training methods the issue of the trial, instead of McKeon, Pate opened the door to a highly public airing of Marine training methods.

It is this airing which has resulted in the drastic fall off in recruit input here apparently.

## 3 Saved From Flaming Auto

**BURLINGTON** — An automobile careened off a Burlington street, hit a tree and burst into flames today during a high-speed race with a pursuing police car.

Three occupants were trapped in the wrecked car. Policemen rescued them. The driver of the car was thrown out.

Police identified the driver as Thomas A. Everhart, 25, of Rt. 1, Lexington.

Police said they first began trailing the Lexington car on a pursuit which ended early today like the others—in failure—when murderer Floyd Wilson was found crouched behind a rock barely 100 yards from the spot where he disappeared.

Wilson, serving a life term on the famed rock, surrendered meekly 1 1/2 hours after he slipped away while working on the prison dock.

His capture ended an intensive foot-by-foot search by FBI agents and prison guards of the small island in San Francisco Bay.

Federal officials have called it escape-proof ever since the prison was set up 22 years ago.

**WASHINGTON** — The cost of living reached an all-time high in July, the government reported today.

The Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics said consumer prices in American cities rose seven-tenths of 1 percent above the May level.

The index for June stood at 112.2 percent of the 1947 average, 1.6 percent above the level a year earlier.

The Bureau said an average increase of 2 percent in food prices, partly seasonal, was primarily responsible for the general rise.

At the same time the Bureau reported that take-home pay of factory workers and the amount of goods and services it could buy also reached new peaks in June.

Net spendable earnings of factory worker with three dependents averaged \$72.74 in June, while those of a worker with no dependents were \$65.40. This marked a gain of about 60 cents over May and an increase of better than \$2.60 over last June.

## Escape Try Ends Like 11 Others — Failure

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Another attempt to escape from grim Alcatraz federal prison ended early today like the others—in failure—when murderer Floyd Wilson was found crouched behind a rock barely 100 yards from the spot where he disappeared.

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Wilson, sent to Alcatraz in 1952 for the murder of a Washington, D. C., grocery store manager, probably will be placed in isolation pending filing of escape charges, Laitiner said.

The prisoner was captured as Coast Guard patrol boats circled the island prison, located about a mile offshore, playing searchlights on both the shore and the water.

Wilson disappeared from the rock about 8:30 p.m. yesterday, about the time a water barge departed for the mainland. He failed to answer a prison check at 3:45, Laitiner said, the contact "apparently slipped around or through a fence adjacent to the dock."

Eleven other desperate men have attempted to escape in the 22 years since Alcatraz was established to hold the federal government's most hardened criminals.

Of the eleven, two were shot to death. Two tried to swim to shore and are presumed to have been lost in a storming tide. The others were recaptured.

## Our Weather

Widely scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning . . . 69  
Low tomorrow morning . . . 70  
High today . . . 95  
High yesterday . . . 95  
High tomorrow . . . 95  
Sunrise today 5:26 a.m.; sunset today 7:33 a.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

## Evening Prayer

Help us, O Father, to walk by faith, not by sight. We accept Thy Word that no good thing is withheld from those who walk uprightly, yet we confess too often our faith has been faltering. Come into our hearts with such power that we shall never again doubt Thy love and faithfulness in Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.