Vith Complete Coverage of State and National News

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SECTION-A LEWIS ENDS WALKOUT ON U.S. TERMS; NTA HOTEL DISASTER

Wilmingtonian, Winecoff Builder Cites Fire Underwriters' Report

Inferno Hits As 280 Seek **Escape Path**

Many Horribly Burned Or Injured As They Leap From High Windows

CAUSE SOUGHT

All Hotel Employes Being Questioned As Investigation Begins

BY BURNS CENNETT United Press Staff Correspondent)

ATLANTA, Ga. Dec. 7. -Amass of flames shot through the 15story Winecoff hotel today in an inferno which killed 122 persons, and tonight an exhaustive investigation was begun to learn the ause of the holocaust, worst hotel fire in the nation's history

In three hours of flaming hell while the fire raged unchecked, the hotel's 280 guests tried to escape A few succeeded, some of them with tales of their experien ces. But most of the men, women and children who jammed the 194 rooms for the week end were either

killed or injured. Many of the injured were horribly burned or had multiple fractures caused by leaping from windows. As flames shot skyward through the brick structure, guests awoke in a smoky fog. From windows and window ledges, aroused from their slumber and crazed by terror, they called for help, pleading to be rescued. But many of them fell or leaped to death, their night thing trailing ribbons of flame. While the dead were still being counted, all employes of the hotel were called for exhaustive questioning by the fire officials seeking to determine the cause.

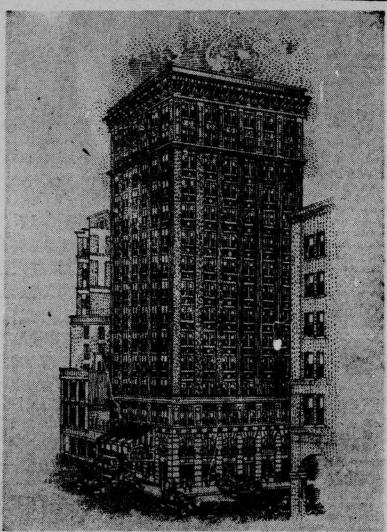
City Fire Marshall Harry Phillips (Continued on Page Five; Col. 4)

Okinawa Employes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 - (P)battle of World War II, is being er of the Winecoff hotel.

The National Federation of Fed-Okinawa to include civilian employes of the Army engineers.

Where 122 Perished



Winecoff hotel in the center of the Peachtree section of Atlanta, and early today the charred remains of 122 victims had been removed. According to superstition, most hotels have no 13th floor; neither does the Winecoff. The 12th floor may be seen beneath the top two floors, which are the 14th and 15th floors. This was the nation's worst hotel disaster. The above drawing was made available to the Star-News by James McKoy, 402 South

Stark Tragedy Marks Atlanta Hotel Blaze

By WILLIAM TUCKER United Press Staff Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 7.—On the 11th floor, a woman knelt in a bathroom gathering her three children into her sheltering arms. The fire crystallized them that way, like a piece of blackened statuary.

Sought By Union hundred tragedies I saw on a hor- Day Of Infamy' rifying ascent from the bottom to Okinawa, site of the last major the top of the black, smoking tow-

Each room, each corridor, each

BEVIN ARRIVES WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 - (P)tonight for a brief visit which will

Construction Thought Safe By Local Man

Frank Harrell, First Lessee Of Winecoff, Cites Fire Reports

NO 13TH FLOOR

Says Underwriters In Atlanta Deemed Escapes Unnecessary

Star-News Staff Writer An interview with Frank Harrell, part-owner of the H. and W. Cafeteria last night revealed that fire underwriters could have been responsible for the large loss of life in the fire which swept the

ATLANTA, Dec. 7— (P) —W. F. Winecoff, 70, who built the Winecoff hotel for Frank Harrell, of Wilmington, was kill-ed in the fire which swept the 15-story building today.

He had lived there in retirement with his wife ever since relinquishing control of the hotel. There have been no reports on Mrs. Winecoff. The couple maintained a room on the 10th floor.

Winecoff hotel in Atlanta, Ga., early yesterday.

Harrell first lessee of the hotel and the man responsible for the hostelry's construction, said last night "it is unbelievable that such a catastrophe could have befallen the hotel."

He added that fire underwriters (Continued on Page Five; Col 3)

WINECOFF FIRE NATION'S WORST

By United Press
The Winecoff hotel fire at

Atlanta, Ga., today, which took lives, was the worst hotel disaster in the nation's history and the fourth hotel fire this Lasalle hotel, Chicago, June

5, 61 dead. Canfield hotel, Dubuque, Iowa, June 9, 10 dead. Baker hotel, Dallas, Tex., June 21, 8 dead.

EARLIER HOTEL FIRES Gulf hotel, Houston, Tex., Sept. 7, 1933, 54 dead.

Kerns hotel, Lansing, Mich,. Dec. 11, 1934, 32 dead. Victoria Mansion, Lakewood, N. J., Feb. 12, 1936, 16

Terminal hotel, Atlanta, Ga., May 16, 1938, 35 dead. Amsterdam hotel, San Francisco, March 27, 1944, 22 dead. General Clark hotel, Chica-

the war performed the great-

est job ever done in history."

veteran as bewildered by the

economical turn of events in the

land he came home to. He said

Hinkle revealed the returned

go, Jan. 16, 1945, 14 dead.

Plan Plant Here



J. G. Thornton, president of the Wilmington Savings and Trust company, drives home his point at a meeting yesterday of the Wilmington Port commission and business and industrial officials. Others in the Port Commission office, left to right, are: Fred Willetts commission member; C. D. Hogue, chairman; J. T. Hiers, executive secretary; R. B. Page, chairman of the State Ports authority; and B. H. Thomason, Fayetteville veneer plant owner.

Mayor Lifts Embargo, **NEW INDUSTRY** Recalls Proclamation

The news that John L. Lewis had called off the nationwide coal strike last night caused the lifting of Mayor W. Ronald Lane's proclamation asking for Wilmingtonians to conserve the fast-dwindling stock-pile of the fuel in the community.

IN CITY TODAY ties.

USS PC 776 Is Expected To trains as a result of the soft coal if the Wilming Dock At Customhouse At 4 o'Clock

The USS PC 776 which has been turned over to the local U. S. Navy Organized Reserved unit will about 2 o'clock this afternoon and is expected to be docked at the customs house wharf about 4 he added.

on curtailed service throughout the offices all ton port the added. o'clock, according to information

5th Captain Richardson of the Com- their jobs. mandant's staff of the Sixth Naval In the same instance the Tide district turned the craft over to Water Power company was helping would emp Lt. Comdr. John H. Wilson, com- to preserve the local supply of coal manding officer of the local ONR. following the repairing of an 11,-It is reported that the shake 000-volt cable in the Cape Fear down cruise and sea trials which

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 6)

Southern Governors Elect Gregg Cherry

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Dec. 7-(U.P.)-Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, of elected president of the Carolina North Carolina, today was elected Aero club at a state-wide meeting chairman of the Southern Govern- here. Also elected was Mrs. J. C. ors' conference as the group end- Pennington, of Wilmington, as ed a three-day session here.

Cherry will serve for one year, of West Virginia was named vice.

* At the same time informed sources said it would be at least dustry locating in Wilr 10 days before coal starts moving peared here yesterd into the city in even small quanti- Thomason, Fayette

The Atlantic Coast Line railroad, build a slicing p which had discontinued several veneer and oth strike, will resume normal sched- can find a su ules of freight and passenger serv- for the mill. ice, Carl G. Sibley, general man- ing of the ager, said last night. others also

The two trains which were discontinued between Wilmington and tries. Fayetteville will, resume normal arrive off the bar at Southport schedules this morning and other trains which had been operating sion at the

Mayor Lane, in lifting his proreceived by Lt. B. S. Solomom, clamation, thanked residents of the executive officer of the local ONR.

In short but impressive cereand and declared he was more than Thomaso monies on Thursday, December happy the men were returning to

factory, w commission Thomason's

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 5) once, Hogue said.

Wooten Is Elected Carolina Aero Head

RALEIGH, Dec. 7-(AP)-A. L. Wooten, of Wilmington, today was secretary-treasurer.

Others named were Clay Swain, succeeding Governor Robert Kerr Salisbury, first vice president; Bob of Oklahoma. Governor Meadows, Ridenhour, second vice president. Twelve members of the Aero club at Wilmington were present.

Ordered Back To Coal Pits UMW Due To Return Mon-

Miners Are

day Until March 31 On **Government Terms**

HONOR CONTRACT

President Cancels Talk; **Negotiations Are Expect**ed To Begin

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7-(U.P)-John L. Lewis surrendered dromatically today in his coal strike fight with the government. He called off the crippling 17-day walkout and sent his United Mine workers back to the pits until March 31 on the Government's terms.

Lewis announced at a suddenlysummoned news conference that the 400,000 soft coal miners will return to work on Monday under terms of the Krug-Lewis agreement negotiated last May-the con-Wilmington Port Commistract he terminated last November sion Met With Plywood

It has been the Government's position throughout the strike that there could be no dealing with Lewis until the miners honored that contract.

Lewis' surrender came while the Supreme court deliberated a Gov(ernment request for swift and final decision on the conviction of Lewis and the UMW for contempt of court in failing to prevent the strike. The district court here fined Lewis \$10,000 and the union \$3,-

The UMW chief said he was call. ing off the strike to enable the Supreme court to consider the contempt case "free from public pressure superinduced by the hysteria and frenzy of an economic crisis" because "public necessity requires" that coal be produced while the final outcome is awaited.

Coal operators estimated they (Continued on Page Five; Col. 1)

Wainwright Cautions Of 'New Pearl Harbor'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—(P)—Gen. night on the fifth anniversary of Par Harbor that because of inacequate defense preparations "Fearl Harbor and Bataan were a nee lless waste." In a warning against disarma-

ment "through false economy" he told the local bar association "tha in the event of another war, creased shipments of textiles and tobacco through the local port. InWas ington—all together—may be (Continued on Page Two, Col. 11 our new Pearl Harbor."

Living Christmas Tree To Be Lighted Tonight

d to answer

allenge and will be-

needed space at

world, will this year divide its in- last night. spiration for the holiday season A religious program which will with all the mation.

Based on the theory that tramp

steamers would serve the new

plant in its imfant stages, those at-

tending the meeting forecast in-

Manufacturer Here

The possibilities of

He reveal

opment of

Called

several fu

panies, in

gin to seek

man of

Movies which will be taken of byterian church. nation.

cameraman, who yesterday filmed the Kiwanis club safety program, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" will take pictures of the ceremonies and "It Came Upon the Midnight

"The School for Santa Clauses" program is scheduled to get underway at 2:30 o'clock with some 2,000 school children assisting in soprano soloist.

2,000 school children assisting in the event.

The afternoon program will be highlighted by the school which will be conducted by Papa Santa DuRant, mexx(2 - soprano; Emory Crubbe tenor will be conducted by Papa Santa DuRant, mexx(2 - soprano; Emory Crubbe tenor will be conducted by Papa Santa DuRant, mexx(2 - soprano; Emory Crubbe tenor will be conducted by Papa Jr.

for 30 assistants. A course on tree Grubbs, tenor and W. O. Page, Jr., decorating, using the large tree as bass.
an example, will spotlight the "Carl of the Bells, Gloucester-

Wilmington's living community been scheduled for participants in Christmas tree, largest in the the night event, it was announced

include a talk by the Rt. Rev. Bis-Tonight the living symbol of hop Thomas Wright will precedent Christmas will be lighted at 7 o'- a half-hour program of Christmas clock bringing to an end a blackout music by a 300-voice choir under which has darkened the tree since the direction of Edwin Clark, director of Fausic, of the First Pres-

the secular and religious programs The chorus includes members of will be used as the Fox Movietone many Wilmington churches and Christmas greeting throughout the singers from the choral groups of mation.

M. D. Cooke, Fox Movietone Williston andustrial High school.

The program follows:

surrounding the turning on of the lights.

Earlier in the day he will film with Mrs. Florence Avery, sopreno

A rehearsal at 5:30 o'clock has (Continued on Page Two, Col. 18)

Project in Wilmington, N. C. He told a reporter after talking Krooth stated he could not stay tith representatives of the Lake action resulting from the Wyatt Tenants' association he ruling to give veterans purchase would make that recommendation priority, but informed the delegato the successor to Wilson Wyatt, tion that there will be time to study

New Hearing Approved

who resigned as Housing adminis- their protest before the units are tator this week. Representatives of the association urged Krooth to stay the decition made by Wyatt about a week to give priority to a veterans

velerans, the group headed by "I headed a delegation to Wash-

lon Myer stating NHA policy is to residing in the Lake Forest projlive preference for purchase only h veterans with families needing (Continued on Page Five; Cel. 1)

On Sale Of Lake Forest WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 - (AP) - housing who will occupy buildings David L. Krooth, acting National they may buy.

Housing administrator, decided to- At another conference, Wesley day to recommend a new hearing Pierce of the Veterans of Foreign before disposing of the masonry Wars told Krooth he saw no chance mits in the Lake Forest housing of the speculation which tenants said they feared.

conveyed to any group. **BROOME'S STATEMENT**

Returning to the city last night, tooperative for purchase of the delegation, issued the following bousing units.

In protesting the ruling, which ences with housing authorities in

Brooks A. Broome declared that ington to formally protest setting occupatants of the unit should have aside the original FPHA regulative first preference. They said they believed non-resident veterans will buy the housing for speculative purposes.

aside the original FPHA regulations regarding the sale of surplus federal housing. I called on the National Housing Authority's Wyatt, shortly before he resignM, sent a memorandum to Federal
Public Housing Commissioner DilOut to me that no non-veteran now
out to me that no non-veteran now

Goes Unobserved WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.-(P)-The

flight of stairs had its own tragedy. Fifth anniversary of the sneak ateral employes, an independent union, reported today that a charter has been granted for a local on Okinawa to include civilian employes. And on each flight I passed a grim tack by the Japanese on the fleet at Pearl Harbor, passed today workers bringing down "another without official notice in the national capital. This has generaly (Continued on Page Two Col. 2) been the rule since the late President Roosevet described Decem-

ber 7, 1941, as a "day of infamy." Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, arrived in Washington

include a meeting tomorrow morning with President Truman. USES SAYS:

928 ex-servicemen in the Wil-

mington area, the North Caro-

lina Employment service in this

city has come up with a slo-

gan aimed directly at emplo-

yers in this area — "Give A Veteran a Job for Christmas,"

Harold M. Hinkle, NCES manager, points out that un-

der the new program the em-

ployers would benefit as much

most desirable person to em-

ploy," he reminds local indus-

trial officials, "We know Un-

cle Sam took the cream of

the crop, and we know that

during his wartime service the

veteran learned to report on

time; he learned neatness; he

was trained in some of the

most expensive and specialized

courses ever undertaken; and

"Certainly the veteran is the

as the veterans.

GIVE VETS JOBS FOR CHRISTMAS Desperately seeking jobs for collectively the men who fought

employers were obligated to make a comprehensive inventory of their needs, and attempt to find a spot within their organizations where the employment of a veteran would

Essay Contest Planned On Social Conditions

An essay contest on the subject "Survey of Social and Living Conditions of Wilmington" is being sponsored by the Star-News and the Young Men's Christian Association.

Contestants will be members of the Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y groups under the supervision of R. H. Caudill, Boys Work secretary of the

Four prizes, two for girls and two for boys, will be awarded by the Star-News for the best essays which are turned in.

(Continued on Page Five; Col.

add increased efficiency to the "It's time to stop shedding crocodile tears for the veterans,

and do something concrete to aid him in his predicament." Hinkle declared.

Leonard Barrett, a Wilmington official of the State Veterans commission said the returned military men are being faced with shortages of clothing, housing, food, and jobs.

"It's not the land of plenty they thought they would find," he said, adding the only thing a man could buy in quantity was alcohol. Barrett declared the average veteran does not want anyone to give him a shirt, but desperately wants to be able to buy one. With gifts for Yuletide holi-

(Continued On Page Two Col. 1)