

Wilmington and vicinity: Fair and continued rather cold today and tonight; Saturday slightly warmer.

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Grissett On Stand During Trial Here

DEFENSE CHARGES GRISSETT ABUSED

Prosecutor Cites Record Of Former Police Officer

For the better part of 52 minutes yesterday afternoon in New Hanover County Superior Court here, Attorney Elbert Brown lambasted the methods used by three officers in questioning Roy Grissett last Jan. 18 when he was charged with store-breaking, larceny and receiving.

Yesterday the store-breaking charge was dismissed by Presiding Judge Luther Hamilton.

In his address to the jury, he said that Grissett's attorney, said that he was not invited to the hearing by N. J. Wolfe, and E. B. Murray, city detectives; and Harry Fales, city-county identification bureau chief.

The Sunday Star-News came in for some unkind words for making a picture of Grissett during the questioning in Fales' office.

He said that Fales did not want him at the hearing, but that he wanted the newspaper reporters, photographers and radio reporters.

"None of us are infallible," he belittled, "not even Murray. He has made mistakes before. He will make a million more before he dies," and added that "I expect if Murray had his way in this matter, he'd have this boy (Grissett) hung along with his wife and family."

He declared that the officers raised Grissett's bond from \$3,000 to \$8,000 "just to punish him" and keep him in jail. The bond later was reduced.

He charged Fales with inviting representatives of the press and radio to the five-hour "gruelling" of Grissett, and termed the hearing a "side show." The press was invited "just to embarrass" Grissett, he declared.

During the thundering address to the jury, Grissett sat at the table beside his own counsel, J. Bunn Frink, and wiped sweat from his brow and hands and twitched and squirmed in his chair.

"I can't see why the prosecution put Lieutenant Hughes (T. B. Hughes of the Wilmington police department) on the witness stand," he roared. "Why gentlemen, Lieutenant Hughes testified that during the month of July, Mr. Grissett



WEN US HAD TWO DOLLARS THEY'D BUY SUMPIN' - BUT HIT TEK A FI' DOLLAR BILL TO DO DAT NOW!

SIXTEEN KILLED, HUNDREDS BADLY INJURED IN LOS ANGELES PLATING PLANT EXPLOSION; HOUSE VOTES \$6,000,000,000 BUDGET CUT

Slash Comes On Roll-Call 239-159 Vote

Congressmen Follow Party Lines After GOP Stymies Floor Amendments

SENATE GETS BILL Capitol Hill Observers Believe Final Cut Will Be \$4,500,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The Republican-controlled House voted tonight to try to hold spending in the next fiscal year to \$31,500,000,000, where President Truman had set \$37,500,000,000 as rock bottom.

The \$6,000,000,000 slash recommended by the Senate-House Budget committee, calling for cuts in Army and Navy as well as other funds, sailed through on a roll-call vote of 239 to 159 which generally followed party lines.

Twelve Democrats joined 227 Republicans in support of the slash. It was opposed by 157 Democrats, Rep. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Me.) and Rep. Marcantonio (AL-Me.)

Chairman Knutson (R-Minn.) of the House Ways and Means committee declared the economy would assure a 2 per cent cut in individual income taxes.

However the issue now moves to the Senate, where a majority of Republicans favor a \$4,500,000,000 budget slash to protect Army and Navy funds, instead of the \$6,000,000,000 cut recommended by the Senate-House Budget committee.

Bitter debate pivoted on the question whether such a slash would cripple the Army and Navy and

Steelman Plans Shipyard Parley

Debate On Proposed Sale Of Local Facility Nears Climax

By FRANK VAN DER LINDEN Morning Star Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Probably the final round in the long battle over the proposed sale of the surplus Wilmington N. C. shipyard to the North Carolina State Ports authority will occur next week when Presidential Assistant John Steelman calls North Carolina Congressional leaders and maritime commission officials together for a face-to-face conference.

Steelman heard Senators Hoey and Umstead, and Representative Clark conferred with Steelman at his White House office for a second time today, answering the maritime commission's objections to sale of the yard, which it has earmarked as one of four to be kept in reserve for future emergencies.

Previously, Steelman had heard the commission's side of the matter.

Now he will arrange a joint meeting to thrash out the differences, if possible. Senator Hoey emphasized, however, that although Steelman is "really anxious to help us," the project may fall through.

Hoey, Umstead and Clark told Steelman today that the government would save the maintenance expense of keeping the stand by yard, if the property were sold to the state ports authority, which would actually keep it in better condition for emergency shipbuilding than if it were left idle in only caretaker status.

Especially, they argued, the government would get \$1,200,000 offered by the state.

Episcopal Laymen Attend Meeting At Good Shepherd Parish Hall



Over 75 Episcopal laymen, representing churches in the New Hanover county area, attended a banquet meeting at the Church of the Good Shepherd parish hall last night. Shown above, left to right: Bishop Thomas H. Wright; W. M. Atkinson, toastmaster; John Bragaw, Washington, N. C., attorney, who delivered the main address; and Robert Strange, treasurer of the East Carolina Diocese. (PHOTO BY CAROLINA CAMERA)

AIRPORT PROGRAM AWAITS APPROVAL

Plans Drafted Here Forwarded To WAA Officials At Charlotte

The decisions reached at yesterday's meeting between officials of the War Assets Administration, the Civil Aeronautics Administration and New Hanover county relative to the disposal of equipment and buildings at Blumenthal airport are due to be forwarded to the Charlotte office of the WAA immediately for approval.

Final action on the matter will be taken by T. A. Bechman, WAA official in Charlotte, and if the program as drawn at yesterday's session is approved then the plan will be returned to Wilmington for consummation.

Yesterday's meeting, held in the office of Jesse Parker, airport manager, heard details of a supplementary report drafted by A. J. Narciso, disposal agent for the WAA and E. A. Waldenmaier, CAA airport engineer from Raleigh.

Addison Hewlett, Sr., chairman of the board of county commissioners and Harry Gardner, board member, were present at the session and approved the plan as submitted. It was learned that the county would ask the Tide Water Power company to purchase electrical facilities at the airport.

Work To Start On Lab Building

Jenkins Reveals Expansion Plans At Experimental Farm

Further development of the state's new vegetable research farm near here was signaled in an announcement yesterday that a combination laboratory and office building will be erected immediately on the 50-acre tract situated on the Castle Hayne road.

The building contract has been awarded to Hette-Miller, I.

Along The Cape Fear

BATTLE ROYAL — Yesterday we recounted some of the events leading up to the famous battle of Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776.

The site of the renowned encounter is now a national military park located at Currie which is about 2.5 miles northwest of the Port City.

Yesterday, thanks to Oswald E. Camp, the custodian of the park for the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior, we took the Old North State was divided into factions over control of the Royal Colony.

A deep breach had resulted from the defeat in 1771 of the Regulators, the western element, by the eastern faction.

Britain Sets Date For Leaving India

The Weather

FORECAST: North Carolina and South Carolina — Fair Friday and Saturday, continued rather cold Friday and Friday night; slightly warmer Saturday. (Eastern Standard Time) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.

1:30 a. m. 40; 7:30 a. m. 37; 1:30 p. m. 48; 7:30 p. m. 53. Maximum 62; Minimum 26; Mean 49; Normal 49.

Humidity 7:30 a. m. 84; 1:30 p. m. 96; 7:30 p. m. 90.

Precipitation Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. — 0.31 inches. Total since the first of the month — 0.65 inches.

Tides For Today (From The Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.) Wilmington — 10:10 a. m. 4:49 a. m. 10:21 p. m. 5:19 p. m. 1:40 a. m. 7:57 a. m. 8:04 p. m. 2:15 p. m. Sunrise 6:50; Sunset 6:01; Moonrise 7:30a; Moonset 4:42p. River stage at Fayetteville, N. C. at 8 a. m. Thursday — 11.2 feet.

WEST CAROLINA GETS SNOW FALL

Winston-Salem Also Reported Four Inches By Mid-afternoon Thursday

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Snow and freezing rain that blanketed western and central portions of North Carolina last night was expected to move on the Eastern part of the state as rain early today with clearing skies a day and slightly higher temperatures following over most of the state.

The U. S. Weather bureau forecast from Charlotte said today's clearing weather was expected to be accompanied by temperatures dropping to 33 degrees in the east, 25-26 in the central portion, and 23-24 in the West, with the mercury rising during the day.

Schools closed in Asheville and Winston-Salem yesterday and were scheduled to be closed in outlying rural sections of the Piedmont.

RELUCTANT RONALD FINALLY HITS PORT AFTER EIGHT MONTHS

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Feb. 20.—(AP)—Reluctant Ronald, the Navy seaplane that favors inland lakes, arrived here today — four months after leaving Philadelphia on a cross-country flight.

While nearing the end of the flight last Oct. 18, Ronald—a PBY-Carl E. Casant Lake, near Phoenix, Catalina patrol bomber — spotted and promptly developed engine trouble. The pilot made a forced landing.

LAYMEN PRAISED AT MEETING HERE

Episcopal Group Hears Address By John Bragaw, Prominent Attorney

Over 75 laymen of the Episcopal churches in the New Hanover county area gathered last night at the Church of the Good Shepherd to hear an address by John Bragaw, prominent attorney of Washington, N. C.

"The fine work and spirit you men have shown in the east Carolina Diocese is gratifying," the speaker said. He praised the many undertakings and accomplishments made by the laymen and remarked "I am not asking you men for money, I only intend to point out the great benefits derived from your contribution to the Laymen Task offerings."

The speaker pointed out that one of the foremost matters today that should engage the efforts of laymen is the work of the church and its missions.

Introducing the speaker, Bishop Thomas Wright, gave a brief outline of the work done in the Diocese during the past year. He urged the laymen to "Push our

CHAMBER PRAISES FIRE DEPARTMENT

National Organization Lauds Record Of Chief J. Ludie Croom

Recognition of the Wilmington Fire Department's fire prevention efforts have been afforded by officials of the United States Chamber of Commerce, according to a letter received yesterday by City Industrial Agent John H. Farrell.

H. E. Holton, an official of the insurance department, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, offered congratulations to the department for winning first place among cities in North Carolina for its fire prevention program.

The record form of the department will be forwarded to the national organization for entry in the annual contest conducted by U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Fire Chief J. Ludie Croom said.

The letter said in part "Our congratulations on the honor taken by your fire department. It is only through the cooperation of local businessmen and their fire department that honors such as you have can be obtained. Few people in the community realize what an actual cash saving this means to them in their fire insurance."

City Manager J. R. Benson expressed pleasure at the recognition and said it was "well deserved."

Butler took a meat hook and beat his hard rubber comb into a crude screw driver. With it, he jimmied the 210-volt thermostat. The temperature climbed to 50.

Butler and his helped waited quietly until 6 A. M., to conserve their strength and the limited oxygen. Then they started pounding on the door.

Blast Breaks Windows In Large Area

Chief Police Fears Final Death Toll May Total Well Over Seventy

TERROR RAMPANT

War Veterans Describe Disaster As Worse Than Battle For Manila

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—(AP)—A tremendous explosion blasted a one-story building into smoke and rubble today, killing at least 16 persons, jolting the entire downtown district and breaking windows in houses and office buildings 70 blocks away. More than 100 were injured.

Shortly after the explosion, which leveled the O'Connor Electro-plating plant, Assistant Police Chief Joseph Reed told reporters he feared the death list might range from 20 to 75, but by nightfall, bulldozers, power shovel, and other workers, probing the debris, could find but 16 bodies.

J. J. O'Connor, head of the Electro-plating firm, told reporters late today: "We were doing something for the government. You can see what happened."

He declined to amplify the statement, but said that a War department representative from San Francisco was investigating.

The reverberating explosion, which also demolished three nearby residences, was followed by a fierce fire. In a mile-square area 300 houses were damaged in what police described as the worst

FARM AND HOME WORKERS GATHER

Family Life Leaders From Pender, New Hanover, Brunswick Here

Approximately 50 Home Demonstration and 4-H club workers from three counties attended the all-day meeting held here yesterday in the office of Miss Ann Mason, home demonstration agent.

The program was especially planned for home demonstration agents, their assistants, 4-H club leaders, and the family life leaders in all the home demonstration clubs in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties.

Miss Virginia Swain, family relationship specialist of the State College Station in Raleigh, was the principal speaker.

During the morning session she spoke on family relationship and understanding the needs of children. The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of 4-H club work.

Later in the afternoon, Miss Ruby Shoats, food conservation specialist of the State College station, held a demonstration in the Tide Water Power company kitchen on preparation of food for the freezer locker.

Those present at the meeting were: Pender county — Mrs. Frances Register, agent; Miss Mary Lee Burns, assistant agent; and Mrs. J. A. Murphy, Mrs. Reese Leffer, Mrs. Johnnie Powell and Mrs. C. Bowden.

Brunswick county — Mrs. Robert McDougal, assistant agent; and Mrs. Ferman Galloway.

And So To Bed

We thought the chamber of commerce and restaurant people might like to know about this.

A long black sedan equipped with a New York license plate and streamlined trimmings drew up to the curb on a street several blocks from mid-town late yesterday.

Fast-Thinking Butcher Cheats Death In Icebox

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 20.—(AP)— Cecil Butler, 35-year-old butcher, today was credited with saving himself and a helper boy from freezing to death in a meat market icebox. An alert newsboy heard them banging on the door after being trapped nine hours.

Butler and 16-year-old Johnny Rhodes were packing the last load of meat into the refrigerator from show cases about 8:30 Saturday night when the door slammed behind them and the inside handle sheared off.

It was 32 degrees in the icebox.