

WILMINGTON and vicinity: Partly cloudy and slightly warmer today and tonight. Wednesday, increasing cloudiness with showers and continued mild.

Haifa Harbor Oil Fire Does Great Damage

Officials Compare Destruction To Ploest Field Wartime Bombing

SET BY UNDERGROUND

Intense Heat Buckles Steel Girders, Destroys Eight Huge Tanks

JERUSALEM, Palestine, March 31.—Huge oil fires set by a Jewish underground blast in pre-dawn darkness raged unchecked in the great Haifa harbor oil storage area today and tonight the smoke-shrouded city still was lit by the glare of leaping flames.

Estimates of damage ranged from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 and Iraq Petroleum Co. officials compared the fire in destruction to the wartime allied bombing of the Ploesti oil fields.

During the day the flames and rolling columns of smoke along the waterfront provided a violent backdrop for fighting between British troops and some 1,600 Jewish illegal immigrants resisting deportation to Cyprus.

Officials called in fire fighting equipment from a radius of 50 miles to battle the flames and tonight they said the blaze finally was under control. It was expected to burn itself out in 24 hours.

Four firemen were injured, two seriously, when they fell into a pit of burning oil, an official announcement said.

Eight of the 19 huge storage tanks making Haifa harbor the largest oil port in the Middle East were destroyed, along with all surrounding facilities. Heat from the inferno was so intense it buckled steel girders and forced firemen to carry asbestos shields.

Richard Stubbs, Palestine government public information officer, told a press conference that "the community will pay for the damage" and it was understood the government is considering a special levy on the Holy Land's 600,000 Jews to meet the cost.

The blazing tanks shrouded the harbor and city with thick black smoke as British troops began the transfer of 1,600 refugees rescued yesterday when four British warships went to the aid of the foundering illegal immigrant ship Maledeth some 40 miles off the Palestine coast.

MEETING OF AIR GROUP POSTPONED

Date For Norfolk Conference Originally Set For April 9

The conference of air representatives of several coastal towns which had been scheduled for Norfolk April 9 has been postponed temporarily, according to John H. Farrell, city industrial agent.

Delegates to represent Wilmington had been invited to the meeting to take part in discussions relative to the very high frequency radio range system for coastal cities.

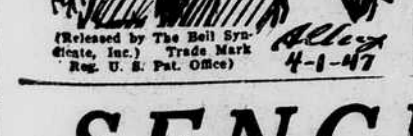
The decision to postpone the Norfolk session was made in order to give the Air Coordinating Committee in Washington more time to study the requests which have flooded the group since the Washington conference early this month at which efforts were made to have air restrictions lifted at Myrtle Beach and Albemarle Sound, Farrell explained.

The Army and Navy have maintained bombing areas at both points and this was the reason given by the Civilian Aeronautics Administration for the delay in installing the VHF ranges along the proposed route for the coastal airways system.

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

By Alley

MAN AX KUN'L BOB 'BOUT HIRIN' OLE TOM AN' KUN'L BOB SAY HE HIAHED 'IM ONCE FOR A WEEK AN' WUZ SATISFIED IN ONE DAY!!



Warns Of 'Bust'



The president of the National Association of Manufacturers, Earl Bunting, is pictured in New York during a press conference as he emphasized that government, management and labor must work in close co-operation to resist increased costs and prices to the public.

If the price spiral is permitted to go uncurbed much longer, he warned, "we are in for the biggest bust ever." (International)

FOUR TOWNS MAY GET ABC STORES

State Senate Passes Measures To Set Up Town-Controlled Units

RALEIGH, March 31.—(AP)—The Senate, voting orally, tonight passed three measures which would set up town-controlled alcoholic beverage control stores in four municipalities.

Towns affected are Hickory, Franklinton, Whiteville and Tabort City.

Speaking against passage of the bills was Sen. Gordon Gray of Forsyth, chairman of the Finance committee. Pointing out that he was speaking not as the Finance committee chairman but as a representative from Forsyth, Gray said that he was opposed to any departure from county operation systems.

Also joining against passage of the bill were Sen. Sheldon M. Roper of Lincolnton, Lee Weathers of Cleveland, George Penny of Guilford, John McLaughlin of Iredell, Wade Barber of Chatham, Luther E. Barnhardt of Cabarrus, and S. M. Eason of Caswell.

Johnson Speaks

Only person to take the floor in behalf of the bills' passage was Sen. Rivers Johnson of Duplin who insisted that the people have a right to self government and that he opposed somebody in another part of the state passing legislation which dictated the food and drink of a person in another part of the state.

The house passed these measures on the second reading:

A highway safety bill, was amended to provide for annual inspection of vehicles, instead of general annual inspections, and for the fine for the first speeding offense to be left to the discretion of the court and not a \$25 fine.

An amended bill to increase inspection fees for milk-processing plants and for bakeries from \$10 to \$20 annually.

A bill to amend the state fertilizer laws so as to improve the standards of fertilizers grades;

A bill to require inspection fees for food-processing plants and to regulate sanitary conditions of those plants, and

BENSON ASKS FOR LOCAL OPINION ON CHANGE OF TIME

City Manager J. F. Benson indicated yesterday that he would not take any action on the matter of daylight saving time for Wilmington until state officials acted or until local residents made their wishes known.

There has been agitation in several parts of the state for the return to daylight saving time this summer. Thus far, however, no concrete action by state officials has been taken.

Benson said that he would appreciate it if the people of Wilmington would indicate their wishes on the matter.

Today And Tomorrow

By WALTER LIPPMANN

While the Administration will in the end be supported by Congress, the way in which it chooses to present the case for intervention in the Middle East has certainly not strengthened it's hand. The case itself is a very strong one. Indeed it is unanswerable as regards the vital interests of this country and to bring nearer a general settlement with the Soviet Union.

But the real case, on which the decision to intervene is based, was announced in hot generalities and has since then been defended by disclaimers, denials, apologies,

and assurances which have done little but confuse the issue.

The reason for intervening in Greece and Turkey is that of all places in the world they are the best suited strategically for the employment of American military power to check the expansion of Soviet military power. The power of the Soviet Union is in its inexhaustible reserves of infantry capable of pressing upon its wide land frontiers in Europe and Asia. There is no other power or group

(Continued On Page Two, Col. 5)

Coal Miners Jump Gun For Six-Day Rest

Per Cent Leave Advance Of Deadline Set By Lewis

OFFICIALS WORRY

Some Fears Expressed That Men May Not Return After Holiday

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—Federal officials said tonight that about 20 percent of the nation's soft coal miners stayed home from work during the day in advance of a six-day "memorial" stoppage called by John L. Lewis.

The United Mine Workers chief set the six-day period to begin at midnight tonight, the hour he once fixed but later withdrew, for a new coal strike.

Lewis set the "memorial" observance to mourn victims of the Centralia, Ill., mine disaster.

Officials of the Solid Fuel Administration said today's rate of absenteeism was higher than normal, but declined to speculate whether the miners were "jumping the gun" in violation of their contract with the government or in violation of a federal court anti-strike injunction.

Question Mark

Official reticence served to emphasize the big question mark in the coal fields controversy: Will the miners return to their jobs at the end of the six-day memorial?

The layoff is scheduled to continue through Easter Sunday, but there was some conjecture that the miners might continue to stay home in tacit execution of Lewis' original order for a new stoppage.

Lewis subsequently withdrew the order, yielding to a Supreme court mandate.

By complying with the high tribunal's ruling, Lewis' United Mine Workers will be required to pay only \$700,000 of the \$3,500,000 fine levied against the union for contempt of court in connection with last fall's 17-day strike.

Lewis told newsmen the memorial layoff was authorized in the union's 1941 contract with the operators and carried over into later agreements including the Krug-Lewis pact under which the mines are operated by the federal government.

He said the clause was never used before largely because of wartime demands for coal.

While state and local investigations delved into the Centralia explosion which cost the lives of 111 miners last week, Lewis and the government acted to permit the distribution of benefits under the union's health and welfare fund.

BETTER FARMING PROGRAM STARTS

County Farm Council Holds Initial Session Here; Plans Drafted

The first steps toward setting up the "Better Farming for Better Living" program in New Hanover were taken yesterday afternoon when members of the County Farm Council met in the office of R. W. Galphin, county agent, and named a committee of three who will direct the farm program.

Forest Hall, Jr., was named chairman, E. M. Sullivan, vice chairman, and Mrs. Fred Jordan, secretary.

The program, designed as a project to create better farm and home management through efficiency of the farm and home and conservation of soil resources, is to be carried out in 13 counties of this area.

The rural residents of New Hanover are to begin signing up for the contest in a few days as soon as the plans for staging the contest here are more fully developed. All participants must sign up before May 1.

A lengthy discussion of the better farming plan was held yesterday afternoon by the County council, composed of agricultural, business, and civic leaders. Further discussion and explanation of the program in New Hanover will be held on Thursday night at the Bolton club supper when Neil Farmer's, agricultural agent of the Tide Water Power company, will address club members.

(Continued On Page Two, Col. 5)

Envoy To Poland



Financier Stanton Griffis (above) of New York, according to a White House announcement, has been nominated by President Truman to the post of ambassador to Poland. He will succeed Arthur Bliss Lane who recently returned to this country. (International)

MAINE RATIFIES TWO-TERM LIMIT

Republican Legislature Okays Proposed Presidential Amendment

AUGUSTA, Me., March 31.—(UP)—Maine today became the first state in the union to ratify the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States that would limit Presidents to two terms.

The Republican-dominated Maine legislature overwhelmingly approved the amendment. The Senate passed it without debate, and the House sanctioned it by a standing vote of 82-7 after only 10 minutes' discussion.

In the lower legislative body, the amendment was opposed briefly by the Democratic minority whose leaders argued that it should not be rushed through "like a bombshell." They contended that Maine legislation should take precedence.

Mr. Parker was given a 30-day leave of salary pay over the strong objections of commissioner L. J. Coleman.

The roadside clean-up campaign came as the result of the appearance of Col. L. L. Simpson and Hugh Morton before the commission, who painted an unsightly picture of the beach roads.

It was pointed out that unless rubbish heaps along the highways were removed they might have some effect on the decision of the Veterans Administration locating a proposed hospital here.

The Hugh McRae Co. offered the board a 10-acre lot in the Winter Park area for use as a dump, and Hewlett said he would see Morton, a representative of the McRae Co., today with regards to the proffered dump grounds.

Meanwhile, the county patrol was instructed to check on the dumping of trash on the roadsides. It was pointed out that a law against trash-dumping within 100 yards of a highway provided a \$50 fine.

BOYD NAMED AS AIRPORT MANAGER

County Commissioners Select Trainee As Acting Head Of Field

New Hanover county commissioners yesterday put into effect a two-way cleaning job.

The first act was the naming of a new manager for the \$11,000,000 Blueenthal airport, and the second was an order for the cleaning of trash dumps along highways throughout the county. This latter campaign starts today.

Henry E. Boyd, Jr., of Wilmington, was named acting manager of the airport to succeed Jesse Parker, resigned.

Boyd is a former service man and now a trainee under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

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Along The Cape Fear

NUCLEUS OF ACL — Not so long ago we asked for help in gathering data on the early days of railroads in the Port City.

Among those kind readers who offered us much assistance was Mr. C. C. Chadbourn of 415 South Front Street.

In telling of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad, Mr. Chadbourn points out that the line changed its name to the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad, and then at a later date became the nucleus of the famous Atlantic Coast Line.

The Wilmington and Manchester line did not come directly into the Port City but made use of a terminal on the west bank of the Cape Fear River.

Mr. Chadbourn recalls that a double-ended ferry boat, the Waccamaw, with a Captain Bates in command, brought both the passengers and freight to Wilmington from the west bank terminal.

OVER BRIDGES — Another early railroad, Mr. Chadbourn recalls, entered the Port City via bridges over the rivers.

That was the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad. Later the line became

VANDENBERG PROPOSES CURB ON GREEK-TURKEY AID PLAN; U. S. BLASTS MOLOTOV STAND

Blunt Speech By Marshall Scores Point

Secretary Tells Ministers "Congested Slum" Policy Not Agreeable

DIFFERENCES WIDE

Immovable Attitude By France Also Censured By U. S. Delegate

MOSCOW, March 31.—(AP)—Secretary of State Marshall blasted at Russia's uncompromising stand on German reparations tonight and warned that the United States opposes "policies which will continue Germany as a congested slum."

In his bluntest speech to the Council of Foreign Ministers, Marshall said the four powers could never reach agreements "on the basis of an ultimatum." He added that the United States "categorically rejects" the Russian stand that "acceptance of reparations from current production is an absolute condition of economic unity."

Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, whose proposals also were attacked by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, made no concessions on reparations, but expressed hope that differences among the four powers could be reconciled.

Same Horse Twice

In referring to the Potsdam agreement and discussions here on reparations, Marshall told Molotov: "It looks very much to us as though the Soviet Union is trying to sell the same horse twice."

Molotov replied: "We did not approach this problem of reparations from a point of view of merchants, but we do not want other merchants selling our horse at a low price without our consent."

Molotov made other similarly biting replies to some of Marshall's points, but his general tone was described as mild in comparison with some of his previous speeches.

After Molotov's statement Marshall suggested that the ministers meet tomorrow in "restricted session" and they agreed. Excluded from such a session will be the extra official reporters who brief the press, and the meeting may be presented in much less detail to newsmen.

The American secretary said that France, too, had adopted an immovable attitude and had insisted that her demands for German coal be recognized before the ministers proceeded to other important German questions.

35-FOOT CAPE FEAR CHANNEL PROPOSED DECISION EXPECTED

Approval or disapproval of the proposed 35-foot depth of the Cape Fear river is expected to be made by the South Atlantic Division Engineers within the next ten days, according to officials of the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers.

The survey and report of the proposed project made by the local engineers has already been sent to the Division engineers in Atlanta.

If approved by the District, the recommendations will be forwarded to Washington headquarters for final action.

This line entered Wilmington by spanning both the Cape Fear and the North East rivers via bridges.

Mr. Chadbourn recalls the office of the Carolina Central, telling us that it was located in the old General James Owen home on the West side of Front Street between Chestnut and Mulberry (now Grace Street).

WHEN BUILT — "I am unable to state when the bridges were built," Mr. Chadbourn writes.

"My first recollection of the matter is that the ownership was vested two thirds in the Seaboard Air Line or its predecessor, and one third in the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta or its predecessor, and I think that is the present status," he continued.

"When the W. C. & A. began using the bridges, the station on the West side of the river was abandoned and the ferry boat, Waccamaw, was sold to Mr. George Harris, father of Maj. (Continued On Page Two, Col. 3)

Reserve Group Plans State Meeting Here

Nearly 1000 Officers To Be At Wrightsville May 24 - 25

Plans were laid last night at a dinner meeting in the Friendly cafeteria here by the local chapter for the forthcoming convention of the North Carolina Department, Reserve Officers Association, at Wrightsville Beach, May 24-25.

Col. John Bright Hill, president of the association, said that approximately 1,000 reserve officers were expected to attend the convention.

He said that the Wilmington chapter will be hosts for the occasion. Committees for the convention will be named within the next 10 days, he added.

This will be the first convention of the North Carolina department since the war, Col. Hill said. He added that he hoped that a large number of officers from throughout the state would be in attendance.

"A special invitation," he said, "has been extended to Brig. Gen. Donald B. Adams, national president of R. O. A., and Gen. E. A. Evans, executive director of R. O. A., to attend the meeting."

Col. Hill said a number of important matters would come before the convention in the form of resolutions and suggestions which will be brought before the national meeting to be held in Miami, Fla., June 18-21.

Chapters of the Reserve Officers Association, in various counties and geographical location of towns in Southeastern North Carolina include:

Lumberton chapter — Robeson, Scotland and Hoke; Fayetteville — Fort Bragg—Cumberland, Harnett and Sampson; Wilmington — New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Pender.

Col. Norman McNeill, senior infantry instructor of Raleigh was present as a guest.

He spoke briefly to the members his talk covering the activities of the reserve officers in this state, and especially commended the Wilmington unit for the part it has taken in organizational activities.

Col. McNeill, who is a native of Fayetteville, paid tribute to the officers of World War II, and said that while there were only 10,000 regular officers at the beginning of the war, there were some 800,000 when the war ended.

KERMON SPONSORS RACING MEASURE

County Commissioners Authorized To Call Referendum On Matter

A bill enabling the county commissioners to call a referendum on horse racing and pari-mutuel betting in New Hanover county was introduced in the legislature yesterday by Representative Robert M. Kermon.

Under the provisions of the measure, the commissioners may submit the question to the people of the county any time between now and January 1, 1949, Kermon told the Star last night.

He explained that a bill was introduced in the legislature in 1933 relative to the creation of an agriculture and Breeding Association in New Hanover but since that time the law, which contains the racing provisions has remained on the statute books without any action being taken within the county.

Kermon's measure was the first piece of horse-racing and betting legislation to be introduced in the legislature this session.

A second bill introduced yesterday by Kermon permits the town of Carolina Beach to adopt an official map of the town. In the measure, the power to widen, open or close streets is granted to town officials.

CURRIN QUALIFIES FOR COUNCIL RACE

Second Candidate Files For City Primary On April 21

The number of official candidates for the Wilmington city council rose to two yesterday when Garland Currin filed for reelection.

Mayor W. Ronald Lane paid his filing fee Friday afternoon. A third member of the council, W. E. Yopp, has indicated that he would be in the race to retain his seat but so far he has not filed, according to H. G. Carney, chairman of the board of elections.

The only newcomer to the scene to reveal political tendencies to the ward the council is Warren G. Holleman, 27 year-old local resident.

Candidates have from now until April 10 to file, Carney has announced. The primary will be held April 21 and the election May 6.

Surplus Supplies Seen As Boon To Toothaches

Johnny, don't look now but they are ganging up on you. This little tale is being written to warn you, not to scare you. Here's the low-down on what's happening right here in Wilmington and other North Carolina towns:

There's going to be a lot of dental surgeons in North Carolina now—a heap more than in the past few years because they are going to be able to get equipment. And if you are not old enough to understand the meaning of doctor of dental surgery, the plain truth of the matter is you might

Plan Removes Soviet Power To Veto Bill

Senator Moves To Clarify Method As Applied To United Nations

COULD HALT LOANS

Amendment Would Give Security Council Authority To End U. S. Help

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) today proposed three checks on President Truman's \$400,000,000 aid program for Greece and Turkey, including authority for the United Nations to halt it.

But Russia would have no power to block the American move by exercising its veto.

Vandenberg specified that any U. N. objections must be based upon (1) "A procedural vote in the Security Council" or (2) by "a majority vote in the General assembly of the United Nations."

Seven of the 11 members are needed for a decision in a Security Council "procedural vote" and the big power veto right does not apply. Twenty-eight out of 55 are required for a General assembly majority.

Vandenberg told newsmen he offered his amendment "to make it plain that we propose to operate clearly within the spirit of the United Nations."

In response to a question, he said it is not designed as a wedge in an effort to eliminate the Security Council veto in other matters.

"It is neither sinister nor prophetic," he said.

Vandenberg said he has been "disturbed" by criticism that the Greek-Turkey aid proposal bypasses the U. N.

"I don't think it does," he said. "I think the worst thing that could happen to the U. N. would be to call upon it to assume a responsibility it was neither intended nor organized to carry out."

FIRMS SUPPORTING SENCBA CAMPAIGN

Drive Chairmen Gives Report On First Day Activities Here

Twenty local business firms and individuals yesterday joined with the Southeastern North Carolina Beach Association in their attempt to build up this area in sponsoring events which will attract tourists and vacationists and thereby increase business in this region.

Hugh Morton, chairman of the campaign to enlist 2,000 members and raise \$20,000 for the project of the non-profit association which got underway yesterday, said last night that "we are neither pleased nor displeased with the number of memberships secured the first day. For the most part Wilmington seems to realize that the Beach association program is not charity but, in reality, an attempt to increase business in this area."

The chairman said, however, that a number of people when approached, spoke of how much they had just recently given the church or some charitable organization and they therefore would not be able to give as much to the association. Morton stated that the committee would like to emphasize again that the Beach association is not charitable or a worthy cause, but a business investment which would benefit every earner in business in this region.

Last year the organization sponsored a \$2,000 fishing rodeo and it has been conservatively estimated

(Continued On Page Two; Col. 7)

And So To Bed

It was an otherwise uneventful night in the office of The Morning Star.

Then the telephone rang. "Hello," said the reporter. "I want to give in some news about a wedding," said a male voice.

"All right," said the reporter, his pencil poised. "There was a pause at the other end of the line."

Then came a sudden torrent of profanity.

"Hello, there!" What was that?" exclaimed the reporter. "Oh," said the male voice apologetically. "I didn't mean that for you. I was just cussin' my new wife."