

WEATHER

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY—Fair Sunday and Monday, except some cloudiness today. Mild Monday.

THE SUNDAY STAR-NEWS

THE PORT CITY OF PROGRESS AND PLEASURE

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WILMINGTON, N. C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1947

SECTION A—PRICE TEN CENTS

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500 Nurses Authorized By The State

Fifteen Young Wilmington Women Are Included

ALSO NEARBY TOWNS

Are Eligible To File As Registered Nurses

Fifteen Wilmingtonians were yesterday reported eligible for Registered Nurses' certificates after successfully passing the North Carolina State Nursing Examiners' board.

The Wilmington and South-eastern North Carolina eligibles are:

Wilmington — Baker, Lucille; Bennett, Catherine; Branch, Bonnie Pearl; Cain, Lois; Cavanaugh, Leola Virginia; Collier, Jean Stith; Fairston, Laura Helen; McFarling, Mildred Angerlee; Metts, Mary Louise; Padgett, Virginia; Rhue, Iris Zeta; Robinson, Jonnie S. Eden; Alfreda Braxton, Mrs.; Ward, Ruth; Winberry, Martha; Wray, Mamie Alice.

Lumberton — Maxwell, Alice Geraldine; Sanford, Bertha Bernice; Shepherd, Lettie Elizabeth.

Fayetteville — Brown, Ida Elizabeth; Carr, Mary Helen; Grimes, Christine Elizabeth; Hendrix, Nettie Jacqueline; McDuffie, Ella Ruth; Maness, Cora Elizabeth; Matthis, Edna; Melvin, Frances R.; Myers, Flada Virginia; Raynor, Margie Gold; Shaw, Ruth Alena; Spell, Ora P.; Trogdon, Eunice Katherine; Upchurch, Frances M.

Goldsboro — Batten, Viola; Lisk Helen; Massey, Ernestine. Kinston—Crech, Esther Ruth; Faulkner, Lela Frances; Jones, Virginia Dare; Noble, Rosa Lee; Rhodes, Alda; Sutton, Edna Ray; West, Tiffany Brice.

BENSON OFFERS SEASON'S CHEER

Announces Closing Of City Offices Friday As Well

Christmas greetings were sent to all city employees yesterday by City Manager James R. Benson, who announced that the city hall would be closed from Wednesday noon until Saturday morning, and that any employee who desires to be away Saturday for an extended holiday may do so by making arrangements with their department head.

Benson's message follows: "To each and every one of you I wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1948.

"As we look back on our year's work we can feel a sense of satisfaction at the many things which we have accomplished, often times under difficult circumstances. It has only been thru your loyalty and devotion to duty that these things have been accomplished and I want you to know that this office fully appreciates your efforts during the year.

"As we look forward to 1948 we can only strive to make it a credit to our City and to this end I hope that each one of you will pledge your best efforts. It is a pleasure to work with such a fine group of people and I wish you to always know that this office has the welfare of each one of you at heart."

The Weather

Forecasts Until 7:30 P.M. Sunday: WILMINGTON AND VICINITY: Fair today and tonight; Sunday clear to partly cloudy and slightly warmer; high 57, low 25. Monday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26. Tuesday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26. Wednesday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26. Thursday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26. Friday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26. Saturday: Partly cloudy; high 58, low 26.

Table with 4 columns: Station, High, Low, Prec. Lists weather data for various locations including Wilmington, Asheville, Atlanta, etc.

He Made It!



THE 'HUMAN FLY', JOHNNY WOOD, is shown waving to an estimated 5,000 persons who yesterday twice witnessed him climb to the top of the Murchison building after he had reached the top. The stunt was sponsored by the Jaycees in the interest of the tuberculosis campaign. A collection was solicited. —(STAFF PHOTO)

Human Fly Grosses \$500 For TB Drive

Crowds of approximately 8,000 persons witnessed the "Human Fly" scale the side of the Murchison building on two separate ascents yesterday.

Johnny J. Woods, who made the climb at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to raise funds for the New Hanover County Tuberculosis association, used a hook only twice on his way up the wall.

Dressed in a shiny red jacket, a white helmet and a pair of tennis shoes, 31-year-old Woods asked the audience not to "jeer or criticize" during the event because it "might take my mind off my work." Only a few persons yelled to him on his way up.

Hal Love, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the event for the tuberculosis association, reported that approximately \$500 was grossed through donations. He said 30 Jaycees asked the crowd for contributions. Woods received \$66, he said.

Tax Listing To Begin In City And County Friday, January 2

Tax listing in Wilmington and New Hanover county will start Friday, January 2, according to an announcement at the court-house yesterday.

The listing will be under the direction of Addison Hewlett, who is tax supervisor in addition to being chairman of the board of county commissioners. All tax listers and assessors in the city and county were named by the county commissioners at their last meeting.

Courthouse employees said the new books would be in readiness for the opening of the annual listing. They are being prepared now.

Edman Acquitted Of Wife's Slaying In Indiana Court

BROWNSTOWN, Ind., Dec. 20.—David E. Edman, former wealthy Winston-Salem, N.C. electrical contractor, today was acquitted of a first degree murder charge in the shotgun death of his divorced wife.

Tears streamed down the face of the 41-year-old former North Carolinian as the clerk of the Jackson county Circuit court finished reading the verdict. The jury had been out almost 13 hours before returning a sealed verdict to Judge George H. Gossman.

White Oak Vets Death Under Investigation

ELIZABETHTOWN, Dec. 20. Thomas J. Dunn, 29, White Oak died this afternoon as a result of circumstances under investigation last night, according to Sheriff John B. Allen.

Dunn, a veteran of World War II died from injuries received when he reportedly fell from a moving automobile while en route home from a party the sheriff said.

Sheriff John B. Allen said that John Cain, 23-year-old White Oak World War II veteran is being held on an "open charge" pending the results of

Ammunition Blast Deep In Mountain Spews Death, Havoc On Countryside; Telegraph Strike Due Momentarily

Wire Service Workers Plan Quick Action

Information Of Decisions Admends Com-As Unfair

WILMINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—thousand Western Union workers, members of the AFL, awaited momentary word tonight from their top officials on whether to begin a nation-wide telegraph strike.

The union had set its strike deadline originally for next Tuesday morning. But last night it sent telegrams to President Truman and Cyrus S. Ching, federal mediator and Conciliation Service director, serving notice that the strike may begin "at any time" before then.

Joseph L. Egan, president of the company, contends that meeting the union demands would cost \$19,000,000 a year, adding that would be double Western Union's expected earnings this year, which he said included \$5,000,000 worth of business it did as a result of the telephone strike in May.

The communications facilities of the American Telephone and Telegraph company are not affected in the present strike call. But the Communications Workers of America, an independent union of telephone employees, has called upon its members to help the Western Union workers.

"Their battle is pretty much our battle," declared Joseph A. Beirne, CWA president, in a statement. "They deserve our support."

Brungs said the change in plans, allowing the AFL unions to "pull a strike suddenly and hard—without notice" is due to "threats and intimidation Western Union is bringing to bear on the workers."

He said the company is demanding a "yes or no answer" from each worker on whether he intends to participate in a strike and that some of those who admitted they would strike "are being threatened with loss of their jobs."

36 More Families Aided Because Of News Story

By BOB KLINE, Staff Writer Thirty-six additional less fortunate families yesterday were added to an already mounting total of those to be aided on Christmas who otherwise would not have had a Christmas but for the appeal by Mrs. L. O. Ellis, executive secretary of the Associated Charities which was published exclusively in the Wilmington News (evening).

A wave of human kindness was flooding the city yesterday, she said. This brought to 62 the total number of units that will be helped.

Hearts were touched en masse when the people began to realize the extent of suffering and hardship which their fellowman faces at the time of year when all hearts should be filled with joy.

And the hearts of those who gave were lightened as they gave. The hearts of those who were to receive were humbled and overcome with gratitude.

The appeal published by the News snowballed into an avalanche of telephone and personal calls, promising food, clothing, toys and vitally needed medicines.

Mrs. L. O. Ellis, executive secretary of the Associated Charities, told of these acts of kindness: Following the pledge of \$100 by an anonymous textile mill operator last Friday, two more persons, who wished to remain anonymous pledged \$100 apiece.

A young woman gave a fifty-dollar bill, and said, "Do as much as you can to bring some kind of Christmas cheer to a few families."

A farmer brought in a bushel of potatoes. Four persons gave four large baskets of clothing and toys.

Two local grocers promised to give plentiful supplies of food for at least two families. In the mail, Mrs. Ellis said she received one check for \$25, one for \$15, one for \$10 two for \$5 and one for \$2.50.

Costly Fire Sweeps Through A Vermont Village



RESIDENTS STAND ABOUT some of the furniture saved from their homes in a fire that swept through Bradford, Vermont, causing damage estimated at \$200,000. Flames are leaping from buildings in background, and firemen are battling to check them. Seven business houses, including three of the town's four grocery stores, were destroyed.—(AP Wirephoto.)

Cherry Acts In Oil Shortage In State

RALEIGH, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Governor Cherry today acted in the fuel oil shortage by naming State Purchasing Agent W. Z. Betts as "State Oil Coordinator For North Carolina", and by appealing to citizens to conserve fuel oil "in every possible way."

Betts, the governor said, will call in representatives of the oil companies, independent dealers and other interested persons for a meeting in the governor's office "not later than" next Tuesday to discuss the fuel oil emergency and plans steps to be taken to meet the situation.

"The various producers of fuel oils," the governor said, "have apparently done all in their power to prepare for our present predicament, and due to lack of steel they have been unable to drill enough new wells, build refineries, tank cars, tankers and pipe lines in sufficient numbers to cope with the unpredictable and unprecedented demand for fuel oil that has come about since the end of the war, and which is estimated to be about 25 per cent greater."

The municipal power plant at Washington was badly damaged by an explosion on Dec. 1, and has been operating on a makeshift basis ever since.

Governor Cherry, after receiving an appeal from State Senator W. B. Rodman, Jr., of Washington, sent a telegram to the Admiral commanding naval facilities at Norfolk, Va.

Wilmington Justice Celebrates His 90th Birthday Saturday

Wilmington's 90-year old justice of the peace, William Carpenter celebrated his birthday yesterday with two brisk walks from his home at 12 North Fifth street to the city's shopping district, and recalled his favorite memory of a life lived against the colorful panorama of late 1890's—the time he sat on Abraham Lincoln's lap in the White House.

Carpenter had gone, as a boy to Washington during the final stage of the war between the States, to intercede for an uncle held prisoner behind the Union lines.

Carpenter, now in excellent health, was born in Fredericksburg, Va., and came to Wilmington when he was about 12 years old. He has been a justice of the peace for the past 15 years.

BRITAIN CUTS BEER LONDON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Britain's beer must take another cut with the year's end—this time in quantity rather than quality.

Bladen County Drys Ready To Ban Liquor

ELIZABETHTOWN, Dec. 20.—Bladen county today was set to ban the sale of wine and beer within its borders.

A lengthy petition, containing some 700 names of objectors to the sale of beer and wine had been handed in to the chairman of the Board of Elections at sundown today, and sales appeared doomed.

Eyewitness Account Told By Hotel Man

Soldiers Rushed To Area, Houses Wrecked, Eight Killed

BLAUSEE, Switzerland, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—An ammunition depot blew up deep inside a mountain in the Benese Alps shortly before last midnight creating a man-made volcano that spewed boulders, bombs, hand grenades and hot shells throughout Kanderthal valley, wrecking scores of houses and a railroad station.

A police sergeant in charge of a small detachment in the disaster area reported that nine persons had been killed, four to five were missing and an undetermined number injured.

Swiss military authorities ordered the entire area closed for 600 hours as small explosions continued to rumble from the shattered mountain side and a light snowfall covered unexploded missiles scattered throughout the valley.

Several hundred soldiers were rushed into the area and some 300 firemen were working on the scene.

The explosion occurred in the Quaderthal Valley near the little rail station of Blausee-Mitholz which was flattened by rocks and debris. The first great rumble was heard around midnight and explosions continued until near noon.

Anti-aircraft shells, hand grenades and bombs were thrown in every direction from the gaping hole in the mountain-side where the depot used to be. As soon as the rain of missiles subsided, anti-mine detachments went out to gather up live shells.

While the main explosions ceased around noon, smaller ones were still erupting intermittently in the heart of the wrecked depot.

Arnold Steiger, manager of the Hotel Kurhaus which is about one and a half miles from the ammunition dump, said he first heard the explosion at 11:35 p.m. last night and even at that distance "it nearly knocked me off my feet."

"I saw a blinding flash, windows in the hotel rattled and the whole building just seemed to bend," he said. "Panicly people came from everywhere. The skies were criss-crossed with red hot shells that looked like tracers. Some shells exploded in the air and some on the ground. Some just buried themselves in the ground without exploding," Steiger said.

Steiger said he walked one and a half miles to the neighboring village of Mitholz and that its 400 inhabitants had fled. On the way, he said, he found two dead—the station master and a woman, both hit by shell splinters.

"Of 40 houses at Mitholz," he said, "five were burned to the ground and 12 others damaged with all the windows, doors and furniture smashed. Most of the other houses were damaged."

Free Wrapping Service Handled 2,835 Packages Over That Of Last Year

The Retail Merchants association free wrapping service has handled 2,835 more packages this year than last in spite of the difficulty in obtaining paper for wrapping, it was announced last night.

So far this year a total of 6,335 packages have been handled, 3,620 of these completely wrapped, it was reported. The figure last year was 3,835.



3 SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS