

WEATHER

Slightly cloudy, with occasional light rains.

The Times-News

Largest Daily Circulation of Any Newspaper in North Carolina in Proportion to Population

GOOD AFTERNOON

Television probably means a lot of the radio stars should be heard but not seen.

VOL. 57—No. 311

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1938

SINGLE COPIES, FIVE CENTS

LOYALIST SHIP SHELLED AT GIBRALTAR

Dana School Construction Work Started

New Agriculture Building Also Approved for Flat Rock, Harris Reports OTHER LOCAL WPA PROJECTS PENDING

Sponsored jointly by the Henderson county board of education and the WPA, work was started Wednesday on the construction of an agriculture building at the Dana school.

Approval has been given by the Asheville and Raleigh offices for the golf club project and the Jump-off Mountain recreational park project, and these projects have been sent to Washington for final approval, Mr. Harris said.

Plans for the construction of a swimming pool at the golf club have been sent to the state board of health for approval, Mr. Harris said.

COUNTY WPA ROLLS CUT BY 50 MEN

Works Progress Administration rolls in Henderson county have been reduced by approximately 50 men since December 15, and approximately 50 additional workers are expected to be released by January 12, H. W. Harris, WPA supervisor, said today.

Farmers who were referred to the WPA as well as the next to be released from the rolls. The Asheville office lists 320 men and 140 women as being employed on WPA projects at the present time.

Mrs. Stewart Is Dead In Florida Following Crash News of the death earlier this week of Mrs. E. C. Stewart, of Bartow, Fla., has been received by friends here.

Mrs. Stewart was injured in an automobile accident several days prior to her death. She was the wife of E. C. Stewart, president of Bonclarken, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Assembly Grounds, and was widely known here.

A West Pointer Engineers WPA



A new picture of Colonel F. C. Harrington, who succeeds F. C. Hopkins as WPA administrator. Colonel Harrington is a West Point graduate and an engineer.

BANDITS GET \$35,000 IN OHIO

Three Men Escape After Herding 20 Express Office Employees

WASHINGTON, O., Dec. 30.—(UP)—Three armed men cowed 20 Railway Express Agency employees and escaped with \$35,000 in currency today.

The robbery was executed with careful precision. The three men walked into the express office, then separated. One corralled office workers in a warehouse; the second lined them up against a wall, and the third rounded up truck drivers at the rear of the warehouse.

135 MILLIONS APPORTIONED FOR HIGHWAYS

N. C. Will Get More Than \$3,100,000, Wallace Announces

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (UP) Secretary of Agriculture Wallace today apportioned \$135,000,000 to the states for highway improvement and grade crossing elimination.

SHOOTS PLAYMATE BY MISTAKE; TRIES TO END OWN LIFE

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 30. (UP)—Thirteen-year-old J. W. Boone was dead last night and in the next hospital room physicians were afraid to tell his friend, Sonny Wilson, 12, who passed judgment on himself and tried to pay with his own life for young Boone's fatal accident.

STEALS WATER; FINED

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 30.—(UP)—John Brown went to jail yesterday to work out a \$10 fine and costs for stealing water from a city fire hydrant. He told the judge that his family of five had been without water for three weeks and "we had to have it."

DUCE MAY ASK ANOTHER 'BIG FOUR' PARLEY

Mussolini Would Again Press Italian Territorial Claims

WOULD BASE PLEA ON TREATY OF 1915

By STEWART BROWN United Press Staff Correspondent ROME, Dec. 30. (UP)—Informed diplomats believed today that Premier Benito Mussolini might ask Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Great Britain to convene the "big four" of Munich for a discussion of Italy's territorial claims if Chamberlain should refuse to serve as mediator between France and Italy.

Speculation on the possibility of another Munich meeting was reported from Berlin Wednesday, supposedly due to Adolf Hitler's reluctance to step out with forthright support of Italy against France at this time, and similar rumors had been circulating in Paris for two or three weeks.

Diplomats in Rome said that Mussolini, if he should decide to ask another Anglo-Italo-Franco-German conference, would base his request on the London treaty of 1915 which brought Italy into the World war on the side of the Allied powers.

He contends that Italy's territorial aspirations are closely involved with the 1915 treaty since the agreement provided for the "rewards" to be given Italy for her military support of the Allies. There has been lasting bitterness in Italy because it has been felt that the nation was treated fairly in the division of the victors' spoils.

It was reported, however, that before Mr. Duce suggests any four-power meeting he would ask Chamberlain shortly after the British prime minister arrives in Rome January 11 on an "appeasement mission" to serve as mediator in the Italo-French tension.

CLUB INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Kiwanians and Wives Attend Dinner Meet; Hear Magicians

The Kiwanis club installed new officers at a dinner meeting at the Skyland hotel last night, with a large attendance of members and their wives, and applauded a program of magic presented by Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Patton, of Hendersonville, known professionally as The Selywns.

The installation program featured a welcome to committee Mrs. L. A. Blair, Mrs. Albert Drake, Mrs. Reuben, Mrs. F. M. Waters, Mrs. J. G. Bennett and Mrs. G. M. Flanagan. In addition, O. B. Crowell was given an electric razor for having made the highest grade in a "Kiwanis Kwiz" conducted at a recent meeting of the club.

Officers and directors of the club for 1938 are: President, George M. Flanagan; immediate past president, Dr. J. G. Bennett; vice president, E. A. Smyth, 3rd; secretary, A. F. Barber; treasurer, Edward Patterson; directors, L. A. Blair, O. B. Crowell, Dr. F. O. Trotter, Mingus Shipman, Dr. W. B. Wilson, A. H. Houston and F. V. Hunter.

COUNTY SING AT MUD CREEK SUNDAY

The Henderson County Singing convention will meet at the Mud Creek Baptist church on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, it was announced today.

The public is invited to attend, and all singers are especially invited.

Suspected in Blackmailing of Coster



Disbarred lawyer Walter R. Cragg, above, with Joseph Brandino and his sister Mary, right, were arrested in New York on charges of blackmailing "F. Donald Coster" while concealing his true identity as the swindler Philip Musica. Enraged at their arrest, the Brandinos attacked news photographers in the police station. She is pictured as she threw her purse. Then her brother attempted to throw a cuspidor.



DEATH TAKES R. M. JUSTICE

County Native, Age 70, Leaves Widow and Eight Children

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 30. (UP) Word seeped "outside" today that "Pop" Tabor had died and had been buried inside the "home" he refused to leave—the state penitentiary.

"Pop" was 95 and was sent to the penitentiary nearly 30 years ago to serve a life sentence for the murder of a daughter-in-law. He was soon made a trustee and then former Governor Lee Russell pardoned him. "Pop" wandered around out-of-place and disconcerted for three months and returned to beg for his prison uniform. Jail seemed like "home" to him, he said.

The oldest prisoner in the penitentiary refused two other pardons before he died.

MRS. METCALF, PENROSE, DIES

Death Follows That of Husband by Only Four Days

Mrs. Alfred Metcalf, 80, of Penrose, Transylvania county, died last night at midnight at Lyday Memorial hospital, Brevard, after an illness of about 10 days.

Her death came only four days after the death of her husband on Monday. Funeral services will be held at the Little River Baptist church on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, and burial will follow in the family cemetery nearby. Rev. Sherman Patterson, pastor, will be in charge of the services.

Mercury Drops To 32 Below In North Dakota

Cold Wave Is Losing Its Force as It Moves Eastward

BY UNITED PRESS Winter dealt another severe blow Thursday to midwestern states still "punch-drunk" from the first onslaught of snow and sub-zero temperatures.

Temperatures plummeted to a minimum of 32 below zero at Minnetonka, N. D., and Bemidji, Minn., center of a cold mass of Arctic-born air moving slowly eastward from the Rockies. Forecaster J. R. Lloyd said the winter's second cold wave would reach Michigan, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana by Friday, but would lose some of its force before striking the eastern states Saturday.

Pop Tabor Dies In Pen That He Wouldn't Quit

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 30. (UP) Word seeped "outside" today that "Pop" Tabor had died and had been buried inside the "home" he refused to leave—the state penitentiary.

"Pop" was 95 and was sent to the penitentiary nearly 30 years ago to serve a life sentence for the murder of a daughter-in-law. He was soon made a trustee and then former Governor Lee Russell pardoned him. "Pop" wandered around out-of-place and disconcerted for three months and returned to beg for his prison uniform. Jail seemed like "home" to him, he said.

5 NOW HELD IN SWINDLE

Alleged "Finger Man" of Coster Blackmailing Included

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (UP)—Two more persons charged with blackmailing F. Donald Coster, swindler drug magnate who actually was Philip Musica, ex-convict, were arrested last night by post office inspectors and police, bringing to five the total so far seized on orders of Gregory F. Noonan, acting U. S. attorney.

One of those arrested under the extortion section of the Lindbergh Act was said by federal authorities to have been the "finger man" for the entire gang. He was Michael Petrillo, 41, of Brooklyn, which made McKesson & Robbins out to the others who had been arrested for blackmail in threatening Coster with exposure of his past.

The other person, seized later last night, was Joseph Parascandola, 57, of Brooklyn, represented as having been a minor figure of the group.

Petrillo was described as a former partner in the Adelphi Drug Co. He was said to have entered the firm after Coster left it to begin his amazing rise to eminence in the drug field through mergers which made McKesson & Robbins the world's third largest drug firm. Although federal agents have said that at least eight persons blackmailed Coster, threatening him with exposure of his past, so far only three others in addition to Petrillo have been arrested.

Petrillo, like them, is to be charged with extortion under a section of the Lindbergh Act which gives the federal government jurisdiction over blackmail cases in which the mails are used. He will be arraigned today before a U. S. commissioner.

The others arrested were Walter Cragg, disbarred lawyer and ex-convict, and Joseph and Mary Brandino, brother and sister. They were seized upon information given by Benjamin Simon, under arrest, who said he acted as go-between for Coster in making payments to the blackmailers.

Federal investigation of the case is to be pushed further Tuesday when a special sitting on the grand jury will be empowered to hear all phases of the McKesson & Robbins case. First order of business for the grand jury is to be testimony by representatives of (Continued on page three)

WARDOGS OF TWO NATIONS STANDING BY

One-Sided Battle Waged Beneath Heavy Guns of Fortress

INSURGENT SHELLS FALL IN VILLAGE

HENDAYE, Dec. 30.—(UP)—Spanish nationalist troops, fighting in a temperature of 18 degrees above zero, today stormed and captured Collada Heights, north of Montech, to cut the important Artea-Benavent highway.

Five hundred loyalist prisoners were captured, the communiqués asserted.

A loyalist communique issued at Barcelona asserted that republican troops in a strong counter-attack had recaptured Vertices Abates in the sector further south.

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 30. (UP)—British and French warships guarded Spanish loyalist destroyer Jose Luis Diez today as it lay grounded at Gibraltar. Beside it lay the nationalist destroyer Jupiter, which it rammed when crippled from gunfire from seven insurgent warships. Three British subjects were wounded by nationalist shells which struck the village of Catalan Bay during the fight. Guns of the great rock, the impregnable British fortress, fired blank shots as warnings and full gun crews stood by ready to fire shells if necessary.

The battle occurred beneath the heavy guns of Britain's fortress here, which fired several blank shots in warning when an insurgent warship entered British territorial waters during the engagement. The entire British garrison was called to posts.

Several insurgent shells fell in the British village of Catalan Bay, wounding three British citizens and damaging the breakwater and several cottages.

One insurgent shell struck the forecastle of the Jose Luis Diez killing four members of the crew and wounding 11. The Diez landed two men killed by splinters and several of her wounded.

Two British and one French destroyers rushed to the scene of the battle and when the Diez grounded near Catalan Bay, in British territory, took up positions nearby and began rescue operations by the lift-off searchlights. The Diez did not appear to be damaged seriously.

The British and French destroyers did not allow the insurgent warships, watchfully cruising about four miles off shore, to approach the Diez.

According to one of the wounded landed from the Diez, most of his ship's casualties were due to explosion of a machine gun while it was firing at an insurgent ship. The Diez, which had been awaiting an opportunity to rejoin other loyalist warships at Almeria or Valencia, made her dash at 1 a. m. in darkness but was unable to escape the watching insurgent warships which had been cruising off the bay since before Christmas.

All of Gibraltar reverberated with the roar of the guns and residents flocked to vantage points from which they watched the flashes.

The Jose Luis Diez, of 2,087 tons displacement with full load, was built 10 years ago at Cartagena. Insurgent authorities recently protested without avail, her refitting and repair in a French port.

INSURGENTS CLAIM CAPTURE OF 'LINE'

HENDAYE, Franco-Spanish Frontier, Dec. 30. (UP)—Insurgent headquarters last night claimed the complete capture of the government's "little Maginot line" along the Segre river near Balaguer, where Gen. Francisco Franco's crack mercenary force smashed through four lines of steel and concrete fortifications.

Wife Of Rich Oil Man Plunges 35 Floors To Death

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (UP)—Eluding the watchful eyes of her nurse for an instant, Mrs. Miriam Marve Reiber, 55, wife of Torikid Reiber, multi-millionaire chairman of the boards of The Texas Co. and the Texas Corp., plunged to death today from a window of her luxurious 35th floor apartment overlooking Central Park.

Mrs. Reiber had been suffering from a nervous ailment for two months.

Weather forecast: Low temperature last night—29 degrees. THURSDAY Maximum—35 degrees. Minimum—19 degrees. Mean—27 degrees. Day's range—16 degrees. Rainfall—.04 inch. Normal mean temperature for December—39.3 degrees. Rainfall to date—2.82 inches. Normal rainfall—5.46 inches.