

Sunshine and hot with widely scattered showers tonight. Friday widely scattered showers and not as warm in mountains and northern points.



"MISS DUNN" WOVES 'EM — Pretty Miss Becky Lee, who is representing Dunn in the Miss North Carolina Beauty Pageant, is shown here last night at Burlington as she did her clever "Deadwood Stage" act. The Dunn beauty, shown here perched on the stagecoach, received a big ovation. Many from Dunn will be in Burlington tonight and again Saturday night to root for Miss Lee. (Daily Record Photo by John Lewis of Lewis Studio.)

## Explosions At Two Fireworks Plants Kill Nine; 50 Hurt

### Severe Drought Is Broken By Welcome Rains

RALEIGH (AP) — General rains advancing behind a storm front broke a five-week drought over most of North Carolina last night and "saved" the multi-million dollar tobacco crop of the Middle and Old belts.

Violent thunderstorms accompanied by high winds raked sections of the state. In Raleigh, which reeled under tornadic winds, power was knocked out over most of the city and damage was widespread.

Raleigh-Durham Airport recorded nearly three inches of rain during the night. Other rain amounts were lighter, but crop officials said it was a "blessing" to farmers.

Tobacco crops in the Middle and Old belts were in the critical stage because of the drought, and experts had said yesterday that good rains were needed immediately to prevent heavy losses.

#### NO DEATHS

There were no deaths directly attributed to the storms. A 66-year-old Roxboro man died of a heart attack at the height of the storm there.

In Western North Carolina lightning struck the peak of 3,200-foot Jump Off Mountain near Hendersonville where 70 youngsters from a religious camp were having a picnic. Three were admitted to a hospital but were not believed injured seriously.

Gusts of wind clocked up to 18 miles an hour struck Charlotte which reported 2.1 inches of rain.

An Air National Guard plane became lost but made a safe landing on a highway near Albemarle.

### 'Miss Alaska'



CHARLEIN LANDER, 18, of Fairbanks, who won the title "Miss Alaska," is shown on her arrival at San Francisco, en route to Long Beach to compete in the "Miss Universe" contest. She is a redhead with 34-23-35 measurements. (International Photography)

### Entire Town Threatened In Maryland

CHESTERTOWN, Md. (AP) — A series of "atomic-like" blasts demolished a fireworks and munitions plant today and for a time threatened this community of 3,200 persons with destruction by fire.

Some 4-1-2 hours after the explosions started, the Red Cross estimated six to eight persons dead, 12 missing, and 50 injured. It said only four of the injured were still in the hospital. Civil defense officials said six to eight bodies had been recovered. They could not be certain of the exact number because some had been torn apart by blast.

CHICAGO UP — An explosion and fire wrecked a fireworks plant at suburban Schiller Park today, and three men were killed.

The plant, operated by the Kent Manufacturing Co., employed 200 to 300 persons.

Police were evacuating residents of this Eastern Shore town of 3,000 persons across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Queen Anne County, Md.

Extreme Heat

Because of the extreme heat generated by the explosives-fed fires and the danger of further blasts, authorities said it was "impossible at first to get into the disaster area for rescue purposes."

For the same reason, no early count could be made of possible dead.

The plant made explosives and fireworks devices for the Army to simulate the sound and smoke and fire of battle during maneuvers.

As blast followed blast, powdered fires threatened to engulf the town.

Fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, and relief workers were rushed to the scene from as far away as Baltimore and Washington. Witnesses said the blasts sent an "atomic-like cloud" swirling over the community at 12:35 a.m. EDT.

First reports said injured were being treated at the Queen Anne's Hospital in Chestertown. But a state policeman said at 12:30 p.m. that "we've heard of none being taken to any hospital."

He said it was impossible to "get near the plant because there are explosions still going on."

### Tree Problem Is Discussed

Trees, shrubs and bushes planted on Dunn parking strips in the future will become the property of the Town, the local City Council decided last night.

In a form letter prepared to be sent to persons planting such shrubs, the Council warned that the Town will remove everything placed on parking strips in the future after giving 10 days notice.

The problem came to light after the Board received complaints for removing shrubs from parking strips.

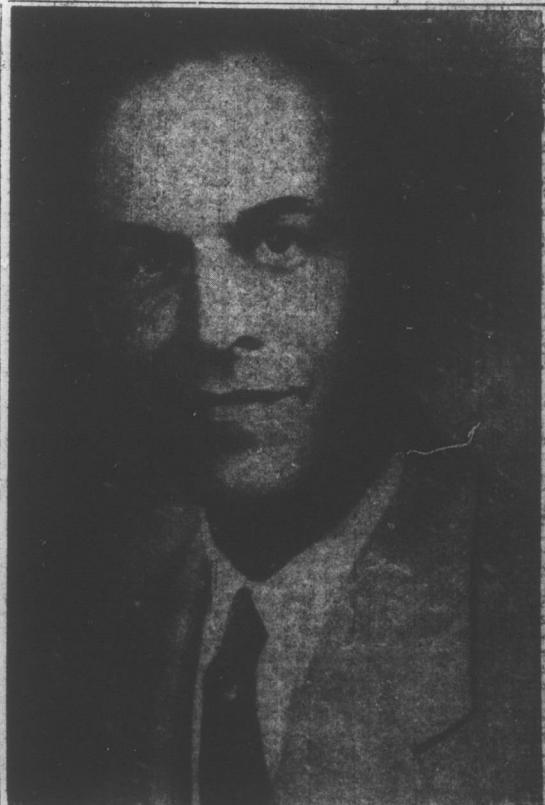
Last night the Council turned down a claim of \$155 presented by Mrs. Mankie Hodges for shrubs and trees removed from the parking strip in front of her home at the corner of East Divine and South Railroad Avenue.

Mrs. Hodges said she knew the shrubs were on the street when she planted them, but thought she would be given an opportunity to move them.

Workers of the Public Works Department told the Board that the occupants of Mrs. Hodges' home were contacted and they told them to take the plants and destroy them.

"There was no plan to plant them," the workers said, "as we know them."

In turning down the \$155 claim, the Board warned that future planting on the parking strips will not be allowed. "After all, the town property," the Councilman stated.



EDWARD F. CARROLL

## Carroll Is Named Chamber Manager

Members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors today announced the appointment of Edward F. Carroll, 52, Mount Olive, to succeed Norman J. Suttles as manager of the local Chamber.

Carroll, a native of Natural Bridge, Va., where he was born in 1902, has been manager of the Mount Olive Chamber of Commerce since September, 1951.

Suttles announced his resignation recently and will be leaving Dunn August 1, to assume management of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

Carroll is a graduate of Northwestern University, the LaSalle Extension University, traffic management division, and has attended classes for commercial organization executives at Chapel Hill.

In Mount Olive, Carroll was a member of the Rotary Club, director of Civil Defense, an explorer advisor in the Boy Scouts, an active member in the P.T.A. He is a 32nd degree Mason.

Prior to going into Chamber of Commerce work, Carroll had served in the transportation field. He was a Greyhound Line agent in New York from 1927 to 1940; with the passenger department of Pennsylvania Railroad in New York following that; and in 1943 joined the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad as a

manager. (Continued On Page Two)

## Even Fields Aren't Safe From Autos

Even the quiet tobacco fields apparently aren't safe from highway accidents.

Walter Johnson, 75-year-old Harnett farmer, today was reported in a serious condition at Rex Hospital in Raleigh after a motorist ran off the highway and struck him while he worked in the field.

Corporal Remmie Williamson of the highway patrol said Johnson suffered a fractured shoulder, severe shock and other injuries.

The accident occurred about 12:00 o'clock, three miles east of Angier. The officer said Billy Ray Johnson, 18, of Angier, was heading north and started into the intersection of Highway 210 when a tractor operated by Walter J. Broadwater of Angier, Route 1, started across.

(Continued On Page Two)

## City Manager Sets \$430,000 Budget

City Manager A. B. Usle last night presented City Council with a budget calling for expenditures of a round \$430,000 with a proposed tax rate of \$1.60 per hundred valuation.

Since only Mayor Ralph Hanna, J. Leon Codwin, and E. A. Stacey were able to attend the meeting, a special budget session was set for Tuesday evening of next week at 7:30. Meanwhile, the City Manager asked Board members to study the proposal he has made and be ready to discuss the budget at the special meeting next week.

FIVE-CENT CUT

## Becky Given Big Ovation At Pageant

BURLINGTON — Becky Lee, Dunn's entry in the "Miss North Carolina" beauty pageant in Burlington this week, is one of the top beauties entered, and received a big ovation in the talent contest here last night.

Jaycee President Hubert Peay stated this morning that while Miss Lee did not place first in talent, she received as much applause as any of the candidates.

Miss Lee was among the one-third who presented their talent last night, but did not take part in the modeling of the bathing suit. She will be presented in the bathing suit tonight, and is scheduled to participate in a huge beauty parade in Burlington this afternoon.

Norman J. Suttles and Woody Myers left Dunn this morning to assist with arrangements this afternoon. Myers was scheduled to drive for Miss Lee in the parade.

GIRLS TIED

Out of the third taking part in the bathing suit modeling last night, Judges could not decide whether Miss Fayetteville or Miss Lexington looked more beautiful.

The two girls, Betty Jo Ring of Lexington and Joyce Turnage of Fayetteville, each was awarded top honor in the first night's bathing suit division. The judges awarded first place in the talent division to Anne Davis Hancock of Salisbury, who played "The Warsaw Concerto."

No winner was announced in the evening gown competition. Eleven girls were entered in each of the three divisions. Finals in the contest will be Saturday night.

## Muscles and Mae

Miss West will be backed in her act by a squadron of handsome youths, including muscle king Dick DuBois, Mr. America of 1954. But she will not try to out-do Mariens Dietrich and Terry Moore with a daring gown.

"I don't have to do it with clothes," she said. "I'll outdo them all in another way—with my own (Continued On Page Two)

## Bomber Damaged In Air Crash

BOSTON (UP) — A B-29 bomber with nine men aboard was damaged in the air over Cape Cod today in a close brush with two jet planes.

Crew members of the B-29, which later made an emergency landing at Logan Airport, said they did not know whether their craft collided with one of the other planes or whether it was hit by a falling object from one of them.

(Continued On Page Two)

## Lasater Funeral Services Today

Robert Edward Lasater, prominent tobaccoist of Winston-Salem, died yesterday in Winston-Salem. He was 86 years old.

Lasater has a number of relatives living in Harnett County including four brothers.

The prominent Winston-Salem resident had been in poor health for the past year and had been seriously ill for the past five weeks. He resigned as vice president in charge of manufacturing at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in 1947.

A native of Raleigh, Lasater was born in December, 1867, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Gilbert Lasater. Most of his youth was spent in Sanford. When he first went to Winston-Salem he was employed by P. H. Hanes Company, but in 1901 joined Reynolds Tobacco Company.

His wife, the former Nancy M. Lybrook of Stuart, Va., who he married in 1901, died in November of 1952.

In addition to being an outstanding layman in the Episcopal Church of the State, Lasater had served as president of the chamber (Continued On Page Six)

## Drive-In Mail Service Slated

There are drive-in theaters, drive-in churches, and so Dunn's City Council saw no reason last night why there should not be a drive-in mail box.

The Board voted to approve a suggestion of Postmaster Ralph Wade that Dunn have a drive-in box for drivers to drop their mail in. The box will be located in front of the Post Office here.

Councilman felt the drive-in box would help to relieve parking spaces in front of the Post Office.

## + Record Roundup +

ENNIS REUNION — The annual Ennis Family reunion will be held Sunday, July 18 at the Primitive Zion Church located on Dunn, Route three. The picnic dinner will begin at 10 o'clock with the general get-together to begin at 10 o'clock.

VACATION SET — City Council last night set vacations for city employees at one week, with the exception of the police, who will receive 10 days on a work-it-out plan. During summer months, the police work seven days a week.

BUDGET SESSION — The Town Board will meet Tuesday evening at 7:30 to complete the 1954-55 budget.

REDS AVAILABLE — Persons interested in going to the Beauty Pageant at Burlington are requested to contact Norman J. Suttles

## Harnett Farmer Ends His Life

Harvey Braxton West, 62-year-old farmer of Dunn, Route 3, shot himself to death Friday morning at his farm in the Antioch Church section.

Assistant Harnett Coroner Ed Black, who investigated, ruled that it was a plain case of suicide and no inquest was held.

Mr. Black said the shooting occurred about 10 o'clock in a barn. (Continued on Page Six)

## CRITICALLY HURT

Glenn White, well-known Dunn business man, was critically injured this afternoon about 3 o'clock near the Milage School. White was brought to Dunn Hospital and then rushed to Duke at Durham. Doctors said there was little hope for his recovery. Details of the accident were not available immediately.

## Drive-In Mail Service Slated

There are drive-in theaters, drive-in churches, and so Dunn's City Council saw no reason last night why there should not be a drive-in mail box.

The Board voted to approve a suggestion of Postmaster Ralph Wade that Dunn have a drive-in box for drivers to drop their mail in. The box will be located in front of the Post Office here.

Councilman felt the drive-in box would help to relieve parking spaces in front of the Post Office.

## MUSICAL VARIETTES SCHEDULED

Mrs. Reta Whittenton, director of the program, Musical Varieties, heard each week day at three o'clock over Radio Station WOKB, has announced her schedule for next week. The programs will feature on Monday, Mrs. Whittenton at the organ; Tuesday, Mrs. Susan Black, vocal soloists; Wednesday, Mrs. Whittenton at the organ; Thursday, Mrs. Ed Wade, vocal soloists; and on Friday, Miss Vicki Upchurch and Miss Big Bank, vocalists.

## FIRE

The local Fire Department was called to the home of Isaac Wilson, yesterday afternoon at 5:45 when an oil cook stove flared up. The contents were (Continued On Page Two)

## These Little Things

By ROOBER ADAMS

### DUNN YOUTHS MEET FERRER AND HEPBURN

Exum Kirby and Robert Hodges, two well-known Dunn youths, are back from New York with some fond memories, some rich experiences and also some valuable autographs.

They took in all the bright spots and did what few people ever have an opportunity to do. They attended the glittering world premiere of "About Mr. Leslie."

It was during the first week in July. Among the hits of the legitimate theatre they saw on Broadway were: "Ondine," "Kismet" and "Celtic Can."

They met and talked with Audrey Hepburn, the current Academy Award winner, and Mel Ferrer, both of whom signed autographs for them.

Exum and Robert also took in the Ziegfeld Follies and Guy Lombardo's new extravaganza at Jones Beach, "Arabian Nights."

The biggest thrill for Exum was attending the premiere of "About Mr. Leslie." At the premiere, they saw dozens of Hollywood's greats including Shirley Booth, Barry Sullivan, Phil Silvers and others. They saw the traditional red carpet rolled out for the stars to tread on.

(Continued on page six)

## Highway Deaths In Harnett Are Lower

Traffic fatalities and accidents in Harnett County for the past six months have been far less than for the same period last year according to a report made today by Opl. Remmie Williamson of the Highway Patrol.

So far this year only eight persons have met their death on the County's highways against 13 for the same months last year.

Property damage has also shown a drop below the total for the

first six months of 1953, the report showed. Total damages this year have been \$29,890 against \$38,910 for 1953.

In addition to the deaths this year, 80 persons have been injured in 147 accidents investigated by the highway patrol. Of the eight fatalities, four occurred in one accident near the city limits of Lillington. Five of the 146 accidents have been fatal.

(Continued On Page Two)