

WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness, mild and becoming rather windy today. Thursday clearing and cooler, preceded by showers near the coast.

The Daily Record

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VOLUME 5

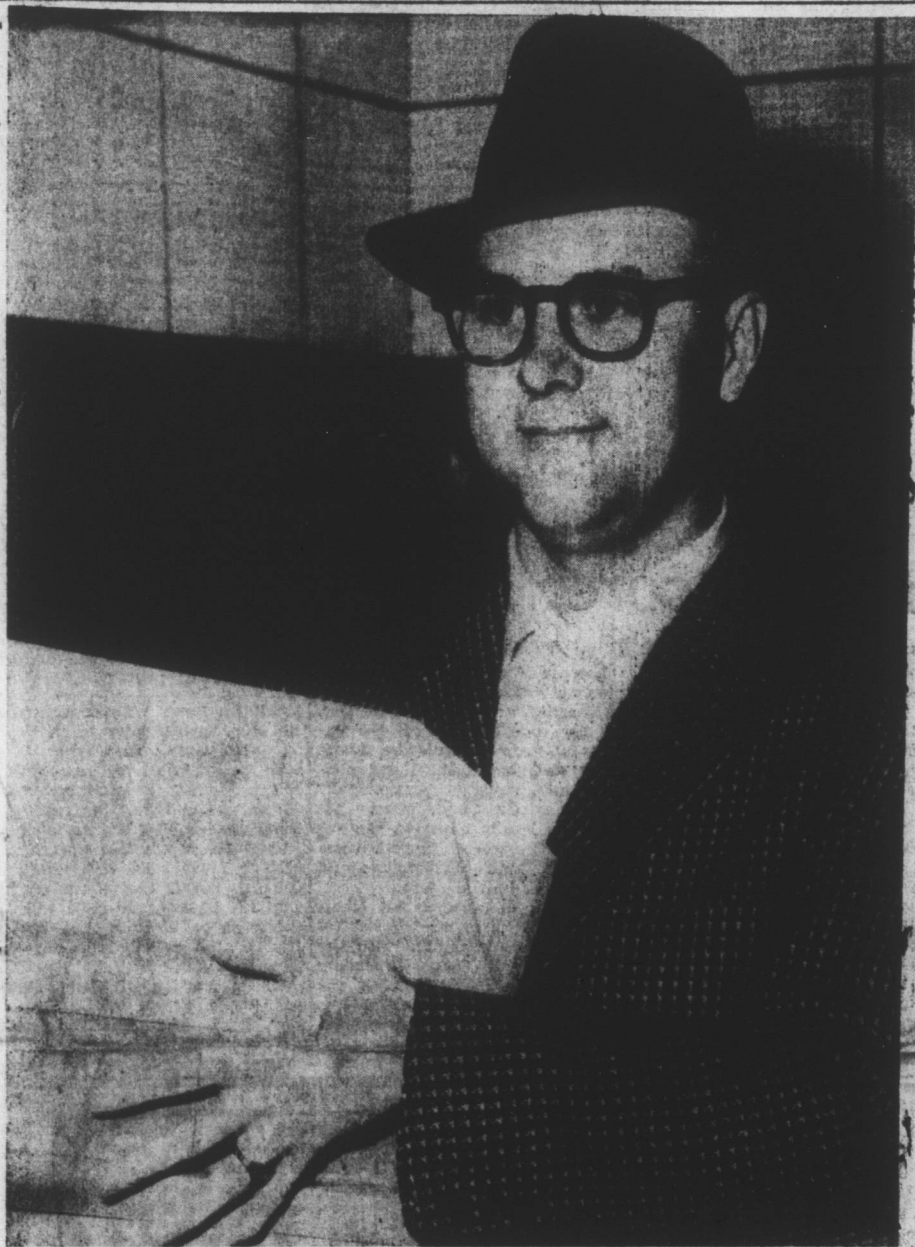
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DUNN, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 23, 1955

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NO. 252

OFFICERS TESTIFY AGAINST ROSS



"SANTA STEVE" WITH \$62,927 FOR CHRISTMAS CLUB MEMBERS — The Commercial Bank of Dunn has no Santa Baby, but it has a live-wire cashier named J. N. Stephenson and Steve is shown here loaded down with checks for members of the bank's Christmas Savings Club members. He was on his way to the bank to mail the checks when this picture was made. The bank's club has grown from a modest beginning to its

present size of about 900 members. This year's total of \$62,927 is an increase of \$12,900 over last year. The club continues to grow each year in members, dollars and popularity. The Commercial Bank, founded in 1919, operates the club without profit as a community service. Steve adds a word of advice to members: "Do your Christmas shopping in your hometown stores." (Daily Record Photo.)

Coats Resident Misses Curve, Killed In Wreck

Five hundred yards from his home, Joseph Tart missed a curve and went head-on into a tree and was killed, his neck broken and his body pinned in the wreckage.

The 37-year-old white man, a resident of Coats, Route 1, wrecked on the road between Coats and Bailey Crossroads at 4:30 a. m. this morning.

Wedgeed deeply in the almost completely demolished remains of his 1952 Pontiac, Tart's body had to be removed with the aid of a wrecker.

Highway Patrolman Paul Alberghine investigated. Coroner Grover Henderson said there would be no need for an inquest. This brings to 23 the number of fatal accidents in Harnett County this year.

Tart is survived by a wife and two children.

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SWEDEN AND LOVELY—Actress Anita Ekberg poses provocatively for photographers after arriving in Stockholm, Sweden. It was the first visit home since 1951 for the Swedish beauty who made good in Hollywood. Anita came to the U.S. after winning the title of "Miss Sweden."

Record Will Publish On Thanksgiving

The Daily Record will publish on Thursday as usual and Crafton Tart's Open Air Market will continue selling food around the clock because it never closes.

But for practically all other business firms and offices in Dunn and throughout Harnett, Thanksgiving will be a holiday.

All city, county and other governmental offices will be closed. There is a possibility, however, that Superior Court will continue in session with the trial of County Solicitor Neill Ross.

A union service of three local churches, Methodist, Christian and Baptist, will be held tonight at 7:30 o'clock at Hood Memorial Christian Church in Dunn. Other churches have announced separate services.

Collections Rise For United Fund

Around \$22,000—almost 60 percent of a near-\$35,000 quota—has been reached in United Fund collections. Executive Secretary Margaret Warren reported this morning.

More names are being added to the honor roll of businesses whose employees are contributing, 100 percent strong, to the combined campaign.

Four United Fund workers—Paul Walker, Raymond Cromartie, Fred Byerly, and Wayne Justesen—are delivering talks on the need for United Fund solicitation.

Currently on the honor roll are the Machine and Welding Co., Carolina Cleaners, Howard M. Lee Furniture, First Citizens Bank and Trust and the Installment Loan Dept. of that bank, WCKB, Roman Mattress Co., Carolina Power and Light, Colonial Frozen Food

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Say Solicitor Was Drunk; Dropped Case

Two highway patrolmen and a rural policeman swore positively in Harnett Superior Court today that County Solicitor Neill McK. Ross had been intoxicated on several occasions while trying to conduct court affairs.

Other witnesses swore that a case of drunken driving was not pressed by Ross without giving witnesses a chance to be heard.

District Solicitor Jack Hooks began his parade of nearly 40 witnesses against the prominent Harnett political leader and former State Representative this morning after Ernest Moore of East Erwin was seated as the 13th and alternate juror.

The State is attempting to prove that Solicitor Ross is guilty of four counts of misconduct in office alleged against him a bill of indictment returned against him by the grand jury after months of investigation.

The bill of particulars charges Ross with numerous instances of public drunkenness and with more than 50 instances of dropping court cases without reason and with making deals with defendant or their agents.

State Highway Patrolmen Paul Lucas and Paul Alberghine and Rural Policeman Walker O'Quinn were the officers who swore to Ross' alleged intoxication in court.

O'Quinn, declaring that he had known Ross for 25 years, swore that he was under the influence of whiskey on June 7 and June 23 and August 30 of this year.

Solicitor Hooks asked O'Quinn to tell the court on what grounds he based his opinion that Ross was drunk.

O'Quinn replied: "The odor of alcohol on his breath, his face was flushed and his speech was sluggish."

On cross-examination by Chief Defense Counsel James R. Nance, however, the officer admitted that Ross was not staggering drunk and said his face normally tended to be red.

Patrolman Lucas said Ross was intoxicated "three or four months ago," but said he couldn't remember.

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SOLICITOR NEILL ROSS — Leaving court yesterday

Owner Thought Dog Had Swallowed Bone

Another mad dog was discovered in Harnett County this morning. His owner, Elbert F. Thornton of Erwin, brought him to the pet hospital in Dunn thinking he had a bone in his throat.

Dr. Belmont Kittrell, veterinarian, took one look at the four-month-old black and tan beagle hound and diagnosed rabies. The Thornton's pet will probably die by tomorrow.

Thornton told Dr. Kittrell's assistant, Lois Jordan, that yesterday the dog had approached him as though it needed help. It had not tried to bite him, and didn't today.

Tortured by the disease within, the young beagle twisted, yowled and snapped as it was transferred from the hospital to a small boxed cage and taken by Earl Wells, county dog warden, to the pound, where it will die.

Just yesterday another pet was brought in which Dr. Kittrell believed to have rabies. It has already died and the head is being taken to Raleigh for examination in the state diagnostic office.

E. W. Williams, who lives on Erwin Road, is the owner of the dog which died. It was a stray befriended by his family two years ago. The dog's lower jaw dropped on Monday, and Williams, too, thought there was "a bone in its throat."

Neither dog had bit anyone, but both had apparently been bitten

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White Man Guilty Of Raping Negro

CROWLEY, La. (AP) — An all-white male jury convicted a young white father of three children of attempted rape of a Negro woman, reportedly the first case of its kind in Louisiana history.

Sterling Trahan, a local rice mill supervisor, will be sentenced later this week by Judge Smith Hoffpauir. The jury's verdict was "guilty of attempted simple rape," for which the maximum penalty is 10 years.

The alleged attempt took place August 14.

Opening in district court yesterday morning, the trial continued throughout the day and late into the night. The jury returned its verdict about 2 a. m. today.

Except for the two policemen who had taken the defendant in charge in August, all witnesses for the prosecution were Negroes. Defense witnesses were the accused and his young wife.

Benson Asks Public Aid

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson today appealed to "everyone" for help in solving the nation's farm problems.

Benson made his broad appeal in a speech prepared for the 89th annual convention of the National Grange.

"I ask everyone of you — both here at this National Grange meeting and home by your radios — to send me your ideas about solutions to the problems we face," Benson said. "Every suggestion will be considered and every letter will receive a personal answer."

"We will listen to any suggestions — from any source — except the suggestion that would turn back to the programs that helped create our present difficult problems."

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County Educo Club Meets At Angier

Harnett County school masters heard a program on Monday night at the Angier school cafeteria on the high school vocational education program.

Majority of the county's men teachers attended the monthly meeting of the Educo Club which had a dinner session at 6:30 p. m. preceding the program. C. H. Hood of Lillington, new president, presided, and Coyte Lanier of Buie's Creek served as secretary.

Roger Johnson, principal of the Lillington School, speaking from a platform, outlined the importance of vocational education. He stressed the need of increasing and expanding vocational services. Johnson cited the value of commercial departments to students and the community employers alike.

Johnson was followed on the panel discussion by Jeff Denny, Dunn vocational agriculture teacher.

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Cleo Stops Show At Guys & Dolls

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Working as a United Press photographer last night's star-studded premier of "Guys and Dolls," glamour girl Cleo Moore stopped the show cold. Celebrities stepped aside while the working press took pictures of Cleo.

The blonde screen siren appeared for her assignment wearing a strapless gold lame gown with a plunging neckline — the most glamorous photographer in United Press history. She clocked off 24 pictures of Movietown's guys and dolls parading into the Paramount Theater. Each time a star-laden limousine pulled to the curb, policemen cleared the crowd away for Cleo to take her pictures. No fotoz ever had it so good.

"I got all the pictures I wanted," Cleo said triumphantly. "There must have been three dozen other photographers there, but the stars didn't hesitate when they asked them to stand still for a shot."

"When I asked they stared in a kind of disbelief-like shock. While they gaped, I snapped their pictures."

Stars on Cleo's click list were John Wayne, Stewart Granger, Jeanne Crain, Bill Holden, Lana Turner and Lex Barker, Deborah Kerr, and the picture's stars, Frank Sinatra, Jean Simmons and Vivian Blaine.

Cleo was backed up by United Press photographer Carlos Schiebeck who said she needed very little advice.

"I was using a Roliflex with flash equipment," Cleo explained professionally. She gained her ex-

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CLEO MOORE

Record Roundup

UNION SERVICE — Following a custom of long standing among Lillington churches a union Thanksgiving service will be held tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 p. m. at the Methodist Church. The host pastor, the Rev. E. C. Shoaf will preside and the Thanksgiving sermon will be preached by Dr. David A. Huffines, Jr., Presbyterian minister. The music will be the responsibility of the Baptist Church Choir under the direction of Mrs. L. C. Pinnix. Offering taken will go to the orphanages of the three denominations represented.

CORN SHUCK FIRE — Lillington firemen answered a call around 11:30 a. m. Tuesday at the Lillington Roller Mills where flames destroyed the small 15 by 20 foot shuck house at the rear of the big flour and feed mills. The house, made of metal, burned but the hay baler which was in action baling shucks, was pulled to safety. Not were adjoining big mills injured. Owners Neeli and Leon Kelly said that sparks from the exhaust on the gasoline engine of the baler ignited loose shucks, setting fire to the house and destroying several

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What Price Dames? Asks This Prince

PARIS — The six concubines of Prince Alexandre Douala Manga Bell were allowed by a French court today to keep \$6,500 worth of shorts and summer dresses.

But the prince's bank accounts and his \$600-a-month salary as representative of the French Cameroons in the National Assembly were impounded by a French judge, who ruled it was about time the prince paid his bills.

The 35-year-old prince has a "habit of not paying attention to

bills," the court was told by lawyers for a famous French tailor.

Douala runs up bills at the National Assembly's bar, for instance, and the French government has to pay them—and reimburses itself by selling a few acres of the prince's land in the Cameroons the lawyers said.

The French tailor whose patrons include the Duke of Windsor, said the \$6,500 bill was run up over the past two years by the prince, who

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SIDELIGHTS AT THE ROSS TRIAL

Trial And Personalities

By TED CRAIL
Record Staff Writer

A small trial destined to become a big trial reveals it. In most city courts, and often in Superior Court, cases after case is pushed so hurriedly through the mills of justice that no-one, yeast of all the spectators, can be quite sure of what has happened.

The Ross trial, which started in Lillington yesterday, and the case of Judge Lee, which may be tried at another time, are not sliding by in such peremptory fashion. As the trial began, it was apparent that every word of every person — the least answer of a prospective juror — was to be weighed and reweighed by defense, state, and spectators.

"GET 'EM OUT" — As the state finished its first round of challenges and seated twelve jurors, a spectator tapped a reporter on the shoulder and said, "Ross better get some of those fellows (the jurors) out of there. They won't be no aid to him."

Hardly a juror could be found

who had not heard the case discussed or taken part in a discussion. One of them said that at his service station. We've already tried the case, had it won, and sentence passed." Later excused, this juror must have caused Ross to wonder, as he passed a few feet from him, what the sentence was.

REMARKABLY AT EASE — The accused solicitor, more familiar to the prosecution of a case than in its defense, seemed remarkably at ease as the long job of jury-chosing went on. He leaned back in his chair behind counsel, frowned and smiled and talked to

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