

# THANKSGIVING 1955

## WEATHER

Clearing and colder today with highest ranging from 40s mountains to 60s along coast. Colder at night. Friday increasing cloudiness and cold.

# The Daily Record

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VOLUME 5

TELEPHONES 3117-3118

DUNN, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 24, 1955

FIVE CENTS PER COPY

NO. 253

# WITNESSES SAY ROSS REDUCED CHARGE



Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

—Psalm 65, St. James

BEFRIENDED BY DUNN BUSINESS MAN

## "Ex-Con, Hardened Criminal," Robbery Expert Gets Chance

Thanks to the mercy and kind-heartedness of Superior Court Judge George Fountain and the help of a friend, a Dunn man who has already spent 15 of the 37 years of his life in prison and who long ago was given up as a hopeless, hardened criminal today had a chance to make good.

He has a lot to be thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day.

David Stephenson, who very frankly told the court that he is an expert at breaking and entering and robbery and admitted that he has already served five different terms in prison, was convicted by a jury on a new charge of breaking and entering last week in Harnett Superior Court.

A friend, Harold Willford, 19, also of Dunn was caught with Stephenson at the scene of the crime and was convicted with him. They

were charged with breaking and attempting to enter Rodney Chestnut's beer parlor on SoSouth Railroad Avenue.

**ARRESTED AT SCENE**  
When police arrived, they found Stephens on and Willford at the back door, the glass of which had already been knocked out.

But Stephenson took the witness stand and insisted he was innocent of the crime.

"I know how to break into a

place and I've broken into a lot of them" the ex-convict freely told the jurors. "And I have never denied a crime when I was guilty. I always pleaded guilty before and took my medicine. This time I'm innocent. I didn't do it."

**RECORDED AGAINST HIM**  
But Stephenson's record was against him. He had been convicted on numerous counts of ordinary theft, petty larceny and grand larceny.

(Continued On Page Four)

## Russia Seeks Pledge On Atom Weapons

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP) — Russia, which recently staged its biggest hydrogen bomb explosion, called upon the Big Four powers today to pledge "not to be the first to use atomic or thermonuclear weapons against any country."

Soviet Delegate Arkady A. Sobolev made the proposal to an extraordinary Thanksgiving Day session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

Rejecting Western disarmament plans and accusing the United States of "sideshow" the problem of arms reduction, Sobolev repeated the views put forward at Geneva earlier this month by Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav M. Molotov.

**"SIDESTEPS THE QUESTION"**  
Russia, Sobolev said, is ready to consider President Eisenhower's "open skies" inspection proposal "favorably" if it is incorporated as a basic part of an overall disarmament program.

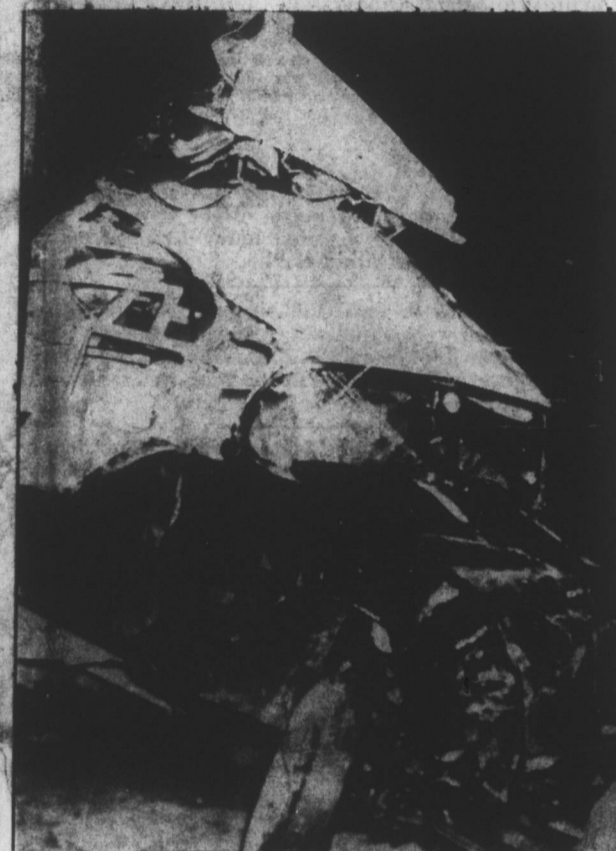
But, he added, "We note that the proposal of President Eisenhower sidesteps the question of the reduction of arms and the prohibition of atomic weapons."

## Rita And Aly Want Divorce Recognized

PARIS, (AP) — Rita Hayworth and Prince Aly Khan petitioned a French court today to recognize Rita's Nevada divorce from him.

In so doing, they revealed Aly is paying \$8,000 a year for the support of their daughter Yasmin. In return he gets custody of the 5-year-old Yasmin for at least six weeks a year.

The court will make its ruling Dec. 14. It was expected to approve the request.



FOUR LEAP TO SAFETY BEFORE TRAIN HIT — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hedrick McHargue and two children leaped to safety last night about 40 o'clock just before an Atlantic Coast Line train completely demolished their 1955 Pontiac at the Cumberland Street crossing in Dunn. McHargue, a military policeman from Fort Monroe, Virginia, got caught in the safety gates and headed northward down the track and attempted to cut across in front of Pope Printing Company. Policemen K. M. Fall said his two rear wheels caught on the track when the front end dropped and this demolition job resulted. He could easily have skirted around or even through the wooden gates, but said he thought they were the steel type gates that completely crossed the tracks. (Daily Record Photo by Jake Bennett.)

## Ike Romps With His Grandchildren

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — President Eisenhower had a special reason for being thankful today as he celebrated Thanksgiving with his family at the Gettysburg farm. So did the nation.

Today marked the passing of the second month since his Sept. 24 heart attack with Mr. Eisenhower well on the road to recovery. No complications had developed.

Within the past week, he resumed full personal command of the government, presiding again at cabinet and National Security Council meetings and working at a temporary office in the Gettysburg Post Office Building.

**TO RESUME COMMAND**  
And next week he will resume (Continued On Page Four)

## A Real Tightwad

LONDON (AP) — Tax officials thought they had 50-year-old Bill Hughes dead to rights. But the self-confessed tightwad showed them his patched underdrawers and listed 13 ways of saving money and they began reconsidering his case today.

Hughes, a shipyard worker, appeared in Bankruptcy Court on charges of bookmaking and failing to pay tax on the proceeds. He admitted saving up \$16,800 on his \$56 a week salary but said he did it this way:

1. Never ate candy, even when he was young.
2. Never smoked.
3. Never drank.
4. Never went out with women.
5. Shaved with his brother's razorblades.
6. Charged his grandmother 12 per cent interest on money she borrowed.
7. Worked a night shift and borrowed his father's shoes while he slept to save shoe leather.
8. Went 13 years without buying a new suit.
9. Never bought a single flower.
10. Limited his lifelong movie going to one "Road To Morocco."
11. Ate everything on the table even if he didn't want it.
12. Patched everything — including his underwear.
13. Never took a holiday trip that cost more than 56 cents.

He helped prove his point by displaying his underwear. The original fabric had disappeared — there were patches on faded patches.

## Harrington Says He Never Saw Ross Intoxicated

District Solicitor Jack Hooks sent another parade of witnesses across the stand this Thanksgiving Day in an effort to prove that County Solicitor Neill McK. Ross wrongfully threw cases out of court without reason and unlawfully entered into deals with defendants' attorneys or agents.

There was also testimony that Ross had allowed a man indicted on a second drunken driving offense to plead guilty to charges of careless and reckless driving without consulting investigating officers and that the driver got off with a \$25 fine.

The 47-year-old former State Representative and veteran county official — father of four children — is on trial in Harnett Superior Court on charges of gross misconduct in office, including making deals with defendants or their agents, "mismanaging" cases without grounds and several instances of attempting to conduct court while intoxicated.

**NOT DRUNK, SAYS CLERK**  
Solicitor Hooks sustained a setback on the drunkenness charges this morning when Recorder's Court Clerk Kyle Harrington swore that "I have never seen him Ross) in court when I thought he was under the influence."

**CONTRADICTS OFFICERS**  
Two highway patrolmen and a

rural policeman who said he had known Ross for 25 years swore emphatically on Wednesday that they had seen Ross intoxicated on several occasions while trying to conduct court affairs. One of these occasions was on August 30th of this year.

Harrington took office as clerk of court on July 1 of this year after serving for many years as county ASC chairman. Called to the stand by Solicitor Hooks to identify handwriting on warrants pertaining to not pressing of cases as said under cross-examination by Chief Defense Counsel James Nance of Fayetteville that he had been present with Ross at every session of court since July 1.

**NEVER SMELLED IT ON HIM**  
Harrington swore that he had never caught the smell of whiskey on Ross in the courtroom at any time.

Citizens took advantage of the holiday to attend the widely-publicized trial and a large crowd was on hand for the proceedings today. (Continued On Page Four)

## Million In School Bonds Are Sold

Harnett School Superintendent Glenn Proffit announced today that the county had sold \$1,000,000 of a \$2,000,000 school bond issue at an interest rate of 2.639 per cent.

The bonds were sold by bond attorneys in New York on Monday of this week.

Supt. Proffit said today that he

was highly pleased that the bonds sold for such a low interest rate and pointed out that it reflects the sound financial condition of the county.

He noted that bonds sold by some other counties in the State during recent months had sold at (Continued On Page Four)

**BAPTIST WOMEN PLAN OBSERVANCE**

## WMU President To Speak In Dunn

Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey of Ahoskie, president of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina and one of the State's best-known Baptist women, will be the guest speaker at the First Baptist Church here Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Plans for her appearance here were announced today by Mrs. H. Paul Strickland, president of the WMU of the local church.

Mrs. Strickland pointed out that Mrs. Maddrey is appearing here in connection with the church's observance of a Week of Prayer for foreign missions, the week of Nov. 28 through Dec. 2.

Mrs. Maddrey is an outstanding speaker and her address Sunday morning is being keenly anticipated.

An alumna of Meredith College, Mrs. Maddrey is known by Southern Baptists and especially by North Carolina Baptists for her untiring efforts and deep consecration to missions around the world.

"She is one who inspires her associates; her messages challenge all (Continued On Page Four)



MRS. MADDEY

## Holiday Deaths At 25

By UNITED PRESS  
Millions of Americans abandoned their workaday cares Thursday and gathered close to home and family to celebrate a peaceful Thanksgiving.

The traditional Thanksgiving feast of turkey and all the trimmings lured Americans from all walks of life toward home, spurring holiday travel to expect record highs.

To many, the reasons for Thank-

sgiving were individual, personal joys. But President Eisenhower set the overall tone by calling on all Americans to give prayerful thanks "for the abundance of our endowments."

Crisp, clear weather covered most of the nation, with temperatures dipping below zero in some sections.

Cold air pushed eastward across the Midwest and Ohio Valley and plunged southward into the Gulf

states from Texas to Alabama. Temperatures dived below zero in Minnesota and North Dakota, while most of the Midwest reported readings in the 30s and 30s.

Travelers jammed rail, airline and bus facilities and crowded the highways with the usual holiday rush.

At least 25 persons had been killed in traffic accidents since the holiday got underway at 6 p. m. (Continued On Page Eight)