

Partly cloudy, warm and windy Tuesday with scattered showers. Tuesday afternoon and over East Tuesday night. Wednesday partly cloudy and not as warm.

# WILD GUNMAN KIDNAPS PRIEST, COPS



**PRETTIER THAN COW-BELLS** — A darn sight smarter than any cow-bell — and just the thing to be wearing in Dunn these days — is a Broad Slab license tag. At the Country Style Dance Friday night, Virginia Allen of Raleigh, (center) and Dickey Bass (left) and Ruth Temple (right), both of Dunn, proudly showed their allegiance by donning the tags. Gulfgride Service Station had them for sale. (Daily Record Photo by Ted Crail.)

## Benson Denies Agriculture On The Rocks

CHICAGO (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson will say tonight that "political sniping for my scalp" will not stampede him into ill-advised efforts to solve the farm problem.

Benson said agriculture is "not on the rocks" and is not "depression-bound."

"Whoever says it is, is rendering the cause of the farmer a disservice, and is simply not telling the truth," he said.

Benson, in a speech prepared for delivery at a meeting of the National American Wholesale Grocers' Association, admitted farmers have been caught in a price squeeze and said this "has caused political panic in some areas."

"I want to do, and I will do, everything that is sound and fair for all our people," he said.

"FRANTIC THINKING"

"But when I'm urged: 'Do anything!' I'm appalled. That kind of frantic thinking contributed largely to the problems we face today."

"Attempts are being made to place agriculture on the political auction block," he said. "American agriculture is neither Republican nor Democrat—its welfare must not be sacrificed on the altar of partisan politics."

"For my part, I pledge that I will never knowingly advocate or support any policy or program which I believe is not good for farmers and fair to all of our people—regardless of political pressure," Benson said.

The secretary blasted the attempt to tie rigid 90 per cent of parity price supports on basic commodities to the Senate farm bill. He said rigid supports were primarily the cause of agriculture's plight today.



**BACHELOR'S CHOICE**—The Bachelor Society of America—5000 strong—has selected their Bachelorette Queen of 1956. She's lovely Betty George, New York musical comedy singer. Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was last year's bachelorette choice.

## Wanted To Die, Begged Police To Kill Him

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A demented man, who wanted police to kill him because he "didn't have the nerve to commit suicide," held a priest and two policemen as hostages during a five-hour ride of terror before he was overpowered today.

No one was injured, however, during the wild ride or in a brief scuffle in which the man was captured on the lawn of his home in a housing project.

Joseph Madera, father of two children, telephoned the Philadelphia Daily News last night that he had a fight with his wife over his unemployment and that he wanted to die.

He told reporter George Thompson that he didn't "have the guts" to kill himself but that he had "figured a way out."

"I have three guns," he said. "I'm going to Reayburn Plaza and start shooting. If I hit a couple of people, the cops will shoot me."

"Come on down to the Plaza and you can have the whole story."

**ASKS FOR PRIEST**

Thompson started questioning Madera on the telephone in the hope of quieting him. Madera said he had "trouble getting work" during the past two years and recently was fired from his job in a restaurant.

As Thompson was urging him to "think of the kids, don't make them sorry," Madera hung up. Thompson notified police but Madera called back again and told him to "come on down to the plaza and bring along Dr. Fogal of the Philadelphia General Hospital. He knows about me."

"Oh, buddy," Madera added, bringing along a priest, too.

The Rev. John J. Lynch of St. John's Church, Detective Ed Witherspoon and Patrolman John Brady were sent to the plaza, just across the street from City Hall.

As the priest and the two policemen approached, with Thompson and several reporters behind him, Madera suddenly pulled out two revolvers and fired two shots over their heads. He then ordered the trio inside Witherspoon's automobile.

He told Witherspoon to drive to the home of Madera's mother-in-law in the northeast section of the city. During the wild ride, he held one gun at Witherspoon's back and the other pointed at Brady and the priest.

**TRAILED BY POLICE**

Patrol cars throughout the area were alerted to trail the fugitive car and use their inter-automobile radios to keep it under surveillance. They had orders, however, to "stay away from that car but keep it in sight."

Other policemen telephoned Madera's mother-in-law, told her of the situation and ordered her not to go to the door if Madera appeared.

Madera made Witherspoon drive around the block once before stopping at his mother-in-law's home. He then ushered the three hostages in front of him to the door but

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PURDOM AND MISS CHRISTIAN  
LINDA CHRISTIAN IS "OTHER WOMAN"

## Edmond Purdom's Wife Gets Divorce

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Actor Edmond Purdom's wife has won an interlocutory divorce decree on testimony her husband fell out of love with her and became involved with "an actress" when he attained success in Hollywood.

Mrs. Anita Purdom, 28, also won custody of the couple's two children, Lillian, 3, and Marina, 1-3, when she appeared before Judge Edward R. Brady yesterday in nearby Santa Monica.

The former ballerina testified her 28-year-old husband, after meeting a certain actress at a party, disappeared from home and slipped back in through a window

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### MYERS CAN'T FIND LAWYER

## Ousted Prof Faces Hearing

The firing of Campbell College's professor of modern languages, John Myers, came on so swiftly, once the move was started, that he still had some exam papers to grade when his ouster was made public.

This morning he was finishing odds and ends from his association with the college. He also was considering how to get a lawyer to represent him in his encounter with the House Un-American Activities Committee, scheduled to hear him and other witnesses on March 12 in Charlotte.

No lawyer he has contacted, Myers said today, has been willing to represent him. "They're free with their advice," he said, "but they send me from one to the other. If I were an ax murderer, I imagine they'd waste through blood to get the case."

Plain-spoken on every subject except his politics, Myers has a slow way of speaking. He chooses each word as though he were lining up a long putt. Yesterday morning, before the news of his firing became public, he explained how he felt about going before the committee.

"I'm walking into the lion's den," the probing would not be a new experience, though, he stated. "I've already had a lot of practice in answering—or not answering—questions." This was apparently a reference to his appearance before the college directors on Saturday. Out of that meeting came the decision to fire him because of "persistent refusal . . . to answer any

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## Soy Beans Land Three In The Soup

Three men have been given fines and suspended jail sentences for charges arising out of the theft of seven bags of soy beans (valued at \$29.50) from Johnson Cotton Co.

Elwood Vann, who had entered a plea of not guilty, received the stiffest sentence—\$75 fine, court costs, and six months on the roads suspended.

Climus Eason, indicted with Vann, pled guilty and 90-day sentence was suspended on payment of \$50 fine and costs. Paul Colvin, who also pled guilty, was given a similar fine and suspended sentence.

L. C. McCullough, Route 5, who admitted leaving the scene of an accident and operating on the left hand side of the road was fined \$25 and costs with 90 day sentence on the roads suspended.

In a whisky case, Louis Hardy Strickland of Dunn has filed notice that he will appeal his conviction. Strickland, who had entered a plea of nolo contendere, was given 12 months suspended on payment of \$200 fine and costs for possession of the apparatus for making white lightning. Appeal bond was set by Judge H. Paul Strickland at \$300.

Harold Collidge Strickland of 304 1st St. Dunn was convicted for the second time of drunk driving. Also found guilty of possession of tax-paid whisky on which the seal had been broken, he was given 6 months on the roads suspended on payment of \$200 fine and costs. The court recommended his license be revoked for 3 years. Strickland gave notice of appeal and bond was set at \$300.

Other cases in Dunn Recorder's Court yesterday:

Cleora Watson, 1109 Appealton St., Baltimore, abandonment and non-support, pled guilty, 12 months suspended on condition he pay \$50 per month for his wife and five minor children.

Johnnie H. Turner, Fort Bragg, possession of non-taxpaid whisky and illegal fireworks, pled guilty, six months suspended on payment of \$10 fine and costs.

Leroy Dickinson, Fort Bragg, no operator's license, pled not guilty, convicted and given 30 days suspended.

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## Godfrey Now A Deputy Sheriff

LEESBURG, Va. (AP)—Arthur Godfrey, TV showman, flier, and sometime Navy man, has become a weekend deputy sheriff. It was revealed today.

Sheriff Roger S. Powell of Loudon County said Godfrey was sworn in Saturday as a regular deputy, was issued a chrome-plated badge and will get a nominal salary.

## + Record Roundup +

**CONCERT DATE CHANGED** — The Community concert Association of Campbell College is announcing a change in date of East Carolina Choir Concert from March 17 to March 24 at 8 p. m. in D. Rich Auditorium at Campbelle College.

**PLAINVIEW PTA** — The Plainview PTA will meet in the School auditorium Monday night, March 12, at 7:30. Mrs. Johnson's Home Economics Class will give a dress review. Afterwards, Supt. J. Denning will discuss with patrons the proposed county wide bond issue. All patrons are urged to be present.

**LUCKY FLASH** — Major George (Continued on Page Eight)

## EXISTING FUNDS MAY COVER IT

**Welfare Requests Grant**

The Harnett County Welfare department, fearful that funds for hospitalization and boarding care of children and adults may run out before the year ends, yesterday discussed with the county commissioners possibility of an additional grant of \$3,500 from county funds.

Miss Davie Jo Lumsden, acting superintendent, said that the county now has responsibility of 11 children and 23 adults in boarding care and no doubt there will be emergencies to arise in the four months left in the fiscal year. She estimated that hospitalization needs for this period would require \$500, boarding care for adults \$2,150; and for children \$900.

However, in the discussion, County Auditor H. D. Carson, Jr. pointed out that several refunds had been received from State welfare funds and that, with money in a miscellaneous account, and residues from other welfare funds which are not expected to use all money appropriated, he believes there will be enough to finish the year.

## Improvements For Judge, Prisoners

Prospects for better accommodations for judges in Harnett County and also for those on the other side of the bench — that is the prisoners — appear to be in the making.

County commissioners yesterday heard the two widely separate requests in a short session which adjourned before noon.

**LAW LIBRARY**

State Senator Robert Morgan and Glenn Hooper appeared before the commissioners in behalf of the county bar association. They asked, and promptly received, permission to use three rooms in the courthouse for judges chambers, a conference room, and a law library for all attorneys in the county. Plans call for linking the small ante room West of the courtroom with the present grand jury room, and the room at the head of the stairs, now vacant, into one suite of rooms.

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## Had Lively Bout With Jail Bedding

It took a jury only a few minutes to convict Frank K. Ralph of 208 East C. Street, Erwin, of tearing up four blankets and two mattress covers in Dunn jail.

Ralph, ordered to pay \$30.10 for damages, and another \$100 and court costs for drunk driving, gave notice of appeal. Judge H. Paul Strickland set bond at \$200.

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## 2 Receptions, One Baby, No Wedding

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Edith Mitchell, 38, testified today at her suit for temporary support of her infant daughter that she and salesman Vernon Simpson had two wedding receptions but were never married.

Miss Mitchell accused Simpson of fathering the 18-month-old child but the salesman in a counter-attack contends that the child was conceived by artificial insemination.

"If anyone is the father, it is

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## NOT STRICTLY ACCORDING TO EMILY POST

Dr. Manuel De J. Castillo, or a donor of his choice," Simpson contended in his action.

In testimony at the temporary support hearing, Miss Mitchell declared she and Simpson went to

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## 16 Stills And What Did They Get—Caught!

A steady, systematic war on bootleggers in Harnett County is continuing, the monthly report of Sheriff C. R. Moore shows today.

During February, the county's six rural policemen, working as a unit in most instances, were responsible for arrest of six men captured in raids on illegal liquor stills. Officers captured a total of 16 stills, 13 condensers, 157 gallons of whiskey and 4,150 gallons of beer.

Men captured in on-the-spot

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## 16 Stills And What Did They Get—Caught!

manufacturer of whiskey were Hubert James Bowden, Paul McLean, Jack Bryant, Walter Williams, John R. Godwin, and Jesse Lee Freeman.

Exactly half of the officers' monthly booty "booty", or eight stills, were located in Anderson Creek township. Four stills were found in Aversboro Township, three in Stewart's Creek and one in Har-

Officers responsible for the raids on the illegal whiskey makers were B. E. Sturgill, J. Stanley Byrd, C. E. Moore, A. W. O'Quinn, Leon S. Smith and B. F. Temple. All work on a salary.

No report of still captures were turned in by the fee-paid deputies or constables.