

Dodd Pleads Guilty To Setting 5 Fires

RALEIGH (AP) — Vernon Lemuel Dodd, a 19-year-old Salisbury youth, pleaded guilty Wednesday to willful and malicious burning of personal property involving five fires last year on the North Carolina State campus.

Judge Raymond B. Mallard was expected to sentence Dodd later in Wake Superior court.

Before accepting the guilty pleas, Judge Mallard told the former North Carolina State student he could receive up to 10 years in prison on each charge.

Dodd pleaded innocent to charges growing out of a fire which destroyed Uullen Hall and damaged adjacent Peele Hall Feb. 22, 1965. Solicitor W. G. Ransdell said Dodd would be tried later on these charges.

Dodd pleaded guilty to starting fires which damaged property at Danforth Chapel in King Religious Center and in Holliday Hall, Brooks Hall and Becton Dormitory, where he then lived.

State Bureau of Investigation agent E. B. Pierce testified that Dodd told him and Raleigh detective Lt. R. L. Bunn on April 2 that he started the fires.

The youth then returned to Becton Hall where he started a fire in the lounge, Pierce said.

Dodd further told the officers, Pierce testified, that on March 3, 1965, he left "a

drinking party in the dorm" and walked to the Frank Thompson Theatre lobby, where he ignited several paintings on a pegboard.

"He stated he did not know why he did it," Pierce said. "It was some sort of impulse. He was sorry he did it and said he had not tried to conceal it. He said he did not run from any of the buildings."

John B. Dodd Jr., brother of the defendant and a senior at North Carolina State, said his brother was deeply depressed during January, February and March of 1965.

Defense attorney Charles Blanchard asked John Dodd if he thought his brother was under a mental strain at the time of the fires.

Dodd replied he thought his brother was having trouble with a girl friend and disagreements at home last year.

John Dodd said his brother is now employed at a clothing store in Salisbury and "has adjusted very well."

Pierce said investigators had concentrated on Dodd since the middle of March after eliminating other persons.

Pierce said Dodd told him and Bunn he left his dorm the night of Feb. 8, 1965, and went to Danforth Chapel to pray. He said when he arrived he had "an urge to set fire" to Danforth Chapel and struck a match and ignited draperies.

Pierce said Dodd told them he then went to Holliday Hall and ignited a stack of cards in the basement and continued to Brooks Hall where he started a fire in a trash can in a men's room.

Dodd told the officers he then went outside and saw a crowd gathering at Danforth Chapel and went there to see what was going on.

While there he heard there was another fire at Holliday Hall and said he went to assist firemen in keeping people away from the building, officers quoted Dodd as saying.

Admission rates at the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, have been raised for the first time in almost ten years. Prices are still low, however.

'Ducks For Tuck' Reveal California Campaign Spirit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Tuck, a political jester thought funny by most everybody but Richard M. Nixon and Barry Goldwater, is making a serious bid for his first elective office.

Tuck, 42 and a Democrat, wants to be a California state senator from Los Angeles county.

He would like a little more serious image, but he knows that his fame as a political comedian may hurt him some. He envisioned the 1960 presidential campaign with his political tricks.

"I have been able to get my publicity while me to carry every district but one — my own," he quips.

In a campaign where you can't tell the actors from the politicians, Tuck's sense of humor is still rampant.

He's planning a campaign parade on a local lake with ducks carrying "Ducks for Tuck" placards.

"I'm hoping to have the ducks trained in time for the June 7 primary," he says.

Another campaign gimmick will be to give each member of the Los Angeles city council an \$87 jar of preserves.

"The cow counties up north keep voting to take money away from Los Angeles and voting more money for county fairs. I figure that makes each jar of Aunt Susie's blue ribbon preserves worth \$87."

Tuck announced his candidacy at a campaign dinner for Gov. Edmund G. Brown, by placing a copy of an alleged telegram at each table.

It said: "Dear Dick: I just learned that you filed for the state senate in Los Angeles. I want you to know that I've waited for this moment a long, long time. Pat and I are ar-

ranging our schedule and will be out in your district sometime in May. (signed) Richard Nixon."

Comments Tuck: "I'm afraid Nixon will endorse me and blow me out of the water."

Tuck is the fellow who once put on a railroad engineer's cap in San Luis Obispo and signaled the crew to start the campaign train just as Nixon was starting a speech on the rear platform.

In 1962 when Nixon was campaigning for governor of California, he made a speech in Los Angeles' Chinatown.

He was greeted by Chinese girls who carried signs in English that read "Welcome Nixon" but underneath in Chinese characters the signs asked: "What about the Hughes loan?"

Billionaire Howard Hughes once loaned \$200,000 to Nixon's brother to help bolster a faltering restaurant.

Tuck was the man who ho sneaked a beautiful spy onto a Goldwater campaign train during the 1964 presidential campaign.

She distributed to newsmen a humorous anti-Goldwater letter. Sample: "We are happy to report that the railroad has assured us that flouride has not been added to the water on this train."

But his favorite was the morning after the first Nixon-Kennedy television debate in 1960.

As Nixon stepped off a plane in Memphis and faced a battery of cameras and microphones, an elderly matron wearing a Nixon button greeted him.

"Don't worry about last night," she said. "He beat you but we'll get him next time."

Mexico City Prepares For Lyndon Johnson's 'Informal' Visit Today

MEXICO CITY, (AP) — Mexico is preparing welcome with all the trappings of state for President Johnson's arrival today.

While the 24-hour visit has been characterized as informal, Mexican officials planned a 21-gun salute at Mexico City's International Airport. President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, flanked by all members of his cabinet, will be on hand.

Presidential assistants Bill Moyers and Jack Valenti arrived yesterday to discuss final details of the visit with officials of the Mexican government and the U. S. embassy.

Johnson is slated to arrive at 5:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. EST) on his first visit outside the United States since he became President.

Diaz Ordaz will make a welcoming speech and Johnson will respond. Johnson then will drive to the official Mexican presidential residence, Los Pinos, for a courtesy call upon the Mexican president.

The government today published large advertisements in the morning newspapers asking

the Mexican people to turn out to greet the Johnsons, who will stay at the U. S. embassy residence.

Friday morning the two presidents are scheduled to have a private talk at the Mexican National Palace.

There are no major problems existing between the two countries and both Mexican and U. S. officials describe relations as excellent.

After his meeting with Diaz Ordaz, Johnson will place a wreath on the monument to Mexican independence, topped by the statue of a gilded angel, located on the Paseo De La Reforma.

From there Johnson will go to participate in the ceremony unveiling a statue of Abraham Lincoln, a gift of the American people to the Mexican people. This is the main purpose of the presidential visit to Mexico.

Both presidents are scheduled to speak at the unveiling. The statue, authorized by a \$150,000 appropriation by Congress, is a replica of the one standing in Lincoln Park in Chicago.

Soft Coal Miners Continue Strike

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Soft coal miners, disgruntled with a proposed contract, stayed away from the mines again yesterday in defiance of a union back-to-work order.

About 53,000 miners in eight states were off the job. Some were reported returning but there were no signs of a general break as the strike moved through its third day.

Representatives of the United Mine Workers and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association met behind closed doors in Washington in an effort to settle the dispute.

The union and three independent coal companies have reached agreement on a new contract calling for a wage hike that lifts top-rated miners to \$30 a day and includes another pay raise in 1967.

But miners were dissatisfied with the pact.

"Tony Boyle (president of the UMW) threw a wedge right into his own men when he okayed that contract," said Frank Popovich, 45, of Mason town, Pa., a mechanic with 22 years experience at Jones E. Laughlin Steels Corp's gateway mine.

"He gave the machine operators and mechanics a \$1.32 raise now and the other guys have to wait until next April to get a \$1 raise. I'm a mechanic and that would benefit me, but that's no way to do things. It only creates friction," he said. "If that sort of thing keeps up, I can see the day when a timberman will tell an operator 'I'm not even going to carry a post for you! That's just no good for the Union.'"

"Where did they get this pay raise business anyway?" said John Zvolenski, 46, of Palmer, Pa. "That wasn't the issue. We want more fringe benefits, better vacation pay, a little more pension."

In Illinois, Orval Stone, 56, of Johnston City, a shift supervisor, said, "I'm out because everyone else is. No one seems sure what we're getting."

"There's just too much hearsay and nothing settled," said Paul McClelland, 46, of Wal tonville, Ill., a miner for 28 years. "The whole thing is about contract terms. Too many fellows are not getting raises."

Weather Report

Mostly cloudy and rather cool Thursday. Highs Thursday in the 50s in the north, ranging to the 60s in the southeast. Friday considerable cloudiness and rather cool with occasional rain or showers.

New York Leads Tax Collections

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York led the 50 states in federal tax collections during 1965, the Internal Revenue Service reported yesterday.

For the year which ended last Dec. 31, IRS collections reached \$117.7 billion nationwide compared with \$111.4 billion during the 1964 calendar year. Collections in New York last year totaled \$21.1 billion, IRS said.

However, it added that collections in any one state don't necessarily indicate that states tax burden, since in many instances, a resident of one state may actually pay federal taxes in another.

Second largest collections for the year were in California with \$10.68 billion followed by Michigan with \$10.1 billion, IRS said.

The tax collection figures are gross amounts and make no allowance for refunds distributed during the year.

Queen Azalea XIX Arrives To Start Wilmington Festival

WILMINGTON, N. C. (AP) — Queen Azalea XIX arrived late Wednesday to kickoff four days of festivities in the annual Azalea Festival in Wilmington.

This year's queen is Ulla Strömstedt, a star of the Flipper television series. She will reign over the four days of the festival which starts Thursday.

The program includes a performance Thursday night featuring a folk singing group, The Bitter End Singers. Balls are planned Friday and Saturday nights with a giant parade Saturday morning.

Mitch Miller, the television personality, will be master of ceremonies at the balls. Barry Sadler, the Ft. Bragg soldier who wore "The Ballad of the Green Beret," will be parade marshal. Comedian Larry Storch also will appear.

Gov. Dan Moore plans to arrive Friday and stay until Saturday.

The annual azalea parade Saturday will attract 250,000 persons, festival officials predicted.

A spokesman for the festival said that the city's thousands of azaleas should be at their peak spring bloom by the weekend.

In addition to the festival, the annual Azalea Open Golf Tournament starts Thursday at the Cape Fear Country Club.

Militant Buddhists Plan Orderly Rally

SAIGON, (AP) — Militant Buddhists planned a big but orderly demonstration here today to emphasize their opposition to Premier Nguyen Cao Ky's military government.

It was expected to take the form of a nonviolent march from the Buddhist institute to downtown Saigon.

Such a parade route would follow streets marked by a series of riotous outbreaks before the Buddhist hierarchy proclaimed itself in over-all command of the dissidents and called a halt to the rowdiness and arson last Saturday night.

At the same time there was a report that Buddhists would drop their boycott of the preparatory congress the government convened Tuesday to recommend steps for the transfer of ruling powers to a civilian regime.

Radio Saigon broadcast a statement that the Buddhist delegates would take their seats in the congress today. Confirmation was lacking from the religious hierarchy.

Buddhist factions were reported making a house-to-house canvass to whip up support for the Saigon demonstration.

Ky has vowed he will move forcefully because any further violent demonstrations, last week in Saigon there were repeated clashes with police and troops, with open anti-American overtones.

Authorities said that if the parade is orderly it probably will be unhindered by the government.

There have been no demonstrations in Saigon this week. They have continued, however, in the northern centers of Hue and Da Nang.

The Buddhists are demanding steps toward a representative, civilian government in "a very short time." Presumably meaning within two to five months. The military regime has said it has no desire to cling to power, but that

it will take time to work out the orderly procedures for an election.

A national preparatory congress called by the government went through its second day Wednesday, but there was little sign that it was making any solid progress toward solving the political unrest. The congress was convened to recommend steps toward election of a civil government. It is taking up the question of a constituent assembly that would draft a constitution to be put to referendum.

On the opening day Tuesday, the congress was attended by only 92 delegates, about half the total asked to participate. The Buddhists boycotted it and there were only two Roman Catholics present — as observers.

Wednesday the congress sent a delegation to try to induce absentees to attend.

Speakers insisted that the congress should be attended by Buddhist and Catholic leaders if it is to have any meaning.

Some quarters here were said to feel there is a possibility of agreement between the dissident political factions, using the congress as a forum.

It perhaps might be based on agreement of the military regime for quick action on the selection of the constituent assembly.

Whether any timing considered proper by the government would be accepted by the Buddhists, however, was an open question.

Ky is known to feel confident he has enough backing from the military and other groups to stick in office through the present crisis if he desires. He also is known to feel that groups opposing his government do not have the powerful support they claim.

Whether his assessment is accurate may be determined soon.

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