

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

***** FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas Charlotte, North Carolina, Wednesday, December 4, 1957

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Marine Faces Trial

NAHA, Okinawa (P) — A third Negro Marine went before a court-martial today on a charge of murdering a white Navy hospital corpsman. Two Marines have been sentenced in the case and three others await trial.

Five Are Killed

DOTHAN, Ala. (P)—Five persons were killed near here today when an automobile and truck collided head on on the crest of a hill. All five victims were riding in the car.

Planes Clash

TAIPEI, Formosa (P)—Nationalist and Communist jets clashed off the Red China coast this afternoon. Air Force headquarters reported today.

Convoy Delayed

JERUSALEM (P) — Israel today held up dispatch of a disputed convoy through Jordanian territory as U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion held a long private conference.

Reds Take Over

JAKARTA (P) — Communist-led trade unions today took over a third major Dutch enterprise and set a watch on three leading Dutch banks in the downtown business section.

Reds Turn To Poetry On 'Moon'

LONDON (P) — Moscow Radio wanted poetic today over the Soviet Union's two earth satellites. In the radio's North American service broadcast an "Ode to a Sputnik" it said was sent in by a New Yorker.

WILLY LEY TALK SCHEDULED 'Space' Expert To Speak Here

Next Tuesday, while the United States may have its first satellite whirling through outer space, a world famous authority on rockets and space travel will be speaking in Charlotte.

'Afterlife' Not Verified By Scientists

Is there experimental evidence of life beyond the grave? Does biology nurture the hope of immortality? Dr. Selman Waksman, Nobel Prize winner for his part in discovering streptomycin and director of Rutgers University's Institute of Microbiology, gives his views in the second of three articles on this abiding human mystery.



DR. WAKSMAN

By DR. SELMAN A. WAKSMAN NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J. (P)—Believe the question—Can life exist after death?—can be answered, we must first make certain that we understand what we are discussing. Otherwise, this question could be answered only on the basis of speculative assumptions and generalities that are not subject to any kind of experimental proof.

clear of religious beliefs and prejudices that are largely in the domain of the theologians. A scientist is conditioned by training and experience to answer questions only on the basis of facts established through careful observation and subject to actual measurements. Therefore, both consciously and unconsciously he will apply the same type of criteria to the present question.

WHAT IS LIFE? Life is usually defined as a condition of state that characterizes animate or living matter (plants and animals). Living bodies have certain definite properties that differentiate them sharply from non-living materials. These properties can be summarized briefly:

1. Growth. This is a gradual

increase of all the components of living systems, no matter how small and simple or large and complex.

2. Metabolism. This is the capacity of living systems to assimilate food substances and transform them partly into energy and partly into their own cells and tissues.

3. Respiration. This includes both respiration in the presence of oxygen (aerobic state) and the ability of certain cells to live in the absence of oxygen (anaerobic state).

4. Reproduction. This characteristic of life ranges from the simple fission of bacteria and budding of yeasts to the complex sexual reproduction of both lower and higher forms of life. All living creatures have the ability to reproduce their own kind. Occasionally variants occur

which are different in one or more respects from their ancestors.

5. ADAPTATION to the environment. This may be a result of spontaneous mutation, of interbreeding between strains and varieties, or still other factors. Gradually new forms of life may thus arise that are different from their progenitors. The plant and animal breeder takes full advantage of such properties to create new varieties.

6. Intelligence. Even single-cell organisms often show a rudimentary type of intelligence (such as reactions to heat and other destructive agents), but man has acquired mental processes that enable him to control or at least understand virtually all of the activities in his own environment.

Thus, simple and complex forms of life are characterized by various properties that enable anyone to recognize their living state.

WHAT IS DEATH? A living organism, be it small or large, simple or complex, is said to die when its living functions come to an end. The body ceases to respire, cannot adapt itself to its environment, and all its other functions stop.

As soon as an organism dies, unless it is preserved by special chemicals or sterilized by dehydration, heat or other means, it is immediately attacked by lower forms of life (bacteria, molds, and worms), which destroy its cells and tissues and transform the cells and tissues of the dead body into those constituent elements (inorganic and

gaseous forms) from which the body was originally built up.

Thus the microbes keep the cycle of life in constant circulation, whereby the limited supplies of essential nutrients, notably various forms of fixed nitrogen (ammonia, nitrate, humus nitrogen), carbon (gaseous carbon dioxide or carbon in humus), phosphorus, and other elements, are constantly made available in various forms of humus, phosphorus, and other elements, are constantly renewed themselves constantly.

Whether we deal with dead plant residues in the form of leaves, twigs, and plant stubble, or with animal residues in a state of decomposition (putrefaction), these processes lead to a rapid diminution of the bulk of dead matter, with a corresponding

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Crackdown On Traffic Crush Set

By JOHN KILGO News Staff Writer Police today took steps to relieve the bumper to bumper traffic problem that has prevailed in downtown Charlotte since the Christmas rush began last Friday.

European Fog Fouls Travel, Causes Deaths

PARIS (P) — Thick fogs hung over Britain and much of continental Europe today, snarling traffic, causing at least four deaths and a ship collision.

The British ocean liner Queen Mary was unable to enter the French port of Cherbourg. Passengers were landed in small boats.

The British tanker Verena and the Liberian Liberty ship Minstar collided in the English Channel.

Fog stranded several hundred passengers at London Airport. Two trans-Atlantic flights were held up. Their passengers slept in lounges.

Racing at Liverpool was postponed. There were six double-deck bus crashes in southern England. Two persons were injured. Two trains collided at Romford, Sussex, blocking the main lines.

In northern France a freight train inching into a station at Arras hit the rear of a passenger train. Three persons were hurt.

Dense fog blanketed the northern third of France, the Po valley of Italy and parts of Spain and Portugal.

The Belgian and German-Belgian frontier areas had a heavy cover. Four children were killed in a school bus accident in Belgium.

The Tyrol had a thick snow blanket to the joy of ski fans. About two inches of snow covered several principal roads in Austria.

Little Girl Believed Abducted

SYCAMORE, Ill. (P) — A 7-year-old girl was believed abducted last night by a man who had offered her and a girl companion a ride in a car.

Several hundred persons, headed by city, county and state police, failed after an all-night search to find the missing girl, Maria Ridolph. The search for the missing girl continued, with the Civil Air Patrol planning to send airplanes to join in the hunt.

Police Chief William Hindenburg said no clues to the missing girl had been found during the all-night search of vacant lots, corn fields, freight cars and vacant houses and building in this community of some 7,000, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago. A search also was made along the Kishwaukee River.

Hindenburg said the little Ridolph girl, the youngest of four children of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ridolph, had been last seen about 7 p. m. She was playing with Cathie Sigman, 8, near the Sigman home in the west side of town.

Hindenburg said the Sigman girl told him a man who called himself "Johnny" stopped to talk to the girls and offered them a ride in a car or a bus. The Sigman girl said she told the man to wait until she went home to get a pair of mittens. When she returned, she said, the man and Maria were gone.

Hindenburg said the Sigman girl did not know if the man had an automobile.

A plastic doll owned by Maria was found on the street near where she and Cathie had been playing.

OFFERED RIDE Hindenburg said the Sigman girl told him a man who called himself "Johnny" stopped to talk to the girls and offered them a ride in a car or a bus. The Sigman girl said she told the man to wait until she went home to get a pair of mittens. When she returned, she said, the man and Maria were gone.

DEATH FOR NOTHING KANSAS CITY (P)—James H. Terrill, 66, collapsed and died of a heart attack as he ran for a bus. His wife said later: "It turned out to be the wrong bus."

Afternoon Satellite Launching Scheduled

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (P) — The countdown to the nation's first test launching of a satellite passed its halfway point uneventfully today and prospects looked good for the blastoff into space about 4 p. m.

The 11-hour countdown began an item-by-item, minute-by-minute checkup of everything on the launching mechanism that might possibly go wrong — began at 4 a. m.

Shortly before 11 a. m., C. H. Schroyer, Defense Dept. information chief, reported that the countdown has passed its halfway mark without major hold or delay.

The weather — fairly heavy overcast and winds up to about 15 miles an hour — apparently was not sufficiently bad to interfere with the launching plans.

"CLEANUP" PERIOD Schroyer said the lengthy check-off period started after several hours of "technical preparations and normal preflight cleanup." He added this took a bit longer than had been anticipated.

During this preliminary period last night the Air Force took advantage of the full in the Navy's Vanguard satellite launching program to attempt a firing of its own, a Northrop Sparck guided missile. For unexplained reasons, the launching did not take place.

Observers here were impressed at the high degree of cooperation among Navy and Air Force personnel and their demonstration that inter-service rivalry had no place in the serious business under way here.

Paul Walsh, Vanguard project deputy director, explained that in the countdown, the men in charge of the launching run through a check list of 23 typewritten pages.

As a timing measure, the count is announced over the Cape Canaveral public address system once each hour in the initial stages.

As the launching hour approaches, the count is advanced to every five minutes, then to every minute and finally to seconds.

This permits every man to check to see that each part for

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House Goes For Boat Ride

An early-day California home took a trip near San Francisco, as it was loaded aboard a barge for a half-mile voyage to Rogers Beach. To be restored, it may be used as Audubon Society headquarters. The home was built in 1853 by John Reed, one of the first Marin County settlers, for his daughter.

Anti-Bootleggers Destroy Still In Pineville Township

By JULIAN SCHEER News Staff Writer Local and federal officers here knocked over one of the largest liquor stills found in Mecklenburg County in recent years in a day-light raid yesterday afternoon.

Two men were arrested at the still which was located just inside the North Carolina line in Pineville Township.

William T. Hamilton and Lewis M. Mathis, Rt. 1, Fort Mill, S. C., were apprehended.

The still was on property, a legged owned by Hamilton in North Carolina, while the Hamilton residence was just a few feet away in York County, S. C. The state line runs through the backyard of the property.

Delayed By Minor Troubles

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You Can Help Fill The Stocking

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WILLY LEY

7 SHOPPING NEWS LEFT BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

Today's Weather COLDER

Fair, windy and cooler today. Fair and continued cold tonight and Thursday. Low this morning 39 Low tomorrow morning 39 High today 50 High yesterday 54 High tomorrow 50 Sunrise today 7:15 a.m.; sunset today 5:11 p.m. More Weather Data on Page 3-A