



Our Park Needs: IV

A Pat On Back For Park Board

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer
(Fourth In A Series)

The much-needed Park & Recreation department came in for a pat on the back today from a Social Planning Council committee.

The Park Board, Chairman Charles A. Hunter of the council's recreation committee said, has gone a long way toward meeting recommendations of the Allen Report.

The report, a blueprint for development of recreation resources in Charlotte, was delivered a year ago by the county's recreation consultants. Many of its suggestions have been widely backed by such private agencies as the League of Women Voters.

A Good Start

In the past few months, Spurt, Marion Diehl and his park staff have been quietly putting Allen recommendations into operation.

The result, Mr. Hunter says, is a "good beginning" toward a sounder recreation program for Charlotte—though there is still a "tremendous distance to go."

Here is a checklist of major Allen recommendations and what has been done about them:

1. The establishment of a "Metropolitan Recreation Commission" to serve the county as well as the city.

This commission came a step nearer reality just this week, when a majority of the Social Planning Council committee announced their support of immediate legislation to establish it. At least part of the present Park Board is also known to favor it.



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Franklin) New Development: Crafts For Adults

Commission regularly. The one in Ashley Park is particularly successful and is hoping for a "school-park" at Ashley Park school.

The council in University Park, for another example, provides voluntary supervision for skating on an area near Northwest High School. The council in Bain community will sponsor junior baseball this summer—with money to be raised at a country ham supper tomorrow night at Bain school.

No Tax Hike

4. Formation of a "committee on coordinating plans" made up of city planners, school officials, the city engineer and public and private planners of recreation. No action.

5. Raising the tax levy for recreation to 10 cents, county-wide. No action.

6. Hiring additional administrative personnel. The Park Board has hired a director of recreation, an engineer, a supervisor of community centers, a park maintenance man, a new supervisor of Negro activities

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Torrential Rainstorm Lashes City

By EMERY WISTER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Crackling thunderstorms that turned small streams into raging torrents and made new streams where none had run before hit Charlotte today. The torrential downpour, which dumped 1.46 inch of rainfall on the city between 10:30 o'clock last night and noon today, gave the city its wettest time since Hurricane Flossy swept in last September.

The driving rain caused flash floods in many neighborhoods, turned scores of yards into lakes, and flooded many low-lying streets.

The water poured into creeks and low places so fast that yards became lakes in a matter of minutes.

CREEK UP

Briar Creek overran its banks near the Coliseum and homes on Independence Blvd. had backyards and basements flooded. H. L. Watson, whose home at

(More Local Weather Pictures On The 2nd Front)

2816 Independence is the last before the Coliseum, said his garden had been ruined. Water seeped into the basement and threatened damage to property stored there. The water flowed next door to the home of Mrs. A. W. McGurt at 2812 Independence Blvd.

"We have never before we have a hard rain," she said. "It seems to get a little worse every time."

BLAME PARKING LOT

Mrs. McGurt and Mr. Watson said the floods started when the unpaved coliseum parking lot had a hard rain, she said. A high bank above their property and water ran down on their lands. Trees, which once held the water back,

See HEAVY on page 2-A

DOWNPOUR FLOODS YARDS, STREETS



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Franklin) Jean Young Views The Lake Left In Backyard Of Her Andover Road Home By Torrential Downpours Today

—SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS ISSUED—

Rain, High Winds Batter Southland

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
(From News Wire Reports)

Angry April weather beat down on the Carolinas and the Southland today, leaving a soggy trail of death and destruction. The fury of the rain storms, tornadoes and high winds flooded many areas, damaged bridges and forced the closing of many schools.

The U. S. Weather Bureau in Atlanta has issued this severe weather warning today: "Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms forecast for Eastern North Carolina and Eastern South Carolina."

TORNADO HITS

The storms are expected this afternoon. A tornado was reported near Augusta, Ga. this morning.

In Western North Carolina the two-day downpour has washed out roads, damaged bridges, flooded farmlands and forced the closing of public schools in Henderson, Buncombe, Madison Counties and parts of Haywood County.

Slight flood damage was reported in the western part of the state. The French Broad River was at its highest stage in eight years and water seeped into some Asheville basements. Rain is still falling in many sections. It started about 2:10 a.m. in Asheville and rained steadily until 7 a.m.

Other rivers were expected to crest shortly after noon. The Swannanoa, the Little Tennessee, the Tuckasee and other rivers were at flood level and still rising.

Secondary roads took the biggest battering. Slides have also forced the temporary closing of the new four-lane superhighway—U.S. 70—between Old Fort and Ridgecrest.

On U.S. 74 near Swannanoa, the Swannanoa River covered a small part of the highway. On U.S. 19-23 near Weaverville, a bank gave way, collapsing an overhead pedestrian bridge.

MOVING EAST

If a very thundershower drenched most of the state and were moving west to east. Greensboro had more than an inch of rain this morning and more is forecast for most of the state. Asheville has had 4.2 inches of rain. Spruce Pine 4.34, Ros-

man 5.15; Pisgah Forest, 5.30, Clingman's Peak 5.07, and Canton 3.48.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol reported that Herbert Jack Wall of Harmony was killed about midnight on highway 117 seven miles southeast of North Wilkesboro when his convertible overturned in a field while he was traveling through heavy rain.

Wilkesboro Avenue, which connects Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, was under four feet of water after a sudden rise of the Yadkin River.

STORMS HIT S. C.

"Severe local storms" struck central South Carolina. A tornado was said to have been ordered

See RAIN on page 2-A

Red A-Bomb Blast Noted

WASHINGTON—(P)—The Soviet Union carried out another nuclear weapon test Wednesday, the Atomic Energy Commission announced today. There was no further information in a brief statement from AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss, except for identification of the blast as part of the series which Russia began last August.

The announcement said simply: "The Soviet Union on April 3, 1957, conducted another nuclear weapons test in its current series." Today's announcement was the first in more than a year in which both the U. S. and British governments gave word of new Russian tests to the world simultaneously.

The British Defense Ministry in a statement embargoed like the American one for publication at 9 a.m. used even fewer words. It said only: "The Soviet Union carried out another nuclear test on Wednesday."

It was on March 21, 1956, that the two governments last made such announcements at the same time.

West Side People Make Park Plans

West side citizens, rebuffed in their request for a park, are going ahead with a "do-it-yourself" playground plan at Seversville School.

In doing so, they've about to show the rest of the city how to set up an effective "school-park."

Seversville PTA members met last night with Rev. Kishiah, Park & Recreation Dept. program director, and Mrs. Josephine Gallagher, supervisor of community centers, to map plans for a summer program.

School officials have agreed to pave an "all-purpose" area

on the school grounds for skating, bowling, shuffleboard and the like. Park officials have agreed to furnish equipment—and to conduct a training program to teach parents in the community how to supervise family recreation.

The "school-park"—and this kind of cooperation between education and recreation officials—were strongly urged by the Allen recreation report.

Mr. Kishiah told the parents last night he thinks a softball league and volleyball and

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Ferry Stuck In Mud After Ice Rescue

ST. IGNACE, Mich.—(P)—The automobile ferry Vacationland, stranded in an ice jam in the straits of Mackinac for 18 hours with 66 passengers aboard, went on a mud bank in a heavy fog just off the top of Michigan's lower peninsula today.

The 360-foot vessel was 100 yards off her dock at Mackinac City when she hung up on the mud bank, just outside a channel leading to her docking slip. Case reported the 66 passengers had been fed two hot meals and were "nice and warm" in the Vacationland's big cabins. Blankets were distributed during the night.

Case said water level was abnormally low in the straits because of winds and strong currents. Capt. Frank Nelson of the Vacationland reported fog was hampering operations.

High winds jammed the straits with ice yesterday, in places to depths of 25 feet. The ferry route measures six miles.

The Mackinac began battling the ice at daybreak and reached the Vacationland shortly afterwards. She began immediately the slow tedious task of breaking a path to Mackinac City, a mile away then.

Our Weather

Scattered showers and thunderstorms and mild today and tonight. Saturday mostly cloudy and warm with a chance of showers.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

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3 Children Saved From Locked Safe

SAN FRANCISCO—(P)—Three children spent 1½ hours trapped in a fireman's walk-in safe last night before firemen could tear open the door.

The youngsters did not say who locked them in as they were playing in the partly demolished building in Pacific Heights. Firemen knocked the dial off the 7510-foot safe's door in order to press in an oxygen tube. That prevented use of the combination which turned up shortly afterwards.

Cher's 13-year-old sister Cathy sounded the alarm when she found the door of the tomblike vault shut tight. The children said they had agreed not to use oxygen by talking while they were imprisoned. Their attempts to tell jokes when firemen reached them with the oxygen tube failed. Couldn't think of any. Rude, an Eagle Scout, said at first "we couldn't believe anyone could have locked us in."

SILLY THING "It was too silly for anyone to have done. All we did was ask for somebody to let us out. Then we heard someone from outside say it was locked and we asked them to go for our parents." When firemen started using jackhammers, Cher remembered, "We just sat down and held our hands over our ears."

Six Persons Die

Fire Makes Bar 'Hell On Earth'

LOS ANGELES—(P)—"One moment I had a cafe full of happy people having a good time. Then a sudden flash and the bar turned into a hell on earth."

Still numb with shock bartender Larry Fenton, 24, spoke haltingly as he told newsmen of the searing moments during which six persons died when his place was bombed shortly before midnight. "I can still hear the screams of the dying," he said. "I can still feel the flames. I still can't believe it. It was too gruesome. And so senseless."

Three men, apparently engaged at being ejected earlier from the bar, came back and poured a bucket of inflammable liquid on the floor and touched it off with a match.

FIERY FLASH There was a fiery flash. "Most of the dead were trapped where they were seated," Fenton said. "Their clothes were on fire and the flames licked at their flesh. I saw one man running about with his hair on fire."



(AP Photo) TERRIFIED and hysterical, Joyce Chapielaine is led from his bar by Oscar G. Camou after a fire bomb turned the room into a holocaust.