

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL



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## Radio, TV In Deal

# WSSOC SOLD FOR \$5.6 MILLION

## Purchase Links Station To 3-State Interests

The sale of WSSOC Broadcasting Co. of Charlotte to the James M. Cox radio and television interests was announced today. The transfer is subject to approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

The announcement was made by Larry Walker, president of WSSOC, which operates both WSSOC (AM and FM radio) and WSSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Agreed sale price was \$5,600,000. The Cox organization, headed by WSSOC and WSSOC-TV, WSSOC-Radio and WSSOC-TV (Channel 2), associated with the Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution at Atlanta, Ga.; WHIO-Radio and WHIO-TV (Channel 7) at Dayton, Ohio, associated with the Dayton News and Journal-Herald; and holds a part ownership of WCKR Radio and WCKT (Channel 7) at Miami, Fla.

### KEY FIGURE

Mr. Walker said the sale was prompted by the desire of WSSOC's principal stockholder, Eddie E. Jones, to minimize his responsibilities in his financial interests. Mr. Jones recently resigned as president of Pyramid Life Insurance Co., but maintains active interest in certain phases of the WSSOC and WSSOC-TV corporation as vice chairman of its board, and has retained his responsibilities in some 14 other corporations within the past few months.

Other stockholders of WSSOC Broadcasting Co. are Hunter Marshall and family, R. S. Morris, Earle Gluck and Mr. Walker. None of these will retain stock in the corporation if the sale is approved. FCC approval of the proposed transfer of interests is expected to require from three to six months.

### NO CHANGES

J. Leonard Reinisch, executive director of the Cox radio and television properties, said no organizational changes were planned, and lauded the excellent work of the WSSOC and WSSOC-TV personnel.

Mr. Walker added that insofar as personnel of the WSSOC organization is concerned, "Everyone will continue in exactly the same position he now holds."

"As part of the Cox organization," Mr. Walker continued, "all of the facilities and experience gained from varied broadcasting operations, will be placed at the disposal of the Charlotte stations. The result will be greater opportunities for development of new broadcasting techniques and programs."

Network affiliations with the National Broadcasting Co. and American Broadcasting Co. will continue. And, with the new

WSSOC television studio building expected this spring, every facility will be available for expanded local programming.

Mr. Cox expressed enthusiasm for the great progress made by WSSOC and WSSOC-TV. WSSOC-Radio recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. It started broadcasting in Gastonia, built its offices and facilities to Charlotte in 1953. It built and occupied its present office building and studios at 1925 N. Tryon St. in 1941.

WSSOC-TV went on the air as a television operation on April 22, 1957. Its studio is located temporarily at the transmitter site at Newell, north of Charlotte, and its business offices are in temporary quarters at 2221 N. Tryon St.

The new studios and offices for the television operation are rapidly nearing completion on a site immediately to the rear of the radio building on N. Tryon St.

## Acquittal Ends Bombing Trial

ATLANTA (AP)—A halting 35-year-old industrial engineer was acquitted Friday night of dynamiting the Atlanta Jewish Temple but his defense attorney went to jail for contempt of court.

George M. Bright left the courtroom a free man for the first time in three months when a jury of 12 men acquitted him after delib-erating two hours and eight minutes.

His attorney, white-haired and portly Reuben Garland, was led to jail to begin serving 45 days for contempt as the aftermath of numerous clashes with Judge Jephtha Tansley during the 11-day trial in Superior Court.

Bright's first trial ended in a mistrial last December. The jury then split nine to three for conviction.

Bright contended that he was innocent, that he was with a woman when the Temple on famed Peachtree Road was bombed before dawn on Sunday, Oct. 12.

Prosecutor Tom Luck made an immediate announcement about the trial of the four others accused of the bombing.

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## Thousands Homeless In Floods

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devastating floods left water-weary Ohio in a state of emergency today while neighboring Pennsylvania rallied to untangle new problems, including the plight of 12 trapped miners in the wake of a severe soaking.

Damage was in the millions of dollars following a midweek assault from storms that loosened flood waters in the Midwest and Northeast.

Thousands were homeless. More than 8,000 residents left their homes at Chillicothe, Ohio; another 2,000 at Meadville, Pa., and another thousand at Wheeling, W.Va.

Ohio, alone, had a preliminary damage estimate of more than \$3 million dollars, reported by Gov. Michael V. DiSalle. He declared Ohio in a state of emergency Friday, saying damage could exceed 100 million dollars.

**DAMAGE HIGH**  
Some other conservative damage estimates were placed at 12 million in New York, 3 million in Shiroon, Pa., and another 2 million for mine rescue operations around Pittston, Pa.

Overflowing rivers claimed 22 lives. Ohio had 14 flood-related deaths and Gov. DiSalle said 25 to 30 deaths might result from the swirling flood waters.

New York state reported four flood deaths while Indiana had three. Pennsylvania one as it trapped a miner rescue operation around Pittston in the northwest part of the state.

But little hope was given for the rescue of the miners.

**DIKES FAIL**  
Ohio's latest disaster occurred Friday when the Scioto River in the central part of the state soared over a sandbagged embankment at Chillicothe, sending a third of the city's 25,000 population rushing from their homes.

As citizens prepared for a massive cleanup job, officials expressed concern over the swollen Ohio River in southeastern Ohio.

Following a dike's breach today, Marietta expects to evacuate some 300 families.

Following President Eisenhower's announcement that federal aid would be forthcoming for inundated portions of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

In western Pennsylvania, a number of flood-belted communities breathed easier as swollen streams receded.

**ICE JAM**  
However, the city of Meadville sought refuge for its 2,000 homeless after two big ice jorges of the rampaging French Creek had splashed water over an estimated 400 citizens of the community.

French Creek, a tributary of the Allegheny, slid below the flood stage as did the Ohio, formed at Pittsburgh by merging the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers.

**The Secret Of Success In Business**

See Page 1-B

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## Execution Weighed

# Castro Postpones 'Showcase' Trials

HAVANA (AP)—An appeal court considered today the death sentence given in a circus setting at the first public war crimes trial. The two remaining showcase trials were postponed until Monday.

Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro reportedly suggested a radio and television broadcast of the other trials in an apparent effort to avoid too much public excitement.

An aroused crowd threatened the next two defendants Friday.

Foreign correspondents invited to the trials had criticized the carnival atmosphere of the trial, which opened Thursday before 17,000 shouting Cubans and ended Friday morning with many still watching on television.

**PROCEDURE OKAY**  
A sampling of opinion among the 22 foreign newsmen reported to be behind the legal procedure used, however better understanding abroad of the provisional government's aims was foreseen as a result of the public trials.

Maj. Jesus Sosa Blanco, 51, a career army man, was convicted on charges of murdering at least 25 persons in Oriente province, scene of the bitterest fighting in Castro's two-year rebellion that overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1.

The 3-man military tribunal that convicted Sosa Blanco sentenced him to die before a firing squad. The tribunal president, Maj. Humberto Sori Marin, announced that Sosa Blanco was tried, Moreno and Grao faced charges of assassination, homicide and robbery. They will be the last ones to stand trial publicly, he said.

Their trials are scheduled in the 17,000-seat Sports Palace where Sosa Blanco was tried. Moreno and Grao were brought to the Sports Palace Friday before the first postponement. They were threatened by a crowd as they were being taken out to return to La Cabana Prison.

There was no indication when the appeal court would reach a verdict.

## Girl, 5, Found Suspect Arrested In Molesting Case

GASTONIA (AP)—A five-year-old girl, matched up from the sidewalk in front of her home, was taken to a rural area and sexually molested by a former mental patient Friday, police reported.

Robin Allen Rimmer, 26, a convicted sex offender who was released from a mental hospital Wednesday again at Gastonia, Ga., was arrested shortly after the incident.

Police Capt. R. H. Smith said Rimmer admitted taking the child and molesting her. Rimmer was charged with kidnapping, but no assault charges were filed pending laboratory reports.

**QUICK END**  
The child, blonde, blue-eyed Barbara Jean Rogers, was released by Rimmer, who told police he became scared. At about the same time a state trooper arrested him at a Gastonia residence, a couple in an automobile found Barbara crying beside a rural road.

A doctor examined her and said she had a bruised face, a cut under her lip, a bruised shoulder, and damage suggesting the possibility of criminal assault. "He said she should recover rapidly."

Rimmer told the arresting officer, Highway Patrolman Paul Hemphill, "Well, I did it." The prisoner, held without bond, also said, "I'm terribly sorry I did this."

**GIRL ASSAULTED**  
Rimmer, of Gastonia, was convicted two years ago of assault on a 15-year-old girl with intent to commit rape. He received a suspended sentence and shortly afterward entered the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham. He was discharged from that hospital last April and on Dec. 2 entered Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury.

Dr. David L. Liberman of the Salisbury VA hospital staff said Rimmer was declared competent but needed hospitalization. But the



ROBIN RIMMER

doctor added that Rimmer's mother, a state statement requesting his release and that the hospital he could not legally hold her.

The girl's father, Bobby A. Rogers, a textile worker, said he was in the house with his wife, and Barbara and little Bobby, her brother, were playing outside.

Then the boy came running in the house, crying, and told his wife that the street had gone police.

Patrolman Hemphill saw the car parked in front of a house, knocked on the door. Rimmer answered and the officer said, "This is about the little girl who was kidnapped."

"Well, I did it," Hemphill quoted Rimmer as saying.



Sharon, Pa., Turns Into City Of Canals As Shenango River Overflows

## 3 Die, 52 Hurt As Blast Follows Derailment, Fire

MONROE, La. (AP)—An explosion that hurled a railway tank car filled with chemicals 200 feet into a cotton field Friday night killed three men and injured at least 52.

Five of the injured were in critical condition. A search was set for other possible dead and injured. Several persons were believed to be missing.

Missouri Pacific Railway workers and firemen watched another nearby car loaded with either propane or butane liquid gas, fear it will explode.

Crowds jammed the area five miles south of here when the blast sent at Riverview 25 miles to the east, rocked the area. But officers cordoned off the area later and cleared out all spectators.

The first dead man identified was O. C. Mitchell, a Lake Village, Ark., Negro who was working with other railway crewmen on the blast site in attempts to clear the tracks.

Thirty-two persons were admitted to hospitals and 17 were treated and discharged at a rooming house.

Two of the injured were spectators. Cars of the hundreds of spectators also figured in difficulties of ambulance drivers who shuttled the blast victims to Monroe hospitals. They lined up the five-mile strip of highway between this north Louisiana city and the blast site, causing a traffic jam.

The car which exploded was one of 33 derailed some 19 hours earlier. A journal box on the axle of an car on a 125-car Missouri Pacific train overheated and caused the derailment. Explosions at that time, set off in several chemical-laden tank cars, started fires that burned throughout Friday.

**AN ACCOUNT**  
A. R. Liles, a Monroe fire captain, said he was walking away from half a block from the burning pile of cars, started fires that the blast triggered.

He left, he said, when he saw flames start to spew from the car. A wall of flame shot across a cotton field," he said. "After the explosion I saw the flames and don't look back."

Liles' hair was singed and his nose burned. "Liles' hair was singed and his nose burned. "Liles' hair was singed and his nose burned."

Police have set up a special telephone — Tralfalgar 4-700 — to receive calls from anyone who might have information about the missing child. A tip phoned in on a similar line led to the recovery Jan. 11 of kidnapped Lisa Rose

Woman resembling the kidnaper entered a rooming house in the Bronx.

A tenant, Mrs. Helen Bill, said a pregnant woman, carrying an infant, had inquired about a rooming house.

The woman was directed to the landlady's home around the corner. Mrs. Bill said she never appeared at the landlady's residence.

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## Woman, 71, Lands Disabled Plane

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A 71-year-old woman brought her disabled plane in for a successful landing at March Air Force Base Friday.

Mrs. Zulfine Bunker of Palm Springs and a passenger, J. L. Edwards of Yelm, Wash., were unhurt in the skidding landing.

Mrs. Bunker, who got her pilot's license when she was 65, said the plane's landing gear failed to lock in place as she came in for a landing.

**Our Weather**  
Fair and slightly warmer today and tonight. Sunday increasing cloudiness and warmer.

Low this morning — 23  
Low tomorrow morning — 30  
High today — 50  
High yesterday — 40  
High tomorrow — 60  
Sunrise today 7:27 a.m.; sunset today 5:42 p.m.

**Evening Prayer**  
Our Father, help us in all situations of the day to pray to Thee for guidance. Save us from going through life trying to live on our own insufficient strength. May we seek and find in Thee strength for all our needs in life and in facing death. In Jesus' name. . . Amen.

**Total War**  
Leon Elizondo, an independent San Antonio, Tex., gasoline dealer, had had enough of the gas war.

**Thou Shalt . . .**  
Why, asked Judge Bart N. Peak of a 12-year-old, did he steal \$5.

The Lexington Ky., youth explained he wanted to pay his way to see the film "The Ten Commandments."

When they mean security in the Air Force, they mean security in the Air Force.

The combat operations room of the 15th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. is a good example.

A sign on the door reads: "Off limits to all personnel."

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