



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FINAL

Established Dec. 8, 1888.

Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas  
Charlotte, North Carolina, Tuesday, January 6, 1959

16 Pages — Price Five Cents

## Intensive Space Study Rewarded

NOTE—The 18-month International Geophysical Year is over. What did scientists learn from their concentrated study of the earth and the space around it? Here is a report of some results from observations of the sun and space. First in a three-part series.

By ALTON BLAKESLEE  
Associated Press Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Over a luncheon table, Germany's Dr. Julius Bartels searched a moment for the right words: "We set out traps for nature. Then when nature does something, we often learn her secrets."

To Bartels, professor of geomagnetism at the University in Goettingen, this was the essence of the IGY, the 18-month International Geophysical Year which just ended.

It brought the greatest single hunt in history for knowledge—about earth, sun, weather, and the new province of space into which humans are eagerly reaching.

The traps for nature were tended by 30,000 scientists and volunteers from 66 nations in a huge cooperative effort.

ALTON BLAKESLEE

Now the traps are sprung  
And nature is yielding a treasury of secrets, some of them totally unexpected.

### Sharp Eyes On The Sun

The full wealth of meaning and significance, however, must await months or years while scientists analyze the literally millions of observations concerning weather, gravity, electrical phenomena, and other forces and events affecting the destiny of the earth and its people. Practical benefits are bound to come from IGY.

The sun, our life-giving star, was one main focus of IGY.

For every minute of 18 months, the sun was held under constant patrol watch by 100 observatories around the world, to catch its stormy moods, record its gigantic flares or explosions which often choke off radio communications and hang shimmering northern lights in our sky.

And the sun obliged, staging the greatest sunspot activity since 1778.

Special rockets soaring up for brief glimpses discovered that flares shoot out great bursts of X-rays. X-rays always are beaming out of the sun. It's the added X-rays from flares which apparently cause radio fadeouts on earth.

For the very first time, rockets reached above obscuring clouds during an eclipse of the sun, learning that the solar X-rays stem from the sun's corona or atmosphere, not its disk. The sun wears a bright X-ray halo.

### Clues On Fringe Of Space

Other rockets, looking into space with eyes tuned to see only ultraviolet light, found that some stars are wrapped with nebulous radiation not explainable by the energy the stars are thought to possess. This rocket astronomy, developed by Dr. Herbert Friedman and associates of the Naval Research Laboratory, will greatly enrich knowledge of the heavens.

Geared for quick action when the sun boiled with major explosions, IGY scientists set their traps to learn what these bombardments do to the earth's magnetism and electrified ionosphere, and what actually happens on the sun. Out of it all could come knowledge to achieve limitless energy for man's machines and power stations on earth.

There were more indications that the earth actually swims in the far outer reaches of the sun's tenuous atmosphere.

Rockets flying 50 to 150 miles up found the earth's atmosphere to be perhaps 10 times denser at high altitudes than had been thought, with strong daily and seasonal variations—factors influencing weather.

Paced by Russia's astounding Sputniks, man zoomed into the space age.

### Radiation Bands Ring Earth

The dog Laika aboard Sputnik II indicated humans could tolerate the strain of rocket take-off, and the peculiar weightless state of space flying.

But a huge surprise was discovery through U.S. satellites of two great and hazardous bands of radiation ringing the earth at altitudes of 1,400 to 8,000 miles. They're deadly enough to block space flights, unless man is protected, or can pass through quickly, or dart

See YEARS on Page 8-A

## Voodoo School Course Brings End To Teaching

WETUMPKA, Ala. (AP)—A longtime Negro school teacher, Mrs. Frances Webb Smith, has been asked to resign because officials said she taught a subject not approved in Alabama schools—voodooism.

Trustees of the Cathaway Elementary School have requested the dismissal of the teacher who is also principal of the school.

Ress McQueen, Elmore County superintendent, said Mrs. Smith, now in her 31st year as a teacher, plans to retire. A letter from trustees of the school to the Elmore County School Board recommending dismissal of Mrs. Smith said in part:

"Inasmuch as Frances Webb Smith has created undesirable confusion and discord in the school as a result of her voodoo activities, we feel that it is definitely to the best interest of the school . . . that she be relieved of her position as teacher and principal."  
McQueen said the request will be taken up at the school board's next meeting Jan. 16 if Mrs. Smith does not voluntarily resign.

# Seven Student Airmen Die As Fire Sweeps Barracks



Here's View Of Remains Of Barracks After Fire Swept Through Pre-Fabricated Building

## Balloon Trip Mainly Voyage Across Ocean

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP)—The balloon trip of four Britons trying to span the Atlantic lasted only three days. It was disclosed today. They spent 21 more days floating at sea in the balloon's gondola, constructed for double duty as a lifeboat.

The three men and a woman set off Dec. 12 from the Canary Islands, seeking to float on the wind 3,000 miles to Barbados. They reached here Monday after a fisherman picked them up at sea.

They had traveled about 1,200 miles by air and more than 2,000 miles by sea. All four had been on rations of a few ounces of food daily since Dec. 15. All looked thin but otherwise in fairly good condition.

They had cut loose the balloon in a storm for fear of going to heights where they would lose control and the bag would burst. This was after, at one stage, they jettisoned a radio receiver and sleeping bags to lighten the balloon.

Their balloon was called the "Small World."

### WIND STUDY

The intrepid quartet floated off from the Canary Islands Dec. 12 in an open, 7 by 15 foot plastic bag suspended from a 47-foot balloon. This British West Indian island 3,000 miles across the Atlantic was their goal, their purpose a scientific study of Atlantic trade winds. The balloon crossing had never been made before.

Part way across they came down in the ocean, cut the balloon loose, and sailed the rest of the way in the gondola. They landed tired, hungry for fresh fruit and vegetables and thirsty for carbonated drinks. Otherwise, they seemed unaffected by their grueling experience and their gondola was still well stocked with food and water.

The expedition was captained by Arvid Eliasson, 51-year-old London manufacturer of ash trays and knickknacks. The rest of the crew were Eliasson's son, Viktor, 21, an engineering student at Cambridge and the radioman; marine architect Folke Mjulle, 22, the navigator, and Mjulle's wife, Rosemary, 30, the expedition's cook.

### Our Weather

Fair and very cold again today and tonight, Wednesday partly cloudy with slowly rising temperatures

Low this morning 13  
Low tomorrow morning 12  
High today 32  
High yesterday 31  
High tomorrow 42  
Sunrise today 7:32 a.m.; sunset today 5:22 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 8-A



Here's View Of Remains Of Barracks After Fire Swept Through Pre-Fabricated Building

## Martial Law Out Cuban Framework Of Control Grows

HAVANA (AP)—Provisional President Manuel Urrutia put his government into high gear today after taking control of the Presidential Palace and canceling martial law in Havana.

(3) Summoned his new cabinet to a post-noon meeting.

(4) Rescinded the martial law proclamation and curfew extension decreed earlier by the provisional government's military chief for Havana province.

Urrutia flew to Havana from Camaguey following a talk with Fidel Castro, leader of the uprising that ousted Dictator Fulgencio Batista.

### CASTRO MARCHING

Castro continued his victory procession toward Havana with 3,000 of his guerrilla warriors and new supporters from Batista's military forces. He is expected in Havana Wednesday.

Urrutia said the rebel chief prefers to remain outside the cabinet, in order that he may observe developments.

The President named additional ministers, bringing it to 11 members, but still had to appoint ministers of defense, communications and interior.

Urrutia also announced his government would not allow gangster, which under Batista had grown to a multimillion dollar business, carried on largely by American interests.

Some elements of confusion remained in the government setup that probably will be clarified when Castro arrives. The only framework of government in the first few days after Batista's fall was provided by radio announcements from the rebel leader in Santiago at the other end of Cuba.

The first period of martial law in Havana province had been decreed Monday by Maj. Camilo Cienfuegos Castro, army-mayor chief for the province, during a dispute with a rival group of rebels over possession of the Presidential Palace in Washington.

### AN EXPERIENCE

The Rev. Martin Tilson, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, said he felt the good crowd present at his church was caused by many having had a "wonderful experience" during the Christmas season.

## Freed Prisoners Cite U.S. 'Neglect'

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—An Akron man claimed today that he and other American held prisoner in Cuba by the supporters of fallen dictator Fulgencio Batista were virtually neglected by United States officials during the months they were imprisoned.

Jonathan J. Grahara, Jr., 30, told his story at the home of his mother, where he arrived over the weekend after escaping from El Principe Prison in Havana during New Year's day.

He was accompanied here by Dean Leon Glaves, 23, of Portland, Ore., and Ed Ward W. Keen, 20, of Pontiac, Mich., who escaped from the prison with him. They supported his story.

Graham said U. S. Embassy officials in Havana refused to help them despite knowing they were American captives held by the Batista supporters without explanation.

In Washington, the State Department said it had no knowledge of Graham and the others except for news reports. It said the Havana Embassy had been asked for information, but there had not been time to get an answer.

Graham said he was on a business trip to Havana for a chemical wholesaler firm in Hollywood, Fla., when he was arrested last May. He said he was thrown into prison without explanation, and never was told on what charge he was being held.

He said the three were afraid to complain, but the embassy men could see how thin they were and the bruises on their faces from beatings.

Graham said an embassy representative refused to get medicine for him, explaining there was no provision to provide medical treatment for American citizens imprisoned in a foreign country. He claimed the representative offered no suitable explanation for not taking his case up with the State Department in Washington.

Rev. Tom Stockton of Thrift Methodist Church, who pronounced that "the good weather after two Sundays of bad weather" brought out the larger crowds.

Dr. Joseph B. Hennessy, pastor of First Evangelical & Reformed Church, said he attributed his larger-than-usual attendance to the service of Holy Communion. "We always hold a New Year's Communion, and it always well attended," he said.

## Syracuse Dorm Scene Inferno With 'Animals'

SYRACUSE, N. Y. (AP)—Wind-blown fire killed at least seven student airmen and injured 13 today as they fought like men to escape from their barracks dormitory at Syracuse University.

"It was like animals trying to get out of a cage," mamed Sgt. Peter Dowling, 25, Kalamazoo, Mich., in his hospital bed.

The one-story, prefabricated barracks housed 45 Air Force men assigned to the university to study Russian. Their headquarters was at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

Names of the dead were withheld until next of kin could be notified.

STARTED IN HEATER  
Fire officials said the fire apparently started from a heating unit as the students slept.

Winds up to 50 miles an hour whipped the flames into "a river of fire," said Donald Dowling, 19, Rochester, another of the injured.

"I heard a crackling sound. I thought it was the man who comes around to wake us up. I saw an orange light filtering through the door. I got out of bed and opened the door. It was a river of fire going down the hall. I was terrified," he said.

Peter Dowling, unrelated to Donald, told of trying to reach a fire extinguisher outside his room.

"But the fire and smoke were so great that I couldn't stand it," he told reporters. "Everybody was jumping out of windows."

He and his roommate, Sgt. Thomas Nerfeld of LaCrosse, Wis., broke through a window of their room.

Many of the men were cut by window glass.

The 22-room, clapboard type building, in the university's Skytop housing development on a hill overlooking the city, "went up like a matchbox," Dowling said.

Firemen, in near-zero weather and blowing snow, contained the flames about an hour and a half after the fire was discovered, at 6 a.m. Fifteen barracks are in a clump on the hill, on the southeastern edge of the city.

The students, all single, had just arrived to take a nine-month crash program that stresses Russian. The program, established in the 1940s, is subsidized by the government for the Air Force.

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Final tabulations for the four-day period from New Year's Eve to midnight Sunday also showed 61 persons lost their lives. A fire and 113 were killed in miscellaneous type accidents for an overall total of 531. The traffic toll combined with the record 408 set in the four-day New Year holiday period.

During the four-day Christmas holiday there were 24 traffic deaths, 49 killed in fires and 97 killed in miscellaneous accidents for an overall total of 74. The record Christmas traffic toll is 206, set in 1958.

### Evening Prayer

May the nations, our Father, in inspiration, courage, and hope in The Word. Grant to us a new birth of freedom that, under Thy guidance, we may show forth the glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In His name and spirit we pray. . . Amen.

## Road Deaths Total 377

CHICAGO (AP)—The nation's traffic death toll during the long New Year weekend, a final count shows, was 377-13 less than the National Safety Council's preliminary estimate.

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## High Winds, Cold Sweep Eastern U.S.

NEW YORK (AP)—Fierce and frigid winds hit the eastern seaboard today with winter's severest blow. Death and destruction were widespread amid a bitter cold reaching as far south as Florida.

At least 19 persons died in flaming dwellings. Blazes also destroyed office buildings, stores and warehouses.

Many persons in the northeast were tossed about and injured by screaming gales, which occasionally reached a hurricane force of 75 miles an hour.

Sub-zero temperatures were recorded all over the northeast, and the mercury dropped as low as 17 below at Newport, Vt. It was down to 6 in West Virginia and 13 in Virginia.

It was not known immediately whether there was any damage to Florida crops, which were hard hit during icy blasts last winter, but the weather bureau said all indications were that it would be slight.

### FIRE TOLL

Two fires took a high toll of lives. Seven student airmen died in a dormitory at Syracuse, N. Y., and five persons lost their lives in a burning home at Martinsburg, W. Va.

The northeastern states got a fearful pummeling from the weather.

Power lines, chimneys, trees, home and store windows and roof-tops were wrecked.

New York City ferry service and even subway schedules were disrupted. The subways were troubled at above-ground sections where wind-blown debris blocked tracks for a time.

In New York Harbor, barges were blown against a Staten Island ferryboat and a freighter. Off the coast of Massachusetts heavy seas caused a deck crack eight feet long in the American refrigerator vessel African Dawn. However, the ship was not beached.

At Williamstown, Mass., fire swept the three-story Delta Club, a Episcopalian fraternal house. Six students were slightly hurt.

## Police Hurt In Gun Battle

DANVILLE, Va. (AP)—Two Danville police officers were wounded and their assailant shot to death in a blazing gun battle in the city's business district early today.

Capt. Norman H. Boswell, 49, a veteran of 24 years on the force, was hospitalized with a 38-caliber revolver shot near his leg. His condition was listed as serious.

Det. Sgt. Coley Boone, 44, was wounded in the left shoulder, but officers said Boone was shot at his police car. Boone is being held at the Danville jail.

Det. Sgt. Ernest H. Terry, 26, Negro, of Danville, Va., was shot in the chest and a corner. Officers later found his body in a snub-nosed revolver still clutched in his right hand.

## UNC Seeks More Cage Games Here

Quincy Colman, Page 4B  
Business 2A, 5A  
Classified 6B  
Crossword Puzzle 2A  
Editorials 4A  
Editorial Councilor 8B  
Obituaries 7A  
Radio-TV 2B  
Serial 8B  
Security Game 3A  
Sports 45B  
Spotlight Series 2A  
Theater 2B  
Women 33B

## —'RINGING IN NEW' BRINGS CROWDS—

## Resolutions, Sun Help Am Churches

By JOHN BORCHERT  
News Religion Editor

"I resolve to go to church in 1959."  
This evidently was the resolution many Carolinians made on New Year's Day, as they flocked to city and area churches in exceptionally large numbers on the first Sunday of 1959.

crowd present at his church was caused by many having had a "wonderful experience" during the Christmas season.

The Rev. Tommy Funderburk, associate pastor at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, said, "We had a very fine attendance, then gave figures showing high attendance on the first Sunday in the new year. This past Sunday showed 942 persons total at the two morning worship periods."  
The Rev. Leslie Frerking, pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, said the first Sunday in the new year is "as a rule, slightly higher" than services at other times of the year. "But nothing we could call remarkable, and nothing like Easter."