THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ FINAL

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Ponto Is Back In His Cage After Romp In The Garden (AP Photofax)

—CIRCUS LION GETS LOOSE—

Extra Act Is Real Gasser

NEW YORK (AP)—Peanuts, pink popcorn — and a lion on the loose. The latter was inadvertently served up to about 2,000 persons attending a dress rehearsal last night of the Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey Circus at Madison Square Garden.

Putting on an impromptu, and terrifying, act for about 10 minutes was Ponto, heavily maned, 800-pound lion, said to be one of the largest of his species in captivity. He was finally recaptured in the lobby. No one was injured.

Ponto broke through a door of his cage and started roaming around the big arena while a tiger and lion act was in progress.

Temporarily king of all he surveyed, he leaped over the arena rail into a section of seats—which luckily happened to be sparsely populated.

Some spectators stood their ground, not knowing what else to do. Others scattered.

LOBBY EMPTIES

Hans Naumann, the lion's trainer, dashed after Ponto with whip, chair and pistol. Ponto headed for the 50th St. and 8th Ave. lobby. It immediately emptied of people.

Apparently the huge beast was following the scent to other animals in the basement menagerie. He vainly tried to tear down the big iron door to the basement, which was locked.

Frustrated, he tried to climb onto a telephone booth in the lobby. Men with an aerialist's net cornered him there. With Naumann directing, a cage on rubber tires was wheeled in, and Ponto was safely stored away.

The perspiring trainer said Ponto had never given him trouble before, and he didn't consider the beast dangerous — to himself. "But," he added somewhat shakily, "to you—yes."

One thing was missing from the exciting tableau: Ponto never let go with even one roar.

Eastern Half Of Nation Gets Snow, Wind, Rain

Snow Belt Extends To N. Y.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mixture of winter and spring storms battered areas in the eastern half of the nation today. The violent wintry weather which raked the eastern Rockies and plains states appeared ended.

Heavy snow piled up in central lower Michigan and Wisconsin as the storm swept into the Midwest after dumping more than a foot of snow in sections of Colorado and southwest Nebraska.

The snow belt extended eastward across northern areas into New York State.

Warnings were issued for three to six inches of wet snow in portions of New York State and four or more inches from Massachusetts into southern Maine.

A band of thundershowers extended ahead of a cold front from the Carolinas into northern Florida.

Rains, severe thunderstorms and strong winds swept across many areas south of the snow belt.

Cold weather moved into the plains and Midwest.

The early spring snow carpet gave the northern areas a Christmas-like scene, two days before Easter. It appears as if the Easter bunny will have slippery hopping as it makes its rounds Sunday morning.

Northeasterly winds of 20 to 30 m.p.h. whipped the snow into drifts as the storm lashed areas in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan yesterday. Driving conditions were hazardous.

NEARLY FOOT

Nearly a foot of snow was on the ground in La Cross, Wis., while four inches fell in a six-hour period at Grand Rapids and Saginaw, Mich. Heaviest falls reported in New York State were three inches at Binghamton and more than one inch at Buffalo.

The extensive storm area, centered early this morning in Indiana, was expected to move to the mid-Atlantic states coastal region by tonight.

Wet weather was in store for most of the Great Lakes region, the Ohio valley, parts of the middle Mississippi valley and along the Atlantic Coast states. Snow or snow flurries were indicated in the northern areas and showers in the Ohio valley and along the Atlantic Coast.

South of the snow belt yesterday, showers and thundershowers, with strong winds, dampened Illinois, Indiana and Ohio and rain, mixed with snow, pelted Iowa.

Skies were fair to partly cloudy from the Rockies westward to the Pacific coast.

Spring Is Here . . . . Or Is It?

(AP Photofax)

It is blossom time in the South, and Shirley Bailey of East Point, Ga., typifies the season's spirit against a backdrop of peach blossoms. But winter holds firm to some areas, such as Denver, where Mrs. Alice Karlus (above) stands in snow far above her ankles to clear more white stuff off her automobile.

Legislative Reapportionment Bill Is Reported Favorably

RALEIGH (AP)—A bill to reapportion membership of the State House of Representatives was given a favorable report by the House Senatorial Districts Committee today on the strength of an 8 to 7 vote.

Under the bill to apportion House membership in accordance with 1950 census figures, Rockingham and Alamance counties would each gain one House member—and have 2 instead of 1 representative. Cabarrus and Pitt counties would each drop from 2 to 1 House member.

The deciding vote came on a motion by Rep. J. Paul Wallace of Montgomery to report the bill unfavorably. It lost by an 8 to 7 margin in one of the most confused situations imaginable.

It appeared that the vote was going to be a 7 to 7 tie until Guilford's Rep. Ed Kemp arrived while the vote was being taken. He first decided merely to vote present. Then changed his mind to vote against the motion. After the motion lost, a voice vote gave the bill a favorable report.

The vote came after Rep. Radford G. Powell of Rockingham made an emotional plea in support of the bill.

He pointed out that the Constitution requires the General Assembly to reapportion House membership after each census and that four legislatures since 1950 have failed to do this.

Rep. Thomas Turner of Guilford and Rep. George Long of Alamance also spoke for the bill.

"Taxation without constitutional representation is equally tyranny," Turner asserted in paraphrasing the slogan used by the American revolutionaries.

Today's House session, meanwhile, saw the introduction by Rep. Sidney Britt of Bladen of a bill that would put a crimp in the advertising of alcoholic beverages by newspapers and magazines of the state. It would forbid local ABC boards from buying liquor from distillers or dealers which advertise their wares in newspapers, magazines or other periodicals published in the ABC board's county.

Rep. Thomas H. Woodard of Wilson tossed in a measure to relieve motor vehicles from the duty of coming to a stop for school buses on dual lane highways when the vehicles are traveling in the opposite lane from the school bus.

LITTLE LOOT

ORANGEBURG, S. C. — (AP) — Safecrackers today have $75,000 in checks after an Orangeburg County break-in — but it's doubtful they will find the robbery rewarding. The three checks were unendorsed and payment on them has been stopped.

Governor Is Confident Building To Be Voted

RALEIGH — (AP) — Gov. Hodges surveyed the legislative scene today and said he thinks his program is coming along fine.

"I feel very good about it," he told his weekly news conference.

The Governor indicated he doesn't take as a defeat the delay of the Senate in acting on a bill for a new legislative building. The Senate voted to postpone the measure until the general appropriations bill comes in — which could be the final week or so of the session.

"They may have given it a sleeping powder, but that doesn't mean it won't wake up," he quipped. "I think the majority of folks favor a legislative building. I believe it will come out all right." Hodges and the Advisory Budget Commission have proposed 4½ million dollars for the structure.

The Governor also laughingly turned aside a suggestion, made at a public hearing this week, that minimum wage legislation was inspired by the writings of Karl Marx.

"To tell the truth," Hodges confessed, "I never read 'Das Kapital,'" the major book by Marx, regarded as one of the fathers of communism.

"Minimum wage," he added, "is a simple, commonsense, overdue piece of legislation."

Court Reform Measure Is Aimed At 'Results'

RALEIGH—(AP)—Sen. J. Spencer Bell of Mecklenburg said today there are laws on the books now "to make possible everything we are trying to do."

But, he added, in a discussion of court reform legislation, "We saw that the Legislature was not getting the results it wanted."

Bell said a State Bar Association committee study of the courts, which he headed, concerned itself above all with pin-pointing responsibility for day-to-day court operations.

Legislation carrying out its recommendations would place much of the responsibility on the General Assembly, he said.

He told members of the Senate Constitution and House Constitutional Amendment Committees the General Assembly would control establishment of an intermediate court of appeals, jury sizes, court costs, fiscal policy, the number of judges at all levels and their pay.

Bell told Sen. Luther Hamilton of Carteret, former Superior Court judge, that the legislature would not, however, be able to strike down rules of operation adopted by the Supreme Court.

Rep. George Uzzell of Rowan asked Bell why the court reform bill he introduced proposed constitutional amendments if the Legislature already has authority to reform the courts.

Bell said, "The Legislature has had the power to do it, but has been unable" to do it.

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Evening Prayer

Our heavenly Father, we thank Thee that we do know Christ, Thy Son, is risen and that He is the Lord of our lives. We pray that we who confess Thy name may the more earnestly show forth Christ who lives in us. In the risen Saviour's name. . . . Amen.

Cold Front Promises Clear Skies

A cold front came hustling down from the north today to promise a clear and nippy Easter morning.

Weathermen predict a 35-degree low. So if you're going to the sunrise service be sure and take your overcoat.

But the sun will be on the job and a high of 60 degrees is predicted for the afternoon.

Today's cool front broke up spring's playhouse of showers and thundershowers that dumped .55 inch of rain on the city yesterday and last night.

But the cool front had a reverse action today as the now-you-see - it - now - you - don't sun promised to send the mercury to 70 degrees. A cool 40 in the morning, a warm 63 in the afternoon is predicted tomorrow.

Low temperature here this morning was 56 degrees. The showers brought the March rainfall total to 3.71 inches, .38 under the March normal of 4.09 inches.

Our Weather

Fair to partly cloudy this afternoon and tonight. Clearing and cooler tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning	56
Low tomorrow morning	40
High today	70
High yesterday	71
High tomorrow	63

Sunrise today 6:17 a.m.; sunset today 6:40 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 5-A

Billy Preaches In The Rain

BROADBEACH, Australia (AP)—Evangelist Billy Graham interrupted a holiday on the Gold Coast to address 8,000 people in the rain at the edge of the surf at Greenmount beach resort today.

The audience including many teen-agers in swimsuits and raincoats, began to assemble two hours before Graham was scheduled to appear. The evangelist's Good Friday address had been widely publicized in advance.

Graham stood in the rain for 20 minutes and told the crowd the world is on the brink of an abyss and seems to be driving toward war.

"This milk and toast Christianity we have today is not pure Christianity," Graham said. "Young people today do not know what to do with sex. I have studied this business and I do not think you can find control, apart from God."

Graham said many youths who "swagger in a gang" were really afraid. He said he had seen youths marching under the banner of the hammer and sickle, dedicated and ready to die for communism. Youth, he added, must be dedicated and ready to die for God.

Too Much Money

FORT SCOTT, Kan. (AP) — A campaign for $600 to send the Fort Scott Junior College debate team to a national forensic tournament at Aberdeen, Wash., has been called off.

Too much money!

Germany's Future

European Allies Favor U. S. Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Britain, France and West Germany were reported generally favorable today to a U.S. master plan for negotiations with the Soviet Union on the future of Germany.

The aim of the plan is to achieve the unification of West Germany and Communist East Germany in stages over a period of years. This would begin with creation of a loose federation and end with the conclusion of a German peace treaty.

Limitations on forces in central Europe and an end to the division of Berlin also are envisioned as the plan progressed.

The foreign ministers of Britain and France are to discuss the program with Acting Secretary of State Christian Herter here next Tuesday.

West German representatives will join the talks Wednesday in advance of broader discussions among foreign ministers of all the North Atlantic Treaty powers meeting Thursday for a NATO 10th anniversary session.

The preliminary discussions are pointed toward an East-West foreign ministers meeting in Geneva May 11 and a later summit conference, as proposed to the Soviet Union by the Western powers Thursday.

It is an open question whether the U.S.S.R. would be interested in any part of the U.S. plan or in any other which the Western powers might suggest.

Some officials say there is at least a slight possibility Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev may be seriously interested in negotiating an acceptable German settlement.

Others say that whether or not Khrushchev is interested, the Western powers must go into the negotiations with the Soviets prepared to put on the table a set of reasonable proposals which would dramatically demonstrate the willingness of the Western powers to make agreements with the Soviet Union on fair terms.

The detailed program which has now been worked out would begin the merger process by increasing direct contacts between East and West Germany in all sorts of practical ways in such fields as commerce and travel.

A temporary all-German group, possibly to be known as a council, would be created by representatives from the traditional 15 German laender (states) of which 10 are in West Germany with its population of 52 million and 5 in East Germany with its population of 17 million.

Strike Talks To Continue

RALEIGH (AP)—Renewed violence has made more difficult the task of finding a settlement for the prolonged Henderson cotton mill strike, Gov. Hodges said today.

However, the governor told his news conference he is "still hopeful" for progress in his talks with union and management representatives, although recent developments have "dampened optimism."

Hodges returned "a courteous no" to a request for comment on Atty. Gen. Malcolm Seawell's descriptions of an alleged attack on Carolinas Director Boyd Payton of the Textile Workers Union of America as "an absolute hoax."

"I am in a very difficult position, trying to mediate between the sides," Hodges explained.

He pointed out that Payton is one of the union representatives in the negotiations which resumed here today.

Payton claimed his auto windshield was shattered by chunks of tile hurled from a passing car on the highway at night. The union offered a $2,500 reward for information.

The windshield had two holes, one of which appeared large enough to have admitted the four pieces of tile found in Payton's car. But Seawell said examination indicated the glass had been broken by a round object such as a hammer or hatchet head.

—NOT 'THE LAST WORD'—

Death Conquered Is Easter Message

NEW YORK — (AP) — Honest Christianity does not subscribe to the rosy idea that "death comes as a friend," a leading American churchman said today.

In his annual Easter message, the Rev. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, president of the National Council of Churches, said there's a modern tendency to dodge the hard truth about death.

The council he heads includes most major Protestant and Orthodox churches in America.

Recalling Jesus' words, "I go to prepare a place for you: if it were not so, I would have told you," Dr. Dahlberg said:

"This makes it clear that Jesus had thought through all the possibilities of skepticism and unbelief as well as of faith. What He was saying in effect to the disciples was this: 'If there was no life after death, I would have said so.'

"Any religion that is realistic must reckon with doubt as well as with conviction. Christ was intellectually honest. So was the Apostle Paul. They did not subscribe to the rosy ideas that 'there is no death' or that 'death comes as a friend.'"

DEATH AS ENEMY

Noting Paul's description in 1 Corinthians 15:26 of death as an enemy, Dr. Dahlberg added:

"Why should we not be as truthful as the Word of God? Death is an enemy. Cover it up with wreaths and flowers as we will . . . It is the stone curtain between ourselves and God, between living on earth and living in the great beyond.

"We should resist death with all our power. We should put up a fight to the finish against everything that causes death, whether it be ignorance, superstition, poverty, disease, drunkenness, war, famine or religious unbelief.

"Death can never have the last word. It may be the last enemy. But it has been destroyed. Christ has destroyed it by the power of His love. Life and immortality have been brought to light through Him. He has shattered the stone curtain. . ."

ANOTHER MESSAGE

The Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, issued an Easter message, saying:

"When we believe that Christ rose from the dead we are caught up with Him into a different kind of life from what we knew before. We are made partakers of His resurrection.

"A Christian has working in him that same power of God which raised Jesus from the dead.

"How desperately we stand in need of that transforming power today. We need it in our own lives to give us faith and patience and courage. We need it working through us to bring order and justice and unity to our world.

"And that resurrection power is at hand. That's what Easter tells us: It is here."