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The Florence Times

Dedicated To The Interest Of The People Of The Muscle Shoals District

PAID CIRCULATION
TODAY
THE FLORENCE TIMES 7,046
THE TRI-CITIES DAILY 5,265
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Established 1869

FLORENCE, ALABAMA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 11, 1950

Associated Press—N. E. A. Service

5c Per Copy

LUME 90—NUMBER 189

Florence Plans Million Dollar Natural Gas System

FUGITIVE SEIZED FOR MASSACRE—Malcolm Whitt (left), 32, fugitive from jail, is captured by a posse at Kosciusko, Miss., for the massacre slaying of three sleeping Negro children. Beside him is Deputy Sheriff Q. Q. Harris, in the background are some of the possemen. Two companions of Whitt escaped capture. Thomas Harris, a Negro, said the three fugitives killed the sleeping children in his home and shot him in the back after attempting to rape his 14-year-old step-daughter. The girl also was shot and wounded.—(AP Wirephoto.)

Ellis' Plea For Dignity Draws Blast

Folsom Regime Says He Should Clean Up In His Home County

MONTGOMERY, (AP) — Handy Ellis' announcement that he will run for governor again and insist on "dignity" in the office brought from the Folsom administration today a charge of "crooked gambling" in Ellis' own county.

A statement was issued by Col. Bull Lyerly, assistant director of the public safety department urging Shelby county officials to "cooperate in returning dignity to Shelby county."

Asserting that state officers seized "two cartons of crooked dice" in a raid on a Shelby night spot on Jan. 1, 1949, Lyerly said, "if they must have gambling in Shelby county, let it be dignified gambling and not crooked gambling."

Lyerly's statement was handed to newsmen in the governor's office where he will take over Feb. 1 as executive secretary to Gov. James E. Folsom.

Continuing, the statement said the raid on the Shelby night spot resulted in the arrest of five men and "as our officers approached the courthouse . . . they were met by the county solicitor and a former representative of Shelby county who arranged bail for the gentlemen."

Further, Lyerly said the public safety department has "had to keep investigators in Shelby county in the past three years trying to stamp out public gambling."

Besides demanding "dignity" in the governor's office, Ellis, who ran second to Folsom in 1946, came out yesterday with a platform dedicated chiefly to combatting the Truman civil rights program.

In addition to the civil rights issue and possible new taxes, it included taking the pardon-parole board out of politics, cleaning up the state liquor law, maintenance of public school standards and increased old age pensions to $40 a month.

Ellis, a member of the state education board, released the statement at the board's meeting here. He said the "reasonable additional" taxes might be needed to keep up the school's standards if increased revenue from present levies and economy in operation couldn't provide the funds.

On the parole question, Ellis said the board has fallen into disrepute. And suggested it be made

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 7)

ONE OF LIFE'S SADDEST MOMENTS—Three-year-old Michael Mason of Oklahoma City is experiencing one of the saddest moments in a boy's life—because of the death of his pet dog. Mike had been sick and couldn't go outside to play with his dog Pat. For a time, Pat watched Mike through a window, but finally the dog disappeared. Later it was found dead.—(AP Wirephoto.)

Plates Show Evidence New Atom Particle

Three Scientists Record Evidence High In The Air

ROCHESTER, N. Y. (AP)—The University of Rochester reported today they had photographic plates showing "strong evidence" of a new atomic particle, the neutral meson.

The university said three of its scientists had recorded the evidence on plates carried 19 miles into the air by balloons released near Harrisburg, Pa.

Mesons are the mysterious, short-lived particles that serve as glue for the elements of the atomic nucleus. They are believed closely related to energy from the sun and other atomic energy.

Scientists have identified two kinds of charged mesons, light and heavy, but have only suspected the existence of neutral mesons.

According to nuclear theory, charged mesons are responsible for attraction between dissimilar nuclear elements, while neutral mesons must be a similar force between identical elements.

Mesons are a clue to the mysterious energy in the cores or nuclei of atoms. Physicists have been studying them because they are the greatest approach they can get to this energy or force.

The evidence that there are neutral mesons gives physicists another clue. But no one can predict at this time what practical use, if any, may come from the discovery, or what its significance is.

Mesons come flying out in the big collisions between atoms and atomic particles. They live only a few millionths of a second and are very penetrating. The cosmic rays at sea level that penetrate half a mile or more into the earth, are mesons.

They act like particles when they shoot out of atoms, and then go back into the nuclei of atoms again. They may be atomic energy which

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 3)

Agreement Made With Ala.-Tennessee Natural Gas Co. For Purchase Gas Supply

Contract Signed Contingent Upon Sale Of Bonds

The City of Florence will construct a natural gas distribution system at a cost of approximately $1,000,000, it was announced today by S. B. Howard, city clerk and agent, when it has been made with the Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Company.

The announcement was made today after months of deliberation and study of the matter, Mr. Howard said.

Several months ago the city employed Barnard and Burk Consulting Engineers of Baton Rouge, La., to make a survey and submit a perspectus on a natural gas distribution system. After the engineers had filed the perspectus and much thought and discussion was given the matter, the city commissioners, Mayor F. P. Yelding, Marshall Smith and J. S. Cromwell, decided that the city needed a gas distribution system and adopted a resolution to that effect.

After the decision to construct the system was made, the commissioners instructed the engineers to complete the plans and specifications of the system. The commissioners negotiated with the National Utilities Company, local gas system, to purchase the company's distribution system and complete equipment here at a cost of $50,000, Mr. Howard said.

The contract has been signed, Mr. Howard continued, contingent on the city's selling revenue bonds for the construction of the new system which will cost approximately $1,000,000.

The Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas company from whom the purchase of gas will be made has agreed to deliver gas to the city's gates.

Mr Howard added that the City of Florence has already made application to the Federal Works Ad-

(Continued On Page 2, Col 6)

Demos Accuse GOP Playing Politics Now

Argument Raging Over America's Stake In Formosa

BY DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Democrats accused Republicans of playing politics with foreign affairs today in the continuing argument over America's stake in the Communist threat to Formosa.

Still under GOP attack on foreign policy in the Far East, Secretary of State Acheson shifted his defense from the Senate to the House foreign affairs committee (10:30 a.m. EST).

Key Democrats in the House committee, from the chairman on down,

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 5)

Whites Held In Slaughter Of Three Negro Children

BY WARREN ROGERS, JR.

SALLIS, Miss., (AP)—The last two of three desperate white men wanted in the vengeful slaughter of three Negro children were captured without a struggle near here today.

A heavily armed posse, prepared to shoot to kill if necessary, captured Leon Turner, 38, a former convict, and Wendell Whitt, 24, in a potato house two miles from the home of Turner's father near here.

The capture in a desolate central Mississippi area climaxed a relentless 37-hour manhunt which had brought the arrest of Malcolm Whitt, 32, Wendell's brother.

The three were wanted for the pistol slaying last Sunday night of three Negro children, Frankie C. Thurman, 10, Mary Burnside, 8, and Ruby Nell Harris, 4.

District Attorney Henry L. Rodgers said the three men, after drinking heavily, entered the home of the Negroes to "kill the whole family" in revenge. Rodgers described Turner as the ringleader.

The capture of the two men was made by penitentiary trusty guard, "Hogjaw" Mullen. His baying bloodhounds had led 14 members of the posse from the home of Turner's father to the potato house.

Mullen approached the potato house—it was about the size of two doghouses put together. He spied the men huddled inside and fired six pistol shots through the building.

Twenty minutes after the capture, at 8:30 a.m. (CST), it was found that one of Mullen's shots had hit Turner in the back.

As officers poured from their cars, carrying rifles, pistols and automatic weapons, Turner and

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 7)

ATTENTION VETERANS!

Veterans interested in making purchases of the 30 new homes on Grand avenue, Highland Park, Sheffield, with GI loans are requested to contact Oliver Semmes, Colbert county veterans service officer, whose office is on West Fifth street, Tuscumbia, telephone 587. Mr. Semmes stated that GI loans carry four and one-half per cent interest per year for 15 years.

GUILD MEETING SET

The Guild of Our Redeemer Lutheran church will hold its January meeting Thursday at 3 p. m. The meeting will be held in the church.

U. S. Destroyers Keep Eye On Damaged U. S. Freighter

BY WAYNE RICHARDSON

ABOARD THE FLYING ARROW, (AP)—Crewmen patched up this shell-crippled American freighter today enough to permit her to limp to the nearest port.

But Capt. David Jones of Chicago, her master, said he did not yet know where he would take her—Shanghai her original destination, or elsewhere.

A Chinese Nationalist gunboat shot her full of holes Monday and crippled her steering gear. Nationalist spokesmen said the shooting was to keep her out of minefields on the approaches to Shanghai.

The attack occurred on the high seas, at least 20 miles from shore. The gunboat has shadowed her ever since. The gunboat has remained at a distance varying from 300 yards to eight miles away.

Captain Jones said he was in the same position he was in before the attack—awaiting instructions from her operators, the Isbrandtsen-Line of New York, on whether to proceed to Shanghai or some other port.

The American destroyers have offered to escort the Flying Arrow to any port except Shanghai.

The destroyers — Stickell and Bausell—have stuck by her side since their arrival yesterday afternoon. During daylight hours they never strayed more than 200 yards from her side.

A steering apparatus that will enable the ship to be steered from the bridge was rigged up today. Electric cables, torn by shell fire, also were fixed.

Chief Engineer William Gill of Naugatuck, Conn., filled four shell holes in the No 5 hold where a fire raged during the shelling Monday. The Flying Arrow took between 30 and 40 hits.

Captain Jones said the ship could be moved to the nearest port without danger to her 12 passengers, 43 crewmen and $10,000,000 cargo.

During the day the shadowing Chinese gunboat stopped a Chinese junk 500 yards from the Flying Arrow.

Quickly the two American destroyers moved into position. It was not possible to see from the ship

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 7)

Liquor-Crazed Gunman Kills Police Chief

Young Woman Also Shot To Death In Battle At Cafe

MENDON, Mass., (AP)—A liquor-crazed gunman shot and killed the Mendon police chief and a young woman after robbing the Red Rooster cafe and holding customers at bay for three hours early today.

Two other patrons and the gunman himself were wounded as terrified customers cowered behind the bar and booths during the gun battle.

Chief Matthew Mantoni, 39, and Miss Katherine Brady, 22, of Uxbridge, were killed in the blazing exchange.

Police said the gunman, identified as Harold Ward, 32, of Mendon, walked into the cafe about midnight—just before closing time.

He seized $100 from the owner, Aubrey Hensel, at gunpoint. Then he remained for several hours, threatening the owner and customers at pistol point, while he consumed quantities of liquor.

The daughter of the owner finally got to a telephone and summoned Mantoni. As Mantoni and a fellow officer, Clarence Grant, entered the establishment, Ward opened fire.

Grant finally brought the gunman down with a bullet in the hip and then slugged him into submission as he attempted to crawl to an exit.

The Brady girl's escort, Lawrence Griffin, 24, of West Upton, went down in the exchange with bullets in both thighs. Josephine Pitasi, 23, of Mendon, was grazed by a bullet.

"Free Enterprise" Versus "Socialism" Ballot Set

BY WILLIAM N. OATIS

LONDON, (AP)—Britons will decide in elections Feb. 23 whether they want to keep on the road to socialism or return to Winston Churchill's brand of free enterprise.

Laborite Prime Minister Clement Attlee ended months of guessing early today by announcing the election date after a cabinet meeting.

Politicians on all sides immediately got set for one of the most crucial election campaigns in Britain's history. Both the ruling Labor party and its major opponent, Churchill's Conservative party, expressed confidence in victory.

The prime issue is whether the Laborites will get a mandate to continue the program of state control and nationalization of industry it has carried out for nearly five years, or whether the Conservatives will be empowered to spike the socialist trend.

Neither party has promised that Britain's postwar austerity program will be lifted. And the Conservatives have said they will continue most of the nation's welfare programs and many of the state controls already enforced by the Laborites.

Churchill, the wartime premier who doubtless would lead the nation again if the Conservatives win, has promised, however, to repeal the steel nationalization bill and to permit state ownership to go no further. His hope is to turn Britain back toward private enterprise. State ownership of coal mines and railroads, for instance, is not expected to be affected by a possible Conservative victory.

British voters will choose a new House of Commons of 625 members. The party receiving the majority of seats normally would form the next government.

Both the Labor party and the Conservatives have put up candidates for every single seat in the house. Liberals have put up about 400 and Communists 99. This makes the total number of candidates about 1,750.

Britain's parliamentary elections are much like a combination presidential and congressional election in the United States. Attlee's and

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 8)

Driving With Dim Lights Compulsory In Sheffield Now

An ordinance stating that all motorists must drive with dim lights in the City of Sheffield was passed at the weekly meeting of the city commission Tuesday night at the municipal building.

An amendment to the electrical code was passed that establishes new fees for inspection, bringing this matter up to date. The amendment will be published at a later date.

All commissioners were present at the meeting.

Three Colbert Men Honored At Auburn

Three Colbert countians, students at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, are among 22 students selected by Dean Marion J. Funchess of the school of agriculture for his dean's list compiled on the basis of outstanding work done by these students during the fall quarter.

Listed are Ensel C. Stutts, Cherokee, and Oscar D. Crosby and Jerry Mack Baker, Sheffield.

Lewis Orders Coal Miners Back To Work

Suggests That Idle Miners Resume Their Production Monday

WASHINGTON, (AP) — John L. Lewis today ordered 66,000 striking coal miners to go back to a three-day work week Monday.

These miners had quit their jobs in seven states—refusing to work even the three days weekly permitted by Lewis in his "cold war" with mine operators.

Lewis sent the following message to presidents of the United Mine Workers districts where miners had quit all work.

"Will you please transmit to our members who are idle this week my suggestion that they resume production next Monday."

Some 32,650 miners have been on full strike in Pennsylvania, 1,500 in West Virginia, 6,000 in Alabama, 5,000 in Kentucky, 4,000 in Ohio, 990 in Utah and 250 in Virginia.

There were 16,000 on strike in Illinois last week, but they went back to work last Monday.

Today's back-to-work order may have resulted from Lewis' apprehension about the growing clamor from coal operators and members of congress that President Truman act under the Taft-Hartley law to restore full coal production.

Presumably, the miners will jump

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 5)

E. C. M. Hospital Expands Services; Inspection Thursday

The Board of Governors of Eliza Coffee Memorial hospital, Florence, announced today the formal opening of the new laboratory and also of the snack bar and gift shop. The public is invited to inspect these new facilities between the hours of 6 and 8 Thursday evening.

The building housing the new facilities is an extension added to the laundry building which is located at the west end of the hospital building. The hospital, laundry and addition are connected by a covered walk-way. The new building covers approximately 800 square feet. It is constructed of stuccoed concrete block. The interior finish is sheet rock and the floors are asphalt tile.

The room formerly used as a laboratory on the third floor of the hospital has been beautifully remodeled into a lounge room for husbands or relatives of obstetrical patients. This lounge is complete with comfortable chairs, reading lamps, radio, magazines, pictures, mirror and plenty of ash trays.

The Board of Governors and hospital staff are particularly proud of the added services made possible by the new laboratory. New equipment has been added to increase not only the volume and efficiency of laboratory procedures, but also the scope of laboratory tests. Heretofore, the hospital laboratory has been forced to limit its services primarily to hospitalized patients. Now the public will benefit greatly from the new laboratory services as additional personnel and equipment permit laboratory service for doctors who desire this service to confirm their diagnosis of illness of non-

(Continued On Page 2, Col 6)

APSC Refuses Let Southern Abolish Runs

Hearing Scheduled In Federal Court On Railway's Suit

MONTGOMERY, (AP)—The Alabama Public Service Commission refused today to let the Southern Railway do away permanently with two passenger runs between Birmingham and Columbus, Miss.

Both trains are already out of service, and the APSC decision was announced just one day before a hearing scheduled in federal court on a suit which seeks to keep the commission from making Southern restore the trains.

The schedules were discontinued last November when the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered roads to save fuel during the coal strike. When the ICC restrictions were lifted, Southern refused to put the Birmingham-Columbus runs back.

Railroad officials had already asked the commission for authority to abandon the two trains permanently, but no action was ever taken. A hearing was held at Fayette, Ala., Dec. 8, while the trains were

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 6)

John Ayers, 46, Dies Suddenly

John Quincy Ayers, aged 46, died suddenly sometime Monday afternoon when he went across a pasture to his brother's home at Sheffield, route 1, to check some mink traps, reports from James Mayes, Colbert county coroner, and owner-manager of Brown-Service Funeral home, Tuscumbia, today said.

The body was found by his brother, Leonard Ayers, Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock one-fourth mile off the Second street road in a pasture on the way to where the traps were set, Mr. Mays stated. Leonard Ayers, who said he was worried when his brother did not return Monday night because he sometimes spent the night with other relatives, began the search Tuesday afternoon about 2 o'clock. He had left the home of Leonard, with whom he lived, about 4 o'clock Monday afternoon.

Mr. Mays said the death resulted from natural causes.

Deceased was born in Colbert county and had made his home here all of his life except for short intervals when he held jobs away from here. He was a member of the Freewill Baptist church.

Surviving are a daughter, Barbara Ann; two sons, Wallace and

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 7)

Lewis' Checkerboard Feud With Mines Idles 66,000

PITTSBURGH, (AP)—The United Mine Workers' checkerboard strike strategy has more than 66,000 soft coal diggers idle today.

In the past 24 hours nearly 20,000 more quit work. But several other mines strike-bound since the first of the week have been allowed to resume operations.

Miners now idle:

Penna.	32,650
W. Va.	17,500
Ala.	6,000
Ky.	5,000
Ohio.	4,000
Utah	990
Va.	250

Spokesmen for the coal industry say the here-today, gone-tomorrow strikes are just another attempt by UMW President John L. Lewis to needle the operators into signing a contract.

In Washington, Lewis ordered the striking miners to return to the pits next Monday. He sent telegrams to district presidents suggesting production be resumed then. Under the current three-day week, miners would not be working tomorrow or Friday anyway.

In Illinois, 16,000 miners who went on strike last week promptly returned to work Monday as diggers began walking out in seven other states.

In southwest Virginia 2,250 miners who struck at seven mines of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation Monday returned to work yesterday. As they trooped back to work, 900 men at the Bethlehem Collieries Corporation mine at Barrackville, W. Va., walked off the job.

UMW officials refuse to discuss the strike. John P. Busarello, UMW district president for the Pittsburgh area, at first denied knowledge of any walkout order; then, with the strike in full flower, declared:

"I'm just not talking."

At present, about one-sixth of the nation's soft coal miners are idle. No nationwide walkout is expected. That might create just the emergency needed for government intervention.

From a production angle, the

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 7)

Mrs. Creel's Pupils Give Toys For Tots

More than 50 toys were taken to the Sheffield fire department today by the first grade pupils of Mrs. Ella Lee Creel's room in the Annapolis avenue junior high school. The toys are for the Tot-to-Tot Tide of toys that is being sponsored by the American Legion and its auxiliary.

The children have been collecting these toys since their return to school after the holidays. Some children brought as many as five toys. All were good used toys.

One little girl's mother made a new body and limbs for a doll and dressed her in all white for some little girl across the ocean. Some children brought their little brothers' pull-toys. Each toy contained a message to the children in Europe.

A little girl who lives in a trailer brought her old doll "because she had a new one now." It was hard to take her doll.

The children had a toy parade in the school, then walked to the fire station with their toys. Mrs. Creel gave them a "treat" after their

Let's all give a toy to a tot in Europe, these pupils say.

Sermon On Millenium At Lutheran Church

Rev. E. T. Tonn, pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran church in Florence, will deliver the second sermon in a series on the Millenium tonight at 7:30 o'clock.

The series consists of four sermons. The twentieth chapter of Revelation will also be considered in these sermons.

Our Redeemed Lutheran church is located on North Poplar street and Jackson highway. The public is cordially invited.

Power Shortage Will Grip Tennessee Valley

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., (AP)—The Tennessee valley will have a shortage of electric power in the fall of 1951, Dr. Harry Curtis, TVA director, said here last night.

He said the TVA power load being carried by 145 co-operatives is up 91 per cent over 1945 and expects that 10,000 new customers are being added each month.

The director said the air research center to be built at Tullahoma, Tenn., "will take lots of power, too."

He reported that the expected shortage was the reason "we are pushing Johnsonville (steam plant) as much as we can."

Another TVA steam plant will be built in north Alabama.

Summary Business Activity In The Muscle Shoals Area

	Nov. 1949	Per Cent Pre Mo.	Per Cent Yr. Ago
General Activity			
Bank debits	$24,903.149	− 8.6	+ 6.1
Postal receipts	$ 22,982	− 8.7	+ 10.8
Number of telephones in service	12,723	+ 1.3	+ 10.7
Electric power	$ 380,975	− 69.0	+230.7
Building Permits			
Financial Activity			
Demand deposits, adjusted*	$18,296,130	− 6.4	− 2.9
Savings deposits*	$ 4,893,429	− 0.3	− 5.1
Postal savings*	$ 990,082	+ 0.6	+174.7
Mortgage recordings, county total	$ 1,434,798	+64.9	+197.9
Real estate	$ 1,046,246	+56.7	+127.1
Chattel	$ 388,552	+92.3	
Property Transfers (Number of deeds recorded)	280	+39.0	+ 25.0
Employment Activity			
Non-agricultural job placements	238	+ 1.7	− 22.2
Applications for work	364	+11.0	− 22.4
Claims for unemployment compensation	264	−15.7	− 24.8
Unemployment compensation payments	$ 24,495	+ 4.6	+ 36.7
Active applications on file	1,064	−13.8	**
Job openings received	301	+11.1	**

*End-of-month balance.
**Data not available for year-ago comparison.

BY H. H. CHAPMAN,
Director, Bureau of Business Research, University of Alabama

Debits to deposit accounts at the Florence, Sheffield and Tuscumbia banks amounted to $24,903,149 dur-

(Continued On Page 2, Col 8)

At The Theatres

SHOALS — Greer Garson, Errol Flynn and Walter Pidgeon in "That Forsyte Woman," Technicolor.

PRINCESS—Nelson Eddy and Susanna Foster in "Phantom of the Opera," Technicolor.

COLBERT—Farley Granger and Joan Evans in Rosesanna McCoy."

STRAND—William Elliott in "The Last Bandit," in Trucolor.

NORWOOD—"Julia Misbehaves," with Walter Pidgeon and Greer Garson.

MAJESTIC—Gloria Henry in "Air Hostess." Also Cornel Wilde and Linda Darnell in "Forever Amber," Technicolor.

RITZ—George Raft, Ann Sheridan, Humphrey Bogart in "They Drive By Night." Also Ellen Drew in "Rhythm Hits the Ice."

The Weather

Alabama and Mississippi—Mostly cloudy, occasional rain south portion except on coast this afternoon and tonight. Thursday cloudy, occasional rain north and central portions, warmer extreme south portion. Moderate to mostly southeast winds on the coast.

Tennessee—Increasing cloudiness lowest in middle 30s tonight. Thursday cloudy with, occasional rain likely. Moderate temperature.

Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 6:30 a.m. today, 65; minimum, 38. Precipitation noted during the period, .76 inch. Sunrise this morning, 6:29 o'clock; sunset tonight, 4:57. Pickwick lake stage today, 20.35 feet compared with Tuesday's 20.69. fall of .14 of a foot.