

Advice Today

Tomorrow may be too late
Invest today in Florence's
new hotel—support it.

VOLUME 46—NUMBER 323

The Associated Press

SHEFFIELD—TUSCUMBIA—MUSCLE SHOALS CITY, ALABAMA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 23, 1956

N. E. A. Service

See Per Copy

Arson Trial Continues:

Ex-Chief Denies Fire Guilt

In Colbert At Time, Says Burton Witnesses Back Escape's Albany

By DAVID MCCARTHY Staff Writer

JASPER—Former Cherokee Police Chief John Burton today steadfastly denied he was even near Jasper at the time a fire raged through his frame house, inflicting injuries fatal to its tenant.

The ex-officer, discovered to be a Kithy Prison escapee during an investigation of the arson charged he is now facing, told the court he was in Cherokee Halloween night when the fire he accused of setting broke out.

He spent over an hour on the witness stand this morning describing his movements in Cherokee.

Late yesterday witnesses confronted him at the Cherokee at 4:30 a.m. Nov. 1, Tuesday, two witnesses, Bobby Knight, 15, and J. W. McKinney, 25, told the court that they saw Burton in the area around 11 p.m. McKinney added that David Borden was with the former lawman.

Burton repeatedly denied that he was "ever even close to Jasper" on the night of the fire during lengthy defense questioning and cross-examination by the prosecution this morning.

He said he dressed in a false face, overalls and old shoes and mingled with neighbors in the evening in order to see that they did not harm property.

He said he left Cherokee at night and went to the State Line Cafe, on the Alabama-Mississippi border and remained there until 4:30 a.m., when he returned to Cherokee, made a short patrol and went home to bed.

Burton also testified that he first David Borden on Halloween night because Borden's eyes were red and he was wearing a highway patrol uniform. Borden was employed by Borden as a driver on a coal truck.

He said that there was no apparent hand feelings evidenced by Borden, adding that when he took Borden to the State Line Cafe, he was taken to a room and left there.

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Colbert Slaying, 20,000 Telephones Probe 'Incomplete' For Area

Man Held As Investigation Into Brother-In-Law's Death Continues

The investigation of the slaying of a Colbert county man Tuesday night was still "incomplete" today, the Colbert county sheriff's office announced.

Sheriff Raymond Wheeler and Circuit Solicitor Bryce U. Graham on Wednesday questioned parties involved in the incident which was fatal to Will Taylor Dexter, Cherokee, 20,000 telephones.

The installation was made in the home of Aubrey L. Sewell, Tusculumbia, holds her son, Gregory, 3, who talks to G. A. Pinkston, kneeling, who installed the City-Cities' 20,000th phone Wednesday in the Sewell apartment.

Standing in the background are: H. C. (Sam) Hutchison, Florence telephone manager, Mayor C. L. Board, Sheffield; Mayor Walter N. Harrison, Florence; C. M. Hopkins, phone service, Sheffield phone manager; (Staff Photo).

Another milestone in the development of the Tri-Cities area was recorded Wednesday with the installation of the 20,000th telephone served by the Florence-Sheffield exchange.

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Storm Took Huge Toll

Ante-Bellum Home Owner, Gone A Year, Returns To Find \$25-\$30,000 Damage

By CHARLES GRANGER, Staff Writer

Each dawnning day continues to reveal more serious damage from last week's storm. Latest revealed serious damage to the home of the owner, gone a year, returns to find \$25-\$30,000 damage.

The large pre-Civil War home was one of the most beautiful in the area. It had been built in 1840 and was one of the best examples of ante-bellum architecture in the area.

The storm hit the area on Monday night, and the damage was extensive. The home was completely destroyed, and the owner, who had been away for a year, returned to find the ruins of his home.

The damage to the home was estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000. The owner, who had been away for a year, returned to find the ruins of his home.

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Walprep Asks Re-election To Colbert Board

Earl Walprep, of Cherokee, opponent of the Colbert County Board of Revenue, today announced as a candidate for re-election as a member of the Board of Revenue from the South West District in the District Primary Election of May First.

Mr. Walprep was reared on a farm in this county and is well known and favored in all parts of the county. He is 38 years old, married and has a son aged 12 and a daughter aged 9.

He states he has discharged the many duties of this important office faithfully and with honor in seeking reelection Mr. Walprep says. "During my tenure on the Board of Revenue, I have carried on an extensive road paving program in all parts of the county. As an example, last year when I took office there was not a single mile of paved road in this district approximately 30 miles of pavement had been laid through cooperation, all districts in the county have many miles of new pavement."

These pavements not only relieved people of dust and mud but they relieve the county of a very heavy expense in the upkeep of roads. He says he will continue to work for the improvement of the county throughout the county to be completed within the next several months.

"I supported the resolution passed at the Board of Revenue to call an election to adopt and purchase voting machines and this measure was approved by the Board of the County about 10 to 1."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

At The Theatres

SHOALS AND COLBERT — "The McCollins Story," CinemaScope, color, with Alan Ladd, June Allyson, Shoals feature 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15. Colbert feature 1, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.

Tuskegee Fund Halt Proposed

If Negroes Go To White Colleges

MONTEAGUE — The secret agenda was injected into the school finance hearings here yesterday when a legislator from a joint meeting cutting off state money to Tuskegee Institute if a Negro student enrolls in a white college.

Rep. W. L. (Doc) Martin of Greene County proposed that the dial operation, an event scheduled for late this year.

H. C. (Sam) Hutchison, Florence telephone manager and Jesse B. King, Sheffield manager of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph, in a joint statement today said that the company is looking forward to a continued growth as evidenced by plans in converting both the Florence-Sheffield exchange and the Florence-Sheffield exchange to a dial operation, an event scheduled for late this year.

Franklin Circuit Court Set Monday

RUSSELLVILLE (Special) — The Franklin County Circuit Court will convene Monday for a short session. It will not convene until Monday, February 27 officials said today.

The court will meet Monday on the hearing before going into executive sessions tomorrow. A discussion of trade schools and miscellaneous expenditures is on the agenda this morning.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Body Is Recovered At Wheeler

Man Drowned In Sunday Mishap

The body of a Pulaski man who drowned Sunday in a fishing accident at Wheeler Dam, was recovered from the Tennessee River yesterday.

The body of John Paul Christopher, 35, was recovered from the river at the dam as discovered by Joe D. Brown, sheriff of Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Tuesday afternoon around 2 p.m.

According to reports, the body had caught on a surface snag at a point about 10 miles downstream.

Unconfirmed reports stated that the man was a member of the Pulaski County body. He apparently suffered injuries when thrown from the boat during the mishap.

A \$1,000 reward had been offered for finding the body, but the two searches declined the money, reporting it be divided between the widow of Mrs. Christopher and the widow of John Old, 26, who also drowned.

The chairman of the fund, Charles Ruff, said the reward would be granted.

Funeral services for Old, a 42-year-old farmer, were held Tuesday.

Old, Christopher and Guy Rogers, 35, were victims of a boat accident on the river last Sunday. The boat was carrying Old, Rogers and Martin when they were pulled into another boat by a snag. The boat was carrying Old, Rogers and Martin when they were pulled into another boat by a snag.

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(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

The Weather
MUSCLE SHOALS AREA—Some
adequate cloudiness tonight and
Friday with scattered showers of
showers. Low 40s to 50s.
High Friday 60.

More and More Is Assured
With \$26,700 reported in
Wednesday's hotel luncheon
meeting at the American
Lapwing, bringing the grand
total to \$532,200, the minimum
goal of \$650,000 got
closer.

Campaign Proclaimed

WHEREAS, the New Hotel Campaign for Florence will close its
activities on Friday night and
WHEREAS, more than 150 workers
have not only but have put in a large
amount of time in selling securities
at a great price and

WHEREAS, the campaign is still
short of the goal of \$650,000 and
WHEREAS, some one hundred
of our loyal and public-spirited
citizens are working hard to build
a bigger, better city, and

WHEREAS, THEREFORE I, WALTER
N. HARRISON, MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF FLORENCE, do hereby
proclaim this day to be
NEW HOTEL CAMPAIGN DAY
for the City of Florence, Tennessee.

(Signed) WALTER N. HARRISON,
MAYOR.

U-A Dean Quote

AUTHENTINE ISN'T
SEEKING EDUCATION
NEW YORK (AP)—The
University of Alabama, as
it has been reported as
seeking education for
its students.

Dr. O. C. Crampton, dean of the
college, said after the
president's statement that
any students who
demonstrations that
may lead to the
disorders would
miss class in the
future.

The questioning was to begin at
10 a.m. (EST).

Mr. Brannon, the owner immediately
went into the Tri-Cities from
Arizona.

He had been in Ephrussi, the
ex-convict, who he owned an oil
company and who had been
prosecuted for the
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