

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday
The News Publishing Company, Inc.
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and General Manager
J. E. Zett, Vice-President
and Editor
W. C. Dowd, 1665-1276

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.
The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, \$7.00; three months, \$20.00; six months, \$35.00; one year, \$65.00.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1942

Not Yet

This Morganton Investigation Is Only a Forerunner

To all the persons, former inmates of the State Hospital at Morganton, who have told The News that when the investigation was made they would like to testify, we beg to communicate the following information:

1. That the investigation commenced by the board of directors of the institution is not the full dress investigation which the Governor intends to be made. It is, rather, simply an investigation undertaken by the board on its own hook and for its own purposes, and as such appears to be well advised.

2. That the State's investigation, in all probability, will not only welcome but will seek testimony from all competent sources, and will be conducted, we trust, with consideration for the qualms and uneasiness of those former patients who are present themselves.

The Governor's disposition, we may add, seems to be to get at the bottom of the charges against the institution, and while that is never an easy assignment, there is everything to indicate that it will be undertaken with resolution. More, no one could ask.

Woo-Woo!

For Their Defense, the Kiddies Draw a Pippin

"Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight!
Make me a child again, just for tonight!"

—Elizabeth Akers Allen
The kiddies get all the breaks. While the civilian defense activities of its grown-ups are watched over by the adult-like Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Roosevelt, the tots have drawn a pippin, Miss Mary Chaney (no relation of or resemblance to the late Lon) will direct their activities.

We know nothing of Miss Chaney except that in her dancing days she was Mrs. Roosevelt's protégée. And that, it appears, is enough.

Also, unless the camera has lied unconsciously, Miss Chaney would be an admirable companion during a blackout. She is so good for the fact that she landed a \$4,600 job while Mrs. R.'s other protégée, Pinky Joe Lash, was drafted despite his patronage's efforts to get him into Naval Intelligence.

Which indicates a sure-fire procedure for the ambitious young American. First, he should contrive to become prominent in some un-American activity. This will attract the attention of the Dies Committee. If he plays his cards shrewdly, he should have no trouble in finding his place under the protecting wings of our American Lady Boudicca, Mrs. Roosevelt. From there on—if he is not too greedy—his future is assured. The whole vast network of sinews opens before him. If he keeps his wits about him and refrains from crossing picket lines, he should go far.

In this instance, things seem to have worked out for the best. Much better, say, than if Joe Lash had gotten supervision of the children and Miss Chaney had insisted on a commission in Naval Intelligence.

Stubborn Folks

Yank or Southerner, the Grants Just Won't Quit

There is, we have heard suspected, a streak of stubbornness in people named Grant. General U. S. Grant, a hard-headed old cuss if there ever was one, kept this attitude when he declared that he would fight it out on the line before Richmond if it took all Summer. Fight it out he did.

The same stubbornness of purpose was displayed in Columbia, S. C., the other night when another Grant, Rep. Wilbur O. Grant, kept his fellow legislators up all night in a stubborn filibuster. We trust that Rep. Wilbur, a good Democrat from Chester, will forgive the comparison to the Yankee.

And although he failed, Rep. Wilbur's feat was in some respects more singular than the General's. Wilbur had an army superior in numbers, and equipment to back up his stubborn will. Rep. Wilbur had only a pair of lungs, tanned and seasoned during a youth spent on his school athletic and college teams. Certainly he was no less devoted to his cause, which was to prevent the legislature from passing a bill allowing municipalities to license wholesalers and shippers them in the process.

He was 19:30 in the morning when

Rep. Wilbur began talking. Some 21 hours later he croaked "I find that my voice will no longer let me talk on this bill." Whereupon the bill was passed and ordered ratified within ten minutes.

There is some good in everything, though, and we suspect that Rep. Wilbur's filibuster gave more than a few S. C. legislators their first quiet evening since the current session began.

Foolish Eire

She Persists in Helping Her Friends Lose the War

If Eamon de Valera's Government would let Britain and America have only three Irish ports for the duration, the North Atlantic supply lines would be shortened by 200 miles. The sea approaches to Britain would be more secure. The territory of Eire itself would be better able to defend itself.

But Mr. de Valera will not leave the bairns. He reaffirms his promise that Eire will "not allow" the enemy to use its territory as a base for an attack on England. He would have been more prudent had he said Eire would dispute any enemy attempt to seize the island. Irish valor notwithstanding, it is pretty generally conceded that Eire would fall before a "Cree-treatment" in a few days.

Indeed, who is to say that Eire is already being used as a base against Britain and America? Official representatives of the Nazi Government live in Dublin as accredited diplomats. If swarms of spies and Fifth Columnists aren't operating under these ubiquitous Nazi envoys, it is the first time such an opportunity has been overlooked. Already the British are concerned at the apparent ease with which an enemy might spy on U. S. troop movements in northern Ireland and then slip across into Eire for a report to his superiors in Dublin.

Irish "neutrality" is a dangerous and spiteful thing—the attempt of a valiant but foolish little nation to play David to the Philistine Goliath. By reason of her geographical position, if Eire is not for us, she is against us. If she waits for Hitler to make the first hostile move, it may very well be too late for Eire to save herself or to be saved by those who want her now as an ally.

Amateur

A Somewhat Casual Idea Borrowed From MacArthur

Being on the verge of indulging in a mite of armchair strategy, we pause briefly to defend that legitimate and usually humane pursuit from its Johnny-come-lately critics. Who has a right to criticize armchair strategy, anyway? Certainly not those fat-headed Washington officials who have been doing most of the talking. Nor need we pay much attention to a few uneducated and frustrated officers who might well have heeded any strategy other than their own.

But Douglas MacArthur? Sure, he could lambast armchair strategy all he pleased. But he doesn't. He just refrains from making mistakes. And speaking of MacArthur reminds us of the strategy we were about to borrow from him.

When the Japs menaced MacArthur's left flank on Bataan peninsula with superior forces, did the General thought about trying to shift more troops to the left? No, sir. He hit the enemy even harder on his right and let the Japs do the shifting. As a result, the whole line was kept intact.

Why can't we use MacArthur's strategy on a mammoth scale, relieve the pressure on our left flank by smashing at Japan's northern, or right, positions? There are considerations of weather, of equipment, no doubt. But Japan proper is most vulnerable from our Aleutian bases, as indicated by her repeated expressions of concern during her construction.

The major battles of this war have been won by the side that employed bold, aggressive strategy. They have been lost by those whose greatest concern has been the sending of defensive reinforcements first to this point and then to that one.

Tokyo Squeaks

By Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON
EACH day over the ether from Tokyo, Rome and Berlin comes the only good fiction this year has been written by the Axis propagandists.

When the Axis propagandists write, they write for instance, is this a mouse? For this squeaky mouse-like news broadcast by Tokyo.

In a special message written for the benefit of his countrymen, an officer of the U. S. Army who was captured by Imperial forces in the fierce battle of Kavarua Bay declared: "Surrender comrades of the American Army. We are going to play for a free peace between the U. S. and Japan."

The U. S. Army who did not know whether the Japs found an American who addresses troops as "Comrades."

AND THE JAPS
HINDERS TO AMERICA
But probably the best thing Tokyo has ever done in a literary way was to tell the world that Columbus did not discover America.

The cultural organization of the American continent is proved to have been created by the Asiatic race. The Japanese have discovered America but they did not discover it for the first time. A European discovered the American continent. People of Japan discovered the advanced shore of Alaska and North America "as far as the coastline of Peru."

The Japs also discovered that this rebellion against England was "planned by Jews and British spies" (which should be enough to make George Washington turn over in his grave, even at this late date).

MOST COMFORTING

Yet the most comforting of all to us is the Berlin radio. It is a comforting sound.

"Col. Knox could find peace even in his private bomb shelter. He tried yesterday to go away for a weekend. He did not want to be there when the Congressional investigation against Kimmel began. But he could not find peace. As soon as he arrived at his destination, a Western Union arrived with a telegram reading: 'Return immediately. See me on my urgent matter.' (Signed) Frankie."

Aside from the fact that there is no bomb shelter, did not leave town, no Congressional investigation of Kimmel has yet been made, and no telegram had been received, the broadcast inadvertently assured us that Berlin's sources of information in Washington are lousy or non-existent.

NAZI FAVOR

"MURKIN" METHOD

Berlin also made a feature of the "mysterious disappearance of the Bataan of Jolene." His family was concerned. A few days later Berlin cleared the mystery. The Bataan had been found in Japanese hands and returned to the United States. At the time, the Bataan had been fighting with the British in Singapore where he was recently interviewed and photographed by American correspondents.

The Nazis like this "mystery" method. They announced America had a nuclear weapon, "the ultimate atomic bomb." They even had the type number "K-1" and said 100,000 would be built in a year. A few days later they announced the United States had found the bomb. About that ship, that there was no such ship—as indeed there wasn't. They only failed to say that they had expected the atom ship in order to destroy it.

For a Valentine to the absent actress, "Boris" was the only one left for the unwelcome visitor.

A Boston schoolboy may have something in his allusion to the "switch early peace" that the tie is left for the unwelcome visitor.

Spirit: Disastrous upward course taken by Sullivan if the other fellow enters his price.

Sign chalked on a Hamburg (Germany) warehouse: "We are waiting ourselves to death." Tokyo papers please copy.

About Morganton

By Paul Mellon

WASHINGTON
I have to do this for several reasons. First, I feel like Mr. Jimison has been let off too easy. He has been let off too easy. He has been let off too easy.

Well, to end up, I want to say that Mr. Jimison hasn't lied. In fact I have read all his articles and the half has been better told. You see, in preachers can take the same scripture and give you two different angles. I have a little different angle from Mr. Jimison. I will say this now—that no delegation will see the inside of Morganton. I learned more about the human race up there in 60 days than I had on the outside in more than 80 years.

I recall that when I went to work there a kindly, Christian gentleman told me that the first consideration of my work would be to treat the patients well, to be patient with those entrusted to my care. He had hardly turned his back until the 200 men, just entrusted to me, were half of them fighting. I rushed in to separate them and found myself promptly knocked out—and I'm a pretty good-sized fellow well able to care for himself among any folk.

The State has been unable to furnish money needed to employ trained help and consequently those charged with the important responsibility there have bridled the gap by employing some good and thorough conscientious country boys and girls willing to work for inadequate wages and who have done a very good job in spite of everything. It isn't fair to crucify them and those who direct them for charges I know from personal contact and observation to be totally unfounded.

Mr. Jimison exaggerates. I can say of personal knowledge that the welfare of the patient is the first thing that runs through the mind of the State hospital. The fact that he speaks of some men who were washed daily, floors mopped each morning, beds changed at the right time, the "jack-stall" conditions of which he writes do not tell how dangerous those people are to themselves and how they will kill themselves with the crudest implements if allowed them of the feeding and how much could be.

Discharged Attendant

Defends State Hospital

Editors, The News:
As a former attendant at the State Hospital at Morganton—and at the outset let me make it clear I'm not a candidate for my former job from which I was discharged because of alleged mistreatment of a patient—I'm not able to stand aside and see an injustice being done. Dr. Watkins and other conscientious people there by Tom Jimison's articles you are carrying.

While conditions at Morganton may not be all that could be asked for, they are decidedly better than painted by Mr. Jimison and than the State should expect for its patients. The doctors at no request of any kind of money for operation of that important institution.

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The "Premier of Norway" Goes for a Walk



City Hall Today:

Civilian Defense Shapes Up

By Dick Young

There's no doubt that our civilian defense effort is the biggest task facing us as a community today. We around the City Hall are more and more impressed with this each passing day as we see the expanding program, a vast program, a vast program.

It is becoming necessary to cancel non-defense engagements at municipal buildings. And that's the reason every patriotic citizen should volunteer to assume some job in this vast program of protecting ourselves should war actually come to our door.

SHEAHAN'S SERVICE GIVEN WITHOUT CHARGE
And that's the reason Paul B. Sheahan has assumed the duty without pay of defense coordinator. Mr. Sheahan deserves the admiration of the community for taking on this important post and the service that he is rendering will be more generally appreciated as the public realizes more of what this thing is about.

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Public health officials have been stirring up considerable resentment and the proposed milk ordinance, with its provision for supervision of buttermilk production, is no exception. Farmers who are not used to milk production are to pick up some extra change think they are being run out of

Labor's New Idea

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
THERE is another idea that, like the Reuther plan, comes up from labor-union people. But maybe it will be given more serious consideration, in spite of its source.

The idea is being advanced for the refrigeration industry but it might be applicable to numerous others, and that is the main reason for giving it a look.

The proposition is merely that a limited number of cut-down, standardized, simplified "Victory" refrigerators be made in a few plants while all other plants in the business are converted completely to war work.

KEEPING MANUFACTURERS FROM STEALING A MARCH

Use of the "Victory" label on the wartime model is to prevent the few firms which would be licensed to make it from having a commercial advantage after the war over the remainder of the industry.

The proposal is that the War Production Board determine a really quota of this model refrigerator based on available materials and minimum needs, and that it be turned out with the smallest possible factory capacity on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week schedule.

Unions working in the industry proposed this plan to War Production Board officials in December. They said that the official in charge, Jesse Maury, chief of the WPB consumers' durable goods branch, seemed to be favorably impressed at the first discussion. However, it is still under consideration.

HALFWAY CONVERSION IS IMPRACTICABLE

As civilian production becomes tighter this kind of procedure will be necessary. After visiting some of the automobile plants in Detroit last week, I found that it is difficult to have any halfway conversion in a given plant. For instance in the 15th month plant the whole place had to be used if the assembly line was going to operate at all, because it winds around the entire space. There is no way to cut it down and make room for manufacture of gun mounts in the same factory. So they are tearing out the whole assembly line. The plant has to make nothing but automobiles, or something else besides automobiles. It can't do both.

The idea of any sort of a halfway conversion is to make just one thing and nothing else. Such factories must either go on making their normal civilian product, change over entirely to war work, or stand idle. The sensible answer is, instead of keeping an refrigerator factory on half time because of restricted materials, to leave our running full time and take the other nine out of refrigerators and put it at something else.

NO HARD FEELINGS AGAINST WAR PRODUCERS

But what about the business man who has taken out of his business? First, there is a war on and a lot of unpleasant places in it. It is not his business, second, the factors left in the business must suspend its trade name and use the "Victory Label" and will operate under a price ceiling and on a fixed quota of production so that no abnormal profits should result. Third, the business man taken out of his business must be assured of a heavy volume of war work that would enable him to hold his production organization together.

I don't believe that in the matter of public good will be hindered. It doesn't seem reasonable that after the war the public is going to have a concern which devoted itself to war work, one that there will be any special good-will value in a concern which has had to turn out the "Victory" little standard cut-down models that the Government would license.

Visitin' Around

Why, They'll Be Telephonin' Each Other, Probably
(Robinson Courier)

First it was Wheeler Newell, and now it's J. W. Owen. They're both telephonin'. What next?

Yeh, but That Was Before AAA

(30 Years Ago, Lexington Dispatch)

"Squire" John W. Bowers of Thomasville, visits city and claims he is pig-raising champion of county.

Jill Don't Sound Very Exciting

(Adv., Marshall News-Herald)
WANTED—Middle aged woman to play on place. Good pay and good place. Sober, Cook for two and milk one cow.

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