THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd 1865-1927 ●

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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1942

Ten Flights Up

A Sports Writer Moves Up To the Ivory Tower

In the high and far off newspaper times O best believe the trade of sports writing was frequently not an apprenticeship for a higher station calling. The roster of those who have gone on from sports to make a name as columnist or novelist or home fellow is both numerous and impressive.

The late Heywood Broun, as for this New York's favorite all round columnist had been a sports writer. So have Westbrook Pegler, Damon Runyon, Paul Gallico, Henry McLemore, Grantland Rice, the late Ring Lardner and many another. "Information Please" is heavy gun, John Kieran, is still a sports writer.

And so it is with a nice pride in keeping the old traditions shine and hoi wise with a considerable admiration for its own discernment that *The News* announces today the transferring of Burke Davis from sports editor to editorial writer.

The same qualities that have made Burke a swell sports man equip him for admission to the Ivory Tower way up here in the clouds where the lofty editorials are composed. He is literate, deliberate, honest in his opinions interested in the world and sympathetic to all its little people, unprejudiced and possessed of a flair for writing that deserves the widest range possible. We will be glad to have him up here, and while Sports will miss him, that department remains in the good hands of another talented young man who will take over Burke's desk.

Unemployables

Labor Shortage Will Not Solve This Problem

It was a realistic eye President Roosevelt cocked at the WPA the other day. The appraisal was followed by an estimate that the agency ought to get by with a trifling third of a billion during the next fiscal year and perhaps be entirely eliminated the year after that.

There was a string attached, though. The WPA should be disbanded only after "certain changes" in the Social Security system had been made. The idea around Washington is that these changes would provide benefit payments to needy persons under the present minimum age limit of 65.

For, as the President pointed out, a substantial number of the 3,000,000 persons now unemployed will not be hired by private employers, no matter how severe the labor shortage becomes. This brings up a problem that is likely to come in for wide discussion in the future—the vast army of unemployables.

In the pathetic lot are the chronic misfits, the physically impaired, the mentally unbalanced, the professional mendicants. Few private employers would offer a job to these people and few of them would accept or could hold anything but a Government hand out. If the Government did not feed, clothe and house them, most of them would be content to dance and shiver. That's the New Deal, although it can be argued what a large number were doing before that. Open-handed Federal handouts did little to reduce their number.

It is a problem for sociologists, physicians, and psychiatrists. Their ability must rest upon the proper check to say, the Government.

Usurper

Gargantua's Twin Appears American Sugar Bowl

If there's one more sweet tooth in your home than the ration cards will bear and you're filling it with big sweetnin' drop your cleaver against the hard-likker drinkers and enter the gambling against a world that mysteriously works in a sugar-and-shortening-wide cycle. An ape, according to a recent discovery, is getting your dime.

It's true. Toto, the 375-pound male of Gargantua of the circus branches away on two pounds of sugar every day, grabbed 21 coupons in her first bash on the national economy. The family as a whole, however, considers Toto in the midst of patriotic throes. Gargantua himself, lamenting the death of Keeper Richard Kroener, for two weeks has taken no food, not even his favorite onions. So his new keepers asked no coupons for him.

Quietly and with steeming dignity the couriers of King Honey have set forth with announcements that honey has been reduced by the rationing board from six pounds and more, as other records of life they saw require no sugar in the making. There also was to be upon the bottle when it was full another to offer an indulgence from the crusts of pastries previously and cheat coffee might fix an accusing finger upon the air-conditioned cage of Gargantua of late.

We must face the facts and find the soldiers, and the Barleycorns have surged out of the way. There hiding under the skirts of the Big Top is the vulnerable soul new large. That red eyed drunk crouches there on his right hoof ready on a hunger strike and consumes your share of sugar at every meal.

Speak Out

Court Declares That Public Interest Calls for Candor

What the U. S. Court of Appeals seemed to be advocating in its opinion in the much-litigated Congressman Sweeney—Washington Merry-Go-Round case was that it was better for newspapers to be outspoken about public men and public matters than to expend their editorial disapproval upon such tangential topics as Hitler and the marauding shark.

The Sweeney case originated a couple of years ago when Washington Merry-Go-Round offended the Ohio Congressman by charging that he opposed the appointment of a certain man as Federal Judge because the man was a Jew. Sweeney promptly demanded retractions and apologies from newspapers which had published the statement, and in many instances brought actions against the authors of the column and the publishers of papers in which the offensive allegation had been printed.

He has had poor luck with his multiple suits except in New York, where the statutes defining libel enabled him to win a verdict. But the U. S. Court of Appeals in the District, finding nothing specific in Federal law to dictate its opinion, felt free to formulate its philosophy about libel. Among other things, the court declared:

"In our view it is not actionable to publish erroneous and depletions of statements of fact and editorial opinion or comment regarding the political conduct and views of public officials on issues as to charges of crime, corruption, gross immorality or gross incompetence is made, and no long and go special damage result.

"The interest of the public here outweighs the interest of any individual. The protection of the public requires not merely deception but information. . . . Errors of fact particularly in regard to a man's mental states and motives, are inevitable. Information and discussion will be distorted and the public interest in public knowledge of important facts will be poorly defended, if every subject is author to a libel suit without even a showing of economic loss."

Perseverance

Boy Scouts Figure That It Can't Rain Every Night

There is something characteristically appealing about the good-natured determination of Charlotte Boy Scouts to hold their annual Circus no matter how many times rain forces a postponement. Their theory seems to be that if they keep planning long enough and trying enough nights they are bound to hit a fair one eventually.

The first date set for the Circus was Wednesday, May 20. The Scouts had everything planned down to the last detail including publicity, which is a very perishable item if rained. So the Circus was postponed to last Saturday. That night the skies just naturally opened up and poured it out.

Now the Circus is set for Thursday evening. It would give these plucky boys a renewed sense of confidence if there were a public turnout comparable to the note are of tenacity the boys and their leaders have invested in the event.

With the nickel magazines that specialize in success stories now upped to a dime, where does one look for the good five-cent saga?

Now is the time for all good men to keep their tires at 30 pounds—in the meantime fighting inflation on every other front.

Italy's Defeat

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

THE statement from Rome says Mussolini will certainly be out of the war before next January or February (remember the date).

The youth group, which furnished the numerical strength of the Fascist movement (the old people were never strong for it), lost their last illusion in Hitler's group with Laval.

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But Laval's softer policy in the prevention of more robbery for France under Hitler, Italy has nothing left to fight for.

LAST STRAW IN A SERIES OF BLUNDERS

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It will take time for the anti-Mussolini forces that are afoot in Italy to work their way up, but the Army should be in charge within at most eight or nine months. Invasion of this weakest Axis spot by forces of the United Nations would bring this result sooner.

"WAR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" IS MAGNIFICENT

Most thoroughly analysis of this new war capital of the world—in all its amazing bewildering splendor and political bizarrerie—is presented in a new book "Washington Is Like That" by W. M. Kiplinger (the non-political business letter writer).

The storied magnificence of Rome, Paris, London, Berlin is Washington's now, with war construction hastening conclusion of the vast office memorial and park programs making it the most beautiful city on earth—as well as the most important.

All in 24 hours is a great place. In no hurry, nobody is working and no preoccupation in literature which Mr. Kiplinger proposes to start.

He tells it all, sketch-forward, is about the New Dealers as well as the old dealers, and for instance, how they becoming the wealthiest of landowners, powers here next to the Government itself.

CHOICE ITEMS FROM THE BOOK

He estimates labor real estate holdings here at $300,000 . . . "The most-talked financed construction of . . . is have new Longfellow office building . . . the bricklayers loaned $100,000 to Evelyn Walsh McLean at 6 per cent to build the new home (demand) they got it from the bank at 3 per cent, where she overdrew . . . the bricklayers have $2,000,000 in David securities, $2,000,000 in net assets . . . The United Mine Workers keep $4,000,000 in convertible securities and cash . . . The House Naval Committee estimated that 100 of the 1,000,000 government unions had $2,000,000 in 1941 . . . The electricians spent a cool $1,000,000 on their convention, explaining that as they held only one in twelve years they thought they would do it in a fitting manner . . . John Lewis spent $500,000 redecorating the University Club for UMW officers.

No one knows how much the unions have, says the Kiplinger book. Their finances are not published as a general policy. But inasmuch as labor is the only possessor of absolute great wealth which is not subject to confiscatory war taxes, or any taxes, it seems logical to assume that labor will be the only one to multiply its wealth out of this war.

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It is true, however, that February was the worst month and a small decline has been noted each month since then.

"Fearless Americans" Go the Rev. Smith

Time Magazine

(Gerald L. K. Smith, the rabble-rousing anti-Administration, anti-Patriotic (but not notably anti-Nazi) preacher of isolationism, last week nominated his own Hall of Fame—a typical list of fearless Americans:

(1) Colonel Robert R. McCormick, publisher of The Chicago Tribune.

(2) Father Charles E. Coughlin, of Royal Oak, Mich.

(3) Gerald L. Winrod, anti-Semite, anti-Catholic editor of The Defender, Wichita, Kans.

(4) Eleanor Patterson, publisher, Washington Times-Herald.

(5) Elizabeth Dilling, Chicago Red-hunter.

(6) Joseph M. Patterson, publisher, The New York Daily News.

(7) Congressman Martin Dies of Texas.

(8) William Randolph Hearst.

(9) The editors of The Brooklyn Tablet, Catholic-supporting weekly.

(10) Father Edward Lodge Curran, of Brooklyn, also a Coughlin supporter.

(11) Senator Robert R. Reynolds.

(12) Charles A. Lindbergh.

The Old Man of the Sea

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

As Lumberton Sees It

Editor, The News:

I lived in Charlotte for a number of years in the past, and found your paper outstanding in fairness and accuracy, without the ordinary bias. But it slipped a cog in its editorial of May 25. The reports printed were so biased that if you attached any importance to them, they must have influenced you—which is very rare.

You may not appreciate what we are up against down here. I am attaching a true statement of facts, printed in our local paper, and trust that they will throw a little light on the subject for you. I was present when the dedication was made, as one of the guests of the town. The little Miss Frances Redmond mentioned in your editorial is a Catholic girl, but was not in charge. She divided her time between crying and being worth knowing on what we used to call plain cussing when I was a boy.

Mr. Foley was the man in charge, who said "We don't care a damn about the community or what it thinks. We are interested in the soldiers." At the less that was a very mildly stated, and is certainly no libel or lie.

I feel that you should understand our situation here. This is a great county and a fine town. We did not feel in War Bonds sales getting pieces of over $4,000. But such folks as arose in the dedication of our USO but will make it hard to have our quota for the USO.

Your paper should be fair, and I am sending you these clippings to throw a little light on our side of the question.

Yours a life-long friend of The News.

—H. A. FORESTER, Pastor, Gospel Tabernacle, Lumberton.

(Note: Out of the clippings from Lumberton's Robesonian, Lumberton's Protestant ministers, representing 90 per cent of Protestant community, sought to determine before the USO but dedication whether the program was non-denominational, or dominated by the operating body, the National Catholic Community Service. Director James P. Foley of the Fayetteville USO office is quoted, as above, that the community mattered little, the soldiers were his concern. Whereupon several Protestant ministers, including the Rev. Alexander of the First Presbyterian Church, signed a protest against the national USO policy. Alexander is quoted: Fayetteville USO conditions stink to high heaven . . . much of the money turned over to the National Catholic Community Service has been used to carry on work in Catholic churches, parish houses and parochial schools." — Editor, The News.)

Compliments Clapper On X-Card Column

Editor, The News:

I thought you would be interested to know that we like Mr. Clapper's column.

—J. W. FRASER

322 Lamar Avenue, Charlotte.

(Inclosure)

Mr. Raymond Clapper, Columnist, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

You have been one of the men who we thought kept well informed, saw ends sought and saw the trend of coming events, and we believe a great many readers have relied on your information and judgment.

In your column of May 20th you tackled a subject that we suppose millions of people have been thinking about for years—trying to figure out how we could nominate strong business men, high grade engineers, and other thoughtful, practical, energetic, honest men, instead of permitting many in Congress to initiate their own candidacy and allowing us to vote for what we decried the least objectionable.

You have before you an enormous task, and if carried to a successful conclusion, would be of untold value to U. S. A. and the rest of the world.

How can we expect labor and capital to do their part unless our legislative and executive bodies set an example of hard work and unselfishness?

More strength to your arm—you have millions behind you!

—J. W. FRASER

Patriarchs Debunk "Good Old Days"

(Monroe Journal)

The oldest and industrious Charlotte News (may its shadow never know less) pays a just tribute to old age and valor, three examples right along side of each other, all with big headlines. The first article recounts the exploits of Editor Josephus Daniels on his eightieth birthday. Along side is the story of Judge Yarborough of Chester who at eighty-five, throws his hat in the ring for re-election. Next to that, also in great headlines, is the announcement that Uncle Martin Campbell, colored, of Mooresville, at the age of 104, is seeking a bride. If happily she may be found of suitable age, somewhere between eighty and ninety.

From Judge Yarborough The News was able to give no quotation relating to the comparative excellence of these days and those days, but both the other gentlemen went strong on this question, and there was a singular unanimity of sentiment between Editor Daniels and Uncle Martin. They are both for these days against those days.

"The so-called good old days never were. They were a myth," said Editor Daniels, who in his eighty years has knocked around the world a good deal. Uncle Martin was not as eliquentize as Mr. Daniels, holding himself strictly to "The Old Time Religion," but he was equally as emphatic. He thinks the modern brand is just as good as the older article.

If The News could manage to get an opinion from the Chester Judge, and it should fortunately agree, as it most surely would, with those of Editor Daniels and Uncle Martin, the readers of The News would have something to cut out and paste in their scrapbooks.

We Should Wait Just One More Monopoly

The New York Times

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—You might not suspect it from reading the speeches that are "remarks" of Congressmen in the Congressional Record, but a large portion of the members of the House of Representatives remains silent. Remarks and speeches are nearly all contributed by a few individuals. In John C. Eberhart of Northwestern University held the Mid-Western Psychology Association meeting here.

The largest group made fewer than ten remarks during the entire first session of the 78th Congress, although the number of utterances for the whole House ranged all the way from 0 to 410.

Side Glances

"I'm worried 'bout grandpa—he knows he's too old to enlist, but he asked me yesterday if it cost very much to have one's face lifted!"

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

No great thing has been done without the co-operation of many. Little people do big work; *Now he that planteth and he that waterth are one.—1 Corinthians 3:8.*

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Mexico's War Aims

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

MEXICO is getting ready to declare war on the Axis. That will bring the whole Northern Hemisphere into a formal state of war.

South America has been much slower to realize that it is in this war also. Some of the countries down there have been riding along, thinking to stay on the fence. With some this has been because of a desire to wait and see who was going to win. More generally perhaps it has been the difficulty with divided populations that has held the governments back. There are complications in declaring war when large numbers of persons of Axis descent are colonized inside your country.

SOUTH AMERICAN ECONOMY IS UPSET

Even though they have not gone formally into the war, the South American countries have been as helpless to escape the force of the war as we have. They are having trouble obtaining imports which they need because we do not have ships to carry goods down there. We are buying a good deal and are contracting for enormous future purchases. But because we can't supply goods in return, their economies are upset. This works some very real hardships. And when we can't use ships to bring in so much sugar and bananas, that will pinch.

When a general war breaks loose no country can escape a severe impact from it.

AXIS IS DIRECT MENACE TO LATIN AMERICA

That is not the only menace. If it were then the only game for South American countries would be to play neutral and work for means that would prevent wars in the future. There is direct menace to South America by the very nature of the Axis, what it stands for and what it is teaching for.

Mexico's decision to go to war comes out of a wave of indignation over the sinking of Mexican ships recently. But it is far more than that which justifies Mexico's action. If it were only that Mexico were suffering an occasional accident at sea and nothing else was involved, it would be better for Mexico to tie up her ships until the war was over. That is the way some nations have tried to escape from the war. We tried it in some such way by adopting an arms embargo. We thought to escape from the effects of war by not sending any weapons or selling any weapons to the belligerents.

MEXICO DEPENDS ON OIL EXPORTS

But it is no accident at sea that Mexico has to concern herself about really. The sinkings bring the issue into focus in terms that the whole population can understand. But the question is whether Mexico is to have a chance to carry on her life and engage in the trade which her people must have to live. Exporting of oil is one of Mexico's necessary activities.

If the Axis were to become supreme Mexico's future would be decided in Berlin. Mexico's economics would be decided there. The life of all small nations of Europe are now living and working as Berlin dictates. With an Axis victory the scheme of economic management which Berlin now is attempting to exercise over Europe would spread to other continents. There is no distance any more in these matters.

AXIS WOULD ENSLAVE THE NEW WORLD

While traveling through Africa and Asia recently, I saw, superficially at least, some of the effects of colonial policy, where outside masters were at work. But it was nothing to the kind of control that the Axis would impose and has imposed wherever it has been able to invade. Africa has been the hunting ground for the nineteenth century imperialism. Latin America would be the ground for twentieth century Nazi monopolization.

Ship sinkings have made it possible for Mexico to act in defense of Mexican interests far broader than the incidents themselves.

Visitin' Around

That Was Cream Too. Wah't It?

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. Hardin H. Jennings while here in North Wilkesboro Thursday said practically all the farmers up in his section were through planting corn except those who failed to get their land plowed before the dry weather set in. Mr. Jennings has had successful farm experience and until recruiting years, produced a copious quantity of butterfat cream from a fine herd on his farm in Mulberry. Later, during the Coolidge administration, he served as U. S. deputy marshal.

Ho, Hum

(31 Years Ago, Davie Record)

O. O. Daniel spent Sunday in the sleepy village of Statesville with friends.