

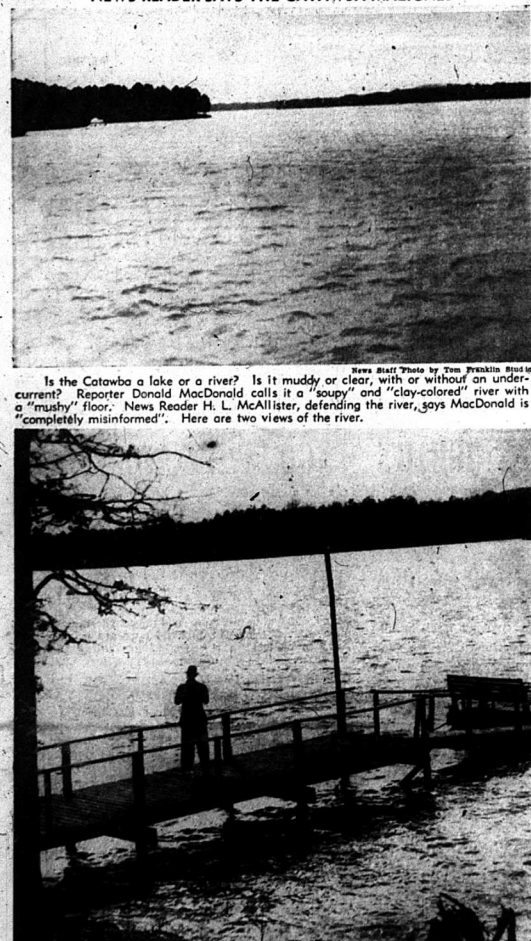
Weather

Partly cloudy with scattered showers and occasional thunder showers today and Tuesday. More Weather Data on page 4-A

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CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, JULY 4, 1949

NEWS READER SAYS THE CATAWBA MALIGNED



In Defense Of The River

Catawba Not Cantankerous

Editor, The News:

After reading Donald MacDonald's article in Thursday night's News, entitled "The River's Lure," my first inclination was to pass it up as the work of an inexperienced writer, but having spent more than ten years on the banks of the Catawba River during the summertime with keen enjoyment, I feel that you should be corrected on your statements in this article. When I first read it, it struck me as being of the type written by Walter Davenport in Collier's magazine with reference to the Southern cotton mill situation in the Carolinas, where he picked out the worst village in South Carolina and wrote it up in the Collier's magazine as being typical of the Southern cotton mill situation. The story was entirely false and without foundation, and created a great deal of animosity among the readers, especially those from the South.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SEIGENTHALER



The one thing that prompts me to write you is the fact that you are evidently misinformed completely as to the facts concerning the river. I will take your article paragraph by paragraph and endeavor to show you where you are entirely mistaken.

Why Charlestonians should not care very much for the Catawba as a vacation retreat can be easily refuted, since, if you will go out and make a survey, you will find a beautiful body of water which remains practically clear for approximately nine months in the year, bordered on each side by green trees of all descriptions and various colors, wooded lands and grass down to the edges of the river. There is usually a cool breeze from the river during the daytime, and especially at night, which makes the temperature substantially more comfortable than that of the city. It is easily accessible, being approximately fifteen miles from the city, and practically every road that leads to it is either paved or a country road, which is, as a rule, very smooth, although a little dusty.

As to the shortcomings of the river, there is only one that I know of, and that is that it is deep—very deep. The places used by the residents and those who frequent the river at swimming places are usually of sand bottom, the water-baring various degrees of coolness. If there are any foul odors from the still water covers, they have never found them, nor do I know of anyone else who has complained of this nuisance since the river is practically a moving body of water which remains more or less pure from month to month.

At regular intervals, the Duke Power Company sprays the water to keep down mosquitoes, which forms a greenish oil scum on the water for a few days, but it does not prevent mosquitoes. There is no uncleanliness about the river, and I have been able to find, and I have traveled to the shore line practically from the Wilmington Boulevard bridge to

the dam near Fort Mill, and a great many of the lives that are lost in the river are in the back waters and in the lower reaches of the river, and there are certainly not as many as you state in the river, even at flood tide, which is very seldom.

Since the dams, and there are several of them, have been built on the Catawba River, there have been no floods, and it is hardly possible that there would be sufficient water to come into the stream that could not be taken care of by the various dams located on it a few miles apart.

As for the name "Catawba," meaning divided or separated, I cannot reconcile the word divided or separated with the permission of the Duke Power Company to a warning for people to keep away from the big river. The men who have been drowned in the Catawba River have been those who have violated even the most elementary rules of safety, and if you will take the trouble to investigate, you will find that in nine cases out of ten the accident could have been prevented with the use of a little common sense.

So far as I know, there are no "quitters" along the banks of the Catawba, since the Duke Power Company has a large force for the most part, and each individual who occupies that land must do so with the permission of the Duke Power Company on a rental week on an 48-hour notice, and they are usually warned by the people who live there.

The photograph and description of the cabin in your article is not typical. You will find few, if any, shacks along the banks of the river, but for the most part they are well-built, attractive, comfortable cottages containing electric light, running water, and modern sanitary facilities. Possibly you should have seen the inspection house at the Buston Bridge and take into consideration the Yacht Club, the Fishing Club, the Boik Home, the Fresh Air Camp, the Boy Scout Camp, the Boat and Gun

See MR. McALLISTER on page 4-A

500000

Labor Sets Sights On 50 Senators

Whitney, Murray Express 'Contempt'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Union leaders rallied their members today for an all-out fight in the 1950 elections against the Senators who voted to scuttle the Administration's Taft-Hartley repeal bill.

In week-end statements, they called for the "total annihilation" of the "C-50" and those lawmakers who backed his substitute proposal in the Administration's Taft-Hartley amendments, which repealed the labor-banned Taft-Hartley Law in name but kept most of its provisions, were approved by the Senate last week on a 50 to 40 vote.

"The votes of 49 Senators who supported Mr. Taft indicate their desire to go down with him," declared A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Whitney blasted away at those who voted for the Taft bill in front page editorial in the Trainman News.

"It is unfortunate," he said, "that only one-third of our Senators are for re-enactment of 1930." Of those who do, he added, the ones who supported Taft are sure to be defeated.

MURRAY'S ATTACK

CIO President Philip Murray said Saturday in the weekly CIO News that his organization has "earnest, contempt and unflinching opposition" to the "symbol and short-cut" which shredded the Administration bill.

"Apparently the peoples' victory in 1947 was not enough," he said, "but now they are being asked to exercise by the people of their right to elect a new Congress in November, 1950."

An AFL spokesman noted that his organization holds a "poll" meeting July 7 and commented: "It was pretty clear what our move will be."

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

President Al Hayes of the big Independent International Association of Machinists, declared: "Next year's election gives us another opportunity. If we can do as well next year as we did this year, we can have any confidence that we will win this fight to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law."

Like the other labor chiefs, Hayes spoke through his union paper, The Machinist.

John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers' journal turned the fire on the Administration for "trying to pull their labor success by accepting compromise."

The journal called their "vacillating" and said their actions "proved" that they were "not sincere" in their support of the Democratic Party who have "slandered and defamed" the "American Manufacturers and Reactionary Republicans."

American Newsmen Expelled By Czechs

PRAGUE — (AP) — The Communist government has expelled an American correspondent and caused the withdrawal of a British reporter from the city.

Harold Melahn of the United Press was expelled. His crime here was to have been in the city a week and a half on 48-hour notice, and he was expelled for not having a permit. Asked why he was expelled, the Czech Foreign Office said: "Mr. Melahn was known to be a person of bad character."

Nation's Lowest Was 72 Degrees, Highest 110

No Relief Seen For Gasping Countryside

CHICAGO — (AP) — The weather man almost had a cheering note today for the nation's heat-suffering humanity.

But he hedged, scanned again his maps of high and low pressures, and finally announced that the luckiest guys, for the next hours at least, probably are Baltimore.

The faint gleam of relief was for the upper Midwest, in the form of a broad cool air mass moving slowly southward from Canada.

There was a narrow strip from Michigan to Montana but was largely shut off by a high pressure ridge stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico.

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Speeches, Parades—And Violent Deaths

173rd Independence Day Noted

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is the nation's greatest patriotic day of the year, its 173rd day of speeches, parades, and fireworks in remembrance of the first Independence Day 173 years ago.

It is also a day of traveling, picnicking and swimming—and accidents.

Since this year it combines nearly with the week-end for a three-day holiday, thousands of travelers packed highways, railroads and highways, visiting from coast to coast. So far, 822 deaths have been reported, by no means all of them due to the celebration of the Fourth.

Traffic accidents killed 191; drowning, 191 and 61 died from miscellaneous causes. Last year during a similar three-day holiday, the death toll reached 500.

It was hot in the American River valley, and the thousands swarmed, and the thoughtful sought the shade. Thermometers climbed to the upper 80s in most places, and here and there topped 100. Cities of 80-degree heat were noted.

In Reno, Nev., rodeo crowds seemed undisturbed by a sun affecting most eating and drinking spots. Volunteer bartenders, including five millionaires, poured their versions of mixed drinks, set out in the parks, tables were set up to serve sandwiches, pie and coffee to hungry tourists.

In New York, the first swing anchor in the Hudson and thousands of sailors swarmed ashore while thousands of sightseers scrambled to board their ships.

High leaders of the armed forces seized the occasion to pledge an unswerving watch over the freedom declared at Philadelphia, July 4, 1776.

The nation's weapons to defend that freedom—land, sea and air—were displayed at "open house" visits for the public here and overseas.

The Navy showed landbattles around 231 ships, the Army troops

All Carolina Resorts Jampacked For 4th

With record crowds at seaside and mountain resorts for the extended holiday, vacationists today paid a heavy price at the sky and kept their fingers crossed.

From all points along the Carolina coast came the same report: this is the largest crowd we've ever seen in the history of the Carolina coast. At many points, the crowds were so large that no reports of serious accidents or drownings were being made.

Police officials uniformly said the vacationists were having a quiet and safe holiday.

Heavy weather generally was good.

Here's the report from selected points early today:

At Myrtle Beach, the sky was dotted with cumulus clouds, but it came to rain for temperature in the high 80s or low 90s.

In Wilmington, the mercury was already in the high 70s at 8 A. M. Indications that it would continue its climb. Again, there were scattered clouds, but experts predicted a "mild" day.

At Wrightsville Beach, the morning looked "mighty pretty" to the local crowd. The situation was about the same all along the coast.

At Blowing Rock, the weatherman guessed that the weather would be about the same as yesterday with clouds and more clouds, accompanied by a heavy rain.

One thing was the same whether people were spending their time at the beach, in the mountains or in their backyards, the humidity was high throughout the Carolina coast.

Myrtle Beach reported its biggest police crowd, Billy Roberts, police clerk, said it was the largest he could remember. He said there was no violence, no accidents, no deaths, and so far there were no bad accidents.

At Blowing Rock, Chief of Police Thomas Miller said he would not know where to look for trouble if it came to town, things were that packed.

From other points in the mountains, the forecast was similar: mostly overcast.

Meanwhile, those vacationists who were spending the holiday at home in Charlotte and vicinity had little to look forward to from the weather point of view. The experts said it would be a good deal like yesterday, with leaden skies and occasional showers.

At Blowing Rock, the weatherman predicted a "mild" day.

Holiday Death Toll Now 397

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deaths by automobile accidents taken the gayety of hundreds of Independence Day celebrations.

The deaths by states (traffic, drownings and miscellaneous):

Alabama, 3; 2; Arkansas, 3; 0; California, 12; 2; Connecticut, 6; 0; Florida, 2; 0; Georgia, 2; 0; Illinois, 1; 0; Indiana, 1; 0; Kentucky, 3; 2; Louisiana, 3; 0; Maryland, 4; 5; Michigan, 3; 0; Missouri, 3; 1; New Jersey, 8; 3; New York, 10; 0; North Carolina, 1; 0; Ohio, 7; 9; Pennsylvania, 10; 3; South Carolina, 2; 0; Tennessee, 1; 2; Texas, 24; 1; Virginia, 7; 0; West Virginia, 6; 1; 2.

Woman Killed By Stray Bullet In Hit-Run Chase

NEW YORK — (AP) — An Irish mob of 200 East Siders beat and chased a woman in a hit-run chase last night after a wild auto chase in which a woman was killed by a stray police bullet.

The crowd seized the driver, Joseph Sullivan, 27, beat him to the ground and kicked him for several minutes before police could drag him to the safety of a hospital.

Sullivan was charged by police with fleeing after his car struck and killed a woman, and with being a hit-run driver.

In the chase that followed, a police sergeant accidentally shot Mrs. Lorraine Dunham, 27, of Elmwood, N. Y., with a stray bullet. She died a short time later at a hospital, wounded in the chest.

Police captured Sullivan when his car smashed into a packing crate on a waterfront street.

They took him from a hospital where he was treated for chest bruises, an angry mob surged around.

At about 1:30, there is a "get him Lynch him!"

The police found their way back to a station house with Sullivan, whose shirt was torn in shreds by the mob. His face and body were covered with cuts and bruises.

Several other witnesses, including leaving the scene of an accident and third degree assault.

Berliners Protest Censorship Of Mail

BERLIN — (AP) — The West Berlin government drafted today a law to restrict the censorship of mail carried by Russian soldiers.

German officials charged that Soviet Gen. Vladimir Petrov had issued orders forcing all railway mail cars from Western Germany to be unloaded at a Russian sector office where censorship was exercised.

The Allied airmen has been bringing in the highest mail volume daily, but the remainder comes by rail.

Postal officials asserted that outgoing rail-borne mail was likewise subject to Russian diversion and censorship.

They urged that the Soviet Union subject unless Soviet orders are changed, they said.

The top of 102.4 degrees at Chicago was the highest for the date in the city's weather records, and the mercury was expected to hit near the same peak today.

The city's all-time record high was 102.4 degrees on July 3, 1934. It traced the previous top mark of 102.3 degrees which had stood since July 21, 1931.

Bus-Truck Collision Near Smithfield

Alert Witness Saves More Lives

SMITHFIELD — (AP) — At least five persons were killed and several were injured in a bus-truck accident near here today.

Deputy Sheriff Lester Hales reported that a bus collided with a milk truck on Highway 701 at about 9 A. M. The wreck occurred on Smithfield's Crossroads about half way between Smithfield and Newington.

Hales said the driver of the milk truck was killed in the collision and that the bus driver was pinned to death when the bus caught fire after the wreck.

A quick-thinking farmer, Hales said, probably prevented a greater loss of life.

The bus, which was carrying a crash scene and broke windows in the bus, enabling the passengers to get out. Several passengers were on the bus, Hales said he was told.

The bus, whose name was not available, then carried some of the injured to the Johnson County Memorial Hospital here and summoned the Smithfield fire department, the deputy added.

The hospital reported it had received four patients from the accident. No other details to their condition were available.

Hales said he understood the bus belonged to Atlantic Greyhound Lines.

Money Bill Cuts Urged

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A drastic slash in four money bills touching Marshall Plan and military funds—was proposed today by Sen. George W. Norris of Ohio, who urged the Senate to keep the Government out of the money business.

George told reporters he favors a bill proposed by Sen. Clifford D. Walcott of New York, which would order President Truman to cut five to 10 per cent off appropriations made by Congress.

The Georgian, who heads the Senate Finance Committee, said he fears such a measure would leave the budget in a state of confusion, and that the President, Mr. Truman has no right to legislate, and asking him to cut funds instead of doing it himself.

He said that he would like to get any economy and avoid a big deficit this year. He said he would like to cut the money bills that he said are too big.

He noted that about \$77,000,000 of the budget is for the current fiscal year, which ends next June 30, is piled up in the Economic Cooperation Administration, a r.m.s. service, independent offices and a Interior Dept. money bills.

Members of the Appropriations Committee have indicated they intend to wield the economy knife on these remaining measures, especially since the Government turned up with a \$141,000,000 deficit in the year ending last Thursday.

He said that he would like to cut the money bills that he said are too big.

Legion Pushes Self-Help Plan

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The American Legion today pushed a program of community self-help to assist in the fight against unemployment.

Under the program, announced yesterday by Legion Committee Perry Brown, a list of "goods and service people" in each community would be determined by consumer surveys. That information would be used to create new jobs.

The whole idea, said Brown, is "to bring back to modern America the old-fashioned spirit of self-reliance through self-help in solving local community problems."

"Individuals, communities and states must learn again to stand on their own feet," he said. "If it is to be saved from going to the bottom, it must be saved from going to the bottom."

There have been numerous statements from lawmakers and labor leaders recently urging the Government to take steps to prevent growing unemployment and declining production.