SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1950

THE LATTA PARK CONTROVERSY

ETS see if we can make heads or talls

of the hitter controversy over the Lattar Fark recreation center.

Agor Shaw's interest in the matter is,
we believe, limited to keeping for restoringpeace in Charlotte's big happy family. Mr.
Shaw has another year to serve in which
he hopes to present a big bond issue to
the people. He might even want to run for
office again. He probably figures his
chances of success in both ventures will be
better if everyone in the town is in a good better if everyone in the town is in a good humor about city affairs.

better if everyone in the town is in a good humor about city affairs.

Dr. Halberstadt's interest, we take it, is to carry out as best he can the citywide program of recreational facilities drawn up by national experts for a previous Park & Recreation Commission and endorsed overwhelmingly by the voters at a bond election last June. That plan called for a recreation center in Latta Park. The center was freely publicized before the bond election. Dr. Halberstadt thinks the Commission should stand by its promises to the people and not move the center to Dilworth School or anywhere else.

The interest of a relatively small group of home owners who live adjacent to Latta

of home owners who live adjacent to Latta Park is not quite so unselfish. They are sincerely convinced that the center will be sincerely convinced that the center will be a muisance instead of an asset (though the experience at the Hawthorne Lane center has been otherwise.) They think it will hurt the value of the property. They would prefer that a recreation center not be built't they would like to see it removed as far as possible from their residences. Perhaps the foregoing statement of those interests is incomplete or over-simplified. Still, it sums up the interests—and the motives—of the contending parties with as much accuracy as is possible in so brief a space.

brief a space.

Now let's see if we can define the inter-

Now lets see if we can define the intereate of the general public in the controversy. It is not an easy task.
The people of Charlotte who do not live
around Latta Park are not, we believe,
very excited about the placing of the recreation center. They don't care whether it
is put in the park proper where the Park
& Recreation Commision wants to put it)
or adjacent to Dilworth School (where
Mayor Shaw wants to put it). As a matter
of, fact, some of them—specifically a group
of Midwood citizens representing the Midwood Men's Cub—would be most happy if
the funds for the Latta Park center were
used in their neighborhoods. used in their neighborhoods.

WHAT is a Southerner? Is he a Ken-tucky colonel type lolling on the front porch, julep in hand? Is he a Jeeter Lester, lolling in the clay under a skinny pine tree, turnip in hand? Whatever he is,

pine tree, turnip in hand? Whatever he is, folks up North have long ago decided that This week they had some new On Monday Rep. Russell 'V. Mack of

On Monday Rep. Russell V. Mack of Washington inserted into the Congressional Records a list of the states, showing the percentage of the eligible population that voted in the general elections of 1948.

It was startling to learn that only 52 per cent of the eligible voters actually went to the polis. And it was disappointing to find that, traditionally, eleven Southern states brought up the tail-end of the list.

This is the end of the list:

THE LAZY SOUTH?

Mow the completed.

Now if each and every project of this broad program can be stopped cold by the protest of a handful of citients, the whole program will be endangered. Furthermore, if this Council—and it is a Council that has been overly sensitive to objections from as few as one or two citizens—forces the changing or abandoning of the Latta Park center, it may expect plenty of trouble when it starts building underpasses or auditoriums or widening streets or making any other major public improvements. Had the present tendency been the rule in the past, Charlotte would not have the East Trade, St. underpass, a wider Graham Street, the municipal airport, the stadium, Independence Boulevard or numerous other civic assets, all of which were protested. civic assets, all of which were protested violently at the time by a few people intimately involved.

timately involved.

There is still a further danger, and it was reflected in Mr. Shaw's somewhat intemperate speech before a group of Latta Park residents the other night. That danger is the possibility that the Council will try tog the the Legislature to abolish the semi-autonomous Park & Recreation Commission estimates and the completely of the controlled the controlled to the controll autonomous Park & Recreation Commis-sion entirely, or at least make it completely subservient to the Council's will, as reprisal for what Mr. Shaw believes to be stub-bornness on the part of Dr. Halberstadt and his feliow Commissioners. The Park & Recreation Commissions set-up has its good points and its bad points, and the people of Charlotte will certainly entertain any suggestion that Mr. Shaw and his Council-men might offer for improving the situ-ation.

But this newspaper will oppose—and
we believe most of the people of Charlotte
will oppose—any effort by the present
Administration to bring Dr. Halberstadt
to heel in this controversy by abolishing
the Commission.

the Commission.

Enough mistakes have already been made. Dr. Halbertsald probably made some early in the controversy. Mayor Shaw has undoubtedly made some. It is not too late for those mistakes to be rectified and an amicable solution worked out. That solution, as we see it, does not include total abandonment of the Latta Park recreation center.

Abbass ... 137

Compare North Carolinn's 38.6 per cent with Alabama's 13.7, and the Tar Herl and the Carolinn's 38.6 per cent with Alabama's 13.7, and the Tar Herl and the Carolina's 48.7 and the Ca

party system destroys voting initiative.

Yet when one considers the South's traditional fervent interest in politics, it is in-deed peculiar that so few of us do any-thing about it. Could it be that we are lazy as they say?

THE LOT OF THE POSTMAN

THE convention here this week of the happens: a little old thing like an order North Carolina State Association of from Washington stayed them from swift Letter Carriers set us meditating upon the completion of at least half of their aplot of the posiman. It is, we decided, not a happy one. But saide from the unpredictable by the control of the cont

For instance, the hardy letter carrier has worked year upon year, braving sunburn, frostbite and fallen arches to live up to something an old Greek named Herodotus wrote about him in 450 B. C.

"Neither Snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night," wrote Herodotus, "stays these cour-iers from the swift completion of their ap-

pointed rounds.

But aside from the unpredictable behavior of the Postmaster General and Congressional committees, the letter carrier has as worked year upon year, braving sungrassional committees, the letter carrier has
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So they work like beavers to make an
onest man of Herodotus and look what

OH, HENRY!

INNEY J. KAISER'S contest for a name new high in whoop-de-doe and proved, one gathers, that there's still no success formula like marrying the boss' daughter or a reasonable featimite.

Entries numbered around 400,000, which presumably included quite a variety of sugnitions. Winners selected for the \$10,000, 25,000 and \$1,000 top prizes, however, each submitted the stunningly-original name "Henry J."

Reminding people about hidden taxes

Reminding people about hidden taxes
For those still grimly determined to think
sgensity and hard work will finally win
to fin the specentric human race, there is
to fit be specentric human race, there is
port (Tenn.) Times.



News From The Capital

Graham, Hoey, Differ On Power

One or their cities analyses of contention is pussed because the Government should not do what private enterprise is ready, willing and able to do in providing service for the public. However, considers the power business public business. He would probably agree with most leaders in the fight against private utilises and their encreachment on public power; comply apported willis Smith who retireated Sensior Hory apported Willis Smith who retireated Sensior Horses and Smith Sm

nation already belongs to the Prederal Govern-ment, they add.

Just what is the situation at Roance's Rapids'
Just what is Power Commissions chief cam-nor has rided in the Forey Commissions that cam-iner has rided in their of VEPCOD plan for a hydro-electric project there. If the finding is upheld by PFC administrators, it will take away one of cieven dam sites selected by the Prederal Government as part of a comprehensive plan to harriess the Roance River, both for power and flood control purposes. River, both for power and flood control purposes. Govern in April was mixed. Sensor Hovey said he did not believe the chief examiner's decision would be overruied.

Washington reaction to this decision handed down in April was mixed. Senator Hoey said he did not believe the chief examiner's decision would be for the control of the property of the control of the property of the propert

Quote, Unquote

We would cure much of the trouble of making left: - hand turns against through traffic if we'd adopt the British plan of driving on the wrong side of the road to begin with.—Dallas Morning News.

Hard Work, Wisdom Needed For Defense Of West Europe

By JOSEPH ALSOP

For Detense Of West Europe

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE FORM THE FOR GREATERS IN ALSOP

IN AMERICA. Boviet war present a strain and the decrease of the property of the strain and the strain and the decrease of the strain and the strain an

New Cliche Artists Know A Lot More Than Noah Webster

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I GOT NEWS FOR you, sweetle. A certain argo is current in the cafes among the New York-Mamm-Hollywood set, and it couldn't shorthand, e-on sisting of a set flook of phrases and a limited number, of clithes, already has crossed to the couldn't be compared to the country of a set flook of phrases and a limited number of a set flook of phrases and a limited number of a set flook of the country of a set flook of the country of a set flook of the country of

ple who used to call you "cobber" and "mate.

This sweetle, darling, dear, and honey routine—anything that ton—has nothing to do with endearment. For while, in the huckster set, it was even fashionable for men of unquestioned masculinger and the season of the season o

C. RUARK
httle gambit such as "Whatever became of So-and-So?" If the topic, became of So-and-So?" If the topic, became of So-and-So?" If the topic, became of So-and-So?" If the topic sold of the sol

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Medals For Brass Hats' Brass Bosoms

THE Senate's Genial Chaplain, the Rev. Frederick Brown
I Harris and Vice President Alben Barniey were exchanging

"My wife's away in St. Louis for two weeks," reported
Barkier
"Tim in the same boat," said the Chaplain. "My wife's out

Big Campaign Dough

Big Compoign Dough
IT was only a few years ago that the U. S. Senate refused
to seat Ware of Pennsylvania, Smith of Illinois and Newberry of Michigan because they spent large amounts of
money in their primary or election campaigns.
Smith of Illinois was not seated for spending 1950,000.
Smith of Illinois was not seated for spending 1950,000.
The campaign of the seated for spending 1950,000.
The campaign of the seated for spending 1950,000.
This campaign of the seated for the seat

Meanwhile, lethargie Sen. Guy Gillette of Iowa has been appointed Chairman of a Ceimmittee to investigate campaign expenditures Gillette claimer of the Rossereth purise to in 100 was been be was the object of the Rossereth purise. However, the country secretary is getting feed up with the tremendous amounts of maney spent on elections. People are getting the impression that the man with the dough can buy his way into Congress—not a healthy impression to prevail in a democracy.

Merry-Go-Round