

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AFTER NEARLY A CENTURY...

ON FEB. 20, 1861, the town of Morehead City was incorporated. This week—on August 14, 1852—Gov. W. Kerr Scott will officially open the new Morehead City Port Terminal.

Between those dates lies nearly a century—a century of continuing (if spasmodic) efforts to develop adequate deep water port facilities at Morehead City, a century of hope that North Carolina would some day attract its fair share of ocean shipping.

In 1945, the movement picked up momentum when the General Assembly created the N. C. Ports Authority. And in 1946, it got a big push when the Legislature appropriated \$750,000 to develop the ports at Morehead City and Wilmington.

Today the Morehead City wharfage is over 2,500 feet long, enough for five cargo vessels to dock broadside simultaneously. Huge new warehouses and a network of transportation facilities have been built. And further down the coast, at Wilmington, plans are being made to dedicate its big new port facilities in October.

No one can predict accurately how much the investment of \$750,000 will mean to the people of North Carolina. Ocean trade routes have their origins in antiquity. Change, when it occurs, is slow. But there have been changes in the world. In May, for instance, 20,000 tons of fertilizer material was unloaded at Wilmington for shipment to North Carolina farmers at an average saving on freight costs of \$4 to \$6 per ton. Previously, fertilizer had to be shipped to North Carolina was unloaded at Charleston.

THIS KIND OF WAR WE LIKE

A BRAVE FELLOW, deserving of some reward, is the North Carolina motorist who takes his time and calmly reads the North Carolina motorists and vainly attempting to see the state's scenery through a spotty curtain of placard billboards. Therefore we are pleased to note that the motorist has been thrown a marvel, in the form of increased service and less cost.

Yes, over in the central part of the state a fine price war is being fought by the oil companies. They're looking for customers, and the driver, trying to read a Burma-Shave sign, finds pleasant diversion from about how River east to Rocky Mount, in comparing the various inducements.

OF READERS AND PITFALLS

SOMEHOW, somewhere, the impression got abroad that editorial writers lived in ivory towers and communed daily with the seers and sages of present and ages past. Some editors may keep such company, but ours are chiefly with rather dull books, various newspapers, the library and, at the phone or a cup of coffee, with persons who have forgotten more about a particular subject than we will ever know. And we make mistakes.

But most of the mistakes which alert readers point out to us are those which could have been prevented simply by more diligent use of the bluebacked dictionary on the desk. Thus we were brought up sharply by a reader when we tried "cohort" as a synonym for "colleague." Another pointed out that we should have "implied" when we said "implied." We were off base with one use of "fulsome." And, as another reader correctly writes today, we said something was the "epitome" when it really was the "zenith" or "acme."

So it goes. And, spurred on by the knowledge that informed readers will give us our concurrence if we err, the earth for the exact word becomes fascinating, and turns up all sorts of interesting, if not merely useful, information from the dictionary, for instance.

"Shoddy" can be used as a noun, to describe an inferior person or thing, as well

Col. George W. Gillette, executive director of the authority, has high hopes for the success of the two projects. Recently he reported to Governor Scott that "it is confidently believed that what has occurred with fertilizer will be repeated with tobacco, textiles, furniture, canned goods, and many other commodities, and result in a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people of the state in reduced freight rates."

Measured against the potential benefit to North Carolina, the \$750,000 investment is small indeed. The whole state will be looking on with great interest and high hopes during Thursday's ceremonies.

DIVIDEND

THE KLAN'S got too bad a name. All that trouble in North Carolina hurt. People want to forget all that beating and bloodshed.

Thus Ku Klux Klan leader Bill Hendrix spoke by telephone to The Richmond Times-Dipstick from his home in Florida. And because of the rough treatment North Carolina authorities gave South Carolina Wizard Thomas L. Hamilton and several score Klansmen, Hendrix said he was calling off his plan to reactivate the Klan in North Carolina.

Just another way of saying that big oaks grow from little acorns, and that a pebble cast into a pond will send out ripples to the farthest shore. The swift, efficient action of North Carolina law enforcement will be felt in every state in Dixie.

All sorts of offers are made, but the best for our money is this: "See the People Speak," a discount for trucks ... use our phone ... cigarettes at \$1.50 a carton ... roadside table ... coldest ice water in town ... peaches ... sausage.

Oh, yes, and gas, too, at only two bits a gallon, with no "nine-tenths" in small print attached.

Fine. Wonderful. The good old free enterprise system is still working, and the profit goes to the company which offers the most service and the best for the least cost.

In this case, phony on the concept of a "limited" war. May the good fight spread over the whole of Tar Heels, bringing relief to the harried motorist.

as in more usual adjectival form as a synonym for "sham."

"Want," as a verb may mean "to be without," to lack," as well as indicating desire.

"Evident," although seldom used as a synonym for "avoidable," is just as good a word as "evident."

As for the latter example, this common custom of tagging the prefix "in" before a word is driving many fine words out of the vocabulary. Rarely used, but perfectly correct, "in" is used to describe, for example, the pleasures which are not innocent. "Innocent" remarks are "not innocuous"—they are complicated if it becomes—"they are simply 'nocuous'."

But, fortunately for dictionary publishers and English teachers, the "in" prefix cannot always be dropped. Therefore it would be no use and downright noxious to the ears of a respecter of proper English to hear one speak of "spid" voices or "delible" impressions. For, without that "in," they just aren't words.

All in all, the editorial writer probably should use the dictionary more often than he turns to the encyclopedia, or the World Almanac. Congressional Quarterly or the Bluebacked Dictionary. As we hope our readers continue to check up on us, our inevitable errors will decrease, and the pleasure of our work will increase.

FROM INITIALS TO FIRST NAMES

THE TOPS ADLAI, said one headline. "Like States' Important Meetings," said another.

And thus we enter a new era in which our next President is going to be called by his first name or a nickname, whether he likes it or not.

Not since Teddy Roosevelt have our Presidents and their families been treated so familiarly by the nation's headline writers. No one would ever have called William Howard Taft "Bill," nor did Wilson ever draw "Woody." It was Harding (except when Will Rogers shortened it to "Cal"), and always Hoover, never Herbert.

From The Baltimore Evening Sun

BACK TO BACTERIA

UNTIL the photographers got hold of the word, photogenic nestled undisturbed in the dictionary among other examples of scientific jargon. Its meaning? "Bio-producing or generating light; phosphorescent; as photogenic bacteria." Then photographers decided that the word was too good for bacteria, and everybody from the queen of the beach huckster festival to the luminous-faced octogenarian became photogenic.

The lexicographers bowed to the fact and included in their dictionaries both photogenic, in its extended meaning, and the general suffigemic—meaning "eminently suit-

able for production or reproduction by a medium, as radiogenic, telluric."

Now, however, we have the Society of Photogenic Bacteria. And, as a result of a grant that a pair of pretty legs is worth stretching a point for. But this is going too far. Maybe it is time photogenic and its derivatives were given back to the bacteria.

Scientists at Northwestern University find morons make the best drivers. They're certainly the most numerous—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

'Let Me Use That Handkerchief Awhile'



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Fix Up Present Sanatorium

Editor, The News: YOUR editorial in Thursday's paper entitled "Let the People Speak," which refers to the tuberculosis sanatorium at Huntersville, is both sensible and timely.

From what I have read in our local papers about this building, it seems the trouble is caused by overloading a floor in the main building with heavy equipment, and that the danger has been increased by putting in extra pillars to support the second floor.

Instead of replacing this building with a new one, at a cost of nearly a half million dollars, why not either put in permanent supports for the overloaded floors, or move the heavy equipment to the ground floor?

I have an idea that if this were a private institution, owned by our county commissioners, they, in their wisdom, would find a reasonable way in which to meet this situation at a moderate cost.

—CHARLES H. STONE.

Some Good Republicans

Editor, The News: MARY Stewart of Monroe, in her letter Aug. 7 to your paper, stated that the G.O.P. is without new ideas. She indicates that during the Republican reign of 24 years from 1860-1864 that they did nothing in the line of human progress and reform.

History reveals that during the administration of President Abraham Lincoln (1860-1865) the Republicans made shattering world history unparalleled in progress and human reform. (1) By preservation of the union of these United States (2) By freeing the slaves and granting a new birth of freedom to slaves everywhere. This new radical idea at the time abolished slavery not only in this country but all over the world. It was perhaps the greatest act of humanity ever devised by man—even to this day.

During the Republican Administration of President Arthur a new idea, a revolutionary idea of reform was placed into our Government system—The Pendleton Act creating the Civil Service Commission. This act placed our government on a basis of open to competitive examination; this was a block to the political spoil system.

During the period of 1881-1882 there was a huge surplus in the Federal Treasury and taxes were at an all time low—this was 16 years after a major war in which the country was literally torn apart in strife and bitter conflict, and when part of our nation was almost completely bankrupt.

Now, Mary, these are only a few cases of Republican reform and progress. There are many more. The Republican Party has been a great American and a Republican. There was a man who every day lived a new idea to make America big and strong—

a reformer among reformers—a stupendous American.

I suggest, Miss Stewart, that you read American history and brush up on the men and women who have made progress and reform to make your country the best. You will find many good Republican names in the annals of our history who had new ideas and were not just for big business nor were they tools of Wall Street.

—MARK A. BROWN.

The News Was Wrong

Editor, The News: IN your final edition Aug. 6, you ran an editorial entitled "The Epitome of Folly." There is nothing in that particular editorial to warrant the use of the word "epitome." Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary has, in part, this to say on the subject:

1. an abridgement, a brief or abstract of any book or writing; a compendium containing the substance of a principal or a book.
2. figuratively, anything which represents another or others, in a condensed form.

It seems that you, like many others, have fallen into the error of using this word as a synonym of some sort for words like "apex, zenith, high point, height, peak," etc.

It might also be well to point out at this time that Sandy Gray got things a bit backwards in his column, "The Billboard," in the final edition of Aug. 6. He wrote that the Yankees had a 4-0 lead at Pasadena in 1939—an end named Al Krueger (and not Doyle Nave, as Mr. Gray wrote) caught 'em.

Neither my name nor whether you print this letter is important. The fact that I, and many others like myself, read your newspaper and like to voice for its readers, is all that counts.

—AN INTERESTED READER.

Psychology Is Drivel

Editor, The News: ACCORDING to a recent vote among U.S. students, English is the most valuable study, and psychology the least.

Undergraduates are not supposed to utter the last word in wisdom's vocabulary, not even when they speak collectively as here. But they are not far wrong in this case.

A great deal is a most interesting study and one of the most important in the world. It is overrated and worst abused science in the whole list. The growing crowds who accept with open mouth the drivel of some strolling "savant" as he does out psychological "laws" would be amazed if there were not so many pathetic readers.

—MANLEY R. DUNAWAY.

Defense May Be Completely Revamped By Next President

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett has just told us that the British and French are doing their best to meet their European defense goals. So much is no doubt true. But it is also certain that the major crisis in Western defense planning is the first great issue which the next President will have to refer to it is far from certain that the crisis can be delayed even until the next President takes office.

Meanwhile, hard new looks at previously approved defense plans are being taken both in Europe and this country. French representatives have been telling our government that they cannot afford to keep their military and economic burdens as long as they have been demanding greater aid from the United States and elsewhere.

Simultaneously, representatives of the British government have been saying that the balance between military and economic burdens are also unbearable. They have suggested informally that the balance between military and economic burdens, and air strength in the Western alliance be sharply altered.

At the same time a new look at the whole American defense effort. A major crisis in Western defense planning is the first great issue which the next President will have to refer to it is far from certain that the crisis can be delayed even until the next President takes office.

The need for this new look at our rearmament effort is clear. Take, for example, the new look at the Mutual Security Program. More than \$17 billion has been appropriated for this program to our allies. Six and a half billion dollars was appropriated back in 1950. Yet the total amount of \$3 billion worth of weapons has actually been delivered abroad, and the rest of the program is still in the air.

The Air Force believes the Soviets can be out-matched in the air only by the use of the new weapons, whereas even 97 divisions would not balance the vast Soviet and Western strength, that superiority in the air, and in the new weapons, could not be achieved. The Air Force believes the new weapons, reduction in planned ground strength on the continent to be-

Olympics Glamorous No More; Thanks To War And Airplanes

By ROBERT C. RUARK

As a slightly seedy former sportswriter, you should pardon the expression, it is with a certain amount of surprise and absolute ignorance of the recent Olympics, and couldn't spell you out a single name of athlete, and couldn't tell you whether that's got one or two 'n's in it.

But I would like to tell you a short-shooter I could tell you the Jim Thorpe story and I was not with the Parvo Marini, the winner on the Jesse Owens and Eleanor Holmes. It seemed important for those who want to know why those old water wars to drive for country 'n's of these, home, mother and amateur athletes. Now I can't tell you the story.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE Russian athletes in the recent Olympics had been called as a variety of Kremlin propaganda reporting the games, the Soviet would have been an easy winner.

As it happened, Russia managed to finish second to the United States (scoring 551 points to our 610) chief by piling up a big early lead in women's gymnastic events in which the United States didn't compete. In the basketball game, the major sports event, the American male athletes clearly outshone their Soviet rivals.

However, Radio Moscow performed some amazing feats of microphony to distort the results. After continuous blasts at Olympic officials for "favoritism" to the United States while we were reformed on points, the ingenious Russians concocted a special "scoring system" of their own for satellite listeners.

Here is a brief rundown of from certain reports on the Helsinki contests as reported by our State Department.

On July 29 (which the U. S. was threatening to take the lead) the Moscow Home Service reported that "unfair judging favors the U. S. in the Olympics." A day later, the satellite Warsaw Radio quoted unnamed Finnish papers as saying that United States referees were "intentionally changing decisions whenever they were detrimental to the U. S. team in wrestling events."

Later, the Bucharest Romania Liba headlined a feature article "Diabolical Proceedings Arousing Indignation of All Sportsmen," the theme of which was that "a whole series of umpires of Manchurian countries have resorted to downright stealing of victories attained in sports events by representatives of the countries of Socialism."

While Russia was ahead in points to our 610, it was the Tass New York correspondent as reporting that the scoring of 10 points for first place in athletic events (standard since 1928) was "embarrassing American sportsmen because it placed the Soviet so far behind." The Moscow Radio hotly accused the U. S. of trying to substi-

Russians Given Distorted Olympic Results

Among other things, he dropped the big binder twice price conspiracy case which his predecessor, Ed Morgan, had dropped. He also dropped without a word the prosecution was the horseman scandal cases in Illinois, probably the greatest food scandals in the nation.

High-Price Advocate

ANOTHER interesting OPS official is Edward F. Phelps, a director of OPS price operations and one of the key men in the entire price operation. Phelps was formerly assistant director of the National Grocers Association, also vice president and director of the Warpage-Plattner Co., one of the largest food manufacturers and processors in the 1952 Olympics.

Phelps continues to have close friendships inside the National-American Wholesale Grocers Association for which he once worked and whose interests, of course, are not always the same as those of the National Grocers Association. Phelps was also vice president of the Warpage-Plattner Co., one of the largest food manufacturers and processors in the 1952 Olympics.

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