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James P. McMillan

Man of The Year

James P. McMillan is Charlotte's Man of the Year for 1953. Announcement of Mr. McMillan's selection is made today by The News, which has sponsored since 1944 the "Man of the Year" award as recognition for outstanding service to the community.

Mr. McMillan was chosen by a committee of former Men of the Year for 1953.

His work through the years in promoting Charlotte's \$4,000,000 auditorium and commercial development, particularly for his leadership of the campaign which resulted on June 6 in approval of an issue of \$1,000,000 in bonds so that the giant project could be completed as scheduled.

His leadership in organizing six years ago the Charlotte Boys Choir—and the countless hours he has spent since in making that youthful singing group well-known in many parts of the country.

His outstanding service to the community during 1953 as president of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

His labors on the community's behalf in a number of other less publicized, but equally important, areas of service.

Former winners

Eight former Men of the Year joined in nominating Mr. McMillan for recognition. J. B. Marshall (1948), the ninth member of the group, died last year.

Serving in an advisory capacity to the selection committee were Thomas Robinson, president and publisher of The News; J. E. Dowd, vice-president and general manager; and B. S. Griffith, executive editor.

The award was established by The News to honor the citizen who was considered to have rendered the outstanding service to the community within the year.

He must be a citizen, of legal position, elective or appointive, are not eligible.

Supporters of the award have decided that a Man of the Year does not have to be selected if no one appears worthy of the honor. But, a Man of the Year award has been given each year.

Civic affairs weigh far more heavily than commercial affairs, and a general, accumulated distinction is not enough.

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The past Men of the Year who made the selection include Coleman W. Roberts (1944), C. W. Gilchrist (1945), Guy W. Hamilton Jr. (1947), J. Norman Peace (1948), Henry C. Docherty (1949), David Overmyer (1950), Jobb H. Everett (1952).

SINGLE YEAR

The committee emphasized that it makes the choice not on an accumulation of a man's accomplishments over a period of years but on the service rendered the community during the year under consideration.

But Mr. McMillan—like all the other Men of the Year—has been continuously active in working for the community as a whole.

In fact, one member of the committee said Mr. McMillan had been given strong consideration for the honor in prior years.

His achievement in leading this year's campaign for the additional auditorium and auditorium bonds made him without question first choice for the 1953 honor.

But the 1953 Man of the Year has been plugging hard for many years for the sports and entertainment facilities, which are now taking shape on a big tract off Independence Blvd.

He was one of the leaders in an earlier, unsuccessful campaign for a civic auditorium. This project was defeated in 1944, principally through a quirk in the election laws that counted non-voters against the bonds. (This law has since been repealed.)

He was an original member of the committee Mayor Victor Shaw appointed to plan the auditorium and coliseum and was instrumental in the campaign that resulted in approval on Oct. 1st, 1950, of \$2,000,000 in bonds for the project.

He is chairing of the auditorium coliseum building committee, and spent many hours, traveling all over the country inspecting similar facilities elsewhere, poring over blueprints and models with architect A. G. Ostell Jr., conferring with committee members and officials, and in countless other ways helping to push plans for the project to completion.

As chairman of the building committee, he led private citizens and city officials in an active campaign.

INCOME TAX CUT EFFECTIVE TOMORROW

Also Will Expire; Social Security Up

WASHINGTON (AP)—Uncle Sam presents a New Year's gift tomorrow to more than 50 million individuals and 50,000 corporations—the first general tax cuts in five years.

Starting tomorrow, these three big changes will give a new look to the government's revenue structure:

- 1. Individual income tax rates will drop about 10 per cent for all except the highest brackets, chopping three billion dollars annually off federal revenues.
2. The excess profits tax on corporations will expire, reducing government income about two billion dollars annually.
3. The social security payroll tax, levied on both employees and employers, will go up from 14 to 16 per cent. It is collected on the 1954 rate paid annually by workers. That will increase income to the special social security trust fund by almost 1 1/2 billion annually.

NEW CUTS SOUGHT

Drivers already have given up two fronts to give even bigger breaks to taxpayers during the congressional election year of 1950.

Chairman Daniel A. Reed (R-NY) of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, has said the 10 per cent income tax cut is not enough and he hopes for an overall reduction as soon as possible. Reed also called for cuts later this year in corporate income and excise or sales taxes.

The Eisenhower administration has asked that the social security tax increase—the one which immediately thorn in the rose picture of tax reductions in the cabinet.

Altogether, almost 60 million individual income taxpayers will benefit from the 10 per cent reduction. But in the lowest income tax brackets, the social security tax increase will amount to more than leaving a net loss in take-home pay for about 10 million workers.

Somehow they have been spared the income tax increases which have been levied on the rest of the country since the war.

For corporations, the death of the excess profits tax means the way for expansion—especially for newer and smaller firms, which can retain more of their expanded earnings.

The excess profits tax has been 30 per cent of income above a standard set by law. Piled on top of the regular 52 per cent corporate income tax, it has imposed a total of 82 per cent on some corporate income.

WASHINGTON (AP)—This is what tomorrow's cut in individual income taxes will mean, on an annual basis, to taxpayers in selected income groups.

For a single person with no dependents, the percentage reduction in tax is 9.9 per cent, to \$2,000 income, a climb to 10.7 per cent at \$10,000 income and then drops to 7.2 per cent, at \$50,000 and 1.9 per cent at \$200,000.

For a married couple with two dependents, the percentage reduction starts at 8.9 per cent at low income levels, climbs to 10.7 per cent at \$20,000, then drops to 7.4 per cent at \$100,000 and 1.5 per cent at one million dollars.

The minimum rate on taxable income drops from 22.2 per cent to 20 per cent. The maximum rate on income above \$200,000 drops from 82 to 91 per cent. And the top rate on corporate income drops from 88 to 87 per cent.

Some 412,000 American sports fans already had paid an estimated \$1,720,000 to watch nine football games on New Year's Day.

The daddy of them all—Pasadena's Rose Bowl—was due to draw the biggest crowd—just over 100,000—to see Michigan State meet UCLA.

HOUSTON (AP)—A bandit flashing a gun for a short moment, escaped with an estimated \$50,000 from the Houston National Bank today.

The bandit, making a daring foray into the bank offices in an alleyway, vaulted, pulled the gun on Donny N. Allen, 19, and ordered him to put several stacks of \$20 bills into a leather satchel.

The bandit was about 28 years old, about 5'6", and had a mustache. About 9:30 a. m., when there were a number of customers in the bank, the man walked down the alleyway into the bank's rear entrance.

He flashed the gun long enough to get Allen to put the stacks of \$20 bills in his pocket. He then put just give me some of the big bills, and put in this brief case. Allen said.

DEATHS FROM COLD

ROME (AP)—Two more deaths today brought to five the number of persons frozen to death in Italy during the past 48 hours.

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Let's look at Governor's proposals

THERE MAY BE A RUSH FOR TRIBAL ADOPTION

LODGE GRASS, Mont.—A white man who participated in an Indian ceremony was under sacred oath today never to exchange words or glances with his mother-in-law.

It took a Crow Indian adoption ceremony to do the trick. Eric Stinton, a Kentucky beverage company official, became the first white man adopted by the tribe in five years yesterday at a New Year's rite of the tribe's War Dance Society.

The society held the ceremony as part of a four-day jamboree ushering the new year.

In the ceremony, Samson Bird-in-the-Ground placed a feathered headdress and beaded moccasins on Stinton. They symbolized Stinton would be cared for by his tribal parents and that he, in turn, would assume the duties of a Crow.

At the end of the duties, lifted high on the Indians' list of social protocol, he had conversation with or about his mother-in-law, look at her, or be seen or talked about by her.

Any applicants for membership in the Crow tribe?

Soviet Work Camp Experiences Told

BERLIN (AP)—Two American released by the Russians after years of imprisonment and forced labor today told Soviet detention camps are "hell holes" where murder and violent death are commonplace.

Leoland Towers, 28, a merchant seaman from San Francisco, told a news conference he had been a card-carrying Communist "but never again."

Pvt. Homer Cox of Oklahoma City, Okla., said he was blown off the aircraft carrier Yorktown being the Japanese sank in 1942 and that he was a prisoner in the Russian work camps.

The two men were turned over to the Americans in Berlin two days ago, as a result of negotiations between the State Dept. and Moscow.

Towers said he had tried to go to the Soviet Union to see what the managing of communists was like and had been refused a visa. Then, he explained, he crossed into Russia over the Finnish frontier in 1951 and was arrested, convicted and sentenced to three years "for breaking the neutrality law."

Ex-sailor Cox, a military policeman in West Berlin, said he was apparently "dropped" in a cafe the night of Sept. 5, 1949, and when he awoke he was in Russian hands. He said they gave him 32 years after a quick trial on charges of being part of an "intelligence" organization and spy work, having slain a Russian officer.

Both men said they saw many foreigners in various work camps in the Soviet Union. Cox said these included Bill Marchuk of Breckinridge, Pa., and Andrew Verdine of Starks, La., American soldiers ordered stationed in Germany, and other soldiers from the Russian occupation forces.

Cox said he worked in a coal mine at the infamous Workuta camp. "Every day somebody died," he said quietly, some were machine-gunned by Soviet troops for lagging. Others were victims of accidents. Fighting broke out constantly and some resulted in fatalities.

Towers worked in a lumber camp. "Of it, all he would say was 'A Communist said 1947, Towers said."

"I don't know any more what the word Communist means. I thought and still think there is lots wrong with the capitalist system, but the Russiagate starting from scratch. I love freedom more than anything else."

ORANGES CHEAPER

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—Oranges, making their annual appearance for the holidays, are 10 per cent cheaper this year. The imported fruit costs the equivalent of \$1.25 a pound.

135 PWs Ask Return To China

PANUNJOM (AP)—Indian troops made a year-end head count of Chinese war prisoners in their custody today and 135 of the 4,385 captives asked to return to Communist China.

An Indian spokesman emphasized that the count was not a screening and did not substitute for interviews, which ended Dec. 23.

However, Indian guards gave prisoners wishing to return home every chance to ask for repatriation.

There was no indication whether the count would be extended to the pro-Communist North Camp, which holds 22 Americans who refused to return home.

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ALL WALKED AWAY FROM CRASH

Governor Fears Harm To South

RALEIGH (AP)—Gov. Unstead made it plain today he does not think much of the announced plans of the Eisenhower administration to channel defense spending into areas of unemployment.

Reflecting the anxiety of other Southern leaders that the plan might mean taking business away from the Southern textile industry in favor of New England, Unstead said he did not consider it doing that "wise economy and certainly not good for the economy of the South."

If more jobs are provided in one area in this manner it will reduce jobs in another area, the governor told his news conference in answer to questions.

NOT A FUNCTION

He said he understood government contracts should be awarded on a basis of specification and cost and he did not consider it a function of the federal government to bolster an ailing industry in one section of the country when economics had caused its expansion in another section.

The governor launched into a discussion of one of his favorite topics—highway safety and ways of reducing the highway death toll. He produced figures to show that highway accidents cause more deaths in the state than any disease except cancer and heart ailments.

MANY KILLED

pointing to the fact that 1,100 persons have been killed on the roads this year, the governor said, "If we had had that many deaths from polio or tuberculosis, I think the people would be much more conscious of the situation and realize the necessity of doing something about it."

Asked about the state's economic condition, the governor said, "I think it is apparent to all of us that we are perhaps in the midst of a slight business recession which will involve some unemployment, and some decrease in business."

He said he was not "pessimistic" about the situation and was pleased that sales tax receipts and reports on Christmas spending indicate the recession has had "little apparent effect in North Carolina despite last summer's drought."

SEN. MATHIAS (D-SG) said in a statement today he would introduce legislation the very first instance "can" to prevent the program from being carried out.

But even if Congress should block or drastically curb the program, there remained the fact of Knowland's unequivocal opposition to it and the as yet unappraised effect the incident might have on Democratic support for Eisenhower's legislative program.

Southern Democrats have also condemned the policy on grounds it deprives the Southern textile industry of government contracts and places them in New England towns hard hit by unemployment.

Wind-Borne Wash Kettle Story Tallest Of 1953

BURLINGTON, Wis. (AP)—Mr. Joe McIntyre, Richmond, Va., was with a perch on that bird named today by the Burlington Lions Club as World's Champion Lion for 1953.

He won with this tall tale: "The strongest wind I ever heard of hit our place last summer, along with a slim bang thunderstorm. The wind was so strong that it picked up our cast-iron wash kettle (about three feet across and about two feet deep) and blew it out of the country."

And the wind blew that kettle so fast that while it was sailing across our front yard the lightning struck it five times—and missed."

McIntyre succeeds a Texan, Harry V. Cummings of Dallas, who took the 1952 honors with a tale about mosquitoes he encountered in Korea. Although they were not tall they decided to devour him on the spot because they feared that "if we carry him back to the big mosquitoes will take him away from us."

Another Texan, L. C. McRoberts of Kingsville, this year won honorable mention with this wisp of a tale: "During drought years on the Texas coast, the Bay becomes so salty that the fishermen use a bottle of fresh water, with a nipple on it, for bait."

Ray Whitwood, Leoti Creek, Wash., also rated honorable mention. He wrote: "The night my pretty near got shot while deer hunting. Coming around a bend in the trail I saw a large buck standing, looking away from me."

"I shot the deer in the back of the head. He turned around so quick to see where the shot came from that the bullet came out between his eyes and went right back into the hole I had made."

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"So I said, 'What's the matter with those nails you are throwing away?'"

"The ones I am throwing away have nails on the wrong end," he replied. "That made me know."

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World Set To Greet New Year

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Along with the hoop-la, many planned to gather in churches for prayer services bidding farewells to the old year and praying for the peace, health and prosperity that 1953 did not assure.

SAFETY WARNING

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President Eisenhower will attend a small celebration at the clubhouse of the Augusta, Ga., National Golf Club, adjacent to the holiday White House. But he'll go to work early on New Year's Day in his State of the Union message to Congress.

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ing of a monthly publication is being by the American Legion in Bucharest on Dec. 29. This publication, called "News From America" and printed in Romanian, was first issued last October with a circulation of about 100,000 copies, the State Department said.

Rep. Overton Brooks (D-La.) said a statement this week protesting publication in the United States of the Romanian weekly periodical, called "The Romanian News."

A State Department spokesman said the banning of this paper was because of the Romanian prohibition of the American publication and was not related to Brooks' protest.

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