THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1853—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1953

A NECESSARY FIRST STEP

FOR MANY YEARS the widening of 11th St. from Brevard to Graham has been high on the priority list of the City Planning Board, but the expense of a new bridge over the rail lines parallel to College St. had been a barrier.

This week municipal officials worked out an agreement with three railroads whereby the railroads will bear 75 per cent of the cost of the bridge while the City Government pays 25 per cent of the cost of the bridge and all the other expenses incidental to the project.

It is expected that the City's share of the first stage of the project—building the bridge and paving four lanes from Brevard to College—will come to about $100,000. That's cheap enough, and an important investment.

But it ought to be understood right here that it will be money down a rathole unless several other things are done:

1. 11th St. must be widened all the way to Graham if the full value of the $100,000 investment is ever to be realized.

2. Parking must be removed from Graham St., and not on one side for a few hours in the morning and on the other side for a few hours in the afternoon, but all day. It would be ridiculous to spend $100,000 to create two new lanes of traffic on two blocks of E. 11th St., when two new lanes of traffic can be created the whole length of Graham St. by the simple expedient of banning parking, without spending any of the people's money.

3. The broad area bounded by Brevard, Trade, Graham and 11th is crisscrossed by narrow streets which will eventually have to be widened and opened up if terrific congestion is to be avoided.

But the first step toward all three objectives is the building of a new overpass and the widening of 11th St. from Brevard to College. That has now been authorized by the City Council. We shall expect the same firm and resolute action on the other three steps.

MUCH HULLABALOO OVER LITTLE

TO PARAPHRASE Winston Churchill, never has so much nonsense been uttered about so insignificant a matter as in yesterday's Council discussion of Drew Pearson's "slur" against Charlotte.

Pulling out virtually every cliche in the book, Councilman Boyd rose to the defense of the police department, the mayor, the Council, the citizenry et al, leaving out only Southern womanhood.

And his Council sidekick, Mr. Baxter, picked up his cues and sought to put across a three-day ultimatum to Pearson demanding that he tell all, or else, though the motion (which lost) didn't say what the or else would be.

It's about time to put the Pearson thing back in its right perspective.

A radio commentator, whose programs over the air are a good deal more sensational than his syndicated newspaper column, made an assertion about the crime situation in Charlotte that was as absurd on the face of it as was Theron Lamar Caudle's plaint that his life wasn't safe in Charlotte. At any other time it would have been greeted with the silence it merited.

By coincidence, if not by design, the charge was made at a time when a careful study of the whole Charlotte Police Department was being made by a special committee appointed by the Council. Messrs. Boyd and Baxter, for reasons best known to themselves, have consistently and persistently opposed this study and any other study, arguing that there is nothing wrong with the police department that higher pay won't cure.

A majority of the Council, however, felt that an objective appraisal of the department, undertaken with positive and constructive intent, would improve the department. And the majority held firm.

When Pearson made his broadcast, it afforded an excellent opportunity for Messrs. Boyd and Baxter to set off a big diversionary hue and cry that would focus public attention on a 24-hour sensation and away from the careful, diligent work of the special committee.

The Boyd motion for a vote of confidence in the "honesty, integrity and ability" of the police department was not necessary. The department's honesty, integrity and ability have not been questioned by any responsible authority, only its efficiency, morale, pay scales, organization and working conditions.

TOO MANY BRAINS IN THE CLASSROOM?

POOR TEACHER. She has to behave better than other people. She doesn't get paid overmuch for teaching more students than ever before. Every so often there's Summer school to attend. And now another problem crops up. Some of the teachers apparently are too smart to get a job.

If you think that sounds odd read what one bright young college graduate, who had met all requirements for teacher certification, told Prof. Arthur E. Bestor Jr. of the University of Illinois:

"(The placement bureau director) told me that prospective teachers of English who had straight-A averages were very apt to become scholars rather than good teachers. He stressed overenthusiasm for subject matter, saying that good students seldom have the ability to understand people. Emphasis on subject matter and knowledge of it, he implied, were outdated because 'we don't teach subject matter, we teach children.'"

This instance is not isolated. Several Virginia teachers have been complaining to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* about similar experiences. One girl with a cum laude degree insists her principal believes she's doomed to failure as a teacher because, according to him, the best teachers are those "who have only a slight knowledge of subject matter."

We'd suggest, offhand, that the principal was twisting teacher's leg, and she didn't know it. But emphasis on methodology has been stressed so much in teacher training that perhaps scholarship has been neglected. No friend detected, understand, but a point worth keeping an eye on.

FORMULA

THE president of the National Safety Council has a formula for staying alive over Labor Day week-end. His formula: (1) cut your usual cruising speed 10 miles an hour; (2) double check before passing or changing lanes; (3) don't compete in traffic; let the other guy go first.

We've a better formula.

Stay home.

By Holley Mack Bell In The Bertie Ledger-Advance

IT'S SO PEACEFUL IN A SMALL TOWN—YEAH?

LIFE in small towns, city people imagine, is slow and leisurely. Men sit on sidewalk benches and whittle and talk about crops and there's not enough activity to stir the dust. Women, they imagine, gossip across the back fence or sit around and play bridge all day.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. The pace in a small town is killing; there are more clubs, societies, organizations and projects per 100 persons than any sizable city can support. And all these clubs, societies and organizations are meeting like mad.

I know, for I was one who imagined that life in a small town was calmer, slower and there would be more time to take it easy and enjoy life. That was when I was living in Charlotte and had been away from my home town of Windsor for about 13 years. Before coming back home I even stocked up on some books and several complete operas under the ridiculous impression that I'd have time on my hands.

First, I had miscalculated on how much time it takes to put out a weekly newspaper. That's a 70-hour-a-week job, as anybody who runs a country weekly can tell you.

Then, I never realized that there would be so many clubs and organizations and so many projects and plans being run all the time. I suppose that Windsor might appear to be a sleepy country town to the tourists from Pennsylvania and New Jersey and New York as they ride through on U. S. 17 and U. S. 13.

I wish they could see some of the feverish activity going on under this sleepy exterior. Last Thursday night, for example, I went to three meetings.

The Rotary Club at 6:45, after having prepared the *Rota-Gram*, the club's weekly bulletin, was first.

After the Rotary meeting, I hastened to the Chamber of Commerce meeting, where local merchants and warehousemen were laying plans for attracting farmers to sell their tobacco in Windsor. The meeting chairman, who had another meeting to go to, held the whole thing to one hour.

Then I rushed off to the third meeting. Here a group of harried civic-minded citizens were laying plans for a big farmers' day—talking about entertainment, floats, hillbilly bands, celebrities.

And after that was over, all I had to do was go home and finish packing up; we moved from one apartment to another the next day. Life in small towns, city people imagine, is so peaceful.

Instead of inquiring how many rooms a house has the first question seems to be how much can I borrow on it.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

Unrest on the farm front suggests that there are other bugs besides corn borers in the national agricultural program.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Treasury Secretary Humphrey says the policy of the administration is "honest money," rather than "hard money." But it often seems that the hardest money to get is honest money.—*New Orleans States.*

East German Mating Call

Fifteen Basic Books

A Beginner's North Caroliniana

By RICHARD WALSER
In The State

"I WANT to begin a collection of North Carolina books," he said. "I want them right in my house where I can refer to them all the time. I already have a small personal library of which I'm very proud; and I want to add to it the very finest books about North Carolina, books which are foremost in the permanent literature of this state."

He knit his brow thoughtfully. "Right now I can start buying them gradually," he continued. "Let's say I can buy about fifteen. Which ones would you suggest."

He was a young man who had been in North Carolina only about two years. His reading habits leaned toward the literary and historical; and since he had come to love the state, he wanted to read more about it. His question was an honest one, and it had to be pondered carefully. There are hundreds of good books having to do with North Carolina. To list only fifteen for him, in the "honesty, integrity and ability" of the list obtainable—and to leave unmentioned many favorites, was difficult. Nevertheless, there had to be an answer.

"You'll want to make your own selections," he was told. "But until you know the field a bit better, here are three groupings of five books each. Start with the first list; then move on to the second list; and by adding to your library periodically, in accordance with your taste, you'll begin to have a good home collection of North Carolina."

First Purchase

THERE are five books which ought to be on every North Carolina shelf. Indispensable, of course, is North Carolina: a Guide to the Old North State (UNC Press: Chapel Hill, $4.50), one of the American Guide Series. Detailed, fully illustrated, and ministerly indexed, it takes the reader up and down the state to almost every interesting spot conceivable.

Next, the collector would want John Lawson's History of North Carolina (Garrett & Massi: Richmond, $4), mistakenly titled because it is more a contemporary tour of the state in the early 1700's than a history. Actually, this is probably the most time-honored North Carolina book. With its descriptions of the Indians, a very intriguing and delightful tale of the very early days it is.

Thomas Wolfe's Look Homeward, Angel (Scribner's, $2.75) is indisputably this state's foremost contribution to World Literature, and this novel of Asheville and Chapel Hill is as powerful today as when it was published in 1929. In poetry a first purchase is a gem from Cotton Land (UNC Press, $2) by John Charles McNeill, who caught in this small volume the very quintessence of the North Carolina spirit. A third literary selection would be The Last Colony (UNC Press, $2.50) by our present-day Dean of Letters, Paul Green. It is the most famous of the outdoor historical dramas.

The Second Set

FOR first consideration in the second-purchase bracket, a good history of the state is mandatory. Unfortunately, at the present time only school editions are available. Quite satisfactory, however, is Hugh T. Lefler's North Carolina History Told by Contemporaries (UNC Press, $6), an edition of significant documents from the sixteenth century to the present.

The first book in English written about the New World is A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia (1588) by Thomas Hariot, one of the colonizers in Raleigh's first expedition of 1585. Hariot's lively account of the "merchantable commodities" to be found on Roanoke Island is included in Explorations, Descriptions, and Attempted Settlements of Carolina, 1584-1590 (State Department of Archives and History, Box 1661, Raleigh, 80 cents clothbound), edited by D. L. Corbitt.

Another beguiling value is The Road to Salem by Adelaide L. Fries (UNC Press, $4), a true tale of eighteenth-century Moravians in Old Salem, written in the form of a novel. The book won the Mayflower Award in 1946.

From Governor Charles' five-volume autobiography, a good choice is the first of the series, Tar Heel Editor (UNC Press, $4). The book is as much the story of North Carolina from 1882 to 1920 as it is the early career of one of the state's most famous sons.

The bookbuyer will then want a copy of Inglis Fletcher's Raleigh's Eden (Garden City, $3.95), a novel of the Revolution in North Carolina and the first of Mrs. Fletcher's seven books in the famous Carolina Series.

Then These Five

BY this time, our bookbuyer will need a guide to his future purchases. Alone in the field is North Carolina Authors (U.N.C. Library, Chapel Hill, $1.50 paperbound, $2 clothbound). Here are biographical data and bibliographies for more than 180 Tar Heel writers.

Four books of literary achievement fill out the list. James Boyd's Drums (Scribner's, $1.75) and Bernice Kelly Harris' Wild Cherry Tree Road (Doubleday, $3) are novels by writers without whom no North Carolina library is complete. Drums takes us again to the Revolution in eastern North Carolina; Wild Cherry Tree Road is a warm story of life in the rural sections of Wake County.

James Larkin Pearson of Guilford College has published five books of poetry, any one of which would meet the requirements. Folksy humor and judicious selection make him the most beloved of our contemporary poets. For the final spot, perhaps Lemuel Sawyer's Blackbeard (State Department of Archives and History, $1) would be a good choice. First issued in 1934, this is our first drama; and while it does not possess the literary value of the other books on this list, its handsome reissue in facsimile makes it a worthwhile and unique addition to a North Carolina shelf.

A Final Word

WHAT! Not Jonathan Daniels' Tar Heels? What about The Life and Letters of Walter Hines Page? No O. Henry? Not even Wilbur Cash's The Mind of the South?" So we might expect our young man to exclaim.

Well, the first two are out of print and thus unavailable for the last five, yes, both of them—but later. You see, O. Henry wrote only a couple of stories about his native state; and Cash's book, great as it is, is hardly the fare for the neophyte.

Democrats To Set Off Blast At Party Rally In Chicago

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE Democrats at their Chicago meeting want to make as big a noise as possible to show that they are alive and kicking and more or less united. The plan as of now is to open up with a sharper attack than they have launched on the sins of omission and commission of the Republican Administration.

To date the strategy has been to point out policy changes directly affecting the well-being of people in various parts of the country—public power, for example, with the emphasis shifted from big Federal hydro-electric projects to local development by private utilities. The party, if present intentions prevail, will now go on the attack.

As first worked out, Adlai Stevenson, titular leader of the party, was merely to have made a few remarks in the course of introducing Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois as the chief speaker at the $100 a plate dinner on September 14. Douglas is up for re-election next year. But what Stevenson says will go beyond as he abandons his judicious, give-them-time-to-work-it-out attitude.

TRUMAN TO TALK

Another speaker at the dinner will be Harry S. Truman who can always be counted on at a party rally to rip it out. The hazard, of course, is that Truman will overshadow both Stevenson and Douglas with his free-swinging style.

When it comes to unity, chairman Stephen Mitchell and the others planning the two-day meeting profess to be undisturbed by the sound of scoffing from Eisenhower Democrats who say they will not attend. A typical Democratic spat developed over the toastmastership with John J. Kelly Jr. resigning as dinner chairman when told that he could not introduce the big-wigs. Kelly is head of the Irish Fellowship Club and it was hoped he would win back some of the voters who shifted to the Republican side in November.

But the real issue on unity arises with the glimmer of 1956 and the prize of the Presidential nomination. Powerful elements in the party would like to be able to show that they are alive and kicking and more or less united. The plan as of now is to open up with a sharper attack than they have launched on the sins of omission and commission of the Republican Administration.

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But the real issue on unity arises

Eisenhower And Dodge Push For Heavier Defense Slashes

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

AN important faction within the Eisenhower Administration is determined to sacrifice a serious American defense effort in favor of a balanced budget. For the time being, moreover, this faction appears to have the President's backing. These conclusions are very clearly suggested by a hitherto undisclosed and highly significant exchange of letters between the Budget Bureau, the Defense Department, and the White House.

Before Congress adjourned, Budget Director Joseph Dodge sent a firm letter to Defense Secretary Charles Wilson. The meat of this letter was contained in the following paragraph:

"The fiscal year 1955 budget will have to show further substantial reductions from the fiscal year 1954 revised figures. These reductions will have to be at least equal to and may have to be greater than those already made in the fiscal year 1954 budget."

Wilson mulled over the Dodge directive for a couple of weeks, and then sent a reply. He pointedly reminded Dodge that "the Congress was informed by both the Secretary of Defense and the President that . . . the new Joint Chiefs of Staff would make an intensive and detailed study of all aspects of defense . . . Until the completion of the review of the military plan by the Joint Chiefs, it would appear undesirable to make an estimate as to the amounts required . . ."

With this polite but firm rejoinder, round one apparently went to Wilson. Round two started when Wilson received a second letter, this time from the President himself, shortly before the President left on his vacation. This letter closely followed the Budget Bureau line — indeed, it was almost certainly drafted by Dodge for the President's signature.

Like the Dodge letter, the President's letter told Wilson to "reduce current expenditures"—in being official language for stretching out defense spending. The letter urged Wilson to "correct" those parts of the Defense Department report which had been criticized in Congress. Finally, the Eisenhower letter also called for reductions in the forthcoming Defense budget "beyond those indicated for fiscal 1954."

Wilson dutifully circulated this letter to top officials in the Defense Department. But Wilson's famous bullheadedness can be a virtue, and he repeated in his covering note that the Presidential letter meant "no change" in Defense planning. Until after the new Joint Chiefs had completed their review.

To judge from his response to both letters, Wilson is more aware than he once was of his grim responsibilities as Secretary of Defense. At any rate, Wilson clearly lost round two, since the President's letter uncompromisingly backed the line taken by Dodge in his original directive.

It is important to understand what Defense cutbacks "beyond those indicated for fiscal 1954" would mean. The reductions already made in the current defense budget come to well over $6 billion, the great bulk of this money from the Air Force. A similar reduction for fiscal 1955 would mean a Defense budget of around $38 billion.

Defense "housekeeping" outlays alone—keeping the men in the armed forces paid and fed and clothed and transported—now runs to about $22 billion a year. This cannot be much reduced without drastically affecting force levels. A $38 billion Defense budget would thus hardly be sufficient to keep procurement of aircraft and other "hardgoods" ticking over.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Merry-Go-Round Gets The Old Run-Around

WASHINGTON

A CONTRACT for $41,614 worth of new panelling for executive mansion corridors was let at the White House the other day under peculiar circumstances.

The company that got the contract didn't have its bid opened until one day after the 2 P. M. Aug. 17 deadline when the other four bids were in. This is highly unusual. Bids on government contracts are supposed to be opened simultaneously in the presence of all concerned.

But in this case the successful bid, that of the V. J. Miller Construction Co., was rushed in at the last moment, remained unopened all night, and when opened the next day turned out to be the low bid. The next highest bid, that of the Davis, Wick, Rosengarten Co., was for $43,250.

What added to the unusual circumstances was a mysterious phone call by the chief White House usher, Howell G. Crim, one hour after the first four bids were opened, to a Bert Matthews telling him to get his bid in right away. However, Crim called the wrong Matthews.

Bert Matthews is with the Tuckman-Barbee Construction Co., which did not bid on the White House contract. And when he protested that he didn't know what it was all about, but perhaps Crim wanted another Matthews who was with the V. J. Miller Co., White House usher Crim abruptly ended the conversation.

The contract negotiations occurred when President Eisenhower was in Denver. The White House usher is the top permanent functionary in the executive mansion, and Mr. Crim has served there some years with a good record. However, stumps by this column to get to the bottom of the contract award resulted in one of the most unusual run-arounds in run-around Washington.

White House Explains

WHITE House usher Crim, asked by this column for an explanation for the delayed bid, first said that he had nothing to do with the Miller contract, that he was on vacation and that the bids had been handled by Roger Steffan, special assistant to the President. He added that he had gone to the bid-opening only as a spectator.

"I went down out of personal interest because I had never seen it. I was only a spectator," Crim said.

But when asked why was the V. J. Miller bid not opened with the others, Crim seemed to have more than a spectator's knowledge.

"We wanted to get this work done while the President was away," he replied. "So we invited four contractors to bid, said we specified the time the bids were to be opened. Miller came in the last minute. He had not been invited to bid but asked for permission to submit a bid. We decided to take it under advisement."

"Why wasn't the Miller bid opened on the spot?" Crim was asked.

"We wanted time to decide whether to consider the bid at all," Crim explained.

Asked about the mysterious phone call to Bert Matthews an hour after the first four bids were opened, Crim acknowledged that he made the call and had cut the conversation short when he found Matthews wasn't the right man.

"I was simply asked to find out if he was the agent for the V. J. Miller Co.," he explained. "We didn't know anything about the company, and I was calling to check on the bid."

"But I thought you attended the bid opening only as a spectator and that Roger Steffan handled the whole thing," Crim was asked. "Now it sounds as if you were taking a very active part in the whole matter."

Crim then reversed his previous statement that he was on vacation, said he had come back to work for a day or two.

The Merry-Go-Round

ROGER STEFFAN, when questioned, flatly denied that he had anything to do with the contract. He said it had been handled by F. Gartside, Jr., National Capital Parks at the Interior Department.

Gartside, upon questioning, promptly stated that the contract was a White House matter and he had been instructed to refer all inquiries to the White House.

"We just talked to the White House," Gartside was told, "and they referred us to you."

Gartside thought this over, then asked for time to check with the White House.

A second call to him was met with instructions from an assistant to Press Secretary Smith, Interior Department public relations officer. Mr. Smith was obliging but frankly unfamiliar with the technical details of the White House contract. He finally put Gartside back on the phone.

Gartside explained that the unusual delay in opening Miller's bid was due to the fact that Miller had not yet inspected the White House.

"But Miller had inspected the White House and the Secret Service knew it."

"I realize that," Gartside replied, "but my chief, Mr. Hiers, didn't."

"Who finally made the decision to open the Miller bid?"

"We received instructions," Gartside replied.

"What do you mean, you 'received instructions'?"

"The White House says that you were in charge of the contract arrangements. Why did you need instructions?"

Appropriately enough," he replied, "entrusts these funds to the control of White House authorities."

"Then who in the White House instructed you to open the Miller bid?"

"I got my instructions from Mr. Crim. I don't know who gave him his instructions."

"But Crim said that he was present merely as a spectator. Now you say Crim gave you instructions."

Gartside seemed stumped at this, had no real reply.

"Crim," he was reminded, "states that Roger Steffan was in charge. But Steffan in turn states that you were in charge. And now you state that Crim was in charge. That's what some people would call the Washington Merry-go-Round."