



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### Tidy Up That Governmental Attic

LIKE most states, North Carolina has some excess baggage in its governmental attic—agencies it could plainly do without. One is the School Health Coordinating Service, a half million dollar extravaganza created by the 1949 General Assembly.

It is not that the job it does is unnecessary. On the contrary, there is a definite need to be met. It is just that the job could be done better and at less cost by the State Board of Health.

The coordinating service was set up as a separate unit in the expectancy that Uncle Sam would match state funds. Federal money has never arrived, however. So it is carrying on, relying on the State Board of Education and the State Board of Health for funds.

Purposes of the program: To provide medical and dental corrections of defects in needy school children and to coordinate activities of the two departments in the field of health care for children.

But as News Staff Writer Harry Shush points out, local school and health authorities put available funds to use in varying ways. Some pay for the money and personnel to broaden health training in the schools. For instance, in Charlotte last year 96 per cent went for salaries and supplies—only \$473.30 for actual correction of defects.

In other localities, most of the money is spent for the correction of defects—but sometimes without regard to whether those assisted are classified as "needy" or not. There are reports of extensive and expensive corrections being made at the taxpayers' expense when they could and should have been paid for out of family funds.

There seems to be no well-regulated statewide system at all. For an agency that calls itself a coordinating service there is remarkably little coordinating of services.

The State Dental Society, cooperating with the medical society, has seriously questioned the wisdom of continuing the program in its present form. Many dentists and physicians would prefer to have full State Board of Health control over this governmental function.

They are on firm ground. The purposes of the program are sound. There is a job to be done in the field. But the present setup invites abuses and lacks the necessary uniformity.

Health is the special field of the State Board of Health. It should have full supervision and control over all of the state government's health operations.

Now is the time for the legislature to tidy up that governmental attic and set North Carolina's house in order.

### Platform People's

Phoenix, Ariz.

Editors, The News:

SEVERAL months back I wrote a letter to your paper about prospecting for gold and other precious metals in Arizona. I am still getting letters from people as far away from North Carolina as New York, Alabama, and Texas.

Some of the men who wrote about prospecting seem to know more about it than I have ever been able to learn myself, and I have tried to answer all letters.

## Prospecting: Straight From the Burro's Mouth

As truthfully and intelligently as I possibly can, but I certainly am not trying to get all the good people in the East and other states to come here and go prospecting with the expectation of striking the mother lode or uncovering a mountain of solid uranium.

HARD GAME

And I want to warn one and all: Prospecting is, indeed, a hard game and most of the prospectors I know are broke and have been broke all their lives.

However, two gentlemen near Yuma, Ariz., just recently discovered some very high-grade uranium locations. Just how it will turn out in the end still remains to be seen.

One gent in Tennessee wrote and asked how much it would charge him for prospecting in Arizona. Just had to break down and tell him that as long as a man prospects on state or U. S. government lands, there is no charge, and if there was I would not be the author of this article. I do not own all the land in Arizona, and there's plenty of it to prospect on free as the air you breathe.

Everybody who wants to come out and prospect is welcome and there will be no charge. But, please do not expect me to go out with them and show them where the rich gold nuggets are hidden. So far I have not found the hiding place of the most precious metal in the world, and I am still looking.

But, I would not advise anyone to come here and go prospecting in the desert country in the summer time. Nor would I advise anyone to quit his job and come here expecting to find a fortune under the first boulder he sees.

Instead, I would recommend any prospecting trips anyone might want to take as a mere lark, looking for new experiences and adventure, and the rewards in health, and experience will be great even if no gold or copper or uranium is ever discovered.

PLAYING POLITICS

My main occupation is operating a collection agency, making private investigations and playing politics. That is, voting in, or helping to vote in, one bunch and then doing everything I can to get them out of office at the next election. In that way I figure we will have better government by not allowing 'em to remain in office too long. Oh, yes, I'm still a Democrat. I was born so in good old North Carolina in the 18th century.

I have made many trips into the desert and the hills. Once with a burro as a pack animal, but he got mixed up with a mountain lion and was unable to make the trip back to civilization with me.

HANDSOME COWBOYS

One young lady wrote and asked me to have a handsome cowboy write her a letter. Could not accommodate her, as there are no handsome cowboys in Arizona, but there are still plenty of cowboys. She should attend the Prescott, Ariz., Rodeo and Frontier Days, in the cowboy capital of the world, around July 4 and she will see the real cowboys in action riding, bulldozing, and tying stunts. And they are all crummy critters too, both the cowboys and the brains stunts and bulls they wrestle with.

DRUG STORE VARIETY

The last time I was in Charlotte, I thought I saw some drug store cowboys standing on the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets. Maybe, I was wrong.

Way back in the old days, before World War I, I too, was a cowboy for awhile and I did some horse and rodeo on several ranches in New Mexico and Arizona, but some of the foremen I worked for had a different opinion of my being a real cowboy. The high heel boots hurt my feet and I got saddle sores and even the "rope riding" bulldozing, and tying stunts. And they are all crummy critters too, both the cowboys and the brains stunts and bulls they wrestle with.

PURPLE SAGE

But, I excelled in the monthly poker games and many times I would roll my bed, saddle my horse and ride away between several hundred bucks I had won playing stud poker.

Having learned to play poker in the army, as well as blackjack, and the popular game of craps, I found average cowboy easy to outguess and I then would go to town and the city slickers would take me for a cleaning and I would have to ride out of the city into the valley where I could find a ranch and try to convince the foreman that I was the best cowboy that ever came out of Texas.

WORST COWPOKE

In the old days in Arizona, when you applied for a job as a cowpoke, it was best to give the impression that you were from Texas, because Texas cowboys were supposed to be the best. Anyway, I guess I was about the worst cowpoke that ever lived out of Texas.

Extending The Limits

Literary Reputations

By CYRIL CONNOLLY

In 'Ideas And Places'

AT A glance, I would say that the reputations of most of the writers famous between 1900 and 1930 will dwindle. Shaw, Wells, Bennett, Galsworthy, Belloc, Chesterton — they were splendid all-rounders who lacked the supreme esthetic gift of verbal imagination. I think that this may prove the case for many of my contemporaries, but, even as Yeats and Hopkins were the exceptions then, so are poets like Eliot and Dylan Thomas today.

The first line of a poem by Dylan Thomas, "A grief ago," seems to me to extend the limits of language and feeling. The clear thinking and fresh writing of Shaw, so admirable in its time and so original, will surely date, like self-satisfaction, when history folds up her telescope. As Sainte-Beuve said, we must write as if those who are going to read us will belong to a civilization more delicate and subtle than any we know.

Quote, Unquote

A geologist says the world is less than a billion years old. And it still acts like an adolescent or a small child in a temper tantrum. Green-wilds & Piedmont.

There are still a few successful dictators left in the world, but most of them have to quit promptly at 5 p.m. — St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Executive Secretary

Home Builders Assn. of Charlotte.

Realty Tax Unfair

To Home Builders

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

R. T. Falls of Cleveland County to impose a 1 per cent realty transfer tax in North Carolina is unfair.

In new construction if the seller absorbs the tax, he either a real estate agent or a builder, it can wipe out from 10 to 20 per cent or more of his presumed profit—enough to cause many builders to stop building. In order to remain in business, the seller will probably have to pass this tax on to the buyer in some way in the closing costs of the sale.

To encourage development and are sold with little or no down payment required to make home ownership possible and easily attainable for all our citizens, a tenet which has been manifest in our way of life from the homestead grants during the founding days of our nation on through the Federal Housing Administration and the 1954 Housing Act. The Home Owners Loan Corporation, the mortgage moratorium of the early '30s, the housing provisions of the GI Bill of Rights and many other acts are familiar instances of legislation intended to foster and encourage home ownership.

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### The Recording Angels



### A Case History

## The News Vs. Harvey Matusow

By MURRAY KEMPTON  
In The New York Post

WE did not really need Harvey Matusow to tell us that he was a liar. That habit pattern was documented for us in his own words long before his recantation. Long before his break, he became a hobby for Victor Reiner, a Charlotte News editorial writer. Reiner must be the largest collector of Matusow's lies: in December, 1952, he assembled a few of Harvey's gaudier lies, contradictions and absurdities in one editorial.

The assortment screamed perjury, and Reiner sent it off to various congressional committees and private organizations which had used Matusow's revelations. It was a long list; Reiner's members only three answers.

MCCARRAN'S REPLY  
One came from Pat McCarran, the outgoing chairman of the Internal Security Committee, who said the best answer to persons doubting Matusow's total credibility was to let him talk for more than a year as an informant for the FBI. Since Matusow's recantation, the FBI has announced that it found him a thoroughly untrustworthy source. When you consider that Pat McCarran was de facto attorney general during the last year of the Truman administration, it seems odd that J. Edgar Hoover never thought to tell him about Harvey.

Only one member of the House Un-American Activities Committee even bothered to answer Reiner's dossier: the Hon. Kit Carson of Michigan, subsequently a victim of the voters,

wrote that it seemed to him typical Communist propaganda. Joseph Kealey, editor of the American Legion Weekly, which had featured Matusow's prose, answered that The Charlotte News had clearly misled Matusow, who would certainly take action.

Some of these people are now saying that Matusow was a Communist plant inside the loyal legion of the dedicated. Normally I would think this nonsense, but, if they want to say that he made a fool of the whole batch of them from Pat McCarran through "Counterattack," I'll have