

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1957

A Report To Our Readers

The Minutes Of The Last Meeting

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky!
Ring out the old, ring in the new.

TOLLING bells of the New Year send thoughts rushing back and ahead.

On the horizon are fresh vistas full of portent and promise. Just behind are the triumphs and tragedies of the fractured past.

As is our custom at THE NEWS, we pause today to paste together some of the past's broken images and examine them critically and publicly.

Above all, it gives us an opportunity to mull over informally the opinions we have had during the past year, taking careful note of what we did and did not accomplish and not forgetting some of those instances when we have been outrageously wrong and have had to eat crow.

As ALWAYS, our bloomers have been honeys. The year opened, for instance, with THE NEWS traveling under the thoroughly erroneous assumption that President Eisenhower would not seek re-election because of his heart condition.

Our only consolation is that most of the nation's pundits were adrift in the same leaky lifeboat. The crow, by the way, was delicious.

Then there was the time we joyously chided the Rastafarians and Ossawatomie for suggesting that Thomas B. Sawyer might run for Congress in the Tenth District. Mr. Sawyer, we pointed out, lived in the Eleventh District.

The last laugh was on everybody. Mr. Sawyer ran for governor instead.

ON THE local scene, we could both point with pride and view with alarm. For instance, we now have some awe and a good deal of enthusiasm the first mining steps toward a two-party system here.

On the other hand, we were deeply concerned about efforts to water down the effectiveness of the civil service system on the local level.

Likewise, we gave enthusiastic backing to plans to provide juvenile detention facilities and give tax support to the mental health program.

Our long-time interest in adequate library facilities in Charlotte finally bore fruit in the form of a new million-dollar main library building in the city center.

After considerable editorial anguish we also noted a vast improvement in the handling of planning and zoning matters by the City Council.

The mysterious Board surplus aroused serious questions, but thoroughly satisfactory explanations were never forthcoming.

Traffic and parking occupied much editorial attention. We supported peak-hour parking bans in midtown—but only

after off-street parking was provided on the old Southern freight depot site.

The News also backed plans to provide more elbow room for city and county government, campaigned spiritedly for expansion of Charlotte College, proposed a statewide system of technical institutes—all ideas which are yet to bear fruit.

But our editorial campaign for a safety patrol on the Catawba was a success. So was the drive for adequate protection of Cotswold school children from the perils of the road.

We were particularly happy to give our all for the YMCA building fund drive and United Appeal, too. Both undertakings were notably successful.

ON THE state level, we had grave doubts about the advisability of the Pearsall Plan, as it was originally offered, noting that the one-package proposal asked too much of Tar Heel voters.

We were quick to expose the false doctrine of "interposition" when it was revived in 1956. Later, efforts to pass an interposition resolution during the General Assembly's special session failed miserably.

We continued our campaigns for separation of the prison system from the State Highway Commission, for a reform of the state revenue system and for legislative reapportionment.

Likewise, we will continue our critical interest in athletic scandals at state institutions of higher learning, attempts to revive the Ku Klux Klan, inadequacies in the state's highway safety program and in its judicial system, among other things.

Meanwhile, we noted with admiration during 1956 the emergence of Tar Heel Gov. Luther Hodges as a national figure—an example of Dixie's "new breed" of political leaders.

POLITICS dominated the national scene. The News supported President Eisenhower for re-election but welcomed the candidacy of Adlai E. Stevenson on the Democratic ticket, feeling that both parties had nominated their best.

Segregation continued to haunt the nation during 1956. Against a backdrop of violence in other areas, Tex. News pleaded for moderation in applying "solutions" to the South's ingrained racial dilemma.

We continued to cry out lustily for more enlightened immigration legislation, improvements in federal personnel security programs, balanced federal acts, amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act, tax relief for individuals and small businesses, improvements in the nation's farm program and LIT. We also continued to frown on the Bricker Amendment, certain aspects of the administration's foreign policy, federal aid to education and secrecy in government.

The international scene, 1956 was a year of great stress and strains—with particularly fearsome explosions in the Soviet satellites and the Middle East. We attempted to interpret each ominous rumble in accordance with our deeply held conviction that what happens in Suz and Budapest nowadays is of vital importance to the people along Tryon St.

ALL IN ALL, our editorial philosophy continues to be guided by certain principles we have always held dear: a deep belief in the importance of civil liberties in advancing the dignity of the individual, a profound respect for our system of constitutional government, a vast confidence in the collective wisdom and staying power of the American people and the firm belief that mankind will eventually succeed in shaping a world without war.

From The Raleigh News and Observer

LOVE POTIONS UNNECESSARY

IT IS ALLEGED that tribal chiefs in the western part of the Philippines have love potions capable of making total strangers fall in love with each other.

Granted that this revelation is red hot news, we don't believe it would take hold in this country. Those of us who are near-sighted, far-sighted, cross-eyed, or color-blind would hesitate to drink for fear that we are getting a pig in a poke.

UNNECESSARY

not in love are entirely too frustrated from paying taxes and paying bills to muster sufficient energy or interest one way or the other.

Mars has started moving farther away from the earth. Don't know as we blame it either.—CLEVELAND (GA.) COURIER.

Entire Free World Looks To President For Leadership

By MARQUIS CHILDS

RARELY in America's history has a President at the start of his second term faced problems of the gravity of those which loom large on the horizon just beyond the festivities of President Eisenhower's inauguration.

For the duration of the political campaign, which was all peace and prosperity, they were conveniently filed away. It is only in President Eisenhower will himself now assert a positive leadership that the world can hope for a constructive approach to the issues determining whether, in the next two to five years, there is to be war or peace.

In the nuclear age, this is another way of saying survival or catastrophe. Delegation of power and authority will not be enough.

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only to that of Franklin D. Roosevelt's in 1938. In some respects it was even more impressive than the Roosevelt sweep, since a Republican candidate cut deep into the solid South to take the electoral votes of all but five of the 48 states.

After he carried all but two states in '36, Roosevelt was at a peak of popularity unprecedented in modern times with what also appeared to be an unprecedented opportunity for employing his power and popularity to help resolve problems at home and abroad.

On that day 20 years ago when Roosevelt took the oath of office for a second time, all the elements

of conflict were at hand. The timber for the blaze that was to sweep from one corner of the globe to the other was lying all about.

Roosevelt, as his private papers and even occasionally his public utterances reveal, knew the danger. But he was either unable or unwilling to arrest the rapid drift toward disaster.

In the same way today the elements of disaster are clearly evident. Nor is it any longer possible to take refuge in the comfortable assumption that with the advent of nuclear weapons war can be ruled out.

Historical analogies are, of course, always dubious and there are nearly as many differences as similarities between the situation today and that of January, 1937.

To begin with, America's responsibility for world leadership today is widely recognized. The entire free world looks to President Eisenhower as the only leader who can act without the handicap of past commitments and from the great potential of strength that exists.

But this is perhaps only another way of saying that power, if it is to serve a purpose, must be used. It is currently being used in the Middle East, where the potential for a future conflict is greatest, illustrates all too well the evasion of responsibility can mean.

While President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt has thrown out kind words about the United States, he has succeeded by shrewd obstructionist tactics in delaying the start of clearance of the Suez Canal.

Surprisingly now an agreement has been reached with the United Nations under which the work of clearing the canal will begin. But this is no guarantee that the obstructionism, aimed at checkmating the use of large effective British salvage teams and equipment, will stop.

Every additional day of delay means an added strain on the economy of Western Europe and, for that matter, on the nations of the Far East as well. The pattern of delay fits perfectly the objectives of Soviet Russia to weaken Europe, undermine the Western position and entrench Communism in the Middle East.

Similarly, in Syria stalling is preventing the restoration of the three pumping stations on the line for the Iraq oil fields that supplied a large proportion of Europe's oil. While the Syrian government denied responsibility for the stalling, the stations were blown up with devastating effectiveness beyond the capacity of American officials to suggest in the Arab nations, and this seemed a reason for self-congratulation. Belatedly this

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'They'll Never Take Us Alive'



People's Platform Hail To The Old Soft Shoe

Editors, The News: Charlotte. ENDING up the old year, I found amongst my papers a marked Important, the engaging "Soft Shoe coming Back," News, No. 26.

So few really know what soft shoe dancing really is. It's original. It's old. You know that George Washington did a few fancy dances as it was then called? Actual history says he was a very good soft shoe dancer.

Having been in the theater or around dancing all of my life, knowing most of all the good dances of my generation, soft shoe has always been the one most looked up to by such men as Hy Brazil, Johnny Boyle, Harland Dixon, George M. Gahan, and, of course, the one and only George Primrose. The most beautiful of all steps is called the Primrose. It has all the beauty of the classical ballet rolled into one step, requiring a straight line, swing from the hip, a pointed toe, a firm arm, work, a movement of the head and body that just can't be classified with the average tap step.

We have come a long way with our dancing in this country. Each

Military Alliances Won't Bring Peace

Editors, The News: A FEW days ago, while on a visit here, Mr. Nehru said, in effect, that military alliances "are not" going to bring peace to the people of the world. It is the wrong approach to the problem.

This poor observer says that Mr. Nehru was absolutely right. Military alliances are not going to bring lasting peace to the people of the world. They never have and they never will.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

AS the old year ends and the new begins, this writer, better known for his bric-a-bracs than his bouquets, would like to pay tribute to some of the people, big and little, who have worked to make democracy live. Here are some of them:

Raising Cain

Ex-Sen. Harry Cain of Washington who got fired from the Subversive Activities Control Board for having the courage of his convictions in defending the unfairly accused . . . Leon Ackerman, Florida-District of Columbia real estate dealer, for giving him a job. Ackerman is the man who takes fullpage "God is Love" ads emphasizing what religion should mean to us.

Crusading Congressmen

Congressman Wright Patman of Texas, Tex., for his untiring crusade to get the Atomic Energy Commission's Nanny Celler of Brooklyn for his unfair

Pursuit Of Peace

Eric Johnston, head of the Motion Picture Producers, for his untiring efforts, despite terrific obstacles, to bring peace to the Near East . . . Father John A. Farge for his humanitarian editorials in

EGYPTIAN MUDDLE

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DANGER IN SYRIA

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SINGLE ELEMENT

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WATER TO TARIHELIA WITH LOVE

By JULIAN SCHEER Charlotte News Staff Writer

NOBODY asked me . . . But . . . The things I like best about North Carolina include . . . Names like Chunky Gal, Why-not, Saxaphaw.

Ham gray at Henry Franklin's near Lenoir Falls and barbecue from anywhere. The glow of fires in tobacco barns. A hundred fishing holes in a hundred counties.

Lighthouses on the coast. The brilliance of mountain color in the fall. Sunrise over the Atlantic near Wilmington. Christmas lights in Charlotte.

An air drop at Ft. Bragg. Wide highways like US 29. Carnivals and fairs — anywhere. Blue windows on textile mills.

Black bears in the Smokies. High Point furniture. Chimes at Chapel Hill after a football game. Country schools and yellow buses. Dump caverns like Linville.

Stately architecture of Duke. Scottish plaids of Laurburg. Impressive Fontana Dam. Charlotte's Coliseum, Raleigh's Cox Palace.

Monuments to Confederate soldiers. The Wolf, Prof. Koch, Hugh Lefler, Frank Graham, Olla Ray Be'd. Red clay, green fields, orange sunset.

Tobacco fields, cotton harvest, strawberry patches. Shrimp and menhaden boats. Hot sausage, persimmon pudding, —menade liquor.

Arthur Smith, N. C. Symphony, Duke-Carolina football, semi-pro baseball, Dixie Classic basketball. Blowing Rock, Grandfather Mountain, Cape Hatteras, Lake James.

Pinehurst, Edenton, Mattamuskeet. Ava Gardner. The Houses of Bilkmore, Marsh, Bellamy. Sir Walter Hotel when General Eisenhower will enjoy a honeymoon.

Square dancing, folk music. Crooked country roads. Picnic tables. White frame churches. HATTERAS LIGHT Land of Many Faces. Wake Forest drum majorettes. Winston-Salem, Asheville, Tryon, Elizabeth City. Smell of cigarette plants, Cannon towers, Drexel tables, Jugtown.

More Predictions As the 65th Congress of the United States meets tomorrow, here are predictions as to what will happen: Eisenhower will enjoy a honeymoon with the Republicans. Former Republican critics of the President will go along with him as a result of the Eisenhower landslide. Sen. Johnson of Texas will seldom buck the President, but there will be a steady drumfire of "don't-like-like" speeches from northern Democrats who proved in Oregon that it pays politically to fire at the administration's heart—namely, the President himself. Senators Morse, Ore., Humphrey, Minn., McKeenra, Mich., Carroll, Colo. will lead this attack. Congress will finally pass a bill after four long years of delay. It will pass a civil rights bill guaranteeing Negro rights for the first time since after the Civil War. It will not change Senate rules regarding the filibuster.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER Survival Or Catastrophe?

past week Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, in a conference with the President, acknowledged the gravity of the Communist threat in the Middle East.

At the same time, it was rumored the President would ask Congress for advance authority to use American armed forces to reverse aggression in the area.

Without the oil of the Middle East, Europe is bankrupt, and a bankrupt Europe is an overwhelming victory for Communism.

In the view of this observer, the British-French invasion of the Suez was an act of desperation as access to a vital lifeline and a vital raw material seemed to be slipping away. With the oil of the Middle East a prize in the continuing struggle between East and West, another act of desperation could trigger not a small abortive war, but the conflict so long dreaded.

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