

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## State Must Help Make Murder Known

UNFORTUNATELY there is nothing much new about the notoriously inadequate coroner system in North Carolina. Only three counties—Union, Cumberland and Wilkes—joined the new medical examiner system which became operative 13 months ago. Adding Mecklenburg and some 20 other counties having physicians as coroners, perhaps one third of Tar Heel counties have fair to good chances of knowing murder when murder occurs.

In most counties, where the coroner's qualifications need be nothing more than a willingness to get up at all hours, the chief remains that such an untidy symptom of crime as a bullet hole in a man's back will be overlooked, and that less obvious murder will simply be ignored. It has happened before. And only total abolition of the coroner system can provide assurance that this will not happen again.

That must remain the goal of those interested in establishing a truly efficient system of post mortem examinations. It is a rather distant goal as the legislature demonstrated in making the medical examiner system a voluntary proposition. But in the meantime much can be done to improve what the legislature has sanctioned.

Certainly more counties will decide to join the examiner system. A booklet is

about to be sent to county commissions explaining its provisions and advantages. Slowly more and more post mortem exams will be made by medical men, with assistance provided by a district pathologist. The eventual eclipse of the unqualified coroner acting without medical advice can be contemplated.

To speed that eclipse by persuasion of the efficiency of the medical examiner system, the legislature ought to provide for a chief medical examiner of the state and the establishment of a central crime detection laboratory. These are necessary to instruct and assist medical examiners in medico-legal examinations.

At root, North Carolina's medical examiner system does little more than provide a physician to act in such cases where medical knowledge seems to be needed. This is more reaction to the faults of the coroner system than it is action designed to bring all possible scientific techniques to bear on solution of murders and mysterious deaths.

A skilled chief medical examiner, equipped with a good laboratory, could provide action even within the voluntary system the legislature has provided.

Both to remove the innocent from suspicion and to apprehend the guilty, the legislature ought to improve on the bare beginnings it has made toward making murder known when murder occurs.

## Poll Tax Is A Defective Instrument

LOCKED in dubious battle with the obscure forces of public finance, County Commissioners suddenly turned their attention this week to a more tangible problem—the poll tax which is worth its weight in worry.

There is good reason to believe it is not.

County Tax Supervisor Rufus A. Grier reports that thousands of Mecklenburg males are dodging the poll tax, and that it is virtually impossible to enforce collection and that efforts to do so eat up a large share of the total take. He recommends that the General Assembly amend the law to read that the voters "may" instead of "shall" levy a tax on males aged 21 to 50.

Reason demands that the proposal be given sympathetic consideration.

Payment of the poll tax is not a prerequisite for voting. It is simply a direct

personal tax levied by a local government unit at a stated rate per head.

Its principal philosophical defect is its rigidity. In theory, rich and poor alike pay the same amount, however modest. It is argued, of course, that every inhabitant owes the government something and that this is a way to tax the citizen who owns no personal or real property. But these individuals escape anyway. If they have no personal or real property they usually do not file a tax form.

Mr. Grier is entirely correct in the observation that such a system is unfair anyway you look at it. Men who list their real and personal property are automatically billed while those who don't aren't bothered.

It is time that Commissioners faced the realities of a defective device for financing public policy.

## A Two-Way Street That Needs Travel

A perimeter road was on the phone with a pointed question about annexation. But even as he asked it, he realized an authoritative answer would have to come from the city fathers.

That is a minimum of success for the town hall meetings on annexation is assured already. The citizen will be at Gillette Methodist Church tomorrow night for the first of the scheduled series of four meetings. So will the mayor, city manager, city councilmen, planning director and school superintendent. He will get his answer, and some useful light will be shed on the specific and general implications of the annexation proposal.

But much more than minimum success is needed. A large turnout of perimeter

residents will be required if the meetings are to make annexation a matter for disposal by informed opinion rather than stubborn complacency and preconceptions.

That is the only way it can be properly disposed of.

Up until now the proof of the desirability of annexation rested on the answer you look at it. Men who list their real and personal property are automatically billed while those who don't aren't bothered.

It is a street that ought to be well traveled at the town hall meetings.

## Call It Piety-On-The-Hudson, Now

BACK in the Roaring Twenties New York City's Mayor Jimmy Walker considered extending a hero's welcome to Itchy Guk, the famed Eskimo who was probably the most remarkable English Channel swimmer in their all.

It was Guk who according to the PARIS HERALD, once postponed his Channel try because the water, too cold for the other contenders, was too hot for him.

But Itchy Guk never visited Manhattan. He was, alas, a phony—an imaginary

character concocted by bored newspapermen parrying on the French coast.

Isn't Soud, however, a real King. He arrived in New York yesterday only to be given a cold shoulder by the present mayor of the town.

No ticker tape.  
No parade.  
No welcome at City Hall.

The gayest, tairdest metropolis on earth consequently earned a brand new moniker: Piety-On-The-Hudson.

From the Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette

## THE KNOWLEDGE BOX

WHETHER you shake the trees or shock macaroni, you may need a bit of bit oil to hone up a ball weevil on the lingo of the oil business. Not just any apple knocker can dig out the knowledge box and tell the Atlantic Ocean from a rat hole. A brain or a bindistiff with brake fever may burn a bit on a bronze and make things more confusing than a Christmas tree.

Enough said. In English, a man who shakes the trees solicits oil business and one who shocks macaroni racks pipe. Bit oil is whiskey and a ball weevil on a bronze knocker are inexperienced oil field workers (as are brake weights, cotton pickers, green hands, oil johnnies and rookies).

The Atlantic Ocean is a salt water well and a rat hole is a hole drilled with a small bit to prepare for rotary drilling. A brain is an engineer or a geologist (also a pebble picker) and a bindistiff is a transient oilfield worker who carries a bludge.

A bronze again, is a worker with only slight experience and bit burning is working too fast.

Brake fever is an ailment of a rough-neck aspiring to be a driller, symbolized by his constant dashes to grab the brake. Finally, a Christmas tree is an assembly of valves and fittings at the casing head of an oil well used to control the flow of the well. And the knowledge box? That is a cupboard or desk in which the driller keeps various records pertaining to drilling operations.

The list of oil field slang terms is very street to street, smaller, muddier, etc. is a geologist; a blue whistler, a gas well; coffee grinders, a rotary rig; idiot stick, a shovel; to dig pipe line; sea lawyer, an oilfielder who tries to start trouble, etc., etc.

The thing can get deep as a tree (which is about all a driller will tell you when asked how deep he has drilled). And with that, it's time to mud off and spud back into the newspaper business.

You have reached what is known as the metallic age when there's gold in your teeth, silver in your hair and lead in your pants.—LEXINGTON HERALD.

# People's Platform Should Charlotte's Grasp Exceed Its Reach?

Charlotte, N.C. (UPI)—The "when and how" of city limits extension has been much discussed in recent months, and before the question is resolved likely will be discussed much more. As far as the future of Charlotte is concerned, perhaps this is the most important civic question of the decade.

Our city officials are rightly concerned with the rapid growth and necessary expansion of our city if it is to reach its potential as the "Gateway to the New South."

The growth of Charlotte in recent years has been phenomenal, attesting our strategic location, natural resources, character and industry of our citizenry and foresighted leadership. Our material advances, evident on every hand, have been matched with human and spiritual gain.

Our people are prospering through their willingness to seek new opportunities to start in that progress. Living standards on all economic levels are being raised. Our churches and social agencies are gaining new and stronger support. New industries, new businesses and new vocations (all of desirable types) are being attracted to Charlotte. These new centers of life here, prosper and make their contribution to our business, civic and social welfare.

## Portrait Of A Right Guy

# Bogie Was Bottled In Bond

By ROBERT C. RUARK

KOMA, Tanganyika (UPI)—A FRIEND passing through Africa told me that poor old Bogie was just a matter of minutes, that he was taking it desperately well and probably was dead by now. As it turned out, he was still alive.

There was one I liked, Humphrey Bogart. A lot of people liked him, but I liked him (all of the things the other people didn't like him for). The fact that he was a very fine actor had nothing whatsoever to do with it. And he wasn't even a close friend. But, by golly, he was a man who never pulled a punch in his business or in his private life.

A lot of obits on Bogie will have been written by now, but none from this locale, the vicinity in which he made his best picture, "The African Queen." He made it here in Africa with Katie Hepburn with John Huston directing, and it could have been John's best, too.



HUMPHREY BOGART  
Rude But Honest

Two scenes in the picture were pure, natural Bogart. One was when he entered a church where the reclaimed heathens were singing "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam," or some such with a native beat, and Bogie's tummy-rumble and bowed over the rhythm, embarrassing everybody greatly.

The other was his anguished look when Miss Hepburn tossed his last case of gin over the side, bottle by bottle. That was not acting. What he felt for that escaping Gordon's essence was pure and real, even in a movie.

Hollywood tried to type him, but he wouldn't type.

He was even an excellent comedian. He drank his gin when he wanted to, and in public. The family relations people never looked like they were controlling him. His quotes to the press were often rude but never dishonest. He

speaking only as a private citizen, a resident of the perimeter area under consideration for annexation, with modest business and investment interests within the city, and with civic pride in our "Greater Charlotte," I am sure that the city fathers locally in favor of the expansion of the city limits, whether the new limits should include my suburban home or not.

I think, however, that in this matter, the city fathers, the facts and problems should be clearly delineated in order that the citizenry, in making their decisions, may be made with logic and wisdom. I think no harm can be done by raising some questions on how the city limits should be pushed at this time. How far is expedient? How far is economically sound? How far is justifiable in view of the costs to the city in extending its services and the costs of those services to home owners in sparse areas? Can a city, as an individual or business, ever extend itself at any one time?

ably accounted for his malhumors later on.

He also talked with a kind of lip, as if he had a mouthful of mud which became a great asset as an actor. He was a pretty boy who grew into rather an unpretty man. His wife-before-last, Mayo Methol, with whom he battled publicly, used to say, "We'll keep going as long as I have his hair and teeth, and he wound up without very much hair or teeth but with one of the great actors of our time.

For the tough guy of popular concept, his last marriage was nearly idyllic. He married a nice gal named Lauren Bacal, whom he adored and who accepted him for what he was—a great guy with certain imperfections. They had nice kids and what seemed from the outside to be a wonderful life.

NATURAL GUY

Bogart was one of the few all-the-way honest people I ever met. If he wanted to drink, he drank. If he wanted to smoke, he smoked. If he wanted to drink, he drank. If he wanted to smoke, he smoked. If he wanted to drink, he drank. If he wanted to smoke, he smoked.

BAD BEGINNING

He came of a wealthy family. I believe his father was a stock broker but his mother was Maud Humphrey, a famous illustrator, and she used the cherubic baby Bogie as a model, which prob-

## 'It Seems To Be Shortstopped Up Somewhere'



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## Are 'Older' Students A Nuisance At WC?

By GREENSBORO

EDUCATORS in Greensboro are being told that older students are a nuisance at the Women's College. In at least one instance not much is being done about it.

Women's College almost two years ago, before witness, the head of the English Department expressed his opinion that older women (as students) were "a nuisance" and were "too demanding." It is to be regretted that an educator sends demands for high educational standards!

A feature writer of the Greensboro Daily News, in a "letter to the editor," published in the "Public Pulse" column June 22, 1956, urged that older women be eliminated from W. C. classrooms.

Both the attitude of the head of the English department and the published letter were brought to the attention of Acting Chancellor Pierson and President Pierson. It is to be regretted that a public clarification be made of the official attitude of Women's College toward adult education.

The recommendation was repeated, and urged, in my letter of Dec. 16, 1956, to President Pierson. He advised me that he was referring my request to Chancellor Pierson, with the request that the latter look into the "points" I had raised.

To date, I have seen no public statement on the subject by any authority in our educational system, nor have I had any personal word from either President Friday or Chancellor Pierson.

This matter has been ignored too long in normal educational circles, and other pronouncements of concern for the state of education must sound hollow to many mature women who have been rebuffed in seeking to take advantage of the tax-supported facilities of Women's College, and also have seen statements of disapproval of older women students go unchallenged by the administration of either Women's College or of the Consolidated Office of the University.

It seems to me that it becomes the governor's duty to make statement, personally, unequivocally advising the public as to what is the position of the University toward adult education. With registration for the second semester next week, this is an urgent matter.

—JAMES M. BERRY

## Attack On Gen. Lee Did Irreparable Harm

By CHARLOTTE

IT IS regrettable that an apparently learned man like Robert F. Williams recently attacked your paper and the memory of a great man—Robert E. Lee.

His letter served no purpose other than to further impede the progress of his race. Indeed it did more damage than any published statistics on crime and articles about Daddy Grace.

It is my hope that intelligent Negroes everywhere will realize that they cannot help their cause through bitter attacks on doctors, men or past injustices. Only through raising themselves above the pettiness of slander and hate can they present themselves as living examples of acceptable citizenry.

What good will integration do them if they gain it with expediency and will force? With the victory they will taste defeat in the venomous enmity of most white southerners.

—RUEL HAWKINS

## Quote, Unquote

"A host is like a general: it takes a mishap to reveal his genius."—Shakespeare

"Eloquence is what you think you have after five martinis."—Anon.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON (UPI)—KING Saud of Saudi Arabia is a six-foot-six-inch Arab, 55 years old, wearing a light yellow coat, brown suede shoes, a goatee, and eye-glasses, having 40 wives and 100 concubines, slaves, royal retainers, and guards of reportedly around 10,000 men.

He is bringing one of his youngest sons, 5-year-old Prince Mansour, to the United States to see if American doctors can cure his partially developed eye.

"There are beautiful women in the United States."

## Arabian Poverty Breeds Communism

Arabian-American Oil Co. is estimated at around \$300 million. However, he has budget problems.

Of this huge income, the King spends \$26 million on defense, though his country is surrounded by friendly Arab neighbors. He also spends \$24 million on what is called internal security, which chiefly goes for payments to Arabian tribesmen to maintain their loyalty.

Improvement Of Palaces

Another \$1 million goes for what is called "general development," which reportedly is the improvement of palaces.

Only \$10,700,000 goes to health, education and social services all combined, with the most of the balance going to the King's own far-flung retinue.

This gets to the heart of the most difficult problem facing the United States and President Eisenhower in the talks

with King Saud. For, while the King and the President are both anxious to combat communism in Saudi Arabia, the biggest breeder of communism is the poverty of the Arabian people, who today are heavily tubercular, about 40 per cent syphilitic, with 70 per cent suffering from trachoma.

Few Schools

To combat this, the King has established only ten primary schools in his entire nation of nearly seven million people, and only two high schools.

President Eisenhower may consider it indecise to make any suggestions to him about this internal problem, yet disease, poverty and ignorance are yet the biggest breeders of communism.

It's reported that the King wants to secure some American cash because his royalties have dwindled as a result of

the Suez stoppage. How far Eisenhower and the State Department will go in suggesting that part of this money be spent on the Arabia masses, will be important to observe.

Slavery

So far, however, both the Eisenhower administration and the Arabian-American Oil Co. have shied away from giving too many hints to King Saud how he should spend either his oil royalties or American aid money. In fact, the Eisenhower administration took the unusual step of declining to sign a United Nations treaty to outlaw slavery, reportedly as a result of the poverty of King Saud. Reports of the United Nations and the Anti-Slavery Society of London show that approximately half a million slaves are held in Saudi Arabia, most of them recruited from Africa.