



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1958

## Commissioners Answer A Big Need

PLANS to turn the Mecklenburg Tuberculosis Sanatorium into a hospital for the chronically ill are admirably far-sighted and humane.

Action by the News and Carolina General Assembly will be necessary before the switchover can be accomplished. But County Commissioners deserve the community's commendation for preparing the way for the all-important change in the sanatorium's charter.

This will not mean that any tuberculosis patients will be evicted.

It is simply a way in which valuable facilities not used by TB patients may be made available to meet another serious health problem.

The sanatorium is listed as a 120-bed hospital and Dr. Dirk Verhoef, superintendent, says 100 TB patients can be handled with ease. Only 70 patients have been treated at the institution during recent months.

Regardless of these facts, some opposition has been expressed through the years to any change in the sanatorium's status. This has been due, largely, to widespread public misunderstanding of

the situation and particularly to the fear that TB patients would lose their Mecklenburg home close to loved ones. The latest proposal, made by the health committee of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and supported by other community leaders, should reassure patients and their families that care now being furnished TB patients here will not be halted.

Special hospital space is too precious in Mecklenburg to be reserved for particular patients who do not exist. At the same time, the need for facilities for the chronically ill is especially acute.

Naturally, the two types of patients cannot be mixed. But the sanatorium's physical plant can be arranged to take care of both health needs without a great deal of trouble.

If legal technicalities force a county-wide vote on the matter at some future time, we hope the public will exhibit the same maturity and far-sightedness their representatives demonstrated yesterday. County Commissioners have scaled a sizable mountain of tradition. In this case, the view was worth the climb.

## Sen. Ervin Shows His Statesmanship

IN the icy moral gaze of the rest of the nation, the South sometimes takes on the face of a giant full of tin-pot fufflers. Her fortunes in that respect were mixed last week. There was little trace of respect for law when Alabama election officials defied a federal civil rights commission on voting.

But in the courteous and timely announcement by North Carolina's senior senator, Sam J. Ervin Jr., that he will co-sponsor with Sen. Kennedy an anti-bombing bill in the next Congress there was cause for some pride.

Sen. Ervin's power of discrimination has rapidly set him apart from many of his more hard-and-fast, rip-snorting political brethren from south of Mason & Dixon. Ervin collaborated two summers ago with Sens. Russell of Georgia and Johnson of Texas to support compromise civil rights bills which gave an earnest of southern good intentions. The inescapable principle to which Sen. Ervin, a strong legalist, gave his endorsement was that voting, the essential right of any democratic citizen, could not be taxed aside in the interest of social ideology.

His stand on the anti-bombing bill, which lacked southern support when it

bore the impress of a northern Democrat alone follows the same principle. To be lenient in federal edicts against southern race practices is not to condone anarchy, barbaric and lawless acts. "The bombing problem," Sen. Ervin said, "is neither purely local nor federal. Here both local and federal law enforcement authorities must cooperate to eliminate such lawless acts."

Southerners abhor, as strongly as any national group, the use of dynamite and the hoaxes based on fears of bombings which have occurred. Yet if it were left to the timid consciences of some southern politicians evidence of that fact would be scarce. Fortunately, Sen. Ervin's conscience in the matter is not timid in the least.

## Blizzard

THE kids will hate us for it, but we couldn't help noticing that schools were open in Oswego, N. Y. yesterday after their 88-inch snowfall. They were closed in several North Carolina counties which reported a snowfall of three inches or less.

## A Season To Be Merry—And Beware

THE religious message of Christmas is the promise of life. Sponsors of the Christmas Shopping Pedestrian Safety Campaign are trying to do all in their power to see that Mecklenburgers keep that promise.

We're happy to be joining hands again with the N. C. State Motor Club, WSOB and WSOB-TV, and the Charlotte and Mecklenburg police departments in promoting the cause of pedestrian safety hereabouts. But we're going to need the help of everybody who crosses a street or highway during the hectic days ahead.

The danger of an accident is greatly increased during the Christmas shopping rush. Surveys reveal that the deadliest hour of the whole Yuletide season is between 6 and 7 on Christmas Eve when workers are hustling home to their families. But there is no wholly "safe" period as long as the streets and sidewalks are full of rushing, package-laden, distracted people. The revelers who have

just emerged from a Christmas party present an additional seasonal hazard. "At parties struck down in the rush home may have been the one standing under the mistletoe a few minutes earlier," warn the safety savants.

But never mind the slogans. Just have a care. And not just during the Dangerous Days. Make it a year-round habit.

## Mutual Aid

A PUBLIC service advertisement on buses and streetcars in the nation's capital reads as follows:

"His future and yours depends on our colleges. Help the college of your choice now."

It's a fine idea and we hope the colleges, in turn, help the advertising copy writers with their grammar. Plural subjects take plural verbs.

One of the big troubles about success is that it recips these days is about the same as that for a nervous breakdown.—GREENVILLE FREDMONT.

A friend of ours took his talking bird into a bar and ordered a martini for the feathered friend: He was arrested for contributing to the delinquency of a nymph.—MATTHEW (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

A newspaper headline says an Indianapolis cook won 18 awards. But she couldn't cook a decent pot of turnips to save her.—UNADILLA (GA.) OBSERVER.

# People's Platform Detective Thanked For Courageous Conduct

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (AP)—A man who has been a patient at the mental hospital in Morganton, N. C., for several years, was thanked for his courageous conduct in saving the life of a fellow patient.

The man, whose name is not being disclosed, was in the hospital for a mental illness. He was found by a fellow patient who was in a state of emergency. The man who saved the life of the other patient was praised for his quick action and bravery.

I wish to extend to you our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the wonderful, the hurra, the fatherly, the Christian and courageous piece of work you did this past week in connection with our son Bobby.

In fact, I am confident that had any other man in this world attempted to talk Bobby into giving up his idea of suicide and then attempted to talk him into coming back down that ladder from the top of those high towers that he would have failed. Being firmly convinced of this fact then I must say that we are grateful to you indeed as we feel that you actually saved Bobby's life, and that you did this at the risk of your very own life. It was only your sympathetic and fatherly attitude toward him the day before that caused him to listen to your pleading to give up his idea of suicide.

Of course, it is awfully hard to accept the fact that our boy is mentally disturbed and that he possibly undergoes extensive and prolonged treatment before he is well again. But with our firm faith in God coupled with the faith we have in our prayers and the prayers of Bobby's many friends, we are looking forward already to the day when he can return to us and live happily with his little family.

Since this is a case of our very own son being involved and not a case where "my neighbor" or "the man in the next tower" is the victim, I can assure you that I am deeply interested in seeing our clinic make immediate plans to establish a hospital or other proper facilities to care for such patients. You are aware of the fact that our local papers gave much publicity about this possibility only recently. I know too that you yourself are aware of the fact that jail confinement is not the place for such a person, not even for one moment. In fact I know that all law enforcement officers as well as the doctors know that jail is not the place for these people, but you fellows have no choice but to put them in jail. You must protect the patient from harming himself and possibly others too.

Again I want to assure you that I myself, my wife and Bobby's wife wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what you did for Bobby and for us. I am also taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the newspapers and the radio. If they publish it for the following reasons:

1. To let the public know what a fine and kind person you are and the service you rendered and to assure them that the City of Charlotte is represented by one of the most humane, the most sympathetic and courageous officers that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. 2. To let the public know that here is one father, a mother and a wife who can give their first-hand assurance that our city is a safe place in the fact that we must get down to business.

## Quote, Unquote

"Winter is a wonderful, secret thrill of some impending ecstasy on a frozen winter's night. The whole city, no matter how ugly its parts may be, becomes a proud, passionate, Northern place everything about it seems to soar with an aspirant, vertical, glittering magnificence to meet the stars."—Thomas Wolfe.

"The leafless trees become spires of flame in the sunset, with the blue east for their background, and the stars of the dead candles of flowers, and every withered stem and stubble turned with frost contribute something to the muted music."—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"O so like the pulse of summer in the ice."—Dylan Thomas.

"Winter lies too long in country towns; hangs on until it is stale and shabby, old and sullen."—Willa Cather.

## Winter In The Air

"Winter, a bad guest, sixth with the best, blue air, and his hands with his friendly handshaking."—Friedrich Nietzsche.

"Dreams and predictions ought to serve to bring winter talk by the fireside."—Francis Bacon.

"Every mile is two in winter."—Proverb.

"A sad tale's best for winter."—William Shakespeare.

"There is a time when, though it is the sun be weak, it is not black."—John Donne.

"With perfect and intolerable light."—John Donne.

"Nor has the eyes to sleep but put those eyes to slumber."—John Donne.

"When on the city we know, the post-transmuting snow falls softly, in shining flakes immaculate, without number."—Stephen Vincent Benet.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON (AP)—The NATO statesmen who all oppose the defense of western Europe this week are talking to a sick but courageous man. Only his close intimates know that the secretary state suffered great pain during his trip to Mexico, and was not entirely recovered when he got out of bed to fly to Paris.

Secretary Dulles has confided to these friends that he is not prepared to die at his desk rather than retire.

However, he is in no frame of mind to do either. Having staged an amazing recovery from cancer operations two years ago, he has great faith in his own will to overcome his health obstacle. He is not going to retire.

In Mexico City, Ambassador Robert

ness, regardless of the cost, or prepare a hospital, clinic, or wing of a hospital, or some fitting place for properly housed and treated mentally disturbed loved ones and citizens. With God's help and with more men with the sympathetic understanding and fortitude that you have this can be accomplished.

## A Few Thoughts On Animal Life

AN animal may be as large as a whale or it may be as small as the disease-carrying flea. Each animal is a living breathing and throbbing creature with a life cycle of its own.

These animals may have great muscle power like the whales, the mammals and some birds or they may have a kind of cunning like the cat family or a herd instinct like the wolves and many others. Brain power has been developed just enough to take care of each animal's needs. Man's brain developed more than most animals because man was tamed and helplessness had to do more thinking.

Many terms have solved their problems by living in the bodies of other animals. They may kill these animals and destroy themselves in the process, but they had a chance to live and to multiply for awhile.

## Alabama's Stand Is 'Outrageous'

DAVIDSON (AP)—The news of ALABAMA'S refusal to accept the federal civil rights bill was described as "outrageous" by a prominent North Carolina politician.

Being from Mississippi, I nevertheless feel that Alabama's stand is outrageous, not "rather sad" as the President remarked.

## Four Councilmen Have Done Well

CHARLOTTE (AP)—The news that the four councilmen who were elected to office in the city of Charlotte last year have done well in their duties was reported by a local newspaper.

What is government? Here it is: We elect men to office and they get together and wrangle, tangle and mangle and what they come up with is what they call government for the people. Not by the people, but for the people. What do you get? Political government, but what are you going to do about it? You put him in and you just have to take what he hands you—take it or leave it.

The voters of Charlotte in 1957 elected a City Council by a margin of 100 votes. The councilmen who were elected were: William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Stephen Vincent Benet.

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... Too many people who are sticking out their neck and should be sticking them in.

I am glad that the Charlotte City Council put a man in the chief of police's chair who is, so far as the public knows, looking after the job he was selected for. We are proud to have four men on the City Council who are not afraid to do what they feel ought to be done. They do not nose around in a type of work that is unbecoming to the council job.

I say to you that we now have four on the City Council whom we ought to keep on the job. They

## Board Is Grateful For News' Help

CHARLOTTE (AP)—The board of trustees of the Charlotte Community College System expressed its appreciation to the Charlotte News for its help in securing a \$100,000 bond issue for the college.

## The Gauntlet



## Memo To Insurance Men

WHO CAN AFFORD TO RETIRE?

EVER since I was a very young boy I have been fascinated by those insurance ads that always run in the front of the magazines: "How we retired in 15 years with X dollars a month."

The picture over the title always showed a handsome, young-looking gray-haired man, dressed in sports clothes and smoking a pipe or toting a fishing rod. His handsome, gray-haired wife was smiling at him, against a backdrop of roses or palm trees or speedboats or something connoting retirement.

As I recall—could be wrong—the first one was: "How we retired in 15 years with \$30 a month." Then it jumped to a hundred a month, moved up to one-fifty, proceeded to two hundred, jumped another fifty bucks, and currently is: "How we retired in 15 years with THREE HUNDRED dollars a month."

## UNHOLY ATTRACTION

Some unholy attraction drew me to those ads. The body of the type always said how old Charlie was getting along, hadn't saved any money, or lost his job in a blue-sky gamble, or used up his savings on sickness or death or education. All he could look forward to was a hundred old age, plugging away at the same old job. (None of these people ever seems to have had a wife like the lady.)

But then one day while Charlie was waiting for Peg or Nell or good old Grace to get dressed for the movies, he idly leafed through a magazine and came to this ad about a person exactly like himself, who had taken advantage of the insurance company's retirement plan and now was living it up in Florida or California without a care in the

world. So good old Charlie clipped the coupon, sent it away, and got back a booklet telling him how he, too, etc. So today Charlie's retired and happy as the claims he digs.

IT'S TREBLED

This is a preamble to the indisputable fact that the idea of a precocious retirement has leaped, in the past 20 years, from a lun-

## Who Can Afford To Retire?

decided to pay me off, when I have finished the 20 payments, they will pay me off in the currency of the moment, which I will spend at the rate of the cost of living at the moment. The gold dollars I paid out return to me worth less than half their old value, and depreciated even further in terms of what they will buy in today's market.

## Who Can Afford To Retire?

Is this fair? PUNY RETURN

Through the years the insurance companies have had the use of your money to invest and to lend at interest, and have the growing inflation by investment. They, in short, have been on with the times, and so are not hurt. In effect, a man who started an insurance estate 20 years ago is almost being paid off in coupons insofar as the use of the companies have made of his money is concerned.

## Who Can Afford To Retire?

A hundred a month looked good to me 20 years ago, if it was money I didn't have to work for. It looks powerful puny today—possibly as puny as 300 will look tomorrow.

## CASE FOR UNCLE SAM?

I wonder, since the government sticks its nose into nearly everything, if some sort of legislative adjustment should not morally be made—some sort of prorating of the average yearly value of the money as it is paid into an annuity or an endowment?

## DILUTED CURRENCY

The point is this: I first started paying gold-standard dollars in a post-depression economy and continued to pay reasonably hard currency in a gently mounting inflation. I am still paying in diluted currency in an ever-leaping inflation.

## The Price Of Gracious Retirement Has Risen

When my insurance company

When my insurance company

## John Foster Dulles Is A Sick Man

Hill had two doctors awaiting an emergency call, but Dulles refused to see them for fear of word of his illness. The alternative was acquiescence, an Embassy residence, with Milton Eisenhower occupying a room nearby. Hill confided to friends that he worried all night about Dulles' condition.

## Perseverance

However, the secretary of state refused to call off his trip to San Francisco. He was scheduled to address the Chamber of Commerce. He remarked to a friend who tried to dissuade him that he would not be in the office, then a day or two delay wouldn't make any difference in reaching the hospital.

## He Was In Pain

In Mexico City, Dulles stood in line for more than an hour to greet Americans at a reception given in his honor by the embassy, and also stood for two hours at the National Palace in honor

of President Adolfo Lopez Mateos. He was in pain during much of this time. The secretary of state is now 71 years old, has traveled more than half a million miles since he assumed office, and is entitled to rest. He has told friends, however, that he would be bored stiff if he retired and will continue in harness.

Atlanta Hate Trial

One of the jurors in the trial of George A. Bly, the Atlanta architect charged with bombing the Jewish temple, was an ex-Klanman. However, it's believed this made no difference in the final outcome—namely a hung jury, 9 to 3.

## Stiff Penalty

The factor which caused the hung jury was the stiff penalty, either life imprisonment or death. The alternative was acquittal. Nine jurors flatly refused to vote for acquittal.

## Another Design

The other proposed design would stagger the 49 states in a constitutional pattern. The staggered pattern is more attractive and would follow historic traditions of early American lines. This is favored by the flag industry.

## Another Design

However, the President's Commission at last reports still couldn't make up its

## From The Raleigh News & Observer

## CRACK AT A CLICHE

LADY Astor sometimes says foolish things and sometimes wise ones but either way her remarks are generally interesting. Now she takes off on one of the cliches used by some so-called experts to explain human fault and failure, particularly among the young: "The unwanted child."

"I was the seventh of 11 unwanted children," says Lady Astor with no more than ordinary exaggeration for her, "and until I kicked my brother or cheated or lied I was never frustrated. And then I was frustrated only where all children should be frustrated."

As a Virginian, though for 26 years a member of the British Parliament, Lady Astor might have picked a better example of the unwanted child for herself. Perhaps the suppletive example was General Robert E. Lee. And the "unwanted child" business about him was no mere sociologist's supposition. His mother documented it. Dr. Douglas Southard Freeman quotes a letter she wrote the month before Robert was born to a relative who was herself about to have a child. She said "You have my best wishes for your success, my dear, and trust assurances that I do not envy your prospects nor wish to share in them."

No one has since suggested that Lee was warped for life because he was unwanted. Other "unwanted children" have been among the best citizens of their times. Furthermore, the old "broken home" explanation does not always suf-