



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON President and Publisher
RODNEY S. GUFFIN General Manager
ROBERT H. LAMER Advertising Director
CECIL PRINCE Editor
PERRY MORRAN Associate Editor
R. L. YOUNG JR. Managing Editor

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1958

The Legacy Of Judge John J. Parker

JOHN JOHNSTON PARKER'S legacy was a vision of faith in the full promise of American life. Consequently, he left us all extraordinarily wealthy. In fair weather and foul, he lived his faith with remarkable fidelity. He was the rock in the storm, the Gibraltar of principle. Though highly sensitive, he maintained his intellectual and emotional rectitude with unruffled serenity. And yet he would labor with a heroic perseverance for convictions which formed the basis for what can only be described as a classical philosophy of democracy.

It is impossible to treat him as a tragic figure, although all the elements of tragedy are present. It is said that his ambitions were cruelly thwarted, that his greatest judicial decision was reversed, that his career was sabotaged by fools. But to maintain that Judge Parker was victimized or even to a considerable extent affected by these circumstances is to underestimate the man who rose above them. He triumphed over the shallowness of lesser men. He remained serene and aloof from all matters unmeasured by his own sensible devices, pure motives and reliable intuitions.

IN defending the principles embodied in the United States Constitution, no man has ever fought with such tenacity and grace. "It is easy enough to believe in freedom of religion for Episcopalians or Baptists or Presbyterians," he once said.



Judge Parker

IF there was a central idea that dominated Judge Parker's life it was his dedication to justice in its purest and most elementary form. It became the leitmotif of his existence, the imperative and consoling force that governed his actions both on and off the bench. It set in motion all of the forces of instruction and imagination that produced his vision of a perfectible society—the assertion of truth, the unveiling of illusion, the dissipation of hate. He was called a liberal by some, a conservative by others. But he defied the labels.

"The true liberal and the true conservative," he told a Newsmen who came to call in 1955, "have a great deal in common. The true conservative wants to conserve principles. He knows they can be preserved only through change. The true liberal strives for the ideal. Neither of them have anything to do with the 'conservative' who wants to cling to the past or the 'liberal' who wants to change just for the sake of change."

"The test is whether we believe in that freedom for Mohammedans or Buddhists or atheists. It is easy enough to believe in free speech for Republicans and Democrats. The rub comes when it is applied to Communists and Fascists and others whose teaching is hostile to our institutions. We must never forget that unless speech is free for everybody it is free for error. It is not free for truth; and that the only limitations which may safely be placed upon it are those which forbid slander, obscenity and incitement to crime. As said by Jefferson: 'We have nothing to fear from the demoralizing reasonings of some, if others are left free to demonstrate their errors, and especially when the law stands ready to punish the first criminal act produced by false reasonings.'"

"It is so easy for the unthinking to nestle themselves that the end justifies the means and that a violation of fundamental principles should be allowed in the interest of a supposed public good. The answer is that we shall have fought the battle against the enemies of freedom in vain if in fighting we destroy freedom itself."

Charlotte's Buildings Upward & Outward

CHARLOTTE'S setback program is a wise and prudent plan to prevent buildings from being placed too close to streets that may have to be widened in the future.

It simply reflects common sense and foresight. Without a setback program, the Queen City might be crisscrossed in a decade or so to find herself faced in a strait jacket of suffocating congestion.

Yet a group of ordinarily far-sighted City Councilmen is currently wondering if an "exception" can be made in the setback program to accommodate a local firm.

It is an unfortunate situation for what is at stake is a principle of city planning which simply must be preserved if Charlotte is to continue to grow in an orderly manner. It cannot logically be supposed that the Council can make an exception for one firm and not for another. If a principle is good it ought to stand for all to observe.

This particular principle, however, is obviously designed to deal with surface rights of ways. All that is really involved is the reservation of land to permit the widening of ground level thoroughfares. We seriously doubt that the principle would be corrupted if a building's base and lower floors were set back according to the distances prescribed and its upper stories allowed to overhang the setback line to a reasonable degree. Many modern skyscrapers are so designed. This would provide the addition of space in the upper stories as well as sufficient surface area for any future widening of the street below.

Powerful new lighting gives new glow to the 73-year-old Washington Monument. The new lighting system is reportedly 14 times stronger than that used since 1931. That's about par, for it takes fully 14 times as much light to see through things in Washington today as compared with 1931. — HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

"My husband says I married him just for his money. That's ridiculous. I wouldn't marry him just for his money. It's just that I didn't know how to get it any other way." — LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT

Just to show that this business of returning colleges to the scholars isn't being taken too seriously, it is interesting to note that Texas A. and M. is building an ultra-ultra dormitory with wall-to-wall carpeting, swimming pool and maid service for athletes. Wonder what accommodations it provides for astrophysicists? — TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

If American-made automobiles get any lower a fellow will have to buy a pair of skates and listen them on his (or her) roller skates. — LAUREL (Miss.) LEADER-CALL

A BRITISH VIEW OF OUR WESTERNS How Hollywood Made The West Safe For Democracy

By ANTHONY HARTLEY

Editor's Note: Don't look any further for the Western has become an 'art form' in the eyes of a titillated English journalist. Here's his report, condensed from Britain's Manchester Guardian.



'GOOD INDIAN' A Miserable Device

I SUPPOSE that, as in the case of so many other things, there is a metaphysical reason to be found to hinder my enjoyment of Westerns. For one thing I have always been fond of nomads — or, more accurately, of the idea of nomads. Phrases like "the Huns swept down upon the undefended plain" and "the Peléchees followed the caravan at a distance," from the moment I encountered them gave me a thrill far greater than that produced by any superman or bug-eyed monster.

Living in a town, there is something comforting in the idea of herds of chaps devoting their energies to the destruction of such places. Later the pleasing myth of the nomadic life is shattered by the reality. From the unknown scribbles of U. who wrote of "a people that had never known a city" to Jon Khalid's more systematic enumeration of the various ways which swept over the Islamic world, the picture grows stronger. But, like all romance, it had to come to terms with reality. Slowly, disillusioned, I came to realize that there were hardly any nomads left and little chance of my ever seeing another Mongol in the desert. The disappointment was terrible.

RATHER SCRUFFY

True, there were still Bedouin tribes in the Arabian Desert, but they were rather scruffy and a lot of them did their wandering in Cadillacs. Moreover, the Turkish

playground for Kazakhs near Lake Van was a poor substitute for most of Hitler Asia. No, nomads were out in the modern world, and that romance could still be extracted from the idea of a pastoral life could only be found in the West.

For Westerns, after all, do reproduce the essentials of the nomadic life — the plain empty as the sea, the herds, the horses, the space of the sky. Beyond it the fantasy of a rock formation carved by wind erosion lurks the Indians — Mongol by race and temperament — to give a spice of danger to what would otherwise be a physical endurance test. Skill with pistols, which look far more unwieldy than a Mongol bow, and a certain capacity for living on and off horses complete the picture. Of course, there are some de-

tails where civilization has done its suppurating work. There is a poor drink compared with fermented mare's milk, and I do not suppose that the fundamental law of Genghis Khan's kingdom, which forbade washing in water on pain of death, runs in Wyoming or Nevada still, nor cannot be observed, and at least the behavior of cowboys on hitting town betrays the true nomadic animosity to dwellers in houses.

All this is one way of saying that it is the sense of space, liberty, impermanence, and hostility to established communities which is attractive in Westerns. However, sound critical reasons also exist for admiring them. On a literary level, the Western is the surviving form both of the epic and of the tragedy of revenge. Dividing the plots of these books and films into categories, that the books are often rather inferior, we find that they fall roughly under two headings: The Freud and the Peregation: The Revenge Tragedy and the Epic.

LAST STANDS

The latter includes such things as cattle drives, journeying, trade fairs with Indian tribes, searches for someone carried off by Indians, Mexicans, or whatever you wish, and plain pioneering. It may culminate in an heroic last stand, among which Custer's is the outstanding example. It is the outstanding example of the genre with the Battle of the Alamo, that Texan Rencovances. The feud finds its plots in such things as "Bad Sheriff Shoots Good Man; Good Man's Nephew Bad Brother Shoots Bad Sheriff," or "Lone Star Wipes Out Crooked K." Frequently the two genres combine as when a long journey is undertaken for the purpose of revenge.

What makes these plots — based on themselves — attractive in their treatment is the relationship existing between the Western and its audience. Here is the only contemporary art form whose conventions are utterly assured and completely familiar. It merely requires character to appear on the screen for everyone to know what to think of him, for his



RANDOLPH SCOTT A Centaur-Like Capacity

place in the story to be settled finally. An obvious example is the man in black who invariably turns out to be the villain or, if he does not, at any rate the audience's feeling that he should be taken into account in the plot. But there are dangers for the director in tinkering too freely with established forms. The miserable device of the "good In-

dian" is a case in point. This has already ravaged the whole territory of the Western and, if it were allowed to proliferate, would end by destroying the very basis of the "cowboy versus Indian" relationship. The importance of conventions is that they help the audience to absorb anything. A minor Western called "The Bad Lands of Dakota," which contained the usual account of the United States Cavalry arriving just in time to save a settlement, then had the general commanding address his troops in these terms: "Well, boys, let's go on and defeat Sitting Bull and make the West safe for democracy." Good stuff this, but I do not suppose that the director would have got away with it, if the audience had not been intent on the scolding and fates worse than death just escaped by the very plain bunch of pioneers' wives. As it was, it gave pleasure.

GENIUS NEEDED

The Western deserves to have an Oryol done on it, but I do not imagine that the general ethics of the form, once elucidated, would show anything more remarkable than the ordinary manners of chivalry. It would seem that this is a type of fiction which has now arrived at a stage of definition where it is ready for the hand of a real master. All the stock characters have been created; all the stock plots; now what is required is an imaginative synthesis. The genre, in fact, is just at the stage reached by the Elizabethan drama before the appearance of Marlowe and Shakespeare. All that is missing is a genius, but he may not be long in appearing. I take my own taste as indicating that this form is peculiarly well adapted to the 20th century.

Crisis In Arabia Is Saud Slipping?

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IT IS a curious sensation to come home, after close to a year and a half abroad, and find everyone totally preoccupied with the danger of a domestic depression. It is curious, alas, because the danger abroad is at least as great as the danger at home.

If anyone wants proof of this dreary assertion, they need only have a look at the present plight of America's chief Middle Eastern ally, King Saud of Saudi Arabia. Not very many months ago, in the bitter aftermath of Suez, President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles went to Beirut to meet with British Prime Minister Macmillan and Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd. At Bermuda, the President and Secretary of State happily promised that their friend King Saud would henceforth serve as "the anchor" of a new policy guaranteed to protect all the vital Western interests in the Middle East.



Setting For Turmoil

But now "the anchor" is slipping. The State Department, while maintaining a brave front in public, is pale ducking green with worry. No official speaks the odds in "the anchor's" favor all better than two-to-one. Some say the odds are no better than even that King Saud will survive as America's great Middle Eastern friend. When there is even a one-in-three chance of total defeat of our national policy in the single most strategically important area outside Western Europe, it is no exaggeration to say that the danger abroad is very great indeed.

TURBULENCE

King Saud's link with American policy has distinguished him from his financial link to the Arabian-American Oil Co. only dates from October, 1936. Until then, he had been intimately allied with Egypt's King Abdou Nasser, and his all money has supported the "anti-Western movement" organized by Nasser in every Arab state. Then, in 1948, the King began to understand that

Nasser also threatened the Saudi throne, and he started to reconsider his alliances. Thereafter, the enmity towards Nasser mounted, until recently King Saud seems to have made a desperate, last-minute attempt to prevent the union of Syria with Egypt under Nasser's leadership. According to the Egyptian story, this attempt took the form of offering \$60 million to the Syrian Army's undersecretary, strong man, Col. Abdel Hamid Serag, to organize a military coup d'état in Syria.

NEW TREND

A few days ago, Nasser dramatically revealed the alleged attempt to prevent Egypt from joining the United Arab Republic. This revelation has in turn touched off a highly dangerous ferment in King Saud's strange desert capital of Riyadh where, of a new policy of alliances was never popular. Even among the members of the royal family and Saudi ruling class who had most to lose by a Nasser triumph in their country many always regretted the lost attachment to Egypt. For this reason, a wholly new trend, towards rather open criticism of the once sacred monarchy, was already noticeable in Riyadh when this reporter was there last June during Christmas.

More specifically, the king's brother and heir, Faisal, prince of the Hejaz, left Saudi Arabia not long after the king broke with Nasser. Crown Prince Faisal's son, who holds the critical post of minister of the interior and therefore commands the police, was and is openly and violently pro-Nasser and anti-Western. Crown Prince Faisal also showed his sentiments rather openly this winter, at the end of his long period of medical treatment in the United States, when he went to Cairo as Nasser's guest instead of returning to Saudi Arabia.

Now, however, after months in Cairo, the Saudi Arabian crown prince has at last gone home, turning in his return to coincide with Nasser's vicious public attack on King Saud.

Even if the king does scrape by this crisis, it is admitted that Saud's prestige has suffered too much to permit him to do again the sort of thing he did last March, when he rescued King Hussein of Jordan from a veritable onslaught by Nasser and his Jordanian supporters. The same, one must hope for the best. For if King Saud is replaced by his crown prince, brother, or even if King Saud himself is replaced by his son, the Saudi Arabian crown prince, the ensuing political chain reaction will rapidly destroy the Saudi Arabian remaining friends in the Arab lands.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

A SUMMIT agreement, though still not certain, is much closer than the public announcements indicate. Reason is that Eisenhower and Bulganin, while writing each other letters, have been ducking secretly over the diplomatic back fence.

Passion has been leaped much toward a summit conference that either his secretary of state or his Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dulles Said No

When Soviet strongman Khrushchev offered to come to Washington for the conference to settle European differences of a long trip, it was John Foster

Dulles who vigorously opposed. He claimed it might cause a bad reaction just before the November elections, argued that the visit would "in gang social recognition" on which the United States ought to withhold. He should treat such as social infirmity because of their "international gangsterism." Dulles told Ike.

North Of The Border

As a result, the meeting probably will be held in neighboring Canada. Just before the November election, the meeting must have the United Nations blessing — a condition which Khrushchev graciously accepted. Ike is also insisting that any treaty and publicly that the treaty

New Stamp Recalls A Courageous Deed

Rock Hill, S. C. Editors, The News: This is a little known but significant American history as the Declaration of Independence is commemorated by the recent issue of a beautiful colored three-cent, U. S. postage stamp.

On Dec. 27, 1857 a group of 31 Fanning residents living in the settlement bordering the Lost Lanes Sound signed a petition for change protesting the wrongdoings of Gov. P. B. S. Venable's action in declaring that any person holding a Quaker for one year might be fined \$100. This, and any vessel used to bring into the county any Quaker, would be confiscated.

The new stamp commemorated

People's Platform

The Fanning residents tried up to stay quiet and protested that they had the right "to have and enjoy liberty of conscience, according to the custom and manner of Holland, without restriction or disturbance from any magistrate or any other ecclesiastical authority, that may pretend jurisdiction over them."

Stuversland, in usual Fanning tradition, petitioned the governor for redress of the wrongs of the Quakers. The governor, however, refused to grant the petition. The new stamp commemorated

Don't Turn Lawn Over To Parkers

Editor, The News: ALL the darn old things I have ever heard of the turn in front of the Post Office for meeting take the robe. It would ruin the looks and the lawn!

Two Motives

The President is guided by two main motives. A. Rex Edgerton, of the Office of Management and Budget, has been in his ability to influence Social leaders. B. Rex Edgerton, of the Office of Management and Budget, has been in his ability to influence Social leaders. B. Rex Edgerton, of the Office of Management and Budget, has been in his ability to influence Social leaders.

The Little Satellite That (Finally) Could



Canada May Be Site Of Summit Talks

Dulles who vigorously opposed. He claimed it might cause a bad reaction just before the November elections, argued that the visit would "in gang social recognition" on which the United States ought to withhold. He should treat such as social infirmity because of their "international gangsterism." Dulles told Ike.

As a result, the meeting probably will be held in neighboring Canada. Just before the November election, the meeting must have the United Nations blessing — a condition which Khrushchev graciously accepted. Ike is also insisting that any treaty and publicly that the treaty