



Julian Scheer's

## Close-up

**WEDNESDAY WHIMS:** Ever since the talk started—more trouble. As soon as the idea of eliminating overhanging signs began, it seems that more and more have gone up. On the first block of S. Church, for instance, four new overhanging signs now clutter the scene.

**YOU'RE AN ARTIST?** Wanna hang your work? Charlotte's avant-garde have a new location for their art . . . They're using the Open Kitchen restaurant.

**BIG PARTY:** It musta been. The Federal Reserve Bank people had a bowling meet here this weekend. Branches and offices including Richmond, Charlotte and Baltimore appeared. One of the Charlotte hosts got up at the party and stated, "We want to welcome the Charlotte team to our city."

### The Main Course

**MAIN COURSE:** Say what you want to, but nothin'—no nothin'—is gonna take the place of the circus. Everybody's a kid again . . . And who said too many people drive with their minds in neutral and the cars in high gear?

**AT THE COUNTY** Commission meeting the other day, an interested spectator was Craig Lawing, an ex on the commission. He was seated six rows back when Commissioner Sam McIninch (that's today's rhyme) spotted him . . . "I'd like to swap seats with you right now," said McIninch . . . "No thanks," answered a relieved Lawing. "I'm just watching."

**SAME DAY,** same building. At county school board meeting, attorney Frank Snapp showed up for a discussion on contractor's insurance, and city school board member Ben Horack on another matter. Then, in walked Paul Ervin.

"I'm not staying," said Ervin, and he backed out of the door.

Seems that three out of four members of the law firm of McIninch, Ervin, Horack and Snapp landed in the school board meeting and somebody had to go help keep the store.

**WISE WORDS:** Carey Williams says the honeymoon is over when she can stop his funny remarks with one cold, hard look.

**PROGRESS:** I'll believe we're really a Big City when those cows stop grazing on Thompson Orphanage's meadow.

**READY:** Isn't it about time they went on and coined a six cent piece and printed a three dollar bill?

**TEARS:** Now that they're finally getting to work, it is a little sad. What will we wage war against when Mint St. is finally paved? Think hard.

### In The Short Rows

**SHORT STUFF:** Hardworking folks in the city these days are the multiple sclerosis workers, trying hard to get organized and underway . . . News ad man Carroll Keith is looking hard—and unlikely—for a three bedroom house to rent. Any takers? . . . The new Variety Vacationland booklet put out by the state has one picture of Charlotte. Guess what? The Coliseum, which appears to be our only claim to fame.

**TAILGATE SPECIAL:** Then there's the story of the pastor who was returning home late one night from a sick call and noticed one of his flock staggering down the street.

"Let me help you to your door," the minister said to the besotted man.

At the door of his home, the drunken guest pleaded with the pastor to come in for a minute. The pastor said it was much too late.

"Please, Reverend," the man pleaded, "Just for a minute I want my wife to see who I have been out with tonight!"

## Tonic For Economy: Auto Sale Drive

By DICK BAYER  
News Staff Writer

Charlotte auto dealers have started bringing their own special type of spring tonic to give the whole city's economy a healthy lift.

The basis of the plan to keep Charlotte business booming, as explained last night to more than 100 dealers, parts men, bankers and finance firm operators, is the sale of automobiles.

Bill Scott, vice president of the Charlotte Automobile Dealers Association, said a stepped-up promotion campaign by dealers and industry associations will be climaxed by "You Auto Buy Now" week, tentatively set for April 18-26.

**CLEVELAND STORY**  
Speaking at a dinner meeting at the Barringer Hotel Scott cited Cleveland, Ohio as an example of how auto dealers pulled cash out of savings accounts and put it into circulation. He said that in one week in February, after three weeks of promotion, dealers there had \$150,000 in business.

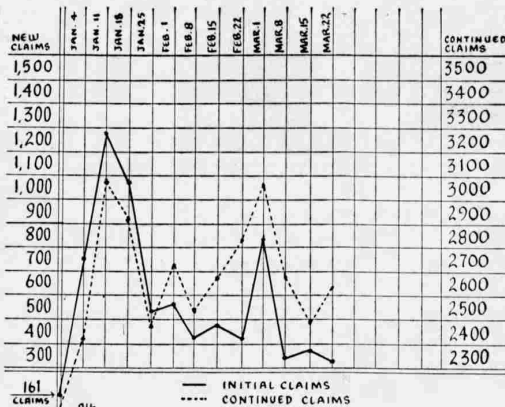
"They put optimism back into the community. We can do the same thing," he said.

"If we do our share," he added, "we can put \$1 million in circulation in Charlotte."

Mr. Scott called the auto industry "the greatest business in the community" and estimated that 26,000 people have been directly or indirectly affected by the downturn in sales.

See SALE on page 11-B

# Employment Picture Here Grows Brighter



Graph By Lewis Wilson Shows Downturn In Unemployment Claims

## No Tax Head 'Til July?

By DICK YOUNG  
News Staff Writer

Selection of a successor to the late John H. Mills as head of the city tax collection office may be postponed by the City Council until after July 1.

This came to light today with a report that Fred Hood, operator of the smoke stand at the Park Place Pharmacy, is forcing the front as a likely candidate for the appointment.

There were further reports that Sandy Jordan, insurance man, former city councilman and an announced candidate for the county commission, is becoming more interested in the tax office appointment.

There were indications today of a growing feeling among members of the council to postpone consideration of the appointment until after the end of the current fiscal year.

Mayor Smith has pointed out that selection of a new man after July 1 (beginning of the new fiscal year) would avoid an audit which must be made when change in the directing head is made. The annual audit is initiated after June 30.

Council members are marking time on plans for consolidation of the city and county tax collection offices.

"Interest in the merger of two tax agencies was revived in official quarters when council was faced with the appointment of a successor to the late Mr. Mills."

In the meantime, the Chamber of Commerce went on record favoring the consolidation and is preparing to appoint a committee to work with representatives of the city and county governments.

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### One Location

## Chamber Calls For City-County Center

Acting promptly on the request of the Chamber of Commerce Greater Mecklenburg Committee, President Thomas L. Robinson has called a meeting for Tuesday afternoon for discussion of the proposed governmental center.

Meeting yesterday, the committee asked for a concerted effort to keep city and county administrative offices in one central location and asked Mr. Robinson to arrange a meeting of city, county and school officials concerned.

### NEW LOCATION

The motion was made after committee members noted a desire on the part of city and county school systems to move congested offices in City Hall and Courthouse to a new location on Sardis Rd. outside the city limits.

Suggestion for the meeting was made by C. M. Hassell, chairman of a Chamber subcommittee study the proposed governmental center.

He emphasized school boards have been given no adequate assurance they'll be given adequate facilities.

"If we don't do something and these agencies move out one by one our chance for a Governmental center is gone forever," he said.

### URGED CENTER

The Chamber urged last year that all governmental facilities be located in a proposed center near the Courthouse.

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## WEATHERMAN SEES 5 WET, COOL DAYS

Rain today, tonight and over the weekend.

That's the gloomy forecast by a pessimistic Weather Bureau which forecasts temperatures from six to eight degrees below normal for the next five days.

The low temperature this morning was a cool 45, and a cooler 40 is seen for morning.

A high 54 was predicted for today and a slightly warmer 53 for tomorrow.

### Spencer Leading Revival Services

The Rev. Lee Spencer, former minister of Calvary Methodist Church of Charlotte, is leading revival services through Friday at Duncan Memorial Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. Mr. Spencer now heads Central Methodist Church in Monroe. Mrs. Allen Berryhill is organist for the services. The Rev. C. W. Russell is pastor of Duncan Memorial.

### HAPPY INVITED

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — Mrs. Vilas N. Almit, a township tax collector, put in her name for the Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune. "I am taking this method to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent cooperation and many acts of kindness extended to me while collecting the Sampson Township taxes. May God's richest blessings be with all of you till we meet again next year!"

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## Circus Time, If You Didn't Know



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Kelly)

Clown Otto Griebing Rests Before Rehearsal



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Kelly)

Bike Goes Into A Bank With Bear Aboard

### Tonight's Premiere

## Rehearsal Grind Ends For Circus

He Remembers the Old-Time Circus—11-A

By EMERY WISTER  
News Staff Writer

Frightened chimpanzees screamed and hugged their trainer as they were loaded into the net.

An aerialist flew through the air and bumped his shoulder as he fell into the net.

A 25-pound midget hopped from a "Spunkin'" and twanged his guitar as other performers laughed and applauded.

This was the dress rehearsal of Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus which lifts the curtain on its 1958 edition tonight in Charlotte Coliseum.

This was the rehearsal held last night, with scores of employees working frantically to be ready by curtain time at 8 o'clock tonight.

Here was Carmen Del Teide, a petite Spanish girl working out on a trapeze hung near an entrance to the arena.

**RIGHT IDEA**  
She could speak no English, but when a photographer started to take her picture, she smiled and pointed to her slacks. The cameraman nodded his head, and she took off the slacks and continued her rehearsal in tights.

Next door in Owens Auditorium sewing machines were humming as costumers worked to complete all costumes by tonight.

"We'll be ready," said a soft-spoken man, not missing a stitch as he completed hemming a garment.

In the first ring Tony Durkin, foot juggler from Spain, lay on his back and twirled boxes, boards, poles and other objects about his nimble toes.

Not being satisfied with that, she picked up a pole six or eight feet long, balanced it on her feet then called for two small children, one to grasp each end of the pole. Then she twirled poles and children as the tots screamed in glee.

She'll never do that in New York," said a circus employee.

"That's working and they don't permit children to work up there."

The rehearsal went on. Juan Rodry, a flier from Spain, tumbled from a high trapeze and landed too hard in the net. Circus workers swarmed out to the net and lifted him to the ground. But the man only shook his head and spurred the offer of an ambulance to take him to the hospital for examination.

Then came a man and woman, jumping and tumbling into a ring. The man picked up a pile of high "dunce" type caps and hurled them into the air and the woman ran all over the ring to catch them on her head. Only one fell to the ground.

On the sidelines, circus producer John Ringling North smiled and nodded his approval.

**FRESH GUY**  
Then came the chimps. One pinched another as they walked into the ring and the pinched one turned around and gave his tormentor a hearty slap.

And there were horses, elephants and clowns and ladies dressed up as Indian chiefs. Buffalo Bill came riding out the air and the organ rapped out a catchy tune called "Bless My Briches."

And always was the man with a stop watch. Sometimes, frowning, shaking his head. Again nodding in satisfaction.

"I think," he said, "We'll be in pretty good shape by the time the show opens."

**I Remember When . . .**

By DICK YOUNG  
The B. F. Withers residence was on E. Trade St. where the courthouse now stands.

**GRADY SIGNS.** All kinds, South's Pioneer News Mfrs. Since '77. Adv.