



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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In The Old North State, Poetic Justice

There was something warmly wonderful about North Carolina's salute to poet Carl Sandburg in Raleigh this week. It knocked into a brass cuspidor all of the churchy Philistinism that has traditionally characterized official attitudes toward the creators of U. S. culture.

Here was "provincial" North Carolina heaping honors and tributes upon a proletarian poet whose principal contributions to literature have been distinctly midwestern in flavor although universal in application and significance. Here was State Treasurer Edwin Gill labeling Sandburg at an official luncheon as "an original . . . secure in the affections of all our people." Here was Gov. Luther Hodges, the ex-industrialist, calling the old Socialist "the real American poet." There was even a prayer by State Auditor Henry Bricker to indicate that art had even penetrated the ledger books.

Some of the 200 who took part in the observance were there no doubt to pay homage to a tourist attraction rather than a poet. But surely most were sincerely interested in honoring a man of letters who deserves the respect of all Americans who think and feel.

Such an occasion is all too rare in the United States—and this is what made this week's celebration in Raleigh remarkable. The artist is largely ignored by the public. Great writers and painters generally receive no public honors. They are not even invited to the President's stag dinners at the White House. Unlike Europe, America's officials rarely recognize the outstanding non-military achievements of citizens who bring glory to their country and serve civilization by their moral qualities or artistic talent.

This is all the more strange because the tradition of honoring cultural heroes is deeply imbedded in the history of the planet. Rome used to offer them a curule chair in the Colosseum. Virgil got about 10,000 sesterces (that's about \$800) from the government for the verse of the story of Marcellus. Louis XIV welcomed Moliere to his table. Rabelais was pensioned by Francis I and

Bonsard by Charles IX. Athens provided the most gifted in each branch of art with free lodgings in the Prytaneum. Florence gave the freedom of the city and a large annuity to Giotto. The kings of France conferred the title of "Painter to the King" on Leonardo da Vinci, LeBrun, Mignard, Vanloo and Boucher, among others. Louis XIV honored Huygens and Cassini, foreigners though they were. The Empress Catherine II honored the Russian painter, and the Legion of Honor, England still turns out Sirs and Lords among its intellectual and artistic elite.

Creative artists should be honored in their own lands and in their own times just as military heroes are honored—and just as Carl Sandburg was honored in Raleigh this week.

Gian-Carlo Menotti, an Italian-born composer who has lived in the United States most of his twenty-six years, made what is perhaps the best plea for the "recognition" of American artists a few years ago. It is well worth repeating. "America must realize," he wrote, "that its present civilization will be crystallized and remembered in the future only as portrayed by its contemporary creative artists. It is the Germany of Bach, Beethoven and Goethe that we love and forgive. It is the Italy of Leonardo and Michelangelo and the countless architects who have been asked to enrich it with their monuments that is portrayed in every schoolboy's textbook. It is the France of Utrillo and Rimbaud that the American tourist unconsciously seeks in his eternal pilgrimage to Paris. Most Americans are apt to excuse themselves by answering that, after all, there are no Beethovens and Michelangelos in this country. This argument reminds me of the proverbial young man who, after having murdered his father and mother, asks the judge to be lenient because he is an orphan. A nation is directly responsible for preparing the kind of soil that will produce art."

In "recognizing" Carl Sandburg, North Carolina has set a worthy example for the entire nation.

Pay The Experts What They're Worth

PRESENT compensation practices of the Armed Forces are so clearly out of step with the times, so clearly inadequate to the needs of a technically advanced form of national defense, and so clearly contrary to all that has been learned about human motivations that they can unmistakably be identified as a major impediment to national security. Modernization of compensation practices is, therefore, the basic problem to be attacked immediately.

This steamy, straight-from-the-shoulder indictment of defense manpower practices was issued in early 1957 by Ralph J. Cordner, president of the General Electric Co. As chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Advisory Committee on Professional and Technical Compensation, he recommended a head-to-toe revision of military pay scales.

Was the problem "attacked immediately?"

It was not. The "economy" boys took charge in Washington and the tragic waste of the nation's human and material resources continued at the very time skilled personnel was desperately needed to catapult the armed services into the space age. The result was not economy. It was an extravagant waste.

Congress today has an opportunity to take corrective action. Perhaps the most

promising proposal is the Kilday bill, finally passed by the House of Representatives Tuesday. It does not contain all of the added inducements for specialists recommended by the Cordner Committee but it is vastly better than anything the Pentagon expected. The proposed pay schedules provide substantial increases for positions of heavy responsibility and specialized skill. The top basic pay of a full general would rise from \$15,312 to \$22,500, exclusive of allowances—little enough to pay for an "executive" of such enormous responsibility. The price is not too high for the security of the United States. Actually, such a program can reduce the cost and increase the effectiveness of national defense by making it possible for Uncle Sam to attract, retain and motivate the scientific, professional, technical and combat leadership and management skills required in the space age. It is ridiculous for the armed services to spend millions training experts for jobs of modern defense only to have these experts lure away by inadequate military pay scales.

The measure now goes to the senate. It should be passed without delay.

Life In America: The Urge To Purge

THE odds are very good that at this very moment someone somewhere is dipping a vial into poison ink to compose an abusive letter to the President.

"U. E. Baughman, chief of the Secret Service, testified before Congress recently that last year his protective research section processed 17,801 letters to the President that seemed of interest from a security standpoint."

Of these, 949 were alarming enough to require investigation by Secret Service field offices. Sixty-six persons were arrested for making threats against the President. These figures are about average for a year, and reflect no particular wave of homicidal passion against President Eisenhower — "New York Times."

From The Manchester Guardian

IRISH MISCELLANEOUS

ONE of the wonders of modern Ireland is the style of church architecture that flourishes in the new suburbs of some of the Republic's cities. A brief report of the IRISH TIMES the other day gave a very fair notion of the sort of thing.

"A new basilica-type church dedicated to St. Pius X is to be built at Fordfield Road, Terenure."

"Many features of early Christian Byzantine and Italian Romanesque architecture will be incorporated in the building."

This description seems to have inspired another creative artist working in a different medium. Two days later the paper published the following letter:

"With reference to your report that a new Roman basilica-type church is to be built in Terenure, incorporating many

features of early Christian Byzantine and Italian Romanesque architecture, you may be interested to know that I am composing an opera-type verse-play. The libretto combines passages from Homer, Virgil, Chaucer, and Shakespeare. The music includes elements from Beethoven, Brahms, and Wagner, and will be played on accordions, harpsichords, and drums. The decor is to combine features from Giotto, Botticelli, Rembrandt, and Turner. This should be very nice. I think."

After being over commissioned to do an opera and then to make quite a bit out of it, I would like to hear whether you think this one would be all right for the Theatre Festival."

If you are making an honest living you are one of the best assets in your country.—BUTLER (GA.) HERALD.

Volunteers Roughed Up In Washington's Political Wars

By DORIS FLEESON

FOLLOWING their long-time public drumbeating, advocates of the reciprocal trade agreements met in closed sessions to plan a program of lobbying members of Congress individually. They were on notice from Secretary Adams, the assistant to the President, that this job they would have to do by themselves.

Douglas Dillon, assistant secretary of state for economic affairs, who is in command of the administration effort to extend the agreements for five years, had appealed to Adams for help. Dillon is, of course, aware that there are few areas where pressures upon senators, and especially representatives, are so direct and personal.

TUE WAVEERS

What he wanted was personal counter-pressure by the President. He suggested that Mr. Eisenhower get first an absolute commitment to the administration bill from House Republican leaders Joseph W. Martin Jr. and Charles A. Halleck, then enlist their aid in locating GOP waververs who would be influenced by personal attention from the President.

Adams turned him down flat. The President, he said, would speak for the bill at Thursday's big public conference, the speech would be telecast and that would be that. There would not be, he said, any such personal lobbying by Mr. Eisenhower as Dillon proposed.

This is no denature from the present White House norm. Mr. Eisenhower has been consistently reluctant to throw his personal weight into the scales on any issue.

Dillon was driven to ask for presidential pressure by two considerations. One is that the bill is plainly in trouble and a few votes either way might prove decisive. The other is that some of the most active proponents of the



ERIC JOHNSTON
Nixon Surprised Him

program have faced Dillon with this question: "After I have done my part, what list of ten members of the House will the President call personally and work on to get across the bill?"

DISENCHANTMENT

It is not the first time in this history of discontent that the soldiers summoned to great propaganda battles for the national service have expressed a certain disenchanted view of their com-

manders, including the command-in-chief. The troubles of the public-spirited citizens who stage the great spectacles at which the principal politicians take the spotlight are by now common property.

The President will not share a dais with Harry Truman or Adlai Stevenson. Mr. Truman will not appear with Vice President Richard Nixon. Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler shies from appearing to be on a friendly, enemy basis with his opposite number, Meade Aueron.

ANGUISHING JOB

Eric Johnston, who produced the recent foreign aid show, had an anguishing experience with the vice president. Johnston felt that since the foreign aid appeal rested on the need for the absolute leadership of the nation, the example should be set here, with President Eisenhower and former Presidents Truman and Hoover on the same program. He thought he had Nixon's backing when they approached the President together.

He learned quickly that not even Sputnik had replaced Truman as a bad word around the White House. Mr. Eisenhower gave one of his justly celebrated displays of temper, and when Johnston turned to Nixon for help, Nixon's assistant told him that the vice president's comment: "It's an interesting idea — the first I've heard of it."

On their way out, before Johnston had time to take Nixon to task for apathy, Sherman Adams joined the fray with a denunciation of both for "trying to kill" the boss.

Stevenson seems unable to hate anyone in this interesting manner. But he likes to know exactly what's expected of him and what the agenda will be precisely — in endless detail. Men are, of course, widely committed to the legend that women cannot agree among themselves.

Pistols Make Poor Weapons For Policemen

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain
I SEE the New York cops have been going through a rigorous course in pistol — popping late, and not shooting up so well on moving targets, where both judgment and accuracy are needed. For example: How straight can you shoot at? If an armed gunman is shooting at you, and you shoot selectively can you shoot a lady, and you wish to shoot the gentleman without permanently disposing of the lady?

Turn out that the average New York cop is a lousy shot with a pistol, especially under heated decision. At recent tests, about 75 per cent of the cops failed to hit a target at a range of about two to four feet. But if you get close enough to shove the gat into somebody's spine, it is apt to work.

It is a fun gun for plinking at cans, but there is always the danger that even a 22 can come back and bite you. Apart from a select few, it is a useless gun for hunting. I know one man who can shoot a bird, and another who can shoot a pistol, but he lives in Kenya and could be called ex-hunter.

PECCILIAR WEAPON

The pistol is a peculiar weapon, and it has several uses.

It is very useful for committing quiet murder, although I noticed that the hoods who knocked off Albert Anastasia shot very badly and missed him several times at a range of about two to four feet. But if you get close enough to shove the gat into somebody's spine, it is apt to work.

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FINDS FOR KIDS

It is useful around the home for guests or kids to discover and shoot holes in the ceiling or into their feet. Hysterical ladies never miss a shot. They are generally called "shooters" and discover marksmanship they never knew they owned and the quote is generally "I killed him because I loved him."

It is quite handy for drunken wives shooting drunken husbands, or for cops shooting drunken wives, or even — as in the news the other day — a cop being called up for drunkenness on the charge of shooting a teenage youth while the policeman was off duty.

MIGHT GO OFF

I know, I hasten to say that some spectacular arrests have been made by armed cops when they were off duty, but they were generally not full of beer, and the frequency of these heroics does not generally warrant going around ostentatiously when you are in civies, unless you are a private detective on duty.

It is possible to hit a target apart from an innocent bystander with a hand gun if you are very good, very lucky, or very close, but usually as an offensive weapon on the side of right it is a tough nut to handle. Perhaps the Mike Hammer of Mike's Spill can hit a target with a gun as automatic, but when they checked me out on the thing in the Navy gun range was after it, I mean, throw it at the nearest stranger, and run for your life.

Which brings me to where I started. It seems to me that the light carbine, which we must have in heavy surplus, is an ideal weapon for a uniformed policeman on duty. It makes a better club than a nightstick, and I doubt if it weighs much more than a Police Special and the cops can shoot it together with a slow of force, and furthermore, once you learn to aim it, you can shoot it with it. It is also very difficult to conceal when the owner is off duty and a touch rushed up.

— WILLIAM MARCH

The Machine Age



People's Platform

Observing Nature Adds To Size Of Soul

Saturday

Editors, The News:

Did you ever examine the gas-simmering of a large moth whose viewpoint was as large as a small bird? If you have, you have observed one of the pretty creatures of God's creation. Then you remember that this moth was once an egg, then a leech-like larva, then a pupa, and finally a moth. It is a beautiful thing to see a creature grow up.

Maybe this is the place where the early wise men got their ideas that there was another life besides the life that we live here. Be the case, may these of us who love beauty can watch the beautiful moth and appreciate all its beauty. The appreciation of such beauty

makes our souls grow and we become creatures with more power to love and appreciate.

— JAMES W. JEWELL

Keep Schools Free Of Political Pressure

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

A recent article in a leading American educator, Dr. Henry S. Commager, professor of American History at Amherst College, touched on a matter that should be of interest to all Southerners.

He wrote: "The anti-bellum South persuaded itself that slavery was not an evil but a positive good. It would not tolerate any criticism of that institution, or any questioning of its Southern character. The South silenced criticism of all kinds, and drove out critics. It required schools to teach that slavery was a blessing . . ."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HOUSEWIVES don't know it, but they are in for either lively inspection or a slow-motion meat inspection. This is because the federal meat inspection service is short 412 meat inspectors and can't get the administration to ask for more money to hire them.

What's happened is that the population of the United States has grown by 3 million a year. The cattle population of the United States is up to record levels, but the number of U. S. meat inspectors stationed in the slaughterhouses by the Department of Agriculture remains about the same.

Inspectors Reduced

The number of packing plants under inspection has risen by 55 per cent in the past 15 years, but the same period of time the number of inspectors has been reduced by 6 per cent and the number of federal veterinarians by 23 per cent.

Meat Inspection Program Is Curbed

Last year Eisenhower asked Congress for additional funds to hire more meat inspectors, but didn't get them. He isn't even asking. This is because of the White House rule that all non-defense funds are being held back in favor of armament.

Production Cut

Results of the meat inspection shortage: curtailed income for farmers, higher prices for consumers, less profits for packers, and sometimes faulty inspection. Slowdowns in packing houses to give the inspectors more time to inspect, sends up the price of meat. Production was curtailed 20 per cent in the Earl C. Gibbs plant in Cleveland this month.

Speaker's Companion

Rayburn Sam Rayburn never objects to a good story on himself. Here is one he tells himself.

"I was invited out to dinner the other night and found myself sitting alongside a handsome young man. He was a familiar. I couldn't quite place him, so I asked him, 'Aren't you in the Justice Department?'"

"Yes," the young man told me, "I'm the Attorney General."

Note — Bill Rogers, the new attorney general, is not new to Washington. He served as counsel for the Truman Committee, also served for four years in the Justice Department as deputy to Herbert Brownell. However, he has so much more to his appearance that few people recognize him as a sedate member of the Cabinet.

Oil Imports

With Texas oilmen demanding new restrictions on oil imports from Latin America and Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas introducing legislation to that end,

Russia has been quietly opening new fields of trade among this country's good neighbors.

Note — Soviet progress in Latin America results from United States neglect, increased Russian prestige following the Spanish, the fall in raw-material prices, and the unwillingness of the Eisenhower administration to give economic aid or technical advice to state-owned enterprises in Latin America. The Eisenhower government oil monopolies of Brazil and Argentina.

Gas Bill

Despite public pronouncements to the contrary, the gas and oil congressmen plan to bring up the natural gas bill before Congress adjourns. House Speaker Sam Rayburn hinted at this the other day in a private talk with Philadelphia's energetic Mayor Dick Iversen. The gas bill would boost the companies' profits and the housewives' bills by millions.