



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, President and Publisher
BROOKS S. GRIFFITH, General Manager
CECIL PRINCE, Advertising Director
PERRY MORGAN, Associate Editor
R. L. YOUNG JR., Managing Editor
JAMES McDOWELL, Circulation Manager

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1958

Man Battle Stations, Mecklenburgers

"Rivalling for public office is something like being inebriated. If there's anything bad in a man it will bring it out."

—ADLAI STEVENSON.

BOTH the good and the bad have been amply revealed. All that remains is for Mecklenburg voters to weigh the one against the other and mark their ballots accordingly in tomorrow's primary.

The candidates have not exactly made themselves scarce during the past few weeks. They have made their appeals. They have each grasped their share of



How Could Anyone Resist?

hands. They have bared their breasts to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

The burden of responsibility now rests squarely with rank and file Democrats and Republicans. For the first time in many years, Mecklenburg's Re-

publicans will be voting in a primary for County Commission and County School Board candidates. That responsibility must be shouldered manfully.

Every registered Democrat and Republican owes it to himself and to his fellow citizens to go to the polls tomorrow and vote wisely.

The citizen who does not vote is letting his party down and, in a real sense, weakening the political machinery of his county and his district.

Voting is the right that guarantees all other rights. Failure to vote is one of the orneriest sins a citizen can commit. It is an ancient political adage, of course, that the people get precisely the kind of government they deserve.

But voting is not enough. The voting obligation carries with it the further obligation to vote wisely. This requires knowledge of the candidates and of the issues. We have attempted to acquaint Mecklenburgers with both on our news pages during the past few weeks. Furthermore, we have offered as information certain deeply held convictions of our own. But the final decisions rest with the voters at large. We would not presume to tell them how they must vote tomorrow. That is a decision they must make for themselves.

We only insist that Mecklenburgers make those decisions—and make them in accordance with their own ideas about what is best for the county, the district and the state.

Don't depend on others to make the decisions for you.

Vote as you please—but vote.

The Airiest Teapot Tempest Of All

LOCKS will not stop, justice will not be seduced nor will City Hall topple into Trade Street if the clerk of City Recorder's Court is garbed in muffin rather than the policeman's uniform.

In fact, the controversy over whether the clerk should be a policeman or not is one of the airiest teapot tempests to emerge in many a moon.

It is hardly worthy of Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn's ire. And talk of his "resigning" if a civilian is named to the post is plainly incredible.

It is understandable that Chief Littlejohn should be protective of the best interests of his department. But he is not a watchdog of the courts. The detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals for trial make up the principal duties of Charlotte's excellent police force. These chores do not include any control—real or implied, formal or informal—over the administration of the courts themselves.

It is true that the job of clerk has been held by one police officer for a number of years. But the City Council is certainly under no obligation to ap-

point another policeman to succeed him. The office should merely be occupied by the individual who can handle it in the best, most efficient and effective way possible. Whether he is a policeman or not hardly matters.

At any rate, the decision properly rests with the City Council. Chief Littlejohn owes it to the public to accept that decision gracefully.

Fame And Fortune

OUR economic thought for the day comes from Grace Metalious, author of *PEYTON PLACE*. She was telling *AMERICAN WEEKLY* readers the other day:

"It makes me so mad when I hear, or read about, people who try to tell you what a chore it is to be rich and famous. While it is true that being wealthy and well-known will not solve all your problems, having money will keep you less hungry while you are suffering through them."

The way we get it is that money isn't everything—but it's way ahead of whatever is in second place.

This Straw In The Wind Is Wonderful

THE windy world of high finance, every straw has its own special meaning.

For instance, the number of recent bank mergers hereabouts has significance that has not escaped the attention of experts.

But what is the local import of the proposed consolidation of the Union National Bank of Charlotte and the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Asheville?

To the average citizen—the man at Trade and Tryon Sts.—it simply means that Charlotte's position as a financial center in the Southeast has been vastly strengthened.

In addition, it will give this entire area a valuable new tool in the campaign for industry and commercial expansion.

Both banks have served their respective localities well. Together, they will

serve a much larger area better.

The proposed institution will have total resources in excess of \$100 million and capital funds and reserves in excess of \$11 million. The statistics speak for themselves.

Carl McCraw, Charlotte News Man of the Year for 1957, is to be congratulated for his part in making the merger possible. He is president of Union National in Charlotte and will serve as president of the new consolidated institution.

Following as it does the recent merger of American Trust Co. and the Commercial National Bank, it offers another indication of the new vitality and strength of Charlotte as a banking center.

It's a healthy sign—even for Mr. Average Citizen at Trade and Tryon.

People's Platform

Editors, The News:
THIS People's Platform contributor who complained that my body was promising anything in the primary campaign (News, May 28) just has been paying very close attention.

If all the promises of the legislative candidates were laid end to end they would reach from here to the moon (which one or two have also promised).

It's not that the candidates don't stand for anything. The trouble is that some of them stand for too much.

I am not sure that these fellows really desire half of what they are promising. I hope the



After The Handshake . . .

voters of Mecklenburg County have good memories. They may want to ask the winners about how they are coming on their deliveries next year when the legislature is in session.

I'll be glad when it's all over.

—JACOB McLAUGHLIN

Jack Love Can Get Things Done

Editors, The News:
ALL I have heard out of the Bell camp is a lot of wishy-washy language about "qualifications." What are "qualifications" when they can't be matched with performance? It's performance that counts in the General Assembly.

The candidate who has performed best is Jack Love.

—R. A. JOHNSON

News Congratulated On Political Choice

Editors, The News:
I WISH to congratulate you on your choice of Spencer Bell, candidate for state senator from Mecklenburg County. I agree with you that the county is most fortunate to have a man of his character and ability run for this office.

—J. MASON WALLACE JR.

Add Another Name To 'Large Majority'

Editors, The News:
I WANT to add my name to the large majority of Mecklenburg County voters who wish to return Mr. Spencer Bell to the state Senate.

—MRS. JOSEPH B. JOHNSTON

Bell Will Represent All Of The People

Editors, The News:
THIS Saturday I intend to vote for the man whom I feel will be the best senator for all the people of Mecklenburg County. Spencer Bell, his unselfish efforts over the years for the advancement of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have contributed much toward making this county the finest in the state. The expansion of hospital facilities and the plans for increased playgrounds owe much of their success to his leadership.

Spencer Bell will represent all of the people of Mecklenburg, not just one group or segment of the county. His work as a freshman legislator was so outstanding and so effective that it brought praise from political observers all over the state, and favorable publicity for Mecklenburg. His ability to work with people of different interests and to get them to agree on a program that will continue the advance, growth and prosper-

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
FROM information this reporter obtained while in Paris and since then by trans-Atlantic telephone, it appears that the United States has two serious problems to worry about in strife-torn France. They are:

1.—De Gaulle will probably lean toward Russia, may become the "Nasser" of the West and put the United States off against the Soviet.

2.—If De Gaulle is not tough enough anti-American enough, he may be replaced by the group of military men who are the real power in France and who are using him as a front.

Army's Comeback

The chief thing to remember about France today is that the French Army is determined to stage a comeback. It is determined to wipe out the shame of its past defeats. This is especially true of Gen. Jacques Massu, the tough paratrooper who is the real power behind De Gaulle and the man who may well take his place should the generals find De Gaulle too weak.

On The Verge

Massu is the man who commanded French paratroopers during the landing at Suez. His men were on the verge of a

Can Legislative Candidates Deliver The Moon?

ity of Mecklenburg County is needed in Raleigh.

—BEN HOLDEN

Vogler Has Earned State Senate Seat

Editors, The News:
JIM VOGLER has served the people of Mecklenburg County loyally for more than 20 years. He has demonstrated that he can get things done.

He has the best interests of all of the people of the county at heart.

He has earned the vote of the people to serve in the State Senate.

—ANDREW HAYNES JR.

Community Service Is Proof Of Ability

Editors, The News:
LONG before the present political campaign was thought of, Spencer Bell was working faithfully and effectively in the service of the people of Mecklenburg County. He was chosen Man of the Year in 1953 in recognition of the fact that day by day and year by year he had given himself to his time and talents to make our community a better place in which to live.

Here is the proof that Spencer Bell is the candidate really interested in serving his community and has the ability to do it. His fine record in the State Senate at the last session confirms the fact.

Surely the people of Mecklenburg County can be misled into accepting a substitute for this proven and experienced senator. We must keep Spencer Bell in the State Senate.

—SALLY ALLEN CRAIG

'He Proved Himself To Be A Leader . . .'

Editors, The News:
IT IS not often that the voters of Mecklenburg County have the opportunity to vote for a candidate of the exceptionally high caliber of Sen. Bell and for this reason, I am taking the liberty of

One thing that impresses me is

'Gee! Thanks For Pushing, Pal'

AS a citizen of Mecklenburg, I am firmly convinced Spencer Bell will make this county proud of him should he be elected to a second term as state senator. His first term has certainly been one to be proud of. Why not trust him for a second one?

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that while campaigning, he isn't making promises of what he will do, but only selling himself for what he has already been in the public—an honest, unselfish and unassuming man. He's not bragging on his past positions and offices, but only promising the public, and is most sincere, that he will be their representative while speaking for them in the State Senate.

Most important, though, is to vote for the man you can trust and respect, not for the one who boasts "I'm your man and I'll get you this and that if you elect me!"

—MARY C. DAVIS

We know that aside from his many other attributes, he is a man of high character, exceptional courage and forthrightness.

—ROBERT E. MASON

They Say The Meek Will Inherit The Earth

Editors, The News:
I KNOW you are rooting for J. Spencer Bell for the Senate but why not be a good sport and also publicize as many articles for Jack Love as you do for J. Spencer Bell. And poor Mr. Vogler, I've only seen one article for him, and that in today's (May 29) edition of the News. I got a hang out of the message the letter contained and I admire the writer for his courage. He writes: "While Jack Love and Bell are fighting each other, the people will be voting for Jim Vogler. Old Jim ain't fighting nobody." Well, have heart, J. I. It wouldn't surprise me, I tell me, "The meek inherit the earth."

—CANDIS O. RAY

One Good Term Deserves Another

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French Republic Needs A Truman

Editors, The News:
THE free world today should be awakened to the conditions and violence in our great ally, the Republic of France, the heart of the NATO nations in Europe, where our military power of NATO is based and in the French possessions, which today seem to be determined to overthrow the form of government that controls the French republic. We will not permit the period from the end of World War II to the present time. The nation of France has had at least 24 changes at the head of their government.

France's friends should seek the reason why France has been forced to change heads of government so many times.

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