

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1958

A New South: Not So Wild A Dream

"whether you can make words mean so many different things."
"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all."

LISTEN to the words and wince.

The South in 1956 is awash in a torrent of rhetoric—angry, nostalgic, pitiable rhetoric as far removed from reality as a kaleidoscope's fractured images.

A great region on the brink of unimaginable wealth and progress is in actual danger of drowning in the feckless vaporings of its own cant and sentimentality.

Fear has unlocked the floodgates It might as well be called by its own name for it will never be banished until it is isolated, and labeled for dispassionate scrutiny.

it is isolated, and labeled for dispassion-tes scrutiny.
Fear of change, fear of the distrusted industrialization and its effect on social values, fear of the Negro, fear of trade unionism, fear of Washington, fear of northern Democrats, fear of political in-novation and economic revolution: These are the nightmares of the spirit that haunt the South's consciouses in 1938. But more than anything clse it is fear of the future.

But more than anything each it is fear of the future.

THE South has reached a point in history where it must turn from the tradels of constraint and artifice back to nature or forward to progress.

The South cannot continue to cultivate a cultural heritage which does not correspond to social reality. The nitividual responds to social reality. The nitividual on nourish a nostalgie wish to sit on the cool and columned verands, sip bourbon and branchwater and converse exquisitely while the poor whites and Negroes tell for them in the hot, wide fields that spread out against the horizon. There is something new on that horizon today. Its fruits will yield a greater good than the exploitative, feudal South of the irretirevable past. Yet the voices of negativism are loud and strong. The maysayers, torn between nostalgie memories and catchpenny idealism, are obsessed by a sense of separateness. Because of their own refusal to come to grips with reality they want us all to pay the price of isolation and allenation, to share in the anger, horror and revulsion.

THE notion is not new Sidney Lanier, congrised it in 1873 when he went North to follow his artistic fortunes. In a letter to his brother, Clifford, who had retained at home, he wrote:

"Our people have failed to perceive the deeper movements underrunning the times; they lie wholy off, out of the stream of thought, and whirf in their poor dead leaves of recollection round and round, in a piteous motion that has all the wear and tear of motion without any of the rewards of progress... Whatever is to be done, you and I can do our part of it better here than there. Come away."

on the South, if only momentarily.

THE battle is here. It must be fought on the past and to the advice of either the negativities or the escapists.

First, there must be the rites of proplitation, of making peace with ancestral voices, of purging the fears that haunt and inhibit the region. The South's distinctiveness of the southern heritage can be relained without doing voicence to the image of a new South. The region at its best was always "groud, brave, honorable by its lights, courteous, personally generous, loyal, swift to act, often too swift, but signally effective, sometimes terrible, in its ac-

will A Dream

tion," wrote W. J. Cash in The Mino Or

The Sourn. Similarly, its characteristic
vices have been violence, intolerance,
seversion and suspicion toward new ideas,
an incapacity for analysis, sentimentality, an exaggerated individualism and
ty, all candidates to the control of the control
ty, all calchiments to frictions and false valuest and a tendence to justify social cruelly in the name of these values. As long
as the southerner is the prisoner of the
past he must take not luck with virtues
and vices alike. Once our free he can afford to be selective.

Some ideas must be discarded in every
civilization in order to make way for its
larger enjoyment. In conserving a heritage we must conserve only what is
worth conserving.

to the constraint of the control of

DEMAGOGUES and reformers to the contrary notwithstanding race is not the Souths only heartache I is but part of a larger malady—fear of social change of any sort. It breeds the region's deep suspicion of industrialization, its extreme requirance to abandon agrarian institutions, Its political conservation, its hatred of "the cities." This strangely rural mystique, when carried to extremes, can hinder southern progress as much as the Ku Klux Klan. In 1900 only 15 out of every 100 southerners lived in urban residences. But when the last census was taken in 1930 urban dwellers were about evenly divided. A region that has never in its history had a city of 1,000,000 population may have a half dozen such centers in the next five to ten years. Yet the hot-eved prophets of social disaster point with pain and speak of dreadful consequences. The consequences of urbanization and industrialization will be what we choose to make them. In an age of considerable enlightenment in the scence of social planning we can make of the new South what we will. The tools are valiable. We have only to use them.

From The Chicago Tribune

A GORILLA DID LICK 'EM BOTH

A GORILLA BISDARCH.

The gorilla achieved his triumph although he has never been privileged to crack a college textbook. As his opporting to the would dismiss the proceedings contemptuously with the remarks, "A gorilla could have likede them both."

This thesis has now been put to the test, and it turns out that Brisbane was right.

Two football players at Catawba College in North Carolian were induced to wrestle a gorilla at a carnival. They were to be paid 31 for every minute they stayed. The college boys weighed 435 pounds between them and the gorilla.

a mere boy, only 175, but he took care of them in one minute flat with only one-band and two feet. He used the other hand to dauget from an overhead bar. We were in prefly good condition.

Sald one of the gladators, as he crawled out of he sage, "but so was the gorilla."

The joh was neven been privileged to creating hat they have ever done so either.

The Army sent the Union Pactific a between the American to the proposition of the sage was duly relayed by President William deffers to the road's representative there. Back came the report. With the more hand to dauget from an overhead bar.

We were in prefly good condition.

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The joh was nieshed on time.—MEM-russ Packs. SCIMITAN.

Quemoy Is 'Final Test Of America's Strength Of Will'

By JOSEPH ALSOP

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Chinese Nationalist Sentry Mans Lonely Outpost

People's Platform

American power or accept failure in this final test of America's only the process of the final test of America's only the process of the alterity has suggested as And this day has not been waste of in another way, too. Other of the president, of the President, "Mr. President of the president, "Mr. President of the president, or the president, or the president of the president, or the president of the president, or the president of the pre

'Let Go Or I'll Pull Th' Whole Thing Down-Suh!'



Wiring The Moon For Electricity

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

Only In Charlotte

To Stay In America

Do Columnists Know More Than Officials?



Drew Pearson's Merry-Ga-Round Ike's Orders: No Nuclear Weapons

I let a festering township for a material of the final shree bandle the job At h Let of Red China, tiny Quemp Island has inflamed the Far East, with a very out to sea, for the final shree bandle the job At h Let of Red China, tiny Quemp Island has inflamed the Far East, with a very out to sea, for the final shreet that has our John Chicks nacing the floor. Here are the latest temperature readings.