

The Charlotte News

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FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1938

Who Owns It?

We are somewhat bewildered by the arguments flying around in regard to the old cemetery and its use as a park. The news reports for Wednesday had the ladies of the D. C. Council of the City had no right to its use on the ground that it belonged to the First Presbyterian Church. Then Doty Knox reported them as explaining "The City Fathers have no right to the D. C. A. R. 35 years ago," that they have had it in custody since, and that "it wanted to move that the handling of this property should never come before the City Council again." To which Doty Knox added her own account: "The City appropriates \$200 a year of the taxpayers' money for this tax-free property..."

What we want to know is, if the cemetery belongs to the church, the City Fathers assumed to have it over to anybody 35 years ago and since? And what, if it belongs to the church, if it is doing appropriations annually \$200 of taxpayers' money for this tax-free private property? And by whose authority this public money was used to put up barbed wire and "NO TRESPASS" signs to keep the public out of the place?

On the whole, it seems desirable that the City Attorney should look up title to this property and tell the City Council who owns it.

Come and Get It!

Herbert Agar, the newest and perhaps the most reasonable of our editorial page columnists, was writing yesterday about the National Youth Administration. His theme, when they have attained a sufficient altitude the fastenings are loosed, the loaded papoose plane sails out for its destination and the lightened bottom plane returns to its base. It's an English invention. As for pick-a-back, that's only a familiar word all dressed up in Elton Jack's

Lord Halifax to Paris

abrogating the Russian-Czechoslovakian alliance to begin with. In short, Hitler, one way or the other, seems to be moving to break up the Russo-Czech-French front with a view to securing a free hand in dealing with the new alliance. Apparently with the active backing of Mr. Chamberlain. For Lord Halifax, and not the German representative, carried the "formula" to Paris. If the Czechs stand by their determination to remain united, they will probably find that Czechoslovakia will be turned into another and perhaps bloodier Spain. But Mr. Chamberlain has shown no scruples about using Spain as dog-meat in his deals with Mussolini, and so none is to be expected here.

The real difficulty is the French. A canny people, they will be hard to convince that their interest will be served by the alliance proposed by Mr. Chamberlain, by breaking off with Russia, and leaving the French to their fate. Traditionally, they dread the ascendancy of Germany in Europe more than they dread any other one thing, and history pretty well bears them out in that position. The spectacle of the heavily armed and heavily armed Nazis in the eastern border already has them much worried, as does the spectacle of Mussolini establishing himself at their southern doorway. What concerns them even more immediately is that for the last year the Nazis have been boldly carrying on in Alaska and Lorraine—once held by Germany and both occupied by proportionately greater numbers of Germans than Czechoslovakia—the same sort of propaganda which has the Sudeten Germans in revolt against the latter country.

They think, and perhaps have good reason to think, that the only thing which saves them just now is that Hitler is presently intent on moving east, and that he has not yet got food supplies enough to risk a war by trying to lord it over them. And—Hitler wants to move east to get those food supplies. And—Czechoslovakia is the key to those food supplies. Let him once take it, and the road will be wide open to the great wheat reservoirs of his allies, Hungary and Roumania—capable of supporting his armies and his people through a war of any period of duration. Therefore the French are very likely to see the German-Chamberlain scheme as a proposal for their own hangnail.

Still, Mr. Chamberlain's words the whirlwind in his alliance with France, and so may get what he wants, however reluctant she is to grant it. And if he doesn't—his capriciousness, quite possibly drive the allies apart, and secure a victory of chance of having England stand aloof from France if war comes.

Light On a Puzzle

The moon, according to the British astronomer, Harold Spencer Jones, has jumped its beaten track and is now about six seconds off schedule. Some giant celestial brake is also being applied to the missing earth, and Dr. Martin Davidson, president of the British Astronomical Association, estimates that the slowing-down process has gone so far that the earth is now losing about one-one-hundredth of its angular velocity.

Was the information along? You may have noticed that something seemed wrong with the world lately.

Fixing the Blame

(Billy Arthur, New Bern Tribune)

In all movies about newspapering I have seen, reporters and editors were depicted as fellows who indulged in epigrams frequently. Nothing, so far as I know, has ever been shown about the mechanical department of newspapers, but I believe it has been printers, floormen and linotype operators who have driven the editorial staff to drink.

Visiting Around

The Yell, and Here You All Heard "The Music Goes 'Round and Around" Yell (Transylvania Times)

Margaret Mitchell's popular book "Gone With the Wind," has been shelved at the U. D. C. library and is now ready for circulation. It has been announced by the librarian, Miss Annie Jean Gash.

Why Bring Up Wilson?

(Negro item, Cherryville Eagle)

Mrs. Mattie Watts the widow of Wilson, Watts married Sunday evening to Rev. G. Gordon of Gastonia.

For 510 We Put On A Real Suicide

(New Bern Tribune)

With a doll dance, followed by dramas of pretended heartbreak and suicide over the pretended death of the doll, Hattie King, and seven of Beauvoir, was the unanimous winner of the 410 prize in the first of a series of Monday night amateur hours at Atlantic Beach this week.

Letters To The Editor: Little Abner Is Called Insult To Orphanages

Correspondent Thinks Comic Strip Labels Officials At Local Institutions And Hurts Good-Will.

Dear Sir:

I would like to call your attention to the recent run of your comic strip, "Little Abner" as I feel that the portrayal of orphanages and the management in this strip is an insult to Charlotte's two local orphanages, The Alexander Home, The Thompson Orphanage, and to Barium Springs Orphanage in Iredell County, which most of us consider a local institution.

I am acquainted with the personnel of these institutions, have visited in them, eaten in them and know many of the people who are in them; therefore, I can assure you that your portrayal is absolutely, not only incorrect, but insulting to the high type of Christian manhood and womanhood employed in these institutions.

As these institutions are supported by free-will contributions, it is certainly not helping build goodwill for these worthy institutions.

I respectfully request that "Little Abner" be discontinued until the scene changes, if not permanently, and that your paper make a public apology for the editorial negligence in permitting these strips to run.

J. H. BOOTHIE
Charlotte.
(Note: Our correspondent takes his comic too seriously.—Editors, The News.)

WHAT HAVE WE GAINED?

By Hugh S. Johnson

BETHANY BEACH, Del.—A favorite administration argument is: "We are never going back to the terrible condition of the 1920's"—the hint being that we are so much better off now. But what we are is the "human budget" has balanced."

If the argument means that we are never again going to permit the stock market to be run like a roulette wheel, with the banks using the people's money as a life-guard, it is a true bill. If it means that people through their government are going to have more to say about the operation of private economic empires of tremendous power, it is correct. If it means that the government is never again going to permit tremendous claims against industry, it is wrong. It means that national government will go back to a policy of indifference to human suffering, that also is true.

But this argument intends more—than that. Third New Deal policies have failed to make our economic system afford better living and more happiness and satisfaction to more people than it was turning out in the 1920's—and that is the precise reverse of truth.

NOBODY IS AS WELL OFF AS IN THAT PERIOD

Even in the crash year of 1929 the AFL estimate of unemployment was only 12.04 per cent. It has never been less than 8,500,000 since 1932 and it has been as high as 13,700,000. It is 14 per cent, 10,000,000 now, of whom only 25 per cent are on WPA relief and an indeterminate number on various dole schemes.

There is no one who is probably talking about the bread-winner for one third of the population in distress—living from hand to mouth, with little prospect, progress or security. It can't possibly be argued that this is not a kind of living and satisfaction that this "third of a nation" had under private employment in the terrible twenties.

Figures on national income are tricky and they have been jumbled unmercifully in the present political discussion. But even the heat of advocacy has dared to suggest that in any classification—agriculture, wages and salaries of workers, dividends, interest or total income of all the people in mass or per person—have enjoyed as many as any other time in our history the distance of what they remain in the despaired decade of the twenties.

But Reform Need Not Stall Recovery

The truth is that this great forward five-year movement toward "recovery and reform" has been long on reform promises but woefully lacking on recovery in practice. To aid it, it has given to sufferers has nowhere near covered their loss in well-being since the twenties, and the number relieved is, at best, but a small fraction of equally deserving people who are not relieved at all.

That raises the vital question of the whole program. "Can we have reform without sacrifice recovery?" It seems perfectly absurd to say that answer is no. If properly timed and balanced, recovery will reform. Yet that is what we should not have all the property of the twenties coupled with all the necessary reforms of the thirties. It seems a fair criticism that the administration hasn't made much effort to time and balance recovery with reform. Yet that is its real economic problem No. 1—unless the verdict is to be that it performed a perfect surgical operation—which killed the patient.

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Believe It Or Not

On request, sent with stamped, addressed envelope, Mr Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

A MOVIE — OUT ON LOCATION
WAS MOCKING THINGS INCONSEQUENTIAL;
"THE — SHE CRIED, "ARE MY VOCATION."
SOME — FROM US PROVINCIAL
CHORUSED — "AND GOT A BIG OVATION."
CAN YOU FILL IN THE BLANK SPACES WITH WORDS OF THE SAME 4 LETTERS?
STAR ARTS
TARS
RATS
WHITE ROBIN
Owned by CHAS. BUTLER
Whitehall, N.Y.

Reporter Thinks Maybe He Got Mis-reported

Dear Sir:

Please allow me space in your excellent newspaper to explain that in my talk to the Junior Chamber of Commerce Wednesday noon I did not intend to attack the Charlotte Police Department. I wanted only to state that there are engineering problems and that, by and large, police departments are apathetic to this new approach. The point I wanted to make, and apparently didn't, according to your reporter, was that no police department can function with any efficiency in the case of a traffic problem unless it sets up a trained staff with proper equipment for investigation of accidents, spot-mapping of the city, and selective enforcement. We can hardly expect the Charlotte police department to do all this without some help.

The amount of my speakmaking in your ably edited newspaper of Wednesday, July 20, quoted me mostly in severe criticism of the Charlotte Police Department. I didn't mean to say that, for while it is my duty to speak just to show how a man sets himself in trouble trying to make speeches. I was considerably astonished to read, in your widely circulated newspaper, just what I had said.

Believe me, Sir, I have the greatest respect for the ability, accuracy and accuracy of Charlotte News reporters. Your news story was correct, as usual, but it seems that the greater wrath.

Charlotte.

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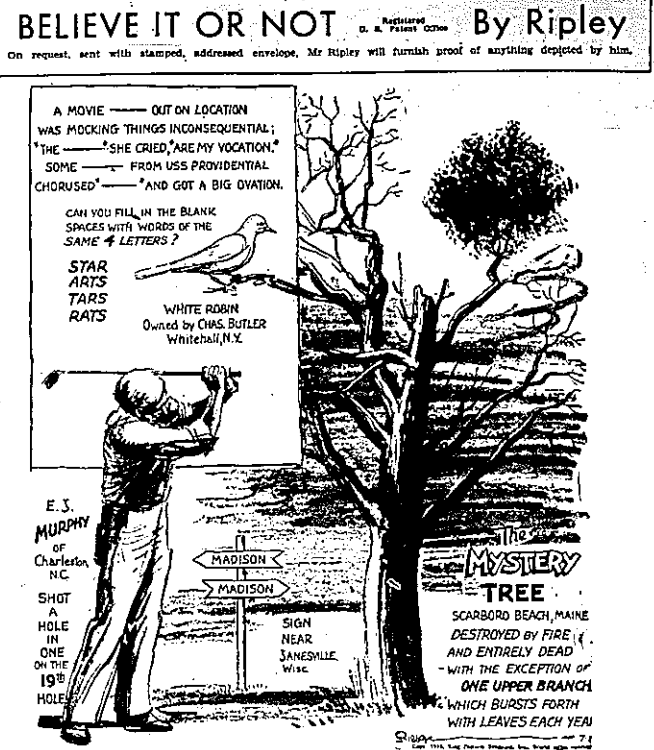
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Today's Cartoon Self-Explanatory

Faces Over Boston

By KEYWOOD BROWN

JEANUEL HALL, in Boston, has been called "The Cradle of Liberty," but just now the cradle rocks, and it will fall unless the breed of Dunker Hill stand fast in the defense of freedom.

At the moment of writing the question is up to Mayor Tobin. He must decide whether a political censorship is to be set up in a great American city. Nor can it be denied that the implications of the film "Blockade" might well be annoying to both Hitler and Mussolini. The picture presumably is held in Spain, although it is not so. It is a civil war and espouses no side, except to point out eloquently the cruelty of wanton bombardments of civilian populations which take their toll chiefly among children and women.

There is no point in pussyfooting the fact that this preachment is a criticism of the Fascist dictators. Both Hitler and Mussolini on many occasions have found the work of their bombers eminently satisfactory. Indeed, they exult in blood which runs down the market place, in Spain death takes no holiday, not even in the children's hour. To some this slaughter of the innocent seems so monstrous that the President of the United States and the Pope and a great tradition. If he glides to the great Francisco Franco, Generalissimo and branch manager for the Nazis, has been moved on repeated occasions to say, "So sorry."

Lady Spoke and the Fathers Humily Obeyed

But the Boston City Council has unanimously passed a motion asking Mayor Tobin to ban the film "Blockade." He stands more lonely than the little group of Concord freemen who took their post at the rude bridge which arched the flood. And yet he is not quite alone, for he is backed by a great tradition. If he glides to the great Francisco Franco, Generalissimo and branch manager for the Nazis, has been moved on repeated occasions to say, "So sorry."

Cause and Effect

(Birmingham Post)

It's all right with us if John D. M. Hamilton, the Republican national chairman, wants to claim that his recent speeches in Alabama and Virginia, faithful to the Roosevelt line, called that conference on the economic condition of the South.

We hope it will be all right with Mr. Hamilton if we are reminded of Chatterbox, the rooster, who bragged that his crowing was what made the sun rise.

As We Are Seen

(Birmingham News)

Charlotte, it is revealed, may have a shoe factory. Well, from the way the Descendants of the Sisters are always kicking about something, they must wear out a powerful lot of shoes down there.

Peculiarities Of People

By F. Romer

GEORGE MORLAND

AT TEN, this gifted English painter, was an honorary exhibitor in the Royal Academy. He could have had the homage of the great, but he preferred the society of stable boys, servants and tipplers, painting his way out of debtors' prison and breaking his wife's heart.

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