

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1941

## Inventory

Our Hope Chest Languishes,  
But There's Still Hope

We begin to appreciate the discouragement that unmarried young ladies must feel from time to time. Some months ago we fitted out a handsome hope chest, and in it we laid away four cherished items, to be distributed to the young women who had been successful in their search for a husband.

The fact that this hope chest was started in the name of and for the benefit of the Charlotte community overcomes our modesty and suggests an inventory. It is done.

Item No. 1, "An Uplown Theater-Auditorium," will very likely have to be put aside for the duration of the defense program, at least. But after the emergency is over and this frenzied building of camps and factories subsides, there will probably be a lot of easy Federal money to be had for the application. That will be the time.

No. 2, "A Separate Court District," will have to be laid aside until the Legislature meets again. The last Legislature appointed a committee to look into the matter of judicial and legislative districts. Maybe something of relief for Mecklenburg will be suggested.

As for No. 3, "An Uplown Rest Room," seems to us a wonderful opportunity was passed up recently to install this needed facility under the sidewalk of West Trade Street in connection with the new construction now going up at that location. Maybe, though, a rest room underground wouldn't have been suitable.

"Street Widening," No. 4, on the list, is at best a long-time undertaking which will have to be carried out according to a comprehensive plan. The drawing up of such a plan is the first step. The work of the job is already within the province of the City Council. Nothing indicates that the Council is thinking in terms of opening up the city, which is understandable. The Citizens Group representatives have a lot of pressing business to attend to, and feeling their way along. In due course, we trust, they will get around to the consideration of physical improvements. In any case, there is no law against hoping that they will.

## An Apology

Stimson Is Gentlemanly  
—Even to Senator Wheeler

Any two-bit politician can make a bitter, personal attack against an opponent. But to make a public retraction and apology after such an attack has been demanded—that takes a man of courage and strong moral fiber.

That is why Secretary of War Stimson rose several notches in our estimation when he said the other day:

"On the basis of Senator Wheeler's statement in the Senate as to the method of the use of his circular, I believe that he has shown the absence of any intent on his part to circulate the circular in the training camps. I am sorry that on the basis of incomplete evidence, I made a statement last week which carried a contrary implication."

Many apologies are demanded; few are given. There had been statements that he would freeze over before Stimson apologized to Wheeler. Certainly it would have been easier and more political to have ignored all of Wheeler's ranting and to have let it ride.

Senator Wheeler's profane use of his frank to send out a million propaganda posters would have been a reprehensible thing, even if none had been addressed to soldiers, as some were.

But Mr. Stimson, acting with complete honesty, acknowledged that Senator Wheeler did not direct his propaganda exclusively at soldiers and apologized for so implying.

It was the act of a gentleman, and although it is probably wasted on Senator Wheeler, it reflects credit on Mr. Stimson.

## Grand Drag-on

Mr. Adams Keeps His Distance in Rock Hill

We find it hard to believe that any man in his right mind could kick himself out of a fantastically comfortable life and stand in the middle of a stadium with his bare feet illuminated by a spotlight, and make a speech on "Americanism" and sound like a rather clumsy high school imitation.

Yet such was the spectacle that Ben Adams, Grand Drag-on of the Ku Klux Klan, offered the citizens of Rock

Hill, S. C., Wednesday night. It is a tribute to the judgment of the people of Rock Hill that less than 100 men came to the municipal stadium to hear the klunkings of the Kluxer.

The Grand Drag-on said that America now realized that the Klan had been twenty years ahead in its thinking. So we didn't know that the Klan ever did any thinking. We understood that they hated and bullied helpless people, and marched around in bed sheets carrying torches. The Klan seemed to be entirely emotional and completely unthinking.

However, he was willing to concede that the Grand Drag-on must have been doing a little thinking since he was pelted with ripe tomatoes in Charleston recently. At his Rock Hill appearance, he was careful to choose the middle of the stadium playing field for his rostrum—a position well beyond the pitching range of all but the most ambitious.

## Gas And Jobs

Mr. Ickes' Decree Has Economic Consequences

Secretary Ickes has decreed that beginning Sunday, filling stations in the East Coast states may not sell gas or oil between the hours of 7 P. M. and 7 A. M. In making the major oil companies responsible for enforcing the restriction, aimed to us a wonderful opportunity was passed up recently to install this needed facility under the sidewalk of West Trade Street in connection with the new construction now going up at that location. Maybe, though, a rest room underground wouldn't have been suitable.

We are impressed, not only by the fuel shortage, but by the fact that Mr. Ickes' decree is to be undertaken with a practical planning for the economic consequences of the thing. We take Mr. Ickes at his word. If the non-essential use of gasoline is not curbed, even more stringent measures may be necessary.

But what of the thousands of men who are out of work? The government is according to the 1939 census, there are 2,000 filling stations in South Carolina and 3,000 in North Carolina. An average of about six persons is employed in each of these stations. The major oil companies say that with the elimination of the night shift the day shift can be increased. Why? They don't say, but it is obvious that they are expecting day time sales to increase greatly. Unless there is such an increase, there would be no reason for giving the night shift men jobs by day. And if there is a great increase in day time gasoline sales, the whole purpose of the decree goes out of the window, for isn't the idea to cut down on the sale of gasoline?

The conclusion is perfectly clear. If gasoline sales are curtailed, men are going to be out of work. If Mr. Ickes, or any other Government agency, has made plans to help these men get new jobs to replace those lost through no fault of their own, it has been kept in much greater secrecy than the occupation of Iceland. All of us, however, tend to expect sacrifice, but it is not fair that these men and their families should take it on the chin for all the rest of us.

There is another angle to Mr. Ickes' decree. In North and South Carolina there are hundreds of little stores that sell gasoline and a variety of merchandise. Under the restriction, they will be obliged to close their gasoline pumps at 7 P. M. However, these small businesses make a tremendously large portion of their income around and shortly after dark. They can't afford to close the whole store. Yet we understand that many of these merchandise sales are made in connection with gasoline purchases. Jim Jones, a farmer up the road from the hundreds of little stores that sell gasoline and a variety of merchandise, would be forced to make a trip down to the store. So the storekeeper loses not only the gasoline sale, but other sales as well.

We agree with Mr. Ickes that gasoline consumption ought to be reduced.

We also believe that Mr. Ickes might have planned a way to help those who may get hurt by his decree. We refuse to believe that the American Way is one of headlong plunges in the dark, followed by a picking up of the pieces.

The army reports cases in which the recruit enlists under a false name to escape a wife-the slacker.

Boy, we're sure brightening up the "fifty years ago today" column, for posterity.

## Military Distance

By Hugh S. Johnson

IN this puzzling war which, still, is a battle of production, one uncertain and apparently unpredictable factor is the state of opposition equipment.

No matter how Hitler is progressing in Russia, as this column predicted, it is not three weeks push over. He must have expended, even through ordinary means, a great deal of money. If not through loss and destruction, it must have been through the first massive supply of munitions and equipment—gasoline, fuel oil, lubricants, explosives, shot, airplanes, tanks and guns. The numbers, especially of the largest caliber, are very limited. In action, in addition to battle losses, mechanized and motorized units must be kept in the rear, cars moving over rough terrain with a few good roads—after an astonishingly long time without ever firing a shot.

## TO OUTRUN SUPPLY SOURCE MEANS DEFEAT

These modern armies can never be self-contained. They have to have life-lines for repair, supplies and small units running along back to the home-front factories and there are extremely vulnerable. If they break down importantly it is as bad as a checkmate on the fighting front. The Germans lost the first massive because their infantry outran their artillery and supply trains. If the armistice hadn't come in November 11, 1918, our advance through the Argonne would have been stopped. "Cause of failure of our army," it systems behind the forward movement.

Hitler in Russia is moving on much longer lines through much more hostile and inhospitable country. It wasn't hard to beat the U. S. in predicting the slowness of this campaign. The error of the "anti-decision" experts was in comparing the short-distances, the close support systems, the dense populations, the rich concentrations of supply in Western Europe with the vast, lawless-like terrain of Russia and Poland.

## TWO FACTORS IN DEFEAT OF FRANCE

The French catastrophe was due to two causes—the weakly-held defense of the key-stone of resistance, the Forest of Argennes, and the failure to protect the line of all roads by a dense and fleeing population. These conditions do not exist on the Eastern Front where operations of the Blitzkrieg vary like much longer and are far more difficult.

Furthermore, the constant exchange of student and observer officers between the German and German armies, Blitzkrieg was a kind of joint inventory of the "thing." We take Mr. Ickes at his word. If the non-essential use of gasoline is not curbed, even more stringent measures may be necessary.

## WHERE WILL RUSSIA GET NEW EQUIPMENT?

Of course, offsetting Hitler's losses in equipment and material losses in the capture of the Nazi losses plus the fact that the Nazis have an efficient replacement and manufacturing industry and the Reds haven't. That is a vital matter. It means that if Russia can't get new supplies she may crumble from that alone. It is hard to see where she will get them. She is far away from any source of such aid.

There is one bright spot in the equipment picture. To put it in plain language, the production of the air and how good they are up there. If one airplane can be kept aloft without stopping for repairs twice as long as its counterpart it is almost equivalent to doubling the production of that type.

## AMERICAN EQUIPMENT IS BEST IN THE WORLD

The excellent production of our mechanical manufacture has always been better than German, French or British and certainly of Russia. According to most reports this is showing up markedly in the type of our planes in this war. Maybe we shouldn't be too much discouraged. The production of our planes is the equivalent of 20,000 of some of the world's best fighters. Both our manufacturers and our airmen believe that.

## NEGRO EDITOR ON LYNCHING

Gaston Gazette

"It is clear that the Melker killing was not strictly a lynching in the ordinary sense. This statement is from a personal letter to Dr. Henry C. McDowell, president of Lincoln Academy, well known Negro educational institution of Gaston County, from P. B. Young, editor of the Journal and Guide, leading Negro newspaper of Norfolk, Va.

## THE QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1—An Uplown Theater-Auditorium  
No. 2—A Separate Court District  
No. 3—An Uplown Rest Room  
No. 4—Street-Widening

## Shake-Up

—By Herblock



## Letters to the Editor: Smoke And Noise Ordinances

Editor Young's newspaper had, as did many other publications, both white and colored, accepted the semi-annual report of Tuskegee Institute listing the murder of Robert Miller in this county in April as a lynching.

When the evidence was submitted to the Council, he said the matter in an entirely different light and has acknowledged the error.

We wonder if President Patterson and his research department at Tuskegee will be as fair and impartial as Editor Young.

Or will Tuskegee risk its reputation for accuracy and fairness by refusing to take the Gaston County crime from its lynching list and so mollify the press of America?

The institute's original listing was made without any investigation whatever having been made of this crime.

## Those Proper British Censors

The New Yorker

We've heard from the headmaster of an Eastern school about a chat he had with one of his students, an English lad over here for the duration. "After letters from your family coming in, all right?" the headmaster asked.

"Oh, yes, sir, quite regularly." "And are they ever censored?" "Yes, they are," the boy said. "Mother wrote in her last letter, 'I don't believe Mr. Hitler will attack England this winter,' and the censor scribbled out the 'Mr.'"

## British Are Inevitable

Business Week

State Department friend reports his conviction that the British are inevitable. He said: "We had refused to pay customs duties to Newfoundland on the au-

## Side Glances



"If I'm cut and rufed in any of those letters, suppose you imagine it's a nice cool day and make

## Wooing Vichy

By Raymond Clapper

THE State Department has been under a great deal of pressure from the green-eyed persons both in and out of the Government over what they describe as the appeasement policy toward Japan and Vichy.

This policy, it is said, has justified the time which is the big thing we need, by making the progress of the Axis more difficult. President Roosevelt has said publicly that the easy policy toward Japan had delayed Tokyo's advance for two years. Because of Vichy's refusal in giving Japan the right to use French Indo-China, there has been new complaint against the State Department's attitude toward the remnants of France, particularly for allowing supplies to go to French North Africa.

## PLAYING A POKEE GAME FOR DAKAR

Yet information reaching here throws a significant light on the trouble that this policy is making for Germany. Right now Germany's face is exceedingly red because of the unexpected resistance in Russia. The prestige of the German military machine is rapidly coming under suspicion. Germany would like to arrange a bloodless stroke elsewhere that would offset the embarrassment being suffered in the slow-down at the hands of the Russians. The German-controlled Paris press accordingly is clamoring for Vichy to give the Germans a green light to Dakar.

Germany is in no position now to engage in a campaign of force in that direction. What she wants is an "invitation" from the French to move into French North Africa. She wants France to do for her now what was done for Japan the other day. The same suit is offered—that France should allow Germany to protect North Africa from attack by the United States and the British.

## GERMANS IRITATED BY FRENCH RESISTANCE

The French are balking. Relations between the Germans and Vichy are badly strained now over French opposition to giving the Germans the right of way in Africa. The Germans say that under the policy of collaboration they are entitled to utilize all French territory anywhere in the French Empire. French resistance to this interpretation has irritated the Germans.

This French resistance grows out of the attitude of French North Africa itself and to the present, the French are in control there. Aid which we are sending to North Africa has won the gratitude of the responsible French authorities there, especially since the Germans, in spite of many promises, have actually sent nothing in. This resumption of close relations between the United States and North Africa has created a difficult propaganda problem for the Germans operating in the area. They are having trouble particularly with the natives.

The German concern over the situation is indicated not only in the pressure being put on Vichy now but in the circulation of stories throughout North Africa that the United States and Britain are getting ready to attack and that France and Germany must stand together. Actually the purpose is to lead the natives to believe that the German Government has thrown into these strategic points without firing a shot.

## POLICY MAY BE FLAKY BUT IT WORKS FOR HITLER

In every move that we have made to assist French North Africa we have "counted" with the British and have had their support. The British officials are convinced that the move is a complaint in some quarters in England, as here, against this kind of policy. Yet this policy aims to limit the spread of the war. It aims to encourage resistance to aggression. This policy does not alter work in the field. But even it has no more effect than to delay action, and to make it more difficult for the Axis to take action, then it serves some purpose.

Although this policy is described by some as weak and flabby when we use it, the same factor, when it is spread abroad when Hitler uses the word, has time and again to avoid trouble in a quarter where he wanted no trouble for the time being.

## Visitin' Around

With The Star (Chickadee town)

Morgan (New-Herald)

Shifton Hall's dog was bitten by a snake one day last week, but is getting better.

The Wind-Up (Wall City Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Again we are thankful it is possible for us to greet the readers with a few sparks from the pen, which is now ready to give good advice and warning