THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1942

Jubilant U. Ga.

The Football Team Is Made Safe From the Draft

Let Corregidor look out for itself, or be captured. Let Singapore be overrun by the little brownies, the Dutch East Indies seized, Borneo taken in stride. Let the United States fall an easy, outmatched victim to the Jap. What the hell, anyhow? The University of Georgia is going to have its football team almost intact on the field next Fall.

Three cheers for Georgia and its All-America (collegiate, not military style) Sinkwich!

This thrilling postponement of service was made possible by a decision of the Georgia Selective Service Board. If the University would speed up its work to graduate this year's seniors by May instead of June, and by holding Summer sessions to graduate next year's seniors by Jan. 1, 1943, the draft officials would look favorably upon deferments.

There would be an excuse for this stay in the case of technicians, medical students and others whose specialized knowledge stood to be more useful than their ability to bear arms. But for academic students, especially for football players, who beside being notoriously poor students are mature men, older in years and physical development, there can be no excuse.

It is such young college men, especially, as are needed now to learn to fly the thousands of planes with which we are going to re-take the Pacific. They are to this war what the VMI cadets at Newmarket were to the Civil War, and a good many of them have been stepping up to offer themselves for that role.

But at Georgia the prospects are for a return of the football squad, draft eligibles and all, intact for another season. A couple of men were lost by graduation and a backfield coach went to the Army, but the rest are campus-bound, to the unconcealed delight of the Athletic Department.

Much as it may delight them, it would be interesting to know how they expect to win this war on the playing fields of Athens.

New Hope

American PT-Boat Attack In Subic Bay Breaks Despair

By far the most encouraging news that has come out of the Philippines since General MacArthur's forces were bottled up on Luzon is the report of an American torpedo boat's attack on Japanese shipping in Subic bay. The fast PT (pursuit torpedo) boat nailed a 5,000-ton Japanese ship with one of her "tin fish." But far more significant is the fact that an American surface craft was able to stage even a hit-and-run attack against the Japs within sight of MacArthur's valiant men.

Imagine, if you can, the jubilation that must have swept these American defenders of the Philippines when, after weeks of isolation, they saw an American boat in action against the enemy. They must have returned to their guns with new hope that there may still be a chance of relief.

Whether these hopes will be realized depends upon whether Americans at home make it possible to send whole fleets of PT boats, squadrons of warplanes, thousands of trained men to the rescue of MacArthur.

The action in Subic Bay is a small ray of hope—but a very bright one. To say that it foretells an early recovery of the Philippines would be over-optimistic. But it does remind us that we still have a chance there. Americans have never asked more than a chance—and if that's denied us we'll make our own.

Both Barrels

Scrap Metal Collection Serves Double Purpose

The organized collection of scrap metal to be undertaken a week from today is a grand idea and worthy of everyone's support. At this moment steel furnaces in dozens of localities are cold simply because scrap metal is not available. The nation's war effort is suffering, guns and tanks are not being produced because of this shortage.

Because scrap is desperately needed, Charlotte citizens should not be content merely to make their donations next Wednesday; they should set an example of thorough co-operation which should inspire the rest of the country to do likewise.

Under present plans, the metal collected will be sold to scrap dealers and the proceeds used for Civilian Defense in the city.

Thus may the whole body of Charlotte citizens join in providing metal for the guns, tanks, and planes that will carry the war to the enemy and at the same time in contributing to the expense of organizing and equipping our own home front. Your donation is a stone aimed at two birds

Navy Censors

Their Principles Are Sound —If They Stick to Them

Following the hot and heavy enemy submarine activity off the North Carolina coast has come a wave of rumors and reports. Since some of the action took place within sight of the outer banks, it was inevitable that unofficial news would spread by word-of-mouth. Some of the grapevine stuff is obviously phony; a small portion of it may be accurate. But in the eyes of any honest newspaper editor, none of it is reliable enough to merit publication.

However, the incident does provide an opportunity for us to give readers a frank explanation of what they may expect under similar circumstances in the future and a glimpse at how the Navy's censorship machinery functions.

The Navy has concentrated all authority to release stories concerning ship sinkings in its Washington Public Relations Office. This office has re-affirmed its intention of releasing such information as will not aid the enemy just as soon as it is confirmed.

If, for instance, a ship is torpedoed off Hatteras within sight of observers on shore and survivors are brought to a coast city, no newspaper will print a report of the sinking until the Navy Public Relations Office releases it—even if the release comes a month later. The Navy was prompt in releasing stories of the *Allan Jackson* and *Malay* attacks; later there may be more delay.

But it is not the inconvenience but the *why* in censorship that is all-important. If the Navy sticks to its formula of releasing news not helpful to the enemy, all will be well. But if it were to withhold information because of consideration of the effect it might have on our own people, censorship would cease and negative propaganda begin. From negative to positive or untruthful propaganda is a short step.

So, while newspapers will co-operate with the Navy's censorship policies, they must remain on the alert, ready to spot any departure from the code. The Navy remains the sole judge of when information has lost its usefulness to the enemy. In the future there may come great temptation to abuse this privilege; to delay or conceal bad news—out of fear of its effect at home. But history fails to provide an example of a nation that won a war by refusing to face facts.

Volunteering

It Yields to More Orderly Procedure of Selection

Although no official explanation was given for the sudden halting of Army volunteering in Charlotte yesterday, there are obvious and good reasons why it was done. The pity of it is that that voluntary enlistments weren't eliminated months ago.

When the Selective Service Act became law, an orderly, comprehensive system of inducting men into the Army was set up. It was assumed that every able-bodied man wanted to serve his nation; the draft was merely a means of preventing those who might better serve in civilian life from entering the Army.

As General Hershey, director of Selective Service frequently pointed out, indiscriminate volunteering was beginning to be a drag on the war economy. When a skilled machinist entered the Army, a replacement for him in the factory had to be trained. When a farm worker volunteered, the shortage of agricultural labor became even more severe and crops rotted in the fields.

One of the great advantages of the draft is that it examines everyone who may be capable of bearing arms and assigns him to the task for which he may be best suited. In many instances it is found that a man who is spoiling to take a shot at the Japs is more valuable behind the plow.

It will be something of a disappointment to those who had hoped to join up just ahead of their draft numbers. But no matter. There is no disgrace in being drafted. It is the democratic way of waging total war.

Nelson's Authority

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON.

THERE is grumbling because Donald Nelson has no act of Congress upon which to stand and do the biggest job of the war—generalissimo of production on the home front. The related facts of the appointment are these:

Mr. Roosevelt promised to let Mr. Nelson write his own White House law. The President kept that promise. The executive order was written by Mr. Nelson and his OPM attorney, Milton Katz, formerly with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department. Friends told Nelson that he had better make it good, or some day he might wish he had. Mr. Roosevelt signed it without changing a word.

THIS BACKING IS AS GOOD AS LAW

No one knows a law, around this town originally if Mr. Roosevelt is for him. This order gives Nelson the President's firm backing to direct the OPM, Army and Navy procurement and even Jesse Jones (first time the Commerce Secretary ever let anyone get authority to tell him what to do).

The difference between this and the old order is clearly presented on the point of the Supply Priorities Board. Formerly the board made decisions and Nelson was ran the executive officer designated to carry out the decisions. Now Nelson will act with "the advice and assistance" but not the consent of the board. He has a free directing hand.

Mr. Roosevelt, of course, still holds loose reins. Nelson is to be his agent. The President may exercise "added duties" for Nelson. Yet the very nature of the order (plus Nelson's independent personality) makes it clear FDR is handing the whole matter over to Nelson with only a few inconsequential legal strings attached.

This, then, is a genuine reorganization, the first one so far. It is a reorganization to end all reorganizations on our most important battle line in the factories. Mr. Roosevelt jumped to it only 24 hours ahead of the bayonet in the Truman Committee report, exposing gross deficiencies of the old setup.

If another reorganization ever becomes necessary, the continuing Truman Committee will no doubt take hold of it for Congress.

But there is no reason for expecting that. Nelson has a terrific will to win. He is not a fuddy-duddy kow-tower to the great invisible god of drag behind all swivel chairs in Washington—the influence of connections in the New Deal family, the august aloofness of Army and Navy which no civilian has ever penetrated, "who" went to college with "whom," etc.

KNUDSEN NEEDED A LOT OF STARS

How far the President went in this respect is disclosed in his designation of William Knudsen as a lieutenant general. FDR had to reach for a lot of stars for that lofty title, but it was necessary so Knudsen could outrank some of the generals of the War Department and be able to overrule them.

Mr. Roosevelt could only have been thinking of Army ordnance (procurement and munitions board) upon whom criticism has long been centered. Knudsen is supposed to be sent into the field, right into the production plants, where his genius for mass production can best be used. Yet it is possible he or Nelson will direct some long needed administrative changes—such as requiring one officer of ordnance to be responsible for each project, rather than allowing the whole bureau to be responsible for everything.

Centralization of authority, now at long last accepted at the top, may yet be made the dominant theme of our war effort all the way down the line.

NELSON WILL BE BLAMED FOR VICTORY OR DEFEAT

Nelson himself certainly knows he is to take the rap, the whole rap and nothing but the rap for victory or defeat. When friends congratulated him, he said he really deserved their commiserations.

His first job is to cut through what Sorokin might call the "wantitative colonialism" of the old regime and get himself an efficient setup. He probably will put his own procurement experts into the War and Navy alongside present officers to show them how to move fast.

OPM will no doubt decline and evolve into a Nelson staff, and a comfortable bench for all the industrialists and labor leaders not otherwise occupied. Priorities will probably go into the Army-Navy munitions board. A Nelson board may be appointed to advise him on plant conversion. Someone has suggested Sidney Hillman should be made an admiral (screams of anguish from the Navy Department).

Initial tough nut for Nelson will be the situation in the motors industry. Most Government authorities are ready to shoot motor industrialists at sunrise for suggesting private car production be carried beyond January. They say auto tool shops are still working only half time—half time on a front far more vital to victory than the Philippines, Singapore and Libya combined.

And Probably Won't Be

Billy Arthur in Onslow County News & Views

Many of the young blades around town were ambitiously looking for "blackout dates" Monday night, wanting some sweet young thing to spend the blackout with them.

How successful it was for them we don't know, because there was no official report made.

"Unbuttoning" The Horse

By Amy C. Bassett
(Our Yankee Correspondent)

SOUTH SOUND BROOK, N. J.

ONE OF THE vivid memories of my life is that of a tall figure standing by my bed in what was a very early dawn, and a voice whispering — "Mother,—I'm awfully sorry to wake you, but can you tell me how to unhutton a horse?"

It was my eldest son aged about eighteen, coming home sober, however crazy he sounded, but utterly bewildered by the buckles, and the collar and the whole horse-and-buggy rig in which he had taken his girl to a "Gay Nineties" party.

HE KNEW HIS AUTOS BUT HORSES BUFFALOED HIM

This was, moreover, the same child who, a short time before, had accumulated two extremely dead remains of what once had been a couple of elegant Rolls Royces. He had dissected them in the barnyard, working on them and over them in every spare moment from school, and had finally achieved something that looked so much like a car that he had been able to drive it to Washington and trade it in for a magnificent wreck which had once belonged to the Egyptian Embassy. He called it a "Sunbeam," and his fond hope seemed to be that I would drive this Cleopatra-appointed chariot to town whenever I had some family marketing to do. And yet he could not unhitch a horse! This fact was born in upon me heavily as I reached the barnyard. Here was a boy who knew quite a bit about engines and cars but nothing whatever about man's primitive mode of getting about—in other words, his education had been sadly neglected, and I, who loved horses, had done the neglecting. In this race it was the horse who was sufficiently since from the start of the "unbuttoning" process he had objected to the unscientific handling, and by the time I got there, the collar was up around his ears, the shafts were sticking into his hind quarters, and his legs were considerably tangled up in the traces. If horses are to return to our lives, as the future appears to promise, there may be many a horse who will have cause for the same sort of resentment.

THE BUGGY MAY RETURN TO SUBURBAN LIFE

Horses are once again front page news—not race horses, just horses, the kind you ride and drive, and buggies too are coming back and going up and up in price since there are few makers nowadays of buckboards, and surreys and all the harness that went with them. With this threat of no more tires, we may all be getting ourselves, perhaps, a little old family mule, and I am wondering just how the poor animals—horses or mules, are going to stand the process of human re-education. First aid for horses may have to be taken up in our suburban lives.

Somehow, to those of us who were brought up in the pre-mechanical age, all this sounds far less a hardship than a sudden rift in the dullness of our modern sky. It could be a wonderful comeback. Who cares, anyway, about cars who have never fallen and ridden, fed and watered and looked after his own beloved pony, known the warm, peaceful, subdued quiet of a barn at night, as you went out for one last look before going to bed; watched the shadows from the lantern as they fell on old beams, and listened to the stirring of sleepy, well-fed horses nibbling on their last scraps of the evening hay? Who has ever forgotten the thrill and excitement of driving a farm wagon when one was small, with the heavy reins in your two

hands and the feel of the steady pull as the big team went along the mountain road? The horses themselves did the driving but you sat there in control of a mighty big world. It was something vital and alive there ahead of you, something that could be dangerous but wasn't, because you and the horses were friends, you had grown up beside them. I knew horses far better than I knew my fellow humans, and when the day came for learning to drive something else, and I got bundled into the streets of New York in a Chinese laundry wagon, I promptly let out and moved the horse and let the car take care of itself.

MANY OLD WAYS OF LIFE MAY COME BACK

It may not be only horses that will come back to us before this war is over, but a whole lot of the ways of living that we put away, as children discard toys. I am thinking of the oil lamps we knew, and how to tend them, of the ice houses that got filled in Winter, packed deep in the sawdust; of the wood stoves that cooked our meals, and the great stacks of birch and maple in the woodshed against the northern Winter. I am remembering those February days in the deep woods as the men felled, and cut and sawed, and the way the horses slid down the trail with the huge logs in their wake. War may have it's homely compensations after all, for a world grown fagged with it's deadly, acquired ease and suffocating comfort.

It is not that we—or our modern children—cannot relearn the simple, more promotive life. The American, and those who have come here, are adaptable or they would not have come. There is plenty of resilience and curiosity in the country. It is merely that we have let ourselves slide into all this high-powered procession and have gone along with it under the pressure of least resistance. It may be hard for some of us to go back, and if we give up the car and use a horse only, it will be very hard for a part of this Navy family—that is, the Navy end of it! Submarines would be a far more familiar method of transportation than any four-footed boat, and the only time I was ever my privilege to see this particular Navy on a horse, the horse did all the navigating. But at that, we will not be entirely helpless, for besides, for the good old saddle bags are ready, and it will be Mummer who will go to town to bring back the water-ground corn meal for the family porridge.

And speaking from out a long and familiar acquaintance with the lady, I can also add—she's going to love it!

Letters To The Editors:

WCTU Versus ABC Stores

Editors, THE NEWS:

Publicity has been given to the fact that the official board of the North Carolina Woman's Christian Temperance Union at its mid-year meeting in Rockingham, petitioned Governor Broughton to close the ABC liquor stores, but the full text of the resolution embodying the petition has not appeared in either Charlotte paper, therefore, I am submitting herewith a copy of the resolution which I respectfully ask you to publish along with this communication in your open forum.

—MRS. T. H. PLEMMONS,
Director of Publicity, WCTU,
Charlotte.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, our beloved nation is fighting for her life in the most horrible of all conflicts, and

Whereas, the youth of our land is going to defend with their lives our sacred honor, our homes and institutions, and

Whereas, it is a privilege for the people of our state and country to deprive themselves of many of the necessities of life in order to attain victory, and

Whereas, intoxicating liquor, an unessential luxury and a dangerous commodity is wasting millions of tons of basic food now needed for military and civilian consumption; a breeder of increased crime at an alarming rate; a wrecker of thousands of American homes at a cost to the people of North Carolina of more than $15,000,000 every year in profits to out-of-state brewers and distillers; this intoxicating liquor we find is the deadly enemy of our state and nation of the home front. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Official Board of the North Carolina Woman's Christian Temperance Union assembled in session by unanimous vote, that Governor J. Melville Broughton be hereby petitioned to immediately direct the State Board of Alcoholic Control under authority granted in section 4 (j) of the Alcohol Beverage Control Act, TO PLACE PATRIOTISM AND LOVE OF COUNTRY IN TIME OF WAR ABOVE POLITICS AND LIQUOR PROFITS and to order the immediate closing of all Controlled Liquor stores for the duration of the war.

We call attention to Section 4 (j) of the State ABC Act which authorizes the State Board to close any County liquor store "whenever in the opinion of the said State Board, the operation of any County store shall be found to be the morals or welfare of the community in which it is operated, OR FOR SUCH OTHER CAUSE, OR CAUSES, as may appear to said State Board sufficient to warrant the closing of any county store.

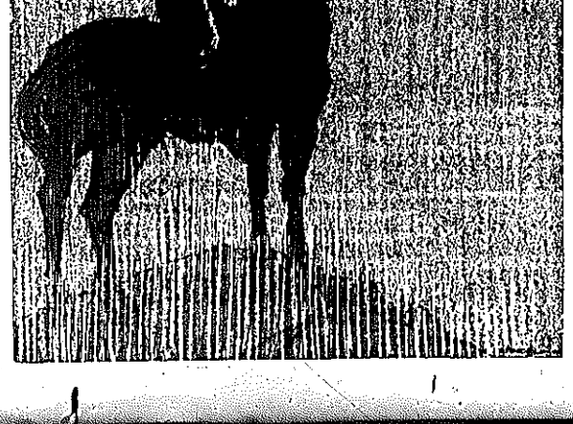
Respectfully submitted,
—HELEN ROBERTSON WOHL,
Director of Legislation.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Do not trust nor love material things chiefly. We need spiritual food too: *It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.—Matt. 4:4.*

Ready To Join the Others?

—By Herblock



Cause For A Shake-Up

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON.

BUNGLING and delays in production, described in the report of the Truman Senate Committee, are glaring enough to justify Donald Nelson in the severest kind of shake-up action.

While it is customary here to single out the Army and Navy procurement agencies as slow and time-wasting, the Truman committee shows that OPM isn't too fast on its feet either. This Truman report is an encyclopedia of what is wrong around Washington. You can dip into it at almost any page and be shocked.

Just in the matter of slow starting the record is appalling.

ALUMINUM PRODUCTION IS SLOW MOTION

Watch this slow motion action in aluminum. Last April the Truman committee asked OPM how much aluminum would be needed. In May OPM replied that we would be short 600,000,000 pounds a year. June 26 the Truman committee let out a blasting report on the aluminum shortage. The next day OPM announced it had submitted plans to the Undersecretary of War for eight aluminum plants with a capacity of 600,000,000 pounds. But when the Truman committee took a look, the "plans" consisted of a list of eight localities in which the necessary electric power could be found. The companies to produce the aluminum were not designated, the plant locations were not designated, and there was not a suggestion as to the terms on which contracts should be let. July 15 OPM designated the companies to produce the aluminum. The first contract was signed Aug. 19—April to August. And that was in 1941.

U. S. TURNED DOWN FOREIGN COPPER BARGAIN

In the Summer of 1940, after France fell, the foreign market for copper fell off and it was a drug on the market. In November, 1940, a large producer of foreign copper attempted to sell a large quantity to us at a price between 9 and 10 cents a pound, as compared with the present price of 12 cents. American copper interests opposed the importation and the defense agency turned it down. OPM did not move to increase copper production until July 9, 1941, when producers were asked about it. Not until Oct. 1 was Government aid given to increase production. That was a project which had been submitted to OPM in July, and approved by it Sept. 22. The increase is expected to be available in January—of next year.

The Truman committee, after wading through pages of that sort of thing, reports that actual production of lead, copper and zinc has been most disappointing.

Incidentally some months ago Donald Nelson, as executive officer of SPAB, decided to expedite copper production. But OPM Director Knudsen claimed jurisdiction and Nelson was shoved out of the picture. Some of his friends urged him then to carry the fight to the public but he declined to do so, feeling that it would only produce dissension. Now he has complete power over such matters and is not compelled to get out of anybody's way.

SECOND-RATE FIGHTER PLANE STILL FAVORED

Our boasted efficiency and enterprise seem to catch the sleeping sickness at Washington.

Aviation is our special dish. Our commercial aviation is without equal anywhere. Yet the Truman committee exposes the fact that we are still clinging to that particular fighter plane that the British couldn't use over France because it had neither the ceiling, the speed nor the firepower. The British gave them to Russia and used them in the Middle East where the enemy had only second-rate equipment. But most of our fighter production in 1942 will be that type of plane. We put in bullet-proof gas tanks for the British shipments but used the old-style tanks for our own planes. At the start of the war in 1939 the British were using armored planes. Many of ours still have no armor, the Truman committee says.

Such are the dismal samples of our production story that fill this long report. Mr. Nelson will need support and our patience while he is clearing this jungle.

Visitin' Around

Climax
(Drexel Item,
Morganton News-Herald)

Miss Victress Holler, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Holler of Drexel, and Obie Franklin of Morganton, Route 1, were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Shuping of Salem to Gaffney, S. C., Saturday, Dec. 20th, where they were quietly married.

War Knows No Tenors
(R. F. D. Item,
Lexington Dispatch)

It looks as if a number of good quartettes will soon crack up; no tires. It seems that our great singings will stop no tires.