

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1942

Belle-Ringer

Notes on a Real Aid To Soldier Morale

If there is anywhere in the country a more unique and appealing organization than Charlotte's Victory Belles, we haven't heard of it. With young enthusiasm, yet ladylike, more than a thousand girls have pitched in to give the soldier-stranger the benefit of feminine society and companionship. They have been hostesses at all kinds of parties from dances to hay rides. They have shown a delightful readiness for anything that turned up, even to nailing paratroopers as they hit the dirt. They've sold bonds, sponsored benefits, even now are rehearsing for a pretentious musical revue. The Belles, in short, ring out.

Anyone who knows the difficulties of organization is bound to realize that behind all this activity and energy and tight-fistedness somebody has had to be hard and steadily at work. There has been more than one person, in all probability, but there has been no one who deserves more of the credit than Mrs. B. C. Allen. It was she who formed the Victory Belles and has brought them along to the point where the organization is functioning smoothly. If with a good deal of chatter, Mrs. Allen has found it necessary to resign, but before she steps down she is due an acknowledgement from the community for the truly impressive job she has turned in. The Belles are wonderful in their own right, but this woman has been the cart-horse who pulled the tune.

The Price Front

This Battle Will Have To Be Won at Home

Charlotte's price control campaign, which has been shaping up for several days past and now is in full swing, has a double objective. It is intended to bring about voluntary compliance with OPA's orders to retail merchants, and compliance, of course, must be preceded by understanding. It is likewise calculated to elicit the buying public's support, in principle and in practice, of price controls, and by that additional measure to make the controls hold.

It's all a good bit of bother, to be sure, a further drain upon time and energy. But a great deal is at stake, for this is a direct attack upon uncontrolled prices and therefore in defense of family pocketbooks. OPA has the authority with which to back up its regulations, but to do so with complete effectiveness, to enforce every transaction, would require a police force of well over 100,000 plainclothesmen as a starter. And even with a full-sized army of these spotters, enforcement would be impossible, since price control to lack the approval and the support of buyers and sellers. The noble experiment of Prohibition plainly showed that you can't earn a dollarful law down the throats of the American people, even at pistol point.

The genius of the price control campaign here, a test-case experiment which is being made in only two cities, is to begin with, is that it reverses and deliberately attempts to capitalize upon the same mentality that made Prohibition a failure. From Henderson figures, wisely, that once the merchants and the public are on the side, the battle against price violation is won. In that enterprise Charlotte can help.

Curiosity

What Made the Revenue Dept Go to Pot?

Mr. Hathaway Cross is an assistant to State Revenue Commissioner Edwin Clifton. He has taken over the department which for years past has been disorganized by corruption and politics. Mr. Cross' immediate assignment is personnel, and quite properly so. He is making a close study of all the department's employees to ascertain if any of them is best fitted for the work he is best qualified for other work in the department.

ment, or perhaps if he is totally unfit to hold down a job of any kind.

It would be interesting to know, and as a matter of fact Mr. Cross will find out, how much of the demerit is his own, such as the several wholesale convictions for embezzlement, forces to employees installed during the administration of Governor Ehringhaus, when Mr. Mare Noble was made effective head of the Revenue Department for two reasons: 1. To punish Commissioner Maxwell for having run for the gubernatorial nomination, and 2, as a bailout effort.

Not, mind you, that Governor Ehringhaus or Mr. Noble were of the kind to countenance embezzlement or even slothfulness. Not a bit of it. Just that it would be interesting to know, as we said in the beginning, how much of the demerit is his own, and how much to appointments made in the Ehringhaus-Noble period.

The Offensive

Dieppe is a Long-Awaited Manifestation of a Spirit

To get a rough idea of the terror of such a raid as was staged in and around Dieppe yesterday, try reversing it. Have a considerable force of Nazis appear out of the darkness at Brighton, say, and to the accompaniment of big naval guns and the roar of a thousand warplanes in the skies boldly set about taking the place. Have them extend their range throughout the day, always with the possibility that they had come to stay and that other forces were piling in behind them. Or, if you prefer, have them remain only until the whistle blows, so to speak, then to retire and return home.

Were the Nazis to have done anything of that kind, it would call forth expressions of consternation and grudging admiration from American spectators of the war. Those damned Nazis, we would say. There's nothing they won't try and few things they can't do. The legend of Nazi hardness has had a good deal to grow on, but never, never in the days when Goering's Luftwaffe had full mastery over the Channel and the French coast was a solid uniform grey for miles inland, has it inspired so daring a venture as was made so merely yesterday by an amalgamation of Commandos. We may be sure that it brought a raging indignation to high Nazi circles, and perhaps a premonition of disaster soon rather than late. And a great uncertainty.

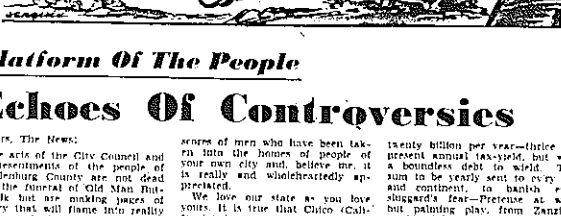
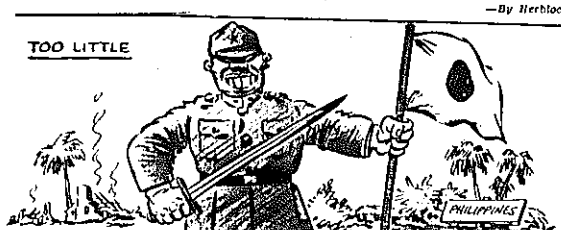
For having happened, it can happen again, and having been staged by troops variously estimated from 10,000 to 40,000, it could be staged by troops numbering 100,000, 500,000, a million. Having breached coast defenses at and around Dieppe, it could breach them again, or strike elsewhere, anywhere.

The which is father to the American thought of control, that it was a direct rehearsal of the real thing. But on its own account the raid upon Dieppe yesterday was of the first magnitude, not only for the destruction which the RAF inflicted, over and above its own losses, but for the Luftwaffe, and only for its psychological effect, but for the attack itself. We sought out the enemy and attacked him on our own terms.

The Allies' plight, at this writing, recalls the instance of the Muppet ball-player who was asked the score and replied, "2 to 0. But we haven't been to bat."

A new shortage of chemicals for bleaching hair is reported. As far as many of our blonds are concerned, that brings matters to a head.

Chapter 3



Platform Of The People Echoes Of Controversies

Editors, The News: The acts of the City Council and the sentiments of the people of Mecklenburg County are not dead with the funeral of Old Man Terrell, but are making spaces of history that will flame into reality when people begin to realize that the funeral procession has just started and the grave of the final market is already in sight.

In the decision of the City Council of Charlotte to permit the sale of a manufactured product that can be manufactured, out of most terms, and in fact, in the spreading farms of Mecklenburg County to sell fresh country butter to sell fresh country butter to sell fresh country butter.

Let me say that I am not writing this as a plea, but as an attempt to give you a somewhat better picture of the type and nature of the "Boys from California" your editorial of Aug. 8 on Mrs. Cooper's talk which was written in the Globe (California) Enterprise on July 22 and was highly justified.

I believe, for my part and that of the men, that Mrs. Cooper came a bit over-enthusiastic, and her remarks on a few isolated points were misinterpreted and generally by the local business men. Besides these local business men, I hope that the more statements of an industry not at all familiar with the South will not cause the people to form adverse opinions of the Californians.

Today's Bible thought: Christ's kingdom on earth will be built of the citizens of tomorrow. That means your children. And these words that I command thee shall be: Thou shalt love him, and thou shalt teach them to do the things which thy children.—Deuteronomy 6: 7.

Shortages Nelson's Problems

By Raymond Clapper

SHORTAGES of raw material for war production are appearing so rapidly now that Donald Nelson is placed against the hardest task of his career as chairman of the War Production Board.

He has returned from a much needed rest. How effectively he deals with this emergency during the next few weeks probably will determine whether there is to be a reorganization. Production facilities have to run raw materials as quickly that, although plant shutdowns are not advised yet, they may soon become so.

Mr. Nelson has been through most of the defense program, knows his way around Washington, knows the production situation and has an intimate knowledge of the War Production Board. His earlier training does not have much bearing on the situation. He is a business man, and it is his business to get things done. He has a good deal of experience in the handling of raw materials. He is the most obvious one. In fact, a campaign already is well along to shift a good deal of control to General Somervell, chief of the Army Service of Supply.

One criticism is that Mr. Nelson is not a production man but got his training as a buyer for Sears, Roebuck. I don't see much in that point. Mr. Nelson has been here throughout most of the defense program, knows his way around Washington, knows the production situation and has an intimate knowledge of the War Production Board. His earlier training does not have much bearing on the situation. He is a business man, and it is his business to get things done.

First it inventories WPD should know where all raw materials are. It must know what plants are stocked up with materials beyond their immediate requirements. That requires close inventory check. It is a difficult thing to do even with a large force of men. But it is necessary to do it and WPD hasn't moved as fast as the need required.

Second is the allocation of materials, to see that no more flows to a given plant than it can use. It is not to be generally recognized around here that the Government tried to do that through rationing. Back in the days when everyone was signing priority forms, back in the days when it was made to change in the method of allocating materials, it was a difficult thing to do. But WPA has not pushed that changeover fast enough.

There are so many complex matters and many extraneous circumstances go into them. But it seems to be generally recognized around here that a harder drive from the top at WPD would break up some of the inertia and that such harder drive is essential if the magnificent war production plant now in existence is not to stand partially idle for lack of raw materials.

WASHINGTON: THE Russian situation does not look too bright. It is generally expected that the winter offensive will be launched in the south, pushing roughly along the top of the Caucasus Mountains, across the vital oil pipelines. This would mean that the Reds would keep the richest and best of their oil producing area, south of the Caucasus, out of Nazi hands for another winter.

Hitler has just now started some unexpected offensive toward Vienna to break this Don line in the center. He may have lost the center, but he has enough strength to make any appreciable dent in the other. The intent of the whole thing was to break the Don line. If Hitler fails, he will be in a bad way. He will not be able to hold the Caucasus and the Volga-Don line.

It comes early of the battle during the next few weeks. They are not too far off. The winter, along with the summer campaign has not really developed much beyond what you have seen. The winter campaign has not really developed much beyond what you have seen. The winter campaign has not really developed much beyond what you have seen.

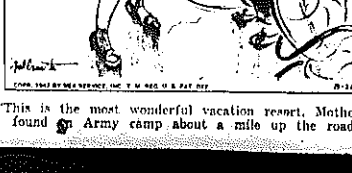
seems of men who have been taken into the homes of people of your own city and, believe me, it is really and wholesomely appreciated. We love our state as you love yours. It is true that Calico (California) is not a metropolitan but it is a very pretty little city of ten thousand. It is also true that it gets extremely hot there at times; as a matter of fact, 114 degrees but a short time ago. As strange as it may seem, that temperature does not affect us as much as a temperature of 95 degrees might here. This is due, of course, to the low humidity in California as compared with the more humid climate in the South.

I believe that in lines such as these, quibbling and petty differences are very unbecoming to people in a country that has so much to offer us as these United States of America. I want to say in conclusion and hope we may be given the opportunity to show our appreciation and love you learn what nice guys we really are. "THE BOYS FROM CALIFORNIA" (Name withheld) - Editors, The News.

Whither, Whither, Whence or Thither? Editors, The News: Whither is our nation headed with New Deal, to which its needs?

"To over spend and tax with zeal" is the creed of the New Deal. Per deficits, how the bonds, out of which it is just as found. Back-stage, looks to next election, drafting pie in every direction, those who have their heads in the clouds, New Deal time has begun, for a World-wide WPA, the time has to start on Victory Day, cooling

57 Varieties The New Yorker: An obviously expectant lady of our acquaintance was accosted on the street by a young woman who offered her, for a quarter, a bag of herbs which had a magic property. If placed under one's pillow, of causing one to dream about the Bed. The lady inquired, and as a result got a hot cure. She dreamed that she gave birth to a boy and a small Philco radio.



Eastern Front Russia Still Holds

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON: THE Russian situation does not look too bright. It is generally expected that the winter offensive will be launched in the south, pushing roughly along the top of the Caucasus Mountains, across the vital oil pipelines. This would mean that the Reds would keep the richest and best of their oil producing area, south of the Caucasus, out of Nazi hands for another winter.

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A FARMER LOOKS FORWARD TO MEATIN' DAYS (Thrifty Mountain Men, North Wilkesboro Newsweek) J. M. Costner, through several crops of grain in this community had to quit and drive in an account of high. Two bad crops can be threshed. The farmers are in a terrible state and they are coming to the place where they can't produce and have the crop sufficient for the country. But even will have to "hold by" and the will start and we old farmers can have a little rest and old chicken and not a bit while the preachers tell us what is the matter.

AND A GOOD EXCUSE FOR THE LAZY (North Wilkesboro Hustler) Referring to the rather extreme warm weather in Wilkes, R. R. Church, member County Board of Education, said the thermometer, over 100 in the shade, he was told, one for hard workers to slow down their activities as a general rule.