THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Noble Work In The Shrine Bowl

THE happy way in which Americans do good works is exemplified in notable fashion today in the Shrine Bowl game, which has its eleventh annual performance in Charlotte. Benefit games now are an old institution in this country but the Carolina All-Star classic sponsored by the Shriners is unique among American high school sports spectacles which serve a noble cause. The benefits from it are so widespread that figures on attendance and funds raised for charitable purposes tell only a part of the story.

In the eleven years since it had its inception in the mind of a famous Charlotte Shriner, Hendrix Palmer, the game has realized nearly $130,000 for the Greenville Hospital for Crippled Children. More than 6,000 bed patients and about 10,000 outpatients have been treated at Greenville since the unit there was opened in 1927.

The Carolina unit is one of sixteen Shriners' Orthopedic Hospitals for Crippled Children maintained by the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. More than 400,000 crippled children are now within the jurisdiction of the Shrine system and more than 100,000 have been rehabilitated at these hospitals. Children of all races, color and creeds are admitted on the basis of showing that they or their families have no means to pay for medical treatment. Measured in terms of individuals restored to useful lives, of burdens lifted from families and communities, and of general human happiness, the project represents Christianity and democracy at their best.

Countless thousands besides the crippled children have had something added to their lives by the Shrine Bowl, which is the stage for the only all-star high school bowl game in the country. From the Shriners' work of mercy the Carolinas have acquired a colorful sports show that links the two states closer in friendly rivalry. From it Charlotte has acquired a championship meeting which brings the city both regional and national distinction, provides entertainment for countless numbers and quickens the whole life of the community.

The venture began in 1937 with an idea by Charlotte's fire chief, W. H. Palmer. Mr. Palmer now is potentate of Oasis Temple, one of the four temples in the two Carolinas which sponsor the annual title contest. It has grown from a game which brought in $3,500 at the start to an attraction with a $50,000 gate in 1946. It was a sell-out for our 18,000-capacity Stadium last year and the 18,000 seats were sold two weeks before game time this year.

Charlotte and the Carolinas today honor the Shriners for their splendid work in behalf of the crippled children and a happier society. For Charlotte, this eleventh playing of the Shrine Bowl game has a particular meaning, for with it comes word that 10,000 more tickets could have been sold if there had been seats for them in the Stadium. The 1947 game thus brings another sharp reminder that we have outgrown our present sports facilities. It is a call to do our part in advancing the worthy cause that is being served on the playing field.

Henry Wallace Flies Blind

UNDER the auspices of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Henry Wallace recently invaded the South again. As is the case in all of Henry's occasional forays, he succeeded only in stirring up unnecessary friction and losing a few more of his conspicuous Southern friends. His determination to speak to unsegregated audiences in Georgia lately brought him the condemnation of such recognized Southern progressives as Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta *Constitution*, and former Gov. Ellis Arnall.

Once Henry returned to the safety of his editorial sanctum in the offices of *The New Republic*, he dipped his pen into his sample supply of vitriol, and painted another black picture of the state of the South. His current article is entitled, "The Dark South: Faint Stirrings of Progressivism".

Evidently the sort of stirrings Henry was seeking are faint indeed, for after an opening sentence to the effect that "a new spirit is stirring" he slips back into his familiar rut in paragraph three by slamming "the alliance of textile mills and big utility interests" which purportedly runs Georgia. Throughout the remainder of his treatise, he proceeds to blow his top about Jim Crow.

The unfortunate aspect of the Wallace article is the insistence that racial segregation is the root of the Southern problem, hence the refusal to concede that any progress is possible without destruction of racial barriers. Henry is only one of the myriad reformers captivated with the illusion that immediate abolition of segregation will make the South a land of milk and honey.

As long as Henry Wallace continues to blind himself to the realities of the Southern complex, and to discount as futile any rate of progress slower than that which he advocates, it is not likely that his experiences here will be any more enlightening than those of his recent jaunt. Apparently, however, he does not want to see that the South is marching forward in its own way. This self-imposed myopia serves only to impugn his motives; his relentless criticisms do not, in any sense, delay the sure progress being achieved by men more sincere and less noisy than he.

Hidden Dynamite For Charlotte

POLICE are uncertain whether there was dynamite in the explosion which wrecked the Rendezvous Sandwich Shop at 317 S. Church St. and killed Oliver P. Kerr, a former illicit liquor dealer. It is clear, however, that there is hidden dynamite for Charlotte in this case.

The investigation apparently has established that the blast which killed one, injured two and jarred fourteen other persons in the Rendezvous was no accident. Accident or not, the incident has brought to light evidence that Charlotte has a racket industry which is a challenge to the whole community.

When one line of illicit traffic is closed to the underworld operators, they look for other fields to exploit. The depression in bootlegging, resulting from the introduction of the ABC system here, has forced the crooks to turn elsewhere for illegitimate income. Revival of the numbers racket may be but one symptom of a new crime trend. During the period when the ex-bootleggers are fighting to entrench themselves in other lines of vice, the danger from violent crimes is at its height. Competition among lawbreakers breeds violence. Gang rivalries mean murder.

The experience after the First World War and during the prohibition period, when the crime wave in America reached unprecedented heights, has a meaning for this time. We are again in the midst of an unsettled period, a time of easy money and moral laxity. Public indifference and routine law enforcement in the 1920s permitted the underworld to develop to a point where it created a national crisis. The cost of crime, in lives and dollars, was a staggering bill for many communities, large, medium-sized and small.

In the blast on Church Street this week, police and other law enforcement authorities were served roaring notice that the conditions which produce major crime exist in Charlotte. While police are trying to solve this baffling case, it is time for all enforcement agencies to double-check their departments and to call for fresh reports on conditions which are likely to encourage lawbreaking. It is time for heads of the various agencies to confer with one another for co-ordination of law enforcement efforts. It is time for our Government representatives to show a greater interest in the work of the agencies, and for all citizens to exhibit greater support of their Government.

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

Eye In The Heavens

IN the arrival of the completed 200-inch mirror atop Mount Palomar in Southern California for installation in the world's greatest telescope, twentieth-century science has written one of its striking achievements. The pouring of the huge mirror began at the Corning Glass Works in New York in late 1934. A full year was required to cool it. It took five more years to grind down the 21-ton chunk of glass. Then began the exacting task of polishing it within two millionths of an inch of perfection. In mid-1941, with war imminent, work on the mirror was halted. Mount Palomar Observatory closed a few months later. One month after the war in the Pacific ended, the work was resumed. Now, after thirteen years, the great eye will soon peer out into unseen corridors of the universe, with scientists, midge-like, charting its inter-stellar findings.

So powerful will be the new telescope that it will bring the moon within the equivalent of 25 miles from the earth. But no such simple sightseeing interests the astrophysicists who will use it. They intend to look over the planet Mars. The detailed observation the 200-incher permits will enable them to chart (by what recondite means the layman can only wonder) the night-and-day temperatures on Mars which may reveal whether life is possible on the red planet. But the star-gazers talk of longer excursions into space. The new telescope will be from two to five times as powerful as the 100-incher at Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton. It will permit the watchers of the skies to see one thousand million light years into space.

Astronomy is called one of the 'purest' of the sciences in that the fruits of its research can not be applied in many instances to practical immediate use. The new telescope will tell the California Institute of Technology much about the probable age of the universe whose distant bodies are "exploding" in retreat, apparently, at a controversial rate which, if established, would approximately fix the age. It will also make possible the charting of millions of stars and nebulae hitherto invisible. It should add greatly to the physicists' store of knowledge about the life-processes of the universe whose birth and death, in a colossal show of atomic fireworks, it can see.

'Explain Free Competition To Me Again, Will You?'

People's Platform

Danger In Charlotte's Slums

CHARLOTTE

EDITOR, The News:

UNDER the proposed agreement between the City Council of the City of Charlotte, and the FHA slum clearance program, which was published in the daily papers, it was stated that the Charlotte City Council would order owners to repair the sub-standard houses that exists. Up until this time the city fathers have given this little consideration. It is apparent that the City Council has instructions from the landlords of the City of Charlotte to disregard this issue and continue on with the dilapidated homes in which our citizens have to live.

Our present City Council is jeopardizing the safety of the citizens of our City and their children by refusing to inaugurate the program under the Standard Housing Ordinance.

Our Government is spending thousands of dollars to eliminate the infiltrations of the Communist Party. The working people of our City, who are unable to buy or build a home for themselves, are having to survive on the meager wage scale which they receive and the prevailing prices of food and rent. The conditions that exist are deplorable in a City that is comprised mostly of working people. It is a shame that our city fathers have only two who voted to eliminate the sub-standard housing.

It is apparent that our Mayor and City Manager has found the conditions which have been reported to be a fact.

We wish to commend the action of Mayor Baxter and City Manager Yancey in regard to the statement that there will be eliminated in the City of Charlotte rest rooms, if they are not in the houses. This action is for the welfare and health of the citizens of Charlotte. We are much interested in elevating the conditions both morally and physically for the citizens of our town. We see no reason why our present City Council through its authorization can't eliminate the sub-standard houses and unsanitary conditions that exist within the City of Charlotte.

—H. C. EDDINS, Secretary,
Charlotte Central Labor Union.

A Gain For Queen City

EDITOR, The News:

BOTH Second Ward and West Charlotte High Schools have been concentrating on athletics for the past few years in order to expand their limited program. As a result of much study it was decided that a game between the two schools would be one solution to the problem which faces the two schools. That game, the Queen City Classic, was played on Nov. 6th and without doubt it was financially as well as morally the most successful game either school has ever played.

The contribution you made to the success of this game cannot be overemphasized by us. Although we are unable to state adequately the significance of the outcome of this contest, we feel deeply indebted to you and do hereby express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your help in boosting our athletic program.

—J. E. GRIGSBY, Principal,
Second Ward High School.

For Billy Graham

EDITOR, The News:

LET me express, both for myself and our whole group of ministers and laymen, our deep appreciation for the splendid publicity and help your editorial and business staff gave the recent Billy Graham Revival campaign. This played a very important part in making this campaign one of the most outstanding ever held in our city. We sincerely thank you for all you did.

—VERNON W. PATTERSON,
General Chairman.

Assignment For Cub Scouts

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

PERMIT me to express appreciation on behalf of the parents and boys of Cub Scout Pack 55, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, for the courtesy you extended a group of our youngsters by giving them a trip through your plant, as well as a write-up and pictures in the Dec. 1 issue of THE NEWS.

In an effort to stimulate the interest of parents in Cub scouting, we have asked all the Dads to take their group on one interesting and instructive expedition each month. This is but one of the many activities of Cub Scouts, age 9 to 12 years, which we believe will do much to help mold the character of these youngsters for future citizenship.

The boys always get a thrill from seeing their names or their pictures in the newspaper, and we wish you to know that you have done them a great service.

—W. J. L. McNEARY,
Chairman, Pack 55, Cub Scouts,
Boy Scouts of America.

Quote, Unquote

Hattiesburg, Miss., follows the lead of Memphis in barring the Freedom Train because it does not fit into racial segregation. Sometimes we are afraid the South has almost as many dumbbells to the square acre as other sections of the country.—**Greensboro Daily News.**

Chronically worthless people, have a great way of hanging on. Death seems not to want them.—**Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.**

According to Moscow reports, Russia knows about the atomic bomb. For that matter, we know about Einstein's theory of relativity, too.—**Arkansas Gazette.**

Harvard astronomer sees end of world within next few million years. Some time before the national debt is paid off, eh?—**Greensboro Daily News.**

No doubt the colleges can help, but matrimony poses problems that no amount of education, advice or observation can take care of. A married friend declares that it's just like being in the Army—you simply cannot find out what it is all about until you have been there yourself.—**Montgomery Advertiser.**

Marquis Childs

Riddle Of Our Time

SASABE, Ariz.

IN the memory of men who are by no means ancient this country on the Mexican border was the Old West, wild and open and beyond the law. The dude was not an industry but an occasional dude adventurer certain to go native if he stayed long enough.

While that era is now history, the country still is wild and open. You ride toward the mountains that thrust up like spines out of the vast emptiness of the land. To the Easterner from the city, the sky has an infinite look. In the thin air the sun is brighter and sharper, and when the cloud shadows fall across the mountains, they seem to recede into unknowable distance, fold upon fold.

It is part of the American experience, this response to space—to the lostness and loneliness of it. It is one reason why it is difficult to adopt the idea of one world and one people who must survive together or go down together.

The implacable hatreds of Europe, the spreading chaos and disintegration, seem a long way off. Washington and the bitterness of partisan politics are a remote echo.

What we have "learned" is still only on the surface of the mind. I mean, of course, the lesson of August 6, 1945, when a small atomic bomb destroyed the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

Since that date, millions of words have been written and spoken about the destructive power of atomic fission. Responsible scientists have shown how large areas of the earth would be made uninhabitable in an atomic war. The annihilation of the human species—of all life—is possible.

* * *

Yet in the affairs of men there is a greater power. It is habit. Such is the power of habit that people everywhere go about their ordinary pursuits as though the new force had not been unleashed.

Going through the country and talking to all sorts of people, I have been struck with the way in which the new knowledge has been ignored or relegated to an obscure corner. This seems to me due not so much to a conscious desire to forget as to the fact that most of us simply are unable to take in a concept that is at once so vast and so utterly beyond the scope of experience. The bow and arrow is a deadly weapon. So is an automatic revolver. But in spite of the millions of words that have been written the atomic bomb is a theoretical improbability.

Here and there in college communities, you find groups concerned with the imperative need for a world government in the face of such an absolute and final threat. These earnest, serious groups have meetings. They listen to speakers. They are eager for new recruits.

One such organization is the World Federalists. In its national leadership it is sparked by men and women of deep conviction and power of intellect. Nevertheless it is on the outer edge. The converts spend their time talking to other converts, and the total number directly interested remains very, very small.

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Often, when these groups discuss the riddle of our time, they raise the question of leadership. Somehow leadership of the national and international level should be able to show the way.

They are brought up short by a reminder that leadership cannot be effective without at least a minority which is informed and determined. The minority is still in the making, and in the World Federalist the process of winning converts must at times seem powerfully slow. There are few apostles with the patience, the persistence and the never failing intensity of conviction of Clarence Streit, the author of "Union Now."

Most of us cling to the belief that somehow we will escape, no matter what happens. The will of the individual to survive is in itself intensely individualistic.

What is more, the outward face of the world is just as it always has been. The western sky at sunset glows with the same glory, and the stars in the desert night shine with the same clear brightness.

It is hard to believe that even here, where space and time have the limitless quality of the past, there is no promise of escape. It is the illusion of the individual—and the individual nation — standing alone that man must surrender in the atomic world.

Stewart Alsop

Reluctant Crusade

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON is now witnessing a remarkably reluctant crusade. When President Harry S. Truman called for an all-out fight on inflation, he spoke with a wholly unaccustomed fire. Since then, however, the Administration's effort to back up the Truman program has been chiefly notable for a total lack of fervor and a conspicuous vagueness about what the Administration really wants.

This vagueness has already given Senator Robert A. Taft an opportunity to make in five words a point far more telling that any he made in his long radio denunciation of the Truman program. "What," Senator Taft has asked at hearings before his joint economic committee, "is the Administration's program?" The Administration witnesses have found that a singularly difficult question to answer.

There is no mystery about why this is so. First, the general shape of the Truman program was only finally decided upon a few hours before the President appeared before Congress. And second, a majority of the Administration witnesses who have been ostensibly testifying for the program on Capitol Hill bitterly opposed important aspects of it before the decision was finally made. Thus it is not surprising that their hearts are quite obviously not in their work.

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The Sunday before the President's Monday message to the Congress has been called by one of the Democratic political strategists, who most eagerly supported an all out attack on high prices, "our Valley Forge." For it was on that day that opponents of an all - out program, conspicuously including Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder and Agriculture Secretary Clinton Anderson, made their last stand. They did what they could to persuade the President to present a relatively painless anti-inflation program to Congress. The President, mindful of the gloomy forebodings of the economists (and also no doubt of the views of his political advisers, who unanimously recommended a strong program) decided to disregard the advice of Anderson, Snyder, and their allies, and to go the whole way. But this decision was only finally made the night before Truman appeared on Capitol Hill.

The results have been two-fold. Because of last-minute, off-the-cuff nature of the decision, no adequate preparation was made for the battle Congressional scrutiny of the program which inevitably followed the Presidential message. As one hostile Congressional critic of the Administration handling of the program has remarked, "If Roosevelt had made that speech, legislation to cover it, the last 't' crossed, would have been lying right under his manuscript, ready to drop into the hopper." In the weeks which have passed since the Truman anti-inflation program was unveiled before an angry Republican Congress, no over-all legislation has yet been produced, and certainly no 't's' have been crossed.

* * *

Moreover, it is not surprising that the testimony of such Administration witnesses as Mr. Anderson and Mr. Snyder has lacked a certain ardor. It has frequently been difficult to guess whether they were testifying for the Truman program or against it.

Secretary Anderson showed a marked lack of enthusiasm for one of the most important points in the program, that calling for a reduction in the feeding of grain to animals above a certain weight. He also at one point took occasion to imply that the real trouble was that the State Department was stubbornly insisting on sending too much grain to Europe.

Again, Secretary Snyder briskly spoke out against Truman's Point One, that calling for controls on bank credit, while within a few hours another Administration witness, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Marriner Eccles, insisted cogently that Point One was the heart of the whole plan. Obviously Senator Taft has a right to wonder what the Administration program really is.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Republicans Blow Off Steam At Caucus

WASHINGTON

HOUSE Republicans locked the doors, turned off all telephones and really "let go" at their caucus on foreign aid to Europe. One reason for the caucus was to let belligerent party members blow off steam to their own colleagues rather than before the world on the floor of the House. The meeting accomplished this end.

One highlight of the long secret session was a lecture by Rep. George Bender of Ohio on GOP aggressiveness.

"I see where President Truman thanked Arthur Vandenberg for his help in getting the $597,000,000 aid bill through the Senate," said the Ohioan. "That's very nice, but where does it leave Republicans? What is your program? I think it's time we got one without always blindly following the White House and State Department on foreign affairs."

Rep. August Andresen of Red Wing, Minn., was insistent that steps be taken to prevent profiteering in the distribution of relief goods. "We should make sure that it goes to the right people in distressed nations and is given to them, not sold, he asserted.

Pointing to the "Friendship Train," the Minnesotan added that some such system should be used in all future aid.

"Governments had little or nothing to do with the Friendship Train," said Andresen. "It was a people-to-people proposition. If you want to be certain the food we send Europe gets to the rank-and-file, and is appreciated by them, this direct method of aid is the best answer."

Bolstering European Governments

NORTH Dakota's Karl Mundt agreed that the Friendship Train had done an excellent job, but added:

"Feeding the people is not the whole problem. We are trying to develop increased confidence in the governments of Western Europe. The big thing is to encourage and support those Governments. We can't forget that if the American people are going to get some benefit out of the money they spend."

The applause favored Mundt. However, general GOP opinion was that foreign relief should be handled through an independent agency, not the State Department.

Mundt seconded Bender's call for party aggressiveness in foreign affairs, charging that Roosevelt and Truman had made the "deals" that have led to Communist troubles in Poland and other countries.

"Republicans," he declared, "ought to be more diligent in pointing this out."

Rep. Reid Murray of Wisconsin reported rumors of wheat purchases by the United States from Argentina, despite the fact that dictator Peron had taken over his country's entire crop and at a boosted price of $5.30 a bushel.

"If this is true and we continue such purchases, it will only add to our inflation problem," proclaimed Murray. "American farmers cannot be expected to sell their wheat for $3.00 a bushel if we are paying $5.00 to a foreign government.

Note—Investigation by GOP Representative Karl Stefan of Nebraska after the caucus revealed that we recently bought 25,000 bushels of Argentine wheat for $2.67 a bushel F.O.B., New York

Preacher Loses Temper

WHITE-thatched Rep. Charles Eaton of New Jersey, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, is a former minister and one of the mildest- mannered men in the House. However he lost his temper when Rep. Frederick Smith from President Harding's home town, Marion, Ohio, began heckling while Eaton was explaining various sections of the aid bill.

"Do you know the value of all this money we are going to spend on Europe?" inquired Smith, bittingly.

With a withering look that brought chuckles from other Republicans, Eaton snapped back:

"I've been trying to follow the reasoning of the gentleman from Ohio for years without success. I've never been able to make out what he's talking about."

The closed-door caucus broke up with this parting shot from Majority Leader Charles Halleck of Indiana:

"All of us are for feeding starving people, wherever they may be, but we want to make sure that the money we appropriate goes for that purpose and doesn't fall into the wrong hands. And we also want to make sure that we don't cripple our own economy in helping others."

Congressmen Under The Skin

EX-Congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce and New York's leftist Vito Marcantonio clashed vehemently in a radio debate over the possibilities of "war with Russia." Mrs. Luce said Russia's tactics made war certain. Marcantonio repeated the Vishinsky theme about warmongers.

After their bitter debate, however, Mrs. Luce and the New York Congressman, once colleagues on Capitol Hill, relaxed.

"You know, Marc," said Mrs. Luce, "after the lesson I taught you tonight, you should get down on your knees and pray."

"Clare," replied Marcantonio, "you don't pray with your knees. You pray with your heart."

Diplomatic Chaff

DIPLOMATS suspect one reason for moving further atomic-bomb experimental headquarters to lonely Pacific islands is that the U. S. now has A-bombs so powerful we're afraid an accidental explosion will wipe out an area hundreds of miles square. . . . The new Jewish state of Palestine will ask for a $20,000,000 loan from the United States for water-power development. . . . The Joint Chiefs of Staff held a long debate over whether or not to risk a major crisis with Russia by keeping troops in Italy past the Dec. 15 deadline. It was finally decided that violation of the treaty might be just the thing Moscow wanted.