THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

60th Anniversary Year

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THE EMPTY STOCKING FUND

IT IS by design, rather than coincidence, that THE NEWS annually selects the day following Thanksgiving to open the community-wide Christmas Empty Stocking Fund. There is a striking similarity between the two traditional American holidays, a sort of cause-and-effect relationship, in which our thankfulness for our good fortune inspires us to want to share it with others. There is no better time to begin to think about Christmas than while the spirit of Thanksgiving is still upon us.

Christmas is still a month away, but in most of the homes in Mecklenburg County plans are already being made for its observance. There's the matter of deciding what Santa Claus is going to deposit in the stockings hung by the fireside. There's that gift for Dad, for Mother, and for the others in the family, to be selected, purchased, wrapped in tinsel, and hidden away until the day of sharing arrives. A goodly part of the joy of giving to others comes from this planning and preparation of the gift, and the anticipation of the actual giving.

But in hundreds of homes in Mecklenburg County, where financial reverses or illness, coupled with the increasing cost of living, have sliced deeply into the family budget, there is none of this lingering pleasure and anticipation. For the poor, and the aged, and the infirm, the approach of Christmas brings home the brutal realization that Christmas joy is not for them, but for those who can afford it.

When the Empty Stocking Fund was started many years ago, it had but one purpose: to assure that no child in Mecklenburg County would miss the joy of Christmas. It still has that basic objective. But the generosity of the citizens of Mecklenburg County in past years has been such that the program has been extended to include those deserving adults who, for one good reason or another, are in the throes of poverty, and who would otherwise face a bleak and dreary Yuletide.

In this community-wide enterprise, THE NEWS offers itself as a medium through which cash gifts may be distributed. The actual administration of the money donated to the fund is handled by the Christmas Bureau, a co-operative enterprise sponsored by the Community Council of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, and participated in by the churches, the civic clubs, and the established social agencies of the city.

The work is co-ordinated in such a fashion that duplication of giving is avoided insofar as possible so that the available funds might be spread as widely and as fairly as possible. The Bureau does not interfere with the established Yuletide programs of individuals and organizations, but simply asks that they co-operate by registering in the Bureau's confidential files the names of the families they intend to help. Then the Bureau assumes responsibility for all those who are left.

There is no administrative expense, and all staff work is voluntary. Every penny donated to the Empty Stocking Fund is distributed to the recipients.

Further details of the big community program will be found elsewhere in today's NEWS, and in successive editions. But they all add up to the same thing: an opportunity for you to share your good fortune with others less fortunate than you are, and to feel on Christmas Day, 1948, the deep satisfaction which comes from the knowledge that you have done so.

THINGS AREN'T THE SAME ON THE HILL

THE THRILL of supporting a bowl-bound football team — and the plain old exuberance of youth — almost ran away with some Chapel Hill youngsters at the UNC-Maryland game in Washington two weeks ago. Several hundred students (says intelligence from the Nation's Capital) planned to storm President Truman's White House and plant a triumphant Confederate flag there. (How the Snavely Machine victory over the Terps got mixed up with Southern political feuding is somewhat vague, but that was the idea.)

Anyway, the whole project turned out to be alcoholic Saturday night victory talk. It never happened.

The interesting thing about the plan is how it typifies South-wide revival of interest in the Confederate Flag. In this case, as in many others, it was used by the younger generation in what might almost be considered a profane way to demonstrate their Saturday night high spirits. No harm intended, of course, but older folks with longer memories might miss the humorous intent. The flag appeared in much the same role at the Dixiecrat Convention in Birmingham, and it popped up frequently at Kenan Stadium football games this Fall.

In a way it reveals how many generations have come and gone since the war of the 1860's — and how old symbols lose their meaning. The Confederate flag seen today on automobiles and at sports events generally represents an attempt at humor, not a serious Southern protest. Strom Thurmond got some vigorous Confederate flag-waving when he spoke in Chapel Hill during the campaign, but there was a knowing, half-mocking attitude about the students who waved them.

Maryon Saunders, the affable alumni secretary of the University, doesn't understand the "whys" of this newest fad. He reports the flags "caught on" in Chapel Hill after they appeared for sale in a store there. Mr. Saunders isn't worried either about their impact on the political philosophy of North Carolina. "No, Mr. Stalin," he writes in the latest football supplement of the Alumni Review, "there's no revolution in Chapel Hill, U. S. A.!"

And perhaps in this season before the Legislature, other University officials welcome this Confederate flag-waving far more than they would the facetious display of the hammer and sickle. Decades — or was it some ago?—the Red Menace was a delicate subject on the Hill. Now harassed pedagogues aren't worried any longer about keeping the Red flag off the Bell Tower; they're much busier keeping their spirited charges (and the Stars and Bars) out of Mr. Truman's back yard.

CHAOS AT CHRISTMASTIDE

THE season of jollity is upon us. All about is an air of anticipation; the colored strings of lights burn bright along Tryon and Trade. Country folk in Mecklenburg County and hereabouts are hiking into the woods with newly-sharpened axe over shoulder, there to fell a pine or two for the public mart.

Housewives rattle through attics seeking the crystal balls (most now broken) and the serpentine electric cords to grace the annual tree. In public restaurants smiles abound and young folk whistle on the streets.

In truth, Father Christmas reigns supreme in home and hostel, in office and train station—but nowhere more supreme than in the crowded, noisy, toy wonderlands of Charlotte stores where children congregate.

Agile and eager their tiny fingers weave through stacks of picture books; their hands heft the wonderful electric engine of the train set; they hurtle down the crowded corridors on hastily appropriated scooters; like infant Iturbis they belabor the keys of toy pianos; they sound thousands of anguished horns.

In swarms they besiege the fat-jowled gentleman who, pained and panting under pounds of padding, laughs his jolly laugh and pledges the little angels' hearts desire while Mamas mentally tot up the cost.

Departing the lap of the benign and bulbous Santa they dash madly about the loaded counters, winding toys and cuddling dolls that go "Mama" and which also do other things; they crawl about the floor, threading their way through adult legs, as they push toy automobiles.

At closing time comes the regular round-up, the corraling of the rampant youngsters. There are the few inevitable strays, herded into a corner to await the arrival of parents, but in due time all children are attached to the right Mama and, often amid tears and wails, the day ends.

Later, however, when the tears have been dried and the wails quieted, the youngsters lie awake and recreate the shiny, rattly wonderland of the toy department. Next to Christmas morning the day of the season's first visit to the toy department is, by all odds, the best.

From The Christian Science Monitor

RURAL HELPFULNESS

WHAT any rural community can do for its improvement is signalized by the $25,000 prize won by the Schley Grange in North Carolina. This farm organization of 64 men and women has just captured the top honors in a national community service contest sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation in conjunction with the National Grange.

As one of its projects, the Schley Grange, which is located in a dairy community, set to renovate the appearance of an old Baptist Church out in the country. The Grangers painted the church, built a new road to it, put in new underpinning, cleaned up the grounds, and planted trees and shrubs.

They also held a field day which brought out 5,000 people to see them remake a farm under the direction of the Soil Conservation and Agricultural Extension Services. Now many nearby farms show improvements which farmers learned of that day and installed on their own places. The prize winners also obtained rights of way and erected telephone poles so as to bring in telephone service.

This little group of farm folks followed a pattern for community service which merits widespread adoption. Meantime, more than a thousand other Granges were similarly working for community betterment.

Such constructive teamwork is typical of American farm people. Contests which unlock rural resources for neighborly help can well be continued and enlarged.

Who Won?

Price Support Battle Threatens

Next Year's Farm Legislation

WASHINGTON

OPPOSITION to the long-range farm program of lower, flexible price supports scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 1950 is increasing, a Congressional Quarterly survey shows.

The long-range program puts farm price supports on a sliding scale varying from 60 to 90 per cent of a revised parity figure. It was passed by the 80th Congress as part of a last-minute farm compromise which continued the wartime 90 per cent support program through 1949.

At that time, the political line-up was full of paradoxes. The lower, long-range program was supported by President Truman, the Department of Agriculture, all the big farm organizations, and a substantial majority of the Senate. It was opposed by members of the House, Republicans and Democrats alike. Senate Democrats were split.

Chances of opponents to kill the lower supports before they become effective increased when the election gave Southern Democrats control of the House Agriculture Committee. Since the election, opponents have made some important converts and there is evidence that they may be making more.

Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D. Okla.), who will be chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee in the 81st Congress, now says he will press for 90 per cent support of basic commodities. Last Summer, Thomas voted against continuing the 90 per cent program.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, who also supported the long-range program, has questioned the advisability of lowering supports unless industrial prices also come down.

The National Farmers Union has expressed similar doubts.

There has been no official indication of a change in the President's support of the long-range program, the brainchild of a Senate Agriculture subcommittee headed by George D. Aiken (R. Vt.). But there have been hints, besides Brannan's statement. The President campaigned in the farm states on a charge that Republicans sought to destroy the price-support program. And Vice President-elect Alben W. Barkley voted, as a Senator, for a proposal to continue supports at 90 per cent.

On the other hand, such Democratic stalwarts as Scott W. Lucas (Ill.), prospective Senate majority leader, oppose 90 per cent support and favor the lower levels.

The cost of farm supports may also become an issue for the first time since the war. At the end of last month, the government had $653 million in crop loans outstanding with the prospect of making loans involving millions more before the end of this crop year. Much or all of this may be eventually recovered, but meanwhile it represents a government expenditure.

The row over price support may sidetrack Congressional action on a number of other top farm problems, including reorganization and expansion of the soil conservation program, a national fertilizer program, crop insurance, and a national loan allotment plan designed to improve low-income diets and stabilize the market for farm products at the same time.

Meanwhile, the farmer has managed to improve his relative economic position in a ratio almost twice that for the whole country. Farm cash income increased 262 per cent between 1940 and 1947 from $8.3 billion to $30.2 billion. All cash income went up only 151 per cent from $74.3 billion to $187.9 billion.

People's Platform

Report On Queen City Classic

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT IS with an overwhelming degree of enthusiasm that we express our sincere appreciation to The Charlotte News for the strong support and for the interesting publicity given the Queen City Classic. (The annual football game between West Charlotte and Second Ward High Schools.)

The gross income from the game up to date is $5,509.10. Our expenses were as following: Federal tax $883.34, Charlotte Park & Recreation Commission including insurance, sound system, lights and seven and one-half per cent of gross income after Federal tax deduction $392.65, and all other promotional expenses $529.49; making the total expenditures $1,755.48.

Deducting $1,755.48 from the total income of $5,509.10 we have a net profit of $3,753.62. On Nov. 18, we issued to Second Ward High School and to West Charlotte High School checks amounting to $1,800 each, making a total of $3,600. At present we have a balance of $153.62 in a joint bank account to pay off any further indebtedness that might occur and to finance the plans for the 1949 game.

The Queen City Classic of 1948 has made history in the City of Charlotte both socially and financially. Never has any activity of this nature netted so enormous a sum. This has meant so much to both Second Ward and West Charlotte High Schools.

This activity would not have been so successful without your interest and your splendid editorials relative to this activity.

—JOSEPH E. TOWNS,
General Chairman,
Queen City Classic.

Thank You, Mrs. Thompson

BLACKSBURG, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

AS Thanksgiving Day comes I wish to express my gratitude for the joy and help your great paper, The Charlotte News, has been to myself and family through the thirty-odd years it has come into our home.

I am watching the contest for the oldest subscriber, with great interest. I am not bidding for it as I don't feel that I am the oldest subscriber and too I have no exact way of judging the time as I paid weekly as the paper was brought to my door—thus no canceled check or anything for reference.

This is just a note of gratitude and a wish for a pleasant Thanksgiving Day to you and the entire News staff.

—MRS. D. A. THOMPSON.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Secretary Marshall To Stay In Cabinet

WASHINGTON

NO. 1 upshot of the hour-long conference between President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall was that Marshall agreed to remain in the Cabinet for an "indefinite period" after Jan. 20.

Marshall tactfully reminded his chief he hadn't had a vacation in years, except for a few days that he and Mrs. Marshall spent together in Honolulu following his mission to China in 1947. He said he needed a rest badly.

However, the man who vetoed Truman's proposed Vinson mission to Moscow and who has thwarted Truman's ideas on Palestine said that he considered it his duty to stay on the job "as long as you need me."

He added that he hoped this would not mean serving the full four years of Truman's term of office. The President quickly responded that this wouldn't be necessary.

"But I can't spare you now," Truman said, in effect.

"With the international situation as it is," the President added, in effect, "I can't take a chance on putting someone else in your place until we begin to see daylight in Europe. Otherwise, I would not impose on you."

Whenever the clouds over Berlin start to clear and our economic-aid program for Western Europe safely out of the woods, Truman said, Marshall would be free to step out with a Presidential blessing.

Whether this means six months, a year, or longer, neither ventured to guess.

Ku Klux Klan

DOWN in Macon, Ga., a group of American Legionnaires and church leaders are trying to head off a huge Ku Klux Klan demonstration scheduled for Dec. 10.

The Klan has engaged the city auditorium for that date and Grand Dragon Green, at secret meetings in Atlanta, has boasted that the Macon cross-burning would be one of the biggest in Klan history—bigger than the gathering on Stone Mountain.

However, many Macon citizens, opposing the Klan, have introduced an ordinance before the City Council forbidding men to hide their faces behind masks when meeting publicly. This would force the Klan either to abandon their Karnival in the auditorium, or to meet unmasked.

The big question is: Will the City Council be pressured by Klan influence not to pass the ordinance? A lot of people will be watching the decision.

Unity Dinner

THE REV. DAN POLING, editor of the Christian Herald and father of one of the four chaplains who gave up their life-belts on a sinking war transport so GIs might live, has just written an editorial about the importance of national unity.

"Why not," asks Dr. Poling, who has done more for unity than most men I know, "hold an all-American dinner honoring the President of the United States on the night of his inauguration? Let's make it a unanimous vote for all the world to see, hear, and understand, a vote for world security and peace.

"Perhaps no other people of the world would or could stage such a demonstration, but an Americans-all dinner on this next inauguration night would be a magnificent stroke to help bind free peoples and all who would be free into a dynamic unity.

"I suggest the following for a national committee on arrangements with the only living former President as chairman and including all living former Presidential candidates and the widows of our former Presidents: Herbert Hoover, chairman; Herbert H. Lehman, treasurer; Governor Thomas E. Dewey, John W. Davis, James M. Cox, Alfred M. Landon, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Calvin D. Coolidge, and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

"But recognizing the fact that an idea such as this can die before it is fully born, why cannot you and I make it come alive in our own homes and organizations? Here is a time for a man to practice what he preaches and, having talked it over with my associates at Christian Herald magazine, we shall have our Americans-all dinner on Jan. 20, 1949. Representing in our organization every faith, every color and every racial strain, we qualify for the occasion! We shall come together and honor our President.

"And we shall do something more. In the spirit of the occasion we shall bring a gift for the 230 million neglected and suffering children of the world. To date the United States has miserably failed to answer the United Nations' appeal for these children. We secured only $8 million of our $60 million quota, while Canada with one-eighteenth of our national income raised $10 million.

"On Jan. 20 next our children will be simple, but we shall go clear out when in honoring President Truman we make our appeal for the Children's Fund of the United Nations."

NOTE—Nothing could be a more effective sock-in-the-jaw for Moscow than represented at such a dinner, labor leaders, farmers and just ordinary folks sitting down—united—behind the President of the United States.

Florida's Sunshine Senator

SENATOR CLAUDE PEPPER of Florida is worse than a California man when it comes to getting in a plug for his state's climate. Lunching with President Truman at Key West last week, Pepper remarked to the President:

"This Florida sunshine has certainly made you look like the champion you are. Mr. President, I bet all your friends envy you the vigor which makes you get up so early in the morning."

"This climate," replied the President, "is so languorous that it makes me stay in bed until 7 A. M."

"Any climate that is so salubrious as to make the President stay in bed until 7 o'clock," countered the Senator from Florida, "certainly can't be beat."

From The Cold-War Front

AIR FORCE strategists have estimated that in case we do clash with Russia, Britain's bomber bases would be nonusable within twenty days. Russian buzz bombs and bombers would smash them up. . . The U. S. Navy is growing more and more alarmed over Russia's expanding submarine fleet. In case of war, Navy strategists fear the Navy could not keep the sea lanes open to American shipping. . . After the war, Russia took over Germany's submarine sheds, plus latest U-boat inventions; now has 300 submarines—six times as many as Hitler had when he declared war. . . This is why the U. S. Navy is emphasizing on light airplane carriers and destroyers to watch enemy U-boats in World War III—if it comes.

Marquis Childs

Failure Of No Policy

WASHINGTON

EACH day both in the State Dept. and in the Economics Co-operation Administration, telephone calls are put through to Nanking and Shanghai in tottering Nationalist China.

Each day the news seems to be worse, even though temporary victories may conceal for a time the true condition. It is not hard to imagine the sensation of the official at the Washington end of the line hearing the voice coming from so far with its message of imminent disaster.

The cry for help and more help echoes in the vacuum of American failure.

No matter what is done about China in the weeks to come, the failure of United States policy is a glaring and inescapable fact. Rather, the failure is in having no policy at all.

Those who have argued the urgent necessity for a constructive, positive policy not only in China but in all of Asia, now have the dubious satisfaction of saying, "I told you so." The fault does not lie with Secretary of State Marshall alone, nor can it be placed entirely on that convenient whipping boy, the State Dept., although the department has much to answer for.

PUBLIC OPINION WEIGHT

The failure gets down to more basic things — to public opinion, to a lack of understanding, to confusion both in Government and the public mind. Having had the help of a constructive critic who knows China well, I should like to suggest some of the fundamental mistakes. When Marshall returned from his mission to China, shortly before he became Secretary of State, he recommended a sort of compromise Government with the "moderate" Communists such as Gen. Chou Enlai, brought in. This was an unworkable proposal and it served chiefly to confirm the attitude of a great many Americans who tend to regard Chiang Kai-Shek as a stubborn old reactionary who could make over China with nice, liberal reforms if only he would.

The attitude on this wave band of public opinion tends toward the sentimental. China is "The Good Earth" with missionary overtones.

At the other extreme are the passionate partisans of Chiang, including important politicians and publishers. Some, such as Rep. Walter Judd of Minnesota, are sincerely devoted to the Generalissimo as the only hope.

Others have had the charm treatment in the course of VIP junkets to China and have tied their conspicuous and demanding egos to the fate of Chiang and Madame Chiang. Some have a direct monetary interest in bolstering the Chiang regime, and still others, like William C. Bullitt, who has gone on a sort of lame-duck mission to China for the Republicans, seem chiefly interested in making political capital out of past mistakes.

Between these two poles the vacuum of official policy has existed.

MIDDLE COURSE

It has not been entirely a vacuum. There have been those on lower levels who have urged a course between the two extremes.

They have recognized the weaknesses of the Chiang Government which have made it far too frail a reed to place all American dependence upon. At the same time, they have had no illusions about the Communists' being merely good-hearted reformers bent on breaking the ancient grip of the landlords. Therefore, they have argued the critical need to find and work directly with other non-Communist leaders in Nationalist China. They were urging, for example, direct intervention to strengthen Fu Tso-yi, the able commander for Chiang in North China.

First, they argued that American aid should be concentrated in one or two strategic areas, preferably in North China. Chiang should be told that the United States intended to see to it that aid was sent directly to Fu Tso-yi. By this kind of concentration, the graft and corruption that have demoralized the Nationalist armies should be kept down.

Even a hint that this might be done caused screams of outrage from the partisans of Chiang. Why, this was proposing to undermine our wartime ally.

As though Chiang had not already done enough to undermine himself.

James Marlow

What Of Big Strikes?

WASHINGTON

ONE of the biggest questions before the new Congress, when it starts to change the labor law, is this:

What to do, if anything, to prevent big strikes that could paralyze the country and endanger the national health and welfare?

The three big labor organizations —AFL, CIO and coal miners—want the Taft-Hartley law wiped out.

But none of them has said directly it wants any kind of law that could prevent the big strike. The AFL has indicated it might.

Briefly, this is the picture now:

There was nothing in the old Wagner Labor Act, passed in 1935 and liked by labor, which would prevent a strike.

In fact, for 15 years until 1947 a Federal law prevented interference with a strike by such means as an injunction, or flat court order, against striking.

Then the Republican Congress last year replaced the Wagner Act with the Taft-Hartley Act.

And under that act a big strike which might cause a national emergency could be prevented by injunction for about 90 days. After such a delay, though, a union was free to strike.

But the injunction is one of the things which organized labor has hated most of all through American history. Labor feels it should be free to strike when it wants to.

Now the new Democratic Congress, to carry out its campaign promise to labor, probably will abolish the Taft-Hartley Act. And, probably, it will restore the old Wagner Act.

NEED FOR CLAUSE?

But—will the Wagner Act be restored just as it was? Or will some new thing—like slowing up or preventing a strike—be inserted?

The three big labor groups in the past week, in one way or another, have gone out for killing the Taft-Hartley law. They've said they wanted that ever since it was passed more than a year ago.

John L. Lewis, head of the coal miners, and Philip Murray, head of the CIO, had a few things to say in interviews published by the U. S. News and World Report, a weekly news magazine.

Lewis said he not only wants the Taft-Hartley Act wiped out but wants nothing in its place.

"I think," he said, "if we want to preserve free enterprise we must preserve a free labor movement."

But, that, of course, raises the question of how free can free enterprise be in a nation like this where all the parts depend upon all the other parts.

For example: Should the railroad workers or coal miners be permitted to go on a strike which, if drawn out, might shut down industry or starve the country and drive it into chaos?

If that happened and riots and revolt started, the result might be an overturning of the government or drastic curbs on labor and management. Then a lot of other people might lose the free enterprise which Lewis cherishes.

"ENOUGH COMMON SENSE"

Murray wants the Taft-Hartley law knocked out and the Wagner Act put in its place. But when asked if he thinks there should be a law to prevent big strikes, by injunction or otherwise, he said:

Labor and management both have enough common sense and wisdom to settle their differences without compulsion because such compulsion would lead to totalitarianism

At the close of its convention in Cincinnati Monday, the AFL passed a resolution which said "the public welfare as well as that of management and labor is paramount . . . the economic health, safety and welfare of the nation must not again be placed in jeopardy by the irresponsible action of anyone."

That might indicate the AFL would go along on some machinery to stop big strikes. But it didn't say so directly.

Some labor leaders have hinted it might be a good idea to have machinery which, although not stopping big strikes altogether, might delay them.