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SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1948

Charlotte's Clarence Kuester

CHARLOTTE'S ever-growing skyline and the city's position on the alert, progressive municipalities of the nation, today are living memorials to Clarence Otto Kuester.

Death struck swiftly last midnight to remove him from a participation in the city's affairs and today he is mourned by the thousands whose friendship and respect he had won in a life devoted to the service of the community.

When a young man Mr. Kuester adopted as his watchword, this guiding motive, "Watch Charlotte Grow," and Charlotte as a did grow. The record, firmly imprinted in the consciousness of the community and far beyond its borders, shows the growth of the city from a country town to a metropolitan area in the Carolina, one of the great cities of the Southeast. This progress is due in large measure to the vision, the enthusiasm, and the fighting spirit of Clarence Otto Kuester.

There was no phase of community development in which he was not interested, in which he did not take a part. His was the will to plan, to work that a Charlotte might realize its destiny as one of the finest cities in the South.

Mr. Kuester was a native of Charlotte, born here in 1874. In early manhood he engaged in the mercantile business but nearly 50 years ago, in 1905, he came to a decision that was to guide the remainder of his days—a decision that he has never regretted.

From that day until his death his life, his every effort was devoted to the service of Charlotte. It was characteristic that his last action was in public service. Last night he attended a meeting of the Mecklenburg Historical Association and enthusiastically discussed plans for the proposed pageant here this year depicting the history of Mecklenburg County.

Mr. Kuester retired January 1, this year, as executive vice-president and general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, after having been the executive head of that civic organization since 1921. Retirement was his last professional position.

Our Cards 'Close To The Chest'

ELLIS ARNALL's remark that the South revolts automatically every four years from North Carolina, was one of the best he has ever written. It has been a warning and a challenge to the South.

Mr. Arnall, former Governor of Georgia, discounted the revolt talk when he spoke at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce last Thursday night. He made his point with that old cliché: "I think we'll be back in the Democratic column when election time comes. Where else can we go?"

North Carolina leadership is doing more for the South's cause. The Tar Heels don't pool-pool and throb-throb. The Tar Heels don't pool-pool and throb-throb. The Tar Heels don't pool-pool and throb-throb.

Senator Byrnes' Democratic national chairman, and gave a quick, neat and forceful summation of the North Carolina position when he declared that the people of this state are unalterably opposed to the proposed civil rights legislation and added:

Timely Advice To Merchants

AS ROSSNER, New York business writer for The News, who reminds us that the lush days of the sellers' market are drawing to an end, particularly in the mercantile field, and we are entering a period of keener competition.

In his column in The News Thursday, Mr. Rossner mentions that many independent businessmen "are turning to credit these days to increase their sales volume."

These figures give added point to the timeliness of the advice by the Office of Small Business Administration, U. S. Commerce, which urges merchants to turn to local Credit Bureaus for information on credit risks. "To succeed in the credit field, you must select customers who pay promptly and in full," says the Office.

In Charlotte, credit reporting is up 15 per cent last year. According to the Credit Bureau of the Charlotte Merchants Association, collections are holding up well but are harder to maintain, a clear indication that consumers have less ready cash.

ment meant only that he was giving up the formal and routine organization duties. His interest in the growth and development of all phases of Charlotte's life was undiminished. As he turned to those duties he plunged with all of his unbounded energy and enthusiasm into development of plans for the historical pageant. That, he said, might be his crowning achievement of his career. It could be, even yet.

He believed in Mecklenburg County, in Charlotte with a faith that never wavered. Obstacles that would have discouraged weaker men were merely a challenge to Mr. Kuester. He dreamed of Charlotte as a great city, and with the magnificent force of his personality and determination he made these dreams come true.

But though vision and enthusiasm were his companions, and material progress for the city his goal, he never lost the common touch. His friends came from every walk of life. He never resisted the plea of a panhandler or the old familiar story of a down-and-out. He gave as freely of his means as he did of himself.

He was a devout Christian and was for many years one of the most active laymen of the Baptist Church. Tolerance was a mark of the broadness of his spirit. On questions of principle he could disagree without being disagreeable.

His personal life was in the highest American tradition. His family—the closest of all his friends—were devoted to his wife, who preceded him in death, and to his five children and sons.

It is given to few men to contribute so fully to the civic, economic and cultural affairs of a community as did Clarence Otto Kuester. His life was a lesson in being passed last night from active participation in the affairs of the city he loved but his spirit goes marching on. His memory will serve as a guide to us as Charlotte continues onward to a fuller realization of its destiny as the Queen City of the South.

Truly can he be said of Mr. Kuester: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

People's Platform

Pay Day For Uncle Sam

NEW YORK—Income tax time is an excellent time to study the effect that President Truman's recent pay-raise proposal has on the average citizen. We have to pay it during the one period of the year when people receive no other income.

Table with 3 columns: Salary, Income Taxes, and Difference. Rows for 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 weeks.

Table with 3 columns: Married Persons Salary, Income Taxes, and Difference. Rows for 60, 80 weeks.

Unfortunately, the above does not disclose the total effect. \$40,000,000,000 of Government spending has on our taxes. In addition to income taxes we also are given to social security taxes, excise and luxury taxes, a 100 per cent increase in amusement taxes and the much higher "hidden" taxes that are included in the price of everything we buy.

Compulsion In UMT

WASHINGTON—The U. S. Army will require the expenditure of billions of dollars for the purchase of military training, and so will permit all of us to obtain our self-respect. I believe such a plan will be profitable to all.

Dr. E. A. Tamm's Truman Revealed Determination To Run Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON—The President of the United States was blinding mad and shooting from the hip when Democratic Chairman Howard McGrath and Executive Director Gavel Sullivan were to be in the White House. McGrath said he had a quiet talk over political conditions and warm Truman of growing concern in the White House.

Forgotten Vice-President

McGRATH has indicated that he will support Truman as Vice-President running mate, and planned to suggest Senator Lister Hill of Alabama. He thought a Southern power in the Republican caucus would be of great help to the Truman ticket.

Who Do You Think You'll Vote Against?



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Joseph & Stewart Alsop

For Uncle Joe's Ear

WASHINGTON—THERE IS REASON to believe that Secretary of State George C. Marshall's remarkable statement to the press is primarily directed to an audience of one: Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.

Secretary Marshall's advisers there is a deep conviction that the real danger to the United States is not the fact that the Kremlin, out of fear of the loss of Stalin's leadership, has resorted to accounts of the real situation in the United States.

The reason that so far I have not read the report is that it advocates peacetime compulsory military training—and to the completion part I am unalterably opposed.

Mr. Terrell admits there are "some really valid arguments in opposition to the proposal," and then says that all of his objections are conclusively answered in the report.

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