

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1951

## THE SOAP BOXES ROLL WEDNESDAY

GIVE a boy something that is round and rolls and he'll start a game. Give him something that has wheels and he'll want to race. Give him some supervision, a place to race and an incentive and he will be competing in the Soap Box Derby.

Neither the camera nor the printed word has been able to catch the long hours of precision work that has gone into the making of the racing cars, the nights of sleepless planning and figuring, the hours of nervous waiting and the final thrill of driving. To catch it you must live with the boy, work on the various committees, or spend the day walking around the course watching, listening and sympathizing. Appreciation is a matter of absorption.

Wednesday is the day of the Soap Box Derby in Charlotte, the climax of many hours of adult planning and boyish dream-

ing. For a few boys there will be victory, for a few disappointment, but for all there will be pride. It's no small achievement to build, enter and race one of these racers.

But the realization of achievement won't be confined to the competitors alone. Too many men and too many mothers have had an active part in the preparatory stages of the race. Many of them remain anonymous, satisfied with the pleasure of a job well done. Others, experts at co-ordinating all the small details, have volunteered their services so many years that they are as much a part of the race as the big ramp which gives the cars their initial impetus.

The winner of the race goes to Akron, and is written in history on the shining surface of his car will be the signatures of the many who help make this amateur competition the greatest in the world.

## WE'RE COUNTRY FOLKS

THE University of North Carolina News Letter once again reminds us that we Tar Heels are basically rural people. Here in Charlotte, with the big buildings reaching up into the sky and with vehicles of every description poised just around every corner to waylay the unwary metropolitan, we sometimes get a sort of metropolitan complex. A look at the figures will bring us back to the earth.

S. H. Hobbs Jr., writing in the News Letter, points out that there is only one state that has a larger total farm population than North Carolina (Texas, naturally). There are only two states—Texas and Pennsylvania—with larger rural populations.

(Population counters distinguish between farm people and rural people; you can live in the country without being a farmer, they point out.)

In national statistics North Carolina ranks 4th in percentage of city dwellers. Only 33.5—about one third—of our people live in

urban areas (i.e., places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages; the densely settled urban fringe, incorporated or unincorporated, around cities of 50,000 or more; and unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside of any urban fringe).

Despite our large rural population, the urban growth of the state has kept pace during the past decade with that of the nation as a whole. Of the state's 85 incorporated towns and cities with more than 2,500 population, 73 of them showed population increases between 1940 and 1950. Little Jacksonville with 3,920 citizens led in percentage of growth (34.6%) and Robeson was low on the list, losing twelve of every 100 citizens. (Charlotte ranked 25th in percentage growth.)

Charlotte can be justly proud of our four cities with more than 70,000 population. It behooves us to remember that the man with the tractor still outnumbered the city slicker with the convertible.

## AGE OF MYSTERIOUS MIRACLES

THE atmosphere was clear and bright up where the 34 jet planes of the U. S. Air Force flashed along in formation. All was well. Then eight of the planes suddenly fell from the formation and plummeted toward the floor of black storm clouds below.

Down below them, Fred Musser was watching the cloud-darkened sky a few miles outside Richmond, Ind., when the stricken planes broke through the overcast. One of them crashed almost in her front yard. Others crashed nearby.

"I thought we were being bombed," said Mrs. Musser.

It all happened instantaneously. At one moment the planes were streaking through the sky at between 500 and 600 miles an hour. The next moment three pilots were dead, two were injured and eight Thunderjet fighters were on the ground—six completely ruined, two badly damaged. A

pilot had crashed-landed, one had parachuted to safety.

It happened Friday, June 8. On Saturday the Air Force said "sabotage is always considered as a possibility until the crash cause is determined when the investigation is completed."

The same thing, doubtless, would apply to the three other Air Force crashes on the same day—Friday, June 8. Six airmen were killed in those crashes, bringing the day's toll to nine deaths in eleven crash incidents.

We needed reading Buck Rogers some years back but last week's news had us pondering again over once-fanciful "ray-gun" and death-dealing electronic weapons.

If the Richmond, Ind., incident was sabotage we can only conclude that the enemy has some extremely effective weapons and secret agents.

And, for the skeptic, it could have been coincidence . . .

## BEWARE THE RAGWEED

AMBROSIA, in legend, is the food of the gods, imparting immortality. Ambrosia and ambrosia trifida, on the other hand, are the bane of hay fever sufferers, imparting violent attacks of sneezing. The mal-named foliage is that ancient nasal nemesis: ragweed.

Now, as the sufferers among us will be aware, begins the ascendancy of ragweed. By September, when the plant begins to divest its byways, alchows will be heard in the streets, byways and offices of the city and the blue-eyed, red-faced afflicted ones will dose themselves with anti-allergy preparations of relief.

In our role as servant to the public, we would suggest a preventive measure: everyone who co-operates to kill the offending weed in its infancy, meaning now.

The common ragweed is easily identified

able: It has a rough, hairy stem with thin, alternate or opposite much-divided leaves and green flowers in small, loose spikes. It grows from one to seven feet high.

It can be slain with the herbicide 2,4-D—a plant hormone which stimulates ragweed to grow so fast that its stem cracks, it withers and dies.

You can buy 2,4-D in garden supply and general stores and it won't hurt your grass, if you follow directions. If 2,4-D isn't available, cut the plant. You may have to cut it several times during the summer to keep it from flowering, but avoid becoming angry and jerking the plant up from the earth. Such a procedure disturbs the soil and may activate dormant seeds.

We don't guarantee that an attack on ragweed will make this a sneeze-free autumn, but it will help.

We'll Huff & We'll Puff & We'll Blow Your House Down



## Settlement Of The War Is Basic To People Of Country

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE NEW ceiling prices, Iowa beef seems likely to become a war-time political issue. A beef where the fattening of cattle is an important and profitable phase of farming. At any rate, the calculations and now find those calculations upset by the government.

About the weather, too, there is talk. It has been rainy, cool and cloudy and corn planting is delayed.

One of the MacArthur-Truman issue also hears comparatively little. The interest in the controversy is a contest between two opposing viewpoints. That seems largely to have subsided. That is the impression of the visitor and it is the belief of politicians and others who make it their business to follow the news.

Certainly, the Republican office-holders with whom I have talked in this normally Republican state show no signs of embracing General MacArthur personally either in the strongest or in the weakest of his dismissal or the strategy of extending the war to China that the general advocates.

They are backing away from the whole affair with the kind of caution that makes one suspect that they are not so sure of their own position. As for the Democratic politicians, they have attained a degree of contrast said to be in marked contrast to the case of the Republican position of three months ago. One of the shrewdest appraisers, who has a fairly good record for being right in his private predictions, says that President Truman is stronger in Iowa today than he was four years ago.

In 1948 Truman carried the state by 80,000 votes, upsetting the expectations of practically every body. Those Democrats who have not done so well in the state machinery say that he could do it again. With due discount for the fact that the state has a lot of genuine confidence and their insistence on Truman as the nominee of the party is significant.

Explanations for the change that has occurred in the state in three months—since the beginning of the emotional battle touched off by the MacArthur dismissal—vary. What may come down to it is that on presentation of the whole story before the Senate committee the members have been reassured by most that the administration has not been misled.

It looks as though President Truman will have quite a way before he can make his case. He has been recently told a news conference he won't decide about making the case until he has learned what he sees how his program fares in Congress.

And he can't do that, he said, until Congress quits. Judging from the gait at which Congress has been traveling, or not traveling, it can't quit before the end of Summer anyway, and probably not then except maybe for a short recess.

The biggest part of its work lies ahead of it, even though some of the members are beginning to rest their noses about a Summer vacation.

There has been an unusually glib Congress, with a great strength of its time, especially the Senate's so far taken up with two big items of discussion:

1. Whether we should send troops to Europe. (The answer was a qualified "yes.")

2. The General MacArthur Inquiry. (Still going on.) While Congress has been busy with these two items, particularly work in which Mr. Truman was most interested, he has been busy with the war.

Now in its sixth month of business. Some other Republicans, however, are not happy over this strategy. Remarkable one GOP Senator: "Truman is taking his men—when they're wrong. We've been doing the same thing if we want to encourage loyalty in the party."

Not-Maryland's new GOP Governor, Theodore Roosevelt, says his leaders are not unhappy over the fact that the Senate is not happy over the intervention of the Chicago Tribune in Maryland politics, and McCormick and Senator McClellan, who were brought to Maryland from Chicago by this group.

Washington Pipeline  
ORDON GRAY, former Secretary of the Army, now president of the University of North Carolina, is being urged to leave for Europe. He is also in the hands of the Louisville Courier-Journal, who helped build up the Marshall Plan in Europe. . . .

Changes in the labor law, (Munich unlikely to pass.) . . .

San Francisco, California, where a batch of smaller ones.

## People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

### In Defense Of Lieut. Evans

GASTONIA

Editors, The News:

In an editorial in The News for Wednesday, June 7, you uphold the Roosevelt and Truman administrations by denouncing the letter of Lieut. (J.) William H. Evans Jr. How in the name of fairness anyone can side with the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations is beyond me when all you have to do to see what the Communist influence have done and meant to both these administrations. Never a time has Truman and never did Roosevelt disclaim the Communists, the Communist influence in either of their administrations.

Truman went so far as to laugh at anyone who even thought that anyone or anything in his administration was Communist by calling it a red herring. Any man a time may cumulate such as Westbrook Pegler, George Sokolsky, Constantine Brown, and many others have shown the Communists and the Communist influence in the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations.

What Lieut. Evans says is mild compared to what he said. Everything that he has said is true, and instead of an editor ridiculing or saying anything about what Lieut. Evans has said he, the editor, should say no more until the time comes that American newspapers would be the means by which such men as Truman, Acheson, Marshall, and all other Communist lovers should be made to resign and turn the country over to decent Americans, such as General MacArthur, Lieut. Evans, General Wadsworth, General Hanna, Senator McCarthy, Senator Byrd, and men of this caliber. Men who are pro-American and are Americans, rather than pro-British, pro-Communist, and anti-American bunch that is now trying to run the United States but in fact are really running the United States.

Again, Lieut. Evans, General MacArthur and men of this caliber are right and instead of a few like them wish to God that we had 50,000,000. Yes, fifty million like that.

—ERNEST BOY BEST.

### Secretary Acheson's Ordeal

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

YOUR editorial today, (June 7) "Rough Going For Mr. Acheson," should have been written under the heading, "Why Don't They Ask Mr. Acheson Something."

For three years the Republicans and anti-Truman Democrats have been shouting such words as "Red," "Appeasement," "I assure you that such efforts to render aid to America that such expressions as yours serve as an inspiration for them to redouble their efforts to maintain this high level of efficiency."

Placed the halo of divinity on "laissez faire" (uncontrolled) capitalism," which was condemned in 1948 by the World Council of Churches for its effects on the poor, and which the reactionaries labeled "free enterprise."

What all this country is out of political freedom. Democracy has almost run out of political freedom. —BENEZER BURNS.

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE beer barons are now hustling around the capital pulling all sorts of tricks to keep their beer from being sold in bottles. They want their beer in the cans, despite the fact that the National Production Authority is the only one that has been able to get a tin, now one of the scarce metals badly needed for war.

Bottles, on the other hand, are not scarce. Despite this the brewing companies are howling to high heaven against using them.

Oddly enough, the champion of the breweries is GOP Sen. Hiram Bumpus of Nebraska, who is a long way from Milwaukee, Wis., the beer capital. Butler is a member of the National Beer Manufacturers Association, but has never heard from Metz. In spite of his emphasis on beer cans, Butler explained to this column that his fight is for tin for the entire canning industry.

His latest letter angrily denounces the "pressure" being put on beer cans and demands that NPA notify him before taking any action in favor of bottled beer. What Butler may not know, however, is that the "pressure" is coming from right under his nose in the Senate. Sen. Lyndon Johnson's alert watchdog committee does not consider beer cans essential to the national defense and has urged a return to bottles.

Sen. Butler's home state of Nebraska has only two small brewing companies—Storck and Metz. The Nebraska Senator has been under pressure from Storck on the beer-cans problem, but hasn't even heard from Metz. In spite of his emphasis on beer cans, Butler explained to this column that his fight is for tin for the entire canning industry.

Gen. Collins Criticizes

IT may mean a shake-up in Army training, but Gen. J. Lawton Collins, army chief of staff, was critical of U. S. Army maneuvers in West Germany last April. Watching crack Army combat units in mock battle near

### Efficient Public Service

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

I SHOULD like to thank you for the picture and the sentiment as expressed in your Fan letter from the Editors of your good paper, to the Fire Department on June 2, 1951. It is sincerely hoped that our efforts to render an efficient public service shall continue to merit your approval.

The members of the department endeavor at all times to render a service in keeping with their great responsibilities, and I assure you that such expressions as yours serve as an inspiration for them to redouble their efforts to maintain this high level of efficiency.

—DONALD S. CHARLES, Chief, Charlotte Fire Department.

### 'Out of Political Freedom'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

THE national reactionary movement or "Rightist Revolution," as it was called by one of its vicariously appointed spokesmen, appears to have made—Nationalization of private enterprise—an unpalatable sin, thus giving self-destruction a brother, and needing only to be made official.

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### Maryland Conviction

IT was no accident that Jon Jonkel, the Chicago Tribune friend-campaign manager for GOP Sen. John Butler in Maryland, pleaded guilty to violating the Corrupt Practices Act and paid his \$5,000 fine within about ten minutes. The guilty plea and the money to pay the fine had all been arranged in advance.

Actually, Jonkel was no more guilty than various others who participated in the hot campaign against Sen. Butler. However, he was picked as the scapegoat.

What the boys who engineered the Maryland campaign against Tydings were afraid of was what Jonkel would say on cross-examination. Would he tell the truth? In the latter case, some others might have been in the soup too.

The whole problem was discussed at the GOP Senate Campaign Committee some time ago at which Sen. Owen Brewster of Maine, former committee chairman, gave this general advice:

"Our first duty is to protect our Senator, and make sure John Butler keeps his seat. It's unfortunate someone has to be the goat in this thing, but Jonkel is a professional (public relations) man, and therefore this is a part of the business to him."

Some other Republicans, however, are not happy over this strategy. Remarkable one GOP Senator: "Truman is taking his men—when they're wrong. We've been doing the same thing if we want to encourage loyalty in the party."

Not-Maryland's new GOP Governor, Theodore Roosevelt, says his leaders are not unhappy over the fact that the Senate is not happy over the intervention of the Chicago Tribune in Maryland politics, and McCormick and Senator McClellan, who were brought to Maryland from Chicago by this group.

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From The Durham Morning Herald

## MACARTHUR JOKES ARE NOT SO NEW

AS TOM BOST pointed out in the Greensboro News not long ago, few of the press wisecracks and stories elicited by the spokesmen of General MacArthur were really new.

History repeats itself—and so, inevitably, do the stories told about the men who shape history.

Thus it was said of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt (as of MacArthur himself at the time of the 1948 elections) that he had difficulty keeping him from trying to walk on the waltzers, and that on his decision to run for his third Presidential term he wanted God as the Vice-President candidate.

Of Ramon Serrano Soria, Dictator Franco's briefly all-powerful brother-in-law and later, the Spaniards gripped that he passed through the Pearly Gates, found the hidden monetary reserves, a position of trust and could not be removed until his death. Spaniards, newly arrived, stuck his head through the curtains and called: "Passt Don Ramon. The photographers are here."

Yet the adulation accorded MacArthur—admonition such students of American history as Eric Hoffer and Charles Morgan will

doubtless note for future books—did produce two quips new to this newspaper. One was the fantasy devised by cynical Washington correspondents in the effect that, on his arrival there, "five hundred stark naked DAB's would jump from the Washington monument screaming 'Banzi!'"

The other was the story picked up by Earl Wilson that "the Star Spangled Banner," the General said to his wife, "Darling, they're playing our song."

Tom Bost is also right that "the people cannot be counted on to be true to the deities they create. While MacArthur's place in history has in no wise suffered in the course of the Senate hearing, it goes without saying that the sober testimony of General Marshall and Bradley has made it clear to the country that there is much to be said on the other side. MacArthur has been stripped of his mantle of omniscience, and so of the trappings of quasi-divinity.

If proof of that is needed, it is provided in the New York speech reporting the fiasco of the newly formed "Sustain MacArthur Committee" there. It hired 7,200-seat Carnegie Hall for \$750, paid another \$180 for 40 attendants to take care of the expected thousand. Thirty-nine people came.