

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AN OLD GREETING WITH A NEW TWIST

A BRIGHT and rather novel little item on the editorial page of The St. Louis Post-Dispatch put a new twist on the traditional season's greetings. It went like this:

We wish you a very Exceedingly merry, And a very exceedingly happy. The little verse brought to mind a message that had come in the mails several days before I adhered to the old "Merry Christmas" theme, but added: "For those who wish an eventful and venturesome New Year." Happiness? It wasn't mentioned, but we

assumed that the sender thought it unnecessary to voice a hope for a happy New Year. But we rather liked the idea of an "eventful and venturesome" year ahead—a year full of events, a momentous year, but a year which would not lack the fascination of doing things involving some measure of hazard or risk. It seemed to add something to the usual wish for a year favored by hap, luck or fortune and a year of well-being, comfort and felicity. With undisguised plagiarism, then, we take this opportunity to extend to News readers our best wishes that they will enjoy a happy New Year, and a New Year that is eventful and venturesome as well.

FUSSINGS, SHOUTINGS AND BLAMINGS

THE OTHER DAY, after he had received a rather mild and kindly reproach, the five-year-old around our house gravely said that he was tired of "fussings, shoutings and blamings," and didn't want to hear any more that day. We feel the same way as we start off a new calendar year today. If there is any one commodity this country has had too much of in the past twelve-month, it is fussings, shoutings and blamings. For many years, our people have been buffeted by a steady stream of scrimony and recrimination. Our minds are bleary from the outpouring of charges and counter-charges. Day after day, reason seeks to believe that the tempo of investigations will slack off, that the Korean War may be brought to some conclusion, that some of the other vexatious problems will be tackled in a new spirit even if they're not solved.

Like the five-year-old, we're weary of the fussings, shoutings and blamings. We hope for something better, something a little more adult, something a little more responsible than the greatest and most powerful nation in all history in the next 12 months. Well, we look forward to 1953 with some peace and quiet. For many years, at least, there is a chance of a relatively harmonious relationship between the Presidency and the Congress, from whence come many of our biggest quarrels. There is some reason to believe that the tempo of investigations will slack off, that the Korean War may be brought to some conclusion, that some of the other vexatious problems will be tackled in a new spirit even if they're not solved.

THE TOWN WILL MISS VIC SHAW

ALTHOUGH the formal announcement had been anticipated, Mayor Victor Shaw's statement in yesterday's News that he would seek re-election this Spring left us no doubt. Fully understanding why he wants to step down, we nonetheless regret to see him go. For Vic Shaw has been an uncommonly good mayor. He brought to the job an intense interest and an emotion approaching devotion. He spent long hours at it, day and night, despite the negligible financial remuneration. He carried out his duties with dignity, with persistence, and with a better than some of the men who have served with him these past four years. Mr. Shaw grasped the full implications of Charlotte's explosive growth. He saw the need for better streets, better water and sewage systems, better health programs, better recreation facilities, better schools. And especially close to his heart was the slow-moving grade crossing elimination program, temporarily snagged because the State Highway Commission has not yet come through with

his share of the cost of freeing state highway intersections. If Vic Shaw had faults as a mayor, they were minor, and they are possessed by most of us—a tendency to be a bit impatient at times, a measure of stubbornness, a slight ruffling of the temper under needling by Councilmen, irate citizens and, occasionally, editorial writers. But as we look back over the nearly four years, we can think of no major occasions when Vic Shaw was either wrong in his judgment or delinquent in his duties. In our judgment he was right most of the time, and he always acted in what he believed to be the best interests of Charlotte and its people. The gracious statement in yesterday's News was that of a gracious-man who, having made a success in his own business affairs, gave the community of his time, energy, and talents to public service. This has been an eventful year in Charlotte's history, and we are confident that Vic Shaw's role in them will loom large when the history of the town is written.

A VICTORY IN HUMAN RELATIONS

IN 1949 the total of lynchings in all the nation, was three. In 1950 it was two. In 1951 it was one. And in 1952, for the first time during the 70 years in which records have been kept, there were no lynchings in the United States. During the same period, the number of attempted lynchings also decreased steadily, from 14 in 1949 to seven in 1950, to three in 1951, to one last year. This final triumph of law and reason over mob rule is quickly grasped from a historical perspective. In the decade from 1913 to 1922 there were 597 lynchings. From 1923-32, 115; from 1933-42, 61, and during this past decade, there were 21.

The people of the South, Negro and white, may take quiet pride in the progress that these statistics dramatically reflect. For every lynching, most of them were in the South—represented another failure of human beings to live lawfully and peacefully with their neighbors, and often represented a failure of their consciences and their morals. Racial tensions and religious tensions as well, still have ugly manifestations. They have taken the form of bombings, beatings, incendiarism. These practices are confined to the South, but they are not confined to it. We may hope, judging from the successful elimination of lynchings, that these other forms of extra-legal punishment will also pass, thereby being relegated to the past.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTE

ON the good old proposition that positively everybody is interested in the weather, it seems high time to write about it instead of bothering always about the French in Morocco or the Democrats in Canada. We have a strong hunch that this Winter is going to turn mighty snappy, and we want to warn those who think maybe they can get by without a heavy coat. The hunch came when we noticed a wedge of ducks heading south while we were still trying to catch a trout in the Ozarks. That was a strong sign of things to come. Ever since, we have had our eyes open for walnut hulls, goose quills, woolly-bear caterpillars and other such sources of weather information. We don't find many around Twelfth and Olive, or even in the West End. But we did see, a while back, some pretty tight corn husks in supermarket. And, of course, that was another important sign. The "Old Farmer's Almanac" also indicates a pretty, rugged Winter ahead. The trouble is that what counts for Dublin, N. H., and the old Appleton farm don't strictly hold for Missouri. So we turned to Mr. Wahlgren, the St. Louis Weather Man. The first thing he did, however, was to explode our theory that a hot, dry Summer means a cold, wet Winter. "Nice, just as the

theory worked fine in 1936, he said, but it did not work at all in 1940 or 1943 or 1957. And it is just as well, believes Mr. Wahlgren, that people do not know too far in advance about the weather; saves a lot of trouble. "Well, maybe folks were happier from about 300-B. C. to 1600 A. D. Old Aristotle had the Greeks worried about the weather, but then nobody bothered much until Torricelli invented the barometer in 1643 and Celsius came up with the thermometer in 1742. So for about 2,000 years people took the weather just as it came. And, largely, that is still the way it goes. "Nevertheless, as we go up and down Olive St., we are going to be out of the lookout for chickadees, grouse, ducks, robins, bluejays, squirrels, woodchucks and other such weather prophets, because we certainly would like to be real sure that it is going to be a hard Winter. The Lion's Tale, a weekly publication of the Leffington Game Club hereabouts, quotes here from time to time, this week observed: "Today's progressive Lion is one who wears last year's suit, drives this year's car, and lives on next year's salary." And that isn't limited to Lions.—Lagobron (Ky.) Leader.

Season's Greetings!



Government By Businessmen

Involves Some Risks, Also

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

NEW YORK (The Eisenhower Administration is going to be predominantly a businessman's administration, and this can be one of the healthiest of the most hopeful signs of the new era. Nonetheless, after having a good look at the way the administration is taking shape, it seems prudent to point out a serious danger that may lie ahead.) The best way to suggest the nature of the danger is to point out what has happened in Britain. Business influence in British politics was a more gradual and later growth than in America. The governments of Stanley Baldwin were the first in which the British business leader had anything to say about the government. The Conservative Party, the government of Neville Chamberlain was the first in which British government truly dominated by businessmen. Chamberlain's failure has all too often been attributed to evil motives. In reality, it was no more than the result of exaggerated concern for the domestic economy, and insufficient understanding of growing dangers abroad. The new administration is likely to have the same concern for the domestic economy, and insufficient understanding of growing dangers abroad. The new administration is likely to have the same concern for the domestic economy, and insufficient understanding of growing dangers abroad.

RISKS AHEAD Every standpoint, then, there are real risks as well as great reasons for hope, in Eisenhower's decision to let businessmen's administration. The fact needs to be noted now, even before the administration has had a chance to lay out its basic policy program. It can already see a pretty sharp division of opinion about policy program with one group of Eisenhower's new men, the domestic economy comes first; with another group, the world situation is given first consideration. The division declared itself on board the Holesia, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower was returning from Korea. Naturally enough, the former Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey, stood forward as the champion of the domestic economy. The former Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, argued that it was no use safeguarding the domestic economy while the world situation goes to pot. The difference that developed there was not merely a matter of degree. With the next budget as the main bone of contention, the debate continues in Eisenhower's inner councils.

People's Platform

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Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication at the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Toys For Tots' A Success

CHARLOTTE THE generosity and fine spirit of the people of the Charlotte area was proven once again this past Christmas when the Toys for Tots Campaign, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, conducted our "Toys for Tots" campaign. Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to personally thank everyone who contributed. But we would like all these people to know how very much we appreciated their co-operation. And we want them to know how very happy they made the children who received the toys. We would particularly like to thank the Salvation Army who distributed most of the toys that we collected. We further appreciate the help given the campaign by the club to have been the success it was without your co-operation.

Best Christmas Ever

BLACKSBURG, S. C. NEVER before have I wished so that I were blessed with the gift of expression and the talent for writing as I have since reading the "Christmas Folly," from A. W. Black in the Dec. 27 issue of The News. What could happen to get a person in that state of mind? It is true that some happen to celebrate the birth of Christ in a way that is displeasing to all right-thinking people. Personally I felt that Christmas was the best I have ever known... more real Christmas spirit and brotherly love manifested among all people, more giving of gifts with no thought of gifts in return.

Thanks From The Oldsters

CHARLOTTE The Golden Years Club of Hawthorne Center wishes to express to you and your staff on the city desk its heartfelt appreciation for the co-operation that you have given to me as chairman of the club to have carried out this program without the help of the press. During 1951 the club had an average attendance of 45, but through the efforts of the members and the publicity that has been given, the club has had an average attendance during 1952 of 82. The aim of the Golden Years Clubs is to help others, and to be beneficial to the loneome,

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON AS the year 1953 opens, here are my predictions as to what it will bring. This year will see the real beginning of the atomic age. For the first time, atomic energy will be applied to peaceful use. Small atomic power plants for civilians will be built in England and the United States for use in isolated communities without access to electric power. It will drastically change the economic map of the United States. Pennsylvania and West Virginia with their great coal resources, Texas and Louisiana with their wealth of gas and oil may drop back to second or third place in supplying the power of the nation. This also predicts that a terrific power battle will take place of an entirely different kind between the atomic energy. The Government, which has now spent \$8,000,000,000 developing atomic energy, retain control, will control be turned over to private industry? This will be one of the most important problems to be decided by the administration in 1953.

A Look Into The Crystal Ball At 1953

WASHINGTON The age of helicopters will also begin in '53. Great strides will be made toward a new, light, efficient helicopter, which will weigh less than 400 pounds and sell for \$1,000. Eventually this will revolutionize commuting between cities. Business—Will be good during the first half of '53. Sales of autos, refrigerators, TV sets will top previous records. Talked about the importance of peace will go down to the lowest levels since the end of the war. This will make for an unhealthy balance between farmer and city dwellers for when farmers can't buy from the cities, depression is inevitable. As a result I predict there will be a recession toward the end of 1953. War and Peace—The Kremlin will continue its astute drive to make the rest of the world think of it as the chief supplier of peace, though actually peace will be precarious. Stalin, Churchill and Eisenhower will meet sometime in '53, and will assure the world they want peace. But the seeds of permanent peace will not be planted and cannot be planted until Moscow changes its policy or the free world unites more solidly. In brief, the cold war will continue. Future Peace—the solidarity of Western Europe, conceived by Acheson and partially cemented by Eisenhower, has been falling apart since 1952. This is the most dangerous development of 1953. Though Republican leaders have talked about the importance of China and our mistakes in Asia, the new Republican president will have to devote much more time to Europe, because it is more interested in the great industrial resources of France and Germany than any other big step toward our conquest of space and the first flight to the moon.

U.S. Ambassador In Egypt Credited With Great Deeds

CAIRO people who never saw the inside of it before." Later I had some conversation with Mohammed Naguib, Egyptian President, and a very wonderful man, your Caffery. He knows us very well, and wants to know how we understand us. He has made the difference in our feeling for your country. "Your Meister Caffery. Very fine man." So did a bartender. So did the people of Cairo. So did some of our own people here. Everybody I met was full of praise for Ambassador Caffery. Most of the time you hear nothing but knocks for the State Department abroad, because we have no one here who understands us. He has made the difference in our feeling for your country. "Your Meister Caffery. Very fine man." So did a bartender. So did the people of Cairo. So did some of our own people here. Everybody I met was full of praise for Ambassador Caffery.

CHANGE IN 18 MONTHS Eighteen months ago the American was viciously hated in this city. It was worth having your head cut off to snap your fingers in the streets. It was not safe for an American to walk alone, there were snipers and snipers active threats. When they burnt up Cairo last year they set fire to the Embassy as well as represented American interests. The Egyptians were quite reasonably sore at us for our stand on the Suez Canal. It was not the way as an Egyptian said to me the other day, "We got so mad about it that for a moment we even forgot to hate the British."

This man also said, "I don't know how he did it, but I credit your Ambassador, Jefferson Caffery, for bringing about the change. He understands us. He goes among us. He has shown his respect for us. He has shown us that he is wide open to people of all classes."

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