

THOMAS L. ROBINSON... Publisher
J. E. DOWD... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH... Executive Editor
C. A. MCKNIGHT... Editor

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1954

Court Record Makes Mockery Of Laws

SINCE July 26, 1945, the name Benjamin W. Prewatte has been listed on the records of city and county recorder courts 18 times. Seven of the charges were for drunkenness, one for charge breaking and larceny, one for carrying a concealed weapon, one for assault with a deadly weapon.

When those 10 charges are eliminated, eight offenses involving the use of an automobile are left. Let us take a look at those:
On Aug. 8, 1949, Benjamin W. Prewatte was charged with drunk driving, reckless driving, driving without a license, and carrying a concealed weapon.

Democratic Strategy, GOP Feuds Put Ike On Spot

By JOSEPH B. STEWART ALBOP
WASHINGTON
THE Republicans... one experienced Democratic senator has remarked, "are in about as nasty a bind as I've seen since I've been here."

One More Spring



A Question For Adlai Still A One-Party Press?

(An Editorial From The Providence (R. I.) Bulletin)

EARLY in the 1952 campaign, a Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson delivered a speech at Portland, Oregon, in which he said:

"I am, frankly, considerably concerned when I see the extent to which we are developing a one-party press in a two-party country... I am gravely concerned about the implications of this one-party system for our American press and free society."

And shortly after the election an observer from the ranks of the press itself, Robert H. Estabrook of the Washington Post, warned: "One of the real dangers is that a press so heavily committed to Eisenhower will find itself apologetic for him instead of giving him the independent, constructive criticism that any administration needs."

It has been instructive to recall these observations about the "one-party press" during the last few weeks, when nearly any newspaper you could lay hands on was filled with coverage of the spectacular GOP family squabble between McCarthyism and with vigorous criticism of the administration—including Mr. Eisenhower.

THE SUBVERSIVES
Nor was this recent episode an isolated or exceptional instance. Take a look, for example, at the course of the 2,200.

When bigwigs of the administration began tossing around the idea of security dismissals under Eisenhower as evidence of the way in which "spies and traitors" were being fired out of the government by the new GOP team, the newspapers were the first ones to start asking questions.

On the contrary, the press under Eisenhower has honored its historic role as watchdog of government, no matter what party is in power.

him to deduct soil-conservation expenses. If he had given in to all this pressure he would have had to pay \$100,000 to \$700,000. It would have meant only a small weekly tax savings to the average American family, at a high cost to the financial stability of the government."

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, the Cleveland industrialist, backed him up. But GOP Congressman Paul Fino of New York did not.
"Not many people in my district in the Bronx are interested in the 10 per cent reduction in the tax on fur coats provided in this bill, because they can't afford to buy fur coats," declared Fino, "but they are family men who are interested in the proposed \$100 exemption for each dependent."

Secrecy Walls Come Tumbling Down

ACROSS the land, under pressure from an aroused public, the walls of secrecy in government are beginning to tumble.
In Maryland, Gov. Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin has recently signed into law a bill requiring that "all meetings, regular and special" of state commissions, boards and agencies and all county and city boards, agencies and councils, "shall be public meetings and open to the public at all times."

ions and appropriation bills for the state legislature have agreed to open future meetings to the press and public. For years the commission has held closed sessions.
In North Carolina, many members of the 1953 General Assembly, in announcing for re-election, and many new candidates for the legislature have pledged to vote to repeal the secrecy law adopted a year ago.

Camellia 'Fever' And How It Spreads

IN a full page spread in last Sunday's RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER, Herbert O'Keefe put his finger on several causes for the rapid spread of what he called the "camellia fever" in North Carolina:
1. The blooms are lovely.
2. The rules for growing camellias are simple.
3. They make fine shrubs for the many new homes now being built.
4. Information about the plants has been disseminated widely by magazines, newspapers and garden clubs.
5. The North Carolina climate and soil are favorable.

Staid businessmen and glamorous society leaders who have never known the feel of warm, fresh earth crumpled between their fingers don their working clothes and putter until dark—and sometimes under lights after dark—scratching in fertilizer, watering, adding mulch around the base of the plants before the dark, waxy leaves. Across backyard fences, in garden clubs and camellia societies, ideas are exchanged, suggestions made, long botanical names bandied back and forth in a jargon totally unintelligible to the uninitiate.
Take last weekend for instance. The Charlotte Men's Camellia Club sponsored a camellia show, staged by our garden editor, Miss Cora Harris, in the lobby of the American Trust Co. And in 12 hours on Saturday and Sunday, more than 12,000 people poured through the entrance after queuing up for as much as an hour just to look at and enjoy the exotic beauty of the camellias on display.

From The Asheville Citizen

TOO FAR

NO ONE has ever found out from the chicken precisely why it crosses the road, though everyone knows what helps it along: flight feathers, 22 of 'em, on each wing.
However, the jig, or rather the flight, is up. A scientist at the University of Maryland has developed a chicken without any flight feathers. That makes plucking and fencing easier. And flying impossible.
Somebody is always upsetting poultry life to make it conform to human needs: turkeys that yield up a preponderance of white meat, for instance. But breeding non-flying chickens is, in our book, the ultimate incivility to the Little Red Hen and all her kind. A chicken who

can't fly up in high dudgion when the neighbor's dog intrudes; a chicken banished from the roost for lack of motive power; a dull, immobile, earth-bound hen. Fowl play, indeed!
A nickel goes a long way these days—you carry one for a long time before finding anything it will buy.—OSKALOOSA (IOWA) TRIBUNE PRESS.
Somebody says cheesecake is banned on TV. Which band is that?—KINGSFORD (TENN.) TIMES.
The most effective highway safety sign is on the side of a police patrol car.—MIAMI HERALD.

Coverage Of Art Brings Response

EDITH THE Southern Pines
A CHAIRMAN of the Art Committee of the Southern Pines Library Art Gallery, I am writing to thank you for the coverage that you have been giving, in news and feature stories, to our exhibiting artists and to our club members.
In this small community, we seem to have had an awakening of art enthusiasm this past year. How important has been the publicity coverage in our weekly paper, The Pilot, in bringing this about.

Beauty Culture Courses Opposed

Charlotte
EDITORS THE NEWS:
IT HAS been announced that the new West Charlotte High School will offer many technical courses this fall. Among the new courses to be offered is Beauty Culture. Why will Barbering not be offered? There is a great demand for beauty culture everywhere at this time. Nine-tenths of the colored barber shops in Charlotte are throughout the state can use from one to four more barbers. This demand does not exist in beauty culture because there are a sufficient number of excellent beauty schools now in operation in North Carolina to meet the demand for colored beauticians.

Camellia Show Rang The Bell

Charlotte
EDITORS THE NEWS:
ON BEHALF of the Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte, a public word of thanks and deepest appreciation to all who shared in the planning, work and final bloom of success of the first camellia show held last weekend in the lobby of the American Trust Company. Hundreds of people deserve credit for an event that

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
INTERVIEWING President Batista in Havana the other day I noticed him scribble a desk memorandum to himself. It was in shorthand. "Shorthand," I told the president enviously, "is something that as a newspaperman I always wish I knew. How did you happen to learn it?"
Then developed some of the amazing story of the president of Cuba, a mild-mannered and most likable gentleman who believes the fact that twice he has taken credit of Cuba by revolution.
Batista was the son of poverty-stricken parents in the interior of the island, and went to work in the cane fields when he could barely wield a cane knife. Later he got a job on the Cuban railroads as a conductor-brakeman, and at the age of 20 enlisted in the army.
But during these years, he spent almost every evening studying. Though he never finished any formal schooling, he borrowed books, went to night school, once even obtained permission to use the library on the farm of President Zayas near which he was stationed. It was during these years that Batista learned shorthand, an accomplishment which won him a job as reporter at courts-martial and the rank of sergeant.
I told Batista that I had been in Cuba when he staged his revolt against the bloody Machado regime. Incidentally, though the revolt was successful, Batista

Cuban Chief Rose From Cane Fields

still a sergeant, did not then become president. Though he remained a power behind the scenes, he did not become president until seven years later.
Danger Of Communism
Discussing the danger of communism in Latin America, President Batista's mind seemed to go back to the days when he worked for starvation wages in the cane fields.
"The best antidote for communism," he said, "is to provide better social and economic conditions for the people." In other words, try to eliminate low standards of living and other conditions on which communism thrives.
When I asked whether U. S. companies, such as United Fruit, face a problem of land distribution in such countries as Guatemala, Batista said that this problem did not exist in Cuba.
"Cuban relations with foreign investors have been good," he said, "and they will continue that way.
"Such relations with the other nations of the Americas are excellent," he continued, "and relations between Cuba and the United States have never been better."

Tax Debate

Here are the highlights of both closed-door meetings:
The Democrats—"The issue is as old as Thomas Jefferson's proclamation. He burned to Democratic representatives. "He fought for equitable tax laws that would protect those least able to pay and who are family men who are interested in the proposed \$100 exemption for each dependent."
The Republicans—"I defy anyone to go over our bill point by point and say that it doesn't help the little man in numerous ways," proclaimed Uncle Dan Reed at the GOP caucus. "For example, we have assisted the farmer by enabling

Danger Of Communism

him to deduct soil-conservation expenses. If he had given in to all this pressure he would have had to pay \$100,000 to \$700,000. It would have meant only a small weekly tax savings to the average American family, at a high cost to the financial stability of the government."