

The Charlotte Observer  
Sunday, February 3, 1991

## OBSERVATIONS

A Collection Of Notable Quotes

### Losing On The Home Front

**Madison, Wis., Mayor Paul Soglin:** We had determined that roughly \$5 billion was needed for a starter program for America's cities. Last summer, Chairman (of the House Ways and Means Committee Dan) Rostenkowski told us that the peace dividend was spoken for, and it had already gone to bail out the S&Ls. Now we've been told that we're spending about \$500 million (a day) to make this shooting war possible, which means that in the course of 10 days, we've reached \$5 billion. If there is no money to take care of our greatest national security problem, the problem of our cities, how did we manage to find it to fight this war?

**Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode, talking to the House Government Operations Committee:** There will be more people killed on the streets of American cities in the next 12 months than in the Persian Gulf.

**Marilyn Gardner in the Christian Science Monitor:** A few comparative figures speak volumes about national priorities. It took nearly five years for Congress to pass a \$2.5 billion child-care bill. "Too expensive," critics grumbled at the time. By contrast, it took only five days for the U.S. military to blow up that amount in the Persian Gulf. Similarly, an amount equal to the \$2.1 billion annual budget for WIC, a widely praised food program that serves low-income pregnant women, infants and children, disappeared in four days over the Midwest.

### Hussein Reveals His Nature

**An editorial in Newsday:** An animal that fouls its own nest is either sick or deranged and is shunned by its own kind. With his monstrous decision to cause the worst oil spill in history, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has chosen to become a pariah. In warfare, as in nature, some boundaries are inviolable, and their breach causes universal revulsion. The ecological nightmare that Hussein has visited on his own region has put the world on notice that Hussein will stoop to any measure, no matter how abhorrent, regardless of consequences. There is no longer any question that Hussein must be defeated. The only question now is whether the allies should drop all pretenses and declare that the inescapable conclusion of the war must be the total removal from power of this callous, unscrupulous megalomaniac.

### And He's No Saladin

**A New York Times editorial:** In proclaiming a holy war against his foes, Saddam Hussein of Iraq has likened himself to Saladin, the great Islamic adversary of Richard the Lion-Heart in the Third Crusade. This suggests abysmal ignorance of Saladin's code in dealing with foes, infidels and prisoners of war.

As the historian Anne Fremantle has written, the Third Crusade is best remembered for the gallantry which Saladin and Richard displayed toward each other.

"Saladin had the edge in this regard. Battling Richard at Jaffa, for example, he learned that the Englishman's horse had been killed under him; promptly he sent a groom leading two fresh mounts."

"One night Moslem raiders carried off a child from the Christian camp. An Arab chronicler related what happened: 'The sultan was on horseback, surrounded by a numerous escort, of which I was one, when the mother presented herself. The sultan informed himself of her plight and when he learned of it, his eyes filled with tears. He sent for the child. . . . All who saw the scene, and I among them, also wept.' And this noble figure, so at variance with Western stereotypes of Islamic zeal, had another distinction: He was a Kurd, whose descendants in Iraq have been gassed by Saddam Hussein.

One can imagine what Saladin might have said about the bully who now claims his mantle.

### Better Riyadh Than Storm

**Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Desert Storm field commander:** Saying Scuds are a danger to a nation is like saying lightning is a danger to a nation. I would feel more in danger in a field in south Georgia during a lightning storm than I would in a Scud attack in Riyadh.

### Football And War

**Steven Stark in the Boston Globe:** Most forms of popular culture are an escape from something like a war. Football, as we all know, is something else entirely. . . .

You don't have to be a student of American culture to realize that we don't play the national anthem, our most popular war song, before showing "Home Alone" at the local movie theater.

But in this time of crisis, it's worth remembering that football and war have always been closely linked in the public and political mind, much more so than a sport like baseball, which is too pastoral and individualistic to recall the art of war. Whether talking about bombs or blowouts, the vocabulary of football and war are often the same.

### Danger In The Garden

**Colin McEnroe in the Hartford Courant:** People warned me that, when I became a parent, I would think about things differently. They were right.

You look at your child sleeping, and you think about all the things people do to make small lives grow. You think of all the nervous, caring hands of parents, feeling a tiny forehead for a fever, cutting food up for a meal, rubbing a back to make the crying stop. You think about all the anxious, loving, fretful, tender human gardening that parents do all over the world, coaxing lives into flower and fruit.

And then you think of war, where lives are just spent, like handfuls of pebbles thrown at a wastepail. And all of those lives — ours and theirs — started out as babies, gardened by worrying parents.

And whether you think that this particular war is horrible or just, stupid or right, it just doesn't seem possible that these two things — raising children and war — happen under the same sun. They belong in different universes.

Compiled by Jane McAllister Pope  
Deputy Editor of the Editorial Pages

"I think people know the South is violent — a lot of it, not just Charlotte. But I think a lot of times, the so-called 'best people' would say it's due to the black people 'who do these awful crimes.' And they wouldn't go any further. 'Oh well,' they'd say, 'they're just killing each other. So who cares?'"

— Harriet Doar

## She Knew The Man Who Gazed Into The Mind Of The South

By DANNYE ROMINE  
Book Editor

Charlotte native Harriet Doar — born Harriet Fraser — was an 18-year-old summer intern at The Charlotte News in 1930 when she first met W.J. Cash, subject of a new biography, "W.J. Cash, A Life," by Bruce Clayton. (See review on Book Week, inside).

She liked his looks. And she liked the way he looked out over the newsroom, studying the people. Cash, 30, who lived in Shelby, made frequent trips to Charlotte that summer to research a book he was writing.

That classic book, "The Mind of the South," never out of print, celebrates its 50th anniversary this month.

In the fall of 1930, Doar went off to Duke. The following summer, she returned to The News, where she would work off and on over the next 20 years.

It was at The News, in 1937 and 1938, that Doar came to better know the man who had so intrigued her that summer day in 1930. Cash liked to talk, and he liked an audience. Doar was fascinated by his book, and she would listen raptly as he read from the manuscript.

Cash died in 1941, four months after the book came out. In 1959, when daughter Jane and son Jim had reached adulthood, Doar went to work for The Observer, where she served as women's editor, book editor, art and theater critic, editorial writer and columnist. She retired in 1976.

But it was those early years on the now-defunct Charlotte News — a more liberal, less stuffy paper than The Observer — which she feels helped open up her mind.

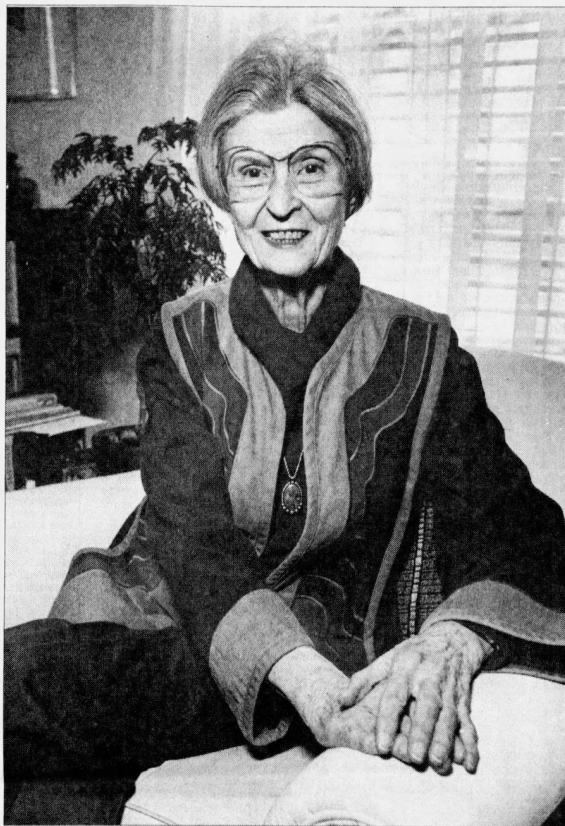
"There were a lot of characters," she says. "Everyone smoked. The men in the backshop worked in their undershirts. 'I really feel lucky to have been at The News at that time. It was a fascinating place. A unique time. Cash was a unique person. His book is unique.'"

**Q. In April 1933, with H.L. Mencken as his editor, W.J. — Jack — Cash published an article about Charlotte in the American Mercury. Cash described Charlotte as "a citadel of bigotry and obscurantism, in love with Presbyterianism, Babbitt and the Duke Power Company." Rotary ruled, he wrote, and "life is one continuous blue law. . . offering a dreary ritual of the office, golf and the church. . ." You were a spirited 21-year-old at that time. Do you agree with his assessment?**

**A. Charlotte was dismal in the 1930s. We were in the grip of the Depression. It was a like a heavy blanket over everything. It was hard to get jobs and hard to keep jobs. The overall feeling was of something hanging over you all the time. But that didn't keep it from being pretty interesting. There was a lot going on all the time. There was always something to think about.**

The fact that Cash picked Charlotte as a place to write about indicates that what was going on in Charlotte was probably interesting and important in itself.

**Q. You and Cash worked together on The Charlotte News in 1937 and 1938. He wrote editorials, book reviews, literary pieces, an occasional column. Evenings and weekends, he worked on "The Mind of the South." What was he like around the newsroom?**



T. ORTEGA GAINES/Staff

Harriet Doar was an 18-year-old intern when she met W.J. Cash, author of "The Mind of the

South." "Cash was a unique person," Doar says. "His book is unique."

**A. He worked hard while he was in the office. He concentrated on what he was doing. The younger people looked up to him to a certain extent. I think we thought of him as somebody a little apart. He was tremendously intelligent, and you realized that. And also he was rather self-conscious. He could be very witty.**

**Q. In his book, Bruce Clayton refers to The Observer as "stuffy" in the 1930s. More so than The News. Did you find it so?**

**A. We (at The News) considered it very stuffy. My family took The Observer. That was the only paper we took. It was the paper of record. The News had more personality by younger people. The News had more interest at that time. The Observer covered the power structure.**

The News had some very intelligent writers, but it was more informal. The Observer probably thought of The News as slap-dash. But we definitely thought they were stuffy.

**Q. Your first job with The News was in the sum-**

mer of 1930, between high school graduation and your freshman year at Duke. Your father landed the job for you by telling the editor you'd work for free. How did you like the newspaper business?

**A. I did not see myself as a crusading journalist. But I liked being on the paper from the beginning. I did some features. I had some chances sometimes to do some features I didn't do which I wish I had done. One time, somebody took me to see an old slave, and I didn't know anything to ask him. And of course he didn't know anything to tell me without my asking him.**

**Q. That was the summer you first met Cash. He was 30. You were 18.**

**A. Yes. He came down from Boiling Springs to do research on the book. When I first saw him, he was at the paper, standing with his back against the wall, looking at the city room. There was something very attractive about him. He looked like a man thinking interesting thoughts. He still had his hair, and it came down in a little devilish peak.**

I asked (reporter) Katherine Grantham who he was. She said, "That's Jack Cash. He's writing a book."

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## As Recycling Grows, So Do Technical, Political Problems

By KEITH SCHNEIDER  
New York Times

Not very long ago, recycling had a certain innocent glamour. Collecting old bottles and cans was seen as husbanding resources. Turning in old newspapers not only saved space in the local dump, it preserved forests. Making plastic bottles into new products like park benches and cottony filling for winter jackets made everybody involved feel pleased with themselves.

But in the 1990s, even as recycling has become one of the country's fastest growing industries, the process has become burdened by technical problems and political conflicts. Despite the abundance of supply, some recycling, especially that involving plastics, is being restricted because of poor collection and distribution methods. In addition, the Bush administration and environmental groups are at odds over the government's role in assisting the industry with new regulations.

Each year, the United States produces 11 billion to 14 billion tons of wastes, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Included is 180 million tons of trash the EPA says households and businesses throw away every year. Some of this tonnage has helped build a \$1 billion to \$2 billion year recycling industry that is driven as much by public policy as it is by necessity and enterprise.

Spurred by concern about pollution and the rapidly rising costs of dumping garbage, 32 states now have comprehensive laws to increase recycling. More than 1,500 communities in 35 states require residents to separate bottles, cans and newspapers for recycling, according to the federal government.

Last October the EPA estimated that 13%, or 23 million tons, of municipal wastes are being recycled and 14%, or 25 million tons, are being burned as fuel in dual-purpose incinerators that, taken together, could generate enough electricity to light Philadelphia.

The recycling laws and the desire of most Americans to cooperate have produced uneven results. People were so good about leaving their newspapers on the curb that 6 million tons piled up in warehouses last year, long enough to grow moldy, and prices fell from \$7.30 a ton last February to \$1.30 last year.

American newspaper manufacturers have responded with plans to increase the market for recycled paper by raising the percentage of old paper used in newsprint. The American Newspaper Publishers Association said earlier this month that newsprint manufacturers are committed to investments totaling \$1.5 billion to more than double the output of recycled newsprint, to 5 million tons, by 1993.

See AS RECYCLING Page 4C



File Photo

Communities are now taking extra steps toward recycling. More than 1,500 communities in 35 states require residents to separate bottles, cans and newspapers for recycling.

# She Knew The Man Who Gazed Into The Mind Of The South

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That surprised and astounded me because I didn't know people who wrote books.

**Q. Were there many women journalists in the 1930s, and how were you treated?**

**A.** We were in a minority, very definitely. We were treated more like juniors. We were both catered to a little and also not given too good assignments. But I don't think anything was really blocking the way. Most of the women were not educated to work on a paper. Most of us fell into it for one reason or another.

We didn't have any women editors at all when I was there. There were four men who sat around a big desk — the managing editor, the city editor, the state editor and the national editor. The paper was owned by men, and it was run by men.

**Q. In 1935, while he was still in Bowling Springs, The News took a risk on the "accommodating" but "radical" Cash and invited him to write free-lance editorials and book reviews. The weekly salary — \$35 — allowed him to leave home and continue working on his book. He joined the staff full-time in 1937 as associate editor. But what were these earlier columns and reviews like?**

**A.** His (book reviews) weren't like normal book reviews. These were really fascinating articles. We'd never read anything like them before.

He had a different turn of mind. He'd done a lot of reading and a lot of thinking. He dealt with the place. The other things I would read — in magazines or books — would be more general about the country. He was talking about the place that I knew and the area and the ambience of the South.

They didn't have the depth that the book has, but they were really very interesting. The columns were the beginning of the book.

**Q. Did Cash talk about the book as he was writing it?**

**A.** He talked about it some. Not much. Sometimes we'd go to the Piedmont Grill up on the corner and talk a little. Maybe three people or a larger group. Cash liked company. He liked to talk. He liked feedback. I think he liked talking to a small group of men the best. But I think he had an ignorant girl if that's all he had. I enjoyed listening to him. He was spellbound.

**Q. Cash believed that the South's violence, its bootlegging and its prostitution grew out of a repressive atmosphere. How do you see this?**

**A.** I think that hypocrisy, which grew out of slavery, led to the repressive atmosphere, which then led to the violence.

These were repressive people before there was slavery. How could they bring themselves to be so hypocritical as to enslave another people? How could they arrange their minds to think this was OK? It's that kind of hypocrisy I'm talking about.

In a way, I think it was a very pleasant society. People were real nice. They thought that was another. That was a nice way of living. Up to a point. But it was built on a false foundation. Something went wrong in their minds to allow slavery and to foster slavery in order to have money. Having made that decision, then I think that led to other hypocrisies. Having once deluded themselves, it started something that went through the whole society.

**Q. In 1936, The News reported that the "Queen City" was "the murder capital of the United States." With 55 homicides in 1936 and a population of 50,000,**



Publisher Alfred A. Knopf (left) talks with W.J. Cash at the old Hotel Charlotte before the publication of Cash's classic study of this region, "The Mind of the South."

Charlotte was relatively the most violent city in the United States. The News pointed out that Charlotte's murder rate was that of a city of 2 million. How did Charlotte react when The News aired its dirty linen?

**A.** I think it must've been a shock to some people, but I don't know why it would've been. The figures were there just for the time. I think people knew the South is violent — a lot of it, not just Charlotte. But I think a lot of times, the so-called "best people" would say it's due to the black people "who do these awful things." And they wouldn't go any further. "Oh well," they say, "they're just killing each other. So who cares?"

**Q. Charlotte's slums seemed to be the breeding grounds for these murders. In 1937, a few months before Cash moved to Charlotte, The News startled the community by publishing a "slash-and-burn" article on the street.**

**A.** For four "unrelenting days in February," reporter Cameron Shipp documented Charlotte's living conditions as some of the worst in America — Blue Heaven, Black Bottom and Sugaw Creek. Do you remember these neighborhoods? Were you shocked by the conditions?

**A.** I do remember them, and I was very much aware of them. The series brought it home with actual figures and photographs. It was something you couldn't turn away from.

When the series came out, my mother said, "I didn't know we had places like this here." She went uptown on the street car maybe twice a week and didn't notice it. She didn't see it. It was there, but she didn't see it.

**Q. For all the liberalism Charlotte News editors evidenced, Clayton points out that there was a line those editors didn't cross — the unwritten law of white supremacy. Were any reporters chomping to cross that line? Who were they?**

**A.** I think the fact that Shipp wrote that slim series showed they were really working at it. But too few people were interested in helping. I think most of the younger reporters were paying a lot more attention to this kind of thing. Like Pete McKnight (a friend of Cash's and later executive editor of The Observer) and Tom Jamison and Tim Prigden.

The News had always been more liberal than The Observer. Somebody on The Observer might argue with you. But I think The News was more open. They had to prove things more than The

Observer did. The Observer was a great money maker.

**Q. Clayton often refers to the Little Pep, a restaurant where you and Cash and other reporters gathered in the 1930s. Downtown Charlotte seemed a lot livelier then. What was it like?**

**A.** It was friendlier. It was not as business-like. There were more places that were just fun to go to, and you could almost always find somebody in there. There was the Little Pep, where you could get a sandwich and a bottle of beer or wine. Then there was a nice eating place — The Wooden Bowl. Cash didn't like it because it was run by women and he thought it was too female.

**Q. Cash worked on the book for years. And he kept missing deadlines. Were you amazed he finished the book at all?**

**A.** I was surprised but not amazed. I worried about it. It dragged on so long. You can't keep asking somebody that kind of thing.

**Q. Do you remember the day in February 1941 when "Mind of the South" came out?**

**A.** I remember the day he was signing copies at Eard's (department store). I went down with a friend early in the day, and we saw him signing books. There was not a soul there when I got there. I could have wept.

**Q. What did you think of the book?**

**A.** I thought it was absolutely wonderful. The fact that somebody I knew had written it was just wonderful. I expected it to be wonderful. I had seen some of it before. I'd heard him read a little bit from it, just informally. It was so beautiful. So wonderful.

**Q. You are aware with hindsight that Cash was an active alcoholic. Did you know it then?**

**A.** I didn't know very much about alcoholism. I thought an alcoholic was somebody zonked out on a park bench, and I knew that some people drank too much. It was a time when people drank a good bit, but they probably drank less — except at parties — than they do now. I think Cash, if he was alcoholic, had a lot of enablers, though we had not heard that word at that time.

**Q. Was there anything you didn't like about Cash?**

**A.** I can't think of anything. He could be unpredictable, change his mood quickly. And he had what you might now call a little gender trouble. Every now and

then he would say something that wouldn't be so much sexist as derogatory. I just think he was a man of his time, where in other ways he was ahead of it.

**Q. In June 1941, four months after the publication of "The Mind of the South," Cash and wife Mary headed for Mexico City, where he planned to write a novel. On June 30, 1941, Cash began to hear voices in the hall outside their apartment. He was convinced the voices came from Nazis who planned to kill him. The next day, Mary found him dead in a room in La Reforma hotel, hanging from his necktie. What do you make of his death?**

**A.** A symposium, "The Minds of the South," will be held Thursday-Sunday at Wake Forest University to reexamine "The Mind of the South." For more information, call (919) 759-5890, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Harriet Doar

**A.** The headline was the shock of my life. Marion Hargrove (whose best-selling book, "See Here, Private Hargrove," grew out of his WWII communications from Fort Bragg to The News) called me — which I will bless him for

**A.** I've thought a lot about his column on (the book) "The Human Mind" by Dr. Karl Menninger. I've always thought if he had gone to somebody like that ... There wasn't anybody here he could go to. There was a psychiatrist here, but he gave people shock treatment. There were no talking psychiatrists. He needed to talk to somebody who was as intelligent as he was and knew something about what was going on.

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## As Recycling Grows, So Do Problems

Continued From Page 1C

The plastics recycling industry confronts a different set of problems: mainly, increasing demand and constricted supply. New technology enables manufacturers to transform old plastic bottles into new ones at a price equal to or, in many cases, lower than making them from a raw source. With 14 million tons of plastic bottles discarded yearly and only 1% recycled, the supply is abundant but largely wasted.

Recycling Times, a Washington newspaper that covers the field, reports that 18 companies are building new plants or expanding old recycling mills to take advantage of technology. Yet the mechanisms for collecting, bailing and shipping old plastic are still so primitive that recyclers can scarcely find enough old plastic to meet the demand.

To take another example, one of the most promising areas of recycling, burning millions of tons of trash to make steam for electricity, is being slowed by a debate between executives of incinerator companies and environmental groups over the safety and the need for such plants.

"You cannot have a successful recycling program if it's your policy to encourage incineration," said Peter Montagna, director of the Environmental Research Foundation in Washington.

John Phillips, a vice president of Ogdens Martin Systems Inc., a New Jersey-based subsidiary of the Ogdens Corp., which has built 16 of

the nation's 130 electricity-generating incinerators and has 10 others in various stages of construction or planning, said such reasoning is misinformed. "Those who argue waste-to-energy plants impair recycling miss the point," Phillips said. "70% to 80% of the garbage is going straight to the landfills, thrown away, nothing done with it at all. We're not competing with recycling programs. In fact, we've found that our plants help to anchor a community-waste program and accelerate recycling."

Japan, one of the world's leading countries in recycling, has built more than 300 waste-to-energy plants, in which 40% of the country's wastes are burned and an estimated 30% recycled.

In the United States, one of the big debates in the recycling industry is over whether the federal government should require certain products, like plastic bottles, to include a specific amount of recycled materials. Proponents say the government could also mandate recycling goals for states and communities.

But the Bush administration has discouraged such specific regulations, and in the last week of December it sent an unmistakable message by eliminating a proposal from EPA administrator William Reilly that would have required new municipal incinerators to recycle 25% of the wastes they receive. The Bush administration said the proposal was too restrictive and overlooked the fact that

hiring workers to separate and market recycled trash could cost far more than simply burning it. Reilly said the EPA would seek to promote recycling through other programs, including encouraging federal agencies to buy recycled products. Almost all of the paper used at the agency, according to one of Reilly's deputies, is recycled. Reilly also said his agency has begun to study markets for recycled products and is offering guidance to communities.

Progress even in the EPA's modest recycling program has been unsteady. When the Internal Revenue Service asked the nation's printers last year for bids to produce federal tax returns, contracting officers for the IRS found a surprising response: printing standard 1040 tax forms on recycled paper would cost as much as 42% more than using virgin paper.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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