

Drummond Back

Roscoe Drummond, star reporter and world news analyst, is again writing for The Observer. Turn to page 2B.

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The Charlotte Observer

It Is Better To Wear Out Than To Rust Out

Charlotte, North Carolina, Tuesday Morning, February 8, 1955

SECTION B

EDITORIALS SOCIETY
COLUMNS FINANCIAL
FORUM COMICS

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TRAUSTIES

By
GUS
TRAVIS

Ride In Old Auto Cures Arthritis

Saturday morning I heard Edna, the cook, dialing a number downstairs and, figuring I might get a column idea, I gently lifted the receiver on my phone upstairs and listened in.

"I found out it was Frank Jones, the real estate man, she was calling. Frank has been confined to his home for a number of years and his main source of pleasure these days comes from sending cards to people who have birthdays, anniversaries or who are sick. Edna was thanking him for a get-well card."

"Mr. Jones," I heard her say when Frank answered her ring, "dis is Edna Davis what works for Mr. Gus Travis. I want to thank you for dat card you sent me. How did you know I was sick?"

"Frank had read it in one of my columns but he said, 'I figured anybody who worked for the trust must be sick. Are you getting any better?'"

"I started to butt in right there and tell him a few things, but decided to hold out for a column, if I could get one."

"I had a powerful case of aches in de joints," Edna replied, "but I got well all of a sudden."

"That's my main trouble," said Frank. "I've been everywhere from Hot Springs to Battle Creek trying to cure it, but all I've done is pile up doctors' bills. I've spent \$10,000."

"I can tell you how to get cured, Mr. Jones," said Edna.

"Years ago when I first got arthritis," went on Frank, ignoring her, "the doctor used to come see me for three bucks. Now I have to go see him for ten times that much. And still, he's not certain what I've got. Did they find out exactly what you had?"

"Now, suh, not exactly," said Edna. "Dey thought I had \$75 but I saved up \$125."

"I mean did you have arthritis like I have?" inquired Frank.

"LONGER NAME
"Dat must be one of dem three-dollar dums," Edna said. "What I got is way longer dan dat. I can't pronounce it but before I got cured I ached just like I had somp'n bad a shorter name."

"Did the doctor put you on a diet?" asked Frank.

"Yes, suh," said Edna. "But I don't believe he put me on a diet account of my aches. He put me on a diet so I could save up enough to pay his bill."

"Well, what you kicking about?" retorted Frank. "He cured you didn't he?"

"Now, suh!" said Edna. "Mr. Gus cured me."

"Mr. Gus?" asked back Frank. "How in heck did that screwball cure you?"

"Well, it was dis way," explained Edna. "About two weeks ago I got de worst fit o' aches I ever did have. When I couldn't hardly walk I asked Mr. Gus to rush me down to de doctor's office. And dat was de smartest thing I ever did."

"How so?" puzzled Frank.

"Well, dat man drives just like he writes," said Edna. "Ain't no telling where he's liable to end up at. He's got an old Studebaker 'bout as bad as dat old Chevrolet he used to have and he can't handle it no better. After knockin' over de garbage can backing out de driveway he nearly collided wid a telephone pole and ended up going in de wrong direction on a one-way street. When I saw a fire truck come tearing down dat one-way street in our direction I just sailed outa dat old Studebaker and ran most o' de way back home."

"With your arthritis?" gasped Frank.

"NO MORE ACHES
"I just didn't have any more o' dat," said Edna. "In de excitement I forgot about dem aches and high-tailed it home. I got imbered up good and ain't had any aches since."

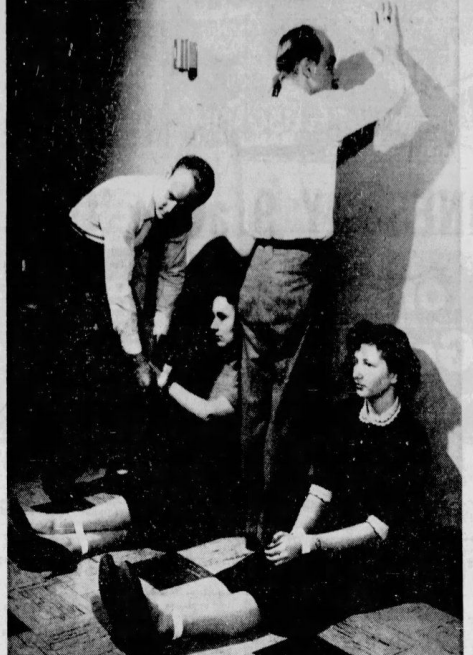
"Well, you didn't have arthritis," contended Frank. "You just had stiff joints and needed limbering up."

"Maybe so," conceded Edna. "But I sure hope dat cured me for good, 'cause I ain't gonna ride wid dat man again if I get twice as wid him. Mr. Jones! He can limber you up in no time."

"I don't want to get limbered up that bad," said Frank. "At listening to you, I'd rather put up with a few aches."

"That last crack made me so mad I butted into the conversation and told them both where to go. And it was far enough away to get them so limbered up they never would have arthritis again."

"I don't think I'll listen in on the extension any more for awhile. It upset me so I started aching myself."



HOLD-UP VICTIMS RE-ENACT SCENE— Eastern Finance Co. employees re-enact their predicament of late yesterday under the barrel of a bandit's pistol. From left are Bob Harris, manager; Miss Orella Davis, cashier; Wayne Spencer, assistant manager; and Miss Christine Davis, who thought her first day's work with the firm was the last. Harris was forced to bind the girls' hands and feet with adhesive tape. (Observer Staff Photo—Kelly)

Park Board Orders Suit Immunity End

Governmental immunity won't be pleaded when Charlotte's Park Board is sued.

Park commissioners last night voted to sue the Park Board for immunity.

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New Park Center May Open In Fall

The Park Board yesterday unofficially set a target date of Oct. 1 for opening of the new Park Center.

Architect James Malcolm reported revision of original plans is under way and detailed plans will likely be ready within two months.

Representatives of insurance firms presented checks totaling \$34,307.01—settlement on damage to the Army-Auditorium in the fire of June 8.

The board has voted to build the new Park Center auditorium with this fund, but to limit construction expenditures to the insurance-settlement figure.

REVISIONS WILL HELP
Mr. Malcolm said he believes certain revisions in the plans will permit this to be done. But he said it may be necessary to change the plan radically so that the portions of walls still standing would be used.

Under the policy adopted by the board, all construction costs, architect's fees, and furnishings must be provided for within the insurance-fund limit.

Preliminary cost estimates ought to be ready within a week, said Mr. Malcolm. Then it can be determined whether the existing walls will have to be used.

During the discussion, Commissioner J. B. Clark speculated on the possibility that a major beef company might be persuaded to sponsor boxing matches of national interest as the new building's opening attraction.

"PRIZE FIGHT"
He indicated he'll try to promote interest in the proposed "dollar prize fight."

The board instructed Superintendent Marion Diehl to confer with City Treasurer L. L. Ledbetter on the best use of insurance funds to earn interest before it's actually needed to pay out for construction.

A check for \$312.26, left over from a year-old public fund drive conducted by the Charlotte Park Association, was made available to the Children's Nature Museum.

The City School Board yesterday approved construction of a laboratory-office building at Central High School.

School commissioners also: 1. Selected a site bounded by Roston road and Camp Greene street for construction of the new Ashley Park Junior High School.

2. Made it clear they want to acquire a portion of the present Cannon Airport as the site of a new senior high school that will eventually be built to serve the southwestern area.

3. Indicated decision may also be near on a site for another new senior high school to serve the northeastern area.

The building at Central will provide office space and laboratory facilities for the tax-supported Charlotte College and Charlotte Technical Institute programs.

School Supt. Elmer H. Garing said the new facilities will also be used in the daytime by Central High students.

The structure, which will probably cost about \$35,000, is to be erected on Cecil street next to Central. The request for approval came from the community college's Advisory Committee.

Dr. Garing said no final decision has been made as to what funds will be used for the project.

Decision on the Ashley Park site clears the way for start of work on a fourth new junior high. Three others are under construction.

There have been strong indications that the School Board will consider further expansion of these four junior highs, purchase of sites for the two new senior highs, and additions to certain elementary schools when a program is framed for the proposed new city-county school bond issue.

Police Capture Bandit In Battle On Square

Loan Office Is Held Up, \$330 Stolen

Two rookie police officers slammed a sawed-off gunman to the pavement of a crowded Independence Square here yesterday, minutes after he had robbed a finance company of \$330.

The hold-up occurred at 4:14 p.m. in the offices of Eastern Finance Co., 106 S. Church St., and constituted six minutes of terror for Manager Bob Harris and three employees.

Harris said Myers, who stands just 5-6, asked about an automobile loan, displayed a white stepped back from the counter, pulled the gun and said:

"I want the money now, I've got to have it now."

Harris said the gunman raised the .38, tossed him a roll of adhesive tape and forced him to bind the wrists and ankles of Miss Christine Davis and Miss Orella Davis, who were made to sit on the floor.

He then forced another employee, Wayne Spencer, to stand against the wall.

Harris said that when three customers entered, Myers hid the gun and told him to "get rid of them."

The customers, two of whom were unidentified, saw the bound girls but left when he asked them to, Harris said.

The third was Eugene Wilbur, Negro, who later, with Harris, chased the bandit to the Square.

Harris said Myers ignored \$300 lying out on a counter, but forced him to give him currency in a drawer, amounting to \$250. Then he fled.

One of the women freed herself and called police at Harris and Wilbur began the one and one-half block chase.

Police cars were converging on the Square just as Officers E. Elliott and Frank Burgess seized the man who drew the pistol.

Detective Capt. W. A. McCall said Myers told him he had gone to Rock Hill four years ago from Dravosburg, Pa.

Rock Hill police said he had no criminal record there.

Myers said he decided to pull the holdup when he was refused a loan.

Manager Harris said, however, that Myers told him, after asking for an automobile loan, to bring the title with him.

See RANDIT, page 14B, Col. 2



CAPTURED GUNMAN—Ray Myers, gunman, (extreme left) is shown after his arrest which followed a midtown holdup late yesterday. His captors were, (from left) Officers O. E. Elliott and Frank Burgess with Detective Capt. W. A. McCall. (Observer Staff Photo—Kelly)

Guard Seeks More Money For Armory

Charlotte yesterday was asked to advance more money and provide a bigger site for a \$345,000 National Guard armory at Municipal Airport.

National Guard authorities told the City Council that final approval of plans for the project is expected in Washington next month.

Bids on construction will likely be asked in late April, according to Maj. Gen. John H. Manning, state adjutant general.

In a letter to Mr. Yancey, General Manning reported that \$345,000 is the latest estimate of architects on the amount needed for the building.

It was originally thought that the building would cost about \$225,000.

WILL DONATE SITE
The City Council last June agreed to donate a Morris Field site and to advance one-fourth of the cost, to be repaid by the state "if and when sufficient appropriations are made by the General Assembly . . . for armory construction."

Federal funds are available now for the other three-fourths of the cost, said General Manning.

The architect's new estimate means that the city would have to advance \$86,250.

General Manning also reported that additional land is needed. The Council agreed last spring to donate a four-acre tract at the airport.

But a 5.55-acre tract is needed so that the building can be so placed that its location will conform to Civil Aeronautics Administration regulations, said the National Guard chief.

The proposed site would give the installation a 200-foot frontage along Terminal road.

The questions of advancing an increased sum and granting a larger site will have to be decided by the City Council. Decisions may come at tomorrow afternoon's meeting.

Coincidentally, the letter from General Manning came on the day that the Park Board received an insurance settlement on the burned-out Armory-Auditorium.

HOUSED FIVE UNITS
The Cecil street building, severely damaged by Fire June 8, housed the five National Guard units and served as the Park Board's public auditorium.

Shortly after the fire, the National Guard officials announced they'd seek construction of a new building for exclusive use of the Guard.

And the Park Board has voted to use its \$34,307 insurance fund to construct a new public auditorium (to be known as Park Center) on the old Armory-Auditorium site.

Speaking of the proposed National Guard building at the airport, General Manning said, "I think I can say with all modesty that this armory will be a great credit to the city."

Members of the delegation to support a measure to exempt See SOLONS, page 14B, Col. 2

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Legislators Support City Street Bill

The Observer Bureau
RALEIGH, Feb. 7.—The Mecklenburg legislative delegation unanimously approved tonight a bill to allow the Charlotte City Council to improve certain streets at no cost to adjoining property owners.

Members said the measure, approved by local authorities, re-sold principally from a controversy over assessment of property owners on West Fifth street. That street was improved without their vote, it was said, and some ill feeling resulted.

Under the proposed measure, the City Council could open, repave, improve and provide gutters on streets in the public interest, even in paying for right-of-way. Cost would be borne from state funds.

BACKED BY BLYTHE
Senator Blythe said that "I've got to have this bill if we do any unbolting around Charlotte."

Rep. Arthur Goodman agreed to consult with the attorney general over the drafting of the bill. He then turned it over to Blythe for introduction.

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AVERAGE NOW 21.9 CENTS Hot City Gasoline Price War Rumored Near End

Rumors that Charlotte's gas price war may end within the next 48 hours spread about the gas pump circuit yesterday.

Reports were that oil companies, losing money at an 8.3-cent-a-gallon rate, are ready to lift temporary discounts to dealers, thus forcing the price back to normal.

It could come tonight, said one operator.

It would mean that motorists again would shell out 31.9 cents a gallon for regular and 33.9 cents for high test.

Since the price war started more than two weeks ago, regular gas prices have dropped as low as 17.9 cents a gallon.

Yesterday's average price for regular gas rested at 21.9 cents. This is the lowest pump price being supported by oil companies.

Based on average monthly consumption of 4 million gallons for the county and yesterday's 21.9 cent average, operators and oil companies combined are losing \$392,000 a month in the war.

Oil companies' losses are accounting for \$32,600 of the total, based on a discount of 8.3 cents a gallon allowed dealers.

Operators, whose price spread has been cut 1-1/2 cents a gallon are losing the remaining \$60,000.

Service station spokesmen were noncommittal about the prospects for an end to the price war. Dealers questioned said they are well satisfied with the situation and are waiting on oil companies to make the first move.

Service station operators based their comments on "hints" and

Dining Room Suite Brings Asking Price

Mrs. W. M. Mauney, 1182 Woodside Ave., Charlotte, had a dining room suite for sale.

With the help of an Observer Want Ad, she made the sale.

When Mrs. Mauney called to cancel her ad, she said, "I sold it to the first person and I received my asking price. I'm very pleased with the results of my ad."

If you have any household goods, pets, or livestock for sale, why not let an Observer Want Ad help you locate the buyer who may be looking for just the article you have. Just call

ED 2-7121
Or drop your ad in the mail to The Charlotte Observer
Observer Want Ads Work



ARMORY INSURANCE CHECK PRESENTED— Insurance executives are shown turning over checks for \$34,307.01—settlement on damage to the Armory-Auditorium in fire—fire to Park Board Chairman Ernest Sifford. The presentation came to a City Hall meeting yesterday. Left to right are Arthur Sams, president of the Charlotte Mutual Insurance Association; George Wadsworth, secretary of the Charlotte Insurance Exchange; and Mr. Sifford. (Observer Staff Photo—Kelly)