

Established Dec. 8, 1888

## 500,000 Ballot Monday

# GIANS RACIAL VOTE

### Famous Phifer Home Razed

## Another Landmark In City Becomes Progress Victim

By JULIAN SCHEER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

While almost no one watched, another Charlotte landmark vanished this week.

The last outbuilding of the famous William Fulenwider Phifer home was razed on E. 11th St. This was an office for the owner and the overseer and sat behind the main house which has long since disappeared.

It was in the main house, which faced N. Tryon, on the site now occupied by Sears, that the last full Confederate cabinet meeting was held.

MISS SARAH HAWKINS, owner of the property, gave the order to L. A. Norman to begin demolition this week. Only a few Charlotteans took notice of the work as a crew tore down the small brick building.

Today, stacked on the lot between N. Tryon and N. College, is a pile of 100-year-old bricks and timbers—*for sale*.

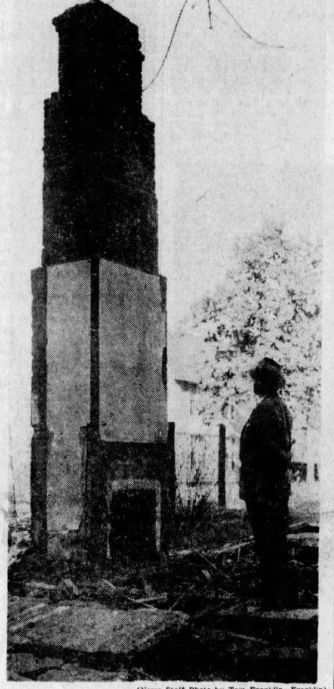
The Phifer estate was one of the most impressive in North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Phifer left Cabarrus plantation in 1823 and came to Charlotte where they started building on a 4,000-acre tract.

All of the city's development in the northern section from Tryon over to Cordelia Park was a part of the Phifer property. The main house faced what is now N. Tryon and behind the house was a courtyard with several outbuildings.

THERE WERE carriage houses, servants quarters, the office building razed this week and others. Farther to the rear—on E. 11th St. east of College St.—were barns and other buildings, including blacksmith shop. The bricks from the building this week and used in the Phifer home were made in the place. The timbers were cut and hewed here and the nails were forged in the Phifer blacksmith shop. Actually, the main house—the real showplace of early Charlotte—was the final structure built.

Phifer came here in 1821 and started work on a few houses for servants. He moved into one of them while the big house was being built.

When the building was completed soon became a center for Charlotte social life. On May 20, 1875, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the home was the scene



(News Staff Photo by Tom Francis—Franklin)

George Phifer Houston surveys last of Phifer home

One of the city's most lavish parties.

"CHARLOTTE RUSSETT" was a favorite dessert in the family and was made from a recipe obtained by Mrs. Phifer's brother, Joseph Harvey White, from the chef of an old Charleston hotel. In April of 1865 the last meet-

## SEGREGATION STUDY PLAN IS LAGGING

Survey Points Out Little Done Beyond Studying Problem

By NOEL YANCEY

RALPHIGH (AP)—A survey today indicated that advisory committees set up to advise local boards of education on school segregation have done little beyond studying the problem.

The survey covered 23 of the state's 174 county and city school districts. Of these 23 units, some 17 had set up special advisory groups and 14 had not. In the eight other units, the local school board, in whole or in part, was constituted as a study group. Many of the special committees included Negro members and in some instances Negroes are on the groups made up of school board members.

In some instances the committees have been appointed but never met, in others they have met and organized, others have begun a study. Only a few have made concrete recommendations.

THE STATUS of the advisory committees attracted statewide attention last week when W. W. Taylor, special counsel and chairman for the State Advisory Committee on Education, wrote school superintendents, suggesting that work of the advisory groups be discontinued temporarily. Tom Pearsall of Rocky Mount, chairman of the State committee, said in one instance a local committee had "usurped" authority of a local school board. In other cases local school boards were passing on to the advisory committee matters which were a board responsibility.

The state committee said in a statement the suspension was asked while the state group drafts a set of proposed regulations on pupil assignments for the local school boards to consider.

IN FORSYTH County, the 21 member advisory committee's first action was to recommend retention of present assignment policies for the current school year. One of four Negro members voted against this. A committee also was named to draft a questionnaire on the segregation problem. The Forsyth Board of Education has voted to retain its committee.

Most dramatic developments turned up by the survey were at Lexington where a 15-member advisory committee made recommendations which resulted in a big hassle.

SOME of the committee's white members joined its five Negro members to approve three recommendations to the school board. They recommended that the board (1) seek to increase school "funds

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## 'NO PARKING' RESISTANCE GROWS

Resistance to a "no parking" restriction on Providence Rd. from Colonial Ave. to Queens Rd. appeared to be gaining strength today. The resistance took this shape at one spot along the stretch of 12 blocks as the "no" in the "no parking" sign put up by the city was covered over, and a "free parking" sign tacked up under it in front of Smith's Superette.

Operator B. A. Smith said he had received permission from police authorities to continue marking in front of his store until Wednesday.

Councilman Steve Dellinger said today that he and several other councilmen have talked with merchants along the affected stretch of street, and that opposition to the ban there is general.

A formal protest of the parking ban is expected to be placed before the City Council next week.

## BULLETINS' New Policy Study Asked

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional sources said today that the Atomic Energy Commission plans its most powerful hydrogen bomb blast in a test this year in the Pacific. These sources said the record blast will be part of a series of tests now being organized by Chairman Lewis L. Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission.

## Will Proclaim Independence

BOMBAY, India (AP) — Malaya will proclaim its independence Aug. 31 next year. Prime Abdul Rahman, chief minister of the rubber and tin-rich British protectorate, announced today. Prince Abdul made the disclosure while en route to London to negotiate long-coveted independence.

## Clement Will Test Estes

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Forces of Tennessee Gov. Frank Clement will challenge supporters of Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) in a "showdown fight" for control of the 22-vote Tennessee delegation to the Democratic National Convention. The Commercial Appeal reported today.

## Bride-To-Be Is Missing

ROCHESTER, N. Y. (AP) — The 20-year-old niece of an aide to Gov. Averell Harriman disappeared today only hours before her scheduled wedding. Police launched a search for a young man she knew, she is Judy Welch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Welch.

## Chinese May Get A-Bomb

TAIPEI, Formosa. (AP) — U. S. Air Force Secretary Donald A. Quarles today hinted that U. S. atomic strategists of Chiang Kai-Shek's Chinese Nationalist Air Force might be armed with atom bombs if a new war should erupt in the Far East.

## Oregon Faces Flood Threats

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — New flood threats developed in Oregon today as more rain was forecast on top of nearly week-long rains. It was the wettest first week of any year on record at Portland, where the rain averaged an inch a day. Slides destroyed some homes and clogged streets.

## Ask Public Funds For Private Use

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Monday an estimated 300,000 Virginians — a total second only to the 630,000 state record set in the 1952 Eisenhower landslide — will vote on an issue that has become white hot: constitutional change looking to continued racial segregation in the schools.

The proposal would permit state funds to go for private tuition grants to parents who will not send their children to an integrated school. The state constitution at present forbids this.

Monday's vote will decide if a limited constitutional convention should be called. It would be limited to making the one specific change named last month by the state Legislature.

PROPOSALS SAY the change is essential to prevent mixing of the races in the schools. Opponents decry the plan as unworkable and destruction of the public school system.

A crash campaign favoring the change has been put on in recent weeks by the powerful Democratic organization headed by Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.). Most politicians in and out of office, virtually all school officials and labor leaders, and nearly all of the newspapers in the state favor the change. They say it would free the hands of the Legislature to deal with the problem.

OPPOSITION HAS come from a large number of church groups, a few liberal politicians, and some intellectuals and labor leaders who foresee the downfall of the school system. Negro groups, of course, support the change.

Today a statewide AFL-CIO committee endorsed the proposal as a "deliberate plot to have the people of the state pay for part of the private education of the wealthy."

Gov. Thomas B. Stanley, taking the air in his major address on the issue last night, said just the opposite was true, that poorer pupils would benefit most under the plan.

VIRGINIA'S NO. 1 Republican, state Sen. Ted Datto, has spoken, pulled up an unprecedented 42 percent of the vote against Stanley in the race for governor, also jumped into the fray yesterday, against the change. He said it was a futile plan that would lead to "confusion" in the Legislature.

Datto, who says he opposes integration, was the only state senator to vote against the proposal last month in the Legislature. But it is not a partisan issue.

## Like To Report On His Health

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—President Eisenhower will hold an informal news conference here tomorrow—his first since his September heart attack—when he will ascertain whether he would talk about his political future.

James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, told newsmen the convalescing President had volunteered to report to them on the state of his health, on how he has enjoyed his Florida stay and about his work plans for the immediate future.

In response to questions, Hagerty said in effect that no questions would be barred — including the one of whether he will seek re-election. But Hagerty added that he doubted Eisenhower would answer all types of questions.

Eisenhower will meet with newsmen at about 9 a.m. He plans to take off for Washington at 11 a.m. Even on the informal basis planned, it will be Eisenhower's first question-and-answer conference since his heart attack in Washington, shortly after he went to Colorado to vacation and was stricken there with a heart attack on Sept. 24.

## Our Weather

Fair and colder today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low tonight—25.

High tomorrow—67.

High today—55.

High tomorrow—45.

Sunrise 7:32 a.m.; sunset 5:27 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 5-A

## Local Insurancemen Are Opposed To Extended Coverage Rate Hikes

The Charlotte Association of Insurance Agents has gone on record against proposed changes in extended insurance coverage which have been asked by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

Mr. Martin Waters Jr., president of the Charlotte group, today made public a letter to Commissioner of Insurance Charles F. Gold unanimously expressing the group's sentiments.

The association told Mr. Gold they oppose the mandatory deductible clause, the blanket rate increase and the radio-television antenna change.

THE COMMISSIONER who must make the decision, has set a hearing for Wednesday in Raleigh to consider the Rating Bureau's proposals. The proposals call for a 100 per cent rate increase for the entire state, a \$50 deductible clause, and no coverage on radio-TV antenna.

The letter reads: "At a meeting of the Charlotte Association of Insurance Agents held on Dec. 28, 1955 we discussed at some length the filing of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau regarding proposed increases in extended coverage rates, a public hearing for which will be held in your office on Jan. 11, 1956.

"We are unanimously and unalterably opposed to the mandatory deductible clause to apply to windstorm and hail damages.

"WE ARE ALSO unanimously and unalterably opposed to the proposed blanket increase in extended coverage and windstorm rates. We believe that such a state-wide blanket increase is unwarranted and is not in the best interests of the public. We further

believe that any future change in extended coverage or windstorm rates should be based upon more realistic territorial distinctions.

"We are not opposed to the elimination of windstorm coverage on television and radio antennas, provided this coverage is available by endorsement for a specific premium which should be reasonable and not excessive.

"Since these are the sentiments of 31 members of the Charlotte Association of Insurance Agents as unanimously expressed, we respectfully request that you disapprove the filing of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau as made."

MR. WATERS signed the letter in behalf of the association and will appear at the hearing Wednesday.

Larry Tomlinson of Charlotte, a member of the conference committee of the North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents, will also appear at the hearing for that group.

The North Carolina association, of which Charlotte is a branch, earlier expressed excitement over the Rating Bureau's request that you disapprove the filing of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau as made.

Bacon prices always vary greatly according to quality, but one super market manager says some brands are the lowest in 10 years. Prices start at about 33 cents for a pound and a year ago the cheapest brands were 47.

Even 10 years ago, while the effects of price control were still being felt, the lowest price advertised was 35 cents a pound.

Ham prices have not dropped off as sharply as other pork cuts, but as one manager put it, "Top quality hams are selling this year for what the lower grades were selling last January."

Picnic hams are selling the sharpest decline, down to 25 cents a pound in most markets from an average 30 cents last year and 40 cents five years ago.

Sausages have shown a less but substantial drop of about four cents a pound.

## Pork Prices Low, But Demand Is High

South Blvd. says his pork volume is up between a third and a half. Prices are as cheap as he's seen them in five years.

"We're selling about a third more pork than usual," says J. D. Lester, manager of the meat department at the Colonial Store on N. College St. "Pork prices are at their lowest mark in quite a long time."

And the snout, nose porkers are finding themselves more than welcome on Charlotte tables.

Mrs. C. S. Taylor of 318 Northwood Dr. says, "We're having pork roast this weekend and it really saves on the pocketbook. I'd just like to see it all down."

"Why I was amazed at the size of the roast I got for my money this weekend," says Mrs. Eva Helms of 3120 Parkway Ave.

"There are five in my family and it really helps a lot when a

How Low Will High On The Hog Go?

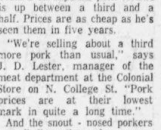
Even fat back, a traditional southern pork dish, has fallen to 12 cents from last January's high of 19 cents.

Are Charlotte housewives taking advantage of the bargain? "We can't keep the case filled up," says J. W. Parnell, meat manager at the A&P on West Trade St. "We're just about sold out of roasts and even pigs' feet

are moving unusually fast."

"And the best thing about it," says Mrs. Parnell, "is that the quality of the pork being sold at these low prices is as good as I've seen it. It's the right size, the right quality and the big increase in business shows it's the right price."

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