

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Mr. Truman Has Unbuttoned His Coat

HARRY TRUMAN has repeated his neutrality act and by so doing determined the course of the Democratic convention. Mr. Truman will have himself a candidate by Sunday. His advance notice of that fact indicates he not only intends to name his candidate, but to fight for him with his usual aggressiveness. Who will it be? If it is Stevenson there will be only one ballot and that a formality. If it is Harriman there will be a fight, a bitterly divided convention and possibly another southern walkout. A Harriman endorsement not only would anger southerners; it would make Truman himself an issue as in 1948. Truman already has cracked the crystal balls of prognosticators who have been saying he would take his coat 'half way off' for Harriman. It seems that the coat is coming off completely, and the best guess on past performances is that he will let Harriman hold it. His neutrality has had the quality of a mirage all along. He said openly he disliked Sen. Estes Kefauver and just as openly said he liked Harriman. Despite Stevenson's mission to the former president in July Mr. Truman reportedly said "If Stevenson is ever elected, he won't let us inside the White House."

Voters Needed For A Vital Month

NEVER in the history of North Carolina has a one-month period loomed so vital. On Sept. 8 the voters of the state will be called on to vote for or against constitutional amendments on schools. On Nov. 6 the voters turn out for state and national elections. It is significant, therefore, that another get-out-the-vote campaign is being launched. Energetic Arthur H. Jones will head a campaign similar to the one which received nationwide attention in 1952 when Mecklenburgers showed the nation an impressive number of public-spirited citizens. While the get-out-the-vote campaign is pitched to the presidential election of November, it should serve as a reminder that potential voters should register now and vote on Sept. 8. The mechanics of registration have been made easy here. The Elections Office is open all day six days a week and for three Saturdays this month the registration books also go to the precincts. There should be no reason why every eligible citizen should not register—and vote. Peevish Reds THE Russians never go anywhere without protest. Peevishly accepting an invitation to the international conference on the Suez Canal Moscow complained that 34 nations were not enough to invite. The Russians want 22 other nations to come, including every Arab state from Morocco to Iraq. Omission of Monaco must have been an oversight. Prince Ranier's yacht should qualify his realm as a maritime power, judging by Russian standards.

Fish Mystery: A Bona Fide Solution

EVERYTHING except the creature from the black lagoon has been blamed for the death of the Freedom Park fish. During this temporary lull while the second guessing experts squabble we'd like to point out that it's really not much of a mystery. The solution, in fact, is quite simple. The best way to understand it is to forget everything you may have heard about the fish. Don't allow yourself to be confused by the fact that one expert was calling for more vegetation in the lake while another was trying to kill what was already there, or by the fact that by trying to kill it with fertilizer he probably was making it grow. Pay no attention to the puzzle posed by the suffocation theory—that snails which don't breathe under water were dying as well as fish. The ducks didn't have anything to do with it either. And whether the lake's oxygen content was 43 or 3.4 parts per million is entirely beside the point. The real killer is an enigma who never intended to cause any trouble. Enigmas by nature are gentle and shy, as evidenced by the fact that you never, or hardly ever, see one. The aquatic enigma lives on the bottom of lakes and ponds. Sometimes, if there is room between the catfish, it buries itself in the mud. So self-effacing are they that the catfish never even know the enigmas are there. The enigma in point was minding its own business when they started fertilizing the lake. What happened? Well, it was good fertilizer. The enigma grew—larger, larger and larger until all the fish were forced out of the water. You know what happens to fish out of water. As for the snails, they were simply frightened to death. How do we know all this? The enigma wrote a letter to the editor. We wanted to publish it, but being a shy and gentle soul, it forgot to sign his name.

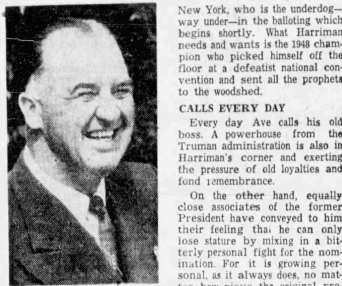
THE VACATIONER RETURNS

WALK softly and speak gently is our advice when you have in your midst a returned vacationer. We had one such in the office last week. He was clearly recognizable as such to any close observer. The detection of returned vacationers is relatively easy if a few simple rules are followed. First, of course, you must note that he enters his office or other place of work on that first Monday with a brisk step. No, you are wrong in assuming he more or less has to be towed inside to the site of the job. He does in truth return seemingly revitalized. He is sunburned somewhat. His eyes are clear, direct, and he speaks his first greeting only somewhat condescendingly, as if he had been to the tropics and had knowledge of matters unknown to you. But there you see him only in the first few minutes. What it is, he is still sort of slugged. He hasn't fully returned. His heart and mind are still by a cool mountain stream, or at the seashore where visions of feminine loveliness pass before him on the cool wet beach edge. Give the poor guy a few minutes. Of about 15 minutes after he has briskly hung up that hat and coat, rolled up his cuffs, study him closely. This is what you will see. He is staring at his desk with such intensity one might think he was in a trance. Forsooth, he more or less is. But it is a kind of inverted trance, which psychologists call Ohno-phrenia. It is the mental-physical manifestation of a deeply-rooted, mournful-sounding cry of horror, swelling out of the inside of him into his own brain—a monstrous and soul-crushing "Oh, no!!" Woeful sight! He is awaken-

Friendly Or Fierce? The Demos Wonder About Harry

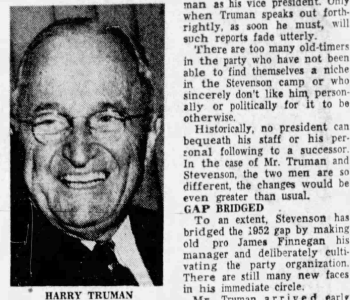
By DORIS FLEESON

THE only living former Democratic president will be a key figure in the proceedings here next week and nobody knows yet whether he proposes to attend as Dr. Harriman Truman, elder statesman, or Four-In-One Harry, the terror of the stymollogists. He is presently the object of the most prayerful consideration by Adlai Stevenson, of the most earnest supplication by Gov. Averell Harriman of New York and of considerable anxiety by pro-Democratic Democrats. It seems improbable that he will not on purpose or by accident ginger up an unusual Democratic convention where creeping harmony threatens to become a gallop before Permanent Chairman Sam Rayburn gets a chance to give a northern liberal out of 1952 coolness. Stevenson claims a friendly understanding with Mr. Truman. That 1952 coolness, where Mr. Truman felt Stevenson turned his back on him—or at least a right shoulder—is forgiven and forgotten, to hear the Stevenson aides tell it. Such political charity is not precisely in character for Mr. Truman, though he has certainly mellowed to some degree. A mellowed Oxford-honors man is, of course, no good at all to



ALBERT CHANDLER Friend of Chandler

his old friend, the governor of New York, who is the underdog way under—in the balloting which begins shortly. What Harriman needs and wants is the 1948 champion who picked himself off the floor at a defeatist national convention and sent all the prophets to the woodshed. CALLS EVERY DAY Every day Ave calls his old boss. A powerhouse from the Truman administration is also in Harriman's corner and exerting the pressure of old loyalties and fond remembrance. On the other hand, equally close associates of the former President have conveyed to him their feeling that he can only lose stature by mixing in a bit of his personal fight for the nomination. For it is growing personal, as it always does, no matter how pious the original protestations of the opposing candidates. BEST RUMOR Both Harriman and Gov. Albert B. "Happy" Chandler, who boasts he has all of Kentucky's delegation solidly behind him—30 votes out of nearly 600—are



HARRY TRUMAN Foe of Snollygosters

now saying Stevenson can't win the election. The best rumor from this camp is that if Stevenson can't be stopped any other way, Mr. Truman will let his name go for the convention, with Harry man as his vice president. Only when Truman speaks out forthrightly, as soon he must, will such reports fade utterly. There are too many old-timers in the party who have not been able to find themselves a niche in the Stevenson camp or who sincerely don't like him personally or politically for it to be otherwise. Historically, no president can bequeath his staff or his personal following to a successor. In the case of Mr. Truman and Stevenson, the two men are so different, the changes would be even greater than usual. GAP BRIDGED Stevenson has bridged the 1952 gap by making old pro James Finnegan his manager and deliberately cultivating a friendly organization. There are still many new faces in his immediate circle. Mr. Truman arrived early to testify on the foreign policy plank. There he readily spoke up, and the party organization, which is resurgent, not by design of the Eisenhower administration but through its weakness.

'Grandma, I've Been Doing Some Wondering About You'



Editors Look At The Issues

BY CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY The question of the President's health has evoked unusual interest and large discussion. Otherwise, there would be less than normal interest. In one way or another, opinions on Mr. Eisenhower seem likely to dominate the 1956 election. Editors and legislators expect the November returns to reflect a judgment on his record in office and his capacity to serve another term. HEALTH FIRST The newspaper executives put his health first, his performance third in importance. Democrats, also rating health above performance in political impact, said the President's advisers and appointees to the list of 10 issues. REPUBLICANS, plugging the Eisenhower record as their number one talking point, intend to bear down on the actions of the Democratized 84th Congress and its handling of the President's program. Each editor and legislator polled was given a list of 55 topics of national concern to select and rate from five to 10 as the "issues likely to arouse the greatest voter interest in your district or state." VOTER APATHY They also were asked to rate the degree of voter apathy or interest in the coming campaign. Western editors and members of Congress said interest is higher than usual; interest is reported lower than usual elsewhere in the country. One North Dakota editor com-

People's Platform

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

Flint Hill Baptists Strong In The Cause

Editors: The News: I've read your columns regularly. In dealing with the church and religious features, your mind telling you that your story on the Flint Hill Baptist Church was rather poorly put together. However, it is a real credit to creative ingenuity in the manner in which Miss Parks wrote the obituary of our wonderful old church.

U.S. Liquor Traffic Worse Than Narcotics

Editors: The News: I was interested to read the letter by Mr. Tom Hatfield, president of the Optimist Club of Charlotte, in reference to a law passed by Congress enacting the death penalty for illegal sale or use of narcotics. He states that the Optimist Club has worked continuously and vigorously to effect enactment and passage of this law. I commend Mr. Hatfield and his club for such fine interest in the welfare of the youth of America, but I cannot understand why our legislators, or such men as Mr. Hatfield and the Optimist Club will not fight the manufacture, sale and use of alcoholic beverages, which have done infinitely more harm to humanity than the drug traffic ever has.

The church, itself, is off the main highway. But we do not believe a simple weathered house, unattended by those who care to stop long enough to worship in this sanctuary that has fathered so many other churches and sent out from the portals men who have and do possess a fervent spirit. The church is not quietly lying out its old age. It is old in years but today you will find inside a modern, up-to-date sanctuary with Baptist organ, beautiful pulpit furniture, a public address system that carries to the pews and Sunday School plants, which has recently been dedicated. You will find the present pastor, Rev. C. H. Myers, a fine wisdom and one who is wholly and solely dedicated to the cause that he accepted in his call to the ministry. He is a Wake Forest graduate and a graduate of one of the finest seminaries—the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. I feel that had your correspondent taken the time to get a real story, as they do of the large city churches, there would have been more than a few words to analyze and develop. The cemetery is a large one—filled with many people who've been responsible for the church—the "old church's" fame—in the building of new churches. Today you will find Flint Hill historically beautiful, located as a city built on a hill whose glory cannot be hid. You, too, will be glad to be a part of the complete program of worship—from the Sunday school, training union, WMS and affiliated organizations for the young people and Brotherhood for adults. Perhaps we are a little sentimental but here many of us met one week to be, began our homes, and have seen our children grow into young manhood and womanhood under a roof comparatively new—being taught that the very basic principles of life—one we believe to be the first, last and forever unending—"go ye and all the world." You will not find here a recreation hall filled with soft drink boxes nor room for dancing, etc., but please write you come to our revival services beginning Sunday, Aug. 12, and catch a glimpse of a real Southern Baptist church—strong in her cause, in action, to accomplish its mission—to live and not to die. J. C. NEWELL

To quote further, "Insanity can be cured; it is extremely rare and almost always of short duration. Yet hospitals treating mental diseases in this country have more than 18,000 admissions for alcoholic insanity each year, and thousands more for serious chronic alcoholism." I hold no brief for the drug traffic in any way, and I applaud any person or organization that is working for its destruction, but I question the sincerity of the statement that they are greatly alarmed about the physical and moral welfare of American youth unless they just as vigorously work for the destruction of the far more evil traffic, namely—the liquor traffic. P. H. DEPLAINE

Quote, Unquote

The ideal love affair is one conducted by post—George Bernard Shaw.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON With the Democrats busy preparing to nominate their man for president Republicans are chucking privately over the way they have outsourced the most dynamic dynamite-jaden questions inside the government. Secret Diary This is the award of a contract for building an expansion to the government nickel plant at Nicro, Cuba, and a secret diary showing the manner in which Chairman Len Hall, pulled mogul in favor of his pet company. Reason the Republicans are smiling is because they have managed to suppress the diary. Attorney General Brownell has been sitting on it to keep it out of Democratic hands. Even Eisenhower has been brought into the picture and has concurred that the diary must be suppressed. Frantic Demands Democratic congressmen made frantic demands for the diary. But all they got were smooth smiles from Attorney General Brownell. Though House of Representatives Dem-

GOP Suppresses Hot Political Diary

ocrats dropped the ball, Sen. McClellan's Government Operations Committee has now picked it up and may go further. Meanwhile, other copies of the diary exist, and this writer has seen them. Hall's Friends The entries show that Chairman Hall demanded that his friends, the Raymond Concrete Pile Co. of New York, get the engineering contract for a very important and lucrative construction job in Cuba. They also show that Hall was against the Frederick Snare Corp., because Snare had not contributed sufficiently to the Republican Party. Chairman Hall, when questioned, called this a "damned lie." Snare Executive The Snare company had built the first government plant in Cuba, had a base in Cuba, and was considered qualified to build an extension to the old plant. Randall Cremer, executive vice president of the Snare company, who kept the diary, went to see Chairman Hall and argued with him about the Republican background of his firm. He also got Harold Talbot, then Secretary of the Air Force, to talk to Hall to convince him that the Snare company was a good Republican firm. Chicken Feed Someone in Republican ranks even checked the donations of the Snare firm and found that two or three of its executives had contributed \$100 each to the GOP in 1952, which the Republicans regarded as chicken feed, but please. Finally Cremer came in with a sizeable \$15,000 contribution to the Republican Party in 1954. This would appear to be against the law, since no one with a federal contract or who is negotiating for a federal contract can contribute to a political party. The Award It was between May and July, 1954, that Chairman Hall showed his interest in the Frederick Snare political contribution. The contract was finally awarded in August, 1954. Significantly, Cremer's campaign contribution showed up in Republican campaign records for the 1954 fall campaign. His \$15,000 was given to the National Republican Congressional Committee of

which Congressman Dick Simpson of Pennsylvania is chairman. Significantly, Dick Simpson accompanied Cremer on one of his visits to Chairman Hall to convince him that the Snare company was a good Republican firm. Significant Entry Here is one important entry in the secret diary which the Justice Dept. has suppressed, and the Democrats are trying to get their hands on. It is dated June 15, 1954, just two months before the big Cuban contract was let. "Call from Richard Simpson," reads the entry in the Cremer diary. "Unfavorable news from Hall—has the impression some of references we had given had failed to come through: (1) Talbot secretary of Air Force, who had vouched for what we had said about the original award of Nicro to us, but has since endorsed Raymond Concrete Pile and Co. (2) Bernard Shanley of the White House staff, who has simply walked out. (3) No collaboration or corroboration from the finance chairman in New York and New Jersey."