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Charlotte In 2000: Hippos & Jungles

SOUTHERN BELL has dialed long distance and located a new city. It is Charlotte, N. C., population 313,500, successor to the present Charlotte with its 219,200 metropolitan souls. The long distance involved is the 10-year span reaching to the new Charlotte. This is the best piece of news since Lloyd's of London denied ever predicting Charlotte would be the world's second largest city by the year 2000. Southern Bell's forecast is believable. Because it is believable, as well as highly probable, it behooves all of us to go forward with strong purpose and detailed plans to meet our far-dipping destiny. The city government, we trust, already has gone to its drawing boards. We must have more highways from Herman Hoose, acres of clean air from Charles Frost, subdivision schemes from William E. McIntyre and plans for hand-topping Sugar Creek from whomever can draw them the quickest. Having assigned these practical matters to appropriate experts, we have left a considerable number of projects to be undertaken by any agency that gets qualified to help grease the skids for approaching greatness. The Nature Museum obviously must be enlarged. The aquarium there is entirely too small to handle the city of 313,500 population with desire. Besides getting its geese back,

Blunt Junior's Wildness With Education

IT IS over-simplification to blame parents for teenage recklessness on the highway. Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn's stern lecture to the older set yesterday was welcome. Keys to the family car certainly ought not to be passed along to Junior if he's a wild driver. But Junior's wildness will not be cured by parental negation alone. It will have to be rooted out by education and example—and law enforcement, too, where there is unusual stubbornness. Mom and Pop can help. But so can the public school system. Chief Littlejohn's police force and the community as a whole. The trouble is that pitifully little has been done about nipping wildness in the bud. All of us are guilty of complaining bitterly about the problem. Our laments have been long and loud. We have denounced an entire generation for our own gaudy adult failures. Finally, we blame parents because they allow their reckless offspring the liberties of the family buggy. The problem is indeed terrible. Nationally, the record of drivers under 25 years of age deteriorated sharply in 1955. Young drivers constituted 27.1 per cent of the total involved in fatal accidents as compared to 24.1 per cent of the total in 1954. But if the public's concern were more enlightened it would be directed at the slow progress in making driver training an essential part of every child's education.

'Dixie' Isn't In Harriman's Band Book

IF FAYETTEVILLE'S Terry Sanford throws his "dixie" ball in support to Averell Harriman at the Democratic National Convention he may well find himself standing lonesomely in the left field of southern politics. Mr. Sanford, an important member of the North Carolina delegation, told The News yesterday that he will stick by Adlai Stevenson in the convention's early stages but will shift to the Harriman corner if Mr. Stevenson fails to show strength. Gov. Harriman's record as a party stalwart is good. But he has failed utterly to show any genuine understand-

Same Old Ache

THE administration's assurance that the recent rise in the cost of living "is not traceable to inflation" leaves us enlightened but uncomforted. To be told that the Consumer Price Index is higher than ever before simply because things cost more even sounds a little ominous. It was so confoundingly handy to blame all of our economic aches and pains on inflationary ailments (all bearing the Truman trade mark, of course). Now, with a Republican in the White House, inflation is a naughty word. "Things just cost more." But to us a stomach ache is a stomach ache—whether the cause is sour grapes or green apples.

BABIES AND PHENOBARBITAL

NOW it has reached even into the cradle. We refer to the depressing aspect of present day drug concepts as commonplace and routine use of sleeping pills, potions, "nerve" medicine, and the like. For a long time now we have regarded with alarm the growing dependence upon medical props for even a couple of hours of sleeplessness or a feeling of tension which could be relieved by a good old-fashioned outburst of temper would have straightened out. We have shuddered inwardly as stable men and women who spoke of use being horrified at the idea spoke of use of drugs for situations which our fathers would have regarded as normal. But this takes the cake. A couple were explaining their friends would take their two small children, one 20 months and one four months, to New York City from California by plane. "It won't be any trouble," the parents said. "They will give them phenobarbital to keep them from crying. It's remarkable just as casual and as unremarkable as if the remark had been 'let's get a cup of coffee.' Can a human nervous system so early attuned to dependence upon tranquillizers be expected to gain from within itself suffi-

Alarming Rumors About Ike's Health Fill Washington

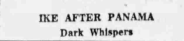
By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSP

WASHINGTON IS time for someone to say bluntly what it is unpleasant but publicly useful to say. The problem of the President's health is now reaching the stage that the White House has repeatedly promised would never be reached—the stage of rumor and innuendo and worried or malicious private gossip, like the gossip about Franklin Roosevelt's health in 1944. Unfortunately, there are very obvious reasons for this trend. The President's time in the hospital was longer than his doctors forecast. During the President's convalescence in Gettysburg, his chief surgeon, Dr. Heaton, was unexpectedly kept in residence at the Eisenhower farm and White House Press Secretary James Hagerty made a decidedly disturbing attempt to pass off Dr. Heaton's stay as a purely social visit. BALANCE SHEET Finally, at Panama, there were times when the President looked very ill indeed and in Panama he

made his by-now famous remark that he "hadn't much strength" but still "kept going." On the other side of the balance sheet, of course, there have been the other times, like the day when he arrived home from Panama, when the President has looked remarkably well and vigorous. And there has been a constant flow of soothing assurances from Press Secretary Hagerty. EVERYBODY'S TALKING But Hagerty's assurances have not stilled the worried talk. Anyone who is not a recluse knows that local Republicans and fervent Eisenhower admirers are talking just as much as Democrats. And though the talk is not yet out in the open, it raises extremely genuine public issues. Furthermore, the story fits with the known pattern of illness itself, and it produces the results that are to be expected from an intestinal inflammation. TWO PASSAGES These results can quite easily be intensified, too, by the type of op-

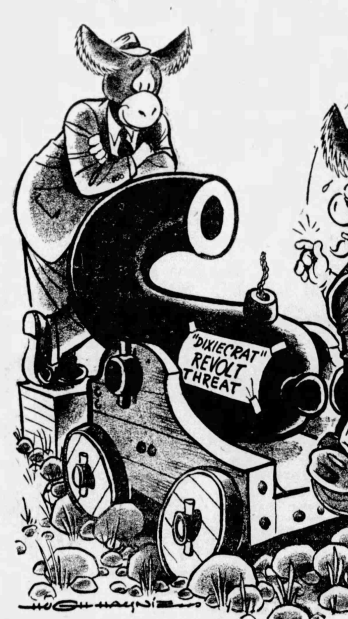
eration the President's doctors performed on him. Because of his prior heart attack, they avoided the more radical surgery that is recommended in ileitis cases. They did not cut out or even block off the inflamed section of the small intestine. They merely bypassed it by making a second join between the small intestine and the large intestine. Thus there are now two passages, where there was one before. Therefore the part of the small intestine where the ileitis centered is still a part of the President's digestive tract; and unless the President has had quite unusual good luck, the original ileitis still persists, although in a much less harmful way. SURGICAL SPRUE Meanwhile the second passage that has been opened also bypasses the part of the large intestine which has the function of absorbing liquids. Failure of this absorptive function is the chief result of sprue. By-passing the absorptive area by surgery can produce a condition that is some times called "surgical sprue"; and this condition is by no means invariably cured by time.

Neither these reporters, nor anyone else for that matter, has any way of knowing if it is possible whether the President is in fact suffering from this reported dysentery-like condition. One must pray that the report is unfounded. But in view of the far-reaching national importance of the President's state of health, mere business from Press Secretary Hagerty are not going to drive away the miasma of talk on the 1944 model that is already gathering in the country. The very different public presentation of the facts concerning the President's heart attack after the ideal precedent should no longer be departed from in the case of his ileitis operation. It is a frank press conference by the President's doctors, which Press Secretary Hagerty has persistently refused, should now be arranged without further delay or equivocation.



IKE AFTER PANAMA Dark Whispers

'Rejoice! I've Decided To Spare Your Life'



Say: 'No Spik Nothing'

How To Be A Globe-Trotter

By ROBERT C. RUARK PALAMOS, Spain THE GRASS is growing and the corn is as high as a baby elephant's eye, the sun is shining and the puppies have no worms. So I am enjoying what Mama calls a "helpful" mood, which generally bores her for somebody. The topic is international travel, which I modestly claim to know something about. Travel right to the romantic spots, whether it's Europe, Africa, Bermuda, or South America. Get yourself a nice suitcase, those little glass ones that they test by dropping them from 20,000 feet are nice, and they should be equipped with coat-hangers. And get yourself a soft, expandable cloth suitcase for dirty clothes, shoes, and general junk that you won't pack well. GET YOURSELF A BAG A third article is a shoulder bag, like a big ladies' handbag—big enough to hold a bottle of booze, a carton of cigarettes, a book or so, a couple of handkerchiefs, a travel kit, and add bits like pills, matches, Tin, Newsweek, and yesterday's papers. Mostly, they won't weigh it. Mine is leather and can handle 30 pounds. Don't fetch any clothes you care about, because a month of foreign city cleaning and laundry will wash the life out of any gentle dryings. Nylon or overnight washing, drier, not requiring pressing, and something generally colored beige for air travel will keep you looking like a well-dressed tramp. You will buy a lot of junk, naturally, to take back with you, and quite a lot of good stuff as well. In the more civilized places you can purchase anything you'd find on Madison Ave., in Macy's, or in Neiman-Marcus. Don't try to speak a foreign language when you're in trouble with customs or the cops. Just look dumb, shrug, and say, "No spik nothing," and they'll shrug, look bored, and say beat it. If you're a woman trying to arrange something and get caught, cry. It's infallible. But a good gimick is to put the hot items under your unmentionables. Customs officials are generally gentlemen, and shy, to boot. TIP IN ADVANCE If you're going to be in a place more than a day or so, tip in advance. The head porter is most important, because he runs your life on cars, reservations, tickets and such. But a couple of bucks to the barkeep, the head bellman, the valet, the maid, and the head-waiter, goes a little, and reaps much service. Even if the service is included in the bill, at 15 per cent, a 7 per cent tip won't make anybody here. Don't holler to make yourself more graphic in a tongue you can't speak anyhow. Say "please" and "thank you" and smile pretty and you'd be surprised how far you can get with no foreign language. And remind yourself daily that you're NOT in your home town, but are a temporary guest of people of strange habits and customs, and you'll have a gorgeous time. Otherwise, you might as well stay home and watch TV.

People's Platform

Editors, The News: HERE is some information regarding fluoridation of the water supply. After a ten-year study of the effects of fluoridated water on the population of Grand Rapids, Mich., a team of dental experts for the Public Health Service reports: Among six-year-olds, the cavity rate for baby teeth was reduced by "about 54 per cent." In children born since fluoridation was put into effect, the cavity rate for the permanent teeth "was reduced on the average by about 60 per cent." The Public Health Service report asserts: "The scientific evidence is conclusive, therefore, that water fluoridation is an effective public health procedure for producing a substantial reduction in the incidence" of dental cavities. —BEN H. WEBSTER, D. D. S. Member, Mecklenburg County Board of Health.

The Debate Goes On

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Why Not Two-Party Boards of Education?

Charlotte, N. C. (The News) — I AM a registered Democrat and I know many intelligent, honest, heavy tax-paying Republicans. Yet many voters do not realize that the Republicans and those registered as independents are completely disfranchised when it comes to electing a county school board. Democrats can run against each other in the primary and only those registered as Democrats can vote. The primary winners are then appointed to the board at the next session of the legislature. The school, next to the church, is the best institution we have for preserving our civilization. And yet only 40 per cent of the people in some counties have absolutely no voice in determining who will constitute the county school board membership. Is this right? Is it just? Is it democratic? I say no, and that is one reason I intend to vote for the Legislature and the Senate and the House and to rectify this wrong. I am asking all of the fair-minded Democrats and Republicans to join me in this fight for two-party boards so that we may have more pay for our over-worked, under-paid school teachers and more progressive state. Ever hear of a man called Butler? —MRS. MARY GASH RODGERS

The Case Against Forced Medication

Charlotte, N. C. (The News) — I AM NOT prepared to say that the fluoridation program is entirely bad, neither do I think that it promises such great benefits as many proponents would have us believe. A careful reading of statements of the American Medical Association as well as many reputable individual doctors reveals some points of view which would be public health fluoridation. Certainly Charlotte has not been using it long enough for conclusive proof. A contributor to People's Platform seems to infer that opponents of water fluoridation are stupid, or that he thinks it is stupid for at least some people to demand the right to say what they shall take into their bodies, whether it be poison or not, but must delegate this authority to some politician or over-worked doctor. Fluoridation may not be "socialized medicine" but it most certainly is "forced medication." Fluoridation is available and can be had by those that want it. I cannot say it is right to force it upon all the people. The comparison of water and chlorine is entirely erroneous. Chlorine is a purifier and is used in drinking water to purify it, whereas fluoride is a medicine which is administered as a curative for dental cavities. It may be good, it may not be good. But I am opposed to forcing it upon everybody, such as has been done in Charlotte and many other cities — without giving the

A Debt To The Past

WE owe past generations not only for the master discoveries of music, science, literature, and art — few of which brought profit to those to whom they were revealed — but also for an organization which is an inheritance gathered and garnered by those who have gone before us—Samuel Butler. "We regard such inquiries as a serious transgression upon the complete division of church and state," wrote the English cleric, "which is an inheritance, which is one of the important foundations of democracy. "Is the conscience of the Church," he asks, "to be subjected to the undue pressure of groups of people who differ with it?"

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON Committee in that tone of voice these days. The other event was the opening of "Storm Center," the most controversial picture Hollywood has turned out since McCarthy became popular in some quarters. By coincidence, "Storm Center" also involves a librarian who was kicked out because she once belonged to some Communist front organization and because she championed the library's right to keep certain controversial books on its shelves. The plot almost parallels the same issue for the Plymouth Quaker meeting, just outside Philadelphia, was investigated by the Un-American Activities Committee; the chief difference being that the Quakers stood their ground and did not fire librarian Mary Knowles,

Quakers Tell Off Congressional Probers

backed out at the last minute. Bette Davis, who plays the part of the librarian, is fired by a McCarthyesque city council in a McCarthyesque sequence which are as good box-office as they are good for the basic principles behind Philadelphia. Mary Pickford Retreats Inside fact is that "Storm Center" had a hard time seeing the light of a movie projector. It was conceived five years ago by two young writer-producers, Dan Taradash and John G. Hart, at the height of Joe McCarthy's popularity. At that time no studio would touch it. But two years ago, Columbia Pictures, which has more courage than some of the others, saw it was not only good drama but good for the nation. Mary Pickford was first picked to play the role of the discharged librarian, but

Not many people address the much feared House Un-American Activities