

## Crime Arises From Squalid Slum Sections

Police Officers And Judges Declare Tenement Districts Breed Most Of Crime Here.

Continued from Page One

wood robbings of the city court agreed, and added another observation:

"That the vast majority of killings, cutting scrapes and other crimes of violence among adults are directly traceable to bad housing. The inevitable sex angle emerges. Whichever four or five families are forced to live in three tawdry rooms, sleeping on floors, often with only one bed, trouble ensues.

That applies to whites as well as to negroes. Living as they do, in the squalid apartment houses on North Broadway, East Fifth and East Trade streets, jam-packed family against family, they have produced a crime rate just as bad as that of Blue Heaven or Skreter Hollow, where the black people live.

"Crime exists in direct proportion to the housing problem," said Chief Littlejohn. He cited the Red Shield Boys club, an organization sponsored by the Salvation Army. This club has provided recreation for white boys, and has cut juvenile delinquency more than 50 per cent in that category.

**REPEATERS**  
Police have observed this: that most of their juvenile delinquents are repeaters. They do not feel punished by jail sentences because they prefer the steam heat and good shelter of the court detention home to their own miserable dwellings.

Judge Redd, who was mayor of the city ten years ago, continued his remarks with the observation that an average of 1,000 juvenile offenders a year came to his court. "The reason the great majority of these arrests are made," he said, "is bad housing, slums, tenements."

"If we could provide decent homes, we could have these boys. They must have a place where they can keep warm and dry and clean. They must have places where they can play. Given a decent place for them to stay, we have no trouble having boys and girls."

"But without proper homes, we know that they will be repeaters, and that they will eventually become criminals."

This campaign by the Business and Professional Woman's club and the articles in The Charlotte News, form one of the worthiest projects that could be devised. I hope you stick right to it.

**WOULD CUT CRIME**  
"If we had the slum conditions cleaned up, we wouldn't have had as much crime in this city. I saw that need 10 years ago, as mayor of Charlotte, and did succeed in getting one ward condemned and cleaned up."

Two previous articles in this series have shown where the slums are, and what conditions of wretched housing and insanitation exist there.

The slums are the first cause of disease. Now it is shown that they are the first cause of crime.

Records of the Charlotte police department show a crime rate for murder, theft, and assault that has made necessary a demand for continuous sessions of criminal court here. From the dark swamps of Black Bottom and Blue Heaven, and from the white tenements just as bad as the negro quarters) crime of one kind or another, springs visibly.

Any reporter who ever covered police headquarters on Saturday night, any nurse on duty at that time at a Charlotte hospital, knows the story of knifings, shootings, assaults, thefts.

And the most casual observer would know where the participants came from. They come from the slums.

Another aspect of crime in the slums, not before this brought out in the open, is the unashamed existence in Charlotte of red light districts.

If you have any business knowledge where they are, you may find out from police, social service workers, or from this newspaper. These districts are not in the shadowy hollows of the negro slums, but in the up-town residential and business communities, and they are teeming with prostitution of the cheapest kind.

This condition is largely made possible by the kind of lodging houses made available for the transient hordes of commerce.

**Accepts Newton Post**  
Newton, Feb. 9.—Paul Rutter, of Charlotte, who for the past two years has been connected with the Clifton National bank, Greensboro, has accepted a position with the Farmers and Merchants bank at Newton and began his new duties Monday.

Mr. Rutter is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rutter, of Charlotte, and a brother of M. H. and Ralph Rutter, the latter a former register of deeds of Catawba county.

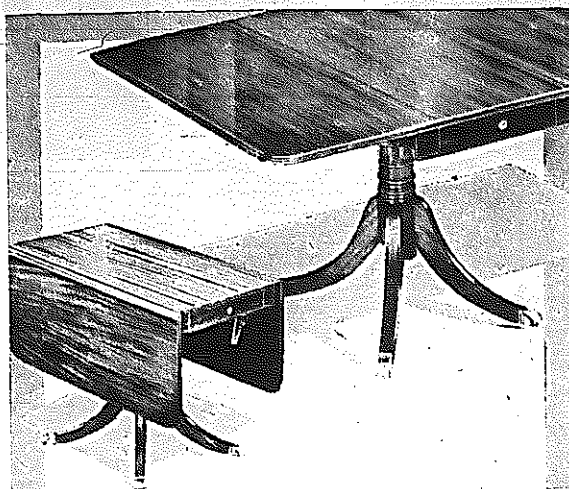
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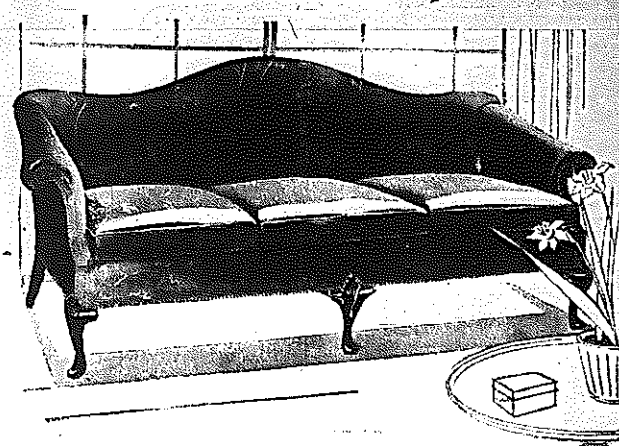
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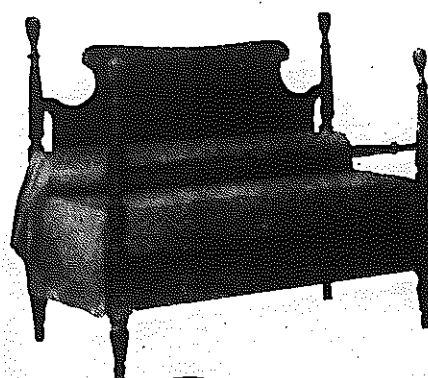


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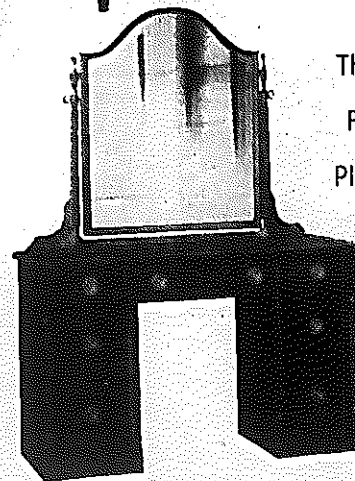
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