

The Charlotte News
and Evening Chronicle
Published Week-Day Afternoon
and Sunday Mornings
at the News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd, Jr., President and
General Manager
J. E. Dowd, Editor
W. C. Dowd, 1845-1937

The daily edition of *The Charlotte News* was established in 1885. The weekly edition was added in 1910. The Evening Chronicle established in 1925 was purchased by and consolidated with *The Charlotte News* May 1, 1934.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year \$10.00
Six Months \$6.00
Three Months \$3.50
By Carrier \$10.00
By Mail \$8.00
Sunday only \$2.00
10 cents per week by carrier

We seek truth, that we may follow it.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1938

Of Time and the Filibuster

The "holiest covenant" of Southern Senators to continue their filibuster against the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill until they win passage to rest on the presumption that the Senators have unlimited time at their disposal, and that time fights on their side.

But is that really so? It seems a bit doubtful. For, according to the lynching figures for the 1930's, we may expect that at least eight persons will be lynched in the South during the current year. On an average, that is to say, of one every 48 1-4 days. To be sure, these lynchings are not always evenly spaced. But it is generally true, we believe, that the first victim is usually slain down well within the first month—about half of the year.

And if a lynching should occur while the filibuster was going on, does anybody believe it would be possible to continue the filibuster? We suspect that not even Southern Senators would have the nerve. From which we conclude that if the year of average holds, the Senators have really entered into a "covenant" to run a desperate race with time—that, since twenty-six days of this year have already gone, they have, at the outside, just nineteen and one-half days in which they can still hope to win their fight.

Star-Caster

There is a tale in Hans Christian Andersen, as all our literate little readers will remember, about a china shepherdess and a china sweep who, tired of standing eternally on the table and looking at Grandfather's commonplace clock, climbed up the chimney to have a look at the stars. And having got up there, they found the view a little dizzying and the air chilly and uncomfortable, and so forth with climbed down again, glad to take their old place on the table.

Something like this seems to have happened to that California zeal who got himself inland three miles toward Hollywood before the cops discovered him bellowing his head off. For on no other hypothesis but the will "for to go any farther to see can the sea's land horizon be explained, since all the seafarers are agreed that a real can smell salt water many miles, and so could never have turned landward without meaning to do just that. And for what, ladies and gentlemen, should anybody, or any sea journey toward Hollywood but to see the stars?

But the zeal seems to have retarded the sea's aspiring even earlier than the shepherds and the sweep. He never, as a matter of fact, got on to seeing the stars at all, but only the hot dog men and the ice cream men and the cops who came out to meet him. And he thought so poorly of them that he promptly turned around and went back to his salt water as fast as his flipper could take him. Let him be content hereafter, to sit on a sandbank, with a nice fat fish in his mouth. It is better so, for they do say that Mae West is really a little dumpy and unmistakably middle-aged.

Nix, Nature!

Under the crop control bill now pending in the Senate, the Department of Agriculture expects to have the farmers' planted cotton in 1938, 1939 or 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 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