

Notes On A Happy Ending

THE happy ending to the Terry Taylor story has been written, and public interest in the loose ends still to be untangled will soon fade. The child is safe, the long vigil of the parents has ended in relief. This means to be the appropriate time to place credit where it is due.

police departments throughout the South. In the end it was the sensational nature of the alarm Captain Littlejohn spread that brought the child back safely to her parents. Some newspapers played the story down, and a few rejected it entirely until the last day. They did so, we presume, because they felt that a good deal of the copy was in bad taste—and perhaps, as an abstract judgment, the decision was valid. But the sensational headlines—including the doubtful one based on the phony religious sacrifice lead—alerted hundreds of thousands of private citizens and alerted them in the search. If "good taste" had prevailed in all newspaper offices it seems probable that the Annapolis housewife who finally recognized Terry Taylor would never have known a child was missing in Charlotte.

The Moral Of The Stacks Case

YOU have a choice of two motives for the killing of Troy Hunsucker at the Barringer Hotel Garage. According to S. P. Stacks, who shot Hunsucker, he did it in self-defense while assisting the Charlotte police in breaking up a liquor ring dominated by hotel employees. According to the State of North Carolina, Stacks shot Hunsucker as the result of a drunken argument growing out of his effort to cut himself in on the liquor ring's profits.

Stacks drunk, waving his pistol around, and threatening another garage attendant. These minutes of the law, according to uncontradicted testimony, refused to disarm him on the grounds that he was a hotel detective and had a right to wave his pistol on hotel property. And there was the testimony of Police Chief Anderson, who recommended Stacks for his house detective job and who—old—a skeptical jury that Stacks frequently discussed the liquor situation with him. Stacks was the Chief said, investigating a bootleg ring that included almost everybody in the hotel," but when the prosecution asked why no arrests had ever been made he could only reply that "the investigation wasn't complete."

Although carefully denying that they had personally had anything to do with the trade, a half-dozen hotel employees readily admitted that a good deal of bootleg liquor was flowing around the hotel the night House Detective Stacks shot Garage Manager Hunsucker. Police officers swore that their old colleague, Stacks, was staggering drunk when arrested for murder. Other police officers, also testifying under oath, proclaimed that Stacks was stone sober at the time.

All of this adds up to a report on the availability of liquor in this dry town, and underscores the openness with which it is handled. And, since the whole business is illegal and highly profitable, there is no good reason for being surprised that it frequently leads to bloodshed. It may be that as much liquor would be consumed in Charlotte if ABC stores were doing business here. But there would not be behind each untraced bottle a long chain of Charlotteans doing business in that shadowy territory beyond the law where differences of opinion are settled by violence.

Nose-Holding In Mooresville

AS the evidence linking Ed Pauley to a highly questionable oil operations and a deal of political flapping kept piling up before the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, the newspapers of North Carolina, without exception, we think, expressed amazement that President Truman clung so stubbornly to his nomination as Undersecretary of the Navy.

Hannagan is a great deal more active. Editor Tom McKnight of The Mooresville Tribune wrote to Senator Clyde Hoy, summarized the editorial views of the North Carolina press, and asked him how he intended to vote on the Pauley nomination. The reply came by telegraph: "I have known Pauley for a long time. I regard him as a man with ability, character and integrity. . . . I am going to vote for the confirmation of Ed Pauley, not from a political standpoint but because I think he is well qualified for the job and will make a fine record."

Another Voice

The Bar Sinister

WE hold no brief for Glare Booth Luce. The feeling here is that the beautiful and charming Congresswoman wife of Publisher Henry Luce frequently is more witty than profoundly wise. But . . . A few days ago Mrs. Luce made a life-size decision similar to that of Heywood Brown and Cardinal Newman. She joined the Catholic Church. In this we find nothing particularly significant. It is the reported statement of Mrs. Luce upon taking this step which provokes our curiosity. She is quoted as having intimated that she will not again seek public office that her constituents probably would not vote for her as a Catholic.

millions of intelligent Americans long since have disabused themselves of the idea that Catholic citizens who seek public office are in league with the Vatican to set up a Catholic hierarchy in America. They know that good Catholics are good Americans just like the rest. Hence, the disturbing note in Mrs. Luce's intimation that her act of joining the Catholic Church had erected a bar sinister in the path of any political ambition she might have. Nothing can be more dangerous to democracy than the barring of an able man or woman from public office solely on account of his or her religious belief.—The Winston-Salem Journal.



People's Platform

Bugle Call For The Drys

I SEE that Burke Davis has opened the campaign for the vets. His articles give a detailed account of the operation of the ABC liquor stores, the big increase in sales of liquor and the profits derived therefrom. Mr. Davis' articles contain good solid material for the further promotion of ABC stores and for putting the entire state of North Carolina in the liquor business. He has told the story, but not the whole story. The other side of the story has not been told.

CHARLOTTE I know that the situation here in Charlotte is and has been deplorable. I lived in Raleigh for several years after the ABC stores were opened there, and I know there was much improvement in many ways on account of having whiskey control. I have lived in Charlotte for the past six and one-half years, and find the whiskey condition is much worse than in Wake county.

Brotherhood Year?

I SHOULD like to thank Mr. H. L. Golden for a very pleasant evening of oratory on the occasion of the Josephus Daniels presentation. I gathered, from the oratory, that Jews, Catholics and Protestants are all right—there are no minorities, no sects. But, as suggested in your editorial of the same evening, Mr. Daniels might as well have presented an award to Mr. Baruch. As a matter of fact, except for the talk made by a Methodist preacher on the program, these two gentlemen might as well have presented an award to each other, while the rest of us stayed at home. That is my idea of Brotherhood.

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Quote, Unquote

NECESSITY is going to drive us to find a way to fill employment. We are bound to grope at the start because too few people have the courage to imagine on a grand scale. What we need now is courage to see the big picture.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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Dr. W. Pearson's Verbal Brickbats Bring Out Notes

TWO of the bitterest opponents on the House floor and in the Interstate Commerce Committee are Representatives Clarence Brown, conservative Republican of Blanchester, Ohio, and Vito Marcantonio, American Laborite of New York City. Both are, however, the two respect each other's ability and get along well.

German "laborers" who have secretaries and stenographers assigned to them. . . . I have seen changed my mind about that." Bradley told Stille. The Legion chief reminded the Veterans Administrator that their long distance telephone quarrel, which touched off the name-calling contest, had revolved around Bradley's refusal to sit on a Legion Advisory Committee for the Education of the Disabled. Bradley had generally been offering because he "didn't want to feel obligated" to any veterans' organization.

Henry No Quitter

THE rumors that WASHINGTON Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace will leave the Truman Cabinet to become a liberal colleague, Harold I. Ickes, in political exile miss the real point inherent in Wallace's character.

client. TVA has begun the transformation of the nation's water. It proved a priceless asset during the war, when power was necessary to create airplanes. In such volume as the world had never before seen. . . . Similarly, REA works with co-operative farm groups throughout the country, bringing electricity to farm homes. Wallace's activities, the organization of a political movement.

Not long ago, he spoke to a meeting of the Connecticut Citizens Political Action Committee in New Haven. In that speech he uttered a direful warning that "if the nation were to be led to the pre-New Deal era. . . . While Wallace phrased it perhaps in overly dramatic language for a successful audience, there is evidence that business regards this as the opportunity to cut back or wipe out the reforms instituted in the '30s. The vastly expanded revenues of the war years provided a campaign fund and, equally important, the war boom restored business self-assurance. . . . Now is the time, business men feel, to end Government intervention. What is lost is especially ominous in the field of electric power.

With REA, the attack is more serious. It is apparently aimed at cutting the organization out of business. Various techniques are used. . . . REA lines have been built by private companies to cut off areas essential to the practicality of a co-operative program. . . . They have cut rates below cost for a period of operation. . . . This is occurring against the background of the fact that the public utility stocks rose 138 per cent in 1945.

Samuel Grafton

G. O. P. Turns Right

THE chairmanship of the Republican National Committee became vacant on April 1. It is interesting to note that not a single liberal, semi-liberal or one-time Democrat has been mentioned for the job. Republican Party leaders of the inner circle are not to operate in areas which had been ignored by private industry because the profit incentive was completely nullified on the backward regions was not sufficient of Christians and Jews, but not through a National Conference of national persuasion. . . . With no hard feelings toward Mr. Golden for my disillusionment of Thursday evening, I remain

years, the majority of voters naturally turn around and become Republican and conservative. . . . This reduces politics to a simple matter of waiting for a trolley. . . . Some such thinking must underlie the fact that the only Easterner to appear in the list of candidates for the party chairmanship is former Senator Danaher of Connecticut, who is a Democrat. . . . Mr. Brownell, the present national chairman is stepping out for the reason that the Republican caucus has it that he is Dewey man, and that the party chairmanship ought to be held during the two years before the national convention, so that one prospect or another will be favored over another by the party machinery.

Row Over Veterans

THE hatchet was only partly buried at the big "peace" meeting between Gen. Omar Bradley, Veterans Administration boss, and John Stille, militant chief of The American Legion. . . . Both men shook hands cordially at the start and finish of their two-and-a-half-hour conference, but their basic differences over the handling of veterans' affairs weren't altered appreciably. . . .

General Bradley works for the best interest of the veterans. . . . The VA Administrator told Stille that he was not going to cooperate all we can. . . . "I have seen changed my mind about that." Bradley told Stille. The Legion chief reminded the Veterans Administrator that their long distance telephone quarrel, which touched off the name-calling contest, had revolved around Bradley's refusal to sit on a Legion Advisory Committee for the Education of the Disabled. Bradley had generally been offering because he "didn't want to feel obligated" to any veterans' organization.