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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Local News, Features And Classified

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1947 — Section Two

BRENIZER RULES ON LIQUOR VOTE DATE

Mecklenburg's March Of Dimes Campaign Is Launched

$30,000 Is Being Sought By Workers

Division Chiefs Are Appointed

Mecklenburg County's March of Dimes campaign to raise some $30,000 got underway today, as several hundred men and women took the field in an attempt to put the two-week's drive over the top.

Meanwhile, on this first day of the campaign, Benn H. Rosenwald, chairman of the Variety Club-sponsored event, announced that two silver loving cups will go to the city and to the county school with the largest percentage in contributions over their quotas. George Roscoe, he said, will head the school division of the drive.

He announced other divisional leaders as follows:

Mrs. J. A. Graney, chairman of the women's division, with Mrs. J. E. Clanton in the city and Mrs. Ralph Miller in the county; Walter Griffith, down-town collections; Earl Crawford and Bob Jefferies, displays; and Cy Dillon, industrial division.

"The March of Dimes," said Mr. Rosenwald, "is a living memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Stricken by infantile paralysis in the prime of life, his indomnitable courage in overcoming his affliction made him a symbol to thousands similarly affected."

Permit Is Questioned

Inquiries were being made at City Hall today as to why a permit had been issued by the City Building Inspection Division to Jack Stroupe for erection of a $50,000 apartment house on Crescent Ave. before completed plans for the structures had been submitted.

A State law requires that for buildings in excess of $10,000 complete blueprints of plans, executed by a licensed architect or engineer must be presented for inspection by the Inspection Division.

At yesterday afternoon's session of the City Council, Mr. Stroupe, in answer to a query from Mayor Baxter, said the proposed building plans were not complete but that they were in process of being drawn.

However, last Friday Mr. Stroupe received a permit at the office of the City Building Inspection Division for construction of the Crescent Ave. apartment, which admittedly does not conform to the requirements of the zoning ordinance the Council adopted yesterday.

At the inspection office there was no explanation of how Mr. Stroupe obtained his permit without submission of blueprints. B. Atwood Skinner, chief safety inspector, was out of his office and was not immediately available for comment.

However, it was explained that Lex Marsh, who obtained a permit on Dec. 20 to build an apartment at 1201 Providence Road had submitted plans by a licensed architect. This structure is scheduled for the Providence Road area which is zoned under the zoning ordinance for single-family dwellings exclusively.

Jaycees Are Given Plaque

Odell Lambeth of Greensboro, president of the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce, presented the Jaycees Founders Plaque to the Charlotte organization at the meeting of the group at the Ship Ahoy today. This plaque is presented to all Junior Chambers who assist in the formation of another and was awarded to the Charlotte Junior Chamber for its assistance in forming the Monroe organization. The latter group was presented state and national charters last night in Monroe.

The plaque was accepted by Bill Brannin, president of the Charlotte Jaycees.

Mr. Lambeth spoke briefly and said he had not been to Charlotte since becoming president because there was no need for him to.

"I consider it a distinct compliment to your club that I did not find it necessary to come here and help you with any of your projects," he said. Many of the clubs in the state do need assistance and it is the duty of the president to help these clubs in any way possible.

Mr. Lambeth was accompanied here by Jess H. Harrell, secretary of the state Junior Chamber.

Tickets for the Jaycee Jollies of 1947, blackface minstrel show to be presented by the Junior Chamber here Feb. 5, 6, and 7, were distributed at the meeting.

Parking

When Business Decentralizes City Property Values Go Down

(This is the third in a series of six articles on the parking problem in Charlotte. Eds, The News.)

By PETE McKNIGHT
News Editor, The News

THE age of the motor vehicle is yet too young for us to assess completely its impact upon the form and shape of U. S. cities, and upon the daily lives and habits of their inhabitants. But the trends are unmistakable. Already the astounding increase in the number of automobiles and the extensiveness of their use has created a downtown parking problem which today is vexing practically every American city of any considerable size.

First of all, time losses and economic losses for the motorist traceable to the parking problem would run into astounding figures, if they could be compiled on a large scale. And if the citizens realized just what these accumulated losses mean, there would be a greater demand for vigorous action to solve the parking problem.

Few of us realize that the primary advantage of using the private automobile—fast, convenient and comfortable transportation to and from our destination — is often greatly lessened by time lost searching for a parking place or walking from a parking place to our destination.

In a study of costs of congestion and delays in Detroit in 1936, a cost of three-quarters of a cent per minute "lost" was assigned to passenger cars. This figure included only gasoline wastage, extra wear on brakes, motor parts, etc., but did not take into account the value of the time of the driver and passengers. If this figure were multiplied by the thousands of autos in daily use in Charlotte, the accumulated losses due to parking difficulties would be staggering.

An inquiry made among drivers parked at the curb, taken at random in the central business district of Washington in 1939, revealed that the average distance cruised by 129 motorists finding a place to park was a fraction over eight blocks. This figure might be somewhat lower in Charlotte, where parking meters encourage a higher turnover of parked cars, but would still be considerable.

AN EVEN more important result of downtown congestion is the present-day flight of business away from the main business area to the suburbs where adequate parking facilities are available. From the motorist's point of view, the ideal parking space is at the curb immediately in front of his destination. Long ago he ceased to expect such convenience in the central business district, and has accepted the necessity of using parking lots. But he still does not like to pay for a place to park his car unless the fee is low and the space near where he wants to go, particularly if he wants to stay only a short time.

The irritation of searching for a parking place is not measurable in minutes, or in dollars and cents. But the constant repetition of this exasperating experience is driving many potential customers out of the main business district. They prefer to drive extra miles to outlying business establishments where ample parking space is available and traffic congestion less.

Of course, there are other reasons why many business establishments are locating in suburban areas. Taxes are lower, rentals are lower, they are closer to their best customers, the building codes are less restrictive. But the major reason is to escape the bad downtown parking conditions, and to be able to provide ample parking at low cost for their customers.

(Perhaps the best local example is that of the large chain food stores whose owners and operators are shrewd judges of customer habits and preferences. Most of them are being built comfortably away from the congested downtown area. And, most important, they provide their own parking facilities.)

Small business districts are springing up all over Charlotte. One of the most active areas is along Central Ave., between Pecan and the Plaza. Another is at the intersection of Providence and Queens Roads. Another is along S. Boulevard. This process may be expected to continue unless some way is found to make it more convenient for customers to use their automobiles for shopping in the downtown area.

This decentralization of business poses an important basic question concerning Charlotte's parking program. Should decisions on downtown parking facilities be such as will help prevent business decentralization? Or should such decisions be based on the assumption that decentralization is inevitable any way?

Most planning officials believe that undue decentralization is bad, and that every effort should be made to prevent it. This will mean extensive redevelopment of the downtown area, and the provision of greater parking capacity will be one of the most important measures in the redevelopment program.

WHEN property values in a business district decline, and the tax rate remains the same, tax revenues must also decline. Many U. S. cities have already experienced a downward trend in business property values. This is a matter which should be of concern to the general public, for a survey by the National Resources Planning Board estimates that approximately 25 per cent of the taxable property value in the average U. S. city is represented by the central business district. Losses in that highly tax-productive district will mean greater tax loads on other property owners, notably home owners.

A report by the Parking Subcommittee of Baltimore's Traffic Committee says: "The loss of property values in downtown areas since 1931 of $60,000,000 . . . reduced the city's tax yield by $1,800,000 . . . A principal contributing factor . . . was the increasing inaccessibility of the area. Difficult to reach! Difficult to park!"

The Mayor of Boston, in his annual report to the City Council in 1941, said that property values in the city had declined $465,000,000 in the preceding decade, and that losses in the central district accounted for nearly half of the total city-wide decline. "Unless we can, as a start, relieve the traffic congestion which exists within our city, and unless we can provide the facilities for business terminals and parking of motor vehicles, we shall make no progress in the rehabilitation of Boston," he said.

Fortunately we do not yet have to worry about the "rehabilitation" of Charlotte's business district But if the growth of the parking problem is unchecked for another ten or twenty years, the Mayor of Charlotte may very well be forced someday to make such a report as did the Mayor of Boston.

(Tomorrow: Curb parking and its limitations.)

Directors Meet

Increases In Chest Budget Are Approved

Members of the board of directors of the Community Chest of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, in session for the first time in 1947 at Efird's today at 1 P. M., accepted the budget committee's recommendation for total re-allocations and increases of $6,120.91 to the agencies and made plans for the annual meeting of the Chest that is to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Edwin L. Jones was appointed chairman of the nominating committee by Mrs. W. B. Sullivan, president, and members of the committee were appointed. They were Stanley Black, J. H. Cutter, Henry C. Dockery, H. H. Everett, Mrs. W. I. Henderson Jr.

This committee will prepare a slate of officers to be presented to members of the Community Chest in annual session next month. Committees for the new year will be appointed also.

REQUEST INCREASES

Eight agencies of the Community Chest presented requests for increased allotments and re-allocations amounting to $10,474.37 before the end of 1946. The budget committee met first to consider these requests on Dec. 18 and met again

See CHEST on page 5-B

Sewer Job Bids Above Estimates

Figures Reflect Mounting Costs

Mounting cost in all lines was reflected today in the bids on construction of the city's eastside sewer outfall on which the lowest quotation of $833,248.25 was offered by A. H. Guion & Co., of Charlotte.

Only four bids were submitted on the construction of 26,500 feet of sewer outfall from Princeton Ave. to the Southern Railway tracks, which is the major initial project of the City's $2,325,000 sewer improvement program.

Other bids, which were opened today by J. B. Marshall, engineer consultant with the J. N. Pease & Co., were as follows:

Blythe Bros of Charlotte, $838,103.30; V. P. Loftis & Co., of Charlotte, $866,442.50, and Wannamaker & Welles of Orangeburg, S. C., and D. M. Rickenbacker of Union, S. C., (combined bid), $964,369.30.

When the first engineering estimates of the proposed work were made two years ago to determine the amount of bonds that would be required to carry out the needed improvements, it was calculated that the outfall would cost around $600,000.

Asked what would be done in view of the big increase in cost over the original estimate, Mr. Marshall said that is in the province of the City Council. He said he would make a report of the receipt of bids at next Tuesday's Council session.

However, there was the possibility that all bids might be rejected and initiation of the work delayed until a more favorable time. There seems, it was said, to be some indication of a settling of prices in the construction field and postponement of the work might result in a lower bid. That, however, is a matter for the City Council to decide after the engineer's report is made.

Zoning Law Is Passed

After months and years of discussing and at times wrangling, Charlotte today had a zoning ordinance.

It was passed by a bare majority of four votes at yesterday afternoon's City Council session and its climax was quiet and undemonstrative, contrary to the usual procedures on zoning.

The Council had had the current measure in its hands since last July when it was first submitted by the Zoning Commission, of which Fred N. Thompson was chairman. Revisions were made by the Commission on the basis of suggestions from the Council. And additional changes were made with a last-minute alteration yesterday afternoon that paved the way for the recording of four votes in its favor.

Councilman Fred H. McIntyre joined Councilmen Henry Newson, John P. White, and J. Henry Johnston to complete the majority after his colleagues agreed to his suggestion that non-conforming buildings destroyed by fire or other causes might be reconstructed in an industrial zone within one year.

A large group of zoning advocates, including residents of Providence Road and Crescent Ave. who had come to protest erection of apartment houses on their residential streets, had crowded into the Council Chamber where for the last several meetings a few protestants had consistently "knocked" the zoning principle.

NO OPPOSITION

But nobody arose to speak when Mayor Baxter extended that privilege prior to the reading of the ordinance.

Frank Thies, chairman of the Planning Board, which had initiated the zoning study for Charlotte.

See ZONING LAW on page 5-B

Jones Named To Committee

Congressman Hamilton C. Jones of Charlotte received a position on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs when the Democratic minority appointments were announced in Congress today. Mr. Jones, a freshman Congressman, had sought this position.

Representative A. L. Bulwinkle of Gastonia was reappointed to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Refrigeration Service — Commercial and Home. Snook Brothers, Inc. Phone 3-8686. Adv.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHECK-UP — Miss Suzanne Carroll, sponsor for the seventh grade in the "new" junior high department of the Myers Park Church School, is shown here (right) discussing grades on the church school report cards of Jenny Johnston and Joe Townsend. Jenny and Joe were two of the more than 60 students who called for report cards and conferences at the church Monday. (News Staff Photo by Bill Sumner of Tom Franklin Studio).

City Court Receipts Up

Crime doesn't pay, but those who defied the law in Charlotte really paid last year.

It was a matter of paying out and those who came to court turned loose a record-breaking stream of coin which according to Lt. Allen M. White, clerk of City Police Court, totaled $134,642.50.

In City Police Court defendants in 12,693 cases shelled out $114,350.50 and in addition 15,553 paid the Traffic Bureau $19,650 as penalties for violation of traffic rules. Then, too, there were 321 dog-owners who paid $642 on waivers without appearing in court to answer the charge of failure to purchase license tags for their dogs.

Of the $114,350.50 collected in Police Court, $43,143 were fines and forfeitures, which went to the county school fund, $45,350 were costs, that went into the City Treasury for operation of the court, $7,717.50 were assessments that went to the Mecklenburg Law Enforcements Officers Benefit Fund, and $18,140 were assessments that went to the State Police Retirement Fund.

BIG GAIN

An indication of the increase in volume of business in City Police Court was given by Lt. White who said that in 1943 the amount sent from the Police Court to the State Police Retirement Fund on the basis of $2 per case was only slightly more than $7,000. Last year these assessments reached the figure of $18,140.

There were 12,693 cases docketed on the Police Court calendar last year and while the breakdown had not been completed today, officers said that more than half of all cases were for drunkenness.

Gastonia Negro Held For Theft Of Fur Coats

GASTONIA — John William Good, 29-year-old Negro resident of Gastonia, was bound over to Superior Court after a hearing in Gastonia Municipal Court yesterday morning on a charge of stealing eleven fur coats from Rustin's Furniture Co. last Jan. 18.

At Myers Park Baptist

Church Has New Plan For Teaching Youths

By FRECK SPROLES
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Quarterly reports, teacher-pupil and teacher-parent conferences, diagnostic and weekly tests make the seventh, eighth and ninth grades of the Myers Park Baptist Church school sound like regular school. But Dr. George D. Heaton and the junior high department staff say an emphatic, "Not so".

Procedure in this department smacks of public school, but there is a vast difference, according to the pastor.

Dr. Heaton was explaining the philosophy of the family-centered religious education program Monday, as a steady stream of junior high youngsters came by the Fellowship House to pick up report cards. A downpour of Winter rain wasn't keeping the students from coming in for cards and conferences.

"It's the opposite from secular school in that the school must be the center of secular education and the family, the aid. In our program, which is a step further in the departure from the old program, the family is the center of education. The school's responsibility is to tell the parents what their children should be taught and tell them how to teach them.

"We will do this at our 'PTA' meetings each month. The philosophy of this new program will be discussed at a meeting with parents tonight. The program is not original with us but new in this section and a step beyond our education week program."

The report cards, to be discussed by sponsors and parents tonight, show grades from tests—diagnostic, weekly and survey. The diagnostic test was given as the program began to determine the needs of the pupil and to guide the teacher. Weekly tests are given on the Sunday school lesson each Sunday morning. The survey test comes at the end of the quarter.

The departure from old-style Sunday school methods began at Myers Park Baptist Church three years ago. Dr. Heaton and leaders in the church felt that

See CHURCH SCHOOL on page 5-B

Committees Appointed

The Charlotte Real Estate Board, preparing for a full year of activities, announced today chairmen and committees to direct affairs during 1947. The Board also approved the proposed state license law, which goes before the Legislature on Jan. 24.

The committees, as announced by E. B. Dudley, president of the board, at the monthly luncheon at Thacker's are as follows:

Programs, J. M. Trotter, chairman, and Paul Guthery, W. I. Henderson, George S. Goodyear, Albert Escott, W. R. Cuthbertson, B. R. Cato, J. P. Hackney Jr., Eli Springs, Fred Harkey, and D. L. Lindeman; City and County Liaison Committee, Caldwell McDonald, chairman, J. H. Carson, vice-chairman, J. M. Trotter, S. B. McLaughlin, and Frank Thies; Convention Committee, Fred Harkey, E. B. Dudley, W. M. Farmer, Lex Marsh, E. A. Byrum; Senatorial, J. L. Choate; Congressional, W. I. Henderson, H. M. Wade; Publicity, F. W. Fredrickson, J. E. Barrentine, E. B. Dudley; Arbitration and Ethics, E. O. Clarkson, W. C. Harris, H. Y. Dunaway, F. C. Abbott, Clyde G. Crevensten; Appraisals, Eli Springs, E. L. Vinson, Lee Kinney, Ernest DeLaney; Constitution and By-Laws, Fred Harkey, J. P. Hackney Jr., H. B. Keller, F. W. Fredrickson.

Membership, Albert Escott, Hal McKee, John Dwelle, Ralph Booth; Audit and Finance, W. F. Masten

See REALTORS on page 5-B

The Charlotte Scene

By Tom Fesperman

That jittery feeling, that pounding fear among people in wedding parties that something surely will go wrong smack in the middle of a big, quiet marriage ceremony, was never felt so acutely as by our friend, Walter Gray, not long ago. He told us the story himself, as an old doughboy tells a story of his worst front-line experience, and we agreed with him that his experience was, indeed, a serious matter.

Walter, who is a good church-going Protestant, was to be an usher in the wedding of some friends, who, it so happened, were Catholics. For some reason, lost now, Walter couldn't get to the rehearsal, but he was assured by the woman who was directing that he had nothing to worry about. On the night of the wedding, Walter set out for St. Peter's Church on S. Tryon St. Entering the church, he noticed candles burning, and he took a good look at the empty place. This was the first time he'd ever been inside a Catholic church, and he saw his chance to look.

Walter had plenty of time to look. He kept waiting for others to arrive, but no one came. He glanced at his watch. It was time for the wedding, and no one was there except him. He began to get a feeling of desperation, and he looked at his watch now much more than at the church. Time went by, and Walter felt hot, as if he had a high fever.

Outside he heard a car, and then he saw a friend get out. The friend fairly screamed at Walter. "Come on, goon, the wedding's at St. Patrick's, and everybody's waiting for you." The ride to St. Patrick's in Dilworth seemed long, like a donkey trip over a high mountain. Walter was ten minutes late; the bride and bridegroom were waiting; everybody was waiting. The woman who was directing things began whispering instructions to Walter in the vestibule, and pointing vaguely down toward the altar, showing him where to go. She told him when to kneel, and when not to kneel, and all this was whispered. Walter didn't feel certain about anything.

When the wedding started Walter went down the aisle. He decided he'd look, out of the corner of his eye, at a corresponding usher and take all his cues from him. Somewhere among the wedding greenery, Walter took his stand. The other usher looked as if he were about to kneel, so Walter knelt. He glued an eye to the usher. He felt as if he were in a fiery furnace. His knees shook until he was certain he was stirring a breeze through the greenery.

Walter looked up the aisle and saw a plate being brought down. This seemed odd, and surely he had never seen any such thing in Protestant weddings, but one never knew. Walter began digging into his pocket for some change to drop into the plate. Then he saw that the plate, or whatever it was, wasn't what he'd thought at all, but bore the wedding ring. His had came out of his pocket as if it were jet-propelled. He stole another glance at the other usher, felt that everybody was staring at him. Somehow, years later, the wedding was over and Walter was still living.

Well, that's about all there is to the story. Walter felt inclined to taking a week's rest when it was over. Breathing deep sighs, he began to feel better at the reception, and he sought out the usher who had been his guide. Walter said he would never have gotten through it all if it hadn't been for the other usher. The usher said, "You must be joking, Walter. Because I was watching you and taking all my cues from you."

Charlotte Iron & Metal Co. 220 E. 8th St. New Steel-Scrap Iron-Metals.adv.

Election Permissible At Any Time

Statue Explained By Chairman

By TOM WATKINS
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The prevailing belief that any liquor election held in Mecklenburg County this year must come at least 60 days prior to or 60 days after the Spring municipal election was exploded today by Chase Brenizer, chairman of the County Board of Elections, who announced that such a properly authorized public vote could be held at any desired time during 1947.

This conclusion was reached after Mr. Brenizer had carefully studied the North Carolina statutes applying to elections for establishment of liquor control stores.

There is a stipulation in the statute, said Mr. Brenizer, that provides that "no election shall be held on the day of any biennial election for county officers, or within 60 days of such an election," but since there are no county elections this year the law would not apply. This, however, would not be true in 1948 when county elections do come up.

The statutes controlling liquor elections make no mention of municipal elections and therefore, Mr. Brenizer said, it is not mandatory to consider the approaching Spring city election in seeking to establish a date as to when a liquor store vote could be arranged.

"However," Mr. Brenizer said, "if the interested factions wanted to play safe and follow the statutory provision that applies to county officers then they could proceed by arranging a date to conform with the approaching municipal election. On that basis," he calculated, "the liquor election could be held not later than March 29 if held before the municipal election."

The law requires the city elections—mayor and city councilmen—to be chosen on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, which would be May 6. The primary is the second Monday preceding the general municipal election, which would be April 28.

In order to allow for the 60 days, Mr. Brenizer said, the notice of a liquor election would fall on Feb. 11—20 days prior to the first registration. Registration would begin March 1 and continue on March 8 and 15. Challenge day would be March 22, and election day March 29.

But, contended the election officials, that course of action isn't necessary. In arranging a county election the city elections could be disregarded and a convenient date arranged.

Of course if the Legislature finds it advisable to grant Charlotte the privilege of an exclusive vote, then it is assumed that the Legislature would fix the date.

Where a county election is called, either through petition from 15 per cent of the registered voters who participated in the last election for Governor, or upon direct request from the Board of County Commissioners—the two methods provided by the statute — then the election day need not be a great worry.

Neither, said Mr. Brenizer, will a special registration be required as seems to be the general belief. The law in this respect reads: "A new registration of voters for such special liquor elections is not required and all qualified electors who are properly registered prior to the registration in said special liquor election, shall be entitled to vote in said election."

The County Commissioners prefer a countywide election to a city vote, but not to the extent of asking the Board of Elections for an election to settle the controversial issue.

They prefer a barometer of the people's wishes in the form of a petition from 15 per cent of the qualified voters. The City, naturally, would like a vote by itself. (In the last referendum the proposal for establishment of liquor stores failed when the county residents turned out strong in opposition.)

The delegation to the General Assembly has heard both sides. At least three members seem committed to a city vote unless the County proceeds to call for a countywide election.

MANY INQUIRIES

Mr. Brenizer said today numerous inquiries concerning election procedure are being received. S. Y. McAden, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, is receiving both telephone calls and letters, some desiring a vote and others objecting.

But at least the record is now

See ABC VOTE on page 5-B