

Why Can't Planning Be Countywide?

ANOTHER timorous step toward joint city-county planning has been taken. But instead of endorsing proposals for a broad countywide planning program, the City Council has approved a compromise resolution calling for a system which would exclude all of Mecklenburg's small incorporated towns. In fact, the name of the proposed new agency would not even be the Mecklenburg-Charlotte Planning Board, as suggested earlier. It would be known, significantly, as the Greater Charlotte Planning Commission.

This proposal—while infinitely better than Mayor Phil Van Every's plan for two separate boards and one technical staff—still sidesteps the main issue. What Mecklenburg needs is an effective, comprehensive planning program for the whole county. How can there be complete coordination if the little local town curricula are maintained? How can there be an all-inclusive blueprint for the entire community (in this case, Mecklenburg County) in the light of changing physical, economic and social requirements and resources if there are gaping holes in that blueprint?

Perhaps these small towns do not have planning problems today. But the task of the planners is to prepare today for tomorrow's expected needs. They must first determine how much land will be needed during the next decades for the various uses that can be expected to be made of it—for homes, schools, stores, factories, warehouses, parks, farms—and then determine the best possible pattern of relationships among these future uses.

No community can produce a plan that stops at one point and takes up at another if it really wants to promote its own sound future development. There should be no gaps in the system. Gaps only tend to freeze existing conditions in the smaller towns—conditions which may or may not be desirable.

Since ancient times, man has dreamed of building beautiful, healthy cities. Few have been built. First there was Harappa in India; then Ur and Kish in Mesopotamia; Thebes, Karnak, the cities of

Why Annexation Is Preferable To Incorporation

By GEORGE C. FRANKLIN

(Editors' Note: When it was seriously proposed that a separate municipality be established in Charlotte's fringe area The News solicited the professional advice of Mr. Franklin, general counsel of the N. C. League of Municipalities. Although talk of a new fringe area has died down now we reprint Mr. Franklin's reply in full because (1) incorporation will be a recurring proposal in this and nearby communities, and (2) his is an excellent discussion of this fringe area problem.)

YOU have asked me to assist you with respect to the question of annexation or incorporation of a particular section on the perimeter of the city limits of Charlotte. You have indicated that you feel that incorporation is wrong and I heartily agree with you in your opinion.

In the first place, it is contrary to the trend and we have learned "the hard way" that these small communities, once they are established, present almost insurmountable problems in the further development of a central city. I know that you have thought about the duplication of effort that

be grade enjoyed by the City of Charlotte. Again per capita cost gets out of line, and so with garbage collection, street, waste and refuse disposal and other services. In each it requires a basic minimum operating unit of men and equipment and unit costs soar.

We have noticed the per capita cost for small municipalities, particularly "bedroom type" towns, where there is a minimum of industrial and commercial installations, that the provision of comparable service to other municipalities require high tax rates and it should be borne in mind that Charlotte does provide a high level of service.

CHARLOTTE CREDIT RATING

Another factor is that of credit or the capitalization of the need for improvements. Charlotte's credit rating is extremely good; it is known in the market; its bonds are always favorably received. But a small new municipality pays a high premium because of its lack of a credit rating or experience. I recall very vividly the efforts that we had to exert to assist the towns of Spray and Drayton and get their securities on the market.

Then these people sometimes base their presumptions upon the



"Hold it, right there... do you realize you look like a detergent advertisement in a magazine?"

Clark Was Wrong About U. N.'s Role

A FORMER general, now a college president, made some ill-considered remarks about the United Nations today. The former general who is now President properly answered them yesterday.

Mark Clark, head of The Citadel in South Carolina, had told the Senate Internal Security subcommittee that he didn't have much respect for the U. N., that it hadn't contributed much to solution of world problems, and that its location in this country permitted Soviet spies to run around freely. He said the U. N. should be organized as a United Nations against the Soviet Union, and the U. S. should break off diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and its satellites.

Go, Go, Sonny

WITH October comes the World Series. That first, come the World Series of soap box races—the All-American Soap Box Derby. Today Charlotte sends its 1954 champion—Sonny Bankhead—to Akron, Ohio, in quest of one of this nation's most coveted championships for youth.

Sonny, christened Jerry Lloyd Bankhead, could become the second national champion the South has possessed. It was in 1952, in the 15th Derby, that Joe Lunn of Columbus, Ga., wrecked his racer on Derby Downs, patched up the car, and came on to win the South's first crown before 60,000 spectators.

Sonny, who hails from Hamlet, broke several precedents this year when he won the Charlotte Derby.

He had his wheels ruled out and was forced to use a new, untested set on his racer, but he won with record times.

He became the first lad living in a city outside Charlotte to win the Derby in the post-war years.

And finally, he won after having failed in four previous attempts.

What is that old saying—if at first you don't succeed, try, try again? The South and Sonny are due this year.

Muggsie Should Watch Out

Apes Are Apes in Africa

By ROBERT C. RUARK

HONOLULU, Mexico City, Havana and San Juan. I wish to warn you slightly about Nairobi, where he was to be met by a white hunter, be driven to the Athi Plains to see the animals, and to have his lunch served him by an African cook, probably a Mau Mau.

In the first place, Mr. Muggs may be a star on TV, but in Africa he is only an oversized monkey. He is apt to get up by a leopard, who surely loves apes, with or without fame, and they probably will settle for the American passport as well. None of this is eating and drinking everything in sight, as Muggs did in Paris. Out in Africa Muggs is little better than an hors d'oeuvre for a hyena.

I will warn him about white hunters, too. If they are anybody who hunt, they hunt for ivory, and ivory is a hot commodity. If they can't find a pig or a wormy Grant gazelle, and if Mr. Muggs loses his identity card, he is apt to find himself trussed to a branch along the Taleri River, just waiting for a cat to come and claim him.

One final warning: a monkey-hide cloak is the badge of authority among the natives of Kenya and Tanganyika. Some monkeys are verboten on the game licenses, but there is nothing in the fine print about the immunity of an American television star who just happens to be a chimp, as well. They are on the free list

Old Senate Democrats Raring To Go This Fall

By DORIS FLEEN

SEN. GREEN

WASHINGTON

THE Hon. Alben W. Barkley, sprightly attired in suit and shirt of television blue and a hat of straw hat, blew into the Capital for a few hours Tuesday to exhort Kentucky Democrats to hasten home and man the barricades with him. "We'll win," he told them, "but we've got to run BARKLEY '54."

Sen. Green's primary vote lends support to the ex-pec's confidence that he can regain his Senate seat. Democrats gave him 150,000 votes as compared to about 50,000 lost by Republicans for incumbent John Sherman Cooper.

It is true that Cooper's two victories have been won by Republican votes, of which there aren't enough in Kentucky, but with support from Democrats. These apostates, Barkley feels, will not stray when the Barkley name appears in opposition to Cooper.

The former vice president looked hale and cheerful when he met with his associates at a 7:30 breakfast. He was up, dressed and waiting impatiently when Sen. Earle Clements telephoned his Connecticut Avenue apartment shortly before 7 to arouse him.

"BARKIS IS WILLING"

A few hours later he flew back to Kentucky to pick up Mr. Barkley and drive to race from Paducah to a rally. He planned to speak about 80 miles from home the next night. "The demand is

From The Winston-Salem Journal

SKIMPION

AT A LOCAL PARTY the other night, the conversation was proceeding brilliantly. Gabbling and small talk were going along at a peppery rate, and people seemed to be in perfect rapport.

Then a man said, "Well, if George is so good, let him give me a little credit for pulling the skimpion of the year."

"Skimpion?" said his wife. The other people in his immediate circle looked blank.

"Yes, skimpion," he repeated. "It's a perfectly good word."

One outspoken woman remarked, "I am undefeated in Scrabble so far this year. I know strange words like that and every. But I would certainly challenge you if you used skimpion in a game with me."

They argued there is no such word.

Drew Pearson's Power Rates Drove Industry South

THE debate over the control of the industrial power of the future. And it will affect your part of the U. S. as well as New England.

Alabama, whose state has attracted New England factories because of the cheap electric power, has been the target of the Senate how the power interests had scrapped flood control on the Merrimack River back in 1936 and that this was why New England power rates were so expensive.

Up jumped New Sen. Robert Upton of New Hampshire, the gentle man when the governor of New Hampshire appointed to replace the late Sen. Tobey.

Power Lobbyist Senator

"I was one of the commissioners who drew up the interstate flood control program in 1936," he said. "It failed... because we looked to Wash-

ton for ratification, but the advocates of public power in Washington prevented ratification."

What the likable Senator from New Hampshire failed to point out, however, was that he has long represented the power companies of New England.

Upton also failed to state that the reason why New England has the highest electric power rates in the nation and one reason, in addition to the labor costs, that factories are moving South is because Upton helped insert an extremely important provision in the 1936 flood control compact, favoring the private utilities.

It provided that each of the New England states reserve the right "at its option, at any time hereafter, by itself" to develop the water power to be stored up by the Federal flood control project.

This, of course, was why Washington never ratified the flood control project which would have given New Eng-

land cheap power rates and would have helped speed up the moving of the Mass-Dixon line. For this clause was in violation of the Federal Power Act of 1920 whereby the Federal Government was to control individual states' water power sites.

Southern states accepted Federal control of TVA. New England vetoed Federal control of the Merrimack River project. In fact a registered lobbyist for the power companies, Sen. Upton was on the committee that knuckled out the Merrimack Federal flood agreement, and that same lobbyist, now Sen. Upton, voted to let the next generation atomic power of the next generation largely to private firms rather than the Federal Government.

This complicated but basic question is partly what the current debate on atomic energy is all about. It will affect the future industrial power of the nation far more than the public realizes, and for years to come.