THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1958

Mecklenburg Proves Its Civic Vitality

THE success of Mecklenburg County's 1958 United Appeal was a telling tribute to the civic vitality of a great and growing metropolitan community.

An alert citzenry, keenly aware of its social responsibilities, has demonstrated once again its essential neighborliness.

Because Mecklenburgers saw their duty and did it, 38 separate United Appeal services will have the funds they need to operate during 1959. It means, quite simply, that this county will be a better place in which to live—now and in the future.

But that is not all.

The fact that Mecklenburgers gave $1,102,907.43 to meet vital health, welfare and recreation needs means thousands of dollars have been saved in campaign costs. It means thousands of man-hours have been saved in volunteer effort. It means a broader base of public support for federated fund-raising.

Furthermore, it means the money separate agencies once spent on fund-raising can now be spent directly on beneficial work programs.

There is no doubt about it now. The United Appeal, established in 1952, is a thorough-going success in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. There was a large hint of what was to come in the very first campaign. Its goal was a modest $738,000, but 45,000 Mecklenburgers gave $744,861.

Charlotte and Mecklenburg have grown rapidly in six years. So, too, have the metropolitan community's needs. Last year, 63,000 individuals responded to those needs with United Appeal contributions.

This year's spectacular success—101.8 per cent of the goal — was due largely to the obvious energy, honesty and intelligence with which the drive was administered, and the enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteer workers.

The community owes a special debt of gratitude to Campaign Chairman Don Denton whose imaginative and thoroughly inspiring efforts gave the appeal the buoyant leadership it needed.

In Charlotte, An Essential Neighborliness

Oliver Rowe, president of the United Community Services, also deserves praise for his own energetic activities in behalf of the cause.

It would be impossible for us to mention all who helped make the 1958 drive a success but mention definitely ought to be made of the United Appeal division leaders who collected 100 per-cent or better of their quotas:

Harold Smoak, commercial; Clyde Harris, public service; Kay J. Jennell, advance gifts and professional; J. Ben Bostick, public employes; Charles A. Hunter and Z. Reed Dillingham, city and county general enterprises, and Mrs. Ernest Young, residential.

It was a victory for Mecklenburg and its people. And it again showed how men and women of all political beliefs, religions and races can work together in behalf of a common cause.

The Army Wants A Comic Strip Hero

WORD has filtered down through channels (in triplicate) that the Army has begun an offensive to pincer a syndicate into the production of a comic strip.

Too long has Steve Canyon run unchallenged with his occasional Air Force duty, says the brass. The Army needs a hero, too.

We feel we're qualified to offer a few suggestions. After all, ever since the days of "Krazy Kat" we've struggled along, even with the present-day "Terry" where not only do characters remain of age, they all, men and women, look alike.

With bayonet fixed, herewith a charge at the bunkers of the comics page:

First, our hero should have a four-syllable name. Note the preponderance of three-syllable comic strips. This has got to be better. How about Blitz Scabbardgash? A real fighting name, easily shortened to Blitz or Ol' Scab.

Then we've got to make the man a full bird colonel. No sense messing around with lesser rank. (A flashback can show how he rose from the grease pits of Fort Jackson in World War II up the ladder of promotion—goldbrick to latrine orderly to permanent KP to furnace tender, first class. How he won a Purple Heart and lieutenant's bars simultaneously at OCS when pinked during graduation ceremonies.)

Ol' Blitz must have a dashing assignment, too. He should be a modern John Moseby, commander of a small, tightly knit nuclear-war outfit. Their battle cry: A ringing "Up And Atom!" So secret is this outfit (eight men, a Volkswagen for economy, one inflatable coliseum for records) that not even the secretary of the Army knows its location. A keen note, as this mobile outfit can enter any world situation at a moment's notice.

The colonel occasionally reports (in triplicate) as to its site, and this will keep readers straight, too.

Of importance, and to be stressed, is that Col. Scabbardgash is unswerving of purpose and unshakeable in his military faith.

Cases in point: Friendly foreign-power civilians approach the colonel, seek to enmesh him in a black market deal to sell Sunday night cold cuts to local service stations for hot-patch tire repairs. His plumed helmet shaking with rage, Blitz cleans house while commenting that the physical fitness program has stood him in good stead.

And again when unfriendly foreign-power civilians seek to infiltrate with a well-cleavaged lady spy. The colonel can entertain her while discovering her mission (which is to learn the secret of the double-filter GI cigarette) and then launch her from his pad as the third stage of a Redstone missile.

Those missiles are important. The story line must keep abreast of developments, and should have Col. Scabbardgash out in space to establish an officers' club long before it's actually done.

In sum, "Blitz Scabbardgash" must be a strip of forward-looking purpose with backward-looking men who uphold our time-honored Army traditions. The colonel must be so drawn as to radiate the MacArthur eagle-glint even with a bad hangover. His men can be humorous ("Where's that furshligginer shmo of a colonel snuk off to?") but they must be efficient, conservation-conscious, ready to fight ("Who says I didn't pay for my beer, Mac?").

Get with it, cartoonists. This is to be an All-American, Red, White and Olive-Drab adventure. And don't forget to send it in triplicate.

From The Richmond News Leader

ALL HOOPED OUT

THE hula hoop craze, we see by the papers, has just about hooped itself out. During the summer madness, an estimated 25 million hoops were sold, but sales dwindled sharply in October and many merchants have put away their stock in the hope of a revival in the spring.

Meanwhile, manufacturers are busily thinking up some refinements: Hoops with bells, hoops to be rolled (there is a novel idea!), crazy hoops that wobble instead of rotate, and hoops capable of conversion into flying saucers, drums and umbrellas. Phillips Petroleum Co., alert to the needs of suburbia, will offer a hoop that can be turned into a lawn sprinkler.

Retailers, a little dazed by the hula hoop experience, cannot recall another fad to match this one in terms of brevity and intensity. The yo-yo craze, for example, lasted over a long period of time. Davy Crockett was around for most of one year; Roy Rogers and Hopalong Cassidy continue to sell a lot of blue jeans and cap pistols. But hoops have come and gone in a space of four months.

What made the hoops so hot?

The WALL STREET JOURNAL asked a couple of child psychologists about the fad. One professor said the hoops reflected a child's subconscious rebellion against his parents: The child can twirl the hoop, but mother and father can't. Another pedagog allowed that children just naturally like round objects—yo-yo's, baseball, marbles, ring-around-the-rosy—and the hoop, said this pundit, is not a reflection of rebellion at all, but rather a symbol of the family circle.

If retailers and child psychologists can't agree on an explanation, mere parents can't be expected to suggest an answer either. A young lady of our acquaintance, examined on these matters, testified that she bought a hoop because Jennie had a hoop; and Jennie, called to the stand, said she wheedled a hoop out of father because everybody had a hoop. We suspect darkly that nothing more is involved here than the pressures toward conformity that are the despair of parents the world over. Everybody has a hoop! What better reason could a 12-year-old ask, or a toy buyer desire?

People's Platform — Committee Took Right Tack On Mental Health

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WE, the South Piedmont Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, have been watching with interest the County Commissioners' acceptance and responsibility for care of the mentally ill. They are to be commended for appointing a committee to study the needs of this community problem.

We commend the committee on its analysis of the problem and its recommendation for a qualified psychiatric social worker to facilitate admission to and follow up care of the patients at our state hospitals. Not only will the psychiatric social worker with training and experience be of help to ease the situation at the time of admission but also will be working with the family and the community in understanding the mentally ill. We are pleased to note the excellent coverage given by both our newspapers of this problem which has brought this crisis to the attention of the public.

—MRS. GLADYS P. RIDDLE
President
South Piedmont Chapter
National Association of Social Workers

They Took It Out On Brooks Hays

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE people of Little Rock are pitifully confused and frustrated, groping around without leadership. They had to vent their feelings on someone—and Brooks Hays was convenient.

—ED STOVALL

He Didn't Have To Read Book

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

MRS. J. L. Hurtt thinks it incredible that I didn't read Drew Pearson's new book, and can still call it essentially hogwash on the basis of a News editorial review. This position, according to Mrs. Hurtt, raises "grave doubt" as to whether I do my own reading, writing and thinking.

It's my belief that no newspaper in the county does a more thorough and reliable review of egghead books than our own Charlotte News. That is to say, if The News says egghead Pearson made certain salient points in his book, I accept it as the truth that such points were made. I've never been inclined to believe that The News would lie on or misrepresent an egghead author.

Therefore, on the basis of The News' crackerjack egghead review of Pearson's book, I launched an attack on the book's conclusion. Is that so incredible?

Now, many of us have no doubt read Pearson's newspaper columns for years. But must those of us who believe him generally unreliable, un-American, anti-libertarian, and nauseatingly equalitarian, be forced to read more of his diatribe in book form, in order to be recognized as a good and loyal American? Is a reading of Pearson's book the only standard for determining whether one is capable of doing his own readin', writin', and 'rithmetic?

Come now Mrs. Hurtt! I'm just an old ignorant country boy I'll admit. But your ear of corn is crawling wid worms, and I just ain't gonna eat it!

—J. R. CHERRY JR.

Utilities Commission Should Be Observed

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WISH to take exception to the remark made in this column by Mr. S. T. Moser on Nov. 18 in which he gave the Utilities Commission a lick with the rough side of his tongue, saying: "Because rate increases are most always granted, it makes us wonder how much those in authority are getting out offt." I do not wish to be counted among "us" because I do not choose to take the shadow for the substance with any such single-eyed, hide-bound, contracted views.

Every member of the Utilities Commission is a sterling dedicated public servant. I believe the men who operate City Coach Lines to be hard-hearted, cold-blooded business men, but men of indisputable character. These gentlemen know when and how to take opportunity by the forelock and it would be as unnecessary as putting paper pants on lamb chops for them to attempt to won the commission. Why should they, when they have in the itchy palm of their hands a public that dwells in complacency; a public, who having felt the hand of public utilities reach into their pocket-book so consistently, has accepted it, as they accept rain, hunger and the Fourth of July. You should know City Coach Company's pattern by now, Mr. Moser.

First they start priming the public with the old bally-hoo in the news papers, (viz) finances approaching the vanishing point because of loss of passengers, cost or operation climbing, etc.; you know the mumbo-jumbo. They play this record until they feel that they have the public brainwashed, then they petition the commission for a rate hike. After they arrive in Raleigh for the hearing, and having stored their gold-plated Cadillacs, they proclaim to be down at the heel peddlers, living on crusts, accumulating more and more poverty, just a few jumps ahead of the sheriff and with wolf pack methods, they gorge the hook for their dear old public; then by a rush of figures to the head they perform arithmetical acrobatics, such as proving in their fashion that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the square of the other two sides.

Then they talk the English a little and produce some very special records to prove how much money they are losing. Most always, nobody is there to dispute their hog-wash, or protest in any manner. When not a single person appears to protest, what would you expect the commission to do? That is what has been happening in the past, but not this time, even though the local newspapers stated that there were no protestants at this last hearing, the citizens in Charlotte were represented by the best legal talent in this state; the Hon. Malcolm Seawell, attorney general, appeared before the commission and put the saddle on the right horse in this case. . . .

Now Mr. Moser, I am sure you will agree that you let your adam's apple slip a cog and took time by the throat when you anticipated what the commission would do in this case. If you don't agree, shame shall cling to you like an unpaid mortgage, and soon your nose will scrape your shoes in humiliation.

The thousands of people living here in Charlotte who ride these buses daily are disappointed, not by the commission, but by the two local newspapers because neither paper has given any facts on the hearing in Raleigh. Both papers lay claim to being dedicated to the public interest.

— C. M. BOGAN

Winged Victory

An Early Build-Up?

Democrats Look Ahead

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

THE Democratic National Committee meets here Dec. 5 with one big decision already made. It is that their 1960 national convention will take place in mid-July in order to allow ample time to organize and finance the campaign.

Democratic experience with the short campaign of 1956 was unhappy in practically every respect. About some of the reasons there is argument. But there is no argument about the fact that the nominees of an open convention who lack the advantages of incumbency need a far greater buildup than was possible before.

WHEELING, DEALING

Beyond this there is every prospect that the convention arrangements will be the object of an enormous amount of wheeling and dealing. For it is firmly believed by strategists for some of the major Democratic candidates for president, if not by all, that the management of the 1960 conclave could prove decisive in naming the slate. No one candidate today has a commanding lead for the No. 1 nomination, while at the same time potential vice presidents are thicker than fallen leaves of autumn.

Some indications of how the battle is shaping will appear in preliminary hearings on where the convention is to be located. These take place before a convention committee just prior to the full committee meeting.

BROWN'S BID

In the bidding are two California cities—Los Angeles and San Francisco—and Philadelphia and Miami. Californians insist they are in earnest and will press their claim in the light of their overwhelming triumph on Nov. 4. What it might mean to Gov.-elect Pat Brown will be the subject of earnest debate privately before a choice is made. No one will dare, though, to be rude publicly to the state which is soon to be first in population and electoral votes.

The chairmanship will not, however, be disturbed for the immediate present. What will have to be discussed plainly by National Chairman Paul Butler are the committee's financial troubles.

It is still in debt from 1956, and in the past month it was twice sued by creditors of that campaign.

Behold The New Era

The Big Change In Politics

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

IT is rather late to begin talking about our elections but it is also a big advantage to wait and be able to read what others have written. Having been in Russia and entirely cut off from all of the campaign during the closing period, it has been impressive and refreshing to come home to read the accumulated clippings. The fact that there had been an election at all was curiously impressive. The fact that it was freely and fully reported in the press was refreshing.

Another reason for writing about the elections at this late date is that, almost certainly, we shall long be talking about them. For there is not much doubt that the election returns announced the passing of one political generation and the arrival of another.

For the most part the men who rose to political power as the result of the second World War have been defeated or they are retiring. The elections played havoc with the Republicans who were elected in 1946, in the first popular reaction to the miseries and the frustrations of the war. The class of 1946, Knowland, Bricker, Jenner, Malone, the class which included the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, has been pushed aside. Among the Democrats a similar thing happened in the defeat of Gov. Harriman in New York and of Gov. McFarland in Arizona. By and large the new men elected have made their way up since the war and they are only now ready for the leading places.

INEXACT SCIENCE

Politics is a very inexact science. But there is a rule which usually works. It is that about 15 years after the end of a big war, there occurs a big political change marked by the passing of the war generation and the advent of the generation which had no responsibility for, even though it participated in, the war.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER
Sad And Bewildered

Thus 15 years after the first World War, in 1933, Hitler came to power in Germany and Roosevelt in this country. Two years earlier Japan inaugurated in Manchuria that series of military aggressions which marked the end of the settlement of the first World War and led up to the second World War. The 15-year rule can be seen at work after our Civil War and after the Napoleonic wars at the beginning of the 19th century.

TRANSITION PERIOD

There is no mystery or magic about the 15-year rule. It is founded in the fact that about 15 years after a war ends the leaders and commanders are no longer in their prime while the young men who did the fighting, when they were in their 20s, have matured.

It is now 13 years since the end of the second World War, and in the presidential election of 1960 it will be 15 years. It is plain that we are living in the transition between the political generations. It is plain also that with this change of men there is a change in the political climate.

MEN OF THE FUTURE

All the analyses I have seen agree that as between the two parties there was no outstanding and clear-cut national issue. But in both parties the winners were men who gave the effect of looking forward into the future, of looking beyond the era of the World War and its aftermath, and of being alert to the needs of the day which have been put off and neglected. I suspect that this is true even of Sen. Goldwater of Arizona, who is not a conservative but a reactionary. He may well be a vigorous portent of some of the things to come.

Against this background—that of a generation which is passing and of a political climate that is changing—one must, I think, read what the President said at his press conference on the Wednesday morning after election day. He made no attempt to hide the fact that he was a sad and bewildered man. "The United States did give me, after all, a majority of I think well over 9,000,000 votes. Now here, only two years later, there is a complete reversal; and yet I do not see where there is anything that these people consciously want the administration to do differently."

IKE LIVES IN THE PAST

The answer, as it appeared in the election returns, is that a decisive majority of the people want the government, not merely administration, but all government, national and state, to come alive and to be alert and to show vigor, and not to keep mouthing the same old slogans, and not to dawdle along in the same old ruts. When they are told by the President himself on the day after election that the paramount task before the country is to spend less money, rather than to master its great problems, the people know that the President has lost touch with them, and with their problems, and is living in the past.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Rocky Mount Boy Scouts Help Clinton

WASHINGTON

THIS writer recently co-authored a book entitled "USA—Second-Class Power?" If the book were being written as of this month, another chapter would be added paying tribute to the enthusiasm, idealism, and generosity of American youth. They may be America's best guarantee against becoming a second-class power.

Letters Pour In

If the Russians think that American youth is solely engrossed in rock-n-roll, football, and baton-twirling, they should read the letters that have been pouring in to me with money for the rebuilding of the Clinton, Tenn., School House. They make you realize that American youth takes its responsibilities seriously. The question of school integration is not an issue. Many contributions come from southern schools. Chiefly children want to help others.

Here is a cross-section of the mail:

Tokuji, Ono, Kailua High School, Honolulu—"Although we are not as close as Alabama or North Carolina, we consider ourselves your neighbors and are happy to help in your time of trouble."

W. L. Draper, scoutmaster, Troop 11, Rocky Mount, N. C.—"It is not often that I have seen such enthusiastic response to any project. The enclosed cashier's check represents 'one soft drink per boy' which Mr. Pearson mentioned, to build a new school. It was a 100 per cent gesture from the boys. It is also witness to the conclusion that violence is not the satisfactory solution to any problem. A small contribution, but from the hearts of children."

Delmas Gish, Central City Public Schools, Kentucky — "The faculty and students of Central City Senior and Junior High School of Central City, Ky., would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy. We would like to have a small part in rebuilding the Clinton school. So we are enclosing a check for $43.30 as a contribution from 433 students."

A United Country

Student Council, Fulton High School, Fulton, N. Y.—"We the student body of Fulton High would like to contribute $25 to the repair of the southern synagogue that was recently bombed and also $25 to the recently bombed school at Clinton, Tenn. We would like people to know that modern youth is aware of and interested in everyday life. We believe that only when people put aside differences of religion and race and accept people as they are will there be a united country. How can we have a world of peace if there is such strife within our own country?"

Union High School, Colton, Calif.—"The student body at Colton Union High had a 'Brick For Clinton High' sale on Oct. 23 in which we sold $216.58 worth of 'bricks.' The campaign was suggested by our student body president, Ken Hubbs. He read your article suggesting the sale and presented it to the student council. All agreed this would be more than worth while. Our district superintendent, Donald H. McIntosh, was very helpful with the sale." Charles Jordan, Director of Activities.

From The Heart

The average contribution has not been large. But it has been from the heart. The fact that donations have not been large means that a greater number of Americans are thinking and working against bombs of bigotry. And the more public opinion is mobilized against bombs of bigotry the more pause to the hatemongers who touch them off.