THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd Jr., President — J. E. Dowd, Vice-President
and General Manager — and Editor

● W. C. Dowd, 1866-1937 ●

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established in 1902) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 4, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	By Carrier	By Mail
One Month	$ .65	$ .65
Three Months	1.95	1.95
Six Months	3.90	3.75
One Year	7.80	7.20

15 cents per week by carrier

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1941

Jam Session

Council Means Well but Traffic Control Is an Expert's Job

Twice a day East Morehead Street between Tryon and Boulevard puts on a traffic jam that would do discredit to Baltimore's Charles Street. In the going-to-work hours and the going-home hours the progress of vehicles along this alleged thoroughfare is by the inches. Enduring friendships have been formed by motorists thus confined together morning after morning.

Some of the City Councilmen come to town by way of this congested street, and so last week the Council passed an amendment to the Traffic Ordinance prohibiting parking along one side of East Morehead and permitting right turns on the red at College.

That will help to relieve the going-to-work jam somewhat and at least is a token that the Council wants to do something about traffic in Charlotte. At the same time, it illustrates the acute need of a trained, full-time specialist in this new field.

With a right turn into College Street on the red at Morehead and right and left turns on the green and through traffic in both directions, College Street in these morning rush hours is going to see an almost unbroken line of cars. And any luckless driver proceeding along East Vance and hoping to cross College (where there are stop signs) may as well give up, go back home and start out in another direction.

You see, traffic problems cause and are caused by other traffic problems. For workable solutions, they have to be studied comprehensively, in relation to one another. The job can't be done by Councilmen who take the same route to town every morning. There are so many streets.

Of course, up here in the Ivory Tower with the clouds filtering in and out of the windows, we get a birdseye view of the whole flow, cross-flow and cross-cross-flow of traffic, and we could prob'ly fix it up if we had the time.

But we haven't. Neither has the Council. The police don't know how. The Central Traffic Authority (is he still in?) is a good building inspector. An expert is needed. Traffic conditions won't be improved much, nor will greater safety be assured, until such a one is assigned to the job.

Scheme

Is Hitler Demanding a Soviet Back Door to Suez?

Just like in the movies, the Associated Press correspondent in Helsinki only had time to send out one paragraph: "It is understood . . . that Germany has enlarged certain far-reaching demands on Russia."

Then the telephone circuit across Germany to Berne, Switzerland, was broken, promptly and without warning.

This simple statement added another report to the epidemic of rumors in European capitals that Hitler is about to put another piece of ice down somebody's back by a deal with Russia.

Wishful thinkers predict an armed clash between Germany and the Soviet; but there are two reasons against this conclusion: Germany is busy with Britain just now and it is extremely doubtful that the Soviet would go to war under any but the most menacing or favorable circumstances. To avoid a fight Stalin would give Hitler the shirtiest off his backovitch.

Since we can be sure Hitler has Stalin sized up, it is logical to suppose that what Der Fuehrer wants of Russia is further assistance in licking Britain. Right now Hitler wants to run the British out of Egypt, Suez—the whole Near East—and to cut the Empire in two. It is reasonable to suppose that he would like to do this without fighting Turkey or Russia or anybody other than the British and their impotent allies.

He knows Russia won't attack him. Neither will the Turks. So he might make a deal with Russia to allow and facilitate the movement of the huge German army, now reported concentrated along the Russian frontier, across southern Russia, down the neck of the Transcaspian isthmus into Persia, Iraq, and Syria. This sounds fantastic, but it is not impossible.

With Russia through this "back door" to the Near East, Hitler could cut into the British with his army and take another slice of India.

He could work Turkey into letting German armies pass through that nation, he might use these forces as the other jaw of his beloved pincer movement.

Perhaps this is too bold and ambitious a plan for Hitler (the capture of Crete by air-borne troops wasn't). Maybe all Germany wants of Russia is more food and oil. But she ought to be able to get that without concentrating 100 divisions on the Soviet border.

Purge

A Street by Any Other Name Would Smell . . .

Now that the City Council has changed the name of Lindbergh Drive to Avon Drive (without appointing any official committee to break the sad news to the ex-Colonel), we see no reason why Charlotte should stop short of anything but a complete blood purge of alien and offensive street names.

A cursory inventory of names about which sentiment has changed includes:

Alberto Street—obviously named after one of those dreadful Italians;
Chamberlain Avenue—appeasement?
Hanover Street—a province in Germany;
Normandy Road—German Bombers now base in Normandy;
Thrift Road—thrift contrary to national policy.

All of these names, and others offensive to popular taste, should be changed at once. And while we're about it, we might as well look around for another name for this county. Mecklenburg couldn't be more Germanic if the syllables were separated with swastikas. Eh, Mecklenburghers?

Waiting

Milton Would Regret Such Rash Advice

About 300 years ago an English poet named Milton got away with a choice verse: "They also serve who only stand and wait." If Milton with his great and righteous intellect "shouldst be living at this hour," well might he look about him and curse the day he ever dignified standing and waiting.

He would see how his own England, how France, how that young democracy, the United Stacs, have become "stagnant fens." He would writhe, this aggressive man, at the realization that all democracies had made an idol of the word "defense" and had bowed down to it and worshipped it while their warlike neighbors took the offensive and stepped on their necks.

The writer of Pilgrim's Progress—as aggressive a piece of literature as you'll find—would shout again in his resonant voice:

"O dark, dark, dark, amid the blaze of noon,
"Irrecoverably dark, total eclipse
"Without all hope of day."

While the writers of "The Washington Merry-Go-Round" make no Miltonic claims, they teach a powerful lesson in today's column beginning on the front page of *The News*. It is the lesson of what happened to France when she only stood and waited, of what happened to Britain—and what is happening now to the United States. It should be required reading for all Americans.

"Fuglesang"

The People of Conquered Norway Prefer the Genuine

Generous, kind and infinitely resourceful, the people of Norway have their own ways of dealing with Nazi conquerors.

According to news smuggled out of the captive nation, Rolf Fuglesang, secretary-general of the Nasjonal Smaling (Quisling Party), visited the town of Halden in southeastern Norway recently to put on an impressive show for the local Nazis.

Haldenites, famed for their patriotism, were "cordially invited" to the celebration. They replied with expressions of a burning desire to hear Fuglesang—which in the Norwegian language means "bird song."

When the great Fuglesang arose to speak, however, only about 160 persons, mostly German soldiers, were on hand to "hell" him.

Meanwhile thousands of Haldenites left the city to enjoy a fine Spring evening strolling through the woods and fields listening to "fuglesang"—the voices of song thrushes and meadowlarks.

Rain On Dust Bowl

By Hugh S. Johnson

GALVESTON, Texas—Rarely has the great Southwest seemed lovelier than now. Old natives tell me that it has not been more beautiful—to look at. This is, or recently was, true clear to the Pacific coast. At this time of the year all this country usually begins to cook. This year, even in the arid or semi-desert states, the fields and the woods are washed clean. They are lush green and literally carpeted with wild-flowers.

The Dust Bowl itself is no exception, and, in the bordering regions, a curious thing has happened. The hot winds that ripped the surface off that unfortunate area and whirled it into the sky to drop it further eastward took more than dust. It swept along seeds, pollen and even roots. Now flowers, grasses, cacti and shrubbery, never known before in parts of Oklahoma and Texas, are flourishing.

EITHER TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH

The explanation of this whole phenomenon is "the rains came". They came in a volume and constancy that, the people say, have just passed their crest. In much of the wheat country, they brought prospects of the greatest crop of recent times. But this is the beginning of harvest and it was ushered in by a new deluge.

Traveling from Washington to Galveston was an adventure with frequent doubts of arrival in time—grounded airplanes, washed-out railroad bridges, detours in buses that in one case overturned in two feet of muddy swirling water, leaving 28 passengers to scramble out through an emergency door, fortunately unhurt. All rivers were bank-full or overflowing for miles, flooding people (who seem to take it as a lark), out of their houses and even out of some towns.

Yes, they agree rather ruefully, this country was never more beautiful—to look at. "But we gotta eat."

As was shown in a recent column, this area is bearing most of the burdens of the gigantic defense program, and, except in a few cities, like Houston, getting few of its benefits. As a result of rains and high water in Oklahoma, the fate of the wheat crop is still in doubt. Some of it is irretrievably ruined in the fields. Other fields are so beaten down that maybe they can't be reaped. In Texas, and especially around Galveston, I am told that it is already too late for wheat, cotton, peanuts and what have you.

HOPES GO UP AND DOWN WITH OIL PUMP

With a little luck crops at this stage have a way of beating out the prophets of any disaster through too much moisture. These local forebodings in agriculture may prove too gloomy, but in both Oklahoma and Texas the barometer of hope go up and down with another prospect, which is petroleum. In both states, and especially in Texas, they have jitters about Mr. Ickes as newly appointed czar of the oil industry. They fear that, by arbitrary proration of the super-abundant production, he will cut off and destroy the markets and even the business of some fields and some operators — mostly small ones — in favor of oil fields more convenient to points of use — even Venezuelan fields — for the purpose of conserving transportation in aid of Britain.

Ever since the days of the first petroleum code, which the writer negotiated, the problem of Texas with her enormous fields, has been peculiar among the oil states. The puzzle is too complex and technical to explain in a column, but briefly it is this: at present, in fairly unsatisfactory co-operation with other states, Texas, under a very flexible state proration law has been pinching in her production on a scheme that in practice prejudices no particular Texas field for the benefit of another and has satisfied Federal supervision.

THEY FEAR TEXAS FIELDS WILL GET A TRIMMING

Now with the advent of Oil Duce (or D. Duck) Ickes, the fear is that, under the present State law, the State authorities have power to favor certain fields and, under sufficient Federal pressure will do so. So there was a great fight in the State Legislature to put the fields on a statutory basis of equality. Its opponents complain that this will only insure all-out Federal control, that even the State will have no voice, that Mr. Ickes will treat the whole industry as a conquered province under a "gauleiter" chosen by Standard Oil, and that some Texas fields will get a trimming.

The QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1 — An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
No. 2 — A Separate Court District
No. 3 — An Uptown Rest Room
No. 4 — Street-Widening

Brotherhood-of-Man Possibility

—By Herblock

ITEM: NEW PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO FILE INCOME-TAX RETURNS.

Controls For Labor

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON — Two things are counted upon to bring the labor situation under control more effectively than any laws that may be passed during the heat of the settlement.

One is the draft reclassification to wipe out deferment of strikers. The other is the clean-up campaign by loyal union officials themselves against communist-inclined subversive agitators. In this the Government is prepared to give every assistance.

Government officials are finding that the draft reclassification order already is having an enormous effect. It reaches directly the younger workers. They are the ones most susceptible to Communist agitators. Now they have cause to think twice about going on strike or staying out.

They can't complain of injustice, because they were deferred to work in essential industries needed to supply the Army. For that they receive wages many times that of men serving in the Army. If they think their wages are too low, they are assured of a hearing before the National Defense Mediation Board. The Government is on hand to see that they get a fair break. The reasonableness of the rule makes it extremely effective, in the judgment of officials who are watching it closely.

SUPPORT FOR LABOR BOSSES WHO FIGHT SUBVERSION

The Government is giving support to loyal labor leaders who are fighting subversive elements. Clear distinction is made between legitimate grievances on the one hand and troublemaking subversive activity on the other.

The two elements are mixed in most of the recent strike situations. Sometimes it is difficult to determine whether the Communists are using them. In the past—and this has been particularly a policy of John L. Lewis and the C.I.O. — legitimate trade-unionists have been inclined to welcome the help of the Communists, and the Communists have helped themselves. So now you have the Communists running some shows, as was charged in the Inglewood Strike by Richard Frankenstein, head of the aviation section of the United Automobile Workers. In this situation, those suspected of following the Communist line are being eliminated. Similar action is being encouraged in other places.

In Pittsburgh a labor leader who was threatening a strike in the electric-power industry, and boasting that he could tie up a dozen or more vital defense plants, has been forced by local pressure to resign. Responsible labor leaders are alive to the jeopardy in which this sort of thing has placed the whole labor movement. They know now that public sympathy has been rather completely lost and that it cannot be recaptured until they can come back into court with cleaner organizations.

BRIDGES SWITCHES STAND AT THE LAST MOMENT

The change in the drift was shown by the switch on the part of Harry Bridges. He encouraged the Inglewood strike, but after the Army moved in he advised the men to go back to work. The Government is suspicious of some switches of this kind, knowing that there will be subversive leaders who will attempt to fall into step in order to hold their positions so that they may resume their work after public interest turns elsewhere.

Locating the Communists is difficult. Few have formal membership in the party. Seldom are records available. Legal proof is extremely hard to obtain. The best line comes from associates who have had opportunity to observe and size up colleagues. Inevitably the effective cleaning out will have to come from the labor leaders themselves.

The sooner this is done, the sooner wage demands can be heard on their merits. Generally speaking, officials here say that aircraft wages are below the automobile scale for corresponding work. The aluminum industry is not considered to have too good a labor record. The same with the lumber industry. Communist influences have been able to play upon these situations and to get control in some of them.

It will be difficult for labor to obtain a friendly public for its legitimate grievances until the subversive influences are cleared away. The Inglewood strike showdown was fortunate because it has made that the issue.

Letters to the Editor:

An Isolationist Defense

Dear Sir:

I have yet to hear of any isolationist who does not approve of this country making intensive efforts to defend itself. And, so far, I have not heard of any isolationist saying that this hectic preparation is necessary as protection against aggression by Great Britain.

They seem to be unanimous in the opinion that this country should spare no effort to now produce arms and munitions; and that we should adequately equip and train millions of soldiers and sailors. In fact, that every citizen in the United States should be prepared to play his part, and to make sacrifices, in this hour of his country's greatest peril.

Apparently, the isolationist also recognizes the urgency of the situation. I have not heard of any one of them saying, "Take it easy, boys; there's plenty of time."

Inferentially, at least, they admit that our preparations for defense are made necessary by the menace of the Axis powers. And they tacitly admit the imminence of the danger when they endorse our efforts to prepare for defense now.

Outwardly, the isolationist does not disapprove of our preparing for defense against an avowed or potential enemy. They know that we know that unpreparedness is now an invitation to attack; and that preparation is the best defense against attack.

Having subscribed to all the foregoing statements, the isolationist then proceeds to do his or her bit toward building up the morale of those being trained to fight, and of us who sustain them, by picturing the horrors and consequences of fighting. As a further aid to preparation, they tell us and our protectors about the invincibility of the enemy.

A DEAD LION OR A LIVE DOG

Continuing their contributions to defense preparations, they tell the boys who are to man the tanks and machine guns; scour the sea for submarines; and fly fighter planes and bombers, "Always remember, it's better to be a live dog than a dead lion."

Even the lawyers and laymomen isolationists, who make no claim to being military experts, are sure about where it is best to fight our enemy. One of them has said that we should "draw within our own borders and lay on our guns from this time forward." As "borders" was not defined, the exact place advocated for assuming this recumbent, but uncomfortable attitude, is left in doubt. The pose suggests a siesta. So I presume the Canal Zone, Hawaii, the Philippines, and various other tropical lands, are included within the borders.

The isolationist knows positively that we can defend ourselves in this country. This, of course, does not mean right now, without the aid of Great Britain, else, why his approval of our continuing efforts to prepare for defense. All the isolationists, I have heard, stress our present unpreparedness.

IN WHOM HITLER CONFIDES . .

We must assume, therefore, that the isolationist is Hitler's confidant; or knows just how long it will take him and his satellites to conquer all of the world but us—should he elect to reserve us for his final consideration. Also, they know that Hitler has said that he has no designs against the United States; and they know that Hitler has never told a lie.

Knowing all this, one isolationist, in an excess of patriotic fervor, tells our potential heroes "that it would be the better part of wisdom to bargain with Hitler & Co." that they, "should always choose the course which involves the least risks." "Remember, boys, the dead lion is dead—the live dog may climb back again."

As a final contribution to preparedness, the isolationist tells us that we are drifting into dictatorship. And in support of that contention, the unique thesis is advanced that "in resisting dictators we are aligning ourselves with them."

That noise we hear, is two million American soldiers and sailors yelling, "Hell Hitler!"

—LEWIS A. SMITH.

1709 East Boulevard,
Charlotte, N. C.

A Few "Little Nesses" From Monsieur Frit

Christian Science Monitor

From La Nouvelliste, French-language newspaper "the most old and most widespread in Haiti," the estimable M. Pum Frit renders several items ("little nesses") as follows:

"Yesterday has been signed at Washington a convention of coffee between the United States and eight countries producing coffee in America. These countries are the Peru, the Colombia, the Mexico, Corta Rica, the Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua. . . .

"The passengers of the steamer Excalibur arrived at New Jersey saying that the Germans are ready for the envasionment of Spain and of Portugal in view to slope with the fortress of Gibraltar. The Nazi Army, according to these passengers, attends but the word from Berlin to make itself on the march to traverse the Iberian peninsula. . . .

"In the last hour, one informs from Madrid that the Spanish frontier has been closed by German authorities without that any reason had been for it given. . . .

"It is tomorrow Friday that Mme. Fuhmann-Mathon and her group are parting for the United States in view of participating in the Eighth Worldly Folkloric Festival. . .

"The Secretary of the American Treasury thinks to the possibility of the creation of new income taxes."

Temperance Promotion

The Charleston, S. C., News & Courier

To promote temperance in South Carolina The News & Courier makes bold to suggest to the prohibitionists that if they will set up stands everywhere and serve iced coffee free from May till October they will accomplish substantial results.

Conclusion

Billy Arthur, Onslow County News and Views

"I've got Spring in my bones," Newt Cook remarked the other day.

And I couldn't resist telling him it must be last Springs.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. — Acts 10:15.

Side Glances

"This is your graduation present, Son—it has a good hock shop value, just in case."

Visitin' Around

Brady, He Ain't Scared O' Nothin'
(Locust Item, Stanly News & Press)

Brady Hinson is having a well drilled and lumber placed on a lot opposite the Baptist Church cemetery where he will erect a dwelling.

Time Is Money—96 (20 Years Ago, Lexington Dispatch)

Board of aldermen raises salary of "clock-fixer" from $12 to $18 per year.