

Buyer, Seller Comment On Sale Of The News

Here Is Statement
By James L. Knight

One of the things I have always heard from people in this area is that Charlotte was fortunate in having two good newspapers. As president of Knight Publishing Company, owner of The Charlotte Observer and now purchaser of The Charlotte News, I pledge you that this will continue to be true.

I would like to express to Tom Robinson, former publisher of The Charlotte News, our appreciation for his statement describing "the Knights" as worthy successors in the line of Charlotte News ownership.

We look forward to the opportunity to build both The Charlotte Observer and The Charlotte News into even greater newspapers than they have been in the past.

The first step will be to preserve between the news and editorial staffs of the two newspapers the hot competition that is the very essence of aggressive and enterprising news coverage.

To that end, I am naming Brodie S. Griffith formerly general manager of Charlotte News Publishing Company, to the position of editor and general manager of The Charlotte News. He has been given instructions and full authority to build The Charlotte News to its maximum potential. His news staff will be strengthened and its coverage of Charlotte and surrounding area intensified.

IN OTHER WORDS, The Charlotte News will continue to be published as an afternoon newspaper with an expanded content of news and editorials and features, and likewise as a newspaper which retains its distinctive personality and its independent editorial philosophy.

Along with preserving the separate identity of the two newspapers we will maintain and re-emphasize the separate obligations of their managements to enter into civic and public activities which strengthen and improve the communities served by the two newspapers.

Tom Robinson understood this. I and my associates have been profoundly impressed by Tom Robinson's dedicated efforts in the interests of the community.

One of the usual practices of single ownership is to require that advertising appear in both newspapers. This we do not intend to do. With the possible exception of transient classified advertising, we shall continue separate advertising rates and contracts for each newspaper.

To serve advertisers better, we plan to increase the circulation of The Charlotte News, placing special emphasis on the density of coverage in the local retail area.

We are confident that if we are thoughtful and conscientious in our stewardship of The Charlotte News, we will set at rest any misgivings that might arise over this change in newspaper ownership.

A cardinal principle of Knight Newspapers is that our newspapers are locally edited and managed. This has been the case with The Charlotte Observer. It will be the case with The Charlotte News.

James L. Knight

Here Is Statement
By Thomas L. Robinson

I remember so vividly a bright day in July of 1946 when I first met W. Carey Dowd Jr., my predecessor as publisher, his brother, J. Edward Dowd, who together with their sister, Cornelia, were the three owners of The News.

Intuitively I felt on that auspicious summer day—close upon 13 years ago—that somehow I might raise sufficient funds to become the publisher of The News.

Naturally the Dowds felt a strong and justifiable pride in the paper's traditions and accomplishments over a long span of 55 years.

They had acquired it from Wade H. Harris, the father of our garden editor, Cora Harris, who had founded the paper in 1888 and had been its first editor and publisher.

W. Carey Dowd Sr. had been the publisher for 35 years and his son, Carey, for 20 years. J. Edward Dowd, better known to all of us as Bill, had been Carey's top associate as editor of The News.

BEING A NEW ENGLANDER with very little knowledge of the South and sources of available capital, it took me approximately six months to finance and organize the new company. On January 9, 1947, my associates and I began a brand new chapter in the colorful history of the newspaper.

I cannot remember 12 happier or more productive years in my life.

My associates, and by the last count they have been 230 in number, have done a magnificent job in giving of their best talents and energies to the progress of every department of the paper.

We feel collectively that we have made an already good paper a still better one. In fact, we honestly feel that we have the most enterprising and alert evening paper in the two Carolinas.

Many stars in the newspaper world have been developed on The News, most of them under the able coaching of Brodie S. Griffith who has been over a period of 35 years successively managing editor, executive editor, and for the past four years general manager of The News.

I am delighted to know that Brodie will remain with The News in a very important capacity as editor and general manager, because it has been largely through his genius as a newspaperman that we have made so much progress.

SPACE WILL NOT permit me to mention the long list of all my other associates, but I would like to say that I am also delighted that Jack Young Jr. will continue as managing editor, and that Fred Prince will continue his duties as associate editor, in charge of the editorial page. They are both topflight.

The reason our company is selling The News is simply because operating costs—the cost of labor, newsprint and other materials—have increased at a much more rapid rate than we have been able to increase our revenue from advertising and circulation, despite vigorous and sustained efforts.

The expenses of operating two separate newspapers in a city such as Charlotte is so exceedingly high that a complete merger now seems not only wise, but actually absolutely essential from an economic standpoint.

I endeavored to organize a company on a separate, independent basis which would undertake to foot the bill for the future of The News. I discovered that local investors shied away from undertaking the large investment essential to the purchase of new machinery, equipment and plant. Consequently, I decided after careful consideration, that selling The News to the Knights was the best solution in order to assure the continuance of the paper in capable hands.

I am confident that my ultimate decision was in the best interest of The News, its employees and the community.

MANY OTHER NEWSPAPERS in the United States have recently faced the same economic squeeze as The News. Charlotte has been one of the few cities in the United States of less than metropolitan size where two newspapers have continued to be published under different ownership and management.

It is the last such city in North Carolina and South Carolina. What is happening here has been happening for years all over the country.

Our readers will immediately discover that The News will be far more attractive and much easier to read as a result of being printed on the excellent press of The Observer. The News will also have the great advantage of being able to print advertising as well as news and editorial matter in full color.

The Knight newspapers are in a position to strengthen and improve the news coverage of The News. I would be a poor prophet if I did not concede, and willingly, that henceforth The News will be a far better product for both the reader and the advertiser.

I have known most pleasantly James L. Knight, the publisher of The Charlotte Observer, for the past 12 years. This relationship has been particularly cordial since Mr. Knight and his brother John S. Knight, and their associates, purchased The Charlotte Observer in 1954.

The Knights are among the nation's most distinguished and successful newspaper publishers. Their newspaper properties all have long and proud histories. The honors which have come to them over the years demonstrate clearly that they are at the top of the profession. The News will be in excellent hands.

IN RELINQUISHING my post as publisher of The News I do so with great sadness in my heart. Working for more than 12 years with my friends in the civic, cultural, philanthropic, church and social life of this progressive community has been a source of tremendous inspiration to me.

The community has heaped many honors on me which I shall cherish as long as I live. One of the most recent ones was the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce.

Whatever may happen in the future of the Robinson family, I want everyone in Charlotte and North Carolina to know that this adopted Southland of ours has been very close to our hearts.

Mrs. Robinson, our three sons and I want to take this opportunity to wish The Charlotte News Godspeed and good luck as it faces a most promising future.

The paper is truly on the threshold of becoming a medium of greater influence in helping to build from this point forward the Charlotte for which we have all worked in such harmony and with such encouraging results.

Thomas L. Robinson



This Is Recent Picture Of Ben Wagner

Manhunt Is Begun For Killer Of Boy, 5

GRAFTON, Wis.—Five-year-old Ben Wagner, who set out to buy ice cream bars for his three sisters Saturday night, was found stabbed to death in a roadside ditch Sunday. A manhunt was under way for a stranger, who had lured the brown-haired lad into a station wagon in nearby Milwaukee and sped away.

The body of the slender, Midwestern boy, who was reported missing after a playmate told Ben's mother the man "got real mean and put Ben in the car," was found by a newspaper delivery man making his morning rounds.

He had been stabbed three times, once in the chest and twice in the side. The bright red jacket he wore with the Milwaukee Braves' baseball team emblem on it was saturated with blood.

Dr. L. J. Van Hecke, Milwaukee County medical examiner who performed a post-mortem examination Sunday afternoon, said the Wagner boy had not been sexually molested.

The boy's father, 38-year-old Louis Wagner, wept as he identified the body of his only son. The older Wagner works in a Milwaukee auto frame factory.

Milwaukee police issued an all-points bulletin for a dark blue station wagon and its driver—described only as a white man, aged 25. The bulletin said the man is wanted for kidnap and murder.

Police said the description was supplied by a motorist who said of seeing a small boy "waving wildly" from the front seat of a speeding station wagon last night near the spot where the body was discovered.

The motorist, 38-year-old Milton Geiger of Milwaukee, told police he gave chase at speeds of up to 25 miles-per-hour, but gave up when the vehicle made a sharp turn into a side road. Geiger called police after reading an account of the missing boy in his morning newspaper.

He and his wife had been on a sightseeing tour in a third area just north of where they were returning home when they saw the station wagon.

River Flood Endangers 4,000 Lives

ROCKFORD, Ill.—(UPI)—The surging Rock River, spilling over from spring thaws and rains, spurred ever higher Sunday, threatening 2,000 northwestern Illinois residents in addition to the 1,000 already on higher ground.

Officials feared the Rock, expected to crest within hours, might hit an all-time high of 68 feet—five feet above the record 63 reached during the "Great Flood" of 1929.

At noon Sunday, the Rock was at 60 feet, down from the 62 feet it had risen to during the night. Officials took little comfort from this, however, since northern floodwaters, which have yet to level the Rock, were at record heights.

The Pecatonica River, which flows into the Rock upstream of Rockford, was believed to have crested before dawn at 60 feet—and fractions below its record of 67.

Police noted at least 61 residents of Pecatonica, flooded Freeport, Ill., housed in the town's National Guard Armory and at least 60 blocks on the east side were under water.

Small towns adjacent to Freeport appeared to be facing some what better.

McDonnell, Ill., still had some water in its streets but Winslow, which earlier had been battered by the Pecatonica, now had relatively clear roads.

Heart Microphone

MOSCOW—Soviet scientists are experimenting with a tiny microphone designed to enter the heart through a vein, the newspaper Soviet Russia reports.

SAC Chief Asks Boost In Missiles

More Planes Too, If U. S. Is To Deter
Russians From War, Power Declares

WASHINGTON—P—The strategic air force commander says the United States may lose the strength to deter Russia from war unless it boosts production of planes and missiles.

Gen. Thomas S. Power told a House appropriations subcommittee "the force which is now programmed—which I am told by the Pentagon is programmed—is not adequate. I want more, and I want it faster. I have so asked for it."

Power, testifying at a closed hearing Feb. 13, said what he wanted faster and in greater quantity includes B2 and B5A manned jet bombers and Atlas intercontinental ballistic missiles. His heavily censured testimony was made public Sunday.

When he was asked how important he considered his recommendations, Power said, "I think you are just asking the whole country. That is how important I feel it is. If you do not deter (the Soviets) nobody is going to win a thermonuclear war." Power said the strength of the United States, relative to that of the Soviet Union, stands to decline over the next few years and added:

"A tremendous disservice... is rendered the American people when people say there is a nuclear stalemate... We have the deterrent posture today. We can lose it tomorrow."

He predicted a considerable future for manned bombers. But for the foreseeable future, he said, radar detection will be so uncertain that the United States could hardly launch a credible ICBM's merely on radar showing that enemy missiles were on the way.

Carmichael

Eastman
4-6



YOU THINK YOU'VE
HAD A TOUGH DAY...

THE WORLD TODAY

Dalai Lama's 20-Day Trek Ends In Safety

From Observer Wire Reports

NEW DELHI, India—The sacred Dalai Lama of Tibet reached the sanctuary of the Indian border town of Tawang Sunday "fit and healthy" after an arduous 20-day trek over the Himalayas to escape the Chinese Communists.

A contingent of Indian troops from the Assam Rifles protected him on his trip from the border to Tawang, 15 miles inside India on the northeast frontier.

Ike In Washington

WASHINGTON—President Eisenhower returned to the White House Sunday after spending the weekend at his Gettysburg, Pa. country estate.

The President, accompanied by Mrs. Eisenhower, made the trip in about two hours. Eisenhower apparently delayed his return long enough to watch the television showing of the final round of the Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta, Ga., Nov. by Art Wall, 35-year-old shoemaker from Fosco, Pa.

Catholic A 'Must'

NEW YORK—America, a Catholic weekly magazine, said Sunday that both parties will need Catholics as either presidential or vice presidential candidates in 1960.

The presidential candidate of either party "must" by any means necessarily be a Catholic," the magazine said. "But he will be wise to be closely associated with a running mate who is one."

Baiting The Trap

OKLAHOMA CITY—Oklahoma law officers baited the biggest trap for city's state history but netted less than 30 bottles of liquor from a combination of Tulsa nightclubs and boulevard raids and a nighttime highway roadblock.

Officers arrested 127 persons during the night but only 22 of them were connected with the sale, transportation or possession of whiskey in this state which has been constitutionally dry for 51 years.

Knight Co. Buys Charlotte News

Continued From Page 1A

4th streets. The News switch board will continue in operation there.

In his formal statement, Robinson reviewed his 12 years as publisher of The News and explained that increasing costs had exceeded gains in advertising and circulation revenue, so that the sale "now seems not only wise but actually absolutely essential from an economic standpoint."

Robinson said "I endeavored to organize a company on a separate, independent basis which would undertake to foot the bill for the future of The News. I discovered that local investors shied away from undertaking the large investment essential to the purchase of new machinery, equipment and plant. Consequently, I decided after careful consideration, that selling The News to the Knights was the best solution in order to assure the continuance of the paper in capable hands."

He noted sales and mergers in cities "substantially larger than Charlotte."

"The Knight newspapers are in a position to strengthen and improve the news coverage of The News. I would be a poor prophet if I did not concede, and willingly, that henceforth The News will be a far better product for both the reader and the advertiser."

Robinson also paid tribute to James L. Knight and his brother, John S. Knight, and their associates, who purchased The Charlotte Observer in 1954.

Knight's statement promised that the News would continue to have "two good newspapers."

The Charlotte Observer

All carriers, delivery and distribution are independent contractors. Payments not in accordance with the standard rates are not authorized.

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1979.

He emphasized that the news and editorial staffs of the two papers would be entirely separate, and that "the hot competition that is the very essence of aggressive and enterprising news coverage" would be preserved.

He also explained that with the possible exception of transient classified advertising, "we shall continue separate advertising rates and contracts for each newspaper."

A cardinal principle of Knight Newspapers is that our newspapers are locally edited and managed. This has been the case with The Charlotte Observer. It will be the case with The Charlotte News.

Displacement of Charlotte News employees has been held to a minimum. News employees for whom there is no continuing employment will receive termination pay based on length of service.

After consolidation is completed, Knight Publishing Co. will have more than 600 employees. The Observer-Transformation Co., a subsidiary corporation, has 125 additional employees.

Knight said that no thought has been given to the eventual disposal of the present plant and equipment of The Charlotte News.

He left The News in January, 1954, to become an assistant in the Southern Public Relations office of the Ford Motor Co. in Atlanta later becoming Southern Public Relations Manager.

He returned to The News as managing editor in May, 1956. He is a member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Associated Press Managing Editors Association and the North Carolina News Council of which he has been president for the past two years.

Mrs. Young is the former Miss Martha Perry of Charlotte. They have four children.

Their home is at 1413 Andy-Cor Road, Charlotte.

Griffith Tops
Entire News
Operation

Continued From Page 1A

and in June, 1948 became city editor of The Charlotte News. He left The News in January, 1954, to become an assistant in the Southern Public Relations office of the Ford Motor Co. in Atlanta later becoming Southern Public Relations Manager.

He returned to The News as managing editor in May, 1956. He is a member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Associated Press Managing Editors Association and the North Carolina News Council of which he has been president for the past two years.

Mrs. Young is the former Miss Martha Perry of Charlotte. They have four children.

Their home is at 1413 Andy-Cor Road, Charlotte.

Balmey Weather—It's Spring!—Promised Today

Feeling sluggish and run-down these mornings? Relax! It's milder but spring fever, brought on by balmy weather, And today will be another one... fair and warmer. Tonight and Tuesday will be fair and just a touch cooler. The high today will be 70, the low tonight 48 and the high Tuesday 73. Ahh, springtime!

How did the weatherman do Sunday? He said it would be fair and warmer. Tonight and Tuesday will be fair and just a touch cooler. The high today will be 70, the low tonight 48 and the high Tuesday 73. Ahh, springtime!



THE CAROLINAS are expected to have partly cloudy and mild weather today. Precipitation will be limited to a few areas, with scattered showers in New England and from the

liah mountains in the western Dakotas and Nebraska. Rain is forecast in northwestern Washington state.

Time	Daytime	Night
1:00 a.m.	68	48
2:00 a.m.	68	48
3:00 a.m.	68	48
4:00 a.m.	68	48
5:00 a.m.	68	48
6:00 a.m.	68	48
7:00 a.m.	68	48
8:00 a.m.	68	48
9:00 a.m.	68	48
10:00 a.m.	68	48
11:00 a.m.	68	48
12:00 p.m.	68	48
1:00 p.m.	68	48
2:00 p.m.	68	48
3:00 p.m.	68	48
4:00 p.m.	68	48
5:00 p.m.	68	48
6:00 p.m.	68	48
7:00 p.m.	68	48
8:00 p.m.	68	48
9:00 p.m.	68	48
10:00 p.m.	68	48
11:00 p.m.	68	48
12:00 a.m.	68	48