



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Brodie S. Griffin Editor and General Manager
Cecil Prince Associate Editor
R. L. Young Jr. Managing Editor

SATURDAY MAY 23, 1959

Editorial Book Review

The Background Of Southern Thinking

SEEDS OF TIME. By Henry Savage Jr.
Henry Holt & Co. 312 pp. \$4.50.

For the South, this is the age of obscure oracles, hot-eyed prophets and Gypsy fortunetellers. Never before have so many would-be Nostradamuses peered into the region's future and predicted so many "manifest destinies."

A good portion of this crystal ball gazing is based upon the wildest nonsense. The oracles either do not know the South and its history or do not care. They tend to interpret the region in terms of standard historical weights and measures applicable perhaps to the American Midwest. Patagonia and the Amazon but not to the area Allen Tate calls "Uncle Sam's other province."

Speaking of Alabama, Carl Carmer once commented wryly that "the Congo is not more different from Massachusetts or Kansas or California." The same could be said of the South as a region—certainly of its traditional attitudes and historical development. There is great diversity within the South. But the region, taken as a whole, is an utterly unique world of its own—and, sad to say, a generally misunderstood world.

Henry Savage Jr., a native South Carolinian and graduate of the University of Virginia, has penned one of the most fascinating studies of this marvelously complex world since W. J. Cash's "The Mind of the South." It is both a guidebook to Dixie's psyche and a key to a fuller understanding of the region's peculiar anxieties in an era of social change.

We were first exposed to Mr. Savage's own highly civilized mind three years ago when he was mayor of Camden. He was attempting at the time to solve a very touchy situation involving an interracial gathering scheduled for a private school for Negroes in his community. He was rewarded for his trouble in two ways: "The Ku Klux Klan bled a cross in the front lawn and he was denounced for his 'intolerance' toward Negroes in a letter signed by some 40 students at Columbia University. He took this double rebuff good naturedly and rather philosophically, for it was superbly illustrative of the malices and misunderstandings that still cloud southern problems.

Mr. Savage returns to the incident in a postscript to "Seeds of Time" and credits it with supplying some of the inspiration needed to write his remarkable book. The clincher was added later in Massachusetts where he had taken up temporary residence in 1957. It was the year of the Little Rock crisis and Boston's daily newspapers were full of it. At the same time, Boston was experiencing serious racial disorders at a series of "rock and roll" dances—incidents which were virtually ignored in the northern press. Meanwhile, newspaper columns were filled with wholesale denunciations of the South and southerners for their failure to solve more difficult racial problems.

"Again," said Mr. Savage, "there was an impressive illustration of the need for rational efforts to breach the wall of misunderstanding which has risen between the South and the rest of the country, a wall which hampers the ultimate maturing of southern society by feeding the fires of emotion, as southern struggle with enormous difficulties of adjustment."

"Seeds of Time" is a sensitive study of the conditions, events and developments that form the background for the modern South. Mr. Savage probes deeply into the history of the region, searching for the roots of human anguish, examining the raw realities of a tumultuous past, unveiling the myths that still distort the popular image of an area that is not always quite what it seems to be.

He discovers keys to the South's future character in the early settlers who fled Europe to try their luck in this new and untamed land—the Scotch-Irish, the Rhinelanders, the Huguenots, the Highlanders, the Welsh, the Swiss and others. Typically, they were tough and spare of physique. They frequently had a fanatical devotion to the reformed church and a bent toward religious observances with a minimum of ritual and a maximum of emotionalism. "Add their intense individualism to those religious characteristics," he writes, "and their social characteristics consistently follow. Independent, intractable, resentful of regulation and regimentation, they were ever ready to resist any authority seeking to curb their individualism. These characteristics plus their emotionalism gave them their propensity to violence. They were inordinate romantics, lovers of fine phrases and florid oratory and ever

bound to find its application in the overtone living room to noise from the radio, the television and the din of children at play are counter-irritants eminently worthy of mutual cancellation.

Living on a budget is the same as living beyond your means—except that you have a record of it.—Dawson County (Ga.) News.

There is need for both patience and realism, Mr. Savage believes, but the adjustments can be made and ancient tensions can be erased.

"Then a southern sun will continue to shine upon and southern rains will continue to refresh and rejuvenate a happy land where, from the harvest of the seeds of time, the forces of pride and circumstance will have winnowed the good from the evil, where that which was noble in its past will be retained and the best in its heritage secured for the future, even as the opportunities and privileges of a changed world are embraced and kneaded into a truly triumphant South."

This is a good book, a sensitive book, an honest book. It ought to be read by Americans both above and below the Mason-Dixon line.

From The New Orleans States & Item

ELECTRONIC EARMUFFS

Intriguing are those electronic earmuffs developed by scientists to help soldiers hear their orders despite the thunder of battle all around them.

Actually, the muffs broadcast "counter-irritant" sounds just as loud as the battle noises but in opposite phase, thus reducing the exterior din to a whisper and enabling the soldier to hear his orders clearly.

This is one military gadget which is



"We hear the voices of the ages speaking in the South today"

strongly partisan in causes which appealed to their emotions, be the causes positive or negative, programs or prejudices. These were the peoples who staked their land claims, built their cabins, cleared their fields, drafted an English King and, incidentally, defied a Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Loneliness, born of isolation, produced a passionate devotion to liberty. But southern ruralness also, in time, made for extreme conservatism. Finally, it was the region's geography that was the insistent arbiter in welding the South into a unit and molding the minds of its diverse peoples into "more nearly a single mind than was ever elsewhere displayed in America." Here was a great temperate area with extensive rainfall and a long enough growing season to supply many of the basic commodities for which there was a worldwide demand: Sugar and rice, tobacco and hemp, small grains, timber and, inevitably, cotton.

King Cotton reigned too long, holding the entire South in rigid thrall. The North moved away in different directions from a South that simply multiplied its colonial image.

But King Cotton's tyranny was linked irrevocably to another shaping factor in the South's history: The Negro. By 1860, some 9,000,000 people were living in the region. Of these, 3,500,000 were slaves. "If one is to know the historical background of southern thinking," writes Mr. Savage, "if one is to begin to understand the South, one must understand that its extreme ruralism is one of the two essential keys to the vault that has held, for more than a century, Pandora's box of prejudices and predilections that so baffle the urban mind. The presence of the Negro in massive numbers is, of course, the other essential key."

"Seeds of Time" weaves the Negro into the woof and warp of southern history with great skill and accuracy. It is not always a pretty pattern. But the author makes no attempt to erase or distort the legacy of malice, prejudices and bigotries—all borne on the winds of fear itself—to which the South is heir.

The War, Reconstruction, the New South and the region's future are all a part of Mr. Savage's continuing narrative. His observations about the politics of the region, industrialization and the challenge of urban growth all ring true. He wisely rejects the notion that the region has arrived at a critical choosing of the ways. "Those who speak of an impending choice," he writes, "speak without the perspective of history. There is no such choice. That choice was made years ago when the South embraced change, chose the American way, and sealed its choice by truly remarkable accomplishments and deep commitments. Now, the only choice remaining to the South is one of the means of resolving difficulties now flowing from its irrevocable commitments to the American way."

There is need for both patience and realism, Mr. Savage believes, but the adjustments can be made and ancient tensions can be erased.

"Then a southern sun will continue to shine upon and southern rains will continue to refresh and rejuvenate a happy land where, from the harvest of the seeds of time, the forces of pride and circumstance will have winnowed the good from the evil, where that which was noble in its past will be retained and the best in its heritage secured for the future, even as the opportunities and privileges of a changed world are embraced and kneaded into a truly triumphant South."

This is a good book, a sensitive book, an honest book. It ought to be read by Americans both above and below the Mason-Dixon line.

From The New Orleans States & Item

ELECTRONIC EARMUFFS

Intriguing are those electronic earmuffs developed by scientists to help soldiers hear their orders despite the thunder of battle all around them.

Actually, the muffs broadcast "counter-irritant" sounds just as loud as the battle noises but in opposite phase, thus reducing the exterior din to a whisper and enabling the soldier to hear his orders clearly.

This is one military gadget which is

Khrushchev Itches To Barnstorm The United States

By DORIS FLEESON

GENEVA

The jockey about which all summit conversations here centers is the American people. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev wants a summit meeting in San Francisco so that he can barnstorm among them from New York to California in their own free-wheeling American style.

Apparently Mr. Khrushchev has been reading his press notices and has decided that, in his fashion, he has captured the imagination of most Americans. Possibly, too, he feels that anything Mikoyan cannot do he can do better. Khrushchev has told visitors that President Eisenhower let Mikoyan roam at will in the United States, so why not Khrushchev?

ROUGH JUSTICE

There is a certain rough justice in his insistence that he be allowed to show the Russians that he can get along with the Americans. The extent to which United States candidates for President have beaten a path to his door is a major phenomenon in the talking war and shows no signs of abating. Adlai Stevenson spent weeks in Russia. Sen. Hubert Humphrey spent eight hours with Khrushchev, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon leaves soon for Moscow in all the pomp of his office with a retinue of 40 reporters to describe his triumphal progress.

These ambitious men make their long journeys not only to



Khrushchev: He'd Like To Try This In America

satisfy a natural curiosity but as a means of proving that they merit the great office to which they aspire.

It would be a sorry travesty to suggest that the Soviet dictator has any such electoral problems. Yet it is true that he has promised the Russian

people peace and prosperity. It is in the interests of his propaganda to show that he does fine with all Americans except warmongers, who are, of course, the people who won't give him his own way.

To the heated debate about whether the exuberant Soviet

Premier will put himself over a fence if he gets the chance to seek in America—must be added a most serious consideration: That is the question of his personal security on such a trip. Americans are little given to political assassination. Permission or an invitation for an of-

ficial visit here, once given to a head of state, carries with it irrevocable assurances of his safety and well-being. Nobody could doubt that an invitation to Khrushchev to come to America would be accompanied by every possible precaution against trouble directed to his person or party.

Yet an American president himself must take the risk of inflamed political passions in a free society, and some of them have paid for it with their lives. It hardly needs to be mentioned how much less our presidents and their partisans have done to arouse such passions than have the murderous rums of the Communist regime in Russia.

NEW YORK A PROBLEM

The truly open-minded among our diplomats who must advise on such matters are advised those who express concern over the security aspect. They would especially expect New York to be a problem, and they think Khrushchev will want to visit the United Nations there. About Washington and the interior of the United States they are less nervous. A wrangle in San Francisco, especially if Khrushchev became infuriated by cocky lingo, they suspect, would engender ominous tensions.

Many people, however, believe that Khrushchev, like every expert politician, is susceptible and that the risks are worth taking on the chance that he will learn much on such a journey as he proposes to make.

People's Platform

Charlotte

Editors, The News:
How can we give children more education with our tax money?

Your children need teachers who have a longer knowledge and a passion for unfolding truth to open minds; teachers who are rewarded with respect for their service and a better pay for experience and more post-graduate training; teachers who feel secure, have a substantial retirement, and a sick-leave; teachers who have the opportunity to take a leave-of-absence for travel or rest; and teachers who have non-teaching days for formulating plans and evaluating.

Your school needs the best educational facilities, competent school leadership, and personnel that has a policy and a program to use these resources in a scientific approach to learning; and at the same time, exemplify the pleasures of achievement.

Your school system needs the extra services of a music teacher, an art, and a science supervisor, a reading consultant, a psychologist, a director of guidance, a nurse, a physical education director, and also, secretarial and housekeeping assistance for non-teaching tasks.

The mission of the school is to educate, and the duty of the teacher is to teach. Yet, we allow distractions that hinder learning and instruction.

The distractions of drives, money-making school projects, and the handling of lunch money take thousands of learning and instructional hours from our North Carolina school children.

Tax money going for competitive athletics with its big shows distract attention from basic studies. The purpose of physical education is to train all children to promote better health. Over-emphasis on athletics, sometimes, creates a determination to win "right or wrong" which becomes a curse rather than an educative blessing. Complete absorption with physical and social activities leaves little time and desire for intellectual vigor in all the vital fields of learning which have their roles to play in a total education.

How can the state return more responsibility to parents whose first duty is to support and educate their own children?

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Children receive 12 years of free education—free instruction, supervision, housing, heat, educational facilities and supplies, playgrounds, textbooks, libraries and transportation, plus hot lunches served at cost. Teachers ask, "why should not children pay their bills here?" Times have changed.

Giving Children More Education For Taxes

Now, people expect to ride wherever they go. Why should the child not buy a book as part of his education?

If children and parents directly paid for some of the apparently free services, it would be an "incentive" for students to make an effort to get more education for our tax money. Otherwise, we may be training future Socialists and welfare cases.

The waste in maintaining idle school plants three months each year has been brought before the legislature in two bills.

Rep. Kerr introduced a bill to operate the schools on a four-quarter schedule.

The Ross-Urell bill, recently introduced, would change our school program to a 10 month

term for 11 years instead of the present 9 month terms for 12 years.

In 1967, my late sister and I advocated this same plan through a bulletin to educators and legislators, and in the press. It has many merits.

The curriculum could be re-arranged to include all the units of learning experiences in the present course of study. Less tax money would be necessary for post-graduate work in our community state colleges, and universities. Thereby, students would have more to offer in the field of service.

Many American school systems and European countries boast of longer school terms.

I believe the plan of the Ross-Urell bill would be a step forward, would meet the approval

of the people, and would lift the education of North Carolinians to a higher level.

—ELIZA JANE DOBY.

Love Concerns Us At All Times

Salisbury

Editors, The News:

All human beings are concerned with love in one form or another. The child is much concerned about the love and tenderness that he thinks he has from his parents. The youth is much concerned about the love of his play and school group. The young man wants the love of his sweetheart. The young woman wants the love of her husband. The old man wants the love of his family. The middle aged man rests on his oars and delights in the love of his wife and children. The old man sits alone and remembers his past loves and longs forward to meeting them again hereafter.

—J. W. JEWELL

Giveaway Programs Only Breed Hatred

Cheraw, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I deem it a duty to call the public's attention to the taxes paid for the current administration's giveaway programs, for which we get nothing in return from other nations except hate and envy.

We must remember we had a visitor from Latin America just a few weeks ago on a so-called goodwill tour. Yet while this man and his party were still on tour there were those from his country trying to sneak into Panama to cause trouble. When Mr. Castro was asked for an explanation of this sneak invasion by his countrymen he stated that he knew nothing of it. Not many of our people have faith in such statements.

"These nations love us in our presence when they want something for nothing. But these nations also find fault with our way of life and everything we do. How long are we going to give money to those who wish to cause trouble and harm wherever they can?"

"We had better start doing more for our people here home before we some day have trouble of our own. We can't help others if we can't help ourselves. We must first make ourselves great not to approve any more tax dollars for others until our own people are cared for."

—J. A. GRAHAM



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

U. S. Representative Victor Anfuso, veteran crusader for closer relations with Latin America, wants to make Puerto Rico the 51st state in the Union. He has introduced a bill providing that the machinery for statehood be set in motion if the people of the territorial island favor it by popular referendum.

May Take Time

The New Yorker's action followed a personal survey of congressional colleagues indicating that Congress itself is sympathetic to the idea of adding another star to the flag, though it may take another year to complete the necessary steps.

Last March 12, when Congress granted statehood to Hawaii, Mr. Anfuso proposed early consideration of state-

Will Puerto Rico Add The 51st Star?

hood for Puerto Rico "which unquestionably deserves this recognition and meets all the criteria required."

Flood Of Approval

He has since received a flood of letters, telegrams, and petitions bearing more than 250,000 signatures from Puerto Ricans supporting the proposal. Proponents of the plan expect signatures to mount to 500,000 in a few weeks.

Anfuso's 21-page bill provides for "an island-wide referendum" on the statehood question. If a majority of the voters favor admission, the governor of Puerto Rico would then transmit the decision to the United States for action by Congress and the President.

The legislation also calls for a constitutional convention in Puerto Rico,

with delegates chosen at elections, for the purpose of adopting the U. S. Constitution, as well as formulating a state constitution and a state government for Puerto Rico.

The state constitution would then have to be ratified by the people of Puerto Rico. When this procedure is completed, the President would issue a proclamation declaring Puerto Rico officially admitted into the Union on an equal footing with all other states.

New York Poll

To show how strongly sentiment is running in favor of statehood, the governor cited a recent poll taken by a Spanish-language newspaper in New York which listed the vote as follows: For statehood—3,047; for independence—322; for commonwealth—221.

"The poll shows that 85 per cent of those participating prefer statehood," Anfuso declared. "This seems to verify reports reaching me that Puerto Rico, where it is expected that both the Democratic and Republican parties will strongly support our proposal."

Part Of The Fabric

"There is no doubt in my mind that Puerto Rico has shyness demonstrated its eligibility for statehood. The people are part and parcel of the fabric of America. Like millions of other Americans, they are vitally interested in maintaining a higher standard of living, better education, and the strengthening of the Western Hemisphere as a bulwark of freedom and democracy."