

# The Wilmington Star

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1940

## Star-News Program

Consolidated City-County Government under Council-Manager Administration.  
Public Port Terminals.  
Perfect Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.  
Arena for Sports and Industrial Shows.  
Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.  
Extension of City Limits.  
35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.  
Paved River Road to Southport, via Orion Plantation.  
Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.  
Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.  
Shipyards and Drydock.  
Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.  
Adequate hospital facilities for whites.  
Junior High School.  
Tobacco Warehouse for Export Buyers.  
Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.  
Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING  
Every noble work is at first impossible.  
CARLYLE

## Guard To Mobilize

Adjutant General J. Van B. Metts' order mobilizing the North Carolina National Guard at its home stations on September 16, preparatory to encamping for a year's training, brings to Wilmington the first direct effect of the national defense program. At the same time it stirs a variety of emotions, according to the individual relationship to the order.

Among the men summoned to service, it is fair to believe that the reaction is a feeling of honor. No militiaman who has worn his military uniform and shouldered his gun in times of unquestioned peace can fail to thrill at the thought that he is to perform valuable service when the nation's peace is threatened. Parents naturally, will feel the honor, too, but it will be tinged with foreboding. They may take comfort in the thought that by yielding up their sons now they are doing their bit to keep war from our shores, for it is in preparedness for war that our national hope of avoidance of war lies. Nevertheless, the handkerchiefs they wave at their departing sons will not be devoid of tears.

The business community of Wilmington will be proud to send the boys on their way to camp with an earnest God-speed. It is generally understood that employers are to save the positions their guard-employees leave for them when they return. There should be no exception to this rule. Surely the boy who willingly goes into training to be ready to preserve his employer's business from a foreign foe is entitled to his employer's favor, at least to the extent of having his job back when the emergency passes. If Wilmington business houses declare a moratorium on guardsmen's debts, contracted in honorable transactions, they will further fulfill their obvious duty. Clubs have already relieved their guardsmen members of obligations for dues and other assessments. Private business should do no less.

With the National Guard gone, the American Legion and other veteran organizations must take over as a home guard. The job can be the better done if all able-bodied veterans are mustered in. The Legion is in the midst of a membership campaign, that it may be fitted to meet its obligations with par performance. If the non-member veterans have a proper sense of their duty, they will see that the Wilmington post's roster is 100 per cent complete the day the National Guard entrains for camp.

## School Opens

Some increase in enrollment was noted at New Hanover county schools on opening day, over the 1939 opening, with attendance in the elementary grades falling behind and the gains made in the first grade and in high school. The lag in the one group of grades is not fully accounted for, and, in fact, may not long exist. Many youngsters in rural school districts may not have been able to attend on opening day because of home duties—schedules are not well maintained sometimes in the back country—and it may take some time to get the youngsters off to school. Before many weeks pass attendance in these grades may top last year's.

The encouraging fact is that general school attendance is up. The cruel situation of the world at large and America's military problems have had no perceptible effect on the educational system in this county or elsewhere in the country. This year there will be 32,285,000 pupils in class rooms. According to federal educational authorities, 21,000,000 children will attend elementary schools; 7,160,000 high school; 1,425,000 colleges and universities, and 1,950,000 children and adults will go to night school or take part-time training. In addition, 50,000 persons will take special trade training, 75,000 training in nursing, and 75,000 will attend business colleges.

As far as America is concerned war and threats of war will not interrupt school courses this year. In fact, the warlike conditions will be an aid to education in the United States in that they will stimulate more intensive study of Americanism, of democracy—what it stands for and the duties it imposes—and the finer things of life Americans have enjoyed because of their freedom.

## The Road Situation

New Hanover county's secondary roads have long been neglected and are now in such bad shape that rural residents bitterly complain of the disregard of the state highway commission for protests and appeals for improvement they have made at Raleigh.

The situation was brought to the attention of the county board at its Monday's meeting in the hope that the echo of the proceedings then may penetrate to the offices of the state highway authorities in the capital and bring corrective action.

The county board is powerless to act but it is possible that it may be able to bring sufficient pressure to bear at the capital to get something done to improve the county's minor, but still important, roads.

The people of Summer Hill, Buena Vista, Seagate and Masonboro are justified in demanding that the state highway commission give them better roads. They deserve the support of the people of Wilmington, no less than of the county board, inasmuch as Wilmingtonians use the roads quite as much as residents of these districts.

Perhaps a united appeal, backed by the power of the county board and the support of legislators, could turn the trick and bring road crews for repair and maintenance work on these roads. There is no assurance, of course, that it would. But there is a chance that it might. It will be worth trying at least. If it fails, an appeal to the governor, setting forth the reason for complaint and indicating the definite need for improvement, will be in order.

## Poor Carol

Former King Carol's search for an asylum is not particularly interesting in itself, but one sidelight cannot fail to interest the rank and file of Americans.

Facing almost certain refusal from France, the errant Rumanian is said to have concluded that he could not live in the style to which he is accustomed in the United States on the income he has been granted by the nation he was so successful in bringing to the verge of ruin and complete dismemberment. That amount, though not officially revealed, is understood to be \$60,000 a year.

Many Americans are managing to get along very comfortably on smaller incomes. We don't know the style he is accustomed to, of course, but we suspect that \$60,000 a year could be made to maintain quite an outfit, even for such a spendthrift as Carol.

Thousands of good American families are doing well on \$60 a month. For many \$100 paychecks represent luxury. Thousand-dollar yearly incomes maintain many a home in humble comfort and two thousand is wealth, since the depression. Heads of families blessed with larger incomes are able to set aside a little surplus for investment.

But maybe, Carol has no idea of thrift. Certainly he showed no sense of this fine American attribute, either in Paris during his former abdication, or as ruler of his nation whose resources he did so much to dissipate. Besides, paramours are expensive luxuries. It is just as well that Carol turns from the United States as a possibly asylum. He would not find a cordial welcome here.

## The Vice Crusade

The campaign on vice in Wilmington, which Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn launched by instructing the grand jury to investigate conditions and recommend remedial measures, even if it requires the services of state aides to clean up the bad situation, is an important movement, not only because moral filth is always a menace to any community but because Wilmington has too vital a duty to perform in the national emergency to allow a canker to remain in its midst.

If this nation is to carry its defense program to its proper limits, there must be moral and spiritual no less than military rearmament. The minds of the people must be trained to function for security. There must be mobili-

zation for right living, as well as mobilization of industry, of troops, airplanes, tanks, munitions and guns. The two efforts must move side by side, if we are to place ourselves in a position to ward off national disaster.

Moral softness, spiritual indifference, are blamed as much as military weakness for the collapse of France. Unless we are willing to share France's fate, we must avoid France's blunders.

Judge Burgwyn put his finger on one of those blunders when he pointed out to the grand jury that immorality is not under control in Wilmington. In correcting this, Wilmington will prove its right to serve the nation it did so much to create in its present great emergency.

## Editorial Comments From Other Angles

### MR. WADSWORTH STANDS FIRM

(N. Y.) Herald Tribune  
It was typical of Congressman James W. Wadsworth Jr., to say of the Fish amendment to delay the putting into force of the Burke-Wadsworth bill that "it only throws a monkey wrench into the entire program." Mr. Wadsworth is one of those few Republicans in Congress who have consistently worked for a sound military policy, and who, in the present emergency, have put party politics behind them and fought for what they believe to be the best interests of the country. On neither count is Mr. Fish his peer. In fact, just as it is in keeping with Mr. Wadsworth's record to rise above politics in matters of defense, so Mr. Fish has consistently taken the narrowest partisan view on every question. His record of putting himself on the wrong side is almost perfect.

Unfortunately, Congress this time seems to have preferred Mr. Fish's temporizing measure, delaying the effectiveness of the selective service law for two months while authorizing the President during this period to push the drive for recruiting. The avowed purpose is to permit the voluntary enlistment system to be given a "thorough test" before the drafting of young men is resorted to. The most effective argument against this was put forward by Mr. Wadsworth when he said: "The alarming tendency of the young men of today is that the volunteer idea, the belief that others will volunteer to acquire the military training necessary to afford the country a sufficient amount of trained soldiers to defend it in case of need, has relieved those who do not volunteer from any sense of responsibility whatever."

Mr. Wadsworth used these words not in the present Congress, but speaking in December, 1916. In April, 1917, he said on the floor of the Senate that he did not think it was possible to get 500,000 men by volunteering without letting down the bars of efficiency, and added that "the burdens of this war should fall equally on everybody capable of bearing that burden. We should be fair and democratic in this ideal of service, but we should so contrive our defensive system that it would be employed in the most efficient way. That is why we advocate selective draft—selection of the best material for the particular duty."

Because Mr. Wadsworth at that time spoke so soundly on military policy, and because, after the last war, he endeavored to have put into the military bill of 1920 a provision for selective service, his opinion on this subject deserves special consideration. To the credit of the House he is said that when, on Wednesday, he spoke in behalf of the Burke-Wadsworth bill—before Mr. Fish had brought forward his enfeebling amendment—he was greeted with applause from both sides, and when he had finished his plea for prompt action the House rose in tribute to him. His speech had the strength of candor—the frank admission that a year ago he had not fully realized the dangers that lay ahead of us as a result of the war, but that with the invasion of the Low Countries and the destruction of France he saw the light. This is why he took up the cudgels for the selective-service bill that bears his name. In pushing it despite the opposition of many Republicans he has shown that same courage and independence which has been characteristic of his long career of public service. In this present instance he is doubly right and Mr. Fish is, if possible, doubly wrong.

### NOW WE MUST PAY

(The Asheville Times)  
President Butler of Columbia University places the blame for the Nazi revolution and the world disaster it has created on small-minded men in Washington and their shocking disregard of moral and political obligation.

In other words, having helped to win the first World War, America would not aid in winning the right sort of peace—indeed refused to accept any responsibility for any sort of European peace. And Senator Lodge, Borah, Johnson, and Democratic James Reed and some others were the prime agents in that great and fatal rejection of moral and political responsibility for the kind of world the America of 1940 might have to live in, perhaps wage war in.

A skeptic may interpose that such condemnation takes a long jump to the assumption that United States membership in the League of Nations would have guaranteed a juster live-and-let-live order of affairs in Europe. Dr. Butler and those who believe with him that no nation liveth unto itself do not have to defend that speculative assertion concerning American influence as an adherent of the League. Dr. Butler need go no farther than to declare that America accepted responsibility in large degree for the world's peace and welfare, but put her hand to the plow and then turned back after Versailles, attempting to absolve herself of all the high obligations al-

## QUOTATIONS

When a man is so ill as to believe he is ill when he is not ill, he is very ill indeed.—English psychologist in a recent book on psychotherapy.

Those who have carried on into graduate study include 10 times as large a proportion of radicals as those who have barely finished the eighth grade.—Prof. Goodwin Watson, Columbia.

I have my doubt whether Trotsky was murdered in Mexico at the instigation of Stalin, as is widely assumed. The Nazis could have wished it.—Charles Benedict, in the Magazine of Wall Street.

This is the moment and the United States is the place for us to revive again the faith and power of freedom.—Frank Kingdon in the Survey Graphic

## Man About Manhattan

By George Tucker

NEW YORK Sept. 11.—When Andy Anderson got ready to write that murder novel of his, "Kill One, Kill Two," he went back to the Blue Ridge section of his boyhood North Carolina for a back drop. In the book there is a mountain on which, at various times, mysterious lights appear. There is a legend among the Indians who inhabit the region that these lights mean death. When they appear, someone is certain to die.

We asked Andy if there really is such a mountain in North Carolina.

"Yes, sir," he replied, "in the Linville section, near Asheville. Only, we call it Brown mountain. I've heard about the Brown mountain lights all my life."  
"Did you ever see them, Andy? Don't lie now."  
"No," he admitted, "I never did. But I know plenty of people who have. The government even has investigated them. And a number of scientists in the south have made studies of them. They're some sort of phenomena, but they don't really mean that somebody is going to die. Sometimes there's just one light; and sometimes they come in clusters. It's a very funny thing."

Funny isn't the word for it. If you know any mystery writers, you'll know what I mean by that. Take Andy, for instance. Here is a tall (well over six feet), extraordinarily thin young man with prematurely grey hair. He speaks with a softly flowing North Carolina drawl. He has knocked about the south, middle west, and the metropolitan district as a newspaperman for twenty years. This is his first book.

"I wrote most of it in an apartment on 14th street between 5th avenue and Union Square, and if you don't think that is a peculiar environment for a murder mystery you don't know what it means to hear Communist brawls, shills screaming insults at taxi-drivers, and shoe-string salesmen squabbling with the cops. It's Coney Island and Hell's Kitchen wrapped around Sugar Hill, with a blob of the Bowery thrown in."

"Finally I went out to Jackson Heights and finished the thing in comparative peace. But nobody wanted it. One night we ran out of tally sheets during a hot bridge game and I kicked over the manuscript, looking for some extra paper. Sitting in the game was a literary agent. He said, 'What is that thing?' Which was a superlative question, as anybody who has ever seen a manuscript can tell one a mile. The upshot of this was he took the manuscript. Twenty-four hours later it had been submitted, and accepted."

We also asked Andy if he, himself, was a mystery novel fan. "I eat 'em up," he admitted. "I've read a thousand of the things. They get you. All great men read mystery stories—Winston Churchill, President Roosevelt, Henry Ford. . . . Don't you?"  
"We told him that, strange as it may seem, we never read a mystery novel, but that, come midnight, we were a cinch to get started on the right track, as a copy, neatly photographed, of 'Kill One, Kill Two' was even then under our arm and we were all set to get going."

### WILL OPEN BRIDGE

WINSTON-SALEM, Sept. 10.—A new temporary bridge over the Yadkin River between Winston-Salem and Mocksville, erected to replace one washed out in the flood last month, will be opened to traffic at noon tomorrow, state highway officials announced today.

## Hollywood Sights And Sounds

By Robbin Coon

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 10.—The girls in the blue flannel shorts and neat striped sweaters were going through a dance number.

A dance number is what their mentor, Miss Merriell Abbott, called it. It looked to me like a routine designed for slightly mad persons who wish to knock themselves out spectacularly. The girls, nine of 'em, were doing a conga affair embellished by "splits" and "aerials" and other contortions and when they landed resoundingly on the floor, all together, it hurt. Me, not them. They just bounced up and kept on dancing.

You've seen them before, these Merriell Abbott Dancers, in the Jack Benny movies. You'll see them again in the Benny-Fred Allen piece, "Love Thy Neighbor," wherein this conga number will be one of their specialties.

The Abbott Dancers don't have to dance. They're taught dancing by a woman who doesn't have to teach dancing, either. They dance, and Miss Abbott teaches dancing, because the whole she-bang just plain likes dancing.

"My girls—I mean most of them—could live at home very comfortably without working," says Miss Abbott, a nice-looking matronly type with steel-gray hair. "My husband is a successful orthopedic surgeon in Chicago. So there's really no reason for our working except that we all love it. I've thought of giving it up, but I can't like it too much."

## The Merry Wives Of Windsor

By Carl Carmer

RALEIGH, Sept. 10.—(AP)—Governor Hoey plans to return to the practice of law in his home town, Shelby, when he leaves office at the end of this year, he revealed today.

The chief executive who was 62 last December, only laughed when questioned about reports that he would run against U. S. Senator Robert R. Reynolds in 1944.

"Four years is a long time," the governor said. "Right now I think I'll go back to the practice of law. I like it and I made a living at it for 30 years before I became governor. Right now I'm concerned with completing the job of being governor."

Hoey has been mentioned here, and in newspaper editorials in several newspapers, as a possible opponent for Senator Reynolds when his term expires.

Discussing his tenure of office, the governor remarked that he had grown slightly grayer and had added 10 to 20 pounds to his weight since he took office in January, 1937.

"I normally weighed about 165 pounds before I took office," he said, "but my weight is now between 175 and 180. I was slim—six feet and one inch tall—and 15 or 20 pounds is right much to add. However, practically the only people who notice it are those who haven't seen me in several years."

Hoey was hot about something. At first it was hard for Bill to get the drift of it but when he did he jumped up quick enough. Some mean-looking strangers had landed an airplane on the flat meadow that's part of the Wilson farm. The foreigners had got out of their plane and begun to act nasty, and pretty soon Bill could tell that they meant business. The radio pretty soon Bill could tell that they meant business. The radio man said they had killed off most of the state police that had showed up, and the governor was calling the militia.

Bill didn't hesitate after that. Jim Anderson and that nice wife of his lived up on the Wilson farm. So did the Wyatt Fenitys and their two bright kids. Bill went out to the woodshed and took down his shot-gun. When he came back through the house he opened the pantry cupboard, found a couple of boxes of shells, and stuffed them in his pants pockets. Then he went out the back door and started across the fields toward the Wilson farm.

A lot of folks made fun of Bill the next day. They laughed at him for having been taken in by a play-actor pretending to be a news-broadcaster. But Bill Dock had been one of my heroes ever since that October night. I couple his name in my memory with that of Jonathan Harrington and for a good reason.

Jonathan was also asleep one night when he heard an excited voice on the air. It said a thousand foreign soldiers were marching down the road to town, and Jonathan got up and took his musket and walked out to the village green where he found John Parker, Bob Monroe, Sam Hadley, Ike Muzzy and more of his neighbors. A few hours later Jonathan (who was much younger then than Bill Dock



## HOEY TO RETURN TO LAW PRACTICE

## OUR COUNTRY

## Old Bill Dock---And Why, Like Jonathan Harrington, He's A Hero To Carl Carmer

Second of 24 articles on "Our country," written exclusively for NEA Service and The Wilmington Morning Star by the nation's most famous authors.  
By CARL CARMER  
Author of "Deep South," "Stars Fell on Alabama," "The Hudson," etc.

"The Wilson Farm at Grovers Mill was mistaken for the 'Wilmuth farm' of the play. Two of the three tenant families on the farm were at home when the false alarm spread. Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson . . . switched over to Orson Welles' program and heard the 'bulletins' on what was happening right in their own back yard . . . Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Fenity and their two children, who also live on the farm, were in bed asleep . . . William Dock, 76-year-old resident of Grover's Mill, heard it and got out his shot-gun."

Old Bill Dock had had a pretty hard day for late fall. There's a lot to do at Grover's Mill in middle Jersey between harvest-time and the beginning of winter. Bill ate his supper and rested easy by the radio. He was listening to some music when he dozed off. When you're 76 it's easy to fall asleep.

Bill couldn't have slept very long before an excited voice woke him. One of those news fellows was hot about something. At first it was hard for Bill to get the drift of it but when he did he jumped up quick enough. Some mean-looking strangers had landed an airplane on the flat meadow that's part of the Wilson farm. The foreigners had got out of their plane and begun to act nasty, and pretty soon Bill could tell that they meant business. The radio pretty soon Bill could tell that they meant business. The radio man said they had killed off most of the state police that had showed up, and the governor was calling the militia.

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Fighting among ourselves is one proof that we are not degenerate, writes John Steinbeck in the next article of this series on "Our Country."

According to reports, the English Ministry of Transport rigidly enforces a rule that no loads including war materials may be carried by road for more than 24