

The Sunday Star-News

Published Every Sunday
By The Wilmington Star-News
R. B. Page, Publisher

Telephone All Departments 2-3311

Entered as Second Class Matter at Wilmington, N. C., Postoffice Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY
Payable Weekly or In Advance

Time	Star	News	Combination
1 Week	\$.30	\$.25	\$.50
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Sunday Star-News	10c

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WILMINGTON STAR

(Daily Without Sunday)
3 Months-\$1.85 6 Months-\$3.70 1 Yr.-\$7.40

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND ALSO SERVED BY THE UNITED PRESS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1946

TOP OF THE MORNING

If he should come today
And find my hands so full
Of future plans, however fair,
In which my Saviour has no share,
What would he say?
If he should come today
And find my love so cold,
My faith so weak and dim,
I had not even looked for him,
What would he say?
—Crace Troy, in "Church Chimes."

Clearing Up Ambiguities

In the first news reports of the meeting in which the Augusta, Georgia, auditorium plans were approved as a guide for Wilmington, it was said the hall used for concerts and similar entertainment could seat 900 spectators. In Saturday's Star an article dealing with the subject declared the architect's intention is to provide accommodations for 1,700 in the "auditorium."

Both are misleading, due in the first case to the approval of the Augusta plan in a closed meeting with inadequate information later given to the press, and in the second to the vague use of the word auditorium.

In the interest of clarity it is to be understood that the auditorium referred to is in reality the music hall and that it is this hall which the architect plans to have a seating capacity of 1,700.

A communication to this department from the City Manager, A. C. Nichols, announces also that it is the intention to use a part of the main floor of the other hall, which is best defined perhaps as the arena, for spectator space. This portion would have a sloping floor which would enable auditors to witness any events taking place on the level floor, and in the case of largely attended conventions, wrestling and boxing and such like, with the action on the stage, the level floor could be used entirely for spectators.

This explanation clears up some matters in doubt. It still remains to be seen if the entire seating capacity will be sufficient for a period of years and the population increase Wilmington is entitled to expect as time goes on.

There is a note of hope in the closing statement of Mr. Nichols' letter. Says he: "I am sure the committee and the Council both are completely in sympathy with having an auditorium that will be of ample size, and the matter will come up for further discussion during the period of preparation of preliminary plans which, of course, will be worked out and fully discussed before the final working drawings of the auditorium will be begun."

If this is the purpose, the future as well as the present need will be considered.

Steel Strike Settled

By the time most of us rise tomorrow morning and others of us are thinking of turning in, the strike of 130,000 employes of U. S. Steel will be over and arrangements under way for collective bargaining in other steel mills through which, in addition to U. S. Steel's force, 750,000 workers will get back on the job.

With the steel strike ended, there is little reason to assume settlement of the General Motors and other strikes which have done so much injury to reconversion will not also be settled shortly.

When they are all out of the way, not only in major industries but in the small plants that have had to suspend production from lack of material, there should be a great revival of consumer goods turnout.

From that point on, prolonged inflation will depend upon industry's ability to meet the public demand. This, of course, will be impossible for many months. In the meantime, with the tremendous reservoir of money in their pockets and the people possessed of a deep desire to spend it, prices are bound to skyrocket. A peculiarity of all skyrockets is that having reached the top of their levitation they invariably fall.

Inevitably the price range, now going up and still to go higher, will come down—down in proportion to industry's capability of supplying the demand. Perhaps it is as well that we cannot foresee just what the depression in store for the nation will be.

Their Duty Plain

Winning the war was one thing. Maintaining the peace in conquered territory is another. With the war won, maintenance of peace becomes a greater and greater obligation, fraught with increasing difficulties, as the days pass.

One reason for this is that the men who fought the battles are growing restive at being kept on the ground. They are anxious to get home, back to their families, to their jobs, to the normal living of their native land.

Although demobilization has been quicker than the military leaders before V-J Day believed possible, the discontent of troops still held in occupied zones is increasing. The way to speed the day of their departure for home is to increase the number of replacements. This need is not being met, either by volunteer enlistments or by selective service.

Draft boards are reported having great difficulty in getting young men who have reached the draft age since the war closed to register. The men recently released from school and eligible for foreign service are not responding to their boards' calls in sufficient numbers to encourage the hope that the ranks of battle veterans will soon be filled with recruits.

The situation has grown so serious that the military authorities contemplate reviewing the draft status of thousands of men previously classified as 4-F, many of whom have but minor deficiencies which would not interfere with the performance of occupational duties. If this is done and the thousands capable of filling the bill are drafted, there will still be need for other thousands, who must come from the boys at home.

These are urged to consider, as we have pointed out before, that while the war is ended the duration is not. They have a duty to their country and to the men who bore the brunt of combat, to come forward and take their proper places in the armed forces abroad.

Editorial Comment

THE AGE OF NOISE

The twentieth century is, among other things, the Age of Noise. Physical noise, mental noise and noise of desire—we hold history's record for all of them. And no wonder, for all the resources of our almost miraculous technology have been thrown into the current assault against silence. That most popular and influential of all recent inventions, the radio, is nothing but a conduit through which prefabricated din can flow into our homes. And this din goes far deeper, of course, than the ear drums. It penetrates the mind, filling it with a babel of distinctions—news items, mutually irrelevant bits of information, blasts of corymbant or sentimental music, continually repeated doses of drama that bring no catharsis, but merely create a craving for daily or even hourly emotional enemas.—Aldous Huxley, in "The Perennial Philosophy."

AGE OF SPEED

This is the so-called age of speed in which people take longer than ever to do things that ought to be done.—Worcester Telegram.

WOMAN'S INTUITION

A woman's intuition is about two thirds suspicion.—The Crow's Nest.

QUOTATIONS

Leadership can only be assumed if and when we cease to spend our time and effort on the mechanics of organization. Club women must have the courage to stand up and be counted on the vital problems facing us, rather than worrying about the minor issues involved.—Mrs. Ward B. Gorman, president New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Political appointments of judges in children's courts must be avoided.—Charles L. Chute, executive director National Probation Association.

Walter Winchell In New York

NOTES OF A NEWSPAPERMAN

The politicians have tipped their mitt for 1946. It's going to be reckless racism—pitting the Poles versus the Russians—the Irish versus the British, etcetera. . . . Cutting up Europe's quarrels to fan up ballots is what too many office-seekers try to peddle as "Americanism." As the lady in "State of the Union" observes: "I thought the Poles voted in Poland!"

Some time ago, when gang chiefs decided to take over a town in Illinois, they did it by rigging the elections. The goons went out among the voters and gave instructions, two bucks for a favoring vote, a punch in the teeth for an anti. . . . A lot of eyebrows that went up over the gang tactics are on the faces of the racism needlers, and, whether they like it or not, these people are more dangerous to the nation than the Capones ever were.

The most diabolic anti-democratic propaganda of all is to make it appear that Americans have only a choice between communism and fascism. Only democracy's foes pose that problem—since they have never chosen democracy. As a matter of fact, the most glorious thing about being an American is that you don't have to choose either one—because we have already picked Americanism. . . . And you can wager that most of the people who exist had an opportunity to choose democracy. . . . If I had to choose between taking communism and fascism—I'd choose gas.

International diplomacy remains a maze of tragedy. The UNO has officially reprimanded Franco's fascist regime. That is fine. . . . But why does the UNO allow the Argentinians to be a part of their organization? The difference between Spain and Argentina—is the difference between a Fuehrer and a Duce.

The constitutional lawyers, as they are laughingly called, continue to debate the merits of the U. S. Supreme Court's stupid Bund decision and its application to the sedition case, which the Dept. of Justice has stalled to date and secretly hopes is dismissed. . . . Because the prosecutors at Atty. Gen. Clark's offices don't think there is much front page space anymore in this story—since the High Court reversed the Bund convictions.

The whole case, according to the latest stall from the Justice Dept., is supposed to depend upon a connecting link with the Nazis. The fact is, there are over 200,000 connecting links between the Nazi doctrines and those preached by the sedition defendants. . . . Those links are about eight feet long, three feet wide and six feet deep, and each contains the body of an American who gave his life for this country. . . . The next thing this reporter expects from the Justice Dept. is a lawsuit against the U. S. Marines for damaging property on Iwo Jima! . . . A seditionist, apparently, is a man who has a constitutional right to urge an American soldier to commit an act—for which the soldier would be court-martialed and shot.

The country needed Lincoln in 1864, but the whole world needs him even more today. . . . If he were alive now he would be denouncing power politics over a microphone because he spoke—not only TO the common people—he spoke FOR them. . . . And though the centuries change, the principles (particularly of evil) remain the same. . . . Nations, like men, were not born to live in chains.

In the 19th Century Abraham Lincoln fought for the principle that no man had the right to live by another man's sweat. . . . In this century he would have fought twice as hard for the right of a man—anyman—to say what he thinks. . . . From the man who speaks in the corner drug store to the man who bellows and barks over a national radio hook-up.

The reason is simple. . . . To the sophisticated diplomats of the world the common people are only an inexhaustible supply of general suckers. . . . To Lincoln the average man supplied the deep faith and hard work which are the backbone of civilization. . . . And Abraham Lincoln believed that the least they were entitled to—was to know what was going on.

Since not even his monument is behind closed doors you can bet that if Abe Lincoln were alive today he would be fighting the same fight—the fight in which he and FDR were killed in action. . . . While there was breath in his body Lincoln would denounce the dirtiest and most dangerous formula of the 20th Century: That secret diplomatic process (conducted behind closed doors) by which the blood, sweat and tears of the common people of 1946—is being manufactured into the Power Politics War of 1966.

If Lincoln were alive today, he very likely would be under subpoena to appear before that discredited Rankin Un-American committee—and charged with being a subversive. . . . Because Lincoln would have dared to fight for every man's right to make a living—no matter the color or creed. . . . Undoubtedly Lincoln would be attacked on the floor of the Senate or House by some Bilbock (or some supporter of a Gerald L. K. Smith) because Lincoln would have fought such men as though they were rattlers. . . . He would have fought them for their intolerance and for being what they are.

Beyond a question of doubt Abraham Lincoln today would be the target of some congressional committee's counsel and called alien-minded because he believed that a breadline in any State of the Union concerned the entire Federal Government. . . . In his own day he was subjected to every kind of insult that could be heaped upon an American President. . . . In fact, on a scale equaled only by the attack upon F. D. Roosevelt.

Why? The answer is simple. . . . Like FDR, Lincoln believed in a square deal for the common man—regardless of color or politics.

These martyrs have gone to their graves. . . . But the hateful bigotry they fought—will require twice as many martyrs—before it in turn is laid to rest.

Sudden thought on Mayor O'Dwyer's hasty decision to paralyze the city: When O'Dwyer makes a mistake (like LaGuardia) he makes a beauty!

A man is a man for all his injuries, and he wants to be included in completely normal activities.—Florence Stanton, Red Cross hospital recreation worker.

A FAREWELL GESTURE



Why Can't Post-War Wonder Workers Bring Back Better Things Of Life?

BY JOHN SIKES

This is a nostalgic item brought on, no doubt, by at least a modicum of easiness which oozes through my spirit with the return to work of the steel boys.

Not that I ever owned any steel stock. But it just seems to me that all our postwar plans have been holding their breaths—if plans can hold their breaths—to see what Steel was going to do before any amount of relaxation at all could come about.

Nearly everybody, you know, has been saying for some four years what they were going to do as soon as the war ended. Listening to them—and I was one of them myself—you'd expect to find nothing short of Utopia, standing here in the middle of February just a few months after the war's end.

There's not much use telling you what you and I said we were going to have by this time. But just to jog your memory: everything from real rubber baby pants to a new car that would do everything but park for you.

First came the automobile strike and then Steel. And then you just about decided the end of the war didn't bring the end of your wishes.

But now that steel boys have settled their differences you may start off all over again to yearning.

Me, I've quit wishing for any of those material things the beautiful postwar world was, and probably is, going to bring to us. I don't want anything so complicated as a plane I was reading about the other day that will fly anywhere you will just by the push of a button.

A little quiet and peace, peace and quiet of the olden days will do me. This, though, is something I'm afraid even that beautiful postwar world will not bring us.

DISTRICT SCOUT CIRCUS SCHEDULED

With National Boy Scout week past history, the Cape Fear Council yesterday were looking forward to the annual Scout Circus, to be presented May 10.

The event, a highlight of the Council's program of the council, will be sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Plans for the event will be discussed at a round-table meeting of leaders and interested persons in the American Legion Home tomorrow night at 8 o'clock.

Further events of the coming week include a banquet given for Troop 19 in the First Baptist church Thursday night, Feb. 21. F. C. Paschall, scoutmaster, is in charge of arrangements.

Friday and Saturday a group of scouters will meet at Camp Singletary to establish an Order or Aaron Lodge, additional details will be announced later, scouts officials said yesterday.

"Fundamentals of the Boy Scout Movement," a slide film, will be shown to New Hanover high school pupils Tuesday and Wednesday and in Tilston school Friday, Feb. 22.

Window displays of various scout activities currently are on display in the following store windows: Troop 10, Lane's Drug store; Pack 10, Snow White Laundry, Lake Forest; Troop 14, Efrid's; Troop 19, Foy-Roe.

Troop 21, three locations, Carolina Beach; Troop 32, two locations, Burgaw; Troop 34, Shoemaker's;

IT HAPPENED HERE

Look in your pocket and see if you have two nickels.

That's what 13 people passing through the hall in the county courthouse did this morning before two nickels were located.

It all started when a young woman, seeking to exchange a dime for two nickels so she might get some drinks from the coke dispenser, enlisted the aid of County Clerk T. K. Woody.

Woody obligingly approached every man passing through the hall, friend and stranger alike, but with no success until the 13th person, a county commissioner, triumphantly produced two nickels.

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 16.—(AP)—One man was burned to death and another seriously injured when fire destroyed a downtown Mobile rooming house today.

M. E. Johnson, 52, Pascagoula, Miss., was burned to death when he was trapped by flames and smoke. G. H. Hurst, Birmingham, Ala., also was overcome by smoke and suffered serious burns but firemen managed to rescue him.

Fourteen other roomers unsuccessfully attempted to rescue Johnson but were forced, scantily-clad, into the street.

Troop 35, three locations, Southport; Troop 36, Shrier's Troop 37, Thrift-T-Store and Troop 94, Tood Furniture company.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST RALLIES SCHEDULED

The Wilmington district of the Methodist church is giving stimulus to its youth program of evangelism in the Crusade for Christ by Youth rallies, to be held this week, according to the Rev. J. Edwin Carter, district youth director.

The program for each of the rallies includes a forum period, fellowship hour, devotional period, conducted by the young people of the host church, and inspirational messages by the district superintendent, the Rev. A. S. Parker, and the district youth director.

Three rallies scheduled for the Wilmington district are: Whiteville Methodist church, Feb. 18; Clinton Methodist church, Feb. 20; Trinity church, Wilmington, Feb. 21.

Each rally will begin at 5 p. m., with a picnic supper at 6 p. m., and will close at 9 o'clock. Special guests, who will participate in addition to district representatives, are the Rev. J. G. Phillips and the Rev. Lafon C. Varen, leaders in youth work, as well as an officer from the North Carolina Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship.

LOOKS TO ME like somebody should be able to figure those things out as well as they figure a way to make a plane go by pushing a button.

Is it any wonder, having known these things can exist—in fact—that I become nostalgic?

And is it any wonder that I wonder, while the boys who're working up everybody into a frenzy over what they're going to produce in this postwar world, why somebody else equally as smart can't figure out a way to bring back at least a synthetic counterpart of the sort of thing that's making me nostalgic?

Talk about your push-button airplanes. Pish-tuch! I'll take beaten biscuits, made the old-fashioned way. The kind the making of which wakes you up each morning with the plomp-plomp-plomp of the rolling pin—or whatever instrument they used to use—as it beats down into the dough.

Looks to me like somebody should be able to figure those things out as well as they figure a way to make a plane go by pushing a button.

Interpreting The News

BY JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer

If the Shanghai Herald is right, the Chinese government is sponsoring a small economic revolution. This paper says that the government plans to eliminate the ricksha by May, 1949, to make way for motorized traffic.

This would be revolutionary because many millions of Orientals make what passes for a living by pulling a ricksha, and many millions more find it a handy way of getting about. Nowhere is the ricksha more widely used than in China. It is a social and economic factor of considerable importance there.

Ricksha is a contraction of a Japanese word, jin-ricki-sha, which means "man-stretch-cart." The story goes that an American missionary in Japan had a crippled wife, and devised this way for her to get out and about.

No Shock
The idea of one human being pulling another around came as no shock to the Orient, where for centuries the wealthy and powerful had been lugged about in sedan-chairs on the shoulders of their servants.

For in the Orient, one big trouble has been that there were too many people, and this means some of them had to do things which were humiliating or otherwise undesirable.

British pneumatic tires were what made the ricksha practical. It wasn't just a "sedan-chair on wheels," but one that only one man could power, and much faster.

Japan virtually abandoned the ricksha because enough streets, buses, trains and so on were developed to crowd it out.

But in China, particularly, the ricksha spread. Like the bicycle, it could be made locally except for the tires, filled a great need for short-haul transportation that nothing else answered, and above all provided jobs for uncounted millions of laborers who could find nothing better to do.

The employment factor was important enough that in several cases ricksha-pullers rioted against the installation of some of China's few tramway systems.

Westerners usually are upset by their first ricksha ride. The idea of another person pulling them around bothers them deeply.

Someone then points out that if your ricksha-man doesn't pull you, or someone, he may starve. Whereupon the westerner feels somewhat better and begins to enjoy the easy, open-air features of this light little cart, which have been compared to those of a small buggy pulled by a talking horse. It also becomes apparent that, under the right circumstances, pulling a ricksha isn't necessarily such hard work, either.

It's only later that the westerner begins to see the system of usury and exploitation which gets the ricksha-man in debt and keeps him there, the victim of the money-lenders, the ricksha-dealers and his own ignorance and helplessness.

The plight of the ricksha-puller is only part of the whole picture of terrible poverty, inefficient production and over-population which plagues the Orient.

Straightening this picture out is the problem that faces these crowded Oriental countries and the world.

China's proposed abolition of the ricksha is one attempt to re-draw, in more dignified human terms, one dark corner of that picture.

But the Chinese government knows that as long as some Chinese are poor enough they will pull rickshas in order to eat.

LETTER BOX

BOARD GRATEFUL

To The Editor:
At the regular meeting of the Board of Education February 14, 1946, the board unanimously expressed their appreciation to your papers for the excellent support given to the public schools and the community in regard to the controversy over the eligibility of the basketball player. Your support has been of inestimable value in maintaining the spirit and morale of our athletic team.

The secretary was directed to make this expression to your papers.

H. M. Roland, Secretary
New Hanover County
Board of Education
Wilmington, N. C.
Feb. 16, 1946.

T-4 Mickey Rooney Awarded Bronze Star

FRANKFURT, Germany, Feb. 16.—(AP)—T-4 Mickey Rooney, former motion picture actor, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for "exceptional courage in the performance of his duties as an entertainer." U. S. Army headquarters announced today.

The citation, pointing out that Rooney traveled with small combat armed groups through front territory to take his shows to front line troops, said: "His superb personal contribution to the morale of the armed forces in the European theater of operations cannot be measured."

APPOINTS SECRETARY

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 16.—(AP)—Rep. Helen Douglas Mankin announced the appointment today of Miss Estelle Gaines Atlanta newspaperwoman, as her private secretary. Miss Gaines, a reporter for the Atlanta Journal, met Mrs. Mankin about three months ago during a campaign interview.

HELD IN SLAYING

FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 16.—(AP)—Cumberland county sheriff N. H. McGreahy said Braxton Smith was being held without charge in the county jail today in connection with the death early today of Smith's son-in-law, Erwin L. Anderson, 38.