

# Capital Letters

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

Sharp. This State's... about three months, his friends and relations—and from all reports this includes his beautiful wife and four fine boys—have not laid eyes on him since his discharge.

This is heartbreaking for his folks and exceeding disappointing to his friends, who were planning a big political future for him.

**RESPONSIBLE**—There are a lot of things that aren't generally known about Dick Reynolds' political activities on the national scene between 1940 and 1942. Had it not been for him, FDR might have been beaten by Wilkie.

If you remember, Roosevelt's campaign was dragging late in the summer of 1940. Cocky and confident as usual, the President was taking it easy. That was one angle. The other angle was that the Democrats had hit Wall Street so hard that they had no money. They found it impossible to put the magnetic Roosevelt voice on the air. Meantime, the name of Wilkie was being promoted like a new brand of soap.

In North Carolina, where the third term movement really had its beginning—much to the dismay of some State conservatives who later jumped with vigor on the handwagon—the liberal Democrats were scared stiff.

**MONEY**—Dick Reynolds was approached... and he jumped into the fray virtually overnight. Telephones jangled from Winston-Salem to Raleigh and right on into the White House. Cold cash in six figures (\$300,000 the first clip) sped to Washington and to New York. Radio time was bought with reckless abandon, and a campaign that had been dragging suddenly took on real spark. And in the middle of the fight was none other than your old friend, Dick Reynolds.

Many of his friends cursed him with everything they could throw—the very idea, a man of your wealth supporting this—this—this so-and-so in the White House! But Dick Reynolds was not to be dissuaded. He believed in That Man! And all told, he let the Demos have a total of \$700,000—and he didn't know how soon the loan would be repaid either.

**THEN**—Well, you know what happened in the election. And then Dick Reynolds, appropriately enough, was made treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, which position he held until he became an officer in the Navy. He was succeeded by Ed Pauley, who

will be your next Secretary of the Navy.

Pauley, California oil man, paid off (but not out of his own pocket) the \$700,000 to Dick Reynolds and the other \$50,000 owed by the Democrats. Now he has been made Under Secretary of the Navy.

**MEANTIME**—Now Reynolds is reportedly in Florida having a wonderful time yachting, etc., and establishing residence for you know what.

There is a great deal more to the story. But if Roosevelt hadn't died, old Dick would be right up there in politics... well on his way to having some reputation other than that as a very, very rich young man.

**GRAY**—Fitting into the picture very nicely is young about 34 Gordon Gray, publisher of the Winston-Salem dailies, who has just announced his candidacy for the State Senate. With Reynolds no longer on the scene, Gray will likely go on to become Governor training in 1952. He entered the Army as a private in May, 1942, came out a captain. Very quiet and conservative in a liberalish sort of way, he is a man that will bear watching. He was in the State Senate in 1939 and 1941.

Don't be surprised, then, to see former Grange Master Harry B. Caldwell of Greensboro, Brandon Hodges of Asheville, and Gordon Gray slugging it out when the Governor's race goes west again.

**HOPEFUL**—Former Governor O. Max Gardner's thousands of friends want him to come back home, back to the people who love him, back to his native hearth. Although he is one of the most successful and prominent attorneys in Washington, they say he is needed in the Shelby area. He's getting on in years now, and they say that the tragic death of his son committed suicide a week ago Saturday is turning him to thoughts of home.

Gardner has done more for Shelby than any other man—including Senator Clyde R. Hoey—and he has probably been closer to the inner workings of your state government during the past 15 years than any other man. Exceedingly few political moves of any consequence were made in this state from 1929 until 1945 that he wasn't consulted, in advance.

**NOTES**—Dr. John Gold of Shelby has been at Mayo's Clinic (Minn.) for a stomach ailment. Before he left, Doctor Gardner saw x-rays of the trouble, and this set him to worrying about his own stomach ulcers. This led to the suicide—Other tragic deaths in that section in the past five weeks: Congressman Sam Ervin, Jr., of Morganton and Solicitor John G. Carpenter, whose death hasn't yet been fully explained—The big meeting

## Steel Strike Head



**PERSONAL DIRECTION** of the nationwide steel strike was in the hands of Philip Murray, president of the steel-workers' union and of the CIO, pictured here at the door of his Chicago hotel room as he announced the walkout to be "100 per cent effective". (International)

## N. C. Future Is Dairying Says Scott

The state agriculture commissioner, W. Kerr Scott, envisions North Carolina as the future dairyland of Dixie.

Scott says that the state is in the process of setting up a \$16,000 laboratory to help make this vision possible.

He adds that the laboratory will be used to establish, and we quote, "firmly in the mind of the public the utmost confidence in all dairy products purchased in North Carolina."

The state department of agriculture, and quote again, "now has six excellent trained men working at all times to help you build this state into the dairyland of Dixie."

However, Scott says that of the thousands of dollars going to the state in taxes from ice cream manufacturers, not one cent goes to the dairy division of the department, and we quote, "rich is striving to build a solid dairy industry."

He declares that the dairy division expends annually approximately \$20,000 in its control program. Of this amount, he says, only a meagre \$1,600 comes from the dairy industry and this through the ice cream inspection fee. The remainder comes from the sale of fertilizer and feed tags.

"In other words," he says, "none of the funds which are collected from the ice cream manufacturers by the state ever directly reach the dairy industry again. We hope that it will be possible in the near future to remedy this situation."

of the new N. C. Tobacco Advisory Council will be held in Raleigh on February 15—Raleigh and Chapel Hill folks were tremendously impressed with Treasury Secretary Fred M. Vinson, who spoke to the press folks recently. They advise you to keep an eye on him—If you attend the Jackson Day Dinner here on March 23, you will see and hear Oklahoma Governor Robert Kerr, one of the biggest (avoir-dupois and otherwise) speakers in captivity—OIL—Nothing much is being said about it, but there is great disappointment regarding the drillings for oil on the N. C. coast. At this writing, there is no oil, of course, and no indication there will be any.

**BUREAU**—If you haven't yet made hotel reservation for the Farm Bureau convention in Winston-Salem on February 7, 8, 9, you'd better contact some friend in the Twin City or double up in a room with somebody else. This state conclave will be bigger than the National Grange in W. S. two years ago.

## HERE and THERE

(Continued From Page Two)

for preventing another war." Mr. McLean had been scheduled for the main address, but had broken his arm and thought he could not come, but decided later to fly down and take part on the program. J. Glenn Babb, foreign news editor of the Associated Press, who knows the world like we know our own small backyard, gave a vivid picture of conditions in China and Japan. At the Duke dinner at the speakers table, including the current president of the N. C. Press, Harry Laffoon, publisher of the Elkin Tribune, held seats for many known both in the state and internationally.

By the way in conversation with Mrs. Robert Erwin, who did her husband's work while he was in the Navy, we were much interested in what she had to say about covering N. C. news in Washington. The people in Manteo want to know what they are doing in Murphy, which is quite different in some of the states they cover in the capital. Often one section of a state is interested only in their congressman, and not what their officials as a whole are doing. It made us very hopeful that maybe the line between the East and the West is growing dim.

Altogether the meeting held much interest, and it is always a surprise to us to find how many common grounds all newspaper folk meet upon, whether they work on dailies or struggle on weeklies. Printers ink is a bond that is tight and close. Perhaps all professions have the same characteristics, but writing for a newspaper is an inconsistent kind of work. Often in our coverage from week to week the routine becomes stale at times, just as we are sure you readers get fed up on the same old dish we prepare for you but when you contact others doing the same job, you forget your temporary spells of discouragement. The spark flares up again and your interest is whetted to keep going, if your heart is really in your work.

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## MODERN TELL TOLD OFF

**BRIDGEPORT, Conn.**—Elliott C. Beardsley, Monroe county farmer and former cowboy, admitted in Superior court that on occasions when he was "feeling pretty good" he used to demonstrate his William Tell skill by shooting a tin can from his wife's head with a rifle. But he couldn't see anything in that to justify the charges of "intolerable cruelty and habitual intemperance" which were the basis of his wife's divorce suit. He played fair and square with her, he said—let her shoot tin cans from his head, too. Judge James E. Murphy reserved decision.

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