

AROUND OUR TOWN - Shelby Sidelights - BY RENN DRUM

- A MAN about town. BACK FROM the colored fair. ONE DAY last week. MADE THE remark: "THESE COLORED folks. ARE SHOWING out there. A FINE bunch of dogs. AND OUTSTANDING poultry." NOW WE can't understand. WHAT WAS unusual. AT ALL about that. FOR EVERY man. INTERESTED IN dogs. KNOWS FOR a certainty. THAT A colored man CAN TAKE the worst mongrel. AS A young pup. AND MAKE of him A HIGH-CLASS possum dog. AND THE same thing. APPLIES TO chickens. FOR A colored man. JUST HAS the "knack" OF GETTING the best. OUT OF a dog. -AND ALSO a chicken.

On one statement at least Jess Washburn strikes the wise humor plane of Bugs Daer. When Washington had the lead on Pittsburgh Thursday and enough rain could have halted the game and given the Senators another chance, Jess remarked: "Washington wants rain now more than the Southern Power company."

Thursday, by the way, was an eventful day for athletic followers in Shelby. Fans here heard over radio--by courtesy of the Charlotte News--a play-by-play account of baseball's most exciting World Series game and mingled with it a play-by-play account of the Carolina-State game, Shelby's favorite college battle. It was indeed a bargain day for fans and will rank with two days in the past. One was the Asheville-Shelby high school game and the other the Charlotte-Shelby game. Two seen from the sidelines the other heard over radio--all hard on incorrigible cigarette smokers.

And as the colyum predicted Shelby boys starred in the Carolina-State game. "J" McMurry, old Shelby quarter, chased over Carolina's first touch down, and "Moko" Bynum was a defensive star for State. We suppose Fred Logan, John Anthony and Charlie Austell believed the old Shelby scoring punch still lived when they saw McMurry, their old quarterback, go over for six points.

The next important college football affair to Shelby will be the Carolina-Davidson game, which is calculated to decide state honors. On the left wing of the Carolina team McMurry will be braced to go for another touch down, and facing him on the Wildcat eleven will be Hugh Arrowood, another Shelby High boy, toes dug in the ground to hold the Carolina offensive. That's why Shelby is interested: One of the two ends, both Shelby boys, may decide the title.

Here's another idea on Carolina progress: Next month many Shelby people will step on the starter of the Installment Six and motor to Charlotte in one hour and one-half to see a bunch of speed-demons cover 250 miles in around two hours. That's present day speed.

Squire Eskridge made his first trip to Charlotte many decades ago in a wagon and the trip consumed nearly two days. The long ride was to see the Mecklenburg fair and the horse races. That day a rider on one of the horses fell off and broke a leg. The accident created more excitement with the crowds than would the plunging to death of one of the speed demons next month. That was speed a generation back.

Going to Charlotte next month for the races autoists will zip over a long concrete bridge that spans the mighty Catawba and hardly know they're over water, so quickly will be the crossing. When Squire Eskridge made his first trip to Charlotte in the wagon it was necessary to ford the river as the old Tuckasegee crossing. Such was the meandering in the stream to avoid the deep places that going in one could not tell where he was coming out.

Then a guide directed the horses through the stream to avoid the deep spots. Now a speed cup meets the

autos to see that they do not hit the high spots.

The difference between the deep spots and the high spots is the highway biography of North Carolina.

A mistake is chalked up against the colyum's weather prediction. It may be slightly cool when they start a fire in the Central lobby and the club calls off conferences on the square, but it's not really winter time until Jim Morrison, proprietor of the City Cafe, starts wearing a coat.

The great Southern Railway System has a heart, or so we judge from a little story coming from Kings Mountain and related by Conductor Grimes. Recently a Southern passenger train was halted at a flag stop in the Carolinas to pick up a passenger. This passenger gave the conductor 18 cents--his fare to the next little flag stop. The stop and start resulted in a draw-head pulling out and the train was held up for 30 minutes, blocking the Crescent Limited, New York to New Orleans, running just behind. For 18 cents passengers on the fast through train were a half hour late reaching their destination.

The 18-cent passenger not knowing the costly delay he caused others probably abused the railroad officials for this minor delay. And the act probably was appreciated by no one.

Don't for a minute think that North Carolina isn't wondering what is going to take place at Cleveland Springs. A Shelby man on the road last week says he was besieged with questions about the development at every town in which he stopped. All seem to think he says, that the Cleveland Springs deal is the opening play of a great future in Western Carolina.

There are hundreds of lots for sale in that section yet. Surely the home man has as much faith in the big plan as the men, who have backed it for years, had at the outset. If not, don't criticize the men who believed in Cleveland Springs and will reap their reward while you are afraid to buy now that something big has started.

The man who purchased Florida property 15 years ago was a fish. Now he can afford to eat gold fish.

The colyum is not a Will Rogers' estate "ad." It lacks Will Rogers and the real estate. Otherwise it's a portion of Bull Durham.

BUS HITS MR. T. C. BLACK WEDNESDAY MORNING

Kings Mountain Herald. Mr. T. C. Black, substantial farmer and leading citizen of the El Bethel section, suffered a broken leg early Wednesday morning when a big yellow bus ran into Mr. Black's wagon and team. Neighbors took charge of the team and Mr. Black was placed in the bus and brought here where medical aid was rendered after which he went to Mary Black hospital at Spartanburg, S. C., which is operated by Mr. Black's brother. The driver of the bus stated that the dampness of the oil streak on the asphalt made it impossible for him to change the direction of the bus sufficiently to miss the wagon.

MR. PAGE DISCUSSES NEW CLEVELAND SPRINGS RESORT

Kings Mountain Herald. We are hoping that this big development at Cleveland Springs will spread into all the regions roundabout and that all the business interests for several miles around will feel the benefit of it. It may prove the beginning of a real estate boom in this section as a backwash from the Florida flurry that is already beginning to burst over the sides. Real estate has been on a standstill here for some time. Prices haven't changed materially but there have been but few transfers.

Truth at The Best (Union Republican)

Judge E. Yates Webb, of the federal court is getting exasperated at certain prohibition agents who speak around and buy a pint of liquor from a man and then turn him up. In one of his recent courts the judge gave one of these secret agents a good talking about such practices and told him to stop fishing for minnows and get some of the big fish higher up. A man that will buy liquor from another for the purpose of getting a case against him, it makes no difference if he is a government agent, is no better than the man that sells the liquor.

PRODIGY AT AGE OF FOUR ENTERS COLLEGE AT FOURTEEN

Berkeley, Cal., Oct. 15.--Matthew Marsh, of this city, who at the age of four was declared by Dr. Maria Montessori, noted educator, to be "the brightest boy in California," has entered the University of California at the age of 14.

Marsh is small for his age and so has been barred from R. O. T. C. ranks, but otherwise he is taking part in all the normal activities of a freshman. In celebration of his admission, Marsh donned his first long trousers.

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA PAPERS THINK OF COLE CASE VERDICT

Charlotte News. The newspapers of North Carolina have spoken with uncommon courage and vigor their opinions about the verdict rendered in the case of W. B. Cole, slayer of W. W. Ormond, in Rockingham.

The vast majority of them have taken positions either of uncompromising opposition against the verdict or favor for it. Some, however, have chosen to straddle the fence in the interest of safety.

The News conceives that it might be of some concern and possibly of some benefit by way of information, at least, to impart an epitome of these editorial expressions to its readers, after having said all that it expects to say on its own responsibility in reference to the affair.

The position The News immediately took and which it now reiterates was that, regardless of the righteousness of the verdict, the really alarming phase of it is the popularity with which it has been received, or, as Judge Finley said it in another way at Wilksboro the other day, the prevalence of sympathy and sentiment in the jury took in the place of the law and the evidence when jurors undertake to decide a case of this kind in which resides the elements of the unwritten law.

"The verdict was not based on either of the pleas advanced by the defense," says The Asheville Citizen, "and simply demonstrates that North Carolina sentiment holds woman's virtue a jewel so precious that one who outrages it by word or physical act, places himself beyond the protection of the law."

The Salisbury Post vigorously enters a disapproval of the verdict "not that we would punish the man," it says, "not that we would establish prejudice or sentiment against a citizen exercising his rights before the courts, not that we would shield the man who sinned grievously against his home and family, but purely and simply because the State and the Nation cannot long survive such miscarriages of justice."

"We have no complaint to make against Cole. He did the right thing to fight for his life and to establish his contention. We have no desire to rap the courts or abuse jurymen. We simply wish to call attention again, once again, to the fact that the preservation of the State, the Nation, of Christian civilization, depends upon holding men responsible for their acts, responsible before the law and before God who said and repeatedly emphasized Thou Shalt Not Kill. We

have come to that day when we must punish men when they step aside and take the law into their own hands and then go before the court with the hope that they may be able to build a defense on a human sentiment which has been so encouraged that it is all but impossible to punish men for their acts."

The jury system lacks a vast deal of perfection, thinks The Raleigh Times, as indicated by this verdict, and goes on to remark that "If, as will be insisted by a large part of the population and as we too, believe, the jury in the Cole case erred its chance to assist in the administration of justice in North Carolina, it did so after much mature deliberation as lay within its capacity. It did so on the belief, however fallacious, that a man's life is of less value than a gently-nurtured woman's reputation. In the sense that reputations are not made or unmade by a few letters, foolish or even vicious remarks, this emphasis is wrong; but it is the sort of thing which characterizes North Carolina folks, and human nature must be changed hereabouts before it receives a new sense of values."

The interpretation which The Winston-Salem Sentinel puts on the verdict is, in the opinion of The News, that which strikes at the widespread favor with which it seems to have been received among the people. "The whole thing comes down to this proposition," it says: "There are certain defenses in murder trials that are definitely sanctioned by the laws of the State. If the number of those defenses is to be increased, or their scope enlarged, then the law should say so. Certainly it does not increase respect for law when there can be the slightest presumption that a verdict in a criminal case was rendered for reasons outside the law. We fear the effect of the verdict rendered Sunday, and rendered, we are sure, by a jury of honorable and upright men."

The verdict is received by The Gastonia Gazette with militant disfavor, that newspaper remarking that "the verdict is a shock to the sense of justice in North Carolina. It is another case of flagrant miscarriage of justice. It is even worse than the Peacock case, and will doubtless end worse than it, for Cole will not have to flee from the State to obtain his liberty."

The Monroe Journal, published in the seat of the county from which the jurymen were chosen, is disposed to defend the verdict and the members of the jury as well. As to the jurymen it announces that: "It is generally

conceded that in point of rectitude of life, in quiet and easy going citizenship, and in all the usual standards by which we are accustomed to account men reputable, and even Christian, the men of this jury compare favorably to any body of men that could have been gathered together by similar means in North Carolina. They are certainly law abiding and have as much respect for law as any body of men would have."

The Journal's conclusions as to the verdict is that "this jury acted not from undue influence, not from the fact that Cole was rich and his victim poor, not because he was not technically guilty of some offense, but because of inherent human impulses that operate on all of us and which would weigh on any other jury that might have been impanelled."

The Asheville Times feels that those who are disposed to criticize the jury must remember that jurors are not automatons for turning out verdicts according to law and evidence. The critics should search their own hearts and, bringing some phrases of the case close home, ask themselves whether under given conditions they would invoke the unwritten law for themselves, or to save one who had appealed to it."

The faith of The Wilmington Star "that the courts are only satisfactory vehicles for redressing wrongs, public or private," is not displaced in spite of the character of the verdict, it says.

"Another legal farce," and "a mockery from the tomb," is what The Winston-Salem Journal calls it. It continues: "How will justice in North Carolina fare midst such a clamor? What haunting mockery comes back from tombs of scores who died at rope's end or in electric chairs in North Carolina who knew not the magic charm of such mystic answers as 'self-defense' and 'transitory insanity'."

It is a verdict, says The News and Observer, "that shocks the State's sense of justice. Those who condone the killing of Bill Ormond, who approve the liberation of his slayer base their opinion on the 'unwritten law' theory. Whenever any man or any set of men, take upon themselves the punishment of an offender, law is flouted and respect for law is decreased, and there is always danger that private vengeance will usurp the place of law."

According to The Hickory Record, The Cole jury blundered. "It had an enlarged and, we believe, a mistaken idea regarding the right of a man to protect his women folk from slander. The protection is granted, but the moral code among men demands that the protector risk his own neck at the hands of the slanderer or assaulter. Brooding over a wrong done to one's daughter for six months and then committing murder in a questionable

fashion does not breed respect for bravery or the law."

"The laws of North Carolina do not warrant or justify the committing of murder for making slanderous remarks," is the way The Shelby Star considers it.

R. R. Clark in his editorial researchings in The Greensboro News thinks, "it is hardly necessary to offer evidence, to those who followed the trail, to sustain the view that the Rockingham jury rendered a verdict not according to the law as it is written, but in response to be more or less general feeling that male members of a family are justified in avenging any stain upon the honor of female members of the family. In other words, Judge Finley, we apply the law according to our feeling, not as the law is laid down. The right of a private vengeance is recognized in the Cole case, as it has been recognized before and will be recognized again; and in that recognition of course we also recognize the righteousness of mob law. Any pretence that the private individual may avenge his wrongs, but that the mob may not avenge the wrongs of individuals who are unable to act for themselves, is inconsistent and the veriest hypocrisy. In order that there may be some sort of equality in the recognition of private vengeance some sort of rule should be established. In the event, for instance there

are no male members of a family to protect the females, the neighbors or other who feel that the wrong should be avenged should be authorized to act in the absence of fathers and brothers. But much depends on the standing of the man who acts as his own avenger. The right of one of previous good character, of social standing and of wealth and influence sufficient to erect a substantial fortification, is more readily recognized in such cases than one in humbler position. The women folks of the proletariat are not considered so much in need of protection, the right of the lowly to avenge their honor is not so readily acknowledged. They may have a grievance equally as great as the man higher up, but their honor is not so highly regarded.

These extracts have been given impartially from the exchanges that have come to the attention of The News since the verdict and they are reproduced merely to give a glimpse of the reaction among the journals of the State which, whether they do or do not, are supposed to reflect public sentiment.

Not many vacationists have changed much, and none of them has much change.

The knock in the motor is plainer when it is idling. This truth has a human application.

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