

PIE DUFOUR'S A La Mode Canal Street But No Canal

Now that Canal st. is about to get another face-lifting it seems appropriate to state for the 101st time that Canal st. was named for a canal that never was dug.

Now this statement is going to produce several effects, despite the fact it has been said, here, and elsewhere, with documentation, often enough to have become an established fact.

There will be people who'll exclaim: "I didn't know that."

There'll be people who will insist they remember when there was a canal on Canal st.

There'll be people who'll offer to show you old pictures to prove that there was a canal under Canal st.

Let's answer these last two quickly before restating the facts. Any canal that anyone remembers, any pictures of such a canal or the filling up of a canal beyond Claiborne st. have nothing to do with the case.

For Canal st. was named for a projected navigation canal which would have linked the Mississippi with the Carondelet canal and thus provide passage for vessels from the river to Lake Pontchartrain and vice versa.

It all began in 1805 when a group of wealthy Orleansians, headed by James Pitot and Julien Poydras, obtained a charter from the Orleans Territory Legislature for the Orleans Navigation Company.

The plan was to dig the canal in the city commons—the disputed land outside the city—from the river to a point where it would make a right angle turn and continue to connect with the turning basin of the Carondelet canal, which is now the present parking lot of Municipal Auditorium. The Carondelet canal, dug by Baron de Carondelet in 1794, had become a neglected ditch which needed widening and deepening for navigational use.

But the dispute over the commons had to be settled first. The city of New Orleans claimed the commons and so did the government. Finally, on March 3, 1807, Congress conferred the title to

the commons on the city, "provided that the corporation shall reserve for the purpose and convey gratuitously for the public benefit, to the company authorized by the Legislature of the Territory . . . as much of the said commons as shall be necessary to continue the Canal of Carondelet from the present basin to the Mississippi, and shall not dispose of, for the purpose of building thereon, any lot within 60 feet of the space reserved for a canal, which shall forever remain open as a public highway . . ."

In May, 1808, the canal company president, James Pitot, wrote a long letter to President Thomas Jefferson. The letter, in part, reads:

"We, the Orleans Navigation Company, with the most profound sentiments of respect, beg leave to approach you, to tender our grateful thanks for the munificent grant made us by government, of the lands necessary to the continuing of the canal Carondelet to the river Mississippi, through the city commons; and also for the assurances conveyed to us by the Honorable Danl Clark, that when the canal shall be so continued, government will defray the expenses of the lock necessary to unite it with the river . . . Our capital is limited . . . to the sum of \$200,000 divided into 2000 shares of \$100 each . . . We beg leave to state to you that we have not the smallest hope of filling up the subscription among the immediate inhabitants of this territory. We find the greatest difficulty in procuring payment of the installments called for; and in many instances have been compelled to resort to the force of laws. It is a melancholy truth that nothing but the unwearying exertions of the directors has prevented the whole undertaking from falling to the ground."

That's exactly what it did and the canal was never dug, but the maps of the day called the space "Route of the Projected Canal." And as the area built up on both sides of the route of the undug canal, what was more natural for the street with the double roadways to be named Promenade du Canal and then Canal st.?



Dufour

On the Political Scene

By FRANK R. KENT

WASHINGTON—It is an ugly and awful thing that in a great country such as this a little demagogue from a relatively unimportant state, who broke faith with the President of the United States, should have been able single-handedly to raise the lid off the most explosive issue that hardly anyone now living can recall, and which once raised cannot easily be controlled. Yet that seems exactly what Gov. Faubus of Arkansas has done.

Quite clearly now, this issue will figure in the short session of this Congress which begins in January. With equal clarity it will be an issue in the congressional campaign of next year and also in the presidential campaign of 1960. There is no way to stop it. Discussion cannot be choked off.

This is not a question upon which "reasonable" men on both sides can "get together" and reach a mutually satisfactory solution. The Northerners and the Northwesterners, who have never lived in the South, where the Negro population is largely concentrated, can never really understand the intensity with which the Southerner approaches this issue.

NOR CAN the true Southerner ever really comprehend or condone the hypocrisy which the white politicians of the North and West displayed for so many years in dealing with this problem.

Of course, the Franklin D. Roosevelt family did not originate this hypocrisy, but it must be admitted that Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt did more to promote and increase it than any others.

It is not worthwhile to repeat here the details of the Roosevelt - Farley - Guffey - Hopkins deal of 1936, when the Negroes were transferred from a basic Republican asset into a Democratic asset—though it is a true story and stamped the Democratic party with an even greater degree of hypocrisy than had previously been exhibited by the Republicans—which was very great, indeed.

Perhaps, however, it is worthwhile to repeat an oft told story about a well-known woman Democratic leader of the North and the Negroes. Some years ago, asked by a friend who did not agree with her on this issue how she would feel if one of her children married a Negro, this lady, it was reported, thought for a moment and then, with a benign smile, replied: "Well, if they were truly in love, I would feel it was all right."

This may not be a true story and certainly this writer does not vouch for its truth. But, if it is not true it ought to be authoritatively denied. For it is a story often told and quite widely credited. Also, it embodies the real fear behind the South's implacable resistance to the school integration provision in the civil rights act. It isn't that in the South, given time, they could not and would not assimilate and eventually co-operate in that idea. The real basis of Southern resistance is that they feel in the South that coeducational integration inevitably tends toward the abolition of all social barriers, particularly of intermarriage, between the races.

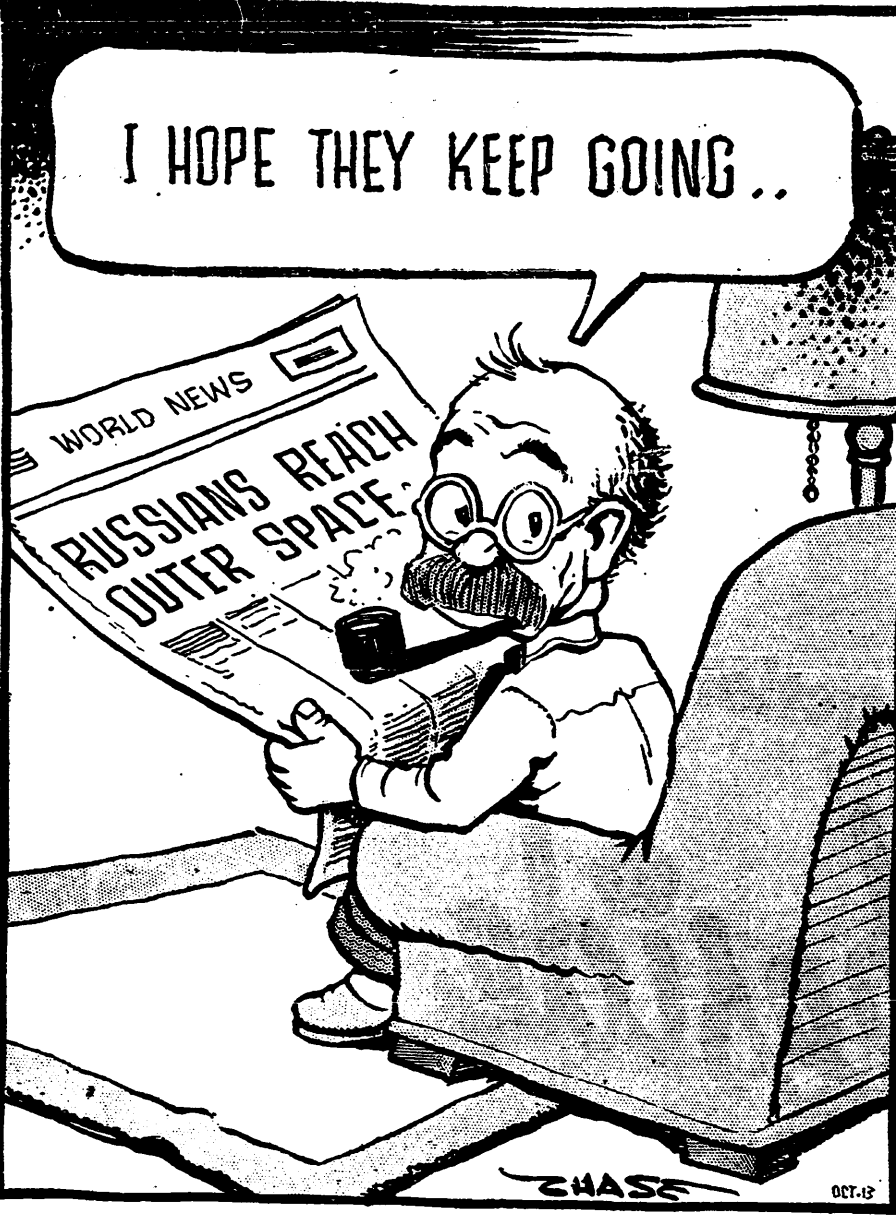
THAT IS a thought deeply repugnant to white men and women of the South. They revolt violently from the idea. And yet that is the root of the whole business and that is why it is so horrible that the racial question should get into politics.

Yet no one can deny that it has now been injected completely into politics—that both parties are "out for the Negro vote," willing to go the limit to get it, clearly understanding that that vote is more or less decisive in many states.

In this space it was said last week that many politicians and political observers were speculating and prophesying as to the effect of the Little Rock tragedy upon the vote in 1958 and 1960—but that no one really knew. In the past few days these speculations have increased in number but not in substance.

For example, Sen. Peter (R-Nich.) who knows little about the South, burst forth with a statement that the Negroes would now vote Republican, having discovered how false was their Democratic friendship. George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO, is inclined to think that they will vote Democratic as usual. Meany is a friend of the ex-convict, Joe Fay, whom he frequently visited while in the penitentiary. Now he is almost ministerial in his purity and is strongly against the evil Hoffa.

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George Gallup — Juvenile Camps

PRINCETON, N. J.—Nearly two out of three adults in the latest American Institute of Public Opinion survey look with favor on a suggestion to send youths over 16, who have dropped out of school and are not working, to youth camps to learn a trade.



Gallup

The establishment of camps for teen-agers, modeled after those of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, has been suggested by several authorities to a second suggestion that youths be allowed to quit school at an earlier age than they do now if they get a full-time job. About eight out of 10 Americans interviewed in today's survey are against such a proposal.

Compass of the News

Editorial Comment from the North, South, East and West

Hits Nail on Head
A federal judge in Louisiana has hit the nail squarely on the head in this matter of tax-free rural electric co-operatives trying to push their service into municipal and industrial areas now being adequately and satisfactorily served by private industry plants.

Judge Ben C. Dawkins Jr., in an opinion involving the Claiborne Parish Electric Co-operative, denied this co-operative a request for damages and an injunction against a private electric power company from supplying electricity to a Claiborne industrial plant.

It is high time for state legislative bodies to say that if these tax-free, unregulated electric co-ops continue to insist on invading urban areas, municipalities and industrial fields, then they are really in the electric power business and must be fully regulated and fully taxed as are our private electric utilities with whom they try to compete.—JACKSON DAILY NEWS.

Right to Work

One of the issues almost certain to come before the 1958 session of the Louisiana Legislature is re-enactment of the right-to-work law. The activities of certain labor leaders are getting a going-over in the limelight these days, and the revelations are shocking. Before that kind of unionism can infect Louisiana, the right-to-work law should be restored. It is the only way to compel the union leaders to behave decently.—HAMMOND VINDICATOR.

Scientific Fact

Lowell Observatory astronomers report that some days the sun isn't as radiant as on others. And some days the flowers aren't as lovely, the birds sing off-key and the grass isn't as green—as anyone who has ever been in love can testify.—SHREVEPORT TIMES.

Unsound Cut

A few weeks ago Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson an-

nounced a 100,000-man slash in the armed forces as an economy move . . . And the so-called economy cut may mean a substantial reduction or even the closing of Fort Polk.

Back in 1954 Fort Polk was closed by the Army. . . . Army activities in this part of the country were to be concentrated at Fort Hood in Texas. Then, when the Army wanted to hold maneuvers in the Fort Hood area it was unable to get land rights from surrounding property owners.

Louisiana agreed to provide the necessary maneuver areas if Fort Polk were reopened. The Army agreed and the maneuvers were held.

A reduction in strength at Fort Polk would be a gross example of false economy. It cost a lot of money to reactivate Fort Polk—money that came out of Army operating funds. Should Fort Polk be reduced in strength or shut down most of the money so spent would be money down the drain.—LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN PRESS.

Whereas the above two questions deal with ways of keeping youths out of trouble, a third question in today's survey concerns treatment of teen-agers who are already in serious trouble—namely those who have been found guilty by a jury of committing a murder.

When those persons in the survey who said they favored the death penalty for persons convicted of murder (47 per cent) were asked if they thought a teen-ager guilty of murder should get the same penalty, the weight of sentiment was that he should be spared because of his youth.

This question was asked of those who said they favored the death penalty for murder in principle:

"When a teen-ager commits a murder and is found guilty by a jury, do you think he should get the death penalty or should he be spared because of his youth?"

The results for those who favor the principle of the death penalty:

TEEN-AGERS WHO COMMIT MURDER
Should get death . . . 15%
Should be spared . . . 23%
Don't know . . . 9%

Favor death penalty in principle . . . 47% (American Institute of Public Opinion)

Pull Up a Chair—by Neal O'Hara

Honk! Honk! Motorists will be happy to know that a new type of highway bus is 60 feet long and has an aerodynamic section in the middle that allows it to bend on curves. Oh, yes; and it has 19 wheels and can turn in a 49-foot radius.

Many victims of skin disorders such as hives, itching and various eruptions have found some relief in the tranquilizing drugs. In that emotional factors often play a part in those afflictions. But your doctor should be consulted first.

For some unknown reason we Americans have apparently lost our sweet tooth. For the past few years we have been consuming 17 pounds of candy per capita annually—down from 20½ pounds, all-time high mark of 1914, the year before the war ended.

Today's favorite gag: A panhandler with a hat in each hand approached Mr. Jones. "What's the idea of two hats?"

he asked. "Oh," explained the panhandler, "business was improving, so I opened a branch office."

Hello, Buster! Jupiter is the largest of the planets, with an equatorial diameter of 88,700 miles. Its mass is 318 times that of the earth.

When it transfers its employees from one city to another, one company not only pays the direct moving costs, but provides up to one month's salary for indirect expenses such as new rugs, drapes and blinds.

Observes a cynic: "Suffering in silence isn't so bad if everybody knows what you are doing."

Coin-operated dispensing machines now vend nails, screws and household hardware in visual packages.

Country editor speaking: "The headlines have Khrushchev and Tito mapping plans—which, at least, isn't as bad as if they were planning maps."

WALTER WINCHELL Why Presley Spurns Cash

Irving Berlin, whose 1957 royalties may reach \$111,000, gets top money. This does not include his earnings from his publishing firm and films. They make his total at least \$2 million. . . . Col. Parker, manager for Presley, reports he spurned guest appearances at \$40,000 per, because "you can't sell Elvis for \$250,000 a picture (plus percentage) if you can see him for free."

Ellington Nov. 22 at the Roosevelt. . . . Gene Courtney's new act opens Oct. 25 at Casino Royal (Washington) on the bill with the Vagabonds. . . . 20th Century-Fox may win the movie rights to "My Fair Lady." . . . Mrs. Mike Todd steals the three-hour "Raintree County" picture, according to locals back from Louisville where it was unveiled. Her "mad" scenes, they add, rate an Oscar. . . . Lauren Bacall plays only Sinatra's recordings in her undressing-room between takes. . . . Corn is growing on the terrace next door to the Overseas Press Club on East 39th.



Winchell

SALLIES IN OUR ALLEY: Len Matt relays the one about the three little Minks who wondered what was going to happen to them. . . . Said the first: "I want to be a stole." . . . Said the second: "I want to be a coat." . . . To which the third giggled: "Whatever happens, we'll all meet at Miami Beach!" . . . Meredith Anderson's memo: "From all the publicity given to Mike Todd's big party, you'd think it wasn't deductible!"

ROULETTE NOVELLETTE: Mrs. L. Wellborn Green, 83, passed on at Beverly Hills, Calif., the other day. . . . One of the wealthiest women in the world. . . . Her husband sub-divided Beverly Hills, which gives you an idea. . . . They named it after their home in the East—Beverly Farm. . . . Recently a son-in-law remarked that he was going to Las Vegas on business. . . . Mrs. Green handed him \$10 and instructed him to put it on her "lucky" number. . . . It came up—paying 35 to 1. . . . \$350. . . . Her "lucky" number was 13. . . . Confirming the Loser's Lament: "The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Children."

MEMOS of a Midnighter: The owners of the Beverly Hills hotel rejected \$10 million for the hotel (and property) last week. Four years ago they paid \$5.5 million for it. . . . They say Hal March's first starring film "Hear Me Good" got lusty applause at a preview in Stamford. . . . Steve Allen will emcee the Freedom Fund dinner honoring Branch Rickey and Duke

TIMES SQUARE Circle: Hazel Dawn, Broadway star in the yesteryear ("Pink Lady"), is the charming TV department receptionist at the J. Walter Thompson Agency. . . . Sonia Shaw, who shied thrashing to wed a Canadian millionaire, has shed him. Her next groom will be another Canadian mint. . . . Security is even possible in TV. Theo Goetz just started his ninth year in CBS' "The Guiding Light" . . . "Look Back in Anger" came to Broadway without one party sale and less than \$5000 advance. It looks like a hit. . . . Bob Haymes is doing the boites with Blossom Dearie. . . . Ex-star Margie Hart, who waits on the celebs at the Beverly Hills shop, owns it.

WESTBROOK PEGLER Do We Deserve Sappy Songs?

Self and wife got roped into this deal, the Earlys wanted us to come over, they were having this celebrity, I never heard of the bum, he used to be in the office of information, something like that down in Egypt or somewhere. He speaks French fluently.

Dreamie said oh, come on, Pop, we can get there by half-past seven and leave by 10 so for two hours and a half you can stand a lot of things.

So we went over to the Earlys. Well, after a while, pretty soon this guy was talking about the beautiful American culture. Pegler I thought that sounded pretty darn patriotic, he said the great spirit of America is expressed in the singing of the masses.

The guy said let me write a nation's songs and I do not care who writes the laws. Dreamie said well, excuse me all to pieces, sir, but that is the cockeyed proposition I ever heard, if you will excuse the expression.

The guy said, ha-ha, that is very diverting, but Madam, I was merely speaking in a manner of speaking.

I said, listen friend, keep the punches up, the name is Mrs. Spelvin or maybe you would like to meet me out on the lawn.

The guy said well, I am delighted to meet you Mr. Spelvin, I hope I have not said anything that could be taken amiss. I said well just the same, keep the punches up, the name is Mrs. Spelvin. Dreamie said anybody can write a darn sappy love song, they are so sappy when I hear the radio I want to sometimes go and hide my head and be ashamed that Americans sing such stuff. Like, quote, you

made life cheery when you called me doozy, gee whizz, she said, of all the mush. The guy said but Mrs. Spelvin it is the beautiful innocent sentiment.

Dreamie said yes, a lot of beautiful innocent burns boozing it up in some back room 50 years ago and now they tell us they were sentimental. Or, quote, Mobile bay, where you stole my heart away. She said was you ever on Mobile bay?

She said my husband went there one spring, he got a try-out with Detroit. The heat was terrible, don't talk to him about Mobile bay.

I said heck no. Or Dixie-land, either.

The guy said well Night Time in Dixieland is kind of simple and plain but it certainly is another great old honest American favorite. Dreamie said well I wasn't even born yet but my Uncle Bud used to put me to sleep with that thing only he put me unconscious instead. She said if a nation can stand for that more than 50 years, maybe we deserve it.

The guy said deserve what? Dreamie said deserve the darn laws we got, the income tax, the foreign relief, the draft law, laws so you can go to jail one year for smoking in the courtroom for contempt of court. She said heck you couldn't even get a year for smoking in a church but smoking in a dirty old courtroom is contempt of some judge. She said Mister, you go ahead and write all the dopey, dumb songs you want but let me write the laws and I will own the whole place in no time at all. Look at Stalin. How about Hitler? Did they write songs? (© 1957, King Feature Syndicate, Inc.)