

EDITORIAL WEIMAR JONES, Editor

Would It?

"The law is what the Supreme Court says it is", we are told.

We are told, too, that good citizenship demands respect for the courts and obedience to the law.

Well, if the Supreme Court should rule that black is white, or that two and two make five, would that, then, become "the law of the land"?

And would good citizenship require that all of us become color blind and revise our arithmetic?

Our Best Manners

Our best mountain manners to the folks responsible for last week's county fair. If everybody got a bouquet who deserves one, the florist business would boom. For it was an extraordinary event, and it was made possible by the cooperation and hard work of a lot of people.

Congratulations to the officials of the Macon County Fair Association — Mr. Bryant McClure, chairman, Mr. Siler Slagle, vice-chairman, Mrs. Lawrence Patton, secretary, and Miss Marie Jennings, treasurer; to the personnel of the Extension office; to Mr. Wayne Proffitt and his F. F. A. boys, who did a lot of the labor; to the businessmen whose generous support made the fair financially possible; and to the many others who helped.

What made the fair exceptional was the high quality that marked every phase of it. Nobody who hasn't experienced it can guess the imagination, the patience, the skill, and the hours of time that went into those excellent booths. And the individual exhibits won the praise of out-of-county visitors as being as fine as they had seen at any fair.

It is quality, in anything, that counts. And, judged by that standard, the people of Macon County have built here, in a period of three years, something that should make us all proud.

Encouraging Signs

For several years now, a considerable segment of the American public has been indulging in a binge of emotionalism about matters relating to race. The self-righteousness that pervades the air is reminiscent of the prohibition campaign of the Anti-Saloon League and the abolitionist extremists of an even earlier day.

Examination of any week's newspapers will reveal a score or more of illustrations of this crusading fervor. But to cite just three instances—recent cases in which this unreasoning fervor was carried over even into official action:

The Pentagon's riot alert to all army units in the South; a federal court's ruling invalidating an old will that provided funds for a school in Philadelphia for poor white boys — because a public official was a trustee of the fund, the court ruled, Negroes must be admitted; and the tendency toward thought-control indicated by the re-writing of the Stephen Foster songs and the barring of Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" from the New York schools.

Well, here and there are signs that the pendulum may have started back. The letter, reprinted from The Christian Science Monitor, at the bottom of this page, and the editorial from a New Hampshire newspaper seem encouraging signs that hysteria may be giving way to returning sanity.

A NEWCOMER'S VIEW

South Has Both Desire And Ability To Cope With Its Race Problem

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following appeared recently in The Christian Science Monitor, in the form of a letter to the editor. Signed by Robin Black, of New Orleans, it seems significant as presenting the viewpoint of a non-Southerner, after he has been in the South long enough to have a good look at the problem presented by two races living side by side.)

As a comparative newcomer to the Deep South, I am continually impressed with the desire and ability of the Southern people to cope with the race problem. This problem is not new; it has existed in various phases since 1819. The South has adjusted itself to past changes and is making an honest effort to adapt itself to present developments and provide for the future.

During the past three years, I have talked with many Negroes in New Orleans and other parts of the South regarding their views on integrated schools. Most have

been willing to express themselves. Of the Negroes I questioned, about 60 per cent thought their children were happier by themselves, and 40 per cent thought it didn't matter. At no time did I talk with a Negro who insisted upon mixing with white people for arbitrary reasons.

Regardless of whether they prefer separate schools or think it doesn't matter, Negroes agree on one point: they insist that their schools be as good as ours. To this, they have an unquestionable right. Give them equal facilities and the situation will largely take care of itself.

In general, Negroes are no more anxious to mix with us socially than we are to mix with them. Basically, they want four things: equal pay for equal work, decent housing conditions, education for their children, and some kind of financial security for their old age. They have a right to these things, and are getting them increasingly. In the last analysis, these are primarily what everyone else wants, too.

New Orleans has no zoning restrictions against Negroes; they

Who Isn't Handicapped?

It not only is unfair and unchristian to cast aside as worthless the elderly and the handicapped, as has long been the custom in this country. It is stupidly wasteful.

Fortunately, something is being done about using the talents of the handicapped, as observance of this as Employ the Handicapped Week indicates.

Perhaps the best way for all of us to learn to look sanely at the so-called handicapped is to ask ourselves: Who is not handicapped? For how many of us have perfect eyesight, or perfect hearing, or perfect speech? How many of us have bodies without defect? And which of us does not suffer from some mental or emotional handicap—if no other, a feeling of inferiority, or the even more fatal malady of over-rating ourselves?

Bayonet No Cure

(Manchester, N. H. Union Leader)

You can't teach mutual respect and liking between black and white at the end of a bayonet. You cannot solve the Negro problem in the United States by the use of paratroopers.

This newspaper abhors and detests un-American and un-Christian discrimination against Negroes, which takes place in the North as well as the South. But you cannot force Whites to associate with Blacks by the use of court decrees any more than it was possible to solve the deplorable habit of excessive drinking by passing the Prohibition Law.

At the time of the Supreme Court decision, which smashed the South's old-age practice of teaching Whites and Negroes in separate schools, this newspaper warned, in an editorial entitled "Fire Starting In The South," of the tragic consequences of the decision. Before the Supreme Court decision, there had been over many years a gradual improvement in race relations in the South. Lynchings had all but disappeared, Negroes were being admitted to professional schools throughout most of the South, Negro doctors were being invited to join Southern medical societies, and the economic condition of the Negro had been vastly improved.

Progress was being made—too slowly, but definitely in the right direction—toward mutual self-respect between Blacks and Whites.

Then came the segregation decision by Eisenhower's Supreme Court. This attempt to use force, to use the courts to change overnight race relations which had been a way of life in the South for generations stopped peaceful evolution of racial harmony right in its tracks.

Even then, it was not too late, but the Republicans, hungry for the Negro vote in the North, would not let the decision rest. They had to use force, with the tragic and terrible results before us today.

A secret Communist could not have planned it better, Eisenhower's Administration has turned the clock back decades on a problem going back to the Civil War days.

Behind the show of virtue, either sincere or self-serving, the Administration has not only brought us a stark tragedy in human relations, but seems determined to use paratroopers to destroy the right of the several States, as guaranteed by the Constitution, to handle their own affairs.

Under the excuse of attempting to solve the race problems, has not the Federal Government moved closer to a dictatorship?

Letters

A Good Amendment

Dear Editor:

In spite of the history of the 14th Amendment it is a good and indispensable part of our Constitution. The Supreme Court, I feel, possibly read more into it than its language warrants. People have done the same thing to the Bible, yet who would repeal the Bible?

I re-read the Amendment after reading your editorial. The editorial was sound. I have no quarrel with what it said.

Even so, if we had no such amendment today, we would have to write one. I believe it would have been a part of the original document had it not been for that alien institution of slavery which should never have had a part in a free country. Interpreters of our Constitution have been fallible men. This is no fault of the document. To me, the 14th Amendment is an inspired statement and God help us should we ever reject its guarantees.

JACK CARPENTER.

Dahlonaga, Ga.

Praise For Hospital

Dear Mr. Jones:

May I speak a word of praise for Angel Hospital. I have been hospitalized for numbers of days in three of North Carolina's outstanding hospitals. I received excellent care in each. However, none of these surpasses Angel Hospital and the care I have had since my admittance August 3 for treatment for a broken leg.

I was here only a few hours before I began to realize the

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Strictly Personal By WEIMAR JONES

Since when, and why, has the letter "h" become disreputable?

It must have become so considered, because a growing number of people, especially younger people, are slurring their h's, or leaving them out entirely.

All you have to do is just listen to people say such words as "when" and "where" and "why". More and more, those words are coming out of people's mouths as "wen" and "were" and "wy".

Just as striking is the way we're forgetting that there's a difference

between the pronunciation of "oo" and "ew". A double o, of course, properly has a sound like "ou" as in "too", "shoot", or "choose".

On the other hand, "ew" is almost two syllables; it has the sound of "eu", as in "few" and "mew" and "stew".

But listen, and you'll hear a constant repetition of "Noo York" and "noos", and many others.

These two are neither Southernisms nor mountainisms, and surely we in the South and the mountains have enough bad speech habits without going outside and importing new ones!

makes them a thousand times worth while.

Looking for something in an old issue of The Franklin Press, one day last week, I ran across a little editorial deploring the fact that parents no longer taught their children to say "sir" and "ma'am". The piece concluded by remarking that "a genuine show of respect and courtesy does something to the person showing those attitudes" — something beneficial.

I glanced at the top of the page; the time was 1950, seven years ago. By now, I thought, most children have never even heard those two forms of address.

Imagine my surprise, therefore, at what happened when I had occasion, that same evening, to call a friend. A pleasant boy's voice answered the telephone, and when I asked if I might speak to his father, the courteous reply came promptly:

"Yes, sir!"

Maybe we're getting back to politeness, even from children.

I like this, reminiscent of the days when the railroad station was an important point in every town. It is from The State magazine's "Watch Your Language!" column, by W. P. S.

"My favorite darkey-ism is: 'Littler de station, bigger de agent.'"

Where does that old expression, "poor as Job's turkey", come from, and what does it mean? Matter of fact, did they even have turkeys in the days of Job? Rather, did they have 'em in Job's country? For the turkey, as we know it today, originated in America, a then-undiscovered country.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1892)

The frost on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings of last week killed an abundance of cane and injured some corn. J. A. Porter, the shoe drummer, shouldered his grips Thursday morning and resumed his circuit.

The old Liberty Bell left Philadelphia on the 4th, and reached Atlanta (for the Atlanta Exposition) yesterday. Miss Allie Caler, while digging in the yard a few days ago at the residence of A. P. Munday at Aquone, dug up a five dollar gold coin of date of 1830.

25 YEARS AGO (1932)

Macon County is to receive \$450 out of the first allotment of federal emergency relief funds in North Carolina. Alfred Daves, Nantahala farmer, reported last week discovery of theft of between \$900 and \$1,000, which he had hidden in a barn.

Decision to employ a county welfare worker has been reached by the County Commissioners and the County Board of Education. Miss Rachael Davis, of Highlands, has been tentatively employed.

10 YEARS AGO

E. J. Whitmire, S. W. Mendenhall, W. E. Baldwin, and Carl Slagle left Friday for an extended tour of the Western states.

The Franklin Town Board Monday night decided to hire Herman Childers as a full-time water superintendent, at a salary of \$175 per month.

The County Board of Education is considering re-naming the school at Franklin, and decided at Monday's meeting to ask for name suggestions from the public.

DON'T 'MAKE' NEWS

Newspapers Just Publish What Happens

(Miss Beatrice Cobb in Morganton News-Herald)

Frequently newspaper people hear the criticism that only sensational news makes the headlines—that the good and worthy things that happen rarely get into print. People who voice these views have likely never taken the trouble to think seriously about the charges they are preferring against newspapers. The answer to the "complaint" is that newspapers don't make the news—they just print it, the good, when it is that, as well as the bad. Certainly no critic of newspapers can charge that Billy Graham's New York "Crusade" has not "made" the newspapers in New York—and throughout the nation—in a big way. He has truly "made" news in New York this summer.

I read a story recently which is apropos to this subject of good and bad news. It seems that a ship anchored off an island in the Pacific Ocean had sent a boat in to rescue a man who had been stranded on the dot of land for a long time. When the boat reached shore, one of the sailors told the man the captain had sent him some newspapers. The weather-beaten man was puzzled and asked why the captain was interested in having him read what was going on in the world. "He wasn't quite sure whether you'd want to be rescued after you had read them," the sailor replied.

The tendency of most of us is to become disheartened and cynical when we read about the horror, corruption, immorality, brutality and death spreading over the earth.

Worse still we find ourselves wishing we could withdraw to a fanciful "desert island" and thus escape the unpleasant realities of life.

Just reading about bad news or good news, whatever the days bring forth will not within itself change the fundamental principles and nature of any human being.

are free to live wherever they can buy or rent. They are all over the city, within a few blocks of the best residential sections and educational institutions. On the other hand, there are many new housing projects exclusively for them, and some of the newest and most modern public schools are in neighborhoods that are solidly Negro.

It is true that we have Negro slums in the South — both urban and rural; we also have white slums. There are slums for people of both races in other parts of the United States. Unfortunately, we shall probably continue to have them — we cannot force people to rise above their level.

Children are naturally democratic, and if they go to school together, eat lunch together, belong to the same clubs and play on the same teams, it is difficult for them to understand why they shouldn't also go to parties together. Herein is the point on which white parents, both North and South, agree — they don't want Negroes "dating" their children. Other sections apparently do not know where to draw the

line; the South does, and draws it before the situation becomes dangerous. All Southerners draw the line at exactly the same place; it is a subject on which they are unanimous. It is the only safe stand, and the only one that will work.

This phase of coping with the problem — knowing just how far to go in personal associations is where Southerners have the advantage over white people in other parts of the country. The technic of living side by side but separately, of mutually respecting each other's right to a place in the sun without becoming intimate, is something that has developed logically as a result of nearly 350 years of close association.

Many of my friends in the North who are loudest in their denunciations of the South admit that they have never been south of the Mason-Dixon line. People who are closest to any problem know more about it than anyone else; and since it is the Southerners and their children who will live with it, they should be permitted to work out the integration problem among themselves.