

Bible Thought Of The Week

We make a mistake if we think of Jesus as a social outsider. To be sure, it was the "poor" who heard Him gladly, and most of His close disciples were men and women of the lower classes. But there was a time

when He was quite popular in Jerusalem. The story of His days is dotted with these phrases.... "A certain ruler desired him that he should eat with him," or "They desired him greatly to remain and he abode two days."

Editorial Viewpoint

Why Do We Want Loudness?

Our environmental noises on the average are annoying enough to cause hearing defects, but why most so many of us make unnecessary noise?

Take an average day of noise and here is what can be observed:

- 1. Hot-rod cars are made to produce loud motor noise just to give youths the feeling that they are being seen and heard.
2. Hi-fi appliances and record players are turned on to the top-volume notch. The music is so loud that people conversing must yell at one another.
3. Out-of-tune diesel engine trailers, called "big jobs," thunder along highways in a nerve-racking way.
4. Unbridled factories produce human deafness within a few years, and outside of them the peace and calm of the area are annoying.
5. In ordinary living-room conversation, the people yell at one another instead of conversing with one another.
Sound has two characteristics: frequency (pitch or tone) and intensity (loudness). The latter is measured in decibels abbreviated db.
Within the last twenty years, there have been numerous studies on the

effect of upon the human body, especially the ears. To give an approximate idea of the loudness of sound, a light rustle of a leaf in the tree is about 10 db., while the noise level in a quiet home is about 45 db.

A garbage disposal truck make noise ranging from 80 to 95 db., and an airplane engine, of course, much higher.

Not including explosions, the range of sound the human ear can tolerate is enormous, the loudest sounds being billions of times as great as the least sound which can be heard. But there is a limit to this accommodation by the ear.

Long, prolonged exposure to noise above 85 db., comparable to that made by the jet commercial planes, is felt to produce permanent hearing losses. Employees in a noisy environment may not be able to hear much at the end of the day, but by morning the hearing is back to nearly normal.

More and more factories and industry are becoming aware that the noise level is important and should be kept at a safe level. But what should we do about owners of automobiles that make loud noise just to appeal to the vanity of the drivers?

'Skeletal Closet Door' May Expose Sins

At an unexpected time, the public becomes horrified at the revelation of the misdeeds of men in high offices. We can never forget the Tea Pot Dome scandal, the Whisky Ring during President Grant's administration, the Adam Clayton Powell, II, exposure, the Senator Dodd revelation, and many others which time prevents listing.

There is a well-known injunction: "Be sure your sins won't find you out."

Then there came along the Edward Kennedy incident, a product of circumstances seemingly turned by Fate. Now Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina is held up like a light upon a hill but not hidden.

Life magazine, in a widely-publicized article, entitled "Strom's Little Acres," reported that the scrub timber acreage along an Interstate highway cost Thurmond, and his former law partner, District Judge Charles E. Simons, Jr., \$14,533 and acre in 1953. They were paid

\$492 an acre from the public treasury for this land, while other land owners got an average of about \$200 an acre.

The magazine does not contend that the two men exerted political influence to obtain a profit, but indicated that if these two men were given any favored treatment by South Carolina highway officials without any prodding, the public has a right to know about it. And South Carolina officials have a duty to bring a halt to the practice.

We were informed by news media that the location of a bridge site was changed by South Carolina highway officials in 1967 so it now "nick the corner" of property owned by Thurmond on the banks of the Saluda River, inevitably increasing the value of the property.

This will be an interesting case for the public to watch, and who knows what "skeletal closet" might be opened to the public?

Virgin Birth: Biblical Controversy

We hear so much about the virgin birth among religious adherents that the controversy is easily comprehended. Yet the term "virgin birth" is specifically mentioned in only two of the New Testament's 27 books (St. Matthew 1:18-25 and St. Luke 1:34-35).

These ten verses provoke more theological discussion than perhaps anything else in the Bible.

In Germany, for example, Catholic scholar Hubertus Halbfas was recently removed from a number of prestigious teaching positions and censured by the German Catholic Church's Commission for Faith and Morals. Professor Halbfas refused to recant his expressed conviction that "the virgin birth of Jesus does not testify to the faith as a biological fact."

The case pitted German's generally liberal Catholic hierarchy against Catholic faculties of the Universities of Tubingen, and Munster, among others virgin supported Halbfas.

Toronto's famed theologian Rev. Gregory Baum feels that the virgin birth is symbolic in these words: "The Virgin Mary, then, stands for the virgin Israel, in whom and from whom the universal redeemer was given to the world."

Protestant scholar Rev. George Hedley, retired chaplain of Mills College, points out that "the doctrine of the virgin birth was probably unknown to Christians of the first generation and certainly its statement was not necessary to the preaching of the Christian faith in Christ."

The Christian community thought of the first century reported Jesus as Joseph's son. Thus, we are not taking sides as the dispute continues.

Only In America

BY HARRY GOLDEN

The Jewish New Year, 5730, was celebrated this year on September 14. The Day of Atonement on September 22. The ancient World of the Greeks lasted about 400 years, then lapsed into silence, never to regain its former glory.

The Babylonians, Hittites, Phoenicians, Greeks, Persians, Romans and Philistines, all had their hour of greatness and then sank into silence or total darkness.

But the Hebrews appear to possess the same vitality today that they had in the days of their prophets, the same vigor that they exhibited even during the period of captivity in Babylon; and the Day of Atonement, which Jews everywhere in the world also observe may be one of the reasons for a vigor that has never diminished.

The idea of the Day of Atonement, which has played an important role in Judaism's daughter religions, Christianity and Islam, established the concept of a reconciliation with God as the result of sincere repentance and the purification of mankind. The object lesson was carefully worded.

"If one says, 'I will sin,' and the Day of Atonement will bring me forgiveness, the Day of Atonement will bring him no forgiveness, for the sins of

man against God, the Day of Atonement atones; but for sins against man's neighbor, it does so only after one has first been reconciled to Him."

Thus the idea of an atonement, unknown to the great civilizations of Greece, Rome, and countless others, may very well have been the agency for the religious and moral regeneration that has resulted in an unbroken tie with history for four thousand years.

It is furthermore a day of prayer. Prayer is a religious ritual which confers the mantle of human dignity upon men. The foundation of the Jewish religion rests upon the assumption that each single human is supremely important.

The Jews are not unique in having a day set aside for prayer. Indeed every major religion has such a day. Moslems make a pilgrimage to Mecca, Christians have Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas.

When students came up to Carl Sandburg after a lecture and asked him how to become a writer, he always answered, "All you need is a bit of solitude and a bit of prayer."

Prayer is man's best avenue to God. It is his best avenue because it teaches each man he has a personal relationship with his Creator.

Jest For Fun

BY MARCUS H. BOULWARE

REPOSSESSION

A man who was taken into court for nonsupport of his wife explained it to the judge: "I was hoping her father would repossess her."

SODDEN THOUGHT

Memory is the thing that suddenly tells a man that his wedding anniversary was yesterday.

We have heard that money isn't everything and doesn't bring happiness. But it would be nice to find out for your-

self. (That's the God's truth.) LABOR MARKET

A labor survey reveals that more wives are returning to work so they can afford to buy those new labor saving devices, which give them the time and freedom to go to work.

MOON DUST

Samples of moon dust collected by American Apollo astronauts weigh less than one millimeter. Better be careful about sneezing around this kind of dust.

Other Editors Say..

STAY IN SCHOOL

School houses have reopened once again for the fall semester. All over America enrollments are undoubtedly higher than ever because the student load is greater. Unfortunately our schools will not close next spring with an enrollment equivalent to what it was on opening day. To be sure there will be those who will relocate, others who will become too ill to continue and even some untimely deaths. The greatest deduction, however, will come from those who are usually termed "drop-outs."

Stay in school is not a trite statement. It is, therefore, not routinely given just to have something to say. It is perhaps the most helpful advice that can be given to a person of school age.

Dropping out of school without being forced to because of health, is the serious mistake, - the most serious that a student can make. In today's scheme of things a high school diploma is the least educational attainment that one can afford to have. Even with it and without specialized training ones has difficulty fitting in to this world of automation and new skills. Without it, life is almost disastrous because a dropout practically destroys his whole future and relegates himself to the scrapheap of that faceless crowd of unemployed, untrained and poverty-stricken.

Not all high school students can go to college. In fact only about 30 or 35 per cent are able to. This means that the 65 to 70 per cent who do not get beyond high school must make the most of their training and use it to become gainfully employed. Without a high school diploma one has very little to look forward to because employment conditions have changed in this age of skills and high competition. Stay in school and you will be glad you did for the rest of your life.

BUILDING TRADES DESEGREGATION

No field of endeavor--no

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AN INTEGRATION RETREAT!

"THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE PRESIDENT, ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL, SECRETARY FINCH - THE WHOLE ADMINISTRATION IN FACT - BUCKLED UNDER PRESSURE FROM SEN. JOHN STENNIS OF MISSISSIPPI"

"WOULDN'T IT BE AWFUL" SAID RAMSEY CLARK "IF THIS WAS STENNIS CASHING IN HIS ABM CHIPS?"



Economic Highlights

BY GORDON B. HANCOCK

In retrospect, it now appears almost inevitable that the United States should have been first among nations to land human beings on the moon. This is because, as one of the youngest of the family of nations, the people of the U. S. are by nature frontiersmen. Through most of our history, countless Americans lived with an intimate consciousness of the geographical frontier that lay to the West--toward the Pacific Ocean. As the decades passed, this frontier diminished and disappeared. But, the heritage it left--the desire to constantly seek new frontiers--has continued to live on. The boundless energy of the frontier seekers turned to science and technology. The moon landing was the result, and it is being hailed as a vast new frontier--geographic as well as technological. The quest of the American mind for another frontier of vast dimensions has been realized.

To many, the moon landing is the greatest bequest that we can pass on to future generations. Americans who thrive on frontiers now have one that reaches into limitless space--a frontier without end. There are some who question this concept of the moon landing. One of the skeptics is Mr. C. P. Snow. Writing in Look magazine, he expresses the belief that rather than liberating the human imagination, the moon landing may do just the opposite. He believes it may end by giving the human race a feeling of claustrophobia. He believes we will find that the distances in the universe are so great that we will once and for all realize that we are prisoners of a single small planet surrounded by an insurmountable hostile vastness that no human can ever penetrate. He points out, "The horizon is limited because of the size of the universe and the slowness of human lifetime. . . the human imagination is going to be restricted--as to an extent it was when the last spots on the globe had been visited, the South Pole and the summit of Everest. Nowhere on earth for adventurous man to go. . . it would take the entire history of mankind from paleolithic

man to the present day to traverse--at the speed of Apollo 11--the distance to the nearest star. So that the frontier is closed."

It is unlikely that this depressing appraisal of space exploration will deter future generations. At any rate, for the present we have the moon to think about, and it may not be as sterile a proposition as a lot of people think. The moon vacuum--lack of atmosphere--lunar extremes of temperature, the rays of the sun and lunar minerals may turn the moon into a very practical discovery. Scientists point out that certain manufacturers may find the moon economically irresistible. Industries that to great expense on earth to create "hard" vacuums for the production of such things as electronic tubes, computer components and hearing aids, would find the moon as ideal site for plants. Moreover, scientists believe the natural resources of the moon might even include water that can be extracted from lunar rock, thus making moon colonies of humans virtually self-sufficient. It may also be possible by using solar rays to release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere of a covered garden where algae could be produced in water, thus providing a source of protein for human consumption, as well as the production of need oxygen.

On the less mundane side, the value of the moon to future astronomers is inestimable. Giant telescopes could be trained from the airless moon's surface on distant galaxies extending man's vision of the universe many thousands of times. Astronomers have even pointed out that lunar craters could be lined with chicken wire, thus making ideal reflectors for radio telescope. Regardless of theoretical arguments concerning the ultimate impact of the moon landing on the human race, the here and now fact seems to be that it has fired the imagination of most people and constitutes the kind of a frontier environment, which in the past, has always provided a foundation for great achievements.

World News Digest

BY NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

MEDIVORE

LIBREVILLE, Gabon--The Republic of Gabon has been asked by Nigerian chief of state, Maj. Gen. Yakubu Gowon, to act as liaison between the federal government and Biafra, in order to arrange a meeting of the two leaders of the warring sides to work out a peaceful settlement. Gabon's President, Albert-Bernard Bongo noted that he thought his country has a responsibility to intervene and said, "It is time for the two men from now on to understand each other, to find a satisfying solution for Nigeria and Biafra."

NOT LIKE OTHERS

NASSAU--The Bahamas will not fall victim to the "strife that has caused such tragedy in other developing countries," according to Arthur A. Foulkes, minister of tourism and telecommunications, recently. He noted that the government and the people are "determined to continue our development. . . without violence. It is our intention, with the help of God, to build a society where people of different races and cultural backgrounds live and work together as brothers for the good of all."

MADAME PRESIDENT

UNITED NATIONS--For 15 years, Miss Angie Elizabeth Brooks, 41-year-old Libertarian law-

accountancy assistant in 1964, he is in line for promotion to the position of group accountant. . . and alumna of Shaw University, Raleigh, served her country's interests well as its diplomatic representative to the United Nations. Last week, she capped all her past performances in the UN by winning by a vote of 113-5 the election as president of the 24th General assembly. She has, in the past, been a member of the Trusteeship committee; president of the Trusteeship council, while also holding a post as assistant secretary of state in her homeland.

WANTS TO SWITCH

JOHANNESBURG--A 20-year-old white woman who wants to marry a Chinese, has petitioned the South African courts for reclassification as Colored. Under the country's segregationist laws, it is an offense for people of different colors to live together. The couple --Miss Susan Schoeman, and the man, Henry May, 33, have already lived together for more than four years, and have three children.

CHARTERED TREASURER

LUSAKA, Zambia--Zambia has its first fully qualified chartered treasurer in Oswald F. Sikazwe, 24, who recently completed examinations at the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants in England. A member of the Ndola City council, which he joined as a pupil

against employment of Negro workers as a policy."

Hopefully the building trade unions will now begin to see the light and move forward, significantly. If not, then we recommend that those who are responsible for the building, the owners, who are engaging these craftsmen, be they representative of the government or private enterprise, take the position of Robert Harlan, three years ago, as a Washington spokesman for the General Services Administration. Mr. Harlan was called upon to settle a crisis at a

Federal Building project in East St. Louis-- a city which has 70 per cent Negro population. The project was being picketed by civil rights groups who turned were counter-picketed by the angry building trade unions. Faced with this crucial situation Harlan didn't mince words but gave the prime contractor a clear ultimatum to wit: "Sir, you will have Negroes in every craft union involved on the project within ten days or lose the contract."

The report is that from that hectic 1966 experience, that by working day and night and

through joint apprenticeship committees for each of the unions, the prime contractor met Harlan's goal because as he said "none of us wanted to see bloodshed. We felt it was a matter of survival."

It is time now to end bigotry in the building trades in our nation. Construction companies and building trades craftsmen are called upon to comply with our government's promise to provide every citizen with a full, unfettered, equal opportunity. THE LOUISVILLE DEFENDER.