

Some weeks ago at Sunday School, Mr. C. D. Forney Sr. made a short talk on the subject, "Appreciation". It was a splendid talk and so impressed some of his listeners that we asked him to write the following article, feeling sure that you boys would also appreciate his thoughts on "Appreciation."

APPRECIATION

by

C. D. Forney, Sr.

"My copy of 'Hot Off the Hoover Rail' is so much appreciated." This expression has been used so many times by the boys and girls in service in writing to the Staff of "Hot Off the Hoover Rail". "Appreciate" is a familiar word and it is easy to imagine the thought or meaning which those writing meant to convey.

It may be interesting to investigate Webster on the meaning of "appreciate" -- Webster says: "To set a just value on: To esteem to the full the worth of." It can well be imagined that the Staff of "Hot Off the Hoover Rail" reciprocate and "Esteem to the full the worth of" all those letters of appreciation.

As we all journey along through this world we are prone to take many things for granted and we are dissatisfied when everything is not served to us on a silver platter. We neglect to exercise our appreciation and this neglect in many cases is caused by our failure to measure the forces -- the toil, the sacrifices and the service lying behind the accomplishments. It may be well for us here in America to pause and take time to look back into the past and review some of the things for which we should be thankful and appreciative.

It should be our desire and aim "To set a just value on Things Eternal", the world in which we live with all its natural wonder, the God who created it and the Love which caused Him to send His only begotten son to die on the cross and become a Redeemer for lost mankind. Do we take this all for granted or are we deeply and humbly appreciative. We should be.

Do we take time "To set a just value on" America the land in which we dwell, or the spirit which led our forefathers to this country seeking religious and political freedom. Have we ever "Placed a just value on", the service and devotion displayed by the patriots in founding this country and writing and setting forth the fundamental laws on which this Republic is founded? Do we accept this fact as something that was due to be handed us on a silver platter, or are we deeply and genuinely appreciative of our great country?

Have we taken time "To set a just value on" the true statesmen who have charted the course of this nation from its infancy to date?

Have we taken time "To set a just value on" the devoted men and women who have labored through the years to carry the gospel of the Lord Jesus to our land and beyond the seas and who have striven to build a Christian America? May we not bow our heads in humble appreciation of this service.

We must not forget "To set a just value on" the scientific and mechanical achievement of the men and women who have labored to make this country a better place in which to live. "To set a just value on" the teachers and instructors who have trained the youth of this land to be the leaders of the great country it is today.

May we not in these trying times forget "To set a just value on", our country's wonderful achievement in becoming the Arsenal of Democracy, by its marvelous war time production, by its military leadership, by the united efforts of our allies in successfully prosecuting this war to the end that victory may come to the allied cause and that we may also win the peace that is to follow.

And finally may we not "Esteem to the full the worth of", the sacrifices which the men and the women in the services are rendering that this war may soon be successfully concluded and the American way of life may be free from dictators and dictatorship.

"Next to excellence is the appreciation of it."

—Thackeray.