

THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

"Lifting As We Climb"

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Editorial

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Mrs. E. M. Spellman

If denied the privilege of registering and voting, a "true American citizen" would seek the causes of the denial, pursue leads to remedy them and make use of the newly gained right at every available opportunity. We have that coveted privilege, how well do we use it?

Recently a non-reading adult was sought who would be willing to be a pupil in an integrated Literacy workshop. Prayerfully a middle aged lady was approached. She gladly accepted and her reason was, "I want to learn to read, first of all so that I can register and vote."

With the coming election I urge your making use of your golden opportunity to find from every source information about each candidate for office in your jurisdiction, be sure you are registered then vote according to your conviction.

Be not content at being counted on the registration books yourself. Seek individuals who have never made use of the ballot and help them qualify. Make telephone calls and visits, stop and chat with negligent voters and urge them to renew their interest and vote.

It is my belief that our greatest influence in gaining our rights will come through making ourselves felt at election time. By all means vote!!!

DROPOUTS from NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS

Quite a few discussion periods, panels, and lectures have been making the rounds in North Carolina, and the nation (U.S.A.) on the Problem of Dropouts. Our news media has been overburdened in this area. But until something more realistic is planned and executed, until follow up programs are set in motion to retard, eradicate, and dispell this monstrosity to our society, and check this mammoth drain on our resources and already lowered economy; we must continue our search, and call upon all citizens of our forward looking and progressive hungry state to take this problem more seriously. We are compelled at this point to concentrate on dis-

solutions, misconceptions and harassments which cause an ill-adjusted, retarded or insecure boy or girl to drop out of our schools.

Before we can accomplish any major goal, or arrive at a workable solution to this perplexing problem, we should check again and again on its cause and effect. A special study and a re-evaluation of the observed and recognized causes should be given prime consideration. With a "will-to-do", and a "burning desire" to get on with the task, let us consider just a few causes (as listed from various writings).

1. Falling behind or failing in assigned grade or class.
2. Student confused or ill-informed of required assignments.
3. Student not challenged to the utmost of his potentials.
4. School fails to meet students' observed needs.
5. Lack of finance to comply with students "status quo".
6. Lack of parental interest or two-way communication at home.
7. Improper clothing or undesirable styles and fittings.
8. Student needed at home because no one else has time, or can get off to care for smaller children or go on delinquent errands.
9. Disgusted because of confusion and anti-social conditions in the home.
10. Parents separated and not providing much needed security.
11. Following the crowd, or accepting "lip service" promises.

Dropout Rates and Alarming Results

Let us next consider the recognized devastating dropout rates in our elementary schools, our high schools and colleges, as recorded in several releases, including a recent issue of Scouting Magazine:

Dropout Rate (1st Grade to
College Graduates)
1st Grade
100 students enter schools
6th Grade
90 students—10 dropped
Sr. High School
50 students — 50 dropped
1st Year College
25 students—75 dropped
College Graduates
10 students—90 dropped

Considering the alarming dropout rate above, only one conclusion can be drawn. It is evident there is a vast deterioration destruction in the training and preparation of our human resources.

We will next consider what happens or what can be expected on the Labor Market for that rising population of dropouts. Those who dropped before finishing the 6th Grade can work as common la-

borers, on the most distasteful, menial and lowest paying jobs. (And what will happen to their families or dependents?) Their simple tools will consist of brooms, mops, shovels, and picks. Their maximum pay will scarcely exceed \$200 per month, and at least 25 percent of them will be relegated to the unemployed and relief roles. This group will undoubtedly provide 90 percent of the delinquents and crime breeders. The 50 students who dropped out before finishing high school will find that their plight is only slightly above those who stopped at the sixth grade level. Their tools will consist of the simple noncomplicated implements and their employment will decrease rapidly, thus causing them to swell the ranks of our unemployed. The very lucky few might expect to earn approximately \$300 per month.

The 50 high school graduates will perhaps fill the semi-skilled and craftsmen's jobs. Their employment role will be that of mechanics, machinists, plumbers, bricklayers, radio and television servicemen, typist and bookkeepers, foremen and salesmen. They can expect to earn from \$450 per month to \$5,500 per year. They will also play some leadership roles in their community, fill some governmental positions, and help to raise the economy of our state and nation. They should develop and grow into respected and useful citizens of their community.

Those who start in college but fail or fall out before graduation, will swell the ranks of craftsmen, skilled manipulators, and housewives who are serving and assuming civic responsibilities. They will in turn be sending to our schools children who are ready and eager for a formal education. Some in their group will establish their own business enterprises. They can expect to earn up to \$6,900 or \$7,000 per year.

Finally, the ten (10) college graduates will explore, do research and further study. They will supply and replace our professional groups; our lawyers, doctors, leading ministers, public administrators, teachers, executives, and engineers. Their salaries are apparently unlimited. They will hold and control leadership positions in our state, nation and the world. They will comprise our Defense and Diplomatic personnel positions in which the demand is always greater than the supply. As citizens of our great state and nation, we should bend every effort toward encouraging our youngsters to aspire to their greatest potential and highest ambitions.

William H. Lanier
Sedalia, North Carolina
Guest Editor

Religious Emphasis

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

"The last verse was written through blinding tears."

EVERY REAL HYMN has its story, if only we could discover that story. The very fact that great hymns have been wrought out of actual human experience gives to them the great power which they undoubtedly exert upon the hearts of men. A great old hymn, now more than a century old, "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE," was written by a young man only twenty-two years of age.

Even though New York City in 1830 was not an appalling metropolis, it was large enough to give a young man just out of college, reasons for feeling lonely and discouraged.

Ray Palmer was born in 1803 into the home of Judge Thomas Palmer of Rhode Island. This family, residing in Little Compton, was well-known in New England history. Many of us did not know, as we read and "lived" in the romantic story of John and Priscilla Alden, that this young composer was one of their descendants through their daughter, Elizabeth.

Young Palmer, after three years of preparation at Phillips Academy, Andover, entered Yale College, from which he graduated in 1830.

He immediately went to New York City to teach, and it was during his first year in the "great city," that he wrote this hymn that has made him best known to posterity.

With no thought of composing a hymn, he had been translating two verses from a German poem. They told of a suppliant at the cross. The words of the poem stayed in his mind, and as he sat that evening in the quiet of his room — feeling the deep conscious need of his own soul — he transferred to paper that vision of faith that was filling his own heart.

As he wrote the words down on a loose sheet of paper, he had no thought of anyone else reading them — the words being written only for the satisfaction of his own hungry soul. Later, since they had become such a part of him, he copied them into a small morocco-covered notebook which he carried with him at all times.

He told a friend later that all the words were written with very tender emotion, and the last stanza through blinding tears.

For two years, this pocket notebook was a source of blessing to

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