

# CROSS'S COLUMN

ON TWO OCCASIONS this column has made a prophecy and a suggestion. The prophecy was that Axis agents would be unable to bring about discord among us on the North-South issue, and that they would try to promote ill feeling between whites and Negroes.

In five different towns this columnist has heard the same rumor circulated, mostly whispered or "Do you know . . . ?" It is a rumor calculated by the enemy to cause resentment in the mind of any person who hears it. It is a rumor that is supposed to have sprung spontaneously from the Negro people in each town. The Someone who started this rumor wanted to start a trend of emotion, and hoped that the trend would continue in the same direction even after this particular rumor lost its effect. A surprisingly large number of intelligent people have believed this rumor to be true. In believing it, and in becoming angry over it, they have proved themselves to be as gullible as they were supposed to be . . . and by repeating it they have given aid and comfort to the enemy.

The best way to meet such a line of propoganda is to refrain from becoming angry over it . . . and to ask the teller the source of his information.

We have previously advocated in this column the formation of a Committee to Combat Rumor. Such a Committee must be composed of the citizens who have most influence in the community and the widest field for contact with people. Ministers and teachers (white and Negro) for instance, reach the largest number of people in the most efficient way: by public address.

The first time we wrote on this subject was after a riot in Elizabeth City. The riot was caused, as we remember, by a mistaken idea . . . a rumor . . . a rumor that was not verified before action was taken. The main purpose of a Committee to Combat Rumor would be to act as a bureau of verification or denial . . . That is, John Citizen, hearing such a rumor as the one that "sprang up" so strangely in five towns, could call a member of the Committee and ask if the rumor were true. The Committee would verify or deny the rumor, would attempt to find out the source of John Citizen's information, would act as a sort of barometer to register the spread of the rumor, and would report to the FBI. The FBI would have a fairly good picture of the spread or shrinkage of a rumor if each town had a Rumor Committee.

Wide publicity would have to be given the Committee to Combat Rumor. Each person in the community must be made aware that the answer to a rumor is inquiry, not anger. Each person, white or Negro, must be shown that a definite campaign is under way to create ill feeling between us. We must go "more than the mile" to have understanding in our everyday relations with each other. We must be overly careful not to imagine that the other person has an antagonistic attitude.

In the final analysis, the safety and well being of our country depends on the innate courtesy of each individual white and Negro in the South.

IT'S AN OLD ONE, but we still like it: the young church usher was perturbed to see a large dowager sail down the church aisle and sit in someone's family pew. He dashed up and apologized: "Mardon, me padam, but you are accupewing the wrong pie. Let me sew you to another sheet!"

SENT IN:  
"I would not change this world of mine  
For all the tropic seas,

Nor would I give a single damn  
For all your foolish pleas.  
I cannot flee, I will not flee  
To hills of sanctuary,  
For here I live and here I die,  
This is my mortuary.  
Don't sing your song so lightly,  
dear,  
Don't beckon me afar . . .  
I'm awfully tired of shooting  
high . . .  
What the hell do you think I am,  
a star?"

W. R. W.

SORRY that this is our last column in the HERALD . . . We started Cross's Column in the Herald four and a half years ago . . . but we'll see you in the other papers anyway . . .

## LITTLETON

Miss Dorothy Farmer of Norfolk, Va. was the week-end guest of her mother, Mrs. A. P. Farmer.

Mesdames T. R. Walker, J. H. Thrower and Ozella Keeter were visitors in Roanoke Rapids on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dickens and son of Richmond are spending some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Walker.

Misses Martha Cutchin Farmer and Annie Farmer returned home Saturday after spending a week in Norfolk.

Joe Shearin of Savannah, Ga. was a visitor in town over the week-end.

Mrs. W. T. Threewitts and Miss Blanche Threewitts visited in the home of Mrs. C. R. Edmonds in Roanoke Rapids on Friday.

"Brother" Thrower has returned home after a week's stay in Williamston.

D. B. Jones was a visitor in Richmond last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Riggan and children of Norfolk were the week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Stokes. Mrs. Riggan and children remained to spend several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Macon Moore Jr. and Nancy spent the week-end in Norlina.

Miss Gertrude Egerton of Wilmington was the week-end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Egerton.

Jack May of Washington, D. C. visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew May, over the week-end.

Mrs. A. P. Farmer spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Emporia as the guests of her mother, Mrs. Abbie Bobbitt.

Miss Esmond Bradley of Raleigh is spending this week in the home of her mother, Mrs. Rufus Bradley.

Misses Marion and Charlotte Ellis of Greensboro are spending several days here with their grandmother, Mrs. Ozella Keeter.

Bobby Patterson of Wake Forest spent the week-end here with his parents.

Miss Emma Lee Garris and Kenneth Garris of Ayden are visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. McPherson this week.

Miss Virginia Pike spent Sunday at Ocean View, Va.

Misses Maxine and Marylyn Cole of Norfolk were guests of Mrs. Cole over the week-end.

Mrs. M. L. Cole spent several days this week in Henderson with her daughter, Mrs. Howard White.

Miss Annie Moccock is visiting relatives and friends in Richmond this week.

Mrs. J. A. Hudgins of Roxboro was the guest of Miss Blanche Threewitts on Tuesday.

Captain A. P. Farmer of Camp Butner spent the week-end here with his family. Mr. Farmer has been transferred to Atlanta, Ga.

Charlie Moore of Camp Shelby, Miss. was a visitor in town over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Edmonds of

Roanoke Rapids were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Threewitts.

Miss Ruby Wall spent several days last week as the guest of Mrs. Richard Thomas.

Miss Dorothy Johnston has returned home after spending some time in Raleigh as the guest of Miss Jane Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Perkinson of Bluefield, West Va., spent the week-end with relatives here.

Mrs. Young Bobbitt Jr. of Norfolk was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bob King.

Miss Ella Walker of Richmond is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy King of Henderson were last week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. King.

Friends are sorry to learn that Miss Joan Alston is a patient at Duke Hospital, in Durham.

Mrs. E. L. Riggan returned Monday from Suffolk after spending several days with Mr. Riggan.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bobbitt spent the week-end in Smithfield as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bobbitt.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Bonney and Miss Emma Bonney visited Miss Harriet Harvey, who is in Roanoke Rapids Hospital, on Monday. Friends are glad to hear that Harriet is improving.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard White of Henderson announce the birth of

a daughter on Sunday, August 16. Mrs. White was before her marriage Miss Kara Reid Cole of Littleton.

### BLENDA GAIL PORTER

Mr. and Mrs. Benton Porter of Norfolk, Va. announce the birth of a daughter, Blenda Gail, on Wednesday, August 5th. Mrs. Porter was Miss Kathleen Holloman of Wilson.

### A SON IS BORN

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Outman of Roanoke Rapids announce the birth of a son on August 5th. Mrs. Outman was before her marriage Miss Martha Gray of Littleton.

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Tyree Callahan of Annapolis, Md., announce the birth of a daughter on Sunday, August 9th. Mrs. Callahan was Miss Bessie Phelps of Vaughan before her marriage.

### GETS COMMISSION

John M. Bragg Jr., 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bragg of Littleton, has been commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army following completion of training at the Officers School at Camp Barkeley, Texas.

Lt. Bragg was a Sergeant before attending the school. He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina in 1938.

"Bartender Ben" Rogers (Cudahy, Wis.) gives free beer to anyone who brings in rubber scrap.

## TOWN TALK

Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Jarman are spending their vacation at White Sulphur Springs, Va., and in other parts of Virginia.

Pendleton Grizzard spent the past week near Nags Head on his vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Parker and son have returned from Hertford, where they spent a week.

Miss Jeannie Hurst, who is a Senior nurse at Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, spent the past week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hopkins.

Lieutenant and Mrs. W. G. Holadia left Tuesday of last week for Salt Lake City, after a ten day visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Holadia, and Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Rhea.

Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Howell of Washington, D. C. spent the week-end here with Mrs. H. E. Gibson.

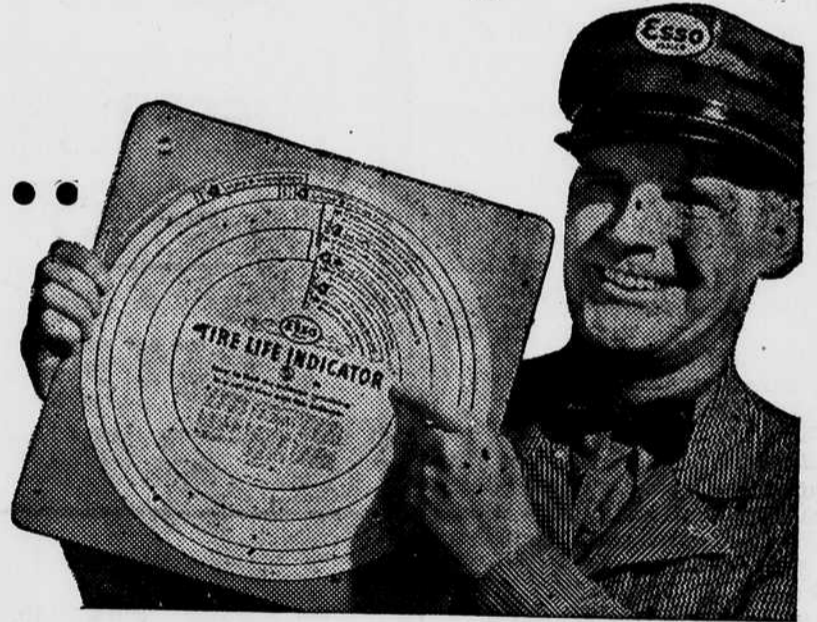
Fred Cooper and S. D. Brown of New River spent the week-end here.

Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Adams spent Thursday in Raleigh.

Miss Mary Louise Ray spent the week-end in Portsmouth with Mrs. E. M. Bidgood.

Mrs. Stafford Bolton and Miss Dorothy Bolton of Raleigh spent the week-end here with Mrs. Lela Cooper.

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