WRITER NOTES

The Significance Of The Case Of Robert Bey

By JAMES A. SHEPARD
RALEIGH —

Two weeks ago, a young Negro man, a native of North Carolina, but now calling Newark, New Jersey his home, was arrested in the local bus station, charged with violating the segregation laws. His "offense" was refusing to leave the white waiting room after being ordered to do so.

When he was told to go into the waiting room, provided by the bus companies for Negroes, he replied that he was not a Negro. "I am a Moorish American and a human being," was his sole defense, and he made no resistance when he was carried away to jail to await trial.

The next day in City Court, the charges against this Moorish American were suddenly dropped after it was revealed than an examination of the satutes did not indicate the violation of any law by the young man.

Briefly stated, that was the sum and substance of the affair a reexamination brings to the surface some facts which should be of interest to all of us. Who is the Robert Bey and what is the significance of his claim as a "Moorish American?" First of all, this man started off in life as Robert Moore. He was born in Troy, North Carolina and later moved to Newark, New Jersey. While living in Newark, he became interested in the Mohammaden religion, a religion that not only teaches the doctrine of the brotherhood of man but actually practices that doctrine and because [illegible] approach to racial [illegible] ward all [illegible] attracting [illegible] ever-growing number of Negroes.

In this story, the first item of significance is the fact that the Christian faith is losing its appeal to our group. There is no less power and no more wrong with Christianity today than there was almost two thousand years ago, when Christ founded the Christian Church on faith and love. But down through the years, man has made a mockery of Christianity until today, in this our America, because of the hatred, bigotry and brutality expressed by so-called Christians upon the weak and helpless, thousands are losing [illegible] Christianity and [illegible] other forms of spiritual comfort and relief.

Robert Moore found security and equality in the teaching and practice of Mohammedanism. His new found faith gave him courage and enabled him to stand up and say, "I am a human being. He [illegible] to defend his person, he was simply stating and relying upon a basic tenet of his faith. He was told by his Church there was no such being as a Negro, but because he was of African descent the designation of Moorish American was given to him, signifying his allegiance to the religion of the Moors and because the name Moore was not rightfully his, that was changed to Bey. A religious title effected by the Moorish American. We who are not ignorant of what changes are taking place in the religious thinking of some of our people, need to be considered on that score, in the larger sphere of the North and West. Negroes, by the thousands are turning away from what they feel is the white man's religion, since under the name of Christians the white man inflicts all manner of crime upon them. This turning away is not an indictment of Christianity. Christianity is not on trial, the Divine Love, Life and Truth propounded by Christ are just as vital as ever, but unless the Christian Church all over the world, awakens to the demands of God, there will be more and more deserters from its ranks.

The next item of significance to us is the knowledge of the great price we are compelled to pay for the "privilege" of being segregated and partitioned off in to separate and inferior stalls and pens. Segregation is a type of quarantine. It carries the stigma of infection, inferiority and degradation and leaves scars upon our souls that nothing can erase. All of this is horrible but now that wrong is mingled with the fact that we are compelled to pay from our pitiful incomes in order that this unjust and unChristian practice may continue. Every separate and unequal facility erected and maintained by public utilities and service companies, add to the cost of the services rendered by those companies and consequently add to the cost we must pay. And now through the quiet coming into our midst of an unassuming, conscientious believer in a "strange" doctrine, we learn that all of this humiliation and extra costs have been illegally forced upon us. God does "move in a mysterious way" and the mighty impact of His actions should spur all of us on to greater faith and higher consecration.

The revelation wrought by Robert Bey's coming here was not without added trouble and pain to him. You see, Robert was making a journey to Troy, to attend the funeral of his mother and had topped here to get a bus to Troy. Because of the zeal of our law enforcement officers, he was forced to suspend his journey and the funeral of his mother had to be put off until Robert could stand trial for breaking a law when never existed.

RALEIGH GI ON OKINAWA — Commanding officer, Colonel Ralph E. Simpson (right) of the 29th Infantry Regiment on Okinawa, explains the symbolism of the regimental shield to Pvt. Robert L. Jones, son of Mrs. Cleo Some of 1235 High Street, Raleigh, N. C., newly arrived enlisted man. He entered the Army 1st April and arrived on Okinawa in December. (U. S. ARMY PHOTO)

FUQUAY SPRINGS

by Roy C. Street

FUQUAY SPRINGS — Doctors throughout this area are being kept very busy. A mild outbreak of the "flu" is currently spreading through the community. However we are thankful to report that there is no cause for alarm and that the infection has not descended on our schools in any great proportions.

To be more precise—it seems that in this area more grownups are affected than children. While this infection is nothing of the flat type initially it can cause quite a good pains and has a tendency to leave the body in a very exhausted condition for several days.

Doctors also say the infection is contagious. So let us exert great care in our habits and do everything possible to cure this "flu" infection before it gains momentum by so doing we also will make great strides for a healthier community.

The Fuquay Springs Alumni Association sponsored their first event last Sunday. They presented a Choir Festival in the Auditorium of the Fuquay Consolidated High School.

The participating musical groups were: First Baptist of Fuquay Junior Choir-Director Mr. M. McLeod. New Providence Junior Choir-Director, Mrs. Virginia Thomas. Fuquay High School Glee Club, Director Mr. E. Haywood. St. Augustine Chorus, Director Mrs. Pauline Thomas. Bazzel Creek Jr. Choir, Director Mr. Lynn Betts. First Baptist Fuquay Sr. Choir, Director Mr. Patrick Harris. The Holland Chapel Male Chorus was special guest of the Alumni Association. Miss Vivienne Brown rendered a solo. The High School Band rendered several numbers. Mr. D. A. Weaver conducted the song. The Festival was a highly successful affair and the people of the community are very grateful to the association for the efforts. Timely remarks by the principal, Mr. William McElrath ended the program.

The Layman's League of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs were greatly elated over the success of the Roundtable discussion they sponsored last Monday night. The theme of the discussion was "Man's Duty to the Church." The participants in the discussion were—Mrs. G. T. Gulley, who acted as chairman, Mr. Walter Evans of Friendship, Mr. Hall, principal of Holly Springs school, Mr. E. A. Betts and your writer. Summarizing remarks were made by Mr. L. M. Burton and Rev. Avery, pastor of First Baptist of Holly Springs. The theme was well expounded by the speakers and some very timely points were attained by all in attendance. After the discussion, the ladies of the church surprised the group by serving refreshments.

Mrs. Martha McKinnie is on the sick list also two or three kids at the home of Mr. Elvin Kimbles — Mrs. Predessa Brandon, Baby Geo. Harris. I am unable to give you the names of all the sick in the community. Could not get around much this week. My wife and mother is on the sick list. So you see I am chef cook and the bottle washer. Let us visit the sick and don't forget to send up a prayer for them.

WRITER PONDERS ISSUE:

Where Does The Fault Lie In Case Involving Alleged Pervert, Boys?

By JAMES A. SHEPARD

Last week, when you read the grand story of a pervert involving a white man and a group of ten great Negro school boys, what was your reaction. Did you dismiss it with a shrug of your shoulders as something bad but no direct concern of yours or did you simply condemn the boys and the man calling the boys a group of incorrigible and the man a sexual degenerate? Maybe as a parent or a person, deeply concerned over the growing problem of juvenile delinquency, this horrible story did not appear as some thing far removed from the realm of your concern, some thing too low and contemptible to merit your consideration, because looking deeply and realistically into the matter, you could realize that one of those boys could have been your son or the son of your neighbor or friend.

What you read last week was simply part of the climax to a much bigger story a story of broken homes and domestic maladjustment, slum environment and inadequate living standards, blighted horizons, stemming from neglect and want and the complete failure of the community to realize that every child has basic rights and basic needs and that it is the responsibility of the community to see that these rights and needs are furnished.

Credit for unearthing and revealing this tale of sorrow and shame, belongs entirely to Robert T. Young, attendance teacher for the Raleigh Negro schools. Facts resulting in Oberby's arrest was the culmination of over two years of persistent effort on the part of Mr. Young. Possessor of a Master's degree from Columbia University, in guidance and counseling, Mr. Young has been able to rise above the usual conception of an attendance officer and use his specialized training in ferreting out causes for absenteism and effecting remedies and cures.

The boys involved in this particular mixup, with one exception, were boys who were left mainly to shift for themselves. The exception was a boy, who although minus the influence of a father, apparently had all his material needs supplied him by a hard working mother, who did not have time to give her son the attention and care he needed or clothe him with the moral and spiritual shield that would protect him from evil temptations. Consequently, this boy fell an easy victim to the lure of easy money brought him by the other boys. What about the other boys. Background. Some of them were illegitimate, some had fathers who had forsaken their families, one or two of them had fathers in name only, gamblers, drunks and petty criminals. In each case where there was a father the evidence was that because of the bad influence exerted by the parent, the boy would have been better off had he not been around. Strangely enough in the case of only one boy, were both the mother and father degenerates, neither parent making any appreciable effort to provide even the bare necessities of life. In the majority of the cases in each family there were several children of all ages, living in ram shackle hovels on dark and muddy, dimly lighted, unpaved narrow streets and alleys. Existing in squalor and filth in environments harboring criminals of all types, exposed to every manner of debauchery and evil, the mother and bread earner compelled to leave early in the morning for a job that usually holds her all day, the children are on their own left to follow through with some of the crimes they have heard about and seen in their own poor neighborhood. True, the mother before she leaves gives order for all of school age to go to school but school has no value in their thinking. Before they have been laughed at in school for being dirty and scorned for being dirty. Maybe because of their sensitiveness, they feel the teachers don't like them or they have no books and no money to buy books. They have never enjoyed the benefits of love and affection, as necessary for the full development of every child. Because of the constant tension and shadowlike existence forced upon them, these children soon develop a complex that is definitely anti good they feel and in too many cases, rightly, that society just is not concerned about their welfare. The districts where these unfortunates must grow up are shunned by the YMCA and YWCA workers, scoutmasters pass these boys by when they are setting up their scout troops and Sunday School Workers are afraid and ashamed to visit these homes. They are social outcasts and very often are made to feel the disdain and contempt society holds for them. That is the background the evil soil from which springs the revolting crimes we say we cannot understand.

many but they are all based on one objective, keeping children of school age in school. When a child of children are constantly absent, it is his duty to study the problem involved and determine a course of action. Since Mr. Young is an expert in his field and he is fully aware of the evil effects of forced, sub-standard existence, and like a physician, his first approach to these problems, is a diagnosis of conditions and circumstances that might create and perpetuate the problem.

There were ten boys involved in this affair when it was finally broken, but there were only two when it began about two years ago. These two boys were then attending school about one day per week. As time went by, other boys ranging in age from ten to fifteen joined this group of steady absentees. What made the matter more or less uniform in pattern was that although these boys attended different schools, their absentee records were almost identical and also their social and economic backgrounds.

Knowing that actual want and need often times cause children to stay out of school, and having discovered at the beginning that these boys were not having their bare needs supplied, Mr. Young used every means at his command in an effort to remedy that phase of the situation. We all know about the work of our Assistance and Welfare groups, there is never enough assistance available. The inadequate material aid given after weeks, months and sometimes years of investigations, will never recompensate for the lack of love, kindly attention and sympathetic understanding needed to heal the wounds of neglect and misery.

Some of these boys' mothers were brought into court for failure to keep their children in school. In each instance the fine or sentence was waived or suspended because there was no money to pay the fine and a jail sentence would mean chaos for the family. Meanwhile the boys continued to stay away from school.

Having exhausted all the means usually use in solving absentee problems and realizing this problem must have a solution, Mr. Young became convinced that this particular case involved angles beyond the usual. During his five years of constant probing into the dark underside of our social structure, his suspicions had been aroused by some unnatural sex incidents involving some boys he was compelled to commit to a training school for delinquent youth. Using that incident as a base, he began making some cautious inquiries along the same line, picking up a grain of information here and a morsel there until he was ready to act.

Last week, four of this group of boys were cited to appear in Domestic Relations Court to answer a charge of stealing. Realizing that the stealing charge might tend to soften the boys' usual stubborn resistance, Mr. Young confronted separately, each of the four with his suspicion that they had been engaging in unnatural sex activities and made them believe they would have to accept the responsibility of all the others unless they made a full confession.

Feeling that their guilt had at last been uncovered, each of the boys admitted his activity, each one telling practically the same story. Mr. Young then asked the judge to temporarily waive the stealing charges and hear what the boys had to say about their unnatural sex activities.

The four boys gave the court the names of the other six likewise involved and although they were unable to name the man involved, the description of him and his car and other vital information given them was so clear the police assigned to find him had no trouble in locating their man. Checking his records, Mr. Young found that the other six boys plus the four testifying made up the ten who had created his greatest problem.

This case has not been closed even though the agencies of school, police and court have cooperated in bringing it to light. What will be done to the man or to the boys is of small importance compared to what can be done to prevent such occurrences. I have no way of passing judgment on the unfortunate man, he has my pity and sympathy for an affliction possibly beyond his control. But, dismiss it as you may from your thinking our community can neither avoid the responsibility or escape the penalty inflicting by human neglect and indifference come as a disease and like any other disease it can be prevented. If no preventive measures are taken, the germs from one case soon spreads and creates other cases. As yet we have no way of knowing how many germs from this case will seek and find other victims.

BFC

NO NATIVE OF RALEIGH AFTER 29 YEARS — After thirty years of service and two World Wars, Sergeant First Class Arthur Bowie of 1367 Willice St., N.Y., Washington, D. C., is enroute home for retirement from the Army. The 58-year-old veteran has been stationed with Headquarters Company, 2nd Replacement Battalion at the Sasebo Replacement Depot in Japan since April 1952. Sergeant Bowie entered the Army in 1923, was discharged after World War I, but later returned and served continuously for 22 years at Fort Belvoir, Va. As a mess supervisor early in his enlistment he proudly remembers preparing dinners for General Pershing in Europe, and the Woodrow Wilsons an dMrs. Calvin Coolidge when they visited Fort Belvoir.

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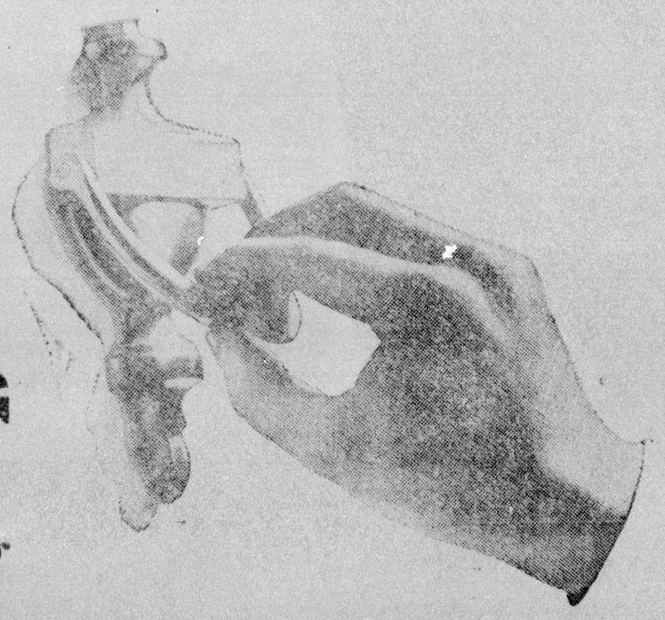

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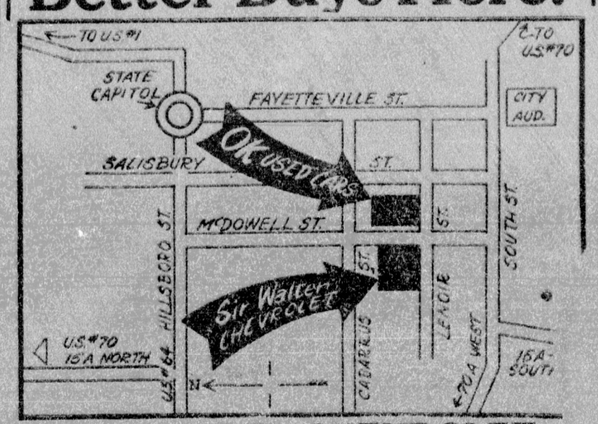

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