

Editorials

The Carolina Times

Comments

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SAURDAY JUNE 12, 1937

SAVE OUR CHILDREN

Durham has many things to be proud of, and it has many things to be ashamed of. The same can be said of any city the size of Durham, but Durham ought not feel satisfied because it has plenty of associates in things that are wrong.

We started out to call attention of Durham citizens to the fact that the group of Negro boys and girls under age who roam the streets of our city, both during the night and day, is steadily on the increase.

Fayetteville and Pettigrew streets seem to be the favorite hang-outs of these youngsters who delight in defying their elders or attempt to speak to them about their disrespect for the rights of others. Profanity, fights and even drunkenness are resorted to by Negro children who apparently have no parents who care enough for them to keep them at home even as late as twelve and one o'clock at night.

The condition is becoming so terrible that respectable men are reluctant to bring their wives and children through the streets for fear of having them insulted or injured. The president of the local college stated this week that he spoke to one girl about ten or eleven years of age about her misdeeds, and that she immediately invited him to caress a certain part of her anatomy.

Here in Durham we can rant and rave about crime and its prevention until we are exhausted, but we will do little to halt the condition until we get at its beginning—our children.

What Durham needs most is a Negro probation officer, and a law for children under age. It is impossible for one white probation officer to do all the work that is needed to be done among white and Negro delinquent children. Durham ought also to have a law that will place in jail a parent or parents who deliberately permit their children to roam about the streets of our city unaccompanied, especially at night.

We know there are those who will say that many parents have to work and can not properly supervise the actions of their children. So such a statement we quite agree, and would like to call attention to the fact that many of the parents of delinquent children are delinquents themselves and do not work at all. Most of the children who cause trouble in Durham are those of parents who do not work at night or day, but who are too careless about their offspring to properly chastise them about their misdeeds.

Here is a problem for the Committee on Negro Affairs, and one that is growing in proportion as Durham grows. It should be dealt with immediately and with certainty. In the effort, the police, the church and every other agency for good should be called upon to aid in its successful end.

THEY LYNCHED THE WRONG MAN

Possibly the greatest argument for a federal law against lynching in many months in the manner in which the Alabama Supreme Court handled the case of Sheriff J. L. Corbett, charged with negligence in failing to protect a Negro, Wes Johnson, from being lynched by a mob.

Despite the fact the state, through its attorney general, had stated that it would be able to prove that the mob lynched the wrong man, the Supreme Court of Alabama found the sheriff "not guilty." Not only did the Supreme Court of Alabama free the sheriff, but it assumed an attitude of interest in helping him obtain his freedom by refusing to accept the remarks of the attorney general as competent.

The state also argued that the front door of the jail was unlocked, thereby giving the mob an easy opportunity to get to the prisoner. In the face of all these facts the highest court in Alabama has set its approval on the action of the sheriff who was responsible for this negligence.

Here is proof positive that state law agencies are not in favor of prosecuting mob murderers. Like the Dusk Hill lynching which was staged while the House of Representatives was debating the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill, the verdict of the state supreme court of Alabama has staged a lynching of the efforts of law abiding citizens of that state to bring to justice an officer of the law who deliberately contributed to the lynching of a defenseless prisoner. The United States Senate ought to take cognizance of the action of Alabama's Supreme Court. It should recognize in the action a defiance of all that is righteous and just.

Mobs are relentless and cruel. They await not to determine whether the victim is the right man or the wrong man. The thirst for blood in the souls of those who go out to lynch is uncontrollable and unreasonable. Cowards are always that way when they have the advantage of another. The only sensible thing, the only righteous thing to do is to make lynching a federal offense, so that cowards who want to defy the laws of this country will realize that they will have to reckon with those who are not cowards.

We do not know whether the attorney general of Alabama could have proved that the mob which lynched Wes Johnson lynched the wrong man or not. The truth about the matter will possibly never be known. We do know that men who have ability enough to rise to such a high office seldom make rash statements without justification.

As cruel as it may sound, the life of Wes Johnson was not sacrificed in vain, if it means that the manner in which he died will arouse decent people in and outside of the United States Senate to the fact that the American disgrace of lynching is not only a menace to Negroes, but to every law-abiding citizen in the United States.

Kelley Miller Writes . . .

THE DOOR OF HOPE
 I am aware that my last release on "The Lost Generation of Negro Youth" left a bad taste in the mouth. Some would be disposed to conclude that it shut the door of hope in the face of ambitious and aspiring young men and women. Let me reassure them that the door of hope is still ajar, but it does not lead to free and unrestricted opportunity as was enthusiastically expected a generation ago.

The task of the prophet is a thankless one. His true function is to stand on the lower of observation with clairvoyance which penetrates beyond the dip of the horizon. From this point of vantage he sees the dust of danger on the distant rim of vision and warns the people to take heed before time.

The Hebrew prophets played everlastingly upon the minor key. They named the Hebrew people of the wrath to come, but always left an avenue of escape. Sodom and Gomorrah might be saved if a minimum residue of righteous men could be found. Nineveh would be destroyed only in case its inhabitants did not repent of their wickedness, in sack cloth and ashes. This saving clause was appended to the note of every Hebrew prophet, even that of Jeremiah, the forecaster of gloom and doom.

These prophecies have been and are still being substantially fulfilled. Generation after generation of Hebrew youth were lost to the salvation of their own race and of the world. There was not a single prophet or spiritual genius for four hundred years between the prophet Malchiah and the coming of Jesus, but in the fullness of time, which is not yet, the Jewish race seems destined to vindicate the prophecy vouchsafed to Abraham: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

The analogy between the situation which confronted the Jewish race throughout its history and that which confronts the American Negro today seems to be perfectly obvious. The Jewish race constituted a dependent and self-helpless minority. Their whole reliance was upon vicarious salvation. They were continuously warned that their only hope lay in righteousness and that if they went whoring after the enticements and allurements of the Gentile world, only destruction awaited them at the end of the road.

All this was summed up in the admonition of Jesus: "The leaders of the Gentile lauded over them; but it must not be so with you. He

would be great among you, let him be your servant, and the greatest of all is the servant of all." This is the dominant note in all Hebrew prophecy.

The proverb, tells us that there is always room on top, but only one out of every ten thousand ever reaches the top amid the stress and strain of modern competition. Worldly opportunity is like a monument whose broad layers at the base taper to a point at the vertex, where there is room only for the favored and fortunate few. But there is always room at the bottom, where opportunity is free for all who understand how to avail themselves of it in the proper spirit of a consecrated heart and mind.

The educated Negro today has the opportunity for humane and sacrificial service beyond any other class of youth of our generation, but they need not seek comparable glory, honor and material reward in terms of which present day excellence is appraised.

The teacher's function is to enlighten the ignorant. The pay roll teacher is an abomination to God and man. The Negro teacher is confronted with a mass of ignorance which can only be dispelled by sacrificial devotion to the pedagogic art.

The function of the physician is to heal the sick. The impulse of the true physician is to carry medical aid where sickness and disease are most prevalent. The Negro race is subject to all the ills that human flesh fall heir to. There devolves upon the Negro doctor as heavy task as befalls the disciples of Escapalpius of any race or class.

The mission of the minister is to make men better in the life that now is and prepare them for the life that is to be. He finds opportunity where sin abounds. There is certainly no greater volume of sin among any people than among the Negroes to whose moral and spiritual leadership he is called. The minister of the gospel who constitutes his office for filthy lucre and who profits at the expense of God's poor deserves to have the milstone of condemnation tied about his neck and be cast in the middle of the sea.

The Negro lawyer has a great function to see to it that members of his race secure their legal rights and liberties, both as effects person and property. His material reward will be scanty, but great is his reward in the higher domain where service is appreciated, not in dollars and cents.

Continued on page eight

WHEN TIRE SAFETY IS VALUED MOST!

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HAVE TODAY WON THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY 500-MILE INDIANAPOLIS RACE ON FIRESTONE GUM-DIPPED TIRES AT 113.58 MILES PER HOUR—BEATING ALL RECORDS STOP I KNOW I COULD WIN IF MY TIRES COULD STAND THE TERRIFIC HEAT GENERATED AT THESE NEW HIGH SPEEDS. STOP WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS MY GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR THE MARVELOUS STRENGTH BUILT INTO YOUR TIRES AND THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.

WILBUR SHAW
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Firestone HIGH SPEED TIRES

4.50-21	\$10.05	5.50-17	\$13.95
4.75-19	10.60	5.50-18	14.30
5.00-17	10.80	5.50-19	14.60
5.00-19	11.40	6.00-16	15.55
5.25-17	12.25	6.25-16	17.40
5.25-18	12.70	6.50-16	19.15
5.25-19	13.10	7.00-16	20.80
5.50-16	13.75	7.50-16	26.40

HEAVY DUTY

5.50-16	\$16.25	7.00-16	\$24.45
6.00-16	18.40	7.50-16	32.90
6.50-16	21.15	8.25-16	38.90

OTHER SIZES PRICED PROPORTIONATELY LOW

THOUSANDS said that tires could not stand the terrific grind. They said cars had been built with much greater speed, turns in the track had been repaved with granite-like surface, yet Wilbur Shaw drove to victory on Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires setting a new record of 113.58 miles per hour on one of the hottest days in the history of the Indianapolis track.

Here is stamina—here is dependability—here is performance that is proof of safety. 500 miles over the blistering hot brick track, at temperatures of more than 100°. Speeds of 130, 140, and even 150 were attained on the straightaways. Think of the terrific impact on these tires as the cars roared into the treacherous turns and out again. Tons of force straining, pulling, and twisting inside the tire, yet not one cord loosened, not one tread separated from the cord body—all because Gum-Dipping, the Firestone patented process, successfully counteracted the internal friction and heat that ordinarily destroy tire life.

Why have Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires been on all the winning cars at Indianapolis for the past eighteen years? Why did every one of the thirty-three drivers in this greatest of all racing events choose and buy Firestone Tires? Race drivers make it their business to know how tires are made and they know that Firestone Tires are built with the Firestone patented construction features of Gum-Dipping and Two Extra Layers of Gum-Dipped Cords under the Tread. They know that because of these extra features Firestone Tires run up to 28° cooler and give greatest blowout protection. In fact, these men will not risk their lives or chances of victory on any other tire.

You will never drive your car at these record-breaking speeds, but for the safety of yourself and family you need the safest, strongest and most dependable tires. Come in today. Join the Firestone SAVE A LIFE Campaign by equipping your car with a set of new Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires—the safest tires that money can buy.

DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE ON THIN WORN TIRES

Do you know that last year highway accidents cost the lives of more than 32,000 men, women and children?

THAT a million more were injured!

THAT more than 48,000 of those deaths and injuries were caused directly by punctures, blowouts and skidding due to unsafe tires?

Choose the tires that save lives. Race tires know from experience that their lives depend on the safety of their tires. They will not drive at high speeds on any other than Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires. You, too, need the same protection. Come in today and equip your car with the safest tires ever built.

JOIN THE Firestone Save a Life CAMPAIGN TODAY!

WINDOW SCREENS
 Quality, white pine. All sizes
60c
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 \$1.75 to 11.50

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