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Editorial Comments

THE "COMIC" PROBLEM

Some cynic has written that, let him see what you grab first in the Sunday morning paper, and he will correctly appraise your mind.

If you monopolize the comic pages before Johnny does, you are not only causing Johnny acute pain but you are betraying that you are of the status nit-wit, moron or nincompoop.

However, this is we do not know, but we do know that a heavy percentage of readers skip over the front page with its electrifying and illuminating world accounts, and become deeply engrossed in the continued adventures of the Lone Ranger, Jane Arden, Popeye, and the other junk played up ceaselessly to easy intelligences.

All this is prefatory to the letter of Mrs. H. M. Mulberry of Chicago in which she says:

"What can I do about the comic magazines? My Bobby (or my Martha) is fairly hypnotized by them every week."

As Director of the Reading and Library Service of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Mulberry is helping thousands of parents to do something about the comics. There is a great deal of protest against what she called "the poisonous growth of action and horror comic magazines," she said in an interview between sessions of the P. T. A. convention in Boston.

"At a time of national defense when the interests of children should be directed to the ideals of democracy and of American life, the examples of over-emotionalism horror and the lurid color in this sort of material not only are a waste of time for all children but for sensitive and highly imaginative children may be actually harmful," she declared.

But parents working alone, it seems, often think they cannot win in the continual wrestle with Johnny to leave the lurid sheets alone, and anyway simply making him stop bringing the things home will not solve the problem, she feels. There must be some positive spade work, a long-time program, and plenty of co-operation among all the parents of a community. So the Reading and Library Service of the P. T. A. has a program ready.

First step is to awaken people generally, the second is to help parent groups to familiarize themselves with children's reading at various age-levels. Mrs. Mulberry explained.

"We recommend study classes for parents," she said.

The third step calls for a nation-wide extension of library service to the outmost rural communities "by means of bookmobiles, country and traveling library facilities, exchange plans between schools."

"We feel that if we reach each child, actively, with a share of the humorous, and also sincere pictures of life to be found in children's books, both old and new, the problem of the cheap comic magazines will be met," Mrs. Mulberry concluded.

RAMIFICATIONS OF ORTHOGRAPHY

Monday was a big day for Lawrence Snider, North Carolina's champion speller, according to the accounts sent out by his sponsors, now proudly feting him in Washington.

The dispatch says as how Lawrence met Joe Louis, heavyweight champion fighter, and that Lawrence was so impressed that he asked for and got Joe's autograph. The information was not disclosed whether or not Joe gave Lawrence a lock or kink of his head covering. Perhaps the growth was sparse owing to Joe's so many affaires de biffe.

THE CASE AGAINST JOHN FOLGER

The bill of particulars drawn against John H. Folger, candidate for congress in the Fifth district to fill out the unexpired term of his dead brother A. D. Folger, so far has failed to evolve anything except that the Folger family has held a number of offices in Surry county.

This indictment sponsored by Marshall Kurfees, who is using the radio extensively and proposes to get a sound truck to ding-dong it in all the counties of the Fifth district, is fine advertising for the Democratic candidate.

If the Democrats of Surry county have seen fit to honor the Folger family with many positions of public trust, it is certainly a testimonial to their character, ability and democracy.

And if we add to the fact that during the Folger office-holding tenures the county of Surry has grown from a heavy Republican county to one of the biggest Democratic units of the State, the people of Surry are evidently pleased with the project.

And as a final touch if we consider the outstanding service of John H. Folger to the State Democratic party, his loyalty to Roosevelt and the administration when a movement was trying to be launched to defeat the President in North Carolina; and John Folger's 100 per cent. Democracy and patriotism today, what is left for the opposition to stand on.

PATRIOTIC REPUBLICANS

A meeting of 5th district Republicans was held in the Robert E. Lee hotel in Winston-Salem this week.

The report of the meeting says "an unusual twist to the meeting came when W. B. Longworth moved that a resolution be adopted demanding that Wendell Willkie tender an apology to every Republican who voted for him last fall, and to condemn the administration's foreign policy."

The motion failed to get a second, and L. L. Wall moved it be tabled which was quickly done.

In the meeting was Jake Newell of Charlotte, Chas. A. Jonas of Lincolnton, John A. Wilkinson of Washington and Brownlow Jackson of Henderson—all strong and sincere Republicans, men of sense and character and judgment and patriotism, who realize that the water's edge is where partisan politics stop. The nation's peril is more important now than other things.

Marshall Kurfees, the party's doorstep baby, was present and addressed the group. His wet nurse, Bill Sharpe, was unavoidably detained.

Marshall declared he had always been a member of the Democratic party (which divulgement did not arouse particular enthusiasm or instigate vociferous cheering.)

He continued that "he was an active supporter of Wendell Willkie in the presidential race last fall, and that he had no apologies to offer."

After giving this disclosure time to react, the convention evidently considered it the wrong thing said at the right time and adjourned.

THE U. S. O. AND ITS MEANING

"Yesterday in New York. The United Service Organizations for National Defense announced their program of service to soldiers, sailors and defense workers in providing for the recreation, welfare and spiritual needs of young men and women who have answered and will answer the call of national defense. The six-member organizations of the U. S. O. are fulfilling an essential and patriotic duty."—President Roosevelt.

Come to the meeting at Danbury next Monday night. The U. S. O. is a part of the gigantic

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS

England is fighting the battle for the possession of the island of Crete—fighting with a desperation, suffering and bravery almost unparalleled in the annals of war.

And England is fighting a losing fight. With Germany's overwhelming air superiority almost neutralizing the assistance of the fleet, the Britons are at a tragic disadvantage.

The British battle cruiser Hood was sunk by the German first class battleship Bismarck, going down with her complement of 1300 men.

Turning in fury, British warships sank the Bismarck, her 1400 officers and men being lost.

Crete will probably be taken by the Nazis within a very few days. The British and Greeks who are defending it so heroically must then, unless destroyed or captured before they can embark, fall back to Alexandria and the Suez canal—the last stands in the battle of the Mediterranean.

In the meantime President Roosevelt delivers his address, and issues a proclamation of a full national emergency which means the nation must get on a complete war basis. Warning is given that strikes must cease and that defense must not be impeded.

The question in the minds of the American and English people is, will American mass production of planes be in time to meet the Nazi blitzkrieg which must soon descend upon England.

The President's frank statement that the Germans are destroying three times as many ships for England as Britain can build, and twice as many as both Britain and the United States are now building, came as a shock to the country, and which must awaken the nation to the peril with which it is threatened.

THE NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN

The Reporter is not one who would say the Governor was trying to dictate party policy when he used his gubernatorial influence to see Hoey elected committeeman.

It is possible that the Governor had committed himself before Reynolds' name was put in, and then could not afford to see his prestige dimmed by the failure of his choice to land.

But we do believe that if the open vote had not been demanded and enforced, Reynolds would overwhelmingly have received the selection.

Most Democrats whom we have talked with believe the committee made a blunder by not naming Mr. Reynolds. He deserved it because of his brilliant service, because of his whole-time aid when finance was needed, and because he was all-out for the administration.

Hoey has been saturated if not sated with honors. And the friends of Roosevelt remember his antipathy—that unfriendly gesture which John Folger so effectually smashed.

The agreement by automobile manufacturers to cut their production of new cars for 1941 20 per cent., and the announcement by the O. P. M. that yet another cut of 20 per cent. will be demanded, means car shortage and higher prices next year. The stupendous demand for steel to meet defense needs must have its effect on both new and used cars.

scheme of national defense.

Its duty is to maintain morale on the home front.

Morale on the home front is what is saving England in her tragic experience.