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A High Compliment

WHEN it was decided, at Robbinsville last week, that a venire was needed from another county, in order to obtain jurors who would render a fair and impartial verdict in the Boone Carver murder case, Judge Donald Phillips turned to Macon for a panel of citizens from which to draw a jury.

Last year, when another difficult murder case was to be tried in Jackson county, a different judge also turned to this county for a special venire. A little earlier, for still another murder trial, this time in Cherokee, the court came to Macon for jurors. And back through the years this county has been a favorite with superior court judges when special venires were needed.

These judges were under no compulsion to select Macon; they just as easily could have obtained venires from other counties in this area. Their only interest was in finding a citizenship from which it was most likely that 12 persons could be drawn, by lot, who would be intelligent, fair, and fearlessly honest.

That North Carolina judges, with these considerations in mind, so often have thought of Macon is a high compliment to this county—a compliment even more impressive because it was an unconscious one.

Disappearing Prejudices

It is unfortunate that so many good musical compositions should bear titles that the layman finds either unpronounceable—like "Kamarinskaya"—or meaningless—like "Andante Cantabile".

These titles, perhaps more than anything else, have had a tendency to prejudice most Americans against the best in music; that many of us have suffered from prejudice in the matter of our musical taste is clearly shown by the fact that, after we learn something about the meaning of a classical composition, and have heard it a few times, we begin to like it—even though we previously would have refused to listen to it, on the ground that it was "high brow", or "long hair".

Fortunately, much of this prejudice is disappearing. Most of us laymen are learning that enjoyment of music is a matter not only of the appeal to human emotions of such things as harmony and melody, but that we like the familiar.

The radio and the record player, with all their sins, have done much to familiarize Americans with good music. And such organizations as the North Carolina Symphony Society are doing yeoman service in the same good cause.

And this community is indebted to the society for making possible the appearance of the North Carolina Little Symphony here for two successive years, despite the fact that the Macon County quota was not reached either year. Appreciation is due, too, to County Chairman W. W. Sloan and the many persons who worked with him in the Symphony Society membership campaign, and to the management of the Macon Theatre for making its auditorium available.

A Creditable Event

An event which would have done credit to any community was the fashion show recently staged by the Frances' shop. The nearly fourscore girls and young women who took part exhibited talent and poise in remarkable degree, and the clock-like way in which the program was handled showed careful planning and hard work by Mrs. Frances Higdon and her associates.

Incidentally, the show apparently settled the long-standing debate about whether men are interested in fashions; for nearly half the audience that filled the Macon Theatre was male!

Pathetic Poverty

Easter is a religious celebration, of the triumph of spirit over matter. Because it is a happy season, it is natural and proper that the celebrants should wish to be tastefully and even beautifully clothed. But to make Easter a day of competition in gaudiness in dress betrays an utter lack of understanding of what the day means. And, one wonders, doesn't it betray, as well, a rather pathetic poverty of taste and intellect?

The Story Of The First Easter

AND now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph beheld where he was laid.

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying,

"Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again'.

"Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, 'He is risen from the dead': so the last error shall be worse than the first."

Pilate said unto them, "Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can."

So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?"

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he said unto them,

"Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all of the things that were done.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying,

"Say ye, 'His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept'. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you."

So they took the money and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. . . . Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stopped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her,

"Woman, why weepest thou?"

She said unto them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus said unto her,

"Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?"

She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, "Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus saith unto her, "Mary". She turned herself, and saith unto him, "Rabboni"; which is to say, "Master".

It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and the women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. . . .

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them,

"What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?"

And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him,

"Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?"

And he said unto them, "What things?"

And they said unto him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not."

Then he said unto them, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying,

"Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."

And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you."

And when he had so said, he showed them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. . . .

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him,

"We have seen the Lord."

But he said unto them, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said,

"Peace be unto you."

Then saith he to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God."

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. . . .

LETTERS

NEED \$1,000,000 FOR SCHOOLS

Dear Mr. Editor, The recent acts of the Board of Education and County Commissioners are a noble beginning and I am sure will have a happy ending.

Macon County needs a million dollars worth of schools; that would be about one-fortieth of the actual wealth of Macon County. If we invest a million dollars in good school buildings, well located, we have paid the first installment on a full dress suit for Macon County.

Certainly it will cost a million dollars. But it will cost far more if we do not. Given a million dollar school system now, and Macon County will receive ten million dollars in benefits in 20 or 30 years from now. The benefits to the human race—which should be the main aim of this program—only God can value.

How hard will this be to pay? That all depends on how willing we are to pay, I will venture to say there will be more money spent for soft drinks, cigarettes, cigars, and beer in Macon County in 20 years than this program will cost.

What are we going to do? Are we going to dilly-dally, shadow box, give lip service, or shall we invest some of this war wealth we have accumulated in humanity? In the last six years our wealth has doubled at least twice. I don't care how honest you have got yours, it's the price of the blood of our boys who did or did not come back. I know we were right and I am glad we won. But are we going to get lazy and indifferent in this new-found wealth, or shall we use it as God would have us use it, promote Christianity and civilization. God gave man many advantages. Two-thirds of the necessities of life are free; for air and water are two-thirds of our existence. Surely with God giving us so much, we will not deny the coming generations a good school system.

I know the present program is not enough, but let us all work together to complete this program. With a good school system Macon County will be well dressed.

Now I leave him there, well dressed. I shall leave it to a future citizenship that shall grow up under a better system than we have had to give the old boy a hair cut and shave, and keep him properly bathed. Then he will be impatient to go and share the progress of our land.

Now, Mr. Editor, allow me a few words on roads. Where is that God-given democracy our boys fought to defend? Where is it? Is it a government that will tax a people and then deny the same people the thing that they are paying taxes to promote?

Nantahala has been exploited. Our gas taxes have been placed some where, we know not where. Our forests have been depleted, and the share that we should have received for community roads has all been placed in the general fund. The road that we voted bonds and cooperated with the Forest Service to build is now worn out. Roads, yes, we need them. Where? From boundary line to boundary line of our township. I am not blaming the boys here in Macon County. I think the fault is in the system. If justice is properly distributed, I believe in

a unit system of roads, but under this system, the units—tens, and sometimes the hundreds—come to Nantahala; the thousands, ten thousands and millions go somewhere else.

Mr. Editor, your editorial on "A Matter of Duty" was the best. The voters of Macon County should pick a man for the legislature who is more interested in the welfare of the people than he would be in cutting someone's throat, or feathering his own nest.

Thank you for your patience.

Yours,

Flats, N. C.,
March 8, 1948.

WEIMAR COCHRAN.

The Little Symphony

An Inspiration And a Challenge

The North Carolina Little Symphony orchestra, in its presentation here March 15 of two well-planned and beautiful programs, gave Macon County food for thought and happy memories enough to carry us through another year until its return.

In the afternoon concert to the children, Dr. and Mrs. Swain showed a great sympathetic understanding of children in their explanatory talks and demonstration of the different instruments of the orchestra.

Each number of the program was enthusiastically received, and the rapt attention of the hundreds of children from the various schools of the county was ample proof of their interest, as well as a tribute to the performers.

The evening concert opened with the traditional symphonic number, Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, and the audience showed its appreciation of this type of music by its attentive silence throughout the complete performance.

The deep, yearning, heart-breaking strains of the muted violins in Sibelius' "Valse Triste" held the audience so spellbound that for a moment they seemed to feel it would be sacrilege to applaud.

But the rhythmic appeal of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" brought thunderous applause.

The conductor and performers alike must have felt the sympathetic attention of the audience—for their performance was perfection itself, and the attention and appreciation of the audience was all that could be desired.

In answer to continued applause of Strauss' beloved "Blue Danube" waltz, Dr. Swain returned and gave as an encore a delightful fantasy, "Fairy Tale", by Komzak.

This writer sincerely hopes that the pleasure given by this delightful program will inspire the people of Macon County to redouble their efforts in the next year to gain double the number of memberships in the Symphony Society, thereby showing our faith in the continuation of that which is good.

—N. T. J.