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JULY 10, 1952

A Lift For Today

... We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.—Rom. 8:28.

WHEN THE LOVE which Christ reveals constrains us, we find that life's experiences work together for the "glory which shall be revealed in us." Love can transform tribulations into blessings—even today's world-wide suffering may be the birth pangs of a new world of justice and righteousness.

Increase our faith. O God, and help us to know that Thy yoke is easy.

A Lot of Hooey

From the Republican national convention we have been hearing considerable about civil rights. Between now and the adoption of a platform by the Democratic national convention we will hear much more. And between that time and the election in November we are likely to hear still more. Civil rights, almost certainly, will be paramount as an issue, along with such vital matters as national security, government spending and debt, and capital-labor problems. In the next four months we are likely to hear a great deal about civil rights. And most of it will be pure hokum.

Consider, for a moment, the attitude of the rabid anti-civil rights group in the South. Leaders of that group, it will be recalled, four years ago walked out of the Democratic national convention and put out a States Right ticket. That action was precipitated by the adoption, at the 1948 Democratic convention, of the party's civil rights plank.

What did that plank say?

It put the Democratic party on record as believing that "racial and religious minorities must have the right to live, the right to work, the right to vote, and the full and equal protection of the laws, on a basis of equality with all citizens, as guaranteed by the Constitution".

Is there anything in that statement to which a fair-minded man who believes in American principles could take exception?

Of course there is not!

And the Southern minority probably had no objection to the general statement. What they objected to was the fact that the plank called on congress—that is, on the federal government—to translate the statement into law. Even more objectionable to them, perhaps, were the persons who sponsored the plank, and the way those persons proposed to translate it into law.

Because of those two factors, the bolting Southerners permitted themselves to be put on record as opposing a stand that, in itself, was a statement of elemental justice and plain Christianity.

What are the specific proposals of the Democratic civil righters?

As enunciated by President Truman in February of that year—and nobody has since suggested a change—they number four:

Prohibition of discrimination in interstate transportation facilities.

A federal law against lynching.

Federal action to outlaw the poll tax.

A federal fair employment commission, with authority to enforce its findings.

Consider that four-point program.

Interstate transportation discrimination is no longer an issue; federal court rulings now prohibit it.

The crime of lynching occurred twice in 1950;

three times in 1949; twice in 1948; once in 1947; six times in 1946; once in 1945; twice in 1944; three times in 1943; six times in 1942; and four times in 1941. In an entire decade, there have been a total of 30 lynchings among the 130 million people in the United States. (The figures are those of the Tuskegee Institute, an organization so unlikely to gloss over lynchings that the total can reasonably be assumed to be the picture at its worst).

Lynching long has been outlawed by state statutes. And lynching today is so rare as to be virtually non-existent. Why, then, the great hue and cry for a federal anti-lynching law? (It would make almost as much sense to crusade for a federal law against witch-burning in New England or a federal law against stagecoach-robbing in the Wild West!)

That disposes of the first half of the civil rights program. Issue No. 1. has been solved by federal rulings. Issue No. 2 is against a crime that has practically disappeared. On those two points, only an ignoramus or a hypocrite would crusade.

We still have the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting in some seven Southern states — and few people attempt to defend it. But we still have bad election laws in most states. We still have the laws which permit the political bosses of St. Louis and Chicago and other big cities to swing elections their way—and often to ignore the will of the voters, however the election goes.

The point is: Are the political parties interested in clean elections, or are they interested in the poll tax as an issue? If the widest possible democracy were their aim, they might start cleaning up in their own backyards—by giving the voters some say-so in the choice of Presidential candidates.

That leaves FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission).

On that issue, honest citizens will ask themselves two questions:

1. Is such a law, if desirable, workable? (That question has never been given serious consideration by a political convention.)

2. Are the backers of FEPC genuinely interested in rooting out discrimination in employment?

Any thoughtful consideration of the proposed law inevitably suggests that the answer to the second question is No.

If it were discrimination — all discrimination, rather than just a specific discrimination—that the backers of FEPC really were shooting at, there would be provisions aimed at discrimination against women—it is common knowledge that such discrimination exists, especially in promotions; aimed at discrimination against men over 40; aimed at the scores of other discriminations in industry, and even in government employment.

All the facts point to one conclusion:

While the Southerners come into court with hands that are anything but clean, there is a strong suspicion that the pro-civil righters are not entirely pure in heart.

The issue in this whole civil rights fight is not justice. It is votes.

And practically everything that will be written and said on the subject will be just so much political hooey.

Howdy, Neighbor!

Our best mountain manners to our new neighbor across the way at Bryson City.

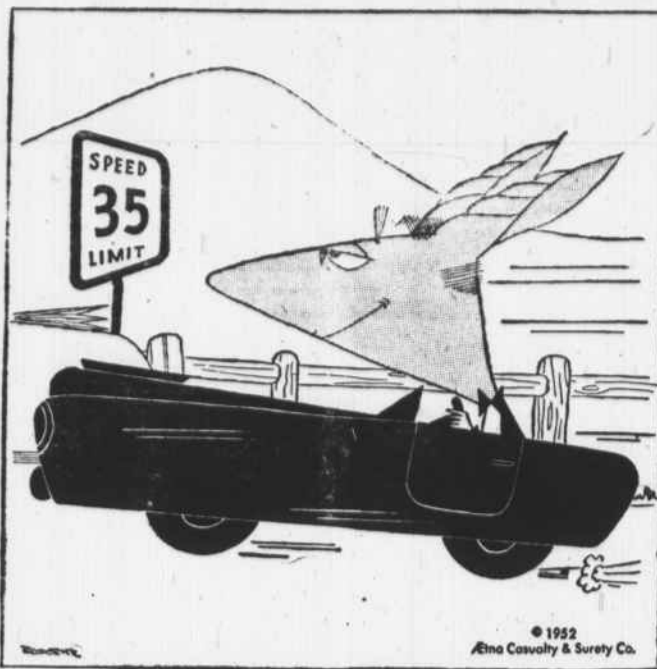
He is Mr. Julius C. Hubbard, who became publisher of Swain county's newspaper, The Smoky Mountain Times, June 30. Mr. Hubbard, president of the Carter-Hubbard Publishing company at North Wilkesboro, bought The Times from Leroy Sossamon, the publisher for the past six years.

We wish for Mr. Hubbard the best it is possible to wish for a newspaperman—that all his subscribers will renew promptly; that all the business houses will advertise, and get their copy in on time; that he will never have to publish more than one correction in any issue; and, perhaps most important of all, that his typewriter, unlike most, will spell correctly!

Seriously, there are newspaper opportunities in Bryson City, for both The Times and Bryson City. A constantly improving newspaper is possible only through the cooperation of the publisher and the community. And from such cooperation the community stands to profit quite as much as the owner of the newspaper.

July 4th has come and gone—and so have most of the tourists. Isn't the time at least approaching when Franklin should start to begin to think about considering doing something to extend the season beyond one week-end?

WHO'S ZOO—ON THE HIGHWAY



DON'T BE AN ANTELOPE. Speed protects him but endangers you. Slow down.

Our American Civilization

Worrying about "second class citizenship" for minorities; calmly accepting second class citizenship for all of us, when it comes to the selection of Presidential nominees.

Others' Opinions

TONIC FOR THE SOIL (Federal Reserve Bank's 'Agricultural Items')

Both the farm and urban garden press have recently been reporting the competition between various soil conditioners. Various chemical producers and processors have offered their particular brand and carried large and impressive advertisements in papers believed best suited to reach potential customers.

For the most part the chemical companies which recently have placed Kriium and other soil conditioners on the market make no claims that their products contain plant food. In at least one case, however, the company advertises that its product also contains plant food. These products are being pushed, according to their manufacturers, because of their capacity to improve the structure of the soil. For example, the claim is made that following treatment problem soils (such as hard clay) undergo a change of mechanical structure from a hard-packed mass into a loose, crumbly consistency.

No one can be quite sure whether or when these new soil conditioners will become practical for commercial farmers. According to the small-lot prices of the manufacturers and their recommended rates of application, it would cost from \$200 up to several times this amount to buy enough to apply to an acre. From this it seems certain that prices must shrink to a small fraction of present levels if such chemical soil conditioners are to be a sound investment for most farmers.

While no attempt is here made to compare the effectiveness of one type of soil conditioner with that of another, it may be noted that for some years sawdust has been recognized as having desirable soil-conditioning properties.

Heretofore, one of the principal uses of the thousands of old sawdust piles that dot the countryside was to serve as a graphic reminder. They reveal, as nothing else can, the once fine stands of timber which have gone to help make this country great. In recent years, one occasionally sees some progressive farmer hauling the sawdust and spreading it on his fields. According to available research, not much fertilizing value need be expected from using sawdust directly or in compost or as a mulch. In fact, adverse effects may be encountered unless proper precautions are exercised.

Sawdust and other wood wastes are low in nitrogen. Soil bacteria and fungi that cause sawdust to decompose need nitrogen to carry on their activities and, if necessary, will rob the soil to get it. The scientists who have studied this problem advise farmers to apply approximately 0.8 pound of ammonium sulfate, 0.5 pound of ammonium nitrate, or their nitrogen equivalent to each bushel of sawdust or other wood waste such as shavings or chips. According to a recent bulletin (USDA Circular No. 891) entitled "The Use of Sawdust for Mulches and Soil Improvement," the gain in mellowness of a heavy textured soil is considerable, and water holding capacity of a sandy soil is increased.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

GARDENS AT SUNRISE

Sing a song of gardens
In the misty dawn.
Small insistent bird call
Whispering from the lawn.

Frosty lace and bits of flame,
Clumps of English heather,
Purple pansies still asleep
Huddle close together.

All the beauty hearts can hold
In tapestry of woven gold.
Breeze from out the edge of day
Comes to blow the cares away.

MARIE HALBERT KING.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Right in the midst of the Summer season the post office has started keeping almost "bankers hours" and we believe it's a big mistake. Perhaps it saves a few dollars and makes the report look better, but it puts Franklin in a bad light in the eyes of tourists and travelers. A person traveling today, if he has business with the post office will either have to stop early or start late. Since the post office window doesn't open until 8:30 and closes at 5:30.

Besides this inconvenience officials have recently decided to lock the lobby of the post office at 7 p. m. This is not fair to box holders since it greatly reduces the service they are due from renting their box and they have not reduced the rent in proportion.

By the time this is published in all probability, the Republicans will have nominated their candidate for president of the United States. It seems likely that the man will be Robert A. Taft—a man who believes in something that cannot exist— isolationism. Mr. Taft propounds the idea with varying degrees of intensity, depending on the sentiment of people to whom he is speaking. Mr. Taft still views America as a country of limitless resources and thinks that this country can draw within its boundaries and live. We can't for two reasons: 1. We do not have within our own boundaries the markets to consume the goods we are producing. If we cut production we will produce unemployment. 2. Today, there are many raw materials which we find it necessary to import. If the U. S. continues to grow at the same rate in the third quarter of the century as it did in the first half, the population will reach 193 million by 1975. These millions of people will consume 1,845 per cent more manganese and 1,500 per cent more titanium if production continues its present trends of expansion. These are two items which we do not have sufficient supply of at present. Our rapid growth and extravagant use of raw materials has seriously depleted our resources so that we are gradually shifting from a "have nation" to a "have not" nation. With this in mind rather than draw in our shell we had better be friends with neighbors so that we can buy and sell with them.

It will never be done, but think how nice it would be if the thousands of people who visit Franklin each year or pass through could go away remembering Franklin as that nice clean town with wide shady streets. Our trend seems to be the other way, we are continually erecting new buildings close to the existing streets, and now
Continued On Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

We are glad to learn that Prof. George H. Carpenter has recently been elected superintendent of Bowie City Schools at Bowie, Texas.

S. L. Rogers, F. S. Johnson, J. F. Ray, J. A. Porter, A. L. Norton, H. G. Robertson, J. S. Sloan, S. L. Kelly, Lee Crawford, J. S. Trotter, and perhaps some others, went to Bryson City to attend the judicial convention yesterday.

It would be expecting a great deal to look for pure and unalloyed veracity from a horse jockey or a professional politician.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. O. C. Hall, a prominent merchant of Kyle, visited Franklin Wednesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam L. Rogers, Jr., and infant, of Washington, D. C., have arrived to spend the summer with Mr. Rogers' mother, Mrs. Sam L. Rogers, Sr., at Rogers hall.

Mr. Bill Cunningham, reputed to be the best buyer in Macon county, has been to the Baltimore markets laying in a large late summer and fall stock of goods for the Cash Store, of which he is manager.

10 YEARS AGO

The Independence Day celebration in Franklin last Saturday was a big success in every way, conceded by those who have attended as one of the best ever put on.