

PERSON COUNTY TIMES

A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

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Published Every Thursday and Sunday. Entered As Second Class Matter At The Postoffice At Roxboro, N. C., Under The Act Of March 3rd., 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$1.50 Six Months75

Advertising Cut Service At Disposal of Advertisers at all times. Rates furnished upon request.

News from our correspondents should reach this office not later than Tuesday to insure publication for Thursday edition and Thursday P. M. for Sunday edition.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1939

Community Spirit

Within the past three or four days we have had the pleasure of attending various civic, social and business meetings in the town. We suppose that native sons and daughters, not to speak of long time residents, of Roxboro take these affairs as a matter of course, as duties to be performed with a quite proper and to be expected mixture of self interest joined with public duty sense.

And yet we wonder if the average citizen, the one who is content to let John do it, really appreciates what these self-appointed public servants of Roxboro do for their town? It takes time to go to a Scout Council meeting; it takes time to "dress" and attend a Parent Teachers association reception and it takes time to go to a civic meeting whose main concern happens to be the promotion of sound business relationships

It might as easily be said that it takes time to go to the movies or to attend a club or a mid-week church service. It does, but it must be said that many citizens find time to "go" because they, in their hearts, want to do so. In the same manner other people in a town find moments enough to have their pleasures, observe religious principles and seek culture, and to "go" the extra mile of public service.

To be sure, these same people if they want to be callous about it can defend themselves by saying that public service brings its own returns in an increased social ease and in a no less increased financial prosperity. But that is not the whole story. In even a crass and practical age public service and community spirit have their rewards, rewards not to be measured in terms of personal profits.

In the past few weeks the truths of this have come home to us in no uncertain measure. Yardsticked by other and larger cities in North Carolina, Roxboro cannot yet be called a genuine urban center. It is still marked with symbols closely associating it with the rural county from which it draws its social and economic support. But the people in Roxboro and in Person County are also much closer to genuine living and to friendly co-operative consideration than they realize.

When a town's Scout meeting, P. T. A. reception and civic club meeting draws its best people, from both the town and county, there is already in existence a live and an active community spirit. Frequently, within the last few weeks, we have been asked, quite naturally, how we liked Roxboro and Person county. This editorial can be taken as a personal and a distinctively affirmative answer. We like both. But we know, as well as the most died in the wool native, that Community Spirit in itself is not enough. To be effective this spirit must run and not be weary, it must walk and not faint and it must never be tired of well doing.

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Out of a Book

At the considerable risk of being termed "high brow", although that word is now out of fashion among people who really are "that way", we venture to say that we have read a book: "Son of Carolina", by Augustus White Long.

Augustus White Long now lives in the secure retirement furnished by old age. Having ended his career as a professor of English at Princeton university, he came home to his native North Carolina and is now at Brevard with certain members of his family. But instead of sitting in the sun and thinking about the days when he was a boy in Chapel Hill, Mr. Long has written an autobiography in which all of these memories, together with some others belonging to the outside world of Baltimore, Cambridge and Princeton, have been preserved.

Although he denies it, "Son of Carolina" may have been written to please the author. Of a certain, it pleases us and under that judgment nothing else really matters. It will come to many readers, as it did to us, that Mr. Long has had an unusually varied career for a professor. But the interesting thing about the variations is mainly the manner in which they were brought about.

There is in itself nothing particularly unique in being born into a distinctly middle-class North Carolina home. The same thing happens every day of the year all over the state, all over the nation, for that matter. Not all of us, however, are blessed with the power to remember significant small details of our pedestrian lives.

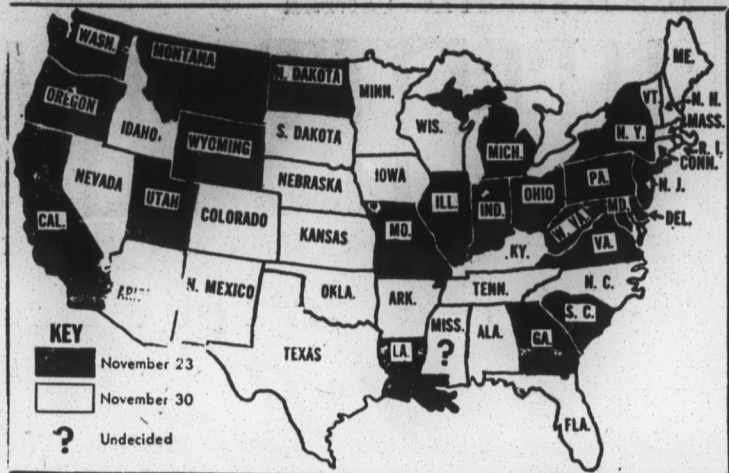
Mr. Long does remember them and he puts them into his chronicle. When a native North Carolinian is done with a reading of "Son of Carolina" he knows he has lived through a book containing not only an explanation of Mr. Long's life but also an explanation of the common and the average life in the "Tar Heel" state. Without being as sensational as the late Tom Wolfe, or as philosophic as the poetic Paul Green, Dr. Long catches the movement, both past and present, of our way of living. He is at home in Brevard. He would be at home here and in Person County.

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The Way It Strikes Us

Today is Sunday, and the last of two-three-four or more revivals held in Roxboro churches will

Thanksgiving Query—"When Do We Eat?"



Divided response was accorded President Roosevelt's action in setting Thanksgiving a week ahead. Twenty-two states will celebrate on November 23, the new date; 21 will celebrate traditionally on November 30; Texas will have two Thanksgivings and Mississippi was undecided.

soon be closed. Within the past few weeks there has been a tremendous amount of church going here. But unless the lasting benefits of an active religious enthusiasm are to be preserved through the remaining winter, spring and summer seasons, a short period of extra church attendance will not have been productive of that good desired by all churchmen and ministers, regardless of denominational affiliations.

The sharp contrast between the world as it is and Heaven on earth as it should be, comes closely home if you happen to attend church on Sunday and then go to the courthouse on Monday. We suppose that the men and women who faced Judge Burney's bar of justice in Person's Superior court were no better and no worse than the rest of us might be—under this or that twisting circumstance of fate.

We are reasonably sure, however, that if only a portion of the religious spirit engaged by revival and special services could be more generally spread and sustained outside of church walls during the entire year judges in the courts would have fewer and considerably less hardened prisoners to deal with. The world is hard and difficult: it is the true churchman's job to make it less so.



History and Curiosity

Christian Science Monitor

The British public, avid to ask questions about the war, which, for military reasons, it would be unwise to answer, have been sagely advised by a leading newspaper to go to the historians, whose curiosity about the past, it is said, is never foolish. It is in times of crisis that historians come into their own. When the world basks in a halcyon calm people are apt to be cavalier about them. Eminent industrialists aver that history is bunk, and no less eminent writers declare that history repeats itself, and historians one another.

But when history is being made, a new politeness comes into the tones of those speaking of the men by whom history is written. And rightly so. The historian is a man of power. The fame of Cromwell owes something to Carlyle. Caesar the fighter should be grateful to Caesar the writer.

Yet historians are no more immune than less learned people from asking questions to which there is no satisfactory answer. They have long wondered who was the man in the iron mask, and whether Mary of Scotland really wrote the Casket Letters, and if there was actually a wooden palisade at the battle of Hastings. No one can tell them these things beyond all per-adventure; and, like the men and women in Britain's streets today, they have to come to terms with their curiosity as best they may.

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A Quiet Beginning

News and Observer

There is something wrong with either the candidates or the students when two occasions at which a total of five of the six candidates for Governor spoke at Chapel Hill brought out audiences totaling only 500 people.

It is undoubtedly a long time before the election. By next year this time the State may have passed through a fever heat of political activity and interest. So far, however, not only is there little apparent interest in the fortunes of the five gentlemen or of the State in getting one or the other of them, but also none of the gentlemen seem willing or ready as yet to present any program which makes any really compelling appeal to the people of the State.

Maybe North Carolina and all its people are so well off that no such program is needed. Maybe all that the candidates should do is speak pleasantly to such people as they can persuade to come to hear them speak pleasantly. All this lack of interest may be a sign of security. But it may be a sign of sleep.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

From The Adult Student

Those Who Feel Poor

Dr. Moffatt has given a very illuminating translation of the first beatitude, in the words, "Blessed are those who feel poor in spirit."

To feel poor in spirit is to feel one's need. That is God's opportunity. To feel poor in spirit is very much different from feeling poor. Those who feel poor are apt to become resentful, or they may sink into a state of abject hopelessness that makes them helpless. But those who feel they are poor in spirit usually set out to do something about it.

Jesus has promised that all the riches of heaven are available to the man who feels himself spiritually needy. It means that those who set out to enrich themselves, in spirit, will find wealth all about them. They are welcome to all of God's wealth they are willing to take.

The man who does not feel poor in spirit never seeks; only those who feel a lack ever set out to have that lack supplied. Fortunately, indeed, is the man who feels such a lack, for he is in process of discovering God.

Humble Conquerors

That word "meek" suggests weakness. We have the feeling that it is easy to impose upon the weak person—as a schoolboy said "anybody can shove them around."

A much better word, and one that is more nearly an accurate translation of the original Greek is "humble." "The humble will inherit the earth."

It is sometimes a little difficult to believe this statement, in the face of press agents, ballyhoo, propaganda, force, blustering, and bravado. But if one reads history with any degree of care he will discover that it is true.

Is there any nation on the earth today more humble than little Denmark? Her total standing army, used for police purposes only, is considerably less than 10,000. She has her boys in school, or at work, instead of having them in training camps. Neither does she have a navy, though she is almost completely surrounded by water. Her sailors are all working at the task of producing wealth for the nation back home.

In no other nation has the co-operative movement developed to the extent that it has in Denmark. This accounts for the fact the unemployment situation in the little land is so well in hand, and that the standard of living is so high, and that there are so many people in schools. By the humble process of work, thrift, learning, and co-operation, these hardy people have taken a little land that is almost totally unblest with great natural resources, and made it one of the choicest spots on the face of the earth.

Meanwhile, the dictators, terrorists, disciples of Mars, and international rapists are doing one another to death.

Persecuted for Goodness

Many people magnify their sufferings, especially when they think they are being punished for their convictions. As a matter of fact, fewer people are persecuted today because they believe things, than because they attempt to do things.

In spite of all our emphasis on the "practical" aspects of religion, the great majority of modern adult Christians think of Christianity in terms of intellectual opinions about Jesus. It is only by the wildest possible imagination that anyone can think of people in America being actually persecuted because they believe in Jesus, or in some doctrine concerning him. It is when we take our beliefs seriously that we begin to run into opposition.

No one would be persecuted for talking about Jesus' ideal of brotherhood, but when we begin to try to set the ideal up in industry or international affairs

we get into an entirely different situation. Talking about the race problem is one thing; admitting people of color into the learned professions is something else.

Very few people are ever persecuted because they believe in goodness; most of us know nothing about persecution for goodness sake because we have never gone out to fight for the rights of goodness.

It ought to be a source of great encouragement to those who are giving their lives for the establishment of righteousness, that God has promised the resource of heaven as their allies. If a thing is right, we know it is usually certain of victory. Goodness can wait.

Unsalted Salt

The thing that makes sale salt is its saltiness. Other substances are granular, other things are white, other things are dug out of the ground, other things are chemically pure. But the distinguishing thing about salt—the thing that makes it different from everything else, and gives it its own individuality—is its salty taste.

Once that salt has lost its saltiness, it is no longer salt. It may be several other things that resembles salt, but it is not salt. And no process has yet been discovered by which it can be restored.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Christian is whatever there is of the Christ about him. Other people can be learned, others can be theological, others can be servants of mankind, and others can be religious, but the Christian who is really Christian will be Christlike.

It often happens that the so-called believer thinks he is a Christian because he mentally believes some doctrine about Jesus. All Christians need to be reminded that the only thing that entitles them to the name of Christian, is the element of Christ that has come into their lives.

The weakness of the Christian movement today can be explained on the basis of the fact that so large a proportion of our people have failed to exhibit that spirit. Our beliefs are probably correct; our morals are not so inferior as some would try to make it appear; but there is such a contrast between the spirit of Jesus and the spirit we show to the world.

Seeing Us, and Glorifying God There are those who want to be seen in order that they may be glorified.

One of the ushers resigned because he had not been shown the proper amount of attention. "If you are resigning for the glory of God, then I will accept your resignation," said the pastor, "but if you are resigning in order to embarrass the head usher, or because your feelings have been hurt and you think it will ease them to nurse them, then I cannot accept your resignation."

The pastor and the people of a church have a right to expect that the actions of all Christians shall glorify God.

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Long Meromial Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:45 a. m. Devotional led by Young People. Classes for all ages.

Morning Worship - 11:00 a. m. Sermon by the Pastor on "Christian Conviction." Special music.

Christian Workers Training School - 3:00 to 5:00 p. m. Devotional led by Rev. R. W Bradshaw

Young People's Meeting - 6:45 p. m.

No evening service, but people are urged to attend the Revival Services at Presbyterian church.

Professional Cards

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