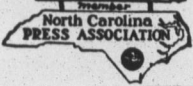


PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1940

"Their Lives of Crime" . . . . .

In his formal statement in connection with commutation of the death sentences of the three Burlington "bandits", Roy Kelly and Ralph and Wade Hanford, last week, Governor Clyde R. Hoey said that Kelly and the Hanford boys "have had very poor opportunities . . . Many facts were developed in this investigation which tend to explain, if not excuse, their lives of crime . . . I am satisfied that it was not the purpose of these defendants to commit murder".

In saying that these young men had "poor opportunities" we suppose that Governor Hoey went about as far as executive dignity permits, although his implicit criticism of a social order which allows men like Kelly and the Hanfords to go wrong is, perhaps, made stronger by understatement. We suppose, too, that not many Tar Heel residents who are familiar with the case will disapprove of the Governor's attitude in this particular instance.

Society being organized as it is, on a very unequal basis, not much can be done to forestall or to check petty criminal impulses. Robberies of filling stations occur daily (or nightly, we should say) as Person and Roxboro residents are well aware and it would seem that only a rule of chance keeps many of these theft cases from becoming murder cases as well. The difficulty is that according to law, men and women who are involved in a robbery or murder, or any other crime, must pay for their crimes even if they themselves do not actually do the robbing or the killing.

The two Hanfords and Kelly, for example, were with a man named Huffman and a man named Smith. In the gun battle with the officers which followed reporting of the robbery, two of the officers and Huffman were slain. Later, at the trial Smith turned state's evidence and by so doing probably saved himself from a death sentence. Evidence was introduced to show that actual shooting of the two officers was probably done by Huffman, but under the laws of the court Kelly and the Hanfords were tried and convicted under a first degree murder charge.

After their conviction nothing except the death sentence awaited them. There, if anywhere, seems room for a note of criticism. The trial was conducted according to rules and the aftermath of commutation to life sentences was also according to rule but it seems that there should be some way to spare the state the expense and the prisoners the strain of going through a first-degree murder trial when sentences imposed there seem to be destined ultimately to modification.

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My Name Is Not George . . . . .

Members of the board of governors and committeemen and several interested citizens who are not members of the Roxboro Country Club met last Thursday night to discuss plans for a spring program to be undertaken by the club. Considerable interest was shown at the meeting, although it was apparent that up to the present time many people who could be supporting the club idea have been quit busy "letting George" do it.

Although the club house, recently renovated, is now ready for use and prospects seem good for completion of last details in connection with golf course, it must be said that it seems to us that best use of the club's facilities has not yet been made. Putting it down on paper may make the thought seem trite, but we have little doubt that original organizers of the club, ahead of any other use for it, had golf on their minds.

This fact was brought out at the Thursday night meeting by a process of indirect discourse, but we are glad to report that if plans made then reach proper maturity there will be in the near future an enlarged program of athletic and social activities for the spring and summer. And it is this program in which we are interested. Roxboro needs more facilities for "out of the home" entertaining and it seems to us that the country club house at Chub Lake offers an excellent opportunity for an expansion of such facilities.

There is no good reason why bridge and bingo tournaments, private parties, dances and dinners could not be given at the clubhouse, provided members want these entertainments enough to go to the trouble of providing a proper staff to keep the building in order, make advance reservations and prepare food.

We place emphasis on "provided members want" a proposed enlarged program, since it is rather obvious that the board of governors and the committeemen do favor it and are limited only by pocketbook considerations, considerations which in the long run come right back in the the multiple pocketbooks of the members.

Roxboro residents like pleasure as much as any people, but some of them have apparently not learned that pleasure and recreation cost money; not much money, in consideration for benefits received, but some money and it is rather unfortunate that an excellent place for water and land and indoor sports and entertainment is not being used to its fullest advantage, because some people who could give the club their support in both money and time say: "My name is not George."

'Grosvenor House' Trio Entertains Buddies



The "Grosvenor House Orchestra," a musical trio recruited from Britain's royal air force, conducts a "jam-session" somewhere in France on the western front. "Grosvenor House" is also the name of their dugout, as well as the name of an exclusive London hotel. The enemy's savage breast was not reported soothed by the music.



Proving The Student . . . . .

Christian Science Monitor

The annual report of the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching points out a fact singularly parallel to an important finding of more than one university scholarship committee. Course grades and special examinations are no longer to be looked upon as the complete criterion for judging a student's intellectual capacity and promise. Frequently those qualities are most clearly revealed by the "unsigned discoveries" that the student has made on his own.

An instance is the earnest student who voluntarily collected several hundred plant specimens, studied them, and wrote complete case histories of each.

The fruits of such spontaneous researches prove trustworthy as evidence of where the young student's heart and treasures lie. Free pursuit of special knowledge does not replace but complements the more defined and basic requirements of the classroom and appears at least equally deserving of recognition and encouragement.

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Authentic or Fictitious, It Makes Sense . . . . .

Durham Morning Herald

There is considerable political to-do, it seems, over a piece Ernest Lindley, seasoned newspaper correspondent who is rather close to President Roosevelt, wrote in his column in The Washington Post. It purports to recite a conversation between Mr. Roosevelt and an intimate political friend dealing with the third term. The intimate friend isn't identified, but some of Lindley's colleagues have mentioned nominated Rep. Bob Doughton for the role.

The gist of the conversation, as imagined or heard by Mr. Lindley, is that Mr. Roosevelt told a certain political intimate that he is tired of the job, does not plan to seek a third term, thinks Cordell Hull is the most available man the Democrats have, likes Jim Farley very much and would like to see him "done right by" but recommends against giving Mr. Farley a place on the ticket because it would almost certainly stir up a row over the religious issue and might precipitate another Al Smith debacle.

The President refused to be drawn into a discussion of the Lindley yarn at his Tuesday press conference and evaded newsmen who tried to say yea and nay on the Doughton angle of it.

Everyone, of course, understands why the President refused to be cross-examined on the subject and left the Washington boys to make their own guesses and draw their own conclusions. He isn't saying anything definite on the third-term issue and the Lindley yarn, authentic or not, could not be discussed by the President except through revealing words about his third-term attitude. Everyone knows, too, that Ernest Lindley is one of the several newspaper correspondents who retains the full confidence and admiration of Mr. Roosevelt. He wrote Mr. Roosevelt's biography.

So perhaps it isn't taking too great a risk to suggest that regardless of whether or not it represents a "free transcription" of a White House conversation, Mr. Lindley's piece represents Mr. Roosevelt's analysis of and thoughts about the third-term proposition.

For a rational view of the situation, it seems to us, compels the practical politician—and Mr. Roosevelt is that—to conclude that a third-term venture would be unwise, that Mr. Hull is the best bet among Democratic hopefuls, that Jim Farley has earned place on the ticket, and that putting Jim Farley on the ticket would probably rekindle the sort of flames that burned in 1928.

It may be put down, then, that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Doughton did have such a conversation as Mr. Lindley records, they probably said about what Mr. Lindley's characters say. And if they didn't have such a conversation, they think along the lines Mr. Lindley indicates and will say those things if later on they do discuss the third-term question.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

From The Adult Student

Choice of Surrender

Not infrequently we hear persons and groups claiming moral victory on occasions and under circumstances when it is evident they are seeking a face-saving excuse for a defeat. This sort of thing is human, for we are created with a large capacity to resist being overcome. So vigorously does this develop in most of us that it takes much training to bring us to the point where we can lose with good grace and sportsmanship in the normal competitions of life. So difficult is it to learn the fine art of surrender or acceptance of defeat in minor affairs of life that many able persons find themselves incapable of facing an opposing will or duty and making the kind of surrender that means progress.

Choice of Surrenders In Gethsemane

Here our story, Jesus in Gethsemane, becomes illustrative. He faced a situation where surrender to God, to man, or some other decision had to be made. He sought God's will. We can well surmise that his keen mind saw many possible ways to escape the "cup" or bitter cross experience before him. These possibilities may have included retirement from Jerusalem to carry on his work in the small centers, withdrawal to some other country with a faithful few, or cessation of activity for a time until the opposition had quieted down. We would call such moves good religious strategy and accept them as the will of God for us in a like position.

How is it that Jesus saw through all of these possibilities and knew they were not the will of God and that the "Cross" way was? How was he able to see that the "time was at hand," that further training of his followers and wider extension of his ministry must be sacrificed to the grueling immediacy of the crucifixion? Probably any and all our human surmises, separate or combined, will fail to grasp what aided and made clear the decision to Jesus. Much the same difficulty inheres in our effort to determine truly the causes leading to a decision for ourselves or an associate. Nevertheless, to probe deeply for an answer is of real value to us in our spiritual development. It is this painstaking search which enables us to discover the human elements of such decisions and approach an understanding of the divine help in making decisions.

We see that in his method, prayer, meditation, and agony he is not seeking simply a way to meet a crisis created by Judas and his fellow-plotters. He seeks instead the most meaningful spiritual step toward man's redemption.

Gethsemane Is Not A One-Act Play

Jesus is not playing in this Gethsemane experience, neither is the scene enacted merely to set us an example. He is, first of all, a citizen in the Kingdom of Heaven and must live as a true one. As such he cannot be true to himself and not live the will of God for kingdom citizens.

The implication in the lesson theme is that Jesus surrendered his will to the will of the Heavenly Father. This does not imply that he was considering a sinful or wrong way of resolving the difficult situation. It preferably indicates that on his high level of life different good and plausible ways presented themselves, and he was forced to a genuine spiritual struggle to see which was most acceptable to God. Probably his was not a surrender, since his whole life was dedicated to doing the Father's will, but rather the vigorous effort of a soul to determine the best among so many good ways of procedure.

FOR RESULTS, ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES

Make-Up Expert Boasts His Own Rogues Gallery

The most persistent headache of the make-up department working on the Technicolor production of "Northwest Passage", starring Spencer Tracy, and opening at the Palace theatre Monday, was not in regard to shades of makeup for the cast, but in the length of the men's beards in the various sequences in which the action of the Kenneth Roberts' story takes place.

Because the Rangers, during their trek to the Indian village of St. Francis and return, let their beards grow, and because Director King Vidor did not necessarily shoot his scenes consecutively, it was necessary to make still photographs of ten-day, twenty day and thirty-day beards on such principals as Tracy, Robert Young, Walter Brennan. Nat Pendleton and hundreds of supporting players so that they would have the correct hirsute growth for the correct scenes.

The collection of pictures which Jack Dawn, make-up expert on "Northwest Passage", now possesses as a result, rivals and rogues gallery.

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