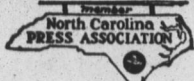


PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

H. S. MERRITT, EDITOR — M. C. CLAYTON, Manager THOMAS J. SHAW, JR., City Editor

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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, APRIL 7, 1940

Good Publicity Out of Necessity?

A brief newsnote from Berlin announces that by order of Adolf Hitler, "the colossal bronze doors of the Reich's Chancellery are to join the collection of metal which Germany is gathering for war purposes."

Second paragraph says that the doors are to be replaced with wooden ones and that it has been decided that some candelabra in the "gorgeous" new Chancellery wing can be dispensed with, all for the purpose of giving "a good example" to the nation.

The bronze doors, regarded as one of the sights of Berlin have opened to "such internationally famous statesmen as Benito Mussolini, United States Under-Secretary of State, Sumner Welles and Regent Admiral Nicholas Horthy of Hungary".

These, then, are the facts reported from Berlin, but in reading them we are reminded of an editorial note in italic type on the same page:

"News from warring countries is subject to censorship. It may sometimes be misleading. It is the right and duty of every American citizen to do his own thinking, hold to his own beliefs, and not permit himself or his country to be a victim of emotionalism or propaganda."

Without any additional pointing of a moral, it seems to us that the words just quoted are sufficient commentary on the "bronze doors" story. It may or may not be true that Germany desperately needs metal for cannons and ammunition, but the incident in question has to be classified as a only fair or average propaganda.

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The View From The Rear

On a week-day the vacant lot in the rear of the court house is filled with cars, but on Sunday the plot is naked, showing the full expanse of gray-brown earth. It has been said that at some time in the near future the flat portion of the area may be paved and marked off for proper parking space.

But whenever this is done something should be done with the banks edging the lot. The prospect of having a completely white concrete expanse back of the court house is no more pleasing than the earth-colored expanse. We do not know whose job it will be to see that there is an edging of grass and shrubbery added to the scene, but when the time comes for improvements to get under way such plantings should be undertaken.

The view from the rear of the court house would be much more attractive if the entire tract could be converted into a green park, but practicality demands an automobile parking lot, and bowing to the practical we compromise by suggesting that at least the elevated edges and the corners of the lot should have landscape attention.

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The Loss of Two Men

Within the week Roxboro has lost by death and by removal for business reasons two well-known citizens, men who were quiet in their ways but who nevertheless contributed to the city in which they lived.

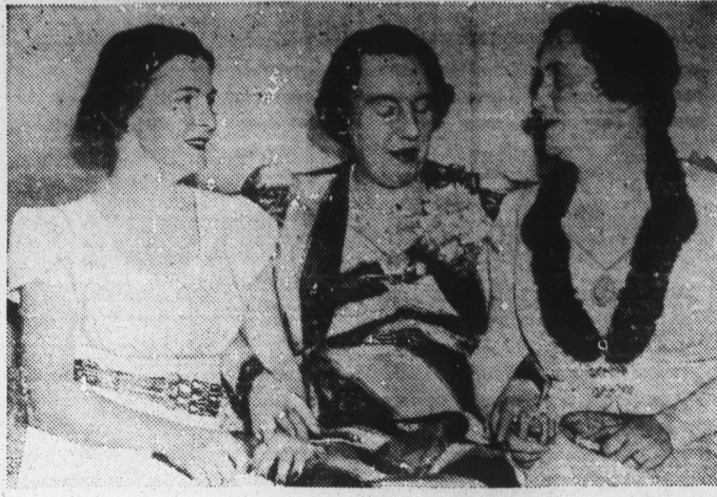
"Zeb" Morton, who died Thursday, was not the type of man who would have expected that he would ever be the subject of an editorial. During his lifetime in Person county and Roxboro he was harrassed by ill health to a degree beyond that experienced by the average man, and perhaps because of this physical frailty he was not inclined to push himself into the public affairs of his day and was not known intimately to many of the citizens here.

He did it pleasantly and with a certain efficiency beyond actual requirements. Many other men in his place would have retired within a shell more completely than he did and it must be said that he will be missed by those who knew him best.

In the Rev. Thomas H. Hamilton, former pastor of the Presbyterian church here, who is this morning entering upon his work at the Kinston First church, quietness was exemplified in a somewhat different manner. He entered into all the activities a minister is supposed to participate in, but did it with a modesty frequently lacking in present day ecclesiastical circles.

It may seem strange that newspaper comment should be made on this aspect of Mr. Hamilton's ministry here but in a news office where all kinds of preachers are known, many of them for what they want said about themselves rather than for what they preach, it is refreshing to have the pleasure of coming in contact with men like Mr. Hamilton. He, too, will be missed by Roxboro and Person people, although they may find an especial satisfaction in knowing that the minister whom they have appreciated will have in his new pastorate new and larger opportunities for the exercise of those commendable talents of which they know him to be possessed.

Next First Lady? She May Be Here



Potential first ladies of the land are these wives of leading Republican presidential candidates pictured as they attended the National Women's Press club stunt party in Washington, D.C. Left to right are Mrs. Thomas Dewey, wife of the New York county district attorney; Mrs. Arthur Vandenberg, wife of the senator from Michigan, and Mrs. Robert A. Taft, wife of the senator from Ohio.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

The Promised Cabinet Shake-Up

Durham Morning Herald

The British cabinet shake-up frequently mentioned these past few weeks has materialized and, for a change, it appears to follow the lines of the forecast.

Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, henceforth is to preside over the service ministries—admiralty, air, war, and supply—Sir Samuel Hoare is to take over as air minister in place of Sir Kingsley Wood, the target of intermittent criticism—and Sir Kingsley is to replace Sir Samuel as lord privy council head.

Prime Minister Chamberlain, of course, remains as the No. 1 man, with Churchill a more powerful No. 2 man.

Apparently the intended purpose is to satisfy those who want to "get on with the war" by putting more of the control levers in Churchill's hands and at the same time strive for more effective co-ordination of air and sea forces.

Churchill, thus far at least, represents the more belligerent attitude of the government and as head of sea forces, he probably shares the opinion others have expressed that the sort of opposition his magistry's navy faces requires the closest co-ordination of air and sea commands.

Anyhow, the cabinet reshuffle has materialized and though it may not satisfy those who demand a real re-organization of the ministry, normal British tolerance suggests that for a while, at least, there'll be less criticism on the political front.

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Emphasis Upon Democracy

Greensboro Daily News

Expatriating upon the liquor question over in the politically arid Cleveland county environs last week, Gubernatorial Candidate Paul Grady championed a statewide referendum on prohibition. Specifically Mr. Grady asserted that "the democratic rights of the people have been flagrantly violated" in North Carolina's handling of this issue.

And to that assertion the Daily News, without getting into the prohibition argument itself, would frankly say, with an interrogational inflection, we dunno.

Mind you, Mr. Grady was talking about democracy, as well as about prohibition; but it was undoubtedly from the prohibition angle that he hoped to garner votes, certainly in that part of the state which he was addressing himself. But it is from the angle of democracy that we raise our question. Democracy, in its ultimate application, means going back to the people, a government of the people. And there we encounter what may be a more or less academic question having to do with the more, or most, acceptable unit for democracy. In its self-expression and self-government. Is democracy best served or exemplified through the federal government, through the state government or through local government? How democratic is it for the state to vote prohibition, say, and force it upon the score or more counties which do not wish it and in which the majority have so expressed themselves and would quite conceivably so express themselves again? Is a statewide law or local option the more democratic method of expression and of operation?

We're simply raising the question with none of the cocksureness which Mr. Grady manifests and with our emphasis admittedly shifted from prohibition to democracy. Of this we are certain: Any—and everything that a candidate advances for vote-getting purposes will not ipso facto become the formula for which Demos has been searching all these years.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON From The Adult Student

Announcing the doom of Israel in a dirge-like couplet Amos plunges into a recital of the signs of national decay that may well cause us to pause in our day. It is peculiarly significant that although his announcement of doom is for the whole nation, his accusations of guilt are aimed at things of which individual men and women are guilty.

The suppression of truth and freedom of speech closes the mouth of every advocate of the weak, and we are not surprised

that Amos listed as a mark of decay in Israel that men trampled upon the weak, and levied extortionate taxes. These words of Amos cannot rightly be used as a proof text against all taxes, but it can clearly be applied to our modern tendency both as individuals and as social groups to take advantage of the weak, unorganized, or inarticulate groups, letting them suffer injustices and unfair burdens. We are coming to see that for Christians business is a matter of love and service, and that it can, for them, no longer be merely a competitive economic warfare.

Another ugly mark of decay which Amos singled out was the perversion of government and courts so that they oppressed the innocent, denied justice to the poor, and fattened on bribery.

Perhaps the subtlest temptation we face is that of accepting the unearned and unjust advantages which are so often within reach of otherwise honest people—the temptation to sponge off the government, to use personal position, wealth, or prestige to escape the consequences of law violation. Let us applaud and follow the example of that prominent government official who, a few months ago, insisted on paying a fine for a parking violation, even though the police upon learning of his high official status, sought to dismiss the charge without fine. The integrity of the nation can be no greater than the personal integrity of its citizens.

In verse 13, Amos singles out another mark of decey, that of letting our silence help evil. In the face of all the signs of decay in Israel, "he who is prudent will be silent at such a time, but it will be an evil time." In this sarcastic line Amos puts his finger upon a deep sore of society. We certainly need prudence and wisdom, but if prudence leads us into a do-nothing policy, then prudence betrays us into the hands of the enemy. Are we afraid to talk directly with, or write to our government officials about matters in which our support as Christians is needed? We say it would be presumptuous or imprudent. Or we say, "I wouldn't know as a mayor or congressman." Likewise, many of us avoid trying to help individuals in their struggle with personal sin. These words from an old Methodist Discipline hit us pretty hard: "We let them go quietly to hell, lest we offend them." Then let's risk making some social blunders in order to fulfil our patriotic and Christian duty!

The Eternal Insecurity of Evil Amos proclaimed that ill-gotten houses and vineyards would not be enjoyed by their new owners. The internal weakening of Israel, by the very things from which Amos sought to turn the Israelites, contributed to the destruction of Israel at the hands of Assyria in the year 722 B. C., less

than forty years after his speech. Edwin Markham's great poem, "The Man with the Hoe," gives forceful, modern application to this truth.

Not all suffering is caused by sin, but we can see throughout history the insecurity and suffering that it does cause. As surely as nature abhors a vacuum, so nature's economic laws make insecure a top-heavy social order in which the economic needs of any great group of people are ignored, or in which any great part of the population, rich or poor, neglects the fundamental obligations of honesty, hard work and consideration for others.

The Price Of Life But Amos' message is not entirely a negative one. He follows his discouraging analysis with a flashing contrast, showing the price of life, and the conditions under which God will truly abide with Israel. "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live," and again "Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgement in the gate," says Amos, and perhaps God will save at least a remnant of his people. Notice how Amos mixes things which an individual person can do along with things which society as a whole must do. Each of us can abhor and oppose evil, and can love and seek the good in our own private lives. We do not have to wait for the government and courts to be reformed. But personal goodness cannot widely thrive when thwarted by organized corruption in government, so we must work together to establish justice—"in the gate," that is, in the courts and government.

When Worship Is Sin God through his prophets said some shocking things! "I hate, I despise your feast days!" is one of those judgments that ought to make us search our own festivals. What would God say about the way we observe Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter, our three great festivals? Has meaning and reality faded away leaving only the rigid crusts of habitual observances that are empty?

Many people are prone to point a finger at the liturgical churches which make great use of formal ritual as being spiritually "dead," but perhaps we should ask ourselves how much of our own regular participation in Sunday service is really meaningful? What does it mean to repeat the Apostle's Creed? What definite religious meaning and value do we obtain from taking Communion? Is there real religious food in each part of the church-school session?

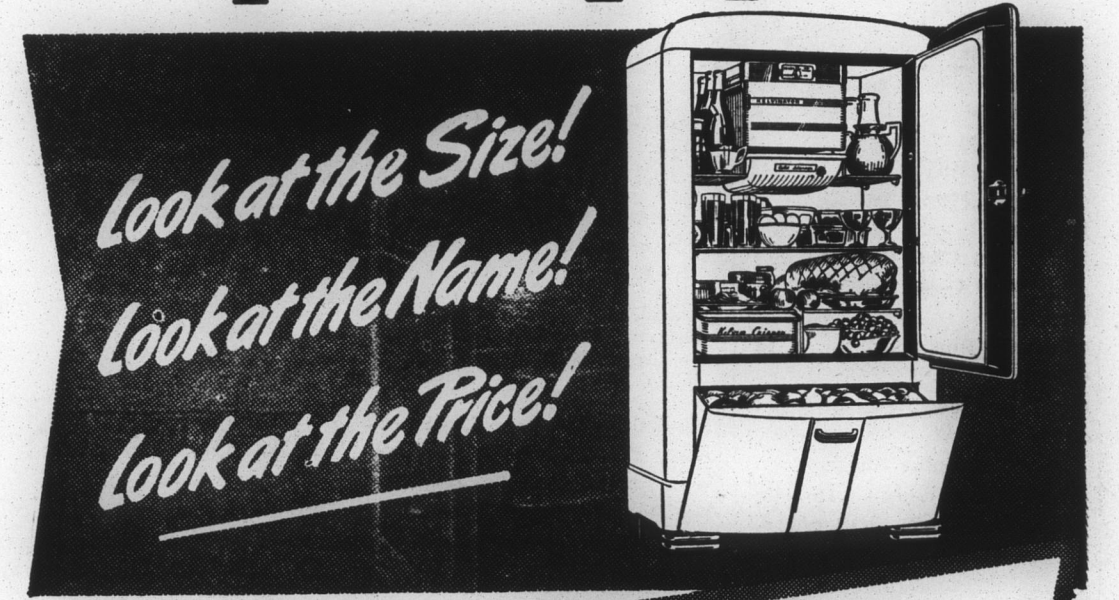
If we admit lack of vital religious meaning in any of these activities of religion, then we need to take to ourselves the terrible words of Amos speaking for God—"I hate, I despise your feast days," unless and until they are filled with sincere religious meaning by lives of justice and righteousness.

LAND POSTED SIGNS AT THE TIMES OFFICE

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