

PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

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

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 1943

He Would Not Take No For An Answer

In the story of Ensign Wiley Umstead, a Second Navigator with Pan-American Airways, as recounted in today's issue of the Times, there is revelation of a typically American characteristic—determination.

Young Umstead, a college boy when Pearl Harbor changed the face of his world and ours, volunteered at once for the Air Corps. It was, he thought, the one way in which he could serve. For months he studied and went through the tough training program required by the Air Corps. A routine regulation provided a final physical check-up about two weeks before he was to receive his commission, but for Umstead that examination spelled tragedy. The doctors told him, a strong, healthy specimen, that he was ill, that he would have to go to a hospital, that he could never hope to meet the physical requirements of the Air Corps.

Umstead took it on the chin. He went to a hospital and did as he was told. That took months, too. Finally he was well again, and as determined as ever to be back in the service. And it had to be Air service. He had the training and it was not long before Pan-American Airways gladly accepted him. Things went along quietly, as they would in a commercially operated line, but Umstead did his job. Promotions came, and finally the lucky break. Pan-American's cooperative program with the Government that put him into active military service.

That story explains why Umstead is an Ensign. And judging from what has happened to him on the transport plane, he's running into just about as much adventure as he could have expected in his first love, the Air Corps. When fate changed his life Umstead did not quit and in his attitude is a lesson that will serve for all of us regardless of what we do or where we serve.

"Wearing A Green Dress"

Courage born of war crops up in varied circumstances, sometimes, where least expected. A Person soldier, then in camp in another State, not long ago married a young woman whose home was in a City near his camp. Filled with the joy of their new happiness, the two young folks sat down and wrote letters to the members of his family. Papa and Mama had to be told.

For the boy it was an easy task, for the girl a harder one. She had never met his folks. They did not know her. Had never heard of her. But she beat her husband at his own game and by the sincerity and naturalness of her message, paved the way for acceptance in the inner circle.

That was chapter one. A few days ago the soldier received overseas marching orders. He went to the port of embarkation and with him went his wife. Pretty soon their farewells were said, with a promise from the bride that she would stop in Roxboro for a visit with her hitherto unseen in-laws. Last week they got a telegram saying that Mary would be here on an afternoon train. Tacked onto the message was this phrase: "I'm wearing a green dress".

The story has ended happily. Mary is here. She likes her new family. And they like her. How could they help liking a daughter-in-law who has, among other characteristics, the spirit of pioneers? Without ever having seen her, we take off our hat to her in admiration of her skill in handling a situation that is typical of this day and time. And we really don't care what Dorothy Dix says about war-marriages. Some of them may go on the rocks: we have a hunch that Mary's won't.

Second Disclaimer

Until Hillman Moody, State Director of the Food Distribution Administration of the Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, is heard from it must be presumed that Person's already frazzle-worn meat slaughtering and abattoir situation will remain in its present ambiguous condition. Latest disclaimer, as revealed in Thursday's Times, comes from the OPA, with Kavanaugh and Edwards of that office, dumping the issues involved into Moody's lap.

And it appears from this distance that Moody's lap is going to have to be as big as his title if he expects to do much holding. We are willing to let the OPA go its own way and we are not at all bothered by its elimination from the scene, but we cannot believe that either the Person Meat Board or the Board of Commissioners of the City of Roxboro could have been as befuddled as the OPA says they were. In effect, the OPA tells our two Boards that complaints to OPA amounted to barking up the wrong tree.

For a choice morsel, furthermore, consider this in the OPA's recommendation of Moody: (he) "has evidenced in the State every willingness to cooperate insofar as his authority goes."

Now that OPA, which was previously mentioned as an authority, and the Health Departments ditto, are out of the way, what Person and Roxboro will want to know is, "How far will Moody go?" The answer to that question will, it appears, be the final answer in a State and Federal and County mince-pie of wonderful and proportionate buck-passing.

The laughter of those who are suffering from the bucking grows a little thin, as does the patience of the few citizens who are still sincerely interested in the construction of an abattoir here.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

Oxford Recreation

Oxford Public Ledger

Opening Friday evening of the Service Center marks a new high attained by this community in meeting the needs of military men visiting Oxford.

The large-scale program which is now organized and functioning here is an outgrowth of the efforts of far-sighted men and women of the community who concerned themselves with working out carefully the solution to a problem before development of the problem.

It was natural to expect that some of the thousands of men stationed at nearby Camp Butner would find their way to Oxford and all of the other towns in the vicinity. It was natural to expect that these men would want and demand amusement and entertainment that walking the streets did not afford but which was within the limits of their purses.

Planned recreation was the natural answer. Oxford Service Organization came into being and did magnificent service for the community in the initial period of operation. It was through this organization and the personnel it provided that Oxford established and maintained friendly contact with neighboring Camp Butner. The Woman's Club opened its splendid club building and provided for the visitors a friendly meeting ground for the military man and cordial civilians. Hundreds of young men, homesick and weary, have found understanding and sympathy among those whom they have met at the Woman's Club. The experience has given them a new light on a so-called "cold, cruel world."

As the opportunity grew, the Recreation Commission was authorized by the Board of Commissioners of Oxford and federal funds were sought by the Commission to help finance the growing program. Development of a recreational program for whites and colored, along lines that promote friendship and fellowship between the civilian and the military, directed and supervised by competent workers, has been the net result.

The Service Center will not supplant any existing program. It will complement it and help to strengthen the whole undertaking. The majority of service men who have visited Oxford one or more times have noted the wholesome interest of the citizenship in their well being.

The Service Center is here. To fail to make maximum use of the Center and its staff for the good of the military man as well as the whole community would mean that we're failing to take advantage of something really worthwhile.

Fires That Must Be Tended

Mocksville Enterprise

A novelist, Alice Tisdale Hobart, author of the "Cup and the Sword," writes: "Safety and freedom to me, then, seemed like rocks which could not be blasted from the soil of America. But I know, now, they are flames which must be tended every moment of our lives. Like the fires in our pioneer fathers' log cabins they must never be allowed to go out."

Nothing truer has been said by the multitudes who, in these days are "saying." We may admit that the early settlers, the Pilgrim fathers, and those early pioneers to the west, were not all, and greatly, moved by religion to come to America, and then to forge westward. Many of them were looking for land and gold, and had little concern for religion. But having accepted that as a fact there yet remains throughout those rude beginnings, and later pioneering, a motive, which like the theme, or motif, in music, runs through the entire composition, is in-

terwoven with the adventures, hardships, and trials of discovery and settlement, and that motive is freedom—freedom from past tyrannies, and freedom for future movements. The fires in those rude cabins which were so carefully guarded are indeed a symbol of the care and the vigilance with which freedom must be tended today.

Ever with the specter of Hitlerism in Europe, which had reduced millions to slavery, and murdered countless thousands more, there are people in America who take our freedom for granted, and assume that nothing can touch them. There are millions who think that the most important thing is higher wages, and some look for higher profits, some look for comforts and conveniences, and complain because we are deprived of some of them. They forget that if freedom is lost all of these things are lost also. Each generation must guard its own treasures or lose them; unless we guard them today we shall have nothing to transmit to the future. If the spirit of freedom dies in the hearts of men it will be but a short while until their bodies and minds are in chains.

Harlem's Problem Is Our Problem

(From the Christian Science Monitor).

No specific act of race prejudice of injustice precipitated the wild criminal outbreak in Harlem Sunday night. Almost the only clashes between whites and Negroes were between the police and hoodlums. In this sense it was not a race riot. Yet behind it lie deep-seated racial problems which are of national concern. Toward the solving of these problems Americans of every racial and social group can contribute by seeking to understand causes and by supporting wise and healing, rather than excited and hateful, efforts to remove those causes.

Six persons are dead, hundreds were injured, scores of stores and shops were looted when their windows were smashed, business was paralyzed for a day in New York's great Negro district. Why? What caused such an apparently organized outbreak? How was it possible? Are there so many of the criminal type in Harlem that ordinary policing cannot handle them? Why should Harlem be such a frequent scene of "muggings," the assault and robbery of soldiers, sailors, and other visitors to the section, of hold-ups, store burglaries, killings, wanton attacks?

It must be pointed out that the very conditions that used to make Five Points the scene of viciousness a century ago, and which later gave birth to the Dead End Kids tradition on the Lower East Side and other white sections, have in large measure been permitted to repeat themselves in Harlem.

The section is overcrowded. It has some excellent apartments housing its prosperous elements—and it has "rats' nests" that house whole families in a single

room. Poverty and ignorance of the worst types abound, and are exploited by political and commercial racketeers. New York City has not done what it should to provide educational and recreational opportunities. Among the Negroes is some feeling that this is partly due to the fact that they are a racial minority. New York City is one of the exceptional spots which still has unemployment. War industries have passed it by. And some racial discrimination has doubly restricted economic opportunity for Negroes.

Vice seems always to thrive in any slum area, and where the economic urge is so strong among so many, the law's agencies seem inadequate. Drug peddlers, bootleggers, fences, procurers flourish in such surroundings.

These are underlying reasons for crime and unrest, but despite them all, there remain standards of human conduct which a self-respecting community must demand—and enforce.

Whatever its causes, vandalism cannot be tolerated. Yet the Harlem situation is not one which can be healed with police clubs or bayonets, although the New York police are widely credited with having, by firmness and restraint, prevented a worse situation. Order must be restored and crime curbed, but the evil to be eradicated lies deep. No less than a generation of social reform may be required to work a thorough change.

Meanwhile the leaders of both races would do well to discourage those who by thoughtless, or calculated, utterances have led the Negro to believe he can improve his social or economic status by acts of violence.

Beating up white men does not bring the Negro the "equality he seeks."

Draft boards might carefully reexamine their lists. The police could help by co-operating with Federal employment boards in the case of the thousands of



The Devil chuckles when he sees a home left unprotected by fire insurance. See us and forget him!

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Roxboro, N. C.

known vagrants or unemployed. More employers and more labor unions can drop the arbitrary color line and let merit and ability be recognized. The community itself, including property owners and landlords, must help its less fortunate members—and clean up its own filth and rotteness.

What has happened in Harlem is, after all, America's concern. Americans cannot continue to repeat Cain's querulous cry. By joining hands, by frowning upon intolerance by either black men or white, by taking constructive steps to eliminate underlying social evils, they can prevent another such occurrence in Harlem or anywhere within their country's borders.

PALACE THEATRE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, August 9-10-11th



BUD ABBOTT and LOU COSTELLO

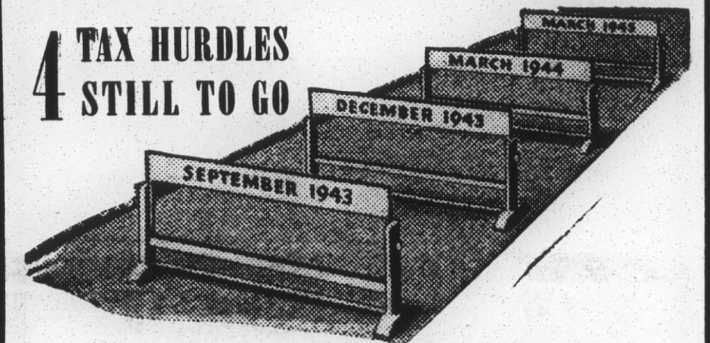
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ELYSE KNOX  
JOHNNY LONG  
and His Orchestra  
Helen Young - Gene Williams  
The Four Tones  
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