

The Petal Paper

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1957

SINGLE COPY TEN CENTS

VOL. 4, NUMBER 44



East Side

By P. D.

When General Lee surrendered to General Grant, on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Court House, the question of States Rights was decided. News of the Confederate capitulation seems to have traveled slow. For example, Arkansas' Governor Faubus seems not to have heard it yet.

Why it is, I don't know, unless at heart I'm a scholar, my reading of books is something that would confuse most folks. At the present time I'm reading the following:

"The Mind Of The South," by W. J. Cash. "The Civil War," by James Street. Re-reading in part, "Lords Of The Press," by George Seldes. "The Republic," by Plato, as well as "Apology" and "Crito." "Edmund Pendleton Gains," by Dr. James W. Silver. (That one I've been reading on for almost a year now!) "The Outsider," by Colin Wilson. "Willkie," by Joseph Barnes. "The Future of Education," by Porter Sargent. "Justice and Judaism," by Albert Vorspan and Rabbi Eugene Lipman. "Mecken," as compiled by Alistair Cooke. "The Deep South Says NEVER," by John Bartlow Martin. "The Strange Career Of Jim Crow," by Vann Woodward. "The Story of Philosophy," by Will Durant. (This is the second go at it.)

In addition to those listed above, I've added another, through the courtesy of Orrin F. Alfred of San Francisco, it being "Long, Long Ago," by Alexander Wollcott. (I shall not discuss the advantages of reading ten or twelve books at once . . . however, one is simply this: By so doing you never know what you've read, nor do you recall who said what; therefore, you cannot be guilty by association.)

But back to Wollcott's "Long, Long Ago," Sub-titled, "The Sage Of Fountain Inn," Mr. Wollcott relates the story of Robert Quillen, who was Editor-Publisher-Owner of a weekly paper in Fountain Inn, S. C.

I've read so many things which I wish I'd written, ("Edmund Pendleton Gains" being one notable exception) and of them all I would like nothing better than to have been the author of a wedding notice written by Mr. Quillen. As reported by Mr. Wollcott, the opening was conventional, relating merely that the daughter of the "so-and-so's" had been bound in holy wedlock to the son of "the whoozis" on a certain day, the ceremony having been performed by the Reverend "such-and-such," pastor of the local Baptist church. And then came the part I like:

" . . . The groom is a popular young bum who hasn't done a lick of work since he got shipped in the middle of his junior year at college. He manages to dress well and keep a supply of spending money because his dad is a soft-hearted old fool who takes up his bad checks instead of letting him go to jail where he belongs.

"The bride is a skinny, fast little idiot who has been kissed and handled by every boy in town since she was twelve years old. She paints like a Sioux Indian, sucks cigarettis in secret, and drinks mean corn liquor when she is out joyriding in her dad's car at night. She doesn't know how to cook, sew, or keep house.

"The groom wore a rented dinner suit over athle-

(Continued On Page 2)

Letters

Grand Bay, Ala.
Sept. 3rd 1957

Mr. P. D. East,
Editor, Petal Paper,
Petal, Miss.

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention that you have recently been called a Communist. The reason for this is quite obvious. When a person has some reason to dislike another, they do not always use that particular reason to find fault, but try to find another which is not hard to do. Search and ye shall find.

With a little reason it becomes quite evident that communism is an affliction of Catholic controlled countries. Why? It would seem to be a choice between Communism and Fascism.

The Spanish people elected a Republican form of government, but Eugenio Pacelli (Pope of Peace) said "no." It has been argued many times that if this Country had not declared an embargo on arms to Spain at that time, that there is a possibility that World War II may not have happened.

The origin and aim of the false propaganda should be quite apparent and so far it has served its purpose well.

When anyone in this country is accused of being a communist the chances that he is one are about one to two thousand. That should make you quite safe and anyway Thomas Paine said "To argue with a man who has renounced the use and authority of reason, and whose philosophy consists of holding humanity in contempt, is like administering medicine to the dead."

We should always remember that those whom we called brutes had their revenge when Darwin showed us that they were our cousins.

O truth, O truth, eternal bitter truth,

Be thou my refuge when all else is blind.

Thou art the essence of my lofty mind;

At thy pure wells I will renew my youth.

Lucifer's farewell,
O. C. Marthaler

Watch On The POTOMAC

by
Robt. G. Spivack

THE DISARMAMENT TALKS
— A lot of people wonder if the world might not be a better place to live in if all the large nations were to scrap their armaments and, in effect, "beat their swords into ploughshares."

I have heard any number of people ask over a drink or at a dinner what good it does to build up inter-continental missiles only to learn shortly afterwards that the Russians have built something else which makes our military hardware outmoded.

There are many people who think this government doesn't seriously contemplate disarmament no matter what the Russians do. And there are probably a lot of people in Russia who feel their government keeps concentrating on arms, instead of

(Continued on Next Page)

Booze, Baptists, And Bootleggers — Let's Vote Dry -- When We Sober Up

Politics, it is said, makes for strange bedfellows. No doubt this is a true statement, but certainly no truer than the fact that booze in Mississippi makes for even stranger bedfellows. To wit: The Baptists and the bootleggers.

These two are bedfellows for obvious reasons. The bootleggers are among the State's biggest businessmen. The Baptists have morals. Good business and high morals make for a hard combination to beat; indeed, it is second best to serving the Lord and making a buck at the same time.

The latest uproar on the booze front was brought about by a statement on July 17th by Governor Coleman when he said he would "look with favor" on local option legislation if it guaranteed "protection" for dry counties. (In this connection we are betting on the bootleggers.)

Coleman also said that some form of legislation may grow out of "recognizing the facts of life and the handling of a distressing situation."

This seems to be a reasonable and intelligent view on the part of Mr. Coleman. He has stated that he is wholeheartedly opposed to liquor, legal or illegal. This, too, seems reasonable and intelligent.

We share the sentiment of Coleman in that respect. In fact, we have no use for a drunk. Indeed, we even prefer a Professional Southerner to a drunk. But . . . and let's face it, people are going to drink, some more than others. This is one of the simpler facts of life. The years have proven that prohibition is not the solution. As a matter of fact, no one knows the solution, not even medical science. We do know that those who seek to escape will do so . . . in one way or another.

It would seem practical to legalize liquor, collect the tax, use it on education in the hope of teaching whatever it is that needs teaching to cause people to face reality.

Such a possibility, of course, is opposed to the big bootlegging interests, and even possibly to morals of the purer kind. (The latter we sort of doubt, frankly.)

However, with regard to the latest joining of hands by the Baptists with the bootleggers, the Chairman of the Temperance Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with the Executive Secretary of the Mississippi Church Council for Alcohol Education wrote a letter to the 1,385 Baptist ministers in the State. (This number strikes us as exceeding the total number of Christians in the State; however, we could be wrong.)

The letter in behalf of the bootleggers reads as follows:

"You perhaps have been distressed by recent news releases by the governor of our state relating to possible local option legalization of whisky. We feel that certain steps should be taken to let our attitude be known. If the 1,385 Mississippi Baptist preachers will follow the steps suggested we will not fear the result:

"1. We request that all 1,385 of us write to our governor and let him know how we feel in this matter.

"2. We recommend that each association do two things: First, elect a permanent temperance committee and furnish us with names and addresses of same. Second, get your associations to pass appropriate resolutions. Have a copy of the resolutions sent to the governor, a copy to your representatives and a copy to your daily or weekly paper.

"We sincerely hope you will not take this appeal lightly. Our assistance is at your command."

We have seen a few of the letters written to newspapers by ministers as a result of the above letter. (We think the bootleggers are splitting their sides.)

As to the eventual outcome, we just don't know. We sort of suspect that if the matter is brought to a vote enough of us will sober up and go to the polls again to vote dry.

We just can't help it. . . . our bet is on the bootleggers. You see, they're about the most sober bunch in the whole state!

otomac ...

consumer goods, because it must keep up the bogey of American "armongering."

There is probably a lot of money talk on both sides. It's called "diplomatic bargaining," but in all the talk during the London negotiations and later the point seems to have been overlooked. This government's shifted its position. We now appear to agree that disarmament can and should precede political settlements in Europe and other areas. Until the beginning of 1957—Secretary Dulles took the exactly opposite view.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT—disarmament talks are by their very nature the kind of thing that must be conducted behind closed doors. Otherwise all we'd get would be a lot of speeches for propaganda purposes.

Also, to be utterly realistic about it, if Harold Stassen, the president's disarmament adviser, talks about it too much he might find some of his jealous State department associates knifing him. In fact there was one period when it looked like the major disarmament problem was harming Dulles.

Sen. Javits (R. N. Y.) has come along with some suggestions that seem to make sense in the maze of words and arguments. He proposes four items

that he believes are "worthy of inclusion and practically attainable" in the disarmament talks.

This is the Javits program:

1. Establishment of a UN Peace Force, somewhat like that UN Emergency Force now stationed on the boundary lines between Egypt and Israel. (This was one of Adlai Stevenson's suggestions, too.)

2. Ending use of the veto in the UN on questions of membership and settlement of disputes by pacific means.

3. Enlarging the jurisdiction of the World Court.

4. Widening UN powers to consider "threats to peace" in colonial areas between the colonial populace and the administering power. (He is thinking particularly of the Algerian dispute.)

There is a lot more to the Javits program than these items, but they give you some idea of where we might start on serious disarmament proposals.

Maybe we'll get nowhere with the disarmament talks. One acquaintance tells me they remind him of the two young ladies who were talking. "Does your husband expect you to obey him," the first asked.

"Oh, no," answered the second. "He's been married before."

But that sort of despair will get us nowhere. It's like the question asked of the old bachelor. A friend wanted to know why he had never married.

Station To Sample Air

Mississippi's second station in the national air sampling network has been opened at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory near Ocean Springs.

Announcement of the opening was made in Jackson by H. L. Vaughan, engineer in charge of the Division of Industrial Hygiene in the State Board of Health. The first station is on top of the Old State Capitol in Jackson and began functioning last January.

Mr. Vaughan said the stations are part of the network of 126 operated in co-operation with the Public Health Service to determine the nature and extent of air pollution over the country, to observe trends and to assist in the development of possible ways of control.

Officials said reports of the analyses of samples from the Jackson station during the eight months of operation indicate that the concentration of atmospheric contaminants is comparatively low.

"Well, you see," the bachelor answered, "when I was quite young I resolved I wouldn't marry until I found the ideal woman. After many years I found her—but she was looking for the ideal man."

East Side ...

tic underwear of imitation silk. His pants were held up by pale green suspenders. His number-eight patent-leather shoes matched his state in tightness and harmonized nicely with the axle-grease polish of his hair. In addition to his jag he carried a pocketknife, a bunch of keys, a dun for the ring and his usual look of imbecility.

"The bride wore some kind of white thing that left most of her legs sticking out at one end and her bony upper end sticking out at the other. The young people will make their home with the bride's parents, which means they will sponge on the old man until he dies and then she will take in washing. The happy couple anticipates a blessed event in about five months."

There is only one other wedding notice which comes close to the one by Mr. Quillen, but even I can't print it.

Easton King's charming wife, Irene, told me a shaggy dog story the other evening. I liked it, and will pass it along.

It seems that a couple of French poodles, all prissy, prim, and proper, were walking down the street one day and chanced to pass by an old, beat-up, mangy Heinz. (Oh, you know, 57 varieties.)

One of the French poodles said, "My name is Fifi, spelled F-I-F-I."

The other replied, "Oh, indeed, and my name is Mimi, spelled M-I-M-I."

On hearing this, the beat-up old dog stuck his nose into the air and informed the ladies that "My name is Fido. And it is spelled P-H-Y-D-E-A-U-X."

The only reason I can think of as to why I like the little story is because it reminds of people somehow.

After Irene's story, Easton told one ... but I can't print it. Sorry.

I have in stock a few booklets of editorial reprints for a mere 50c each. They are selling like hot cakes—which get cold. Try one.



Only Pennies a day bring...



step saving **CONVENIENCE**

Think of the steps, time and trouble you'll save with an additional telephone where you spend your busiest hours. With a kitchen phone you can make calls at your convenience, as you feed Junior or watch the cooking. It's a real bargain in convenience for just pennies a day... And for a small one-time charge, you may have your choice of eight decorator colors. Just call your Telephone Business Office or ask any installer-repairman you see.



Partners in Progress

**Southern Bell
TELEPHONE
and Telegraph Company**

to earn the most
**Save in
time**

Thrifty families
make a regular
point of adding to
their savings by the
tenth of the month.

Money saved by that date
receives our regular liberal
earnings from the first of
the month.

save by
the 10th



WHERE SHOULD I SAVE? Here's the answer—

Current Dividend 3½%

**Deposits Made By The 10th of the Month
Pay Dividends From The 1st.**

HATTIESBURG SAVINGS



and Loan Association



110 Front St.

Hattiesburg, Miss.

Time is NOW To Start An Insured Savings Account