

PRIZE WINNING ESSAY TELLS OF BUILDING THROUGH CITIZENSHIP

By SHERRILL McCLAIN

(1948.)

The great Apostle Paul was about to be examined by scourging in the year 60 A.D. A Roman centurion who was standing nearby learned that Paul was a Roman citizen and relayed this information to the chief captain who told Paul, "With a great sum I obtained this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born." (Holy Bible, Acts 22:28.) Paul's statement won his release.

The words free born mean citizenship. (Webster.) What a priceless heritage to those of us who have been born under the stars and stripes!

The foundation of any nation truly great, lies in the freedom of its citizens. I see the United States of America as a structure with freedom echoing throughout even the smallest corridor.

As a child becomes stronger through exercising its lungs, its muscles and all his faculties, so will we build a stronger nation by exercising the rights and privileges afforded to us as a free people.

In recent national elections in some free countries the following percentage of eligible persons voted:

- Australia—96% voted (1951.)
- Great Britain — 83% voted (1951)
- Sweden—80% voted (1950.)
- Western Germany—75% voted (1949.)
- Canada—74% voted (1949.)
- Israel—72% voted (1951.)
- United States — 51% voted

Only about one-half of our voters went to the polls in the 1948 Presidential election. The right to vote is a privilege and a responsibility. To exercise this privilege and responsibility builds a stronger people,—a stronger nation.

One of our greatest institutions is the home. It is in the home where joy, peace and tranquility are fruits growing from a nation whose structure is built upon the sure foundation of citizenship.

The great majority of our American homes are located in a city, town or community, some large and some small, but all affording each of us opportunities to build through citizenship. The opportunity is always there, but it is up to each individual to exercise his right of citizenship to build upon that opportunity. From youthful interests such as the scouting program, 4-H Club activities, and both curricular and extra curricular activities of the public school system, to civic participation through the many channels afforded him after becoming of legal age, opportunities to build through citizenship are legion.

How are we using our citizenship? Our freedom? Freedom of speech? The free press? Freedom to choose an occupation? Way of life? Freedom to assemble? Freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience? These and many more like freedoms are building materials we use to fashion and form the American way. The FREEDOM way!

As we build in the home or community it must be the same with the State or Nation only on a larger scale. If a nation is corrupt it can be compared to a corrupt home. The husband or father of a home is its leader. If he becomes a delinquent, drunkard or a criminal his family suffers for his wrongs. If a nation comes under the influence or leadership of a person whose plans are for greed, self and power, he by wrong doing will contribute to the weakening and retrogression of the peoples of that nation.

The world is comprised of many nations and in order to govern the world to secure peace the UNITED NATIONS was formed. When these nations join to make peace, the world rests on their decisions.

A free nation, as the United States, does not encourage war nor wish to engage in war. War strikes with its merciless disaster tearing down the hopes for peace which have been built throughout the past generations. What holds our country together? When men and boys fight for freedom, each heart and mind strives to attain the one goal—peace! Yes, the peace and understanding that

comes only through the structure of citizenship. A look around us reveals a world out of balance. Radio, newspapers, and other propaganda stir people to want THINGS. Material things! History tells them others got THINGS by force. Force is quick—spectacular—appeals to the animal in men. Force is always justifiable—so they say. But force always reaps force; after the fighting is over men and nations of good will must seek to undo the hurts, the injustices, the suspicions, poverty and devastation wrought in its ruthless wake.

Our forefathers, under God, laid the foundation for a great nation,—a nation whose government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Subsequent generations have built a mighty superstructure upon this foundation. Today, we must assume the responsibility to promulgate among earth's peoples of gospel of freedom; a freedom that will remove the shackles of fear, tyranny, suppression and deception. Thus, a new day will dawn in the hearts of millions who long ago had abandoned themselves to the fate each wretched day would bring. New hope, new horizons, new ambitions, and a new life once thought impossible will become a reality.

With God as our helper, and peace as our goal, may we so completely accomplish our mission that the words of God himself become a living reality when he said, "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Holy Bible, Psalm 2:4.)

Mrs. Reed Heads Lady Lions

Mrs. Zerreta Reed was elected President of the Lion's Auxiliary at the regular meeting, held Tuesday, April 6.

Vice President for the forthcoming year will be Mrs. Jean Dubs. Other officers are, Secretary, Jean Thompson; Treasurer,

Brookings-Harbor Pilot 3 THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1954

Jessica Chaney; Tail Twister, Jewel Coates.

On the Board of Directors are Rachel Young, Ella Schoenbeck, and Boots Shipley.

Movies of the Boy Scout Jamboree were shown to the group by Henry Kerr. Thelma Houvila was hostess for the evening.

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