

The American Way

WARM HEARTS NOT HOT HEADS

By Dr. Norman Vincent Peale
(Editor's note: Dr. Peale is minister of historic Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue, New York City.)

Recently on a train out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, I met a great soul. A rather slight but distinguished negro gentleman sat across from me in the chair car. Suddenly I recognized him as Roland Hayes, the internationally famous singer. I spoke to him and we plunged into a most stimulating conversation. The talk turned to religion, a consuming interest to Mr. Hayes. Without question, he not only is one of the truly great singers of our time, but one of our noblest spiritual geniuses as well. He has sung before Presidents and Kings and before acclaiming

audiences in many lands, but he remains a simple, unaffected disciple of the King of Kings.

He told me it is his custom as he begins a program to stand quietly for a minute by the piano as the vast audience waits. He closes his eyes and prays, saying, "Lord, as I sing, please blot out Roland Hayes. Let the people see only Thee." He explained, "I believe when I do that sincerely, I become a channel through God's spirit flows to move and lift the hearers."

Critics long have been impressed by the deeply spiritual quality of Mr. Hayes' artistry. Undoubtedly his devout attitude accounts for this. Singing to him is not a method by which people may be lifted spiritually.

Holand Hayes told me a story which illustrates the power of the spirit over any force in this world. In a certain town late one night, without the slightest justification, he was set upon by four policemen. They cursed him and struck him. Their attitude was brutal, bordering on the sadistic. They gave full expression of their hatred, not for him alone, but for his race. Here was one lone, defenseless negro at the mercy of four white men, unrepresentative of and a disgrace to their own race.

"Didn't you get angry and fight back?" I asked.

"How could I?" he replied. "I was no match physically for even one of them. But," he continued quietly, "I WAS a match for them and was able to overcome them. I brought to bear a power that no evil can stand against."

"What did you do?" I asked with intense interest.

"I retired into God consciousness," he replied. "I just asked that the spirit of Christ flow through me into the hearts of these misguided men. Suddenly I felt my soul lifted high above this hatred and looked down upon them in compassion and pity. One policeman raised his pistol to hit me with its butt. But a bewildered expression came over his face. Slowly his poised arm dropped. He had been stopped by the tremendous power of the spirit, by God consciousness."

As the train roared on, I sat awe-

struck before the spiritual power of this man. His story was told with a complete absence of self. At times his voice was so low I could scarcely catch his words. I, who try to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, sat as a very imperfect student in the presence of a master of the spiritual life. The effect of this was to make us Christian brothers, with no barriers, no false differences between us. We frankly discussed the problems of race relationship, on a level where we could arrive at sensible, sound understandings.

These problems can be solved only through Christian attitudes among both negroes and white men. There are those who desire only to use the negro to exploit him; there are others who approach this question with bombast antagonism. All such methods set back the cause of normal race relationship.

A calm, realistic, Christian attitude of mutual respect and kindness will solve one of the most vital problems of our time.

WARM HEARTS, NOT HOT HEADS, is the success formula for racial understanding.

Farm Labor Asked To Avoid Accidents

In line with the third annual National Farm Safety week which was proclaimed by President Truman for July 21 through July 27, R. Beck, state supervisor of the O.S.C. Extension Service emergency farm labor program, has asked all farm labor assistants located in county offices throughout the state to make a special effort to enlist the cooperation of farmer employers to eliminate work hazards.

The Oregon vehicle safety code is the guide in transporting farm workers to and from farm jobs. Especially where children are involved, substantial sideboards and end-gates for personnel carrying vehicles are required. Some flagrant cases have been seen where children have ridden on truck beds with their legs dangling over the rear of the vehicle, Beck asserts. In such cases the truck owner is inviting legal difficulties.

It is not the intention of the campaign to stress farm safety for

just the week set aside—safety precautions need to be stressed at all times by farmer employers of hired workers. Oregon farmers have an enviable record for safety among children and other workers transported from towns and cities, but there is still room for improvement and greater precautions, says Beck.

Machinery which has been difficult to replace and repair during the war years is a constant source of danger, Beck adds, because a lot of it has been used longer than it would have been under normal conditions. The machine operator who fails to stop the engine before oiling or making adjustments is inviting trouble. Loose clothing around moving machinery is a bad combination too, he says.

Farm fatality figures released by the National Safety Council indicate the necessity of a program to promote farm safety. Of approximately 16,000 accidental deaths suffered by farm people in the United States during 1945, 4,500 farmers were killed while actually engaged in some kind of farm work, Beck points out.

Locals

Julia Thomson had a birthday party Friday afternoon at her home. Games were played, and cake and ice cream were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie McCue entertained Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hedgepeth and children with a dinner Tuesday evening.

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The Selma and Ellen Esping, Geneva, Illinois, have been visiting at the home of their cousin, Mrs. Sara Eldon. They left Wednesday morning for Portland where they will visit friends before returning home.

Jerry McKenzie Cushman is substituting this week at the Valley Electric in the absence of Patsy Sullivan, who is attending Christian Service Camp at Glendale.

Mrs. Lily Wright was ill over the week end.

Little Bobby Eldon is spending the summer at the Dead Indian Soda Springs with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Johnson. He is gaining weight and is feeling fine.

Quite a large crowd attended the Willow Springs Recreational Party at the school house last Saturday evening. Mrs. Prentice's Accordion Band entertained. Plans are under way to improve the school house and grounds in order to make it a Community Play Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kiser, Bandon, Oregon, spent the week end visiting relatives in Central Point and Ashland. Mrs. Kiser is the former Muriel Weidman.

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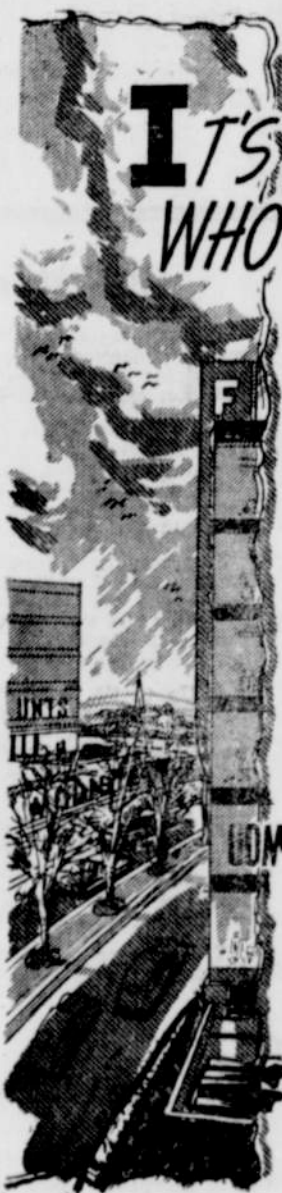
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