

SOUTHERN NEWS REVIEW OREGON

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WENDELL LAWRENCE, Editor

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Fall Harvest Festival—and Horse Show

Members of the Ashland Realty board are to be commended for the fine work which they have done in preparing for the 1948 Fall Harvest Festival. With no fair in Jackson county, other than the 4H fair it's a worthy project, and one which rightly deserves full community support.

In addition to the Realty board, the various members of the service clubs and granges who have assisted in planning the entertainment should receive kudos. All in all it proves that the people in Ashland are interested in their community, the farm area which surrounds it, and the products of the region. The festival will serve to bring people together, to permit them to become better acquainted with each other, and with Ashland.

With the Harvest Festival slated for two days, Friday and Saturday and with the Ashland Riding Association's horse show and races slated for Sunday this community is offering a full three days of entertainment.

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Guest Editorial

"Civil Rights" and the Negro

by G. W. Hall

(Mr. Hall, a veteran newspaperman, recently returned from a stay in Florida. His views, we think, give a side of the picture which is rarely considered in the North.)

Having just returned from two years spent in the South and, due to the contention that is apparent between President Truman and the Southern Democrats because of the president's "civil rights" program, thought perhaps your readers might be interested in what a perfectly good Yankee Republican saw and experienced while he was sojourning in "the land of the 'rebels.'"

"Civil rights," according to our best judgment, is already enjoyed by the Negro of the South. However, "civil liberties" is entirely different. The Negro of the North has "civil liberties" in that he has practically the same privileges as the "whites." In the North the Negro and the white man attend the same church, the same theatre, their children attend the same school and so on—there is no segregation.

On the contrary, in the South the Negro has "civil rights," in that he votes as he pleases, seeks his own work and pleasure. But, in the South the Negro is segregated. His children do not attend the "white"

school, "colored" schools being provided for them; he does not attend the "white" church, theatre or any other public gathering, unless a "colored" section is provided for him; he drinks from "colored" fountains, he waits in "colored" waiting rooms; he eats in "colored" restaurants; he rides in "colored" taxis; etc. The colored man of the South KNOWS HIS PLACE—and he keeps in that place—he would no more infringe upon the white man's territory than the white man would infringe upon his—it seems to be a mutual understanding and both religiously adhere to it. In some states however, the above conditions are controlled by law.

If you will pardon my own personal opinion—this political propaganda being put out, mostly by the Communists, in an apparent effort to propagate trouble between the North and the South, relative to the "down trodden" Negro of the South is, in my humble opinion, the most hypocritical tommyrot that is being "put over" on the gullible American public today. The Communists and their kind have no more sympathy for the Negro than the wolf had for "Little Red Riding-hood." They see an opportunity in this issue to foment trouble and bloodshed, perhaps another civil war—they thrive on catastrophe.

From my experience, the Negro of the South is a far happier people than the Negro of the North. I believe it is generally understood that the Negro, generally speaking, is not the ambitious type. When he has a home, plenty to eat, clothes, a place to fish and hunt, sing and associate with his kind he is a happy man. The Negro of the South has all this and the Southern white man contrary to the stories I had heard while living in the north, is not the enemy of the Negro. On many occasions I had opportunities to talk with typically Southern men, without exception, in answer to my questions as to their feelings toward the Negro people, their answers would be something like this: "As long as the Negro keeps his place he's got just as much right to live peaceably and happy as I have—but he must keep in that place!"

It is my humble opinion that it would be a major tragedy for this nation to give the least consideration to the enactment of laws to compel the people of the South to grant to the Negro "civil liberties." The South would never concede to it. It could only mean catastrophe for the Negro people of the South.

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The United States government, as a nation, did its duty to the Negro of the South in the year 1863 when Abraham Lincoln signed into law the famous Emancipation Proclamation which made free men of the Southern Negro.

Now, let's keep our noses clean and let the people of the South handle their own "civil liberties" problems in their own way—unless, of course, we wish to have another civil war on our hands!

Personally, we like the people of the South. There may be a few Simon Legrees left—we could not find them.

Frank W. O'Conner, nephew of Mrs. Hattie Konop, Weltzel Apartments, is now teaching at Drahman, Saudi Arabia. He recently graduated from the University of Southern California after having attended school in Ashland.

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