

Truth Has No Substitute

Repeatedly the citizens of Mansfield were referred to by the reporters of the Fort Worth Star Telegram and the Fort Worth Press "as angry cursing mobs." We have yet to read the truth printed as to the underlying facts that caused the citizens of Mansfield to be driven to a state of organized force.

For months we have played host to visiting editors and information seekers. They were vitally interested in the integration question knowing that Mansfield had been chosen as a "test case."

We accompanied the visitors on their visits to interview the plaintiffs named in the integration case filed last spring. We learned that the students were not the instigators. They were being used as mere tools for the promotion. We learned that the negro children would be the ones to be humiliated and jeopardized. We learned that a relative of the plaintiffs, who has no children of his own was responsible for their involvement. We also learned that the negroes preferred to attend the Fort Worth school where their contacts were already established.

Why was Mansfield selected for the "test case?" There were many opinions expressed which crystallized like this:

Folded up in the Southeast corner of Tarrant county, Mansfield was considered vulnerable, first: Mansfield had not protected by a resident legal firm, second: Mansfield had not protected by a separate building in which the twelve negroes students of high school level could be taught, third: Mansfield was considered a non-progressive, wide place in the road, with "old-fashioned canopy-covered sidewalks," fourth: a negro family situation existed which was ripe for the strategic move.

What the promoters failed to see was the force in the hearts of the basic American people of Mansfield. People who have courage, conviction, and determination. People who were not afraid of separating the blacks from the whites and we do not mean the color of the skin.

Now False Rumors Get Started

In Sunday's Dallas News was an editorial entitled "Kilroy O'Daniel was There."

The writer stated that O'Daniel "sets up his Vote Threshing Machine wherever he sees any evidence of votes to be threshed." He then writes "Let's take a look at Candidate O'Daniel's most recent vote-threshing operation. The little town of Mansfield is just about the angriest, most confused town in the United States today," writes the Dallas News.

The writer after some more futile words then says in part, regarding O'Daniel's vote threshing, as he sarcastically puts it, "On the edge of the boiling mass of humanity that gathered forcibly to prevent the registration of negro students in their public High School."

The article is a long winded sarcastic article by a writer who evidently was not here in person but drew on his own imagination for the things he wrote in that article. We think he should retract the statement about Mansfield being "The Angriest, Most Confused Town in the United States Today."

Mansfield is the sanest least confused place large or small, in the United States. The people were determined, rather than angry. The most orderly, the least fanatical crowd we have ever seen. They were serious, firm in their stand against the negroes entering the white High School. There was no violence at any time except when a smart alec assistant District Attorney made a remark that any self respecting man would resent.

When asked by some one what he was doing in Mansfield he made the remark that got him a "roughing-up." We quote the remark verbatim: "I'm down here to put some of these smart Mansfield B—s in the penitentiary." What would you have done in a like situation? Was roughing-up all that he deserved? We hope he has the good sense to resign. Any man who so far forgets his position as to make an insulting remark to people who are defending their rights, is not fit to be in public office.

Some N.A.A.C.P. sympathisers and supporters have tried very hard to cause trouble in Mansfield, but so far the level headed, stout hearted, determined people have not fallen for their propaganda, at all. Naturally these promoters are disappointed and in order to make it appear that Mansfield is filled with a disorderly mob, they distort every little incident until those who were actually present don't recognize it at all. For instance, the photographer whose camera was broken when he tried to take a picture of someone who didn't want his picture taken. Someone in the crowd reached out and put a hat over the lens. For some reason unknown to the crowd, the photographer loosed his hold on camera. It fell to the ground at his feet and was not even broken. He immediately began a tirade about "having somebody in court for this." His camera was broken when he started to retreat and the crowd followed him. Some daily papers in this area made quite a thing of the little incident.

There were (and still are) effigies hanging in prominent places and no one denied having helped put them there. There was no operating behind masks, everything was done, and is still being done entirely in the open. The people of Mansfield are defending their American privilege, their right to say with whom they associate.

On Saturday two negroes were seen on the main street, no one paid any special attention to them. If there had been "confused, angry people" in Mansfield what do you think might have happened?

We do not want the negroes in our white schools, and the negroes do not want this either. We hope there doesn't have to be any violence to prevent it. The determined effort has not lessened and we do not think that it will, to prevent integration.

after a few days of the young people of that time and later went to school.

Later another store was put in operation about a mile north, and was known as North Webb. Since the country was growing, and competition was keen, two stores must have been necessary.

We had a post office at South Webb, and a voting place was maintained for the good of all who had paid their poll tax, or had a right to vote. And I believe, that I have maintained the longest right to vote of any one who lived in my community and had the privilege of voting at South Webb. Mr. John Allman carried the mail from Britton and Gertie to South Webb, twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays, for the sum of \$80.00 a year.

When I was about 18 or 19 years of age I purchased my first horse and buggy, giving approximately \$40.00 for each item. A lot of money in those days, especially at the rate of pay for work in the community I kept the horse well groomed and the buggy in tip-top shape, and went places. I was really proud of the set up, having never heard of such a thing as an automobile.

I never saw any year as dry or as little moisture during any year, during my entire life, to compare with 1955-1956. I never saw crops as poor or as unproductive to compare with this year 1956. Most people in my day and time, while I was young, had plenty to eat, the best good hog meat in abundance, and a fat calf from time to time.

My grandmother lived at Eagle Ford near Grand Prairie on a farm some years before my time. During a visit by the Indians, one of them grabbed one of her children, and as she fought back at the Indian, the child was injured so badly that it died as a result of the struggle to keep the child.

I remember a time, which was interesting, going to a dance near my home. I was around 18 years of age. While the dance was going merrily on, one of the men who had partaken of too much fire water, began shooting his pistol outside, then he came up on the porch and shot three times through the roof. About this time, he received a shot through the leg from someone nearby. He left immediately. I imagine, in a fast run with that bad leg. However, he didn't have much on speed when it comes to "leaving in a hurry" speaking individually, and for others who I knew to be present. One of our Mansfield visitors jumped a high fence, so passed this happy night.

When Charlie asked me about the "Red Warriors" we both had to laugh. He promised not to tell anything on me, however, I didn't know much about "what to answer" as I had never been a member, and wouldn't have known a Red Warrior if I had met one in the road. Thus passed an interesting interview of the "long ago" if we call 50 to 75 years any length of time. One of the most interesting sights to be seen, the pictures owned by Charlie where I can see myself and others years and years ago, also the schools and churches, where people lived "back to the time I am telling you about, almost."

Respectfully,
Elmer Loyd.

LETTERS FROM NEWS READERS

To the Citizens of Mansfield:

To you, my friends, come my heartiest congratulations on the revolt you are putting up for segregation. If there were more cities like yours, and had the men with the intestinal fortitude that you folks have displayed, I think the NAACP would go home and go to bed.

I want you to know that I glory in your spunk. Good luck.
E. G. Thomson,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is my check for \$2.81 to cover the 1 year subscription and one weekly ad in your paper. Please give me credit for same.

P.S. Stay in there boys and keep the Negroes out of your good schools in Mansfield and the rest of State.

Yours truly,
B. W. Bishop,
3942 So. Walters,
San Antonio 10, Texas

Gerald A. Woodson
329 West "E" St.,
Hutchinson, Kansas
Aug. 31, 1956

Editor:

Mansfield News Paper
Mansfield, Texas

After reading that some of the people are protesting the court order and do not want Negroes to go to school with them, I am wondering if I could get the names and addresses of one or two of them, so I might write to find out, just what are their objections to going to school with Negroes.

To the christian I ask is segregation in line with first John five twenty? If a man says he loves God and hate his brother he is a liar, for he that loveth not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen.

To the house wife I ask do you have a Negro cook who handles your food? And do not want your child in a public school with Negroes.

To the gentle people of prejudice such as cafe managers, I say you commit evil by letting evil be committed. Many a member of the dominant group will earnestly say that he never intended it that Negroes, Mexicans, Jews, and other Minorities should be insulted and maltreated on buses, railroad stations and other public places. He did not intend these things. But he created the social sanction for these things. By adopting a twisted principle of human association he and the people like him have defiled our culture. You have set and are still setting at this age of 1956, a very bad example in these troubled times. For other people of the world to choose between communism and democracy.

And to the business man I ask have you counted the cost of segregation? Gwilym A. Price, President of Westinghouse and Elmo Roper had this to say. Our company is also interested in new markets. The Negro market is presently estimated at \$15 billion a year. Greater utilization of the skills of Negroes in manufacturing will concurrently raise their standards of living and the size of the market. It will enable them to buy greater quantities of our consumer products and thus help build a sound economy on which our businesses depend. Discrimination in employment to Minorities cost the United States \$30 billion in 1954.

And I ask that you print this to see if the people of your city really want discrimination and segregation at this cost.

Respectfully Yours,
Gerald A. Woodson



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