

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

Educator Questions Northern Sincerity in Fight for Rights

Many northerners are constantly denouncing racial patterns in the South, while at the same time they remain blind to racialism within their own community.

In the February issue of the Christian Advocate, Official organ of The Methodist Church, Miss Molly Gatos Daugherty, a white woman questions the sincerity of many white northerners who profess to work for equal opportunities for Negroes.

Although born and reared in the North, Miss Daugherty was educated in the South. Her parents were originally from the South; therefore, many of her vacations were spent in the South.

With a background of this kind, Miss Daugherty considers herself well qualified to discuss the customs and moros of both North and South in regards to the Negro.

She points out that northerners have their racial prejudices too. If they didn't, she says, there would not be a single colored person living in the South.

A former teacher in a northern university, Miss Daugherty cites many instances of the inability of northerners to recognize their own prejudices while at the same time they are over-sensitive to those of southerners.

She explains this paradoxical attitude to a white woman from Maine as follows:

"You talk about all your colored friends on committees working for racial equality. Would you invite them to your house for a social evening? I don't mean as a stunt, but really?"

"Certainly," the woman from Maine answered.

"Well, have you?"

"No, but I would. It's just that my husband and I have different interests from theirs. But I like them better than some of my white friends."

In concluding her article, Miss Daugherty writes:

"The task at hand is not to change the South. Change the town in which you live. Would you patronize a beauty parlor that shampooed a colored woman's hair? Would you try a hat tried on by a Negro?"

"It isn't too late, however, to hire a Negro teacher in your public schools, unless you're prejudiced. It isn't too late to ask your large department stores to hire Negro clerks, unless you don't want to fight racial prejudice so near home. It isn't too late to check zoning regulations on your block, if you believe in equality of opportunity for all men."

Two Persons Honored at North Carolina College
DURHAM—(ANP)—Two persons were honored recently at North Carolina college. Miss LaVie Griggs, Reidsville

sophomore, who was "Miss North Carolina College" during homecoming celebrations, has become a cover girl, and Robert John, professor of music, has been named to a national committee on "Music for Childhood."

Miss Griggs' picture was featured on the January issue of a new national picture magazine.

Function of the committee to which Prof. John was appointed is to survey music education in American schools and colleges. The committee is a part of the Music Educators National conference, headed by Marguerite V. Hood of N.C.C.



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nebraska's Senators (1)

The most important business facing the first session of the state legislature when it convened July 4, 1866, was the election of two United States Senators. Finally chosen were John M. Thayer and Thomas W. Tipton. They drew lots to determine the length of their terms—Tipton drew two years and Thayer four. General Thayer, whose career as military leader and as governor I have discussed before, may most appropriately be the subject for this first in a series of columns on Nebraska's senators.

Having been elected to the Senate, Thayer and Tipton found themselves occupied in trying to bring about Nebraska's final admission to the Union. General Thayer, it appears, was particularly active toward this end. The state finally was admitted on March 1, 1867, and on March 4 of that year the two senators from Nebraska took their seats.

Senator Thayer was placed on the military affairs, Indians affairs and patent office committees. He was particularly interested in the work of the first two, and because of his distinguished war record and his career as an Indian fighter in the West, his counsel was frequently sought. In the tradition of western senators, he was active in support of legislation looking to the creation of additional reservations for the tribes whose presence in the West was a barrier to the expansion of settlement.

Although he was very attentive to military matters, Senator Thayer was an ardent advocate of economy in the military establishment. He often called for a reduction in the number of commissions granted, for the abolition of needless forts, and for a more careful accounting of military supplies.

Perhaps his outstanding work insofar as the interests of his constituents was concerned was his sponsorship of a law providing for a Nebraska land district and confirming a large number of Omaha land titles—some of which had

Wherry's Place in History Assured By Record of His Public Service

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED A. SEATON OF NEBRASKA IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Tuesday, January 8, 1952

MR. SEATON. Mr. President, it is with deep emotion that I take the floor and speak for the first time as a Member of this distinguished body.

The grief which Members of this distinguished body.

The grief which Members of the United States Senate experienced over the death of Senator Kenneth S. Wherry is shared by myself and all who knew him by personal association or merely by name and record. It is my wish to be associated with the tributes which are being paid today to the memory of Ken Wherry.

Senators, he was your colleague and earned the abiding affection which you hold for him with no regard for party label. We Nebraskans were proud to claim him as one of our own; one, who by his dynamic energy and his unselfish service will always be known as among the great statesmen to be produced by Nebraska.

All who knew Kenneth Wherry—and those were of countless number—honor his career of public service; his fair and just dealing among men; his unswerving loyalties to those things in which he believed, and his exemplary life as a Christian, a husband, a father, and a neighbor. The loss which has been

been taken under the old Omaha claim club.

Thayer generally was on the side of the radical element of the Republican party which favored stern measures against the South. Likewise, he voted with the minority for conviction in the impeachment trial of President Johnson.

When Thayer came up for reelection in 1870, he was supported by the old guard of the state's Republican party, but found a sizeable group of Johnson sympathizers opposing him. This element favored P. W. Hitchcock of Omaha, last territorial delegate to Congress. Because of the party split, both Thayer and Hitchcock were nominated by the Republicans. Hitchcock was elected on the first legislature's first ballot.

General Thayer ran for the Senate on two later occasions, but both times unsuccessfully. sustained by the Nation in the

passing of Senator Wherry has been shared in direct proportion by his own community of Pawnee City and by the State of Nebraska.

Many who disagreed with Kenneth Wherry will join together with his most intimate political associates in deploring that death cut so short the service of a man who fearlessly and ably served his own honest beliefs. Men of honest convictions and ability to serve those convictions are a precious ingredient in the formula of a free and representative government.

To my mind, there can be only one Senator Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska. He cannot be replaced. One may succeed him in the office of Senator from Nebraska, but his record and career will stand unique and complete.

For myself, I am humbly sincere when I say for the people of Nebraska that Kenneth Wherry earned in rich measure the accolade:

Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

It is my belief that the story of Senator Wherry's service will be an everglowing source of inspiration. He dedicated his life to public service, to the problems of his city, his State, and Nation.

We need men who strive to maintain the dignity of the individual and the preservation of opportunity in individual enterprise as much today as we needed those who founded this Republic on the basic concept that men can only be free and equal in a representative and limited government.

The wisdom of our founding fathers and the contributions of other sincere and effective patriots who followed them in the national public service, give us clear guideposts toward the solution of the problems which beset us today and will challenge us in the future.

Senator Wherry was one of those; he was a leader and a man of action.

It does not seem to me that it is at all important that there were times when his policies and recommendations were adopted while at other times they were not followed.

We all know there are those here today who sometimes found themselves in sharp disagreement with him. As a matter of record, he and I did not always agree. But never once was our personal friendship endangered nor was there ever an occasion to question his sincerity or his integrity.

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