

We've Been WONDERING

WHY those "nice folks next door," who have been extended many kind favors from their neighbor of six years, are wondering why their good neighbor has stopped communicating? Could it be because those "nice folks" didn't have time to give a hand when their neighbor fell ill Sunday last? 'Course they did explain they'd be late to church to profess their christianity if they stopped to play the role of the Good Samaritan.

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WHY that long-time flunkey friend doesn't check more closely accounts of the "happenings" he hears about and takes such delight in relating to those prominents he strives daily to impress...The old adage still holds true that "a dog that brings a bone will also carry one".

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WHY the children of that pathological liar who were brought into court to help Mater beat a petty larceny rap didn't also tell the Judge how they have been neglected, and have had to shift for themselves even to begging alms from shoppers.

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WHY the circumstances surrounding the civil and equal rights struggle in the Silver State, in many respects, are similar to those behind the cotton curtain--like denying the right to live where he chooses because of his paint job, income and position notwithstanding.

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WHY there is no objection when the little lady goes to work, shops for groceries enroute to home where she prepares and serves the meals, and spends hours in the wash house weekly, but if she stops for 10 minutes to unlash and have a taste or two with friends, she is badgered, bullied, accused, and even has been known to sport a fat lip.

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WHY the sequences of 11-12-13-15-16-17-19-20, and 41-42-43-44-51-52-53-54, are supposed to be lucky for persons born in June, July, and August.

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WHY the one notch on the shooting iron of that mouth-almighty, trigger-happy, bad understanding Amos N' Andy CARICATURE seems to have given him the feeling that he is the biggest, baddest, and most feared individual in all Bronzeville--Nothing could be further from the truth, Snaggled Tooth.

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WHY someone doesn't hip that little doll of "relax for fun" fame why her "play for pay" pal didn't pick up her breakfast tab the other a.m.--Like a very dim view is taken when she "comps" cash customers with what the enterprising ones have for sale.

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WHY those "seditious" parents, suffering from an acute case of stupidity, don't realize that whatever their daughter does (good or bad) is a reflection on them. Spilling the beans to friends and others about the shortcomings of the little lass doesn't lessen their responsibility or save face one d--n bit.

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HENRY 'P.' (for 'Puzzled')



Legal Lynching Doomed

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Charges against accused rapists were sticking like oil on water in the U.S. Supreme Court and before other tribunals across the nation.

The nation's highest tribunal last week overturned the conviction of two Negroes, Edgar Labat and Clifton A. Poret, who had been convicted by an all-white Louisiana jury on charges of raping a white woman in 1953. The two men have been on death row for the past 13 years.

Rejecting an appeal by the state of Louisiana and upholding a ruling by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the pair had been denied a fair trial because of racial discrimination, the Supreme Court cleared the way for retrial or possible release of the men.

THE APPEALS Court had ruled that Negroes had been deliberately and unconstitutionally excluded from the jury system through the practice of exempting daily wage earners from service. The state must now decide whether to retry the two or set them free.

The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court had a reversal in mind when it turned back George Whitmore Jr.'s 1966 conviction for attempted rape on grounds that his discredited "confessions" to other crimes had been unfairly excluded at the rape trial.


As a result, Whitmore gets a retrial for the third time on charges of assaulting and trying to rape Mrs. Elba Borrero, a practical nurse in Brooklyn, on April 23, 1964.

Similarly, the Maryland Court of Appeals ordered a new hearing into the fairness of the 1961 trial of John and James Giles, accused of raping a 16-year-old white girl.

THE COURT unanimously suggested that Montgomery Circuit Court Judge Walter H. Moorman hear the case again. The jurist had ruled that the convictions of the two brothers be set aside because of evidence withheld by former prosecutor Leonard T. Kardy. He, however, was overruled by the court of appeals. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court which ruled last Feb. 20 that the case be reopened.

Judge Moorman could void the guilty verdicts and free the brothers, if the state decides against prosecuting, or he could let the convictions stand, leaving it to defense attorneys to appeal on the basis of the expanded record in the case.

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Negro Vote Expected To Bloom In Sunflower

SUNFLOWER CITY, Miss. - (NPI)--What's it like to live in Sen. James O. Eastland's home town, where black people hope to gain power in May elections?

If you're among the town's Negro residents, chances are you're desperately poor. Odds are you're one of seven out of 10 who are out of a job. Even if you are employed, you're probably working at starvation wages.

ONLY 30 per cent of the city's black residents are employed. Their median income is \$24.33 a week--far below the federal minimum wage.

Black people working in white folk's kitchens make \$2.50 a day, or \$12.50 a week. In the cotton fields, they make 30 cents an hour. The majority, who don't have jobs, are on welfare or have no apparent means of support.

Of the 70 per cent of local black people without jobs, 40 per cent are on relief. These folks have about as much income as those who work --about \$12 a week.

THERE WAS NO explanation of how the other 30 per cent of the town's Negro residents support themselves. Lacking both welfare support and jobs, some apparently beg. Others grow their own food.

Sunflower City, a small plantation town of less than 800 people, is 75 per cent black. The average black person in the city has but a fourth grade education.

As Negro residents are in the majority, they seek to take over control of the local government in a special election to be held May 2.

The election was ordered by Federal Judge Claude F. Clayton, who ruled that the last election was illegal because Negroes were not allowed to vote.

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