WAKE UP KENTUCKY
(By Ewing Galloway)

Under the present constitution of Kentucky only males can vote. Yet women have been using the ballot since 1920.

There will be strong pressure in the next constitutional convention to streamline the Legislative machinery of Kentucky. The present set-up has been changed little since the state was admitted into the Union.

Kentucky has more than twice as many counties as New York and Pennsylvania combined. We have one-seventh the population of those two states. But reducing Kentucky's number of counties to fifty or sixty is merely something to hope for eventually. Governor Chandler proposed as an economy measure, combining many of the poorer and less populous counties, but he soon learned that the idea was futile, at least in this generation.

Fifty per cent of the tenant farmers in the state move every year. Many of these move to get better houses to live in. They get tired of putting washpans on their beds when it rains and of baking one side of their bodies and freezing the other side in cold weather.

In 1940 forty per cent of the farm homes in Kentucky needed major repairs—now 50 per cent are in a bad fix.

Dean Cooper of the University of Kentucky says 90 per cent of the farm homes in the state lack convenient sources of water. That means they don't have first-rate, sanitary wells in their back porches or backyard wells with cinder walks to them.

Twenty-five per cent of the farms in Kentucky are supposed to have electricity. Maybe that's a slight exaggeration. But the Rural Electrification Administration has done as much for agriculture in the last ten years as any other factor in rural progress. And the REA is all set to connect up thousands of farms as soon as material is available. Extensions were suspended altogether during the war.

Isolation resulting from bad roads does more to hold back remote rural districts than anything else. Not long ago I drove through some of the mountain counties, on paved roads, mostly. Most of the towns and good sized villages had modern school buildings. In little villages there were well dressed, intelligent looking boys and girls. Transfer these youngsters to Fifth Avenue in New York or State street in Chicago and nobody could tell they were from rural eastern Kentucky. But the trunkline roads touch not more than twenty per cent of the population in these counties. Back on the dirt roads many children have no schools to go to, and hundreds of school buildings are unfit for use.

The upping of the rural school tax limit from 75 cents per $100 worth of assessed property to $1.50 will help elementary education in the state. It is a long step in the progress hoped for by good citizens every where. But better roads must come to isolated districts before they can have good schools, more doctors and preachers, more dentists and home demonstration agents. Civilization moves on wheels.

When it comes to pushing legislation to provide money to finance Kentucky's institutions as they should be financed, the old, old fear of tax repercussions back home makes some State Senators and Representatives pauper-minded.

It is this pinch-penny policy that has done more than anything else to keep Kentucky near the tailend of the list of states. It takes money to make the mare trot, and the Legislature, ever since I was tall as a nail keg at our village store, has been giving the old gal just enough hay to enable her to walk.

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Tidbits Of Kentucky Folklore

By Dr. Gordon Wilson

"HOW OLD ART THOU?"

When Jacob was presented to Pharaoh, the Egyptian king asked the Hebrew shepherd "How old are the members of my generation, who have seen such rapid changes in every phase of our lives."

It is highly probable that my students often think of me as Old Man Wilson. Just as we children called people old who were young enough then to be my own children now. It is to be expected that older people, however young they may seem to themselves, look like patriarchs to youngsters half or a third their age. And yet it is only fair that young and old alike should recognize the fact that my generation have had to adjust, to bring themselves up to date, to forget old loyalties, to make new ones—all of these things nearly as fast as events can happen. I am writing this article on a typewriter by an electric light; I have just come back from down town in my car; an airplane roared overhead a few minutes ago. There were none of these things at Fidelity. I surely do not need to tell you. My thinking, my habits of mind my generation has had to adapt itself to these conditions and appear to be just as easy of bearing as the children who have grown up in a town where there have always been a car, a telephone, electric lights, and all other modern inventions. That we stumble so seldom in our efforts to be right up to the last trick is to be wondered at.

In spite of the wonder that still attaches in my mind to our modern inventions, I marvel still more at the distance some of us have come in our thinking. If our younger contemporaries go as far beyond this present thinking as we have had to go, then they, too, may seem as old as Jacob to themselves is early middle life. The prejudices, the superstitions, the primitive customs of our childhood in many ways were much harder to shake off than our adherence to coal-oil lamps and hominy and dinner on the ground. Some of my generation, I fear, are riding around in their cars, physically, but have never got out of the old family buggy in thought. We have only partially bridged the gap between semi-pioneer thinking and the present, we should be praised and not blamed. A little old-fogyism might even be forgivable in us.

The narrowness of the creeds we heard preached seems cruel or comic today. It would never have been cruel if I did not remember that people in my childhood, as in Emerson's, were very much better than their creeds. Only when it was a matter of loyalty did really bright people, even at Fidelity, get worked up over abstruse theories about man and his purpose in the world. The small minds, then and now, found refuge in straight-laced creeds and could always dodge behind an accepted article of faith when pressed by common sense. But fairly ordinary minds today hold truths that only the daring, the emancipated held then. Laughter rather than grim persecuting zeal would meet some of the things that used to arouse fighting power. And the basic things of religion stand out today over so much plainer than they did when the fog of denominationalism dimmed them.

Here is a fact that many people fail to have taken into their consciousness: Since my childhood the average of formal education of Kentucky people has gone up many years. There are now more people holding Ph D. degrees or its equivalent in the state than there were people holding any degree when I was a child. There are more high school graduates in the state now than there were people actually enrolled in the eighth grade then. In any estimate of one's living a long time and into another age we must reckon with these changes.

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News in the World of Religion

By W. W. Reid

"I sincerely believe that if America is to remain devoted to the fundamentals of Christian living, more adults must assume their responsibility in bringing our young people closer to the church," says J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F. B. I. "Youths too young to vote accounted for 21.4 per cent of the arrests last year. Unless a concerted effort is made through the media of the church and the home, these same delinquents may be the hardened criminals of tomorrow." He advocates fathers and mothers taking their children to church and church school; and parents becoming active as teachers.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America upon Dr. Leo Baeck, former chief rabbi of Berlin, now visiting in America, who stayed in Germany during Hitler's rule to aid the persecuted Jews, was arrested several times, and was one of the few persons who survived the horrors of the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Baeck's four sisters died in this camp. Said the citation of the degree: "In the darkest hours of horror and persecution, your devotion to God and to your faith opened men's eyes to a new understanding of Jewish piety, heroism, and martyrdom, making them nobler and greater!"

The Conference of Missionary Societies of Great Britain and Ireland, the Church of Scotland, the British Counell of Churches, and the Episcopal Synod of the Church of South Africa are among the church bodies recently affirming this statement: "We affirm that the effect of color prejudice is cruel, wasteful, and dangerous; cruel, for it deprives those who are its victims of the opportunity of making full use of their capacities and talents, and so causes frustration and despair; wasteful, for it deprives the community of the skill of many which would otherwise be used for the benefit of all; dangerous, for unjust treatment meted out by one section of the community to another creates fierce and ever-increasing resentment, with unforseen results."

"We must be men of principle," says Cardinal-designate Francis J. Spellman, of New York, "and courageously guard America and ourselves against those who, in hypocrisy, wear the soft, sheep garments of democracy's defenders, but in truth are enemies of Edmond House, Henry Bramblett, E. G. Stephenson, Cal Smith, Russell Gray, F. L. Ballard, Stanley Hamm, Byron Snelling and George Ledford. Ovel Day was given assistance in maintenance of his ditches which were established in 1945.

Several hundred acres of land will be terraced during the summer and fall according to the plans being made.

Any farmer who wishes to use terracing or diversion ditches on his land is urged to be cultivated this year should contact the Soil Conservation office at once. These ditches must be staked before the land is plowed.

falsehoods, bigotry and intolerance, for they are the seeds from which sprung the curse of this world's worst war and which, sown again, will tell the end of civilization. Every true American and true Christian must be the unequivocal opponent of every species of bigotry, the octopian monster that can destroy our cherished American inheritance and institutions. We must be on our guard lest hysteria following this war give rise to despotic bigotry, political, racial or religious."

Within recent months some sixteen "interracial clinics" have been held in "hot spots" of race difficulties in Indiana, New Jersey, Michigan, Oregon and Washington State, under the guidance of local church groups and the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. According to Dr. George E. Haynes, secretary of the Department, "the purpose of the clinic is to diagnose the social ills of race prejudice and hostile behavior by means of self-community surveys, and to bring together representatives of religious, social, labor, business and civic agencies to agree upon a program of action." Considerable progress has been made in the situations already studied. Now the Department is embarking on a larger program of interracial clinics in Negro, Mexican and Japanese American tension fields. To assist in this work, the Rev. James Oscar Lee, well-known Negro leader, formerly on the staff of the Connecticut Council of Churches, will be associated with Dr. Haynes in the nationwide program. Mr. Lee is a graduate of Lincoln University, Yale Divinity School, and Union Theological Seminary, and is a minister of the Baptist church. He has carried on social-religious welfare work in Virginia as well as in Connecticut.

MY COLUMN

(E. Hampton Barnette)

Our young people are coming to the happy moments when they expect to graduate from the grades, high school, and college. They do not want that great title in their lives spoiled by the anti-climax of flunking their course, neither do they want that happy experience spoiled for them. Graduating time is like the ringing of many wedding bells. Most thoughtful brides want a spiritual ceremony by the pastor of their church. They do not want to be rushed off to a justice of the peace for a ceremony by the state. This is an occasion they desire to remember throughout life, and anything less than orchids, wedding gowns, rings, presents, wedding marches, and bridal parties will leave forever a common place in their lives. State officers have no more spiritual right to read a ceremony at a wedding than they do to administer the sacrament of the Holy Communion.

Young people graduating from school after a long siege on knowledge, want to remember that gala occasion amid the fragrance of roses, the rattling of new clothes, and the singing of love songs. They want rings, pins, invitations, congratulations, Junior-Senior banquets, senior plays, proms, and citations with athletic letters and all other things appertaining thereto.

It is the high privilege of parents to see that these young people are provided with all these things that make their graduation a pleasant occasion. It is expensive, but the expense is justified in the returns which enhance the beauty and ceremony of it. Parents should never say "no" to their "sweet graduates." They should see that they are provided with these necessities of life.

I once knew a woman who had a hard time earning a living over the wash-tub for her large family. When her daughter came to graduation time, she ordered a ring from a mail order house. It did not have the insignia of the school on it, but her daughter wore it with pride to herself, and great honor to her mother who did the best she could. Young people are not hard to please, but we should see that they have some of the finer things of life, if we expect them to live the finer things of life among their associates.

Tokens of love, appreciation, and sympathetic understanding of parents will help make the path-way of youth more tolerable, and they will rise up to bless the memory of parents who played the game fair with them.

Soil Conservation Notes

Three new cooperators have joined the Nicholas County Soil Conservation District the past week. Farm plans were completed with Jack Alexander of the Myers community and T. A. Standiford and Mrs. Anna Mann of the Blue Licks section of the county.

Diversion ditches and terraces were constructed for Dr. G. T. Cowan, J. B. Hinton, Paul House,

PARIS, Route 3

(Mrs. Martin Heflin, Cor.

Miss Frances Richey spent a week recently at her home recovering from an appendix operation.

Mrs. Nellie Weaver and two little sons of Paris spent Friday and Saturday with Miss Frances Richey and parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Richey.

W. T. Heflin. Mrs. Henry Heflin, Misses Anna and Norma Heflin, Billy Heflin and Floyd Lester of Maysville, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Heflin and son Donald of Millersburg, spent Sunday with Martin Heflin and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heflin spent one Sunday recently with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Myers near Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gaunce, daughter and son, Misses Sue and Carolyn Heflin visited Mr. and Mrs. George Ritchie and daughter one evening last week.

Mrs. Myrtle Heflin spent Wednesday with her sister, Mrs. Irene Heflin.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Florence and son Bobby, visited Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heflin and daughters Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Campbell have moved to Georgetown, having sold their home to Stanley Hatton. He and his family have moved to the property bought from Campbell.

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved family and friends of Miss Alberta Brown, who passed away Wednesday night, having been ill for quite a while.

LITTLE ROCK

The following teachers from here attended the Kentucky Education Association conference in Louisville last week: Mrs. Pletcher Barnette, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brooks Hinkle, Mrs. Ralie Asbury, Miss Todd Hinkle, Semmis Bridges and Mrs. Noel Gadgell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ruggles, Kansas City, Kansas, spent a few days last week with her mother, Mrs. Edsell Clark in Little Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pohl and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ekimp, Cincinnati, were guests over the week end of their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Brierly and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Vice.

Mrs. Lee Winnie, St. Louis, is spending a few days with her parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Bush Prewitt in Winchester.

Mrs. Amos McKenzie and daughter, Mrs. Byron Johnson spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Buford Penn and Mrs. Bain Johnson in Georgetown.

Little miss Patricia Hinkle is a patient at the Massie Memorial Hospital in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Will J. Prather and little daughter Rita Gayle have moved to Paris to reside.

Mrs. C. E. Ralls was hostess Wednesday to the Little Rock Homemakers club.

Miss Geneva Wasson teacher in the Centerville school near Cynthiana spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Wasson.

Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Soper, Lexington, visited his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Soper several days last week.

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