Rev. Borders uses comedy to push pride and integration

The Rev. William H. Borders, popular pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church, Atlanta, made wide use of humorous illustrations to bring home his points when he addressed an NAACP Founders' Day rally Sunday evening.

Speaking at the Sharp Street Methodist Church, the clever cleric told how the colored race in this country has not only survived, but progressed under three centuries of white domination.

"The Indian took a look at the white man and fell dead. The colored man looked at the white man and laughed," he said.

He called the colored race "the singingest, dancingest, fightingest, laughingest race in the whole world."

* * *

ALTHOUGH he conceded that "we sometimes laugh too loud," he praised the race for its ability to "laugh louder and longer while undergoing oppression than any race known to man."

"We are a terrifically great people," he said, and used many true-to-life stories to illustrate his point.

"Some of us want to be Jewish, white, Indian, Chinese or just anything but a Negro," he said.

"But we've got more reason to be proud than any of them."

"White folks have been fooling us a long time about our hair. The purpose of hair is to protect the head—Keep it warm and dry. And no hair does that better than the kinky hair I've got. It's good hair."

* * *

"JOE LOUIS is the greatest fighting machine there ever was in the world," the Rev. Mr. Borders said, as he clinched his fist and went into a half crouch.

Coming out of the boxer's crouch, he grasped one of the microphones in front of him, saying: "Joe Louis came from a little town down in Alabama about the size of this (microphone)."

He told his laughing, applauding and amazed audience that former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey was in Max Baer's corner as his "second" when Louis fought Max Baer.

With accompanying gyrations, he told how, throughout three rounds of fighting, Joe Louis had "pounded the daylights" out of his opponent who returned to his corner for encouragement after each round.

After each pounding, the cleric said, Max Baer heard his second, Jack Dempsey, tell him:

"You're all right, kid. He (Louis) hasn't laid a hand on you—hasn't touched you at all."

Baer, beaten almost to a pulp, gazed at Louis—across the ring—as he listened to Dempsey's encouragement.

Finally, the speaker said, Baer raised his head and answered Dempsey:

"You say he ain't laid a hand on me? Well, you'd better watch that referee, 'cause somebody out there's beating hell out of me."

* * *

OFTEN MENTIONED as a likely successor to the Rev. B. H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, the Rev. Mr. Borders is very popular among his church people as well as among segregation fighters.

When he was to speak at a church in a southern town one night, he said, he arrived in the town a few hours before the church was open.

He said he asked a woman he saw on the street about the meeting—hoping that the woman would recognize him as "the big important preacher."

Rather unconcerned, the woman admitted that she had heard about the meeting and had plans to attend, but she was not aware that the man to whom she spoke was "the big important preacher."

After the sermon, he said, he met the woman again and asked her what she thought of him now that she had heard the sermon.

She answered assuringly: "You're something—you just look like you ain't nothing!"

THE HUGE poker-faced minister is as unpopular among those who favor segregation as he is popular with his congregation at Atlanta's famous Wheat Street Baptist Church.

It was at his church that the officers came to arrest him and five other ministers who led the nonviolent attack on bus segregation in Atlanta last month.

"To appreciate this race situation, you ought to visit Atlanta," he said.

He told how a colored man lost his footing while washing windows on a high building in Atlanta.

Falling about 10 stories, the man heard someone yell: "Look out there, don't you fall on that white woman!"

Hearing this, the falling window-washer changed directions in mid-air and "zommed" back up to the roof.

* * *

A LEARNED man himself, having received degrees from Morehouse College, Garrett Theological Seminary, Northwestern University and Gammon Theological Seminary, the Rev. Mr. Borders takes exception to those who make a show of their education.

"It disturbs my equilibrium for people who are educated to start putting on airs instead of leading the people who need them," he said.

To underscore this principle, of course, he had a little story to tell.

* * *

HE TOLD of the boy whose parents, cotton-farmers in Georgia, worked tirelessly to send their son to college.

Upon his return, the son laid in bed until late in the day while his mother brought him his breakfast.

This was the procedure for several days without either parent resorting to scolding. For a fact, however, their patience was wearing thin.

One day the son managed to visit the old cotton fields where he had spent earlier years in toil, and where his father and other workers were busily chopping cotton.

"What is this?" the son inquired as he plucked at a boll of cotton.

"Dat's cotton," one of the workers answered.

"In Latin, it's 'cottonibus,' the boy told him.

"And what is this?" he asked again as he reached for a hoe.

"Oh, dat's a hoe," a worker answered.

"But in Latin, it's 'hoebus,' the young scholar instructed.

As he picked up a stick, he asked once again, "And what is this?"

But by now, the listening father, his patience depleted, grabbed the son by the arm and threatened:

"If you don't take this basibus and get to work on this cottonibus, I'm gonna take this stickibus and beat your blackibus."

The audience got the point, and the Rev. Mr. Borders got a wild applause—with laughter, of course.

FACES ON SUNDAY AS THE REV. WILLIAM H. BORDERS SPOKE AT SHARP ST. METHODIST CHURCH

TOLBERT JONES "We are great" — MRS. LUCILLE JOHNSON "Fight the problem" — RICHARD T. POWELL "Like a game" — MRS. LILLIE JONES "We must win" — REV. MRS. M. M. WILSON "Believe in religion" — MRS. RICHARD T. POWELL "We are strong"

HE PICKS THE SOUTH — In a dynamic speech delivered on Sunday in the Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church for the NAACP, the Rev. William H. Borders told the audience he had decided to stay in the South and "fight the problem where it is." The minister is one of the leaders in the Atlanta, Ga., bus movement and was arrested when he defied the segregated seating pattern in that city.

Zoning board hears pleas against home for the blind

"As a blind person, I find that people are prejudiced to having blind people in their homes.

"That is why I have tried to provide a comfortable home for blind people.

"I make no profit from it."

In the presence of 14 protestants who are seeking to close down a home for the blind at 2115 Allendale Rd., Miss Anna Mae Hunter directed these remarks to the Zoning Board, Tuesday.

Through their attorney, Councilman Leon A. Rubenstein of the 5th District, the protestants told the Board that although they were in sympathy with the program directed by Miss Hunter, they would rather see the home closed because of its location in a residential area.

* * *

REPRESENTATIVES of the Mount Holly and Fairmount Improvement Associations said the home should be located in a commercial zone.

Other protestants expressed a desire to keep their neighborhood "private."

On the advice of her attorney, Thomas Knox, Miss Hunter told the Board the story behind the home. She said:

"For several years I have solicited funds to aid the blind.

"In September of 1956, I bought a three-story 11-room house on Allendale Rd. I moved in last October.

* * *

"THERE ARE five occupants in the home but there are accomodations for seven," Miss Hunter declared.

"Their ages run from 44 to 72. Two have partial sight. The rest are totally blind. Three work at the Workshop for the Blind.

"Each one pays $60 a month, and receives board and lodging. My mother does the cooking, Miss Hunter stated.

When asked to expain why she had taken an interest in providing a home for the blind, Miss Hunter said:

"I have been blind since March of 1939. At the age of 32 I went to seek help. I was too old for an orphanage.

"From experience I know that people do not want to be bothered with a blind person in their home."

* * *

MISS HUNTER also said that in addition to receiving contributions from churches and civic groups, she had raised money by singing in order to open the home.

"When I first started the project" she declared, "I was told there were about 184 colored blind persons in Baltimore.

"Most of them needed help. There were no other facilities for the blind."

When told by the Board that her neighbors had also registered a complaint about the size of a sign outside the home, Miss Hunter stated:

"I have nothing to do with that. It was donated to the home."

* * *

IN TELLING why his group objected to the home Julius Foreman of the Mount Holly Improvement Association said:

"This (the home) is a business type of operation. It is an encroachment from the community's point of view."

Other opponents said that the street where the home is located is narrow and that traffic is often tied up by trucks bringing supplies to the home.

* * *

THIS point was objected to by Miss Hunter who said the only time a truck came to the home was when she first moved in.

"I got permission then from a neighbor to use her driveway," Miss Hunter declared.

Mrs. Clara Lips, a next door neighbor, testified:

"I lived next door to the home but I have had no private driveway since they moved in.

"My driveway is packed all the time. I want it kept private," Mrs. Lips concluded.

SPEAKING for the Fairmount Improvement Association David Lipnick testified:

"I feel for these people but it is an unfortunate thing.

"I object to this intrusion. We bought our homes for privacy."

Miss Hunter and the protestants were informed by the Board that the matter would be taken under consideration and both parties would be advised of the decision.

A SIMILIAR CASE was heard by the Board when a group of protestants made known their objections to a home for the aged at 2818 Ailsa Ave.

They said they objected to the presence of 14 elderly people in their neighborhood because the owners were also operating on "a commercial basis."

Among other cases heard Tuesday was a request for permission to construct an addition to a gas station at 2631 Gwynns Falls Pkwy.

Charles H. Jones asked for permission to use the basement of his home at 706 Gilmor St., for a store or a beauty shop.

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No. 1, left to right, Alpha Phi Alpha President Frank Ellis, Stewart Douglass, and his father, Samuel Douglass, Mrs. Pocahantas Anderson and Magistrate Linwood Koger Sr., chief at Alphas' cabaret party at Coliseum on Friday evening.
No. 2 — Reunion of Mrs. George Wood, Otha Ringgold, Mrs. Robert Matthews and Mrs. William Merchant. The latter three were grammar school classmates.
No. 3 — Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Reckling and Dr. I. B. Higgins seemed engaged in serious conversation. The men are members of the fraternity.
No. 4 — More serious conversation by Alpha men, Daniel (Pinky) Clark and Mrs. J. B. Jackson, left, and Mrs. Clark at right.
No. 5 — Mrs. Charles Thomas and Mrs. Lloyd McDonald presented this pretty picture at Alpha affair.
No. 6 — Mrs. James E. Dankins, left, and Miss Doris Johnson among other Alpha guests.
No. 7 — Mr. and Mrs. Mark Patterson, watch Alpha dancers. Seldom-photographed Mrs. Patterson in public life is AFRO Woman's Editor, Lula Jones Garratt.

'Twas A Gala Weekend

No. 8— MEMBERS OF new Emanon Club composed of business and professional men who entertained wives and friends on Saturday evening at the W. Lafayette Ave. home of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett White. In photo No. 8 members are grouped around organ as Mr. and Mrs. Shellman Johnson entertained, Left to right, seated, Marvin Davis, Dr. Walter Davidson, president; Standing first row, Alonzo Kelly, Samuel Adams, Dr. Sidney Burnett; Second row, John Robbins, John Hagan, Roland Hardy, Walter Jackson, Emmett Smith, George M. Brooks Dr. Nelson Fain, Dr. Robert Phillips and Charles P. Howard Jr.

No. 11 — SISTERS are Mrs. Roland Hardy, left, and Mrs. Walter Jackson, right. Their husbands are also Emanons. Other members of the club not shown in these photos are Dr. Charles Davidson and Earl Hagan.—ALL AFRO STAFF-PHOTOS BY FRANK PHILLIPS.

No. 9—WIVES of Emanon Club members, left to right, Mrs. Charles P. Howard Jr. and Mrs. Walter Davidson. Club members aim to purchase clubhouse and support NAACP, YMCA, and Boy Scouts.
No. 10 — MORE ladies, left to right, Mrs. Emmett Smith, Miss Stephanie Fraser, Miss Mary Washington, Mrs. George Brooks and Mrs. John Robbins.

Guests from six cities attend birthday party for Mrs. Adams

Guests from six cities attended the gala party which marked the 45th birthday of Mrs. Grace Adams, here, Sunday.

The party was held in two sections, with one group being entertained from one to five in the afternoon; and a second group from six to 11 in the evening.

During the first hours, Mrs. Adams received guests wearing an off - shoulder gown of orchid nylon over taffeta. For the evening hours she wore a sheath frock of rose pink embossed cotton satin, made with bugle bottom. Her corsages for both occasions were orchids.

This was the first birthday party Mrs. Adams had ever had, and the 109 guests who attended showered her with scores of gifts, from 19 bottles of perfume to 18 slips, boxes of candy and cash.

The honoree was assisted in receiving by Elsie Coker, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher and Mrs. Roxanna Coker.

* * *

SHARING HONORS at the party was her 78 - year - old uncle, John Coker, Sr. of Petersburg, Va.

Mrs. Adams is the wife of Roy Adams. Both are members of the Wayland Baptist Church, where she sings on the senior choir No. 2. She is also a member of the Rising Star Chapter of the Eastern Star, and is a dressmaker by profession.

The party was in their home at 603 N. Payson St.

* * *

OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS were Mr. and Mrs. Willis Coker, Sr. of Petersburg, Va., Mr. and Mrs. John Coker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Coker, Irvin Coker, Miss Shirley Brown.

Miss Verdell Henegan, Nathaniel Bullock, Mrs. Catherine Johnson, Ernest Autrey of Washington; the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. William Corum of Pottstown, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan of Brainds, N.J., Mrs. Sallie Evans of Washington.

* * *

LOCAL GUESTS WERE: Mesdames Bernice Hardy, Katerine Williamson, Ruth Richardson, Vernell Cooper, Lucille Hedgespeth, Hazel Gray, Viola Thomas, Gladys Brown,

Mesdames Bessie Brown, Lillian Turner, Mazie Horsey, Fannie Harris, Alfreda Grant, Memzella Brown, Zadie Simon, Harriet Staley, Hilda Bland, Martha Johnson,

Mesdames Estelle Finks, Cattis Bennett, Mable Butler, Jessie Colbert, Jerome Kelly, Catherine Towns, Joseph Berry, Ruby Lee, M. Overton, Goldie Burke, Lillian Miles, Sadie Roberts;

* * *

MESSRS. AND MESDAMES A. Beard, James Williams; the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fulton; Messrs. and Mesdames Richard Lucas, James Stokes, Phillip Poulson, Bennie Other, Messrs. and Mesdames G. Lucas, Milton Brown, Arthur Carter, Thomas Whiting, Lester Adams, Edward Fisher, Herman Johnson, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, and the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Payne.

Mr., Mrs. Woodyard married 47 years

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Woodyard of 814 N. Bruce St., celebrated the 47th anniversary of their marriage, Wednesday.

Former residents of Westminster, Md., the couple has spent most of their life in this city. They were married in St. Mary's Episcopal Church in 1901, and for a number of years she was a teacher in the Sunday School of that church.

Mrs. Woodyard is the former Miss Lelia Myers.

THE WESTSIDE Vacation Club members were entertained by Mrs. Rosie Griffin of 554 Wilson St. Mrs. Viola Marvin was a guest of the club.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Lois Hill, 1804 Poplar Grove St.