

THE POWER OF LOVE

Childless wife 'adopts' four motherless white boys

Big-Girthed Amelia Brown looked out of her kitchen window, saw her duty and did it. She saw, standing alone on a nearby hillock, a mean-looking shack, naked and exposed to the elements like an open sore. The four little white boys who lived there worried her. They were sullen and ragged and their faces bore the mark of hunger. Their eyes hinted at an even darker story; a mother dead of cancer and a father burdened with problems.

Childless herself, Amelia Brown searched her heart and her pantry and did what she had to do. She "adopted" the boys, darned their clothes, scrubbed their faces and wrapped them in love. With the approval of the father, Harold (Red) Nash, the boys—Harold, Carl, Leon and Alonzo—became a part of the Brown household along with her nephew, Houston DeBerry. Gradually, the Nash boys changed. They became mischievous, happy human beings.

This act of love slapped South Charleston, West Virginia, in the face. Some whites came to criticize, went away humble and returned, again and again, bearing clothes for the boys and gifts of praise for Mama Brown. Still others, committed emotionally to racial segregation perceived dimly that Negro and white boys, when left alone, will be boys.

Oblivious to the pigmentation of their skin, the Nashes and young Houston romp, tussle and fight like blood brothers. On Saturdays mama Brown's husband, Henry, packs them in the family DeSoto and winds off to a Negro movie house and a Negro-run barber shop. On Sundays, however, the boys go their separate ways. Mr. Brown drops

the Nashes off at the "white" Baptist church and he and Houston go on to the "Negro" Baptist Church.

In the three years since their mother died, the Nash boys have reached out fumblingly in wordless effort to communicate their appreciation to Mama Brown. One day, the white children at the Village Elementary School were making knick-knacks as presents for their mothers. Leon made a wall plaque by pressing his hand in plaster. "When he ran home and shyly presented it to "mother" — Amelia Brown.

For reasons known only to a mother, Amelia Brown has given her all to the motherless Nash boys.

During the freezing winter months for example, her husband, Henry, and Red Nash were out of work. Bills fell due. Tension mounted. A house note was staring the Browns in the face. From somewhere, Henry turned up the money to meet the pressing obligations. But, to Mama Brown, there were more important things. She diverted bill-money into the mouths of her charges.

"Why?" a friend asked her. "Why If you want to do good, adopt some Negro boys who need it more than the whites." Mama Brown rifled back: "It makes no difference to me what color they are. They need help. I think this world would be a much better place if more people would think this way."

Because of her, a lot of people have come to see the beauty of this basic truth. Red Nash says: "I'll be frank with you. I was up there with all them children and I was sick; and they were running around and I almost went crazy. I don't know what I'd have done without that woman. She's the best thing that ever happened to the Negro race." He could have said the human race.

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSEMBLY PAYS TRIBUTE TO INITIATOR OF MRA

Fricans, Indians, British and Afrikaners gathered in Johannesburg at an inter-racial assembly honoring the 78th birthday of Dr. Frank Buchman. The audience included leaders of the gold mining industry and the trade unions, professors from Pretoria University—heart of Afrikaans nationalism, leaders of revolutionary African movements and officials from the Native Affairs Department.

Picton Mbatha, secretary of an organization of 16,000 African teachers, who has been conducting far reaching negotiations with the government, said. "We have assembled here this afternoon to honor the man history will come to judge as the greatest of our age. He has discovered the electronics of the spirit. We have never seen him, but we are loyal soldiers at his side.

"The greatest problem we have today is not the atom bomb. It is the failure to change our hearts. We honor this afternoon the man who has found the way to change our hearts.

"Through the four moral standards I have been doing my share in bringing this great revolutionary message to my people. Likewise in our negotiations with the administration we were able to create an atmosphere of understanding based on honesty, so that even the most ticklish negotiations which would have been most explosive went off smoothly.

"For the last six years there has also been a bitter spirit within our African teachers, and for the first time we have been sitting side by side—a thing that seemed almost unbelievable. Honesty gave us the basis of unity."

Mrs. Congress Mbada, sister of the late Mrs. William Nkomo, prominent revolutionary leader of African women, said, "I felt that only the people who were prepared to bring bloody revolution were to be my friends. I was determined to bring about something terrible in South Africa. I was prepared to use my position as a teacher to instill hatred in the minds of my students.

"Then my sister and Dr. Nkomo changed. We learned from them about God's will and guidance. It was very different from the things we had planned. We put this thing in our own lives. Only as we listened could we build the right relationships in our family and with our neighbors. We are very grateful to God for having given us in

BLIND FAMU GRADS

Two students, totally blind for more than half of their lives, were among the 280 undergraduates who received degrees from Florida A. and M. University, Tallahassee, Fla. They are Vernon Mack Lee, Fort Pierce, Fla., a political science major, and George Herman Swilley, a Madison, Fla., psychology major.

A DOCTOR AT 23 —STARTS CAREER

Miss Caroline E. Pearson has every right to be happy for she has just received her medical degree at the University of Michigan, the youngest (23) and as far as anyone knows, the first Negro woman to win the degree.

But, then, Carol Eve Pearson has always been a bright girl. She attended Chadsey High School, and was tops of her graduating class. She was named valedictorian, and offered scholarships to Vassar, the University of Michigan, where she eventually matriculated, and Michigan State University.

She was treasurer at U. of M. of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; was a member of Women's Interviewing Council; a member of Spanish Pre-Med Club and received honors as an undergraduate. She was accepted to medical school after three years.

She has externed at Herman Keifer Hospital here (an externe is the designation for an undergraduate medical student) and externed at Knud Hansen Hospital for two months in the Virgin Islands at the request of that Government.

Now she will go to the Queen's General Hospital, Canada, June 28, to intern for one year.

She is a member of the Alpha Upsilon Iota sorority, the only national women's medical organization; she attends St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pearson of 16579 LaSalle Boulevard.

our time a man like Dr. Buchman who has been able to bring the answer not only to black and white but to the whole of Africa."

British and Afrikaans South Africans spoke with revolutionary African leaders, pledging themselves to bring the message of Dr. Buchman throughout the length and the breadth of the country. Morkel Vandermerwe, noted football player, declared, "I am convinced that Afrikanerdom is far too small for South Africa, and so is African nationalism. South Africa will change when she takes the world on her heart. I am in this fight forever."

MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

Eva McBroom Collins, 38, of Detroit, is associate marriage counselor for the Wayne County Marriage Counseling center of Circuit Court. She is one of a staff of three professional workers who counsel and advise men and women in unhappy marriage situations in a effort to save the marriage and cut down the heavy divorce rate. Mrs. Collins, a psychiatric case worker with 10 years' experience in social work, handles many of the 1,400 cases annually referred to the center. She also speaks on marriage problems at the request of church, school and civic groups.

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LONDON, ON AUGUST 6th, 1956.

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