

I LOVE
YOU

The Mondy Morning

CHRONICLE

Family Poop Sheet since 1990

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Wouldn't you know it!!! I took the Chronicle to the post office and picked up the mail which included a letter from Bessie and Bertha. If I had waited one more day, I could have included it. Here it is.

FROM BESSIE AND BERTHA (9/11/01)

Our Correspondents in Springfield, MO.

We had a good shower of rain Saturday night and our weather is a little cooler. Today the sun is shining bright. Other areas around got more rain than we did, but we are thankful for what we got.

My granddaughter and family are here from New Mexico this week and we are enjoying them. They have been to Florida on vacation and came back by here. My great grandson, who is three, had a lot to tell us about his trip, especially about Disney World. His sister, Bailey, is only ten months old and is more interested in learning to walk which she thinks is very funny. She is so cute and lovable.

My son and wife were here from Mississippi over the weekend to attend the Apple Festival and Craft Show at Seymore. It is a big event every year and draws a big crowd and though I did not get to see much of them, I enjoyed their being here.

After an 80th birthday party for my brother-in-law (Shorty's brother) Bertha, Sue, and I will be starting our vacation.

Bertha and I have been working on some pears and apples that were given to us,

mowing our lawns, and doing some other outside work. Keeps us pretty busy for it seems we cannot move around as fast as we used to. (-)

Love, Bessie and Bertha

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I listened to a debate this afternoon at one of the universities and I heard people say we ought to bomb some of the countries into oblivion for the damage done to our country. Among the countries they wanted to bomb was Afghanistan.

Last night I received a letter written by an Afghan-American and forwarded to me by email that might shed some information on such a practice. It is a long letter but if you take time to read it, you will know a lot more about Afghanistan and how they have suffered since the Taliban took over their country in 1997. The people of Afghanistan hate the Taliban but do not have the strength to drive them out of their country.

Here is the letter, written by an Afghan who has lived in the United States for 35 years and is a US citizen.

"I speak as one who hates the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. There is no doubt in my mind that these are the people responsible for the atrocity in New York. I fervently wish to see these monsters punished.

"But Taliban and Ben Ladin are not Afghanistan. They are not the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of

ignorant psychotics who captured Afghanistan in 1997 and have been holding the country in bondage ever since. Bin Laden is a political criminal with a master plan.

“When you think Taliban, think Nazis. when you think bin Laden, think Hitler. When you think ‘the people of Afghanistan’, think ‘the Jews in concentration camps’.

“It is not only that the Afghan people had nothing to do with this atrocity, they were the first victims of the perpetrators. They would love for someone to eliminate the Taliban and clear out the rat’s nest of international thugs holed up in their country, I guarantee this.

“Some say, if that is the case why don’t the Afghans rise up and overthrow the Taliban themselves? The answer is, they are starved, exhausted, damaged, and incapacitated. A few years ago, the United Nations estimated that there are 500,000 disabled orphans in Afghanistan, – a country with no economy and no food. Millions of Afghans are widows of the approximately 2,000,000 men killed during the war with the Soviets and the Taliban has been killing these women just for being women and buried some of their opponents alive in mass graves. The soil of Afghanistan is littered with land mines and almost all the farms have been destroyed. The Afghan people have tried to overthrow the Taliban but they have been unable to do so.

“Some have said we should bomb Afghanistan ‘back to the stone age’. The trouble with that is it has already been done. The Soviets took care of that.

“Make the Afghans suffer?” They are already suffering.

“Level their houses?” Already done.

“Turn their schools into piles of rubble?” Done already

“Eradicate their hospitals?” Done
“Destroy their infrastructure?” There is no infrastructure.

“Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late, already done.

“[If you] drop bombs, they will just land on the rubble left by earlier bombs.

“Would bombs get rid of the Taliban? Not likely. They are the only ones able to move around. They would just slip away and hide. Maybe the bombs would get some of those disabled orphans, they don’t move very fast, they don’t even have wheelchairs. Bombs would not harm the Taliban, it would play right into their plans – raping again the people they have been raping all this time.

& & &

“A land war to get Bin Laden will result in the death of lots of Americans. We would have to go through Pakistan to get there and that might mean a war with Pakistan which we would have to conquer first. And would other Muslim nations just stand by? Don’t count on it. And that is exactly what Bin Laden would like – uniting of all Muslim nations with him running it.

& & &

“I don’t have a solution, but I do believe that suffering and poverty are the soil in which terrorism grows. Bin Laden and his cohorts want to bait us into creating more such soil so they and their kind can flourish. We can’t let him do that. That is my humble opinion.

(Signed) Tamin Ansary

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You might disagree with Tamin Ansary, but you must agree he has given us something to think about.

RELIGION

Religion is strangest and, at the same time, the most unifying and the most divisive phenomenon ever invented by mankind. Both the Jews and the Muslims base their religion on the Old Testament doctrine of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" which Jesus said was wrong. He said, "turn the other cheek" but does this mean we, as a nation should say of the recent attack, "We are turning the other cheek, go ahead and bomb the Sears tower in Chicago, and the high rise buildings in Houston and Los Angeles"? Do you think that would "heap coals of fire" on the heads of the terrorists?

Who is right? Who is wrong? Do I have the right to try to cram my religion down the throats of others?

For hundreds of years the Roman Church used Matt 28:19 as their mandate to force everyone to become a disciple of Christ and many thousands died horrible deaths for defying this order. Thousands of those who died were Muslims and they haven't forgotten.

Have you read the September 10th issue of Newsweek? It discusses the religion of the Mormons, which to me is very strange. I can't believe that my soul was created by God and his wife in some prehistoric time and waited until March 19, 1917 to take up residence in my body. I cannot prove this untrue, but I can have my doubts. And I can live next door to a Mormon without rancor so long as he does not try to force me to accept his opinion. It is much easier for me to believe that Jesus contained 23 chromosomes from Mary and 23 from Joseph than that 23 of his chromosomes came from God, but if my neighbor wants to believe that, he

is free to do so, so long as he does not force me to believe it, or does not try to take away my vote if I do not.

I have considerable respect for the Muslims. During the Dark Ages when the Church was burning all books that did not endorse their doctrine, the Muslims were busy collecting as much information as possible to preserve for future generations. We owe them a debt of gratitude for that, but I do not find any forgiveness for their recent attack on innocent citizens of the USA.

I have great respect for the Mormons and their way of life but I find it hard to forgive them for the Massacre at Mountain Meadows in 1857. Most of you have never read that story and because I expect that protest groups using it as a background will show up at the Olympics in Salt Lake City next February I am going to include a copy in this issue of the Chronicle. Several people have asked for a copy. For years the Mormona blamed the massacre on the Paiute Indians, but read the clipping below from USA Today. The Mormons of today are a far cry from the Mormons of 1857. The massacre is referred to in the Newsweek story, so you can be sure it will be brought up in the future.

Utah: Salt Lake City — A new forensic study indicates that Paiute Indians may have played a smaller role in the Mountain Meadows massacre of 120 Arkansas pioneers 143 years ago. It has long been thought that Mormon militiamen executed the male emigrants while Indians attacked the women and children with hatchets and knives. But the *Salt Lake Tribune*, citing University of Utah researchers, said the unearthed bones showed no evidence of that kind of attack.

It has not been the policy of the Chronicle to endorse or condemn any religion but because the war we are about to get into is basically a religious war, I have included this of religious history in the hope you may have a better understanding of what is going on.

As I said, religion is a strange phenomenon. It unites one group against another; it separates people into groups. It divides people into "us" and "them" groups. "Us" are those who believe exactly like I believe; "them" are all the others.

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I am excerpting the following from a private email we received from **Diane Rhodes**, introduced earlier.

"I am amazed at how something which has happened on the other side of the country has touched so many here. You will remember Bob who came with me to visit you in Taos; one of his best friends while at MIT, named Rene Ornedo, lost his younger brother, Ruben, who was on the plane that hit the Pentagon. A good friend of mine would have been in the ruined section of the Pentagon, had that happened a few months ago. A co-worker of hers was on the flight which, ironically, hit the section where he worked. This is such a sad time for America.

"My mind just cannot shake the image of the burning towers and the impact of the plane. I watched TV for hours on the 11th but have avoided watching it since. I listen to National Public Radio and that's about all I can stand. I'm sure many Americans do not realize that many of the casualties in the towers were foreign nationals. The enormity of this has hit the whole world.

"The fourteen-story office building

where I work in West Covina got a bomb threat as did the County Children's Services building next door to us, all because the owner is an Arab-American. He has been here 33 years and been an American Citizen for 27 years, but someone felt justified to threaten him and all the other people (about a thousand) who work in these two buildings. I just find this so hard to understand. Diane

* * *

I take five news-magazines. Their covers this week says it all.

US News: UNDER SIEGE

Time: ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE

Newsweek: GOD BLESS AMERICA

Washington Post: A DATE WHICH WILL IN INFAMY

But the cover that really grabbed me was that of the New Yorker. The cover was totally black, which if you looked carefully you could see the silhouette of the World Trade Towers.

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Note: I have printed only a limited number of copies of *The Mountain Meadows Massacre* which I am sending to those I think would be most interested in it. If you do not get a copy and want one, let me know and I'll send you a copy. I have a letter from Bob Lancaster, History Quiz Editor for the Arkansas Times which says, "The Standard Reference is *The Mountain Meadows Massacre*, by Juanita Brooks, which can be obtained from the University of Oklahoma Press at Norman, OK." It is also mentioned in his book *The Jungles of Arkansas* which can be ordered from University of Arkansas Press, at Fayetteville, AR.