

Adult Literacy

Editor, Lexington Leader:

The thrilling story of Cora Wilson Stewart and the Moonlight Schools should never be forgotten. Kentucky, and Rowan County especially, should take pride in this wonderful woman and her accomplishments.

It was due to her efforts that the eyes of the state and nation were opened to the importance of literacy in every walk of life, and absolutely essential to the development of real democracy.

Because of her work with adult illiterates the country people in almost inaccessible regions not only learned to read and write but began to develop community interest and practical improvements, such as good roads; better crops, fruit and farm animals; better food and more wholesome homelife, along with churches and Sunday Schools. People learned to work together in a greater degree of harmony, instead of letting strife and friction keep them apart.

The Moonlight School movement began in Rowan County in 1911. By 1913 it had spread to 25 counties and was reaching out into similar regions in neighboring states. Early in 1914 Gov. McCreary appointed the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission with Mrs. Stewart chairman, first of its kind in the United States.

In 1918 Mrs. Stewart was appointed chairman of the Illiteracy Commission of the National Education Association, and she held regional conferences throughout the country. In 1923 she became chairman of the World Illiteracy Commission, and presided over conferences in Edinburgh, Ge-

neva, Toronto, San Francisco and Denver. By this time her work had carried over into Army life and into reformatories and prisons. The movement for literacy reached over into Russia, and some of her readers were translated and adopted there.

In 1926 she was made director of the National Illiteracy Crusade with headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she remained until 1941. In 1929, President Hoover delegated the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a National Illiteracy Commission with Mrs. Stewart as executive head.

Cora Wilson Stewart was one of the most interesting and dynamic speakers in America. She received several national and international awards for her great humanitarian and educational work. These included the Pictorial Review award, the Ella Flagg Young medal, the Clara Barton medal, and, in 1941, the award at the Golden Jubilee Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for pioneer work in combating illiteracy in the nation.

Rowan County and Kentucky should hold in grateful remembrance the worldwide renown and usefulness of this remarkable woman.

MRS. EVERETT D. BLAIR
Morehead.

Paragraphs

You can tell when a politician runs out of sensible arguments. He resorts to smear tactics.

Methuselah lived to a ripe old age, but it wasn't dangerous to be a pedestrian in his day.