

Duplicate

All the sheep in the Berry family were black, but one of us came powerfully near being the "white sheep of the family" in spite of the very well laid plans of Pop and Mom to the contrary. It is now agreed that in the interests of historical fact it should now be truthfully admitted that Dick's ambitions for the business world were far in advance of his years. Also, at an early age he frowned on "free schools," that is ~~parochial~~ <sup>public</sup> ones, being much more strongly attracted to private boarding schools, if one, he reasoned, just had to be schooled in order to succeed in life.

This aberrant philosophy functioning at such an early age caused Pop much concern and eventually some consternation. The family Bible records that Dick's ripple in the otherwise rigidly disciplined and ~~stable~~ lives of the Berry Quartet of boys came somewhere near his fifteenth birthday. Jim Christy ~~XX~~ <sup>charity</sup> now an affluent Harlem business man and proprietor of the Sunset Barber Shop on Seventh Avenue, tells it like this:

"We were about thirteen. I was a bootblack and an apprentice barber at Welch's Barber Shop on Liberty Street. <sup>had</sup> I/had to quit school to help the family. One day when Dick, my former classmate and buddy, was supposed to be in school, he came by the Shop.

"'Jim,' he said, 'You know I've been doing some thinking: Why should a man have to go to school all his life to succeed? Abraham Lincoln didn't do it, and I'll betcha Mr. Welch didn't fool around a lot of years in school. And he owns this Shop, doesn't he? Man, you know what? We've always been buddies;



St. James - 6

Dick's Episode continued.

WE COULD STOW AWAY IN A SHIP TO Baltimore. We could both get jobs shining shoes and learn the barber trade and see some of the world at the same time. It wouldn't be long before we could have our own shop and then a chain of shops like Woolworth's."

Jim says he fell for Dick's scheme hook, line, and sinker. Dick maintains that it was Jim's idea. But at any rate, some time later Pop fished both of them off the Baltimore Pier hiding behind crates of freight which they had been watching the stevedores load into the ship's hull all afternoon. It seems that one of the stevedores was a member of St. James Church and had spotted them with small bundles of clothing under their arms trying to pick their chance to sneak aboard ship.

This became a very difficult period for Pop, for he was having to learn for the first time that while the razor strap ranked high as the proper instrument of discipline of the day it was not always an unfailing persuader in the field of *discipline* education for boys.

Dick finally earned the hard way a trial at persuasion by counseling -- thanks to Mom's prayers and tacit suggestions.

He finally agreed and seemed enthusiastic at the suggestion of going of f to Boarding School at Thyne Institute, Chase City, Virginia. Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ of Suffolk had a boy enrolled there, and the adventure seemed inviting. Pop would now have to figure out how to get the tuition and board with Lula already at Hampton. We now know that Pop made his first acquaintance with



St. James - 7

Dick's Episode Completed.

the loan shark's office about this time.

So Dick came home at Christmas time sporting a <sup>Grown</sup> beaver hat, a crease in his knickers, and his hair neatly combed and brushed with pomade. He already had a <sup>founding</sup> interest track for the spring, and all in all this matter of education of questionable necessity to him was being \_\_\_\_\_ along.

Several years and three boarding schools later, Dick finished high school at Kittrell, North Carolina, via Hampton Institute with academic diploma and athletic letter for service as a ~~broken field halfback~~ <sup>Seat back for Kittrells gridiron maulers</sup>. By now coeducational boarding school had become a way of life with Dick. So he went on to receive the baccalaureate degree in business at <sup>Administration</sup> Wilberforce College, having stayed out only one year to help finance Lew's graduation during the economic depression of the early 30's.