

"Cast Bottles Upon the Water"

Preacher Hunts Whisky Bottles

PIEDMONT, Ala. (AP) — The Bible says "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Change the word "bread" to "bottles" and you've got a thumbnail picture of the 38-year-old hobby of a lay Methodist preacher who haunts the city dump, back alleys and the pool hall area of Piedmont.

Jewel Pierce goes to these places for whisky bottles. He also collects empty embalming fluid bottles from a Piedmont mortuary.

Although he has spent all his 62 years in this part of northeast Alabama, he has reached

many corners of the earth with religious messages cast upon the waters in the bottles.

"I send messages dealing with the shortness of life and the need for repentance," he said in an interview.

Pierce toesses the bottles into the Coosa River behind the Catholic Hospital in Gadsden when he is at the hospital to .b4 ng)atients.

They float into the Alabama River, the Mobile River, the Gulf of Mexico and sometimes across the ocean.

The messages ask the finder to advise Pierce of the date and location the bottle was retriev-

ed from the water.

His messages have bobbed their way to Greece, the Louisiana bayou country, the coast of Washington State. One was even found in a hay field in Alabama 1½ miles from water.

It had been deposited there during winter months when the water covered the low area.

An Ohio man wrote that she found one while vacationing on a Florida beach. "I felt like the Lord had directed me to Florida just to get your message," she wrote.

Most replies are complimentary but not all.

"Some people say I ought to

Pierce said he spends about 20 hours a week on the project.

"I have to wash the bottles—to get the small of what was in them out. It takes time to get the corks in and sealed with waterproof glue," he said.

"But this makes them safe for years. A metal top would rust in a year in salty water but a cork won't ever deteriorate."

He is in church instead of out doing something like this," Pierce said. "One man was a bootlegger who refused to let his wife attend church. His biggest complaint was that he didn't want her to know anything about the Gospel."

Pierce has never pastored a church but has taught Sunday school classes for years.

He launched his project after o n g r e a t i o n a l t d g \$jifg0ist, elected him Sunday school evangelist.

"I was supposed to visit each church in the district, 104 churches, in 12 months," he said. "I had difficulty doing this because I had no way to go. Then I thought that a message in a bottle wou t' to somebody I would never see and meet."

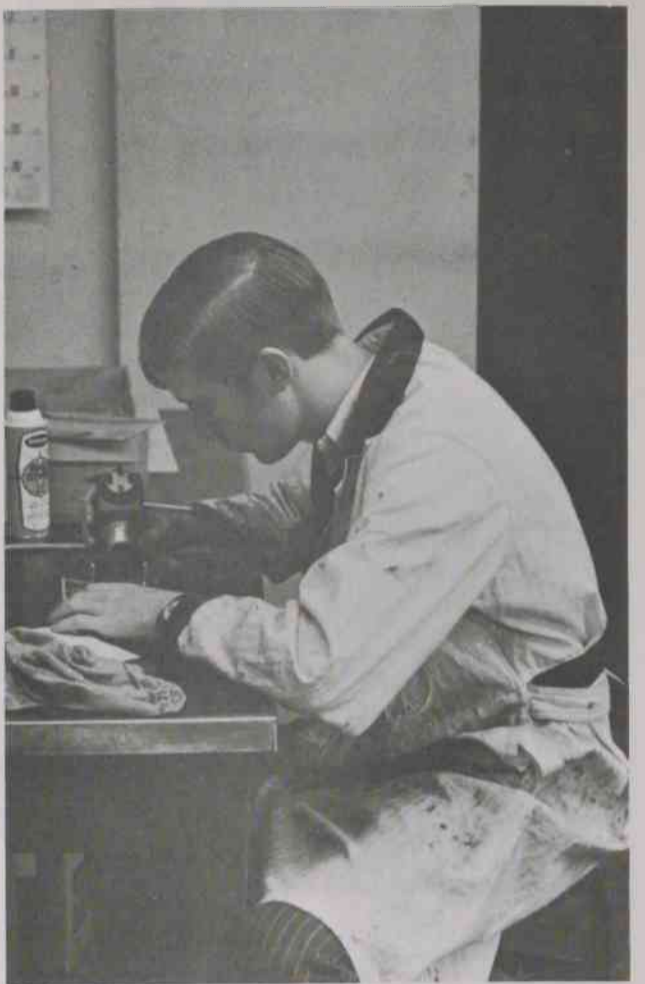
He sends 125 bottles a week down the Coosa and gets replies on about one-fourth of them. The project has mushroomed since

its beginning and Pierce said he has sent more than 28,000 bottles downstream.

Pierce answers each reply, although he sometimes has to go to the International House at nearby Jacksonville State University to ask foreign exchange students to translate letters for him.

Pierce and his wife have three children, J. C. Pierce, Birmingham, Ala.; Paul Pierce, Crystal Springs, Miss., and Mrs. Larry Westbrooks, Collinsville.

And through the bottle, he has come up with hundreds of friends throughout the world.



TAKING DENSITY READINGS—Lynn Naudian, of Wilmington, Del., checks the density reading of a photograph prior to "shooting" for reproduction in the college yearbook. This young graphic arts student spends many hours outside of class assisting with production work in the School of Graphic Arts.



THREE MUSKETEERS? No, just three Graphic Arts students heading for class. Left to right are Larry Walker, Billy Hall, and Lynn Naudian, all second year students in the School of Graphic Arts.

Confidence Returning In Stock Market

NEW YORK (AP) — Some return of confidence is appearing in that somewhat obscure but vitally important area of corporate finance called the commercial paper market. Activity rose in December for the first time since May.

And what had caused the decline? Nothing less than the inability of the Penn Central Transportation Co. to pay its bills on time. So shocked were other corporations that they dared not lend out their excess cash.

And for good reason. The commercial paper market is where many large companies lend and borrow wick each other for short terms, anywhere from a day to 270 days. The notes are unsecured, backed only by a company's reputation.

Naturally there is some element of risk in such lending, but participants in this professional market felt they knew enough about each other to avoid taking any great risks. It was a market built on confidence.

When the Penn Central, the nation's largest railroad, ran into financial trouble the event thoroughly shook corporate finance officers.

As a result, the amount of paper outstanding shrank sharply. But in December, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York now reports, it rose again for the first time since the PC debacle.

Total volume last month rose \$662 million to \$33.64 billion after having declined \$1.3 billion in November. Some of the increase may be attributed to an expanding economy, but it suggests also that the PC shock waves are receding.

League is attempting to ward off this possibility of reminding the public that even if interest rates come down, housing prices are likely to continue higher.

Still another factor may be entering the trade-off. Some builders are planning to hold down price increases by reducing the size of the houses they offer.

Rebel 400 On Sunday This Year

COLUMBIA (AP)—The Rebel 400 will be held at Darlington on Sunday this year and in succeeding years, instead of on Saturday.

Gov. John West signed into law this week a local bill allowing the Rebel 400 to be run each year on a Sunday in early May. This year the date is May 2.

The bill was pushed through the legislature by the Darlington delegation after Darlington Raceway officials considered moving the race to Myrtle Beach in Horry County, where the ban on Sunday racing would not apply.

In Nixon's Budget Money Sought to Educate Indians

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon asked Congress today for more money to educate Indians, give them better medical care and help those who migrate to the cities.

He also proposed indoor plumbing for 8,000 more Indian dwellings.

His budget for fiscal 1972 increases funds for the Bureau of Indian Affairs by \$66.3 million, to \$456.7 million. Most of the boost goes to build kindergarten classrooms, provide for more people at reservation boarding schools, send more Indians to college,

and pay public schools to enroll more children from the tax-free reservations.

Money to the Indian Health Services would be increased \$12 million, to \$132.5 million. The additional money would help increase the staffs at the Indian Health Service hospitals, improve laboratories, and expand a community mental health program using Indians as local workers.

In the Office of Economic Opportunity, part of a \$60.6 million allotment for special migrant and Indian programs would be directed toward

helping the growing number of urban Indians.

The BIA budget increases education and welfare services \$24.1 million. This will provide for 1,665 more students in boarding schools, training and hiring of Indian education coordinators, scholarships for 8,400 Indians in colleges, and supplements to public school finances to provide for 4,243 Indians.

Last year there were 36,405 Indians in boarding schools on reservations, 4,143 were at schools living in nearby dormitories, and 6,100 in college.

There would be an additional \$20.5 million for construction of kindergartens at 21 locations, a high school at Cherokee, N.C., to the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project in New Mexico, addition to the Wagner, S. D., East Charles Mix schools, and updating of the Sioux Indian Museum and Crafts Center.

The budget indicates that the Office of Economic Opportunity and the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare will jointly expand Indian health services, as requested by the President in his message on Indians last July.

In another credit market participants are engaged in what is being termed the trade-off, a game that could have important consequence for lenders, borrowers, builders and others. It involves the home mortgage market.

Mortgage interest rates along with other credit charges are falling, a fact closely watched by millions of individuals who contemplate buying homes. If rates are falling, these people believe, they may continue to fall.

Their thinking isn't without merit, because a wholesale reluctance to buy conceivably could actually force mortgage rates lower, thus fulling the expectations. It could happen, because Americans in general are shrewd in using credit.

The U.S. Savings and Loan

Students Tour State Buildings

Although Wednesday, March 3, was a dismal rainy day 24 secretarial students, Jim Cherry, bus driver, Mrs. Eason, and Mrs. Burgwyn left Chowan College early in the morning for a tour of the State Legislative Building and the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh, the University of North Carolina and the Planetarium in Chapel Hill, Duke University and the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Factory in Durham.

At the State Legislative Building the group was greeted by Senator J. J. Harrington, D-Bertie, and Mr. Roberts H. Jernigan accompanied the students to a most interesting tour of the lower floor of that magnificent victorian mansion, they were admitted to the gallery of the House of Representatives to observe the morning session.

One of the highlights of the trip, many girls said, was the tour through the Liggett and Myers Cigarette Factory in Durham. If you were one of the lucky ones to be able to "pass" for twenty-one years of age, you were given the opportunity to select a package of cigarettes as a gift.

Designer Criticized

PARIS (AP)—Yves Saint Laurent, once the man who could do no wrong in French fashion, was criticized today for his new collection, called a sad reminder of the Nazi occupation.

Saint-Laurent dressed his models Friday in jackets with shoulder pads and high heeled platform shoes.

"Saint-Laurent took a particularly trying step backwards," the newspaper Paris Jour wrote. "This fashion doesn't have a good reputation for elegance. We thought at first these were the designer's usual gags, but the evidence was otherwise: these excesses were deliberate, sad and demoralizing."

The attack on Saint-Laurent was all the more unusual because French fashion writers generally just tell what they see and avoid extensive criticism of designers, considered a virtual part of the French patrimony.

Mine Disaster Caused By Illegal Explosives

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Interior Department charged today that a Kentucky coal mine disaster that killed 38 men last month was caused by the use of illegal explosives, illegal blasting practices and failure to control coal dust.

The department said it was sending its findings to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution.

The department itself will also consider civil penalties against the mine operators.

The disaster occurred Dec. 30 in a mine owned by Charles and Stanley Finley, near Hyden, Ky.

Of the 39 men working in the mine at the time, only one survived; he had left the mine for supplies and was on his way back in when it blew up.

The Bureau of Mines, in its investigation report, said evidence was found that dynamite—illegal for use in coal mines—may have been used for blasting purposes. If legal explosives were used, the bureau said, the manner of their use was apparently illegal, and they may have been touched off with primacord, an illegal type of fuse in coal mine blasting.

The blast, intended to enlarge a chamber of the mine, threw coal dust into the air and ignited it, spreading the explosion

throughout the mine, the bureau said.

This occurred, it added, because of "excessive accumulations of coal dust and inadequate applications of rock dust" which is required to be mixed with coal dust to make it incombustible.

Samples of mine dust showed less than the legally required percentage of rock dust, the report said.

Conviction on a criminal charge under mine safety laws carries penalties of up to \$25,000 and a year in jail.

The Finley mine had been cited for 38 violations of safety and health regulations during the nine months it was in operation before the Dec. 30 explosion.

Accidents had killed one man and injured two others.

ANOTHER MEDAL HOAX

Everybody, we suppose, remembers the case of the general who had to return a medal because it was discovered that enlisted men had told part of the story that led to his being decorated.

Now the Army has revoked the award of two Bronze Star medals it has found were authorized for dogs in Vietnam. The dogs were listed, with fictitious names and serial numbers, along with 19 members of the 25th Infantry Division who received Bronze Stars.

The hoax was discovered after a St. Louis serviceman reported it in a letter to the St. Louis Dispatch. He said, "This little joke has greatly reduced the value of the Bronze Star." He's right. Such nonsense should be stopped. — Savannah (Ga) Evening Press

Americans to Drink More, Smoke Less

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans in the next year will drink more liquor and bet more on pinball machines. But they will smoke less.

They'll also travel more, hunt and fish more and talk more on the telephone.

The projections are not the work of some eminent professor speaking from an academic ivory tower, but straight from one of the nation's most significant sociological documents, the federal budget sent to Congress today.

Specifically, it is the work of President Nixon's budget advisers who must estimate the revenue expected in the 1972 fiscal year from all sorts of federal taxes.

The tax-receipt picture shows a nation with growing affluence but in search of more security e taxes and contributions also

are forecast to go up.

Shedding light on a nation of drinkers, the budget gives this tax-receipt profile:

Total excise taxes on alcohol are expected to rise by \$110 million to \$4.9 billion, with most of the gain attributed in the area of hard liquor. Excise taxes on beer and wines are expected to go up slightly.

Although the federal wagering taxes are expected to remain steady at \$5 billion in estimated revenue, manufacturers' taxes on coin-operated gaming devices are expected to jump by \$1 million to \$16 million.

The assumption is that if people didn't want to use them, industry wouldn't be manufacturing more pinball machines.

Cigarette taxes are projected to go down by \$65 million, reflecting government health

warnings. Cigar taxes are expected to remain steady at \$60 million.

As for traveling more, gasoline taxes are estimated to rise, along with taxes on tires, diesel fuel, and automobiles.

In addition, airport and airway taxes will rise, indicating the government believes that more Americans will take advantage of the jet age.

Americans will use their telephones more: Taxes on telephone and teletype services are predicted to rise by nearly \$200 million.

Americans will buy more guns: Manufacturers' excise taxes on various guns and ammunition are expected to increase by a total of \$2 million.

Americans will fish more: Excise taxes on fishing rods and creels are expected to go up by \$2 million.

Women's Shorts Big Item In Fashions

PARIS (AP) — Now women can have their shorts and hide them too.

Pierre Cardin, who showed today, loves shorts, but for modesty's sake you can only see them from the side. In tweed, wool and leather for day and in filmy printed organza for evening, his message is dresses slit to the hip to show what the shorts underneath are made of — the same thing.

Women who believe in the Zodiac, as Cardin does, will adore his leather sheaths. Each has a different color waistband and a different sign on the front. Some go with shorts, but most important, all stop two inches above the knee.

Whether short triangular ponchos or very long robes, these are left wide open on both sides to show printed shorts.

For conservatives only, Cardin keeps his day silhouette tight on top, belted at zji.go)t and falling to just below the knee. Blouson shirt jackets and sleeveless dresses, either with a cut-in armhole or stiff extended wings, come in navy, salmon and violet checks.

Pierre Balmain's spring collection remains true to his principles of high-class elegance, perfect grooming and impeccable tailoring. His clothes shown today are for the jet set and those who know true fashion from pranks and nonsense.

BEST YET AUTO RALLY

Thursday, March 25
4:00 o'clock
Meet Under the Bridge

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- EXCITEMENT -
CASH AWARDS

Entrance Fee \$2.00

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