



The Roundup

By WILBORNE HARRELL

This Christmas for most of us was a mixture of Yuletide joy and sadness. In no small measure we felt a sense of guilt, whether deserved or not, as we gathered about our gaily decorated trees. We sang the same carols and gave the same gifts but the Christmas bells did not ring as joyously as in years past. Santa made his usual rounds and filled stockings with goodies for kids, who even in their young years were more subdued; for they, too, sensed that this year Christmas was bereft of some of its gaiety. But let us never forget that the Star still shines in the East, even though its brilliance and lustre and promise was somewhat dimmed by a lone eternal flame that burns in Arlington Cemetery.

Lying on my desk is a miniature Japanese Samurai sword, doing duty as a letter opener. A gift from a friend who recently returned from a trip to New York, it is a prized possession, but above all it was the act of a thoughtful friend. I believe few of us fully realize the thoughtfulness and unselfish consideration that goes into the giving of a gift. Oh, we appreciate the gifts that are given to us, but we accept them with a sort of mental shrug of the shoulders. There is an unconscious involuntary indifference that would horrify us if we were aware what was taking place in our subconscious mind—but I believe that deep in our hearts we are truly grateful and thankful when we receive a gift. It is at least a happy reminder that we still have friends.

**STREET SCENE**—A little girl carrying a doll so big I did a double take, the better to see who was toting whom. . . You know, kids' toys get bigger and better all the time; modern toys are almost the real thing. In fact, it is difficult to tell the toy from the real article in many instances. But kids grow up fast nowadays and in that respect they have lost many of the joys of childhood. It takes a child's imagination to enjoy a

toy, and I believe the kids of today have to a large extent lost the faculty of imagination in play. The toys they have are so authentic, so real-life, there is hardly any room left for the imagination. I remember when I was a kid I got a tool chest one Christmas that had tools that would not function as real tools should. As I remember, the saw wouldn't cut cheese and the hammer wouldn't drive a thumbtack. But with the chest of tools I was a great builder, an architect, a great engineer. I built bridges and wonderful houses—all in my imagination. It wasn't just true of the tool chest, but all the toys I had. **THEY WERE TOYS**, intended as toys and that was all they were. The final test of any toy, I suppose, is, does it make a kid happy. And if it takes realism, the real thing, to make modern kids happy—then I'm for realism and I'm happy, too.

SOCIAL SECURITY Questions and Answers

George Dietrich, field representative of the Social Security Administration, is in Edenton every Thursday in the Court Room in the Chowan County Court House.

Are you one of the thousands of Americans nearing retirement age? If so, Icen E. Wilson, Social Security District Manager in Greenville, reported today that it is a good idea to get in ahead of time and file your application for social security benefits. It is advisable to try and file a claim two or three months ahead of time, where possible, in order that any unexpected discrepancies that might arise can be straightened out. This way the first check can be delivered on time. It is possible for both men and women to retire and start receiving reduced benefits at age 62. Some will not want to retire

completely and will only reduce their activities and this could mean that they would be entitled to some of their social security benefits. To be sure of how your earnings will affect your social security check, if you plan to continue working, you should contact your nearest social security office or their representative the next time he is in your area, and discuss your individual case with them. They will be glad to explain how your earnings will affect your check, the amount of a reduced benefit, whether starting at age 62 is a good idea for you or not, and any questions you might have. By all means, get in ahead of time—don't wait until the last minute.

The heart has reasons that reason does not understand. —Jacques B. Bossuet.

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I wish all of you a happy and prosperous 1964.  
**4-H CLUB MEETS**  
Center Hill Junior 4-H Club met Monday night, December 16, at the Center Hill Community Building with all members present.  
Mrs. Sidney Bulls read the traditional Christmas story to the group and led in prayer.  
Mrs. Harry Venters led in several games which all the children enjoyed. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments enjoyed.  
**CENTER HILL CLUB MEETS**  
Center Hill Home Demonstration Club members and their husbands met at the Community Building on Tuesday night, December 17 for the annual Christmas dinner.  
There was a bountiful supply of food which every one enjoyed. After the table was cleared, Mrs. B. P. Monds, Mrs. J. I. Boyce, Mrs. J. C. Boyce led in the devotion and singing of Christmas carols.  
Mrs. E. L. Belch gave the demonstration on the evergreens used at Christmastime and the origin of each.  
After the program, Christmas gifts were exchanged and refreshments of punch cookies and nuts served. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening of fellowship and fun.

**Good Wishes Galore for '64**

Key word in our resolutions for the New Year is "MORE"! It is our aim to be MORE helpful to MORE people MORE often . . . to have MORE of what they want always, at prices that will give them MORE for their money.

MORE of all the good things of life is what we wish for you, our good friends, in 1964. We are MORE than grateful for your patronage and will try every day, in every way to be MORE and MORE worthy of your confidence.

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