

Maddy Gets Into Hot Water Over Unique Time Change Explanation

(Editor's Note: The publisher of The Chowan Herald has had bad luck with regards to Daylight Savings Time in the past. In fact, it got so bad, along with Halloween, Christmas parades, etc., that the newspaper has of recent note completely ignored them. But there is no one who has a worse time, to hear him tell it, than Scribe Lawrence Maddy of the Virginian-Pilot. We are sure this was pretty much on the mind of John A. Mitchener, III, when he called the following Maddy column to our attention. It is, by the way, easier to fit into our columns than some of John's essays which come in the form of Letters to The Editor. But here's Lawrence. LFA.)

We were all taking our dishes from the dining room table to the sink when I proclaimed the good news. "All right, everybody," I said, "there's good news. On Sunday we all get to sleep an hour longer because we gain an hour returning to Eastern Standard Time. Goodbye, daylight-saving

time. Hello, extra hour of sleep."

Jon forked his pork chop leftovers into the dog dish and slid his plate into the sink water.

"What does that mean?" he asked.

"It means we are going to gain an hour Sunday," I said. "The one that we lost last summer. Remember when we set our clocks ahead an hour? Well, now we are getting the hour back."

I placed a hand on his shoulder, looking him in the eye.

"Got it?" I asked.

"Got it," he replied. Jon marched into the living room and began to piece the parts of a puzzle together that, when completed, would give a perfect show and tell picture of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

A few moments after the World Series game began on television, the phone rang. Jon answered it. The call was from his friend Skip, who is 6 years old.

Skip is a nice kid with freckles and a nice smile.

He is also dense. I mean dense in the sense that he takes everything literally. If you told him that necessity was the mother of invention, he'd want to know who the father was, with a couple of inquiries about necessity's cousins if there was time for it.

In a few moments, Jon came rushing in, interrupting the Series, tugging at my sleeve.

"What, Jon?"

"It's Skip on the phone. I told him that I hadn't decided what to do with the extra hour I am getting on Sunday. You know, whether to sleep or not. And he said that they probably wouldn't get one at his house. He said his father told him they were cutting out all the extras because of inflation. He doesn't think he will get an hour extra. Would you explain it to him?"

I told Jon that I was watching the World Series, for heaven's sakes, and to have Skip phone later. Which is what Jon did.

The Dodgers had two men on base with one out when the phone rang again. Jon

answered it. "Larry! It's Skip on the phone again."

"I told him to phone later!" I shouted.

"He says it is later," Jon shouted.

I slugged to the phone watching the game by using the reflection in the sliding glass door opposite the TV set.

"Mr. Maddy ..."

"Yes, Skip."

"Are you sure we are getting an extra hour on Sunday? My dad is out of town, but ..."

"Your dad doesn't have anything to do with it, Skip," I replied. "Everybody gets an extra hour on Sunday." Then I explained to him about the transition to regular time from daylight-saving time. Skip kept repeating "uh-huh" into the phone. I thought he was getting it.

When I finished the explanation, he said thanks, and I was about to hang up.

"Mr. Maddy?"

"Yes, Skip?"

"We lose an hour in the spring, right?"

"Right, Skip ... Wait a minute." I ran into the

living room to watch Goose Gossage warm up. Then I walked back to the phone.

"Hello, Mr. Maddy ..."

"Yes, Skip."

"About that hour we lose ..."

"Yes, Skip?"

"Where does it go?"

It was unbelievable. Gossage was throwing smoke and there I was on the phone with a kid who was so literal that if someone gave him a shoe tree he's stick it in a pot and water it.

"Go ... Go? Oh, well it's simple, Skip. You see, the time fairy takes it. You know what the tooth fairy is. Well, there's a time fairy too. Each spring she rides down to earth from her home on the far side of the moon known as Time Town. She moves at the speed of light on an enormous winged egg-timer drawn by gigantic cuckoos that she has captured from the Black Forest. At midnight she swoops down over the rooftops and pries open the back of every clock in the world with a special tool made from the beak of an

enchanted goose. Once inside a clock, she steals an hour from it and puts the hour in a giant clock sock that is larger than the tarp covering the field at Yankee Stadium during a rain. Then ..."

"Mr. Maddy?"

"Yes, Skip?"

"Why does the time fairy want the hours to begin with?"

"To repair them, Skip. She's in charge of keeping all the hours we have in perfect condition. She takes all the hours in the clock sock back to Time Land, where the elves repair all the seconds. You've heard of factory seconds? That's where the expression began, right there in the time factory where the elves use teeny silver hammers to hammer out the dents in the faulty seconds. Then they give each a squirt of oil from a silver can. When the hours

are all in first-class working order, she brings them back. Puts them in the clocks while we all are sleeping, Understand?"

Skip said he did. "That's neat. Thanks, Mr. Maddy," he said before hanging up.

I returned to the World Series game and forgot all about our conversation until last night. As I lay on a couch reading the paper, my wife answered the phone and yelled from the kitchen.

"It's Skip's teacher," she said. "Mrs. Edwards wants to know if you will come talk to her class about the time change. She says Skip came to school with the most cockamamie story about it she ever heard. He said you told him the story and she thinks you owe it to the class to offer your explanation in person."

My heart sank. I clamped one of the sofa pillows over my head and almost cried. A

few seconds later my wife walked into the living room.

"I accepted for you," she said.

"You didn't!"

"It's set for 10 A.M. Monday. And Mrs. Edwards asked you to bring an enchanted goose beak with you if there's one lying around the house. She said her principal is very big on exhibits."

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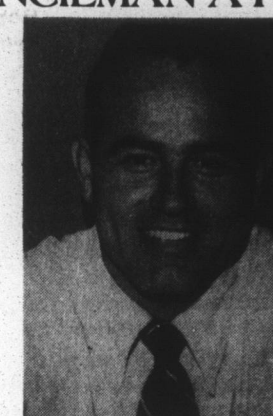
Burroughs Teaches Class

The First Presbyterian Church is starting its second semester of classes for adults on November 1st, at 9:45 A. M. Gil Burroughs will be teaching the Gospel of John; and John Mitchener, III, will be exploring "A Decision of Faith". This latter subject was a concern of the 1977 General Assembly in an attempt to state a basic creed in the language of the 20th century. Beginning Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7:30 P. M., at the church, Terry Williams will lead a discussion group in recognizing the stages of grief and ways of making a healthy adjustment to many kinds of loss. The public is invited to participate in any of these classes.

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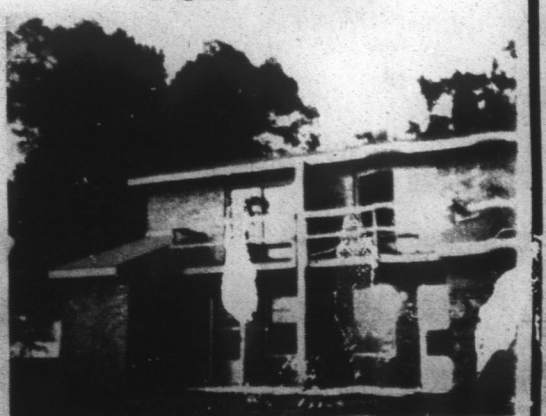
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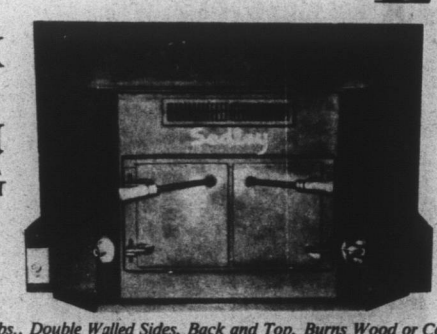
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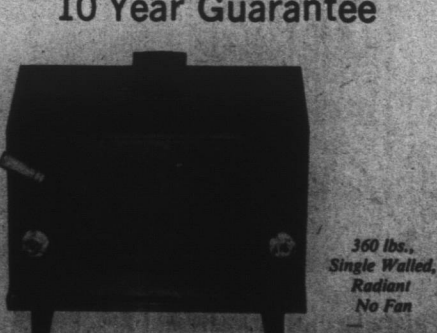
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