

## SCOUT CORNER

By E. L. KEARNEY  
PHILMONT TOUR



E. L. KEARNEY

Reach for that mountain-top Scouting experience that will leave you with a knapsack of memories you'll never forget! Grab your pack, your Scouting skills, and all the courage you can muster to head for the Big One—the super-activity that towers above them all—Philmont!

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you will set above every other camping trip you have ever been on! At Philmont you will enjoy Scouting at its best with the finest camp staff in America!

HAVE YOU ever hiked along a rock ridge and felt the cool mountain breezes on your face or maybe a few drops of mountain shower? Have you ever watched a herd of deer or antelope disappear among towering Ponderosa Pine? Have you ever bedded down in a high mountain meadow after a hard day on the trail and listened to a stream gurgle down the mountain or the breeze play tag with the tree-tops? More than 275,000 Scouts and Scouters have? Why Not You!

The Occaneechee Council will send one troop in 1973. The first 41 boys to register are assured a seat. Other highlights of the trip include: Six Flags near Dallas, Texas, Cyclorama, Carlsbad Caverns, The Astrodome, the Alamo, Old Mexico, Manned Space Center in Houston, Texas. Cost \$270.00.

## Writers Forum

By GEORGE B. RUSS

## Forum

In the words of Cheyenne Leaf's former Scout Executive Henry M. Gillis, regarding recently closed events; the recent celebration of the Russ-Sanders Singers' First Anniversary, "is history now." But when one looks back on the event one does recall that the celebration was colorful, unique and well-executed. For a first, the Russ-Sanders Singers set a new record in presenting to the Union Baptist members and friends a well-rounded, splendid, representative format of its activities from the inception to the climaxing of the first year.

The Russ-Sanders Singers began, pure and simple, as a Sunday School choir. However they were destined to become one of the Church's singing groups. And after much ado about the R-S Singers becom-

ing a church oriented organization, it happened; The Russ-Sanders Singers are part 'n parcel of the Church's singing groups.

Sunday, January 16, 1972 was a frigid day; nevertheless, the loyal members and officers of the Dorcas Class met in the home of Mrs. Inez Evans and her mother, Mrs. Jeanetta Bracey, at 212 East Edward Street.

The first meeting of the year of the Dorcas Class is the time for making plans for the ensuing year. New ideas or revisions of old ones are presented and carefully tested to make sure these ideas will meet the functional needs of the class.

Mrs. Stattie H. Russ suggested that the Dorcas Class organize a Sunday School choir. Perhaps the lovely home of their hostesses and their gra-

## Life Begins At 62½

By George B. Russ

Miss Madie Perkins had lived at 117 Wake Place, South Hill, Bayborough, for the better part of fifty years. Before moving to 117, she had lived at 105 Wake Place where she was born. Infact, Miss Perkins had lived in the South Hill section all of her life. There was a time when the Perkins were the only residents of this section.

South Hill had been a mud hole in a wilderness of pines, wild Plum, wild Cherry and Oak trees when Joseph Perkins and his young, pretty bride moved to South Hill. This section was 15 acres of wilderness surrounding Joe and Mandy's three room log cabin.

Mandy had wanted to have Joe all to herself when she married him and she had hinted her wishes to him, but she had not intended getting lost with him in the wilderness of South Hill.

Joe was a fast breeder and the hours she had anticipated spending alone with him were cut short; in less than four years, she had four babies. And after nine years of blissful marriage to Joe Perkins, Mandy had a great deal to show for the years they had spent together.

People often asked her if she was a native of Bayborough and she always spoke right up, "I hailed from New Hanover County, tame as you please; but, a few years in a wilderness can make a native of the best of us."

There had been a time when she "could-ah-let Joe Perkins" and before it was all said and done, she wished desperately that she had eaten him.

By the time she got through diapering and feeding younguns, cooking three hots a day for Joe, it didn't make any difference to her that the Smiths and Jones bought lots and built fairly handsome houses at South Hill. She had been taught that short and seldom visits make long and lasting friends, therefore, she made the best of her training by staying home.

The children all grew up in the South Hill wilderness, but they shook the dust off their feet fast, that is, they all left home with the exception of Miss Madie.

Miss Madie felt that she was duty bound to look after her aged, ailing parents; therefore, she stayed behind and saw to it that their last days were made comfortable in the last years of their lives.

Between her job as upstairs maid for the Kaypots and giving her own abode a respectful aspect, inside and out, there was no time left to see who moved into the South Hill section. She often remarked that it was a shame and a disgrace that she didn't visit more, but, things being as they were: a house to keep, washing 'n cooking 'n sewing; tending to her own business, there was little time left to listen to other folk's shortcomings.

Except for Ben Pratt, the handyman at the Kaypots, she never got a close look at a man. She was afraid of dead folks, therefore, she let all the occasions, to get a close-up of dead men, go unheeded.

Ben might have been dead for the good he was when his

clousness contributed largely to the enthusiasm of the group's acceptance of the S.S. Choir idea, or the class sisters simply responded to a marvelous idea. A time, date and place were set for a first rehearsal, all within the hour.

Miss Anna R. Henderson, the daughter of Mrs. Aleese Henderson, a member and of the assistant teachers of the Dorcas Class; served as pianist for the singers.

During the 7th rehearsal date March 12th, at 3 p.m., the singers were christened "The Russ-Sanders Singers." The name is in honor of the Dorcas Class president, Mrs. Stattie H. Russ, and the class teacher, Mrs. Celestia H. Sanders. In the words of the committee on selecting a name: "the name was chosen in honor of two fine women who exemplify in every way our Christian principles."

Blue and white was chosen as the Singers' colors; the pink carnation was selected as their flower. The motto is: "Sing O Choir and Be Joyful." Aim: A sincere desire to spread the good news of our wondrous Savior through song.

Because of a busy schedule Miss Henderson was forced to leave off working with the Russ-Sanders Singers. However, through Mrs. Elaine Pratt, a member of the Dorcas Class, the Singers were able to procure the services of Mr. Billy Nicholson, her brother, on a temporary basis.

Through divine guidance, or out of sheer sympathy, Rev. John Caldwell began working with the Russ-Sanders Singers in a directorial capacity. And, between the two gentlemen, Mr. Nicholson and Rev. Caldwell, the R-S Singers began to feel, in a modest way, that their career as a singing group was, to a degree, well assured.

By a twist of fate the Russ-Sanders Singers were able to procure the services of Mr. Frank Richardson, the popular blind artist. He readily became an integral part of the Russ-Sanders Singers, therefore, the group suffered a great loss with the passing of their organist on July 27, 1972.

The Russ-Sanders Singers well, form time to time, recall with fondest memories the great artist. Frank Richardson was an inspiration; cooperative, loyal and a cheerful-giver and the Russ-Sanders Singers are eternally grateful to God that they were blessed to serve with and to be served by Mr. Richardson.

OFFICERS: President and Founder - Mrs. Stattie H. Russ; Vice-President - Mrs. Celestia Sanders; 1st Vice-President - Mrs. Mozelle Flintall; Sec'y - Mrs. Annie E. Daniels; Assist Sec'y - Mrs. Viola Rhompson; Public Relations Person - Mrs. Hattie P. Partin; Librarian - Mrs. Mary Shaw; Social Chairman - Mrs. Mozelle Flintall; Co-Workers: Mmes. Mary Holman, Sarah Bruce, Elsie Harris, Wille M. Fields, Anzella Hancock, Elaine Pratt. Program Chairman - Mrs. Irene Hall; Co-Workers: Mmes. Elnora Ranson, Lois Brown, Annie R. Muse, Viola Thompson, Alice Jones. Sick Committee, Mmes. Helen Harris, Patsy Leacraft, Marjorie Jones, Louise Thompson, Director - Rev. John Caldwell. Organist - Grover Wilson, Jr.

Miss Irene Hall, Program Chairman of the Russ-Sanders Singers made the selection and edited the First Anniversary Program and, as usual, she skyrocketed to the occasion.

Many thanks to the West Durham Baptist pastor, Rev. Harold J. Cobb; the superb Gospel Chorus under the direction of P.L. Perkins, Jr.; the hospitable Ushers and the gracious congregation for the marvelous build-up they gave the Russ-Sanders Singers on their First Anniversary.

day's work was over; he was the kind of servant who enjoys praises as much as he does pay for his efforts; Ben hopped, jumped and skipped from morning until he dropped in a chair at night and fell asleep.

Miss Madie admitted that she had never married because she had never been asked. And in all probability, she would have been stuck here in the wilderness of South Hill the rest of her days if Curtis, her brother, had not come to the rescue. She would have been sitting 'n rocking when she was not at the white folk's house and her own house wasn't needing her attention if Curtis had not given her old-frame a shaking up.

When Curtis wrote that he was coming home 'n biring his little wife; "I am married to Emma Lou Pratt, one of Mr. Ben Pratt's girls." Miss Madie was flabbergasted; she had had

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## From Black

By JOHN HUDGINS



I am concerned that the senator from Mississippi did not die as a result of the gunshot wounds he received last week. I am not going to say I'm sorry he didn't die I'm just going to say, the Lord moves in mysterious ways that I don't yet understand.

Personally I could think of no better person to get shot than the honorable John Stennis of Mississippi. For years he has been a staunch foe of every kind of gun control in this country. We ought to look closely at possible racist motives in this behavior. (1) Lack of gun control has permitted millions of white Americans (better known as Klanners) to carry weapons and to store them for use against Black people. I am sure the nature of the senator's home state dictates that gun control would spoil race relations. (2) Lack of gun control permits thousands of racist cops carry "goon guns" that is guns used to shoot especially Black people outside of the line of duty but with the uniform on. The most gaffish white man in this country becomes a racist monster when given a small hand gun. Many Black people have died or been wounded when crazy white people went

coon hunting. The other destructive thing about availability of guns is the shocking toll guns are taking in the Black community. There is hardly a weekend in Durham that somebody does not get shot for some stupid reason. I mean why shoot a woman if she don't like you. Take your money back and find another. The strange thing about guns is that even in the Black community people get courage that they otherwise do not possess. Unfortunately there is the feeling that all Americans have a God given right to bear arms in defense of the country. What we fail to understand was that original intent of that law or right was to make it possible for any white man to shoot Indians. When all the Indians (for lack of a better term) were killed off white people kept their guns and used them on us. This was such an American thing to do that we even got guns and started to use

them on each other. Often people that we profess to love.

What is beautiful about the Stennis shooting is that some Black people finally realized who we should be turning the guns on, the people who taught us to kill in the first place. I on my honor believe that they probably did not recognize him. If they had there is no question in my mind that this dude would have met his great "White Father."

Now I know there are a lot of wet-in-the-pants militants who oppose gun control because they are needed to fight the revolution. My answer is the people who are serious about revolution know where to get pieces and where to use them. It is sad for us that even though most Black people have access to firearms, few know what to do with them. A lot of our rural brothers or nature lovers use guns to hunt in the fall, or to develop the skill for sport. The rest of us use them for courage, for being the bad "niggers" that we ain't never been and never will be without the gun. The rest of us are not intelligent enough to know what to do with weapons, therefore we use them on each other, playing Matt Dillon, or Shaft, or some white or white washed dude.

Take my word for it when the good senator gets out of that hospital he is going to look for ways to keep guns from those of us who ought to have them, like the brothers who shot him. His intent will be to keep guns from "those people" so that they stop dealing with his people. Our intent must become to help brother realize that any weapon is to be used on your enemies and not your brothers and sisters, that no matter what the cause, when a non-white person murders another non-white person, some of the white is shining through. With all the John Stennis' around there is no reason why a Black woman should be receiving time for shooting a Black man.

P.S. They still ain't caught the "Bloods" what burned him. Like I said the Lord sure nuff works in some mysterious ways.

## DAILY LIVING

A TRAGEDY OF OUR MODERN CIVILIZATION



By WILLIAM THORPE

Living in this mechanical age, some of us seem to think our bodies and minds will go on forever. That's why we see so many breakdowns at middle-age; and probably why so many youths are prematurely old, also burned out before life fairly begins. Most of our youths are having experiences shot at them so fast that they cannot begin to absorb these experiences. As a result, they get involved in personal difficulties, and disillusioned.

Most of our young people and some adults are not basically interested in real development of character and ability. They are living but

for the moment, selfishly desiring to take everything they can out of life without putting anymore into life than is absolutely necessary. Young people with such an attitude, have experienced, as they think, all of life's thrills. They have lived a shallow, superficial existence and when this sort of life has passed them by; when the artificial world they have created bursts like a bubble, they can see nothing in life worth living for. They are bored with living in their early twenties or thirties and desirous of ending it all. Yes, they let personal efficiency come last in the planning of

their lives. There is no question about it, this is one of the tragedies of our modern civilization — the speed at which we are living.

### UP 3.5 PERCENT

In the first nine months of 1972, prices paid by United States consumers increased by 2.5 percent over December 1971. This indicated that the annual overall increase would be about 3.5 percent, says Mrs. Justine Rozier, extension home management specialist, North Carolina State University.

Those responsible for the social event were the chairman of the social, Mrs. Fannie Rowland, Co-worker, Mrs. Josephine Perry and others. Everyone left expressing how much they had enjoyed the good food and the fellowship that existed.

Mrs. E. Bogle is the teacher, Mrs. Georgia Thompson, president, and Mrs. Lydia Vanhooks is Secretary.

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