

## Life Begins At 62½

By George Russ

Miss Madie sighed prodigiously as she clung to Jeff Boykins' arm; "I don't know what come over me, Mister Jeff. I was feeling real good one minute; then, th' next minute I'm swoony as a high-blood patient. 'fore my Lord, I must look a mess clinging to you like a love sick calf." Miss Madie giggled.

Jeff hugged the whip of a woman closer to him; "nice of you to notice, Madie," he chuckled.

"Nothing much passes my old sniffers." Miss Madie answered demurringly.

"Feel better?" Jeff's concern was genuine.

"I reckon so. I hope I'm not fixing to get sick. I've got too many things to do between now and September." Miss Madie answered dramatically but at the same time she was puzzled as to what important things she had to do between now and September. And while her brain tugged against the enigma, Jeff's husky voice stirred her out of her stupor; "I could go for a change of scenery. How about a ride to the country?"

Miss Madie gasped, "a ride to the country is jest what th' doctor ordered. You go out 'n crank up while Miss Madie bed down her patient—daub on some smell good 'n put on a hat."

"Crank up!" Jeff laughed.

The drive to the country was the beginning of a beautiful relationship between Miss Madie and Jeff Boykins. They got along famously; they could be seen everywhere in the red sports car. They went to the movies twice a week, made frequent visits to Simington's Shopping Center; and, each Wednesday, from 11 o'clock to 1 o'clock, Miss Madie joined the ping-pong players or some other games with Jeff and the other Golden Age Club members at Bayborough's Recreation Center. The charming, little old ladies dressed up in their Sunday go-to-meeting frocks and hats, had cheerful smiles for Jeff, but they had nothing for Miss Madie to do. One plump matron, wearing a pill-box hat with curls and bangs, told her that she should get lost, "you ain't even a member of the Golden Age Club."

Miss Madie understood the implication, however, she did not miss a single meeting that "Mister Jeff" invited her to attend. The woman's insinuation was touching, but she would not allow her own blushing humiliation to over shadow her interest in Jeff Boykins; she held on to him with all her might and enjoyed watching the Golden Age sisters eat their hearts out with jealousy. Besides, "Mister Jeff" had told her that she was his pride and joy no matter how contented she was. And each time he said nice things like that to her, she felt real springish inside. Personally, she knew that what keeled her over with great joy was only a blood-rush; nevertheless, she stayed in a tizzy waiting for him to knock her for a loop with his sweet nothings. She couldn't bring her tongue to utter the words, "I love you," even in the solitude of her room; but, she was happy to know that she was on his bandwagon.

Mr. Jeffery Alexander Boykins was a man full of surprises, too. Firstly, he owned stock in Bayborough's Public Service Company and Bayborough's Home Building Loan and Savings Association; secondly, he was a Neighborhood Boy Scout Commissioner, a Shriner and a deacon of the Cosmopolitan Baptist Church. The big surprise came when he answered the big, burning question resting like a hot lump against her brain. She hadn't been satisfied with all the attention Jeff showered upon her; wanting him and having him courting her like a young swain was one thing but she wanted to know why a man with Jeff's good looks and other good considerations should want an "old shoe" like her. Why was he toting her around like something good to eat?

They were riding along highway 70, going east, through Bayborough's Urban Renewal section. They had chosen this section to see how the newest Low-Rental Housing Project was developing. The eastend of Bayborough looked, to Miss Madie, as ragged as a picnic-ground after a 4th of July celebration.

"Miss Madie, you're a level headed person, easy to get along with most of the time. I've been around and I know a good woman when I run across one." Jeff's voice was deep and husky—dramatic.

"Kerput!" Miss Madie answered. "I know you've been a bear-cat all your born days."

"Maybe you're right — Maybe you're wrong for a change— just let me finish my say."

"Forget I said what I did, Mister Jeff. I was funning."

Jeff nudged her arm playfully; "take in your lip— I am not scolding you."

"Away with you, Jeff Boykins."

Jeff cleared his throat carefully, gulped, wiped his lips with his fingers; "I see no reason why we shouldn't get married—"

Miss Madie gasped, "well! 'fore mah Lord!" Continued.



MISS FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY for 1973-74 Angela Calloway (left) extends greetings to incoming freshmen on the first day of registration. The new students are (l-r) Alexis Bright, Winston-Salem; Laurel Taylor, Philadelphia, Pa; Elizabeth Lewis, White Oak, North Carolina.

## Ex-UNIA Members to Reunite in Conference

PHILADELPHIA — The vibrant news of the reorganization of the Universal Negro Improvement Association has caught fire all over the country. Many loyal and devoted members of the organization who dropped out from year to year will be coming to Philadelphia to witness the 22nd annual convention, one of the greatest in history.

Ex-UNIA members who loved the cause of self-improvement initiated by Marcus Garvey will be joining their friends at Garvey Memorial Hall at 1611 Columbia Ave. The UNIA workshops will ignite a spark in

the educational growth of Black people everywhere. The workshops will deal with nutrition education, economic growth, cultural and political awareness and spiritual development.

Thomas W. Harvey, President General, has announced that some of the nation's outstanding ministers will deliver sermons that will be designed to keep Black people into the knowledge of God and the need for spiritual awakening in this day.

The problems of food and fibre and the need for a balanced diet for physical growth and development will be stressed. The convention

will also be concerned with new techniques in farming and land utilization. The convention will utilize the services of experts on the inner-city crisis. The problems of crime and disease will be high on the agenda.

Convention Headquarters has received information through a preregistration technique of many new members who will be coming to our convention for the first time. Young people from all over the nation will provide an enrichment needed for a relevant convention.

The convention will be held August 30 through September 2.

## DAILY LIVING

We can't get something in this life for nothing



William Thorpe

By WILLIAM THORPE

When an individual has suffered economic reversals or a severe personal upset, he shouldn't prolong his misery by continually reliving these experiences in his mind. The thing to do is to let go of the past and take hold of the future with its promise of everything in life he wants or needs.

Some people might say that it's a hard task for them because they have been in the stage of oppression so long, and all of their feelings toward a brighter future looks dim and seems almost impossible.

All of us up to now, should have come to the realization that we can't get something in this life for nothing. It may seem so to some people as they observe the lives of others.

Example: When we hear someone make statements like the following: "Look at my pal, he's always getting the breaks; everything falls in his lap, and he doesn't do a thing to earn them, I wish I was in his shoes."

In my opinion, these friends aren't in the best position to judge. We can't possibly know what sacrifices that particular person has made or what efforts he's put forth in order to get what he possesses. All we can observe is the goal he has reached. But one thing is sure; if he has arrived at his goal through anything but honest effort and the application of his talents and experiences, then he won't last. In fact, he won't succeed unless those with whom he works carries the load for him.

As has been mentioned in one of my columns a few months ago: "We all must pay the price, physically and mentally for the things that comes to us in life. And every man or woman who has gained any worth-while success in life has had to learn to rise above failure and to use each failure as an added stepping stone to success."

Finally, if a person is worse off to day than he was a few years, or months ago, it's because he hasn't made proper use of the experiences and opportunities he has had. And to this end, as we study the lives and experience of those about us, we will be able to understand why certain things have happened to our friends. Also we will be capable of analyzing a situation and also determine how different situations were attracted to them, which perhaps can convince us that we can't get something in this life for nothing.

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