

FDA Checks Yule Toys

With Christmas so near, now would be a good time for parents of young children to be thinking about the safety of toys they are

going to buy. Gifts of toys are tokens of love. It is important that they be chosen with care. It is tragic when a toy, meant to bring happiness, seriously injures a child.

Protecting children from unsafe toys is one of the responsibilities of the Food and Drug

administration's bureau of product safety. The Child Protection and Toy Safety Act of 1939—which became effective in January 1979—empowers the Food and Drug administration to remove and keep from the market toys and other children's products with electrical, mechanical, and thermal hazards. The law is aimed at reducing the estimated 700,000 injuries from toys that occur in and around the home annually.

Bicycles were involved in the majority of the toy-associated injury cases. Other vehicular-type toys, such as roller skates, sleds and tricycles were linked with most of the rest of these injuries. Dolls, homemaker items such as toy stoves and irons, stuffed animals, chemistry sets, and molding equipment accounted for less than 1 per cent of the reported cases.

No law can protect a child completely from all dangers. With approximately 12,000 toy firms in the country resulting in estimated sales of \$3 billion in toys each year and approximately 83,000 entries of imported toys each year, complete surveillance of the toy market is impossible.

With limited money and manpower resources diverted from other product safety programs to toy safety activities, FDA has obtained voluntary modifications of approximately 74 types of toys identified as having potential mechanical hazards. Since December 1970, approximately 200 individual toy products have been banned. In most cases, these toys have been redesigned or production ended.

Protecting children from unsafe toys is a parental as well as governmental responsibility. Consideration should be given to the age and size of the child, his ability, and the area in which he plays with his toys. A toy that is safe for one child may be dangerous in the hands of an unsupervised and less skillful younger brother or sister.

Toy buyers in the family should reject those with obvious hazards—sharp points; rough or unfinished surfaces; small detachable parts that may be swallowed; brittle plastic or glass that breaks easily and leaves sharp edges that may cut; poorly constructed toys with sharp spikes or pins that are exposed when the toy is pulled apart by a curious child; toys with triggers, gears, or other parts activated by a spring or motor that may pinch fingers or catch hair.

Chemistry sets, rocket kits, and similar toys should be bought only for children old enough to handle them wisely. Any minimum age recommended by the manufacturers of such toys should be heeded.

Since wires can wear through,

electric toys such as trains and "home appliances" for little girls should be checked periodically. Such toys should not be purchased for the very young. If an electrical toy must be bought, the child should be shown how to insert a plug safely into an electrical outlet and how to remove the plug.

Special care must be taken with toys that have trailing loops and cords. A child should be taught never to put these loops or cords around him in such a way that they may trip or choke him. Toy arrows should be tipped with some soft substance that cannot be removed. Care must be taken with suction tips. They can come off and expose dangerously sharp ends.

Care also must be taken with balloons—they can choke a child if accidentally taken into the mouth and block the windpipe. Whistles and toy instruments should not have parts (meat pieces, for example) that can be easily detached. Children should be taught to sit or stand still when playing toy musical instruments. A push or fall can cause serious mouth or throat injury.

In a study of bicycle injuries, "horseplay" and colliding with obstructions were the two leading factors contributing to accidental injuries.

FDA currently is developing

safety standards for toys and working with toy manufacturers to correct hazards.

With these activities, and with consumers exercising sound buying judgment and giving proper instruction to children, toys will be a source of enjoyment without tears.

Area Students On Dean's List

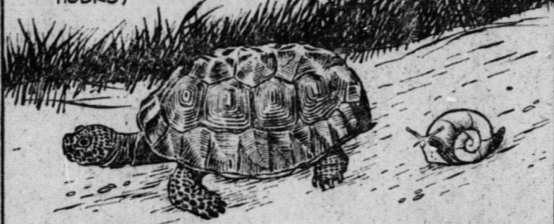
Dr. George S. McSwain, dean of instruction at Gaston College, announced that the following students from Kings Mountain have been placed on the Dean's list for the fall quarter:

Michael S. Blanton, Kenneth E. Bullard, Susan M. Fite, Lolita A. Gordon, Phyllis M. Hamrick, Robert C. Gines, Gary E. Nolen, Donald W. Pruitt, Terry K. Putnam, Bobby G. Starnes, Barry W. Styers, George R. West and Elizabeth A. Wright.

Jobless or underemployed persons who need basic education and language training need them badly. A report recently released by the Department of Labor states that there seems to be many among the Spanish- and Chinese-speaking immigrants who have substantial skills which can be applied only after language competence has been achieved.

THAT'S A FACT

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Washington Report

By Congressman

JAMES T. BROYHILL

ECONOMIC WRAP-UP

As the congress neared adjournment last week, it began to wrap up several loose ends to complete action on the economic package proposed by the President last August. Both the House and Senate gave final approval to the tax bill and sent it to the President for signature into law. Although the final bill contained many departures from the original proposal sent to the Congress, it is a sound piece of legislation and should work to provide tax relief for individuals and tax incentives to increase business activity.

Tax Provisions: To reach agreement on a final version of the tax bill, it was necessary to resolve a large number of differences between the House and Senate versions, many of a very technical nature. One provision in the Senate bill which received a great deal of attention have established a procedure for the Federal financing of Presidential campaigns, beginning with the 1972 election. Funds for this purpose would have been allocated through a 1% tax check-off on individual income tax returns. In effect, Federal tax revenues would have been automatically allocated to political campaign funds, by-passing the Federal budget process and appropriation by the Congress. I strongly opposed this addition to the bill. This section was changed in the conference report to delay the effectiveness until the 1976 Presidential election. In addition, provision was made for such political campaign funds to be appropriated by the Congress, in an amount not to exceed that indicated by the tax check-off. I would have preferred that even this watered down version be deleted. However, it is my opinion that the Congress will never vote such an appropriation.

Another section of the tax bill provides encouragement for individual taxpayers to contribute to political campaigns by allowing a tax credit for one-half of the political contributions made during a tax year. The maximum credit allowed would be \$25 for a joint return and \$12.50 for an individual tax return. This section also provides that, instead of the tax credit, a taxpayer may take a deduction for the full amount of political contributions up to \$50 for an individual or \$100 for a couple. The political contribution for which a tax credit or a deduction is claimed can be to a candidate for election to a federal, state, or local office, or to a political com-

mittee. This new section of the Tax Code should encourage more meaningful individual participation in the financing of election campaigns.

The campaign financing provisions, however, are only a small part of this important tax measure. Other sections provide for the repeal of the seven percent excise tax on automobiles and light trucks, the reinstatement of the seven percent investment tax credit, and increases in the general income tax exemption to \$375 for 1971 and \$750 for 1972 and subsequent years.

Wage and Price Control Authority: Another important segment of the economic package requested by the President is the legislation to extend the Economic Stabilization Act, which gives the President the authority to impose wage and price controls. This Act, passed by the Congress last year, will expire on April 30, 1972. The bill now before Congress would extend the act for one year, until April 30, 1973. This measure has been passed in different versions by both the House and Senate, and final details remain to be resolved in a conference committee.

Now the 90-day freeze on wages, prices, and rents is over and the nation is embarked on Phase I of the economic stabilization program. Many restrictions have been lifted and exemptions granted by the Pay Board and the Price Commission. However, in order to achieve the long-range goal of the reduction and eventual elimination of inflation, it is felt by the Administration and by the Congress that some degree of

Bell Rites Thursday At 3

Funeral rites for John Raymond Bell, 63, of Route 1, Bessemer City, will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock from Holland Memorial Baptist Church of which he was a member.

Rev. Bobby Bodenmaer will officiate at the final rites and interment will be in Bessemer City Memorial cemetery.

Mr. Bell died Sunday morning at 9 a. m. in the Kings Mountain hospital of a heart attack. He was son of the late Miles and Martha Hullender Bell.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ruby Price Bell; four sons, Melvin Prince of Gastonia, Fred Bell of Gastonia, Raymond Bell, Jr. and Bobby Bell, both of Bessemer City; four sisters, Mrs. Wallace Capps, Mrs. Alfred Croft, Mrs. Charlie Hunt and Mrs. Bill Wiggins, all of Bessemer City; three brothers, Willie Bell of Kings Mountain and Buford and Anderson Bell, both of Bessemer City; and nine grandchildren.

The body will lie in state at the church 30 minutes before the rites.

A public school will need to be exercised throughout the coming year. I feel that this year has been a landmark in the development of the U. S. economy. The actions of the President and the Congress in formulating these new policies have been a great contribution to this development.



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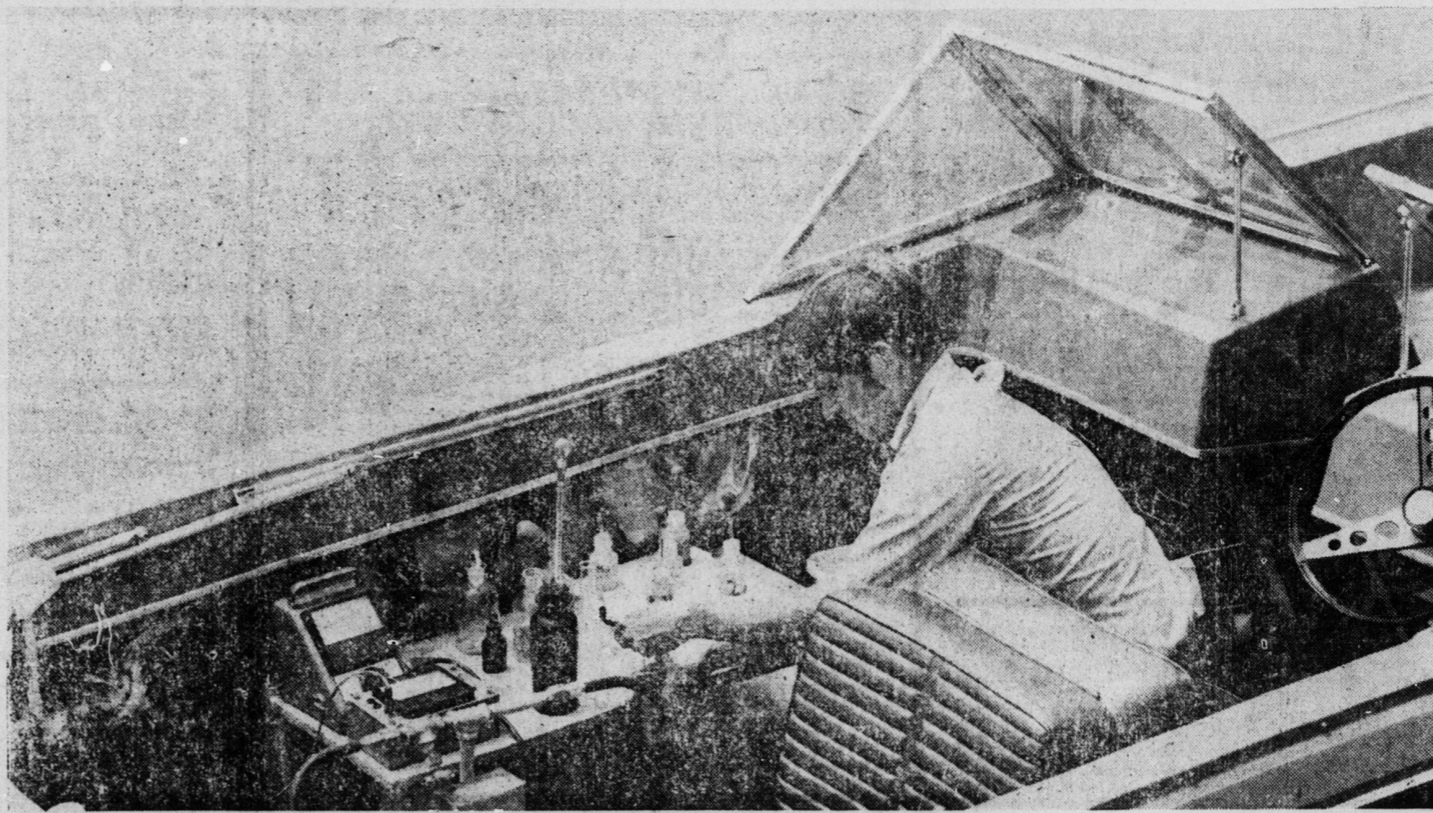
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