

This Is My Weather

by Wilborne Harrell



Winter, to me, with its snow and ice and chilling winds is a season of hibernating. Like a bear, I figuratively go through a period of waiting—for spring and the good old summertime.

Winter has its points, I admit; it has a very definite subtle, seductive beauty that outwardly is friendly, but underneath this icy exterior lies an unleashed mon-

ster. Winter displays a ruthless, savage beauty, that in my opinion completely negates its lesser, esthetic values.

Winter is also the unkindest season of all. It takes its toll, its pound of flesh, in human misery and suffering, and bears down hard in the one quarter where the average man is most sensitive and understanding—his pocket-book. Among other things, one's fuel bill is not the least, by far, of a winter's expense.

We all yearn, whether we admit it or not, for a life of ease. Who has not dreamed of being cast away on a lush tropic isle, where we can wear few clothes, do little for our daily bread, and spend the days with the least effort. And what better exemplifies this South Sea inertia than the good old summertime. It is the nearest approach to a tropic paradise most of us will ever reach.

In the warm days of summer we can throw off the tyranny of an overcoat and abandon the enslavement of such wearing apparel as mufflers and sweaters and longjohns. And we can gleefully discard the hampering confines of gloves—those ten-fingered monstrosities that dull the sensitivity of the fingers and cramps the operation of the hand—one of God's grandest mechanisms.

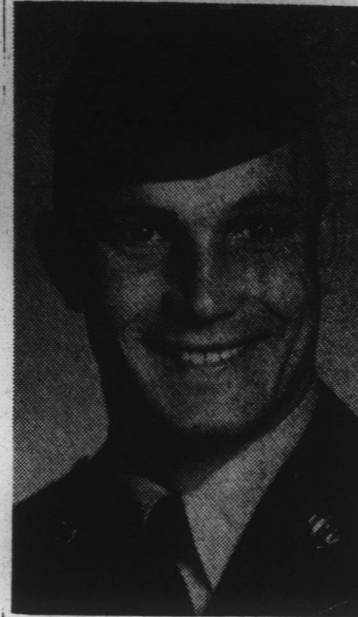
And man, at the first breath of spring, if he were not a slave to convention, would kick off his shoes and live again the life of a carefree, barefoot boy. We all have a little bit of youth left in us, a little bit of Puck and Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn lingers in our bones no matter how old we get. We live again, if only in memories, the days of the "ole swimmin' hole", the make-shift, tree-limb fishing pole and the feel of warm earth against unfettered toes, the smell of honeysuckle and damp grass and the thousand and one perfumes of spring. And we hear again the myriad orchestra of birds and insects that spring in to concert in the springtime.

Nothing is free in this life, not even the generosity and lavishness of nature in the springtime. But even the sting of the most vicious mosquito, or the danger

of snake bite or poison ivy, lessens its potency when we realize that this is a minor price to pay for warm weather. And then there is the enervating heat of deep summer that must be stoically endured for the sake of overall comfort and warmth. All the danger and discomforts of the summer season are minor, in my opinion, and not for a moment as great as the major threats of winter.

With one exception: We assume that a hurricane or tornado is the ultimate in nature's arsenal of weapons, but the Weather Bureau tells us that for force expended a good, old-fashioned summer thunder storm is a good match for a twister or hurricane. But give me the good old summertime—any time. This is my weather.

Completes Training



Army Pvt. Shelton L. Goodwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Goodwin, Route 1, Tyner, is scheduled to complete advanced individual training April 17 with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Goodwin is a 1955 graduate of Chowan High School and was employed by Pithisic Super Market, Edenton, before entering the Army.

ters of coverage need not be consecutive, but they must all have been during the 10-year period ending with the calendar quarter in which you become disabled. After 1961 the amount of work required will increase slowly.

Q Will my family receive any social security benefits if I am disabled for work?

A. The 1958 amendments to the social security law provide for dependents benefits to be paid to certain members of your family while you are receiving disability insurance benefits.

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(C) - SECOND SERMONS

By FRED DODGE

Text: "You do not convert a man when you silence him." —John Morley.

The story is told of a brilliant Senator, inclined toward overindulgence, who was getting the better of another Senator in a furious argument. In anger, the Senator who abstained from drinking, shouted, "At least I am in possession of all my faculties."

To which remark he received this devastating reply, "And what difference could that possibly make?"

Why argue? We want to be liked. We want to have friends. We want to be well thought of. Yet we work against all these basic human needs when we argue.

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KNOW YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

P. E. Bettendorf, representative of the Social Security Administration, is in Edenton every Thursday at the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Citizens Bank Building.

The risk of disability hangs over all of us, and although it may strike only one in every hundred, it may affect the family's financial security more than the retirement, or even the death of a worker.

In recent years the old-age and survivors insurance program has been enlarged to give protection also against loss of earnings because of severe, long-lasting disability.

Part of our job at the social security office is to answer questions which people have about this protection under the social security program. These are the questions most often asked about disability benefits under the social security law:

Q How old do I have to be to be eligible for disability benefits?

A. Monthly payments may be made to disabled workers aged 50 to 65. A person's disability benefits are automatically changed to old-age benefits when he reaches 65. The amount of the benefit is the same. (However, a person disabled since childhood may get benefits regardless of his age if

one of his parents gets retirement or disability benefits under the law, or dies after working long enough under social security to become insured.)

Q What if I become disabled before I am 50 years old?

A. You may have your social security earnings record "frozen" to protect your own and your family's rights to future benefits. When your earnings record is frozen, the period during which you are totally disabled for work is not counted, and does not lower your average earnings.

Q How long must I have worked under social security to be eligible for disability payments, or to have my social security record frozen?

A. At least 5 years—or, since social security credits are counted in units of calendar quarters of the year, in at least 20 calendar quarters. The 40 quar-



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SHERIFF OF CHOWAN COUNTY



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