

Writers Forum

THE MONTH OF MAY IS SENIOR CITIZENS' MONTH

Not so many moons ago a certain gentleman of the cloth included in his Sunday Morning discourse a conclusion which gave off the disconcerting tingle of erroneous-ness.

This gentleman of the cloth declared that children and old people were the generations who are enjoying life to the hilt. The part, not included here, about the generations in between: the nows and the middle age groups are those who are finding life a pain in the neck.

Speaking for the now generation, "yea, yea, or nay, nay," is a risky business; however, speaking up for us, the 3B-set, there is a comfortable safety zone with the grubbler - the grinders - of society. The struggle to make the deadlines to pay the butcher, the grocer and mortgage payments doesn't shrink the flab around the middle; nevertheless, we do get some robust fun out of life. Not enough to write home about but we can say, with some reservations, that life is loads to fun. And the gentleman of the cloth isn't getting around much these days if he thinks the "mister in between" aren't enjoying the good life, too.

No matter how deeply our egos were smitten, the gentleman of the cloth had a strong point in his favor: The Senior Citizens are really living the good life. And the month of May is Senior Citizen's month. The Senior Citizen Post, Thursday, April 29 they carry a Senior Calendar for May. Everything all neatly arranged and printed up for today's Smart-Set. The Jet-Set is faster but they aren't making any more fun-bubbles.

The focal point of the activities will be held at the Senior Citizen's Memorial Center at 519 East Main Street.

The outdoor luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, May 4th didn't make the scene of the attractive lawn because of the unseasonably chilliness. However, members and friends in attendance were served and entertained in the spacious recreation room. Here, amid rose-toned lighting and cheerful warmth everyone

enjoyed a delicious luncheon: Menu: Turkey, Poultry dressing, cranberry-sauce, String beans, Hot rolls - Iced tea Cake squares

The entertainment was delightfully informal; the group sang their hearts out. As soon as one number came to a tremulous end, some one would call in another request. The duet in charge of the entertainment were excellent; a male pianist and a female soloist.

When the time rolled around for drawing the lucky numbers for prizes, the fun really began. These numbers appeared on your tickets for the affair. The first prize was a Cook Book. This attractive prize was strenuously rejected in jovial tones of, "I don't want no cook book." Finally, after a bit of cajolery the first prize was cheerfully accepted after a third drawing. The winner was one who wanted a cook book, but had no faith in her chances of winning. The person carrying the hat with the numbers inside was cheerful, good naturedly patient. Patience you don't have. Then don't apply for this job.

With a little sales talk on how to see Paris, finally sold the attractive portrait of the Eiffel Tower. However, a number of outcries of, "I don't want no picture," preceded the number calling. The smiling lady with the "fish bowl" kept up appearances as she coerced into calling another number.

Prize number four was a beautiful winter wonderland setting. At this point, our narrator explained that this picture was hung on the wall in June when the temperature reaches a boiling point, "with this painting on the wall, you can look at it and cool off." P. A. Williams, a member of the Board of Directors won this prize.

As the program began reaching a climax, the party-makers' thoughts, apparently, turned inward. This observation was made when a sleepy-silence settled over the room. The fun was over; everyone had eaten heartily, socialized fully and they were ready to depart.

Yours truly smuggled a yawn and sat waiting for the benediction. Seemingly, these programs are timed to cope

with the capriciousness of the citizens, because, at this very moment, the benediction was given. Once more the citizens were alive and alert as they began moving out.

Now! Let's take a gander at these lovely ladies as they pass by. Yep, an array of elegance and harmony - naturally, with ease of posture. After all these are Senior Citizens. All wearing colorful, fashionable dresses with the discreet new length, matching slippers and handbags, nylon hose over shapely legs and well turned ankles. A fashion show without the usual gadding about. Also, the men were uncommonly handsome: The tall, dapper, nattily dressed Mr. Smith, Carter C., junior, was present. And the statesman without port folio, Mr. Moses Richardson, was in attendance.

The coordinating council for Senior Citizens does take special pride in all Senior citizens to the betterment of the entire Durham community; but, Durham has many other senior citizens who live in squalor and unhappiness. These should be encouraged to learn their "ashes and sack-cloths." In all probability these woebegone souls are still praying for a better day, not knowing that the time is at hand, now. The good life is already available.

In the immortal words of Robert Browning: "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to come."

Also in keeping with a quote from the Senior Citizen Post, you are here by urged: Do something special during Senior Citizen's Month but let's remember to include little kindnesses throughout the year.

Blue Cross Says Outpatient Claims to Rise

RALEIGH — North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Inc., predicted Friday that by the end of the year its outpatient claims will for the first time exceed those for hospitalized policyholders.

The prediction was based upon the sharp increase in claims for outpatient services recorded since 1969, when policies began providing payment for many outpatient services that were not covered before.

J. A. McMahon, president of the company, said the pattern reflects an effort to reduce unnecessary use of hospital beds.

Bridge Is Open At Emerald Isle

EMERALD ISLE — A new high-level bridge across Bogue Sound is in operation almost three weeks earlier than the scheduled June 1 opening.

The bridge opened Wednesday even though the contractor is still putting finishing touches on the shoulders of the span.

The state has continued to operate two ferries across the sound at a cost of \$942 a day.

George Brinkley, an assistant State Highway Department engineer, said the ferries would continue to run until the bridge is officially accepted from the contractor.



CAPITAL EMPLOYMENT—Edna Lynch reads a letter as Debbie Gwynn, left, and Ann Stevens look on. The pretty, young ladies landed jobs with the U.S. Department of Labor in the Nation's Capital as a result of training they received in the Job Corps. Miss Lynch and Miss Gwynn are secretaries in the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training; Miss Stevens is a clerk-typist with the United States Training and Employment Service.

Garden Time In North Carolina

By M. E. Gardner
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Do cucumbers make you "burp"? If they do, the next time you go to a swank party, be sure that you are served a new variety "Burpluss" - and that is the name of the variety, no kidding.

This variety will mature in about 60 days and should be trained to a stake or trellis. For optimum quality, the cukes should be harvested when they are about 9 inches long and 1-1/2 inches in diameter.

Burpluss is reported to be very productive and produces over a long period. The taste quality is very good. In appearance it resembles the English forcing type commonly grown in greenhouses. It is reported to be tolerant to downy mildew, a fungus disease.

"Now grow tomatoes and potatoes on one single planting in tiny space. Amaze your friends by showing them the seemingly impossible - two luscious crops, a fruit and a vegetable - both growing on one planting in the same space. Imagine! While tomatoes are ripening on sturdy plants above ground; potatoes are growing on the roots below! Yields big crop in little space. Set of six Pomato plants \$2.98."

That is what the advertisement says. It was sent in by a reader for comment. You will note, too, that the ad says "both growing on one planting" not on the same plant, which, I suppose, makes the ad legal. Although the ad also offers for sale "Pomato plants", which is misleading.

Once again I warn my readers not to be sucked-in by smart cookies who are only interested in make a fast buck. Plant your tomatoes and potatoes as you have in the past if you expect maximum performance.

While I do not have the instructions, it seems obvious that the only method to produce the "Pomato" would be

to cut a plug from the potato tuber, insert two or three tomato seed in the hole, replace the plug and plant the potato - not too deep - then hill around the plants after emergence.

While it is true that the potato and the tomato belong to the same family, you would precipitate a gosh awful family squabble when the roots of the two crops begin to com-

pete for moisture and nutrients in the same limited area of soil environment.

I could tell you another story about a man who paid \$6 for an "everbearing tomato plant." With extra good care the plant never produced tomatoes. In fact, it was not a tomato plant to begin with. Perhaps Barnum was right.

New S.C. Alcoholism Law Gets Commission's Praise

COLUMBIA, S. C. — The South Carolina Commission on Alcoholism yesterday praised passage of a law to prevent discrimination against the admission of alcoholics to general hospitals in South Carolina.

The measure was signed Thursday by Gov. John C. West. "The law is the first of its kind in the nation and is considered to be a giant step in providing adequate medical care by the general hospital handling the acute phase of the illness," the commission said in a news release.

Under the law, refusal to

admit alcoholics whose treatment has been prescribed by a physician would be grounds for action by the Health Facilities Division of the state Board of Health. The bill passed both Houses of the General Assembly without a dissenting vote.

"The South Carolina Commission on Alcoholism believes that this legislation will go a long way toward recognizing and treating the alcoholic at an earlier stage and will open the door for wider consideration for detoxification in a general hospital setting," the commission said.

Navy Is Practicing New Tactics off N.C.

ABOARD THE USS KENNEDY — A Navy task force assembled around the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy is practicing a new kind of warfare in large-scale exercises now under way off the Carolina coast.

Rear Adm. William D. Houser, commander of Task Force 28, said in an interview aboard his flagship, which is the Navy's newest carrier, that the Navy faces a new threat — surface-to-surface missiles now being carried by an increasing number of Soviet vessels from small Komar-class patrol boats to large missile-carrying cruisers.

To simulate this new situation the Kennedy has been operating around the clock since Monday against an "enemy" force comprising four large missile-carrying vessels and three ships of the Komar size.

To ward off surprise attack, the Kennedy keeps the make-believe opposing forces under constant surveillance. "Our pilots are finding that the ocean is very large," Houser said. "It is very hard to find and keep track of a single ship."

In addition to the simulated opposing force — which includes ships and land-based airpower — Houser's task force also is

keeping track of a real Soviet trawler, the Archipelago. "Archie usually stays within about three miles," Houser said. He said he assumes the Soviet crew monitors U. S. Navy radio and radar transmissions.

Because of the Soviet vessel's presence, Houser said, the American ships are not using some of their most modern electronic equipment.

In addition to the constant surveillance of potentially hostile ships, the Kennedy keeps planes ready to respond to a mock missile attack at a moment's notice.

Vice Adm. James L. Holloway Jr., deputy commander of the Atlantic fleet, said at Onslow Beach, N. C., that the two planes, using so-called "smart bombs" like the television-guided "Wallery" can be counted on to break up a missile attack by a hostile ship. "We believe strafing can also be very effective," he said. "The missiles on the deck of a ship are very vulnerable. In World War II you sent whole squadrons out to attack a cruiser because those big guns didn't stop shooting until she was sunk."

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Coming To This Area A Sight For Collectors' Eyes



Bing & Grondahl Christmas Plate Collection as it now appears in Copenhagen airport. The entire collection is scheduled for a U.S.A. tour in 1971.

When Harald Bing issued the world's first Christmas plate 75 years ago, he didn't dream his little gift item would become a highly valued object to see, and an envy to own, for collectors around the globe. This year the firm of Bing & Grondahl has assembled the third of a very few such collections in existence, and placed it on display in the Copenhagen Airport, where 25,000 people view it daily.

The fact that each Christmas plate is immediately sold out upon issue shows the vivid interest in these specimens of Danish design and craft. A world-wide net of distributors' devoted collectors look forward every year to the new additions to their cherished collection. Earlier issues are practically impossible to acquire, and new ones soon become highly coveted and expensive rarities. The number produced is kept secret, always controlled and the moulds are destroyed.

Throughout the years, the B & G porcelain factory itself accumulated two complete sets of plates. One is displayed in its museum, the other is in constant tour of fairs and exhibitions throughout the world. It took a five figure amount, besides the search, to assemble the set being shown at the airport.

Origin of the Christmas plate came from a custom decades ago when wealthy people gave their help a plate heaped with candy, cakes and fruit during the Yule season. Servants be-

gan hanging the plates in their rooms after the treats were eaten. Their calling these Christmas plates gave Harald Bing, grandfather of the present B & G managing director, the idea of making a plate of porcelain and using a new (at the time) under-glaze technique.

Danish painter F. A. Hallin was commissioned to decorate it, and he chose a view from the window of the old Frederiksberg slot. Through the frosted window you see the Copenhagen skyline, with the contours of the Marble church, the Round Tower and the Towers of St. Nikolaj church and the Copenhagen Cathedral. The text: Jule Aften 1895, completes the composition, which includes the bright stars of the winter sky.

The sponsors of the U.S.A. showing of the Bing & Grondahl Christmas Plate Collection are now putting together the tour schedule. If you would like to see the collection appear in your area, make your wishes known to the Bing & Grondahl U.S.A. agent, D. Stanley Corcoran, Inc., White Plains, New York 10604.

The Lefthanded Man in a Righthanded World

A recent book on lefthandedness says the Bible is unfair to lefthandeders.

"Over 100 favorable references to the right hand and about 25 unfavorable mentions to the left hand are made in the Bible," says author Michael Barsley.

Himself a southpaw, Barsley points out in "Lefthanded Man in a Righthanded World" that an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population is naturally lefthanded.

Famous sinistrals, or lefthandeders, include Leonardo da Vinci, Cicero, Charlemagne, King David, Hans Holbein the Younger, (famous court painter to Henry-VIII), Dean Rusk, Robert McNamara, Haroldian (former English premier) and Prince Charles.

Barsley says that America and parts of Western Europe have "emancipated" the lefthander from insistence that children learn to write with their right hand.

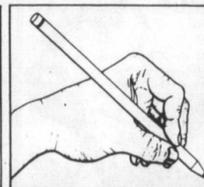
But Spain, Italy, all East European countries except Czechoslovakia and most of the eastern world rule that all children must be right-handed. West Germany only recently dropped mandatory righthandedness in schools, the author notes.

Declaring that some places still associate lefthandedness with the Devil and with evil, Barsley turns to the Bible. He says that the main condemnation of the left is in St. Matthew's Gospel and the parable of the sheep and goats.

"It is an account so entirely alien to the Jesus of the Sermon on the Mount in Galilee that, whatever scholars may say, it can be discounted as a damaging and dangerous piece of mis-reporting."

Barsley contends that from the parable comes not only the separation of the sheep from goats, but right from left:

"When the Son of Man



shall come in His Glory... He shall sit upon the Throne of His Glory... and before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, and the goats on His left...."

Regardless of the lefthandedness or righthandedness, a connoisseur of a venerable and valued spirit like the outstanding bourbon called Wild Turkey can never go wrong! One does not have to be a "two-tisted" drinker to enjoy this Kentucky bourbon, that's as American as apple pie, with its rich, 8-year-old flavor, full body and gentle nature which are impeccable credentials. It's just as exciting a drink to lefthandeders as it is to righthandeders.

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