

The News-Record

Paul Rice: Maker Of Fine Things

HEARD AND SEEN

By POP

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JAMES STORY, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN MADISON ADJOINING COUNTIES	RATES IN ADJOINING COUNTIES	SUBSCRIPTION RATES OUTSIDE MADISON COUNTY
15 Months	\$4.50	15 Months \$6.00
12 Months	4.00	12 Months 5.00
9 Months	3.50	9 Months 4.00
6 Months	3.00	6 Months 3.50
4 Months	2.50	4 Months 3.00

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EDITORIAL

A few weeks ago a convict escaped from a "chain gang" near Marshall. Word was quickly spread concerning the man at large and officers and prison guards quickly went into a wide search for the escaped convict. He couldn't be found. This same escapee hid near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wild on the Walnut Creek Road in Marshall until after dark. He then entered the Wilds' home and ransacked the house. When the Wilds returned home about 10 p. m., they were met by the convict who had found a pistol in the home. At gun point, he ordered Mr. and Mrs. Wild to drive him to Gastonia. Wisely, Roy and Frances did just that.

Fortunately, after driving the man to his desired destination, he got out of the car and let Roy and Frances return to Marshall. The Marshall couple was unharmed but shall never forget the fright and anxiety they experienced.

It was a horrifying experience but could have been much worse.

This event also caused many uneasy moments to others in this area. They asked if the time had come when a person could not safely enter his own home?

Days passed, weeks passed...and the public, more or less, forgot about the incident. Things seemed getting back to normal. Surely this had alerted those in charge of prisoners to be more cautious about their safekeeping.

However, Marshall citizens were shocked and alarmed this past Tuesday afternoon when word was again spread that another convict had escaped from a prison truck transporting prisoners in this area to NC 213 where they are working on the highway. The "convict" was reported seen by several persons but no one seemed to be sure of his identity. Guards and officers again went into action but a wide search in various buildings, and even churches, failed to find the escapee. Bloodhounds were secured and the search continued Tuesday night—but to no avail. It was also thought that the convict was the same person who successfully pulled a little hanky-panky at a local department store where he was "reimbursed" over \$16 for a pair of shoes which he claimed his mother had purchased last Friday. It was later revealed that he had picked up the shoes in the store just minutes before the reimbursement took place.

This man was thought to be "on the loose" in Marshall and naturally, this horrified Marshall residents, especially the women. They were afraid to go home. Could the escapee be hidden in their home? It was a dreadful feeling to know that an escaped convict was at large and couldn't be found.

This newspaper inquired Tuesday night and Wednesday morning about the incident only to learn that the man had not been apprehended.

Although unlikely, it is possible that the convict is still hanging around. Here's hoping he will be found and arrested shortly.

There must be more security measures taken to prevent prisoners from escaping before another Wild incident occurs—or maybe even worse.

Extension News

Phone 649-2491
Home Economics—4-H



Late Vegetables

The sweet-sadness about the last rose of summer left blooming alone (whose lovely companions are faded and gone) changes to downright practical opportunity when it is the last garden vegetables whose tasty companions are frozen and stored.

Those just-before-frost peas, corn, limas, winter squash (includes pumpkin), greens, peppers, okra, broccoli, snap beans, and others—if you are lucky—make mighty convenient eating in Marshall.

Postpone summer fatigue until these late vegetables are tucked away. Handle as tenderly, blanch and chill as carefully, and package as well as you did in that first burst of enthusiasm when you froze spring vegetables.

For example, be sure the vegetable is young, tender, and just-right to eat fresh. Take snap beans. Only the young and tender ones are good frozen. Keep greens that have grown in very dry weather and those that have grown old out of the freezer. They will lack taste and be tough. Skip the green, tender ones a time or two as they blanch so as to get tenderer blanching. Blanch only one-half pound greens to one cup of boiling water. Follow

the timing directions. Frozen turnip greens can be delicious. Some of them are not.

If you follow the commercial packers' trend and freeze mixed vegetables, blanch each vegetable according to its timing instructions before you mix them. These are especially convenient for the "live-aloner" since one package will take care of the vegetable needs for one meal—or maybe two.

"Waste not; want not" applies to the last garden vegetables of summer. Enjoy them in blustery March or showery April.

Words to the wise cook! Don't use whipped butter in a recipe since the shortening power is not the same as for unwhipped butter.

If your cucumber is withered and shriveled on the ends it may be somewhat bitter. Overgrown cucumbers (those with large diameters) and cucumbers of a dull color, turning yellowish, are likely to have tough flesh and large hard seeds. Cucumbers should be a good green color and firm over their entire length.

Sweet peppers in your garden? They are delicious cut in strips, cooked briefly in garlic-flavored vegetable oil and seasoned to taste with salt and pepper.

By BOB TERRELL
Asheville Citizen-Times

Paul Rice is a Marshall barber who loves to make things with his hands. He has made beautiful grandfather clocks, bedroom suites, gun cabinets, bookcases, tables.

"I've made a little bit of everything," he said. "I make things just to be making them; it's something to fiddle at. I can make anything I ever tried to make but a chair and an axe handle and don't know why I can't make them. I tried to make a chair one time and it wouldn't sit still. You have to turn a chair out and ain't nothing to it. Oh I guess I could out-do one and make it, but I like something that's complicated."

He made a banjo for a friend a few years ago and it was a fine banjo. Then he saw the picture of a Gibson RB 800 banjo, one of

those \$1,000 gold-plated, pearl-inlaid instruments, and knew he had to make one. It was the prettiest banjo he'd ever seen.

Took him two years, working at home at night after he'd finished cutting hair for the day, but he made that banjo piece by piece. He bought the gold plates, cut the pearl inlays and fashioned the instrument with an expert touch.

Ruel Yarborough of Muscle Shoals, Ala., who used to play with Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, picked Paul Rice's banjo. "He liked it," Paul said, "bragged on it."

Raymond Fairchild of Hazelwood, who's about the best banjo picker Paul Rice ever heard, played the banjo at Maggie Valley. "He said this was the best banjo he ever got hold of and he'd played all of 'em," Paul said.

Many people have tried to buy the instrument from Paul. "I've been offered all the way from twenty-five dollars to three thousand dollars for it," Paul said. "Some old feller came in here and offered me twenty-five for it. He was just as serious as he could be and thought that was a good price."

"Jesse James Bailey offered me three thousand for the banjo but I wouldn't take it."

Why Not? "I just wanted to keep it," Paul said. "Contrary, I guess. The three thousand wouldn't last long no way, the way prices is, and then somebody'd have my banjo and gone with it."

The strange thing about Paul Rice is that he is not musical. "I don't know a note of music," he said, "and can't play a thing. But I know enough about a banjo to make it play."

And he loves to hear a good banjo picker. He keeps the banjo with him in his barber shop during the day and anytime an old country boy who can pick a banjo comes in for a haircut, you can hear Paul's banjo ringing a block away. It has a beautiful tone.

There are those around Marshall who know of Paul Rice's skill who wonder why he never took up making things as a trade rather than barbering. "I've thought about that," Paul said, "but I think it'd drive a man crazy. You try to do something like them pearl inlays for a living and you'd get so nervous you'd quit. So I just keep barbering for a living and making things to please myself and my friends."

Paul is making another banjo like this one. He has it completed except for finishing the neck and putting in the tuning pegs.

"Used to be I had a hard time locating materials," Paul said, "because I didn't know where to



look, but I've learned a lot of people and know pretty much where to go now.

"The materials for that banjo come from seven states," he added. "I ordered the hardware (the gold plating) from Gibson and made everything else. The buttons on the tuner came from Alabama and I drove down there and got 'em. The pearl I cut the inlays out of came from Georgia. Part of the wood, the curly maple, came from Tennessee, around Greeneville and Newport. I got some of the trimming from Boston and some from New York and some from California. I had an awful time finding that blamed ebony wood for the fingerboard and finally found it in North Wilkesboro. Feller down there told me it come from Africa or India, I forget which."

The only pattern Paul had was the picture from that Gibson catalog but he made the banjo an exact replica of a

Gibson RB800. He laminated the curly maple for the sound board. He made everything fit perfectly.

The hardest thing, he said, was inlaying the fingerboard and pegboard with pearl. "I cut the pearl with a jeweler's saw," he said, "and finished it with a Swedish file and sandpaper. There's no glue or putty in any of the inlays. Got a perfect fit on all of them. Took me two weeks on the fingerboard and a week on the pegboard."

He said he has between \$600 and \$700 "in money" invested in the banjo, plus endless hours of his time.

Recently, Paul made a fiddle out of the jawbone of a mule, took it to the Asheville City Auditorium during the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival and Tommy Hensley of Mars Hill played it on stage.

Why would anyone make a fiddle out of the jawbone of a mule?

"I dunno," Paul said. "Crazy, I guess. Anybody with any sense wouldn't start something like that. I just thought one day how

funny it'd be to see somebody play a fiddle between the jaw teeth and front teeth of a mule. So I made one and found out."

A lot of his friends have been asking Paul to make a guitar. "I don't much like a guitar," he said, "but I think I'll get me a mule's head and make one out of it just for the heck of it. That's what I think about a guitar. I'd rather hear a man fall down on a banjo than hear somebody pick a guitar."

BEST OF PRESS

Started Young
The little boy who was sent to the store and could never remember what he went for, finally grew up to be a congressman.

—WOW Magazine.

For the Wise
Wise people believe half of what they hear; wiser ones know which half to believe.

—Press, Denmark, Wis.

President Nixon a gutsy quarterback

By PAUL HARVEY

As quarterback, President Nixon is inclined to test the center of the opposition line.

He tried to defeat inflation that way for three punishing downs, was losing yardage.

On fourth down he went around left end. President Nixon is a gutsy quarterback, inclined to gamble on fourth down.

On his way out of Vietnam, President Nixon gambled on an end-around through Cambodia and was thrown for a loss.

One Saturday morning in June he looked at the rain clouds over Washington, gambled on a rose garden wedding and won.

In July, on his own one-foot line and against an incredible enemy rush, he risked a long forward pass to Kussinger in Peking, advancing the ball half way down the field.

Then, in August, President Nixon faced almost certain defeat on the inflation front.

He was bruised and battered and losing yardage on every play. A hand-off to Congress was tempting. But instead, personally the President carried the ball around left end for what now looks like a turnaround in the final quarter of the game.

However these may appear to be crowd-pleasing grandstand plays, they are neither impulsive nor contrived.

Each, for better or worse, results from consultation, deliberation and evaluation of the risks involved.

When Mr. Nixon as a presidential candidate in 1968 was confronted with some current contradictions of some 1960 quotations, he replied, "I could not recommend myself as a leader if I'd learned nothing in eight years."

When Secretary John Connally was asked about the recent reversal of the President's economic game plan, he said, "You'd have a doll for a President if he were incapable of changing his mind."

Further, the President's flexibility in adjusting to changing circumstances makes us a moving target for predator nations.

Critics who believed Mr. Nixon to be frozen in an unrealistic, outdated, anti-Communist posture, since the China overture, know better.

Domestically, congressional Democrats who thought they had cornered the supply of economic stimuli since the Aug. 15 boldness know better.

As I say, President Nixon is a gutsy quarterback, inclined to gamble on fourth down. That kind is likely to be booed as vacillatingly as he is cheered but when the plays are all in and added up, if he can show an impressive total of yards gained, he is likely to be re-signed for another season.

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"If It Fitz . . ."

Answer me this, please

By Jim Fitzgerald

The latest gimmick in column writing enables the columnist to tell you everything he always wanted you to know but you'd never ask, you jerk. The columnist interviews himself, answering his own questions:



Question: The mayor of your favorite town just opened a new freeway by sawing a log. This is just the latest take-off on the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony. Banks now cut ribbons of \$5 bills when they open branches, and grocery stores cut strings of baloney. Can you add anything to this bit of Americana?

Answer: Certainly. The other day, soon after our family checked into a motel, I noticed my 13-year-old son taking a full bottle of gin from my portable bar. He headed for the bathroom with it. I asked him what he was doing. His explanation revealed that he has combined ribbon cutting with the christening of ships. He said he was going to use the bottle of gin to break the sanitary ribbon on the toilet seat.

Q -- You and your wife and son recently spent 3 days in Detroit watching the Tigers play baseball. Earlier this season you went on the road watching them play in Cleveland and New York. How come you go to so many Tiger games?

A -- Because I can't stand to stay home and listen on the radio, or watch them on TV. Announcers George Kell and Ernie Harwell and their assistants are the biggest ho-hummers on the air. It is bad enough that they are boring. But their blatant partisanship is even worse. They never knock a Tiger. Tigers are all great players and fine human beings. Once this year Dalton Jones was playing right field and TV showed plainly that he messed up 2 fly balls that a crippled infant could have caught. Kell didn't even mention the awful goofs. What kind of reporting is that? The trouble is that Kell and company are Tiger employees and it is poor business to knock the boss in public.

Q -- Currently, what is your most unfavorable TV commercial?

A -- That one where the boob housewife refuses to trade her box of Tide for 100 boxes of anything else, no matter how hard the huckster coaxes her. You can worry about crime in the streets, I worry about stupidity in the supermarkets. According to TV, the A & P is full of giggling women with mush for brains. They are constantly pursued up and down the aisles by smiling men with TV cameras hidden in their noses. I say bring back the old-fashioned grocery store where your simply handed the grocer your list and you didn't have to slap his hands for squeezing your toilet paper.

Q -- Read my good books list?

A -- I just finished Frank Beard's diary of a year on the professional golf tour. It is not so good as it is incredible. Apparently without realizing it, Beard revealed himself to be 1 of the world's great cheapskates. He took his wife and 3 small children on tour and insisted that they all stay in 1 motel room. He complained bitterly about the noise and diapers but refused to

rent 2 rooms "because I just can't see wasting the money." That year Beard won more than any other pro golfer, over \$125,000. He could have rented 3 rooms and hired Howard Johnson to make the beds.

Q -- Is it true that you celebrated your 45th birthday in an old-fashioned team parlour?

A -- Yes, at Farrell's, which is a great place where everyone sings happy birthday and they give you a free Sunday. The experience in clean living didn't hurt me a bit but the walls of the Alibi Bar crumbled that same night. Oswald and D.Ward

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