

Reporting Since 1945

Rockfish Writer 'Not Ready To Quit'

By Suzanne H. Aplin

"I'm not going to quit writing. I'll just spend my Mondays writing poetry now instead of working on the Rockfish News," said Mrs. A.A. McInnis Friday in an interview at her home.

"I got to do what I wanted to do," she said commenting on her 30 years as an area correspondent for The News-Journal. "My Aunt Becky wrote for the Maxton paper and I just always thought that would be something I'd like to do. So when Mr. Dickson asked me to write the Rockfish News I said 'yes.'" Mrs. McInnis continued.

For 30 years Mary S. McInnis has collected local news, written it out in long-hand and mailed it to Raeford for each issue of The News-Journal. Now that she has celebrated her ninety-first birthday she said that gathering the information each week has become a little tiresome. "I've had a lot of pleasure from writing the column, but my eyesight has gotten bad," she said. Mrs. McInnis noted that she always collected her information from each family that she mentioned each week. She would not accept second-hand information.

"I've had no complaints on the column," she said. "And, I'm always pleased to find out that someone who has lived here and moved away takes the paper so they can find out what goes on in Rockfish."

Sitting in the parlor in front of a dying fire, Mrs. McInnis and her sister Mrs. T.J. Russell of Rocky Mount talked about the changes in Rockfish since Mrs. McInnis began writing Aug. 15, 1946.

"This isn't the old McInnis home you know," she said. "This is really my son Thomas's place. He's been a real help to me. He gets information for me and mails the column every week." Mrs. McInnis explained.

She continued, "The old home place is gone now, burned." In fact, a lot of things are gone from Rockfish now. Years ago we had a



RETIRING -- Mrs. A.A. McInnis of Rockfish has announced her retirement as the Rockfish area correspondent for The News-Journal. Mrs. McInnis contributed personal items in the form of a column titled "Rockfish News" for 30 years. [Photo by S.H. Aplin]

post office, a depot and a drug store."

"Don't forget there used to be a gin here, too," said her white haired sister.

"Yes, but you know it's still a real nice place to live, Rockfish," Mrs. McInnis said. "I wouldn't want to be any place else."

Mrs. Russell is one of six surviving sisters in Mrs. McInnis's family. "They've nearly all reached ninety," she said of the original seven sisters and two brothers. "I guess we live so long because we live right, and we always honored our parents."

Born in what was Richmond County, Mrs. McInnis moved to Rockfish to teach school. She then married and began to raise a family of six children: Thomas, Dan and Smith of Raeford, Angus of Wagram, James Edwin of Fayetteville and Mrs. Earl J. Hare of Charlotte. The fire place mantel

and walls of the paneled living room hold a multitude of old photographs of her family. She also has 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. McInnis and Mrs. Russell were both quick to point out that Mrs. McInnis would continue to write. As Mrs. Russell brought out a booklet of poems written by her sister, her granddaughter entered and grinning explained that she had entered one of her great-

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With all this family support, it looks like Mrs. McInnis may be off and running toward a new artistic vocation. Move over Grandma Moses, here comes Mary McInnis.



HELPING -- Molly Sinclair, 12, and sister Torrey, 8, of Fayetteville started out helping their grandmother, Mrs. N.B. Sinclair, 116 Magnolia, Raeford, clean her yard. But the large, neat piles soon proved too tempting and the girls took a quick romp through the brown leaves. [Photo by S.H. Aplin]

Veterans Corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q -- A veteran in receipt of pension dies on the last day of the month. Is his widow entitled to receive and negotiate the check received on the first of the following month?

A -- No. The check should be returned. In order to establish entitlement, the veteran must be alive for the complete month. The widow may be entitled to death benefits and any accrued amount due a deceased beneficiary.

Q -- How is educational entitlement charged for flight training?

A -- One month of entitlement is charged for each \$270 paid to the veteran.

Q -- I have a \$10,000 National Service Life Insurance policy. It is a term contract and the premium escalates every five years. The cost is becoming prohibitive and I would like to know if there are any options available to me?

A -- You may convert your term policy to a permanent contract. In addition to a stabilized premium, your policy will accrue a cash value.

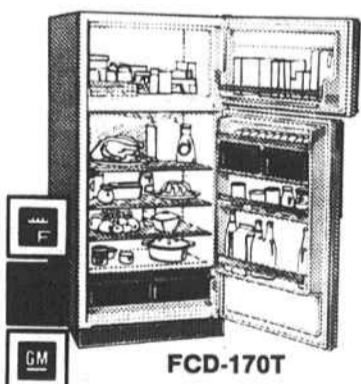
Q -- Are veterans with a service-connected disability requiring a prosthetic device entitled to a VA clothing allowance?

A -- Yes. The annual \$190 allowance is paid Sept. 1.

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