



**NEWS SERVICE** -- Librarian Louise McDiarmid checks over a listing on the Community Calendar in the lobby of the public library, a monthly news service of meetings and special events. The librarians ask that people call in notices at least two weeks in advance.

## Metric System Got You Down?

Are you one of those folks who would just as soon forget the metric system? Well, you are not alone. Most of us would rather not have to tackle it -- especially those of us who have been out of school a number of years.

Seems, though, that it may not be a very big deal after all. There are only a few new things that we will need to learn -- and a lot of things are going to stay the same. For example, the way we tell time will stay the same, and so will our money. As a matter of fact, if you know how dollars relate to cents, you probably will not have any trouble using the metric system.

Actually, not too much will change for those of us in agriculture here in North Carolina. Property deeds that are already listed will probably stay just the same as they are now. Farmers may be buying fertilizer and seed by the kilogram or metric ton, and spread them using machinery calling for metric amounts -- but, the North Carolina farmer can rest assured that information about using the new units will be available from either the manufacturer or the seller. After all, they want to sell their products and they want satisfied, unfrustrated customers.

Farmers will also probably be selling their grain, hay, etc. by the kilogram and metric ton (a kilogram is a little over two pounds and a metric ton is about 2200 pounds -- not much different from what we use now), and their milk by the litre (a litre is just a little larger than a quart). And just as automobile mechanics are now using metric wrenches to work on cars with metric fasteners, North Carolina farmers will be using metric tools to work on their farm equipment.

In the kitchen or around the house, not too much will change. We may use a metrestick instead of a yardstick to measure a table or carpet and use metric measuring cups and spoons with any new metric recipes we want to try. But, according to Monica Leslie, coordinator of the North Carolina Metric Resource Center, cooks will not have to throw out their favorite recipes.

"Just keep your standard measuring cups and spoons to use with your old recipes -- do not try to convert your old recipes to metric," says Mrs. Leslie. "The best way to use metric recipes is to use measuring utensils with metric units marked on them. Measuring cups and spoons with both metric and customary units marked on them are becoming easier to find. In the Raleigh area, they are available in most discount, department, and

grocery stores at the same cost as plain customary utensils."

Does all of this mean that the government is making us "go metric"? Not really. "Congress has merely passed some enabling legislation to make it easy for business and industries to coordinate their efforts if they want to change to the metric system," says Marion Kinlaw of the Department of Agriculture's Consumer Standards Division. According to Kinlaw, the government recognizes the realities of world trade, and is trying to make it possible for the U.S. to continue its role in that trade.

## Sunday School Lesson

Jesus once said, "And if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire" (Matthew 18:8).

Of course, Jesus did not mean for that statement to be taken literally, but if he had, I suspect that more Christians would lose their tongues than any other organ of the body! Many who are never likely to kill, steal, or commit adultery will prove just as errant in God's eyes by virtue of their intemperate or untruthful speech.

The evil of the unbridled tongue is probably as pervasive as it is because we tend to underestimate its importance. We seem to accept uncritically the old doggerel:

*Sticks and stones  
May break my bones,  
But names will never hurt me.*

But it isn't so! Names can often be as hurtful or more than "sticks and stones." We often say, "they were just words," as if words were inconsequential. Dernagogues, like Hitler, know that that isn't so. Military experts in psychological warfare and propaganda know that it is not so. And, if we stop to be honest with ourselves, we know it too.

The other evening I watched a documentary television program on "Violence in America." A portion of the program dealt with the "violence of words," something that seems to be growing in our society. Every day in the newspaper I read inflammatory words written or reported by newsmen. I hear intemperate words on my radio and TV, on streetcorners, public buildings, and the livingrooms of friends

## Wildlife Afield

Imagine yourself as a newcomer to bass fishing who has just entered a well-stocked tackle store. As you wander down the aisles, you see hundreds of bass lures in every shape and color. You would be forgiven, I think, if you came to the conclusion that largemouth bass must have the color perception of a Picasso or Rembrandt.

If you ask a half dozen experienced bass fishermen whether

bass can distinguish colors, odds are good that all will agree that ol' bigmouth can "see" colors, and also has certain favorites.

Until recently, however, there has been little scientific proof. Now that some studies have been conducted, I'm pleased to be able to report that fishermen were apparently right all the time. Bass can distinguish colors, although no one knows whether the "red" a bass sees is the same "red" a fisherman might see.

The study is rather interesting. Dr. Don F. McCoy of the Department of Psychology, University of Kentucky, conducted a series of studies using bass in 30 gallon tanks. McCoy trained the bass to respond to certain artificial situations -- that is he set up experiments that required the bass to use color vision to solve problems.

McCoy's bass were trained to strike at a color-coded target, and when they responded correctly, they were rewarded with food. A sliding door was positioned to separate the bass from the target and also to prevent them from seeing when the target color was changed during trials. A timing system was used to record the elapsed time between the raising of the sliding door and the striking of the target by the bass. This elapsed time was the basic measurement used to determine the response of the bass to various colors.

McCoy concluded that bass have surprisingly keen color perception. They are also capable of learning to a limited degree. The bass appeared to respond more favorably to colors in the blue-green region, and appeared to have a slight aversion to yellow, although McCoy is quick to say that these conclusions are quite tentative since waters in the tanks have none of the variable characteristics found in natural waters.

When given a choice between color and brightness, the color seemed to influence the bass more than the brightness of the target. Again, this may have been the result of conditions beyond the control of the experimenters, but there was no indication that the brightness of the target played any part in the response of the bass.

Perhaps the most significant finding was that while bass can learn to react to a certain color (or other stimulus), they seem to be incapable of "unlearning" that habit. That is, once a habit becomes ingrained, it may be impossible to change.

A bass may be taught to strike a blue target in order to be rewarded with food, but after he's trained, you can't switch colors on him and hope that he'll learn to strike another color.

It's hard to evaluate how valuable this information might be in the future, but such studies may be very useful in bass management someday.

I, for one, am glad to know that there is at least some scientific basis for the fact that I have so many different colored lures in my tackle box. I knew there had to be some reason why I couldn't pass a tackle store without buying a new bass lure. And for what it's worth, I tend to respond favorably to purple or silver, but have a slight aversion to red. Furthermore, once I get a habit embedded in my brain, I have a heck of a time unlearning it.

I guess it's like a friend of mine once said, "Bass are just like people, only wetter."



**FREE SERVICE** -- The Hoke County Health Department sponsored a free blood pressure clinic last week at the Edenborough Shopping Center. Jimmy Morrissey is getting his pressure checked by nurse Peggy Woolard. [Photo by Marty Vega]



"When you stand praying, if you have a grievance against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you the wrongs you have done." (Mark 11:25 NEB)

"I suppose careful, painstaking nursing can cure almost anything," said a patient to a nurse. The nurse quipped, "Yes, almost anything except a grudge!"

Prayer will not work in an unforgiving heart. If we are holding a grudge against another, we block God's action. He may desire to fulfill our wishes, but His hands are tied because of our unforgiveness.

In the midst of suffering, Jesus forgave the very ones who nailed Him to the cross. Joseph forgave his brothers who sold him into slavery. They meant evil against him, but God worked it out for their good.

Don't worry about retribution or vengeance when you have been wronged by someone. Simply forgive, and God will do the rest.

If we let a root of bitterness grow, our prayer life will be choked. Our prayers will never reach beyond ourselves until we learn to forgive, no matter what the circumstances may be.

We must not allow a grudge nor a spark of revenge to gain even the tiniest foothold in our hearts.

**PRAYER:** Dear heavenly Father, help us this day to live so close to Thee that when others wrong us we will react as Jesus did. In His name, Amen.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** To forgive, you must pray; to pray, you must forgive.



**CONTEST WINNER** -- Carl Bundy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bundy, won first place in the arts and crafts contest sponsored by the Raeford chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and received honorable mention in the state division. His winning entry was a drawing of a blockade runner used during the War between the States. He is a sixth grade student at Raeford Elementary School.

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