

## Dreams Require Money

The interest of Atlantic Beach town officials in building a municipal building is to be admired, but a word of caution, we believe, is in order.

The town has already plunged into one expensive proposition that did not materialize — the installing of lines for a fire-fighting system. The engineer on that job has not yet been paid. That the building of the system did not materialize may be chalked up to fate, fate in the form of hurricane Hazel. Nevertheless, expensive projects sometimes do not materialize the way they are envisioned.

A small town some years ago rushed into buying a lot on which it wanted to put a municipal building. Then the money wasn't available to put up the building. The lot sat and sat. Town boards came and went. Not so long ago the lot was finally sold — without a municipal building on it.

If a town has sufficient money to invest in municipal properties and still meet, with ease, its other expenses, there is nothing to prevent such investment. But a town which can't meet its

present obligations is borrowing trouble when it talks of municipal buildings.

Every new acquisition, whether it's a new building, a jeep or a new street, means that money must be found to keep the new property in condition.

Beach officials have been speaking of an ABC store. If they have decided that this is a project they should undertake, and if they can find the money to buy property to put it on, the store might be built first and when money becomes available the municipal building, including a fire station, police station, and board meeting room, could be built later.

Placing an ABC store at the beach may strike fear into the hearts of other towns in the county that have ABC stores, but there is little to prevent putting an ABC store at the beach if the town wants to do it.

There is an entire new Atlantic Beach board in office. The commissioners are to be admired for their ambition, their vision and sincere interest in improving the town. Sometimes, however, it is well to make haste slowly.

## Death Meets Worthy Opponent

Camp Lejeune and the Jacksonville Jaycees may have found an effective way to cut the holiday accident toll — free coffee bars.

Free coffee and doughnuts are dispensed to motorists in the hope that the coffee break will reduce driver fatigue and wake him up sufficiently to finish the trip home.

The Lejeune provost marshal's office credits the coffee bars with reducing highway accidents, injuries and deaths by 50 per cent. According to the Camp Lejeune Globe, the free coffee bars operate during peak traffic periods at the tail end of holidays when long trips are the rule and accidents are most likely to happen.

The three free coffee stops operated first on the Fourth of July, again on Labor Day and on the Thanksgiving weekend. To date, they have dispensed 12,000 cups of coffee and 300 dozen doughnuts.

The traffic analysis which led to establishment of the coffee bars at Lejeune showed that

1. Fifteen per cent of all Marine-involved accidents result from the driver going to sleep at the wheel
2. Most of these accidents are serious or fatal
3. Ninety-three per cent of accidents involving Marines happen within 20 miles of Camp Lejeune

Safety officials realized that drivers

had to be wakened and refreshed before entering the 20-mile danger zone.

In the Lejeune area, the Jacksonville Jaycees provide the coffee and some of the manpower. The Marine Corps furnishes the equipment, doughnuts and manpower.

Operating 30 miles from the base, the bars serve coffee from sunset until dawn on the nights when holiday leaves are ending.

The Lejeune idea has spread. According to The Globe, they have been made a statewide project of the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce. Pennsylvania has taken up the project and Virginia and South Carolina state Jaycees have requested information on the coffee bars.

Free coffee and doughnuts is quite an inducement. Even so, lots of drivers do not know when they are tired and need a break. After a long trip, a sort of numbness settles over the driver. As he gets nearer his destination, he gets more anxious to get there, so he steps on the gas.

Along with the coffee bars will have to go some educating: "Stop at a coffee bar, take a break! Five minutes of relaxation is a lot shorter time than eternity."

We hope this project will not have to be abandoned some day because of free loaders, for we think it is one of the most concrete methods ever devised to cut the high holiday traffic toll.

## The Reds of Wall Street

(Greensboro Daily News)

Are Russian Communists buying American corporate stocks?

Senator Eastland of Mississippi, for one, is fearful that they are. He is looking sharply at the large increase in purchase of stock by residents of Switzerland from 1955 to 1956 — a jump of \$111,000,000 to \$118,000,000.

Since the laws of Switzerland prohibit disclosure of "banking secrets" such as the identity of the individuals for whom a Swiss bank acts, Senator Eastland is highly suspicious.

There is no way of knowing who the purchasers are, so the United States does not know whether the law requiring identification of stockholders who own more than 10 per cent of shares of a corporation is being violated.

Have the canny Swiss merely fallen

victim to stock market fever which in recent years has paralleled the widespread dabbling of the '20's? Or is there a more sinister explanation?

Senator Eastland thinks that the Russians may be buying stocks in American enterprises through Swiss banks and financial institutions. He believes that by acquiring such stocks they could use their positions as stockholders to get hold of secret scientific information in the hands of United States companies. Just how is not explained.

But whoever would have thought that Russian Communists would invest in, say, Gen Motors, Beth Steel, Radio Corp, U S Steel, Westinghouse or Nor Am Avia?

What an advertisement for the free enterprise system.



## Littlest Angels' Bathing Hour

By LINDA KAY SALTER  
Beaufort, N. C.

Little Angels white as snow  
Bathing in a tub, you know.  
Leave around the edge a ring  
Of sparkling stardust from their wing.

All around the bathroom, scattered  
Little feet have pitter-pattered.  
Tiny foot prints all aglow  
Tracked in gold from their halo.

All the other angels go  
As the dusk begins to grow  
To stand and watch a little while  
Golden curls and baby smiles  
Pearly drops that fly in showers  
"Littlest Angels' bathing hour".

## Security for You...

By RAY HENRY

From T.F. of New York City:  
"When is the Social Security tax scheduled to go up again and how much will the increase be?"

The next scheduled raise will be Jan. 1, 1960. The tax for an employee will be 2 3/4 per cent of the first \$4,200 a year in wages. The employer's share will have to match this. The tax for a self-employed person will be 4 1/2 per cent of the first \$4,200 a year in net earnings.

From D. H. D. of Alhambra, Calif.: "I've been a railroad worker for more than 11 years. Before

that, I worked for a private company. I worked for the private company and paid Social Security tax from the day it started. When I reach retirement age will it be possible for me to collect retirement payments under Railroad Retirement and Social Security?"  
You will if you have worked long enough under both retirement systems to qualify for payments. Your 11 years work for the railroad qualifies you for railroad retirement. From the facts in your letter, it also appears that you worked under Social Security long enough to qualify for payments. I suggest you talk the details over with your Social Security office.

## Handel and The Messiah

Mrs. Robert Piner gave an account of the background of Handel's Messiah at a recent Beaufort Woman's Club meeting. It follows:

The glorious music of The Messiah that gladdens the world at Christmastide was created out of the depths of despair and affliction—a testament to the power of faith.

Handel, the 56 year old composer, was sick, destitute and his work seemed doomed to failure when the miracle occurred.

Handel and his Italian operas had been the rage of London; King George I had been his host and patron. Then, many influential writers and leaders of the smart society arrayed against him. Gradually his fortunes declined — the London public abandoned opera in favor of French farces and Handel lost his influence with the king.

To ridicule Handel's music, rival impresarios filmed his best-known melodies and staged a ruinous burlesque called The Beggar's Opera. Failure followed failure in the theater and Handel's creditors threatened him with prison.

**Bitterness Descends**  
One night, after wandering aimlessly through the streets of London, Handel returned to his flat feeling in his heart the bitterness of utter defeat: he had lost faith in his own ability.

Mechanically, he lighted the candles, and noticed a package on his desk. On the letter beside it was the familiar handwriting of Jennens, his librettist.

Jennens had been a devoted friend through the composer's misfortunes, but his rhymes were faulty and amateurish. Not even the best music could redeem them. So, wearily Handel opened the new manuscript and began to read:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for your God...

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

No lumbering verses these, Handel marvelled, but poetry of power and wondrous beauty. He read on.

For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...

Hallelujah! For the Lord omnipotent reigneth. King of kings, and Lord of lords: and He shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!

**Music Floods Mind**  
Then the miracle took place. Harmonies of mighty choruses, music of violin and organ and trumpet flooded the barren mind and heart of George Frederick Handel. He reached for his pen and began to dab the notes onto paper.

Night and day the music poured forth, always faster than the crippled fingers could capture the melodies and write them down. Handel worked in such a fever of

intensity that afterwards he was to confess: "Whether I was in my body or out of my body as I wrote it, I know not."

He slept at intervals, but never soundly—never out of hearing of the music that tormented him. His manservant brought food from time to time, but usually returned to find the tray untouched and Handel sitting motionless, staring into space while tears dripped down his face and fell upon the paper, or with his head on his arms, his giant frame racked with sobs.

**After Creation**  
When the final note was written the manuscript was a maze of notes, blots, and fierce erasures; but it was the imperishable music of The Messiah. Emotionally and physically exhausted, Handel stumbled to his bed and slept for 17 hours.

He awoke refreshed. He had written all the bitterness out of his heart and, miraculously, his creative power had been so restored by the ordeal that within a few days he was able to fling himself into the composition of a new oratorio.

Handel could not bear the thought of submitting to a capricious society audience the sacred music that had been born of his own profound emotion. So, at first he refused to present The Messiah in London.

In Dublin a reverent and spell-bound audience first heard the oratorio that today is loved throughout the world. The profits, more than \$2,000, Handel used for the relief of men who had been imprisoned for debt.

Handel, whose misfortunes had brought him within the shadow of a debtor's prison, rejoiced that his music had been the means of freeing less fortunate men.

Handel waited almost a year before he had the courage to offer The Messiah to the London public.

Immediately his enemies launched a campaign of vilification. Street urchins were hired to tear down his posters as fast as he could put them up. Society women organized balls and private concerts on oratorio nights and pointedly sent invitations to Handel's faithful patrons.

**Critics Cry Sacrilege**  
Theater goers who giggled over lewd farces then current in London, protested that Handel profaned the Scripture by setting it to dramatic music. Bigots took up the cry. Branding The Messiah as sacrilegious, they tried to obtain an injunction against its performance on the grounds that Covent Garden was a place of worldly amusement!

Clerics denounced the blasphemy of printing the word "Messiah" on a playbill and for a while it was advertised only as "A Sacred Oratorio".

For eight years the oratorio was heard with chilling indifference. But Handel loved children. When wealthy sponsors of London's

From R.L.S. of Baltimore, Md.: "I've been reading your columns and have seen a couple that told about how any income I earn after I retire will affect my Social Security payments. Could you tell me where I can get any printed information about this?"

Your nearest Social Security office can send you a short booklet on this subject. Just phone or go in and ask for the booklet, "How Earnings Affect Benefits" (OASDI-23).

From Mrs. A. H. P. of Annapolis, Md.: "My husband will be 65 next September and he plans to retire at that time. I have never worked. I'm already 65. My husband will be eligible for Social Security retirement payments and I'll be eligible on his Social Security record. How much will my payments be? If my husband should die, how much will my payments as a widow be?"

As a wife, your payments will be one-half the amount of your husband's payments rounded off to the nearest 10 cents. For example: If your husband will be eligible for the highest possible Social Security payment—\$108.50 a month—your payments will be \$54.30.

As a widow, your payments will be three-fourths of the amount your husband was receiving when he died.

From Mrs. H.S. of Washington, D. C.: "I recently was divorced from my husband. Can I receive payments based on his Social Security record?"

It depends. You can't get payments under any circumstances while he's alive. You may get survivors payments after he dies—if you are caring for a child of his who is under 18 or who is over 18, but was disabled before reaching 18, and if you were receiving at least half your support from him by court order.

**(Editor's Note: You may contact the social security representative at the courthouse annex, Beaufort, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays. He will help you with your own particular problem).**

## Free Expression Cult

(The following is reprinted from the Columbia, S. C., State).

That parents cannot escape blame for uncontrollable children is not a thought expressed in this country alone. The same old-fashioned idea seems to be current in Canada also. According to The London (Ont.) Free Press, Dr. Percy Lower of the Kingston Board of Education says psychologists have created the impression that it is more important to keep the child happy than well-mannered.

"For proof of Doctor Lower's statement," the Canadian newspaper says, "you have only to look about you. So widespread is the crackpot theory that junior's psyche must not be bruised that North America is dominated by the tyranny of the young. Children must not be spanked, corrected or frus-

Louise Spivey

## Words of Inspiration

Christmas cards have a warm deep meaning. At this time we receive notes from friends that we hear from only once a year. We write and receive lovely little messages from new friends.

This year, as the readers of this column send out their cards, I hope they will remember the three persons who have contributed personal articles in connection with our Seal Sale. A card or note of appreciation would mean a lot to a shut-in at Christmas time. Their addresses follow: H. K. Simmons, Route 2 Newport; Mrs. Bertha Harkley, N. C. State Sanatorium, Wilson, N. C.; Mr. Roland Salter, N. C. State Sanatorium, Wilson, N. C.

Accident reminders:  
December is one of the two deadliest months of the year for accidental deaths, the National Safety Council says.

Inspect your Christmas tree lights for flaws,  
To keep your home happy for Santa Claus.

A little skidding can go a long way.

Select children's toys with a Safety Claus in mind.

Famous last words: I'd better get the snow cleaned off this windshield at the next town. I can't see two feet in front of me.

During winter months, for every thirty pedestrians killed in the three hours before sunset, 100 are killed in the three hours after sunset.

If your home isn't safe — what is?

### THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I am the Christmas Spirit!  
I enter the home of poverty, causing pale-faced children to open their eyes wide in pleased wonder.

I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax, and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.

I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old glad way. I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood, and brighten sleep with dreams woven in magic.

I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets, leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.

I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his wild, wasteful way, and send to anxious loved ones some little token that releases tears — tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.

I enter dark prison cells, reminding manhood of what might have been, and pointing forward to good days yet to come.

I come softly into the still white home of pain, and lips that are too weak to speak, just tremble in silent, eloquent gratitude.

In a thousand ways I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched.

I am the Spirit of Christmas!

— E. C. Baird

May the golden bells of Christmas, the softly falling snow,  
The strains of quiet music, the candle light aglow,  
Bring to you and your loved ones such serenity and cheer  
That your happiness at Christmas will last throughout the year.

— Alice Schacht

Every step toward Christ kills a doubt. Every thought, word, and deed for Him carries you away from discouragement. — T. L. Cuyler

Adversities do not make the man either weak or strong, but they reveal what he is.

### YOUR CHRISTMAS GUEST

Take time this Christmas Day to go a little way apart  
And with the hands of prayer prepare the house that is your heart.  
Brush out the dusty fears, brush out the cobwebs of your care  
'Til in the house that is your heart it's Christmas everywhere.

Light every window up with love, and let your love shine through,  
That they who walk outside may share the blessed light with you.  
Then will the rooms with joy be bright, with peace the hearth be blessed,  
And Christ Himself will enter in to be your Christmas Guest.

— James Dillet Freeman

## This is the Law

By ROBERT E. LEE  
For the N. C. Bar Association

### Underground Waters

N. J. Rouse owned a farm about two miles from the city limits of Kinston. He sunk artesian wells on his land, which produced an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water. The water was used by a herd of dairy cattle, and the land became adaptable for irrigation.

The City of Kinston subsequently sank three ten-inch wells on a half acre of land acquired from an adjacent landowner. The water was piped into Kinston and there sold to its inhabitants.

As the result of the wells being sunk on adjacent land, the wells on the land of Rouse practically ceased to flow. The value of his farm greatly dropped. Was Rouse able to recover from the city of Kinston a judgment for damages?

This was an actual case decided by the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1924. It became a leading case dealing with underground percolating waters, establishing a rule contrary to that previously existing at common law.

Percolating waters are those that ooze, seep, or filter through the soil beneath the surface, without a defined channel, or in a course that is unknown and not discoverable from surface indications without excavating for that purpose. Underground water is presumed to be percolating water.

Under the old common-law rule, percolating waters were a part of the soil where found and, as a consequence, belonged absolutely to the owner of the land. Under this rule, the landowner was not accountable in damages to others for the taking of any or all of such water.

The North Carolina Supreme Court adopted in the case of Rouse vs. City of Kinston, as has been done by courts of other states in recent years, the doctrine of "reasonable use" of percolating waters.

This rule does not prevent the private use by any landowner of percolating waters under his land for manufacturing, agriculture, irrigation, or otherwise; but it does prevent the withdrawal of underground waters for distribution or sale, for uses not connected with any beneficial ownership of the land from which they were taken, if it thereby follows that the owner of adjacent lands is interfered with in his right to the reasonable use of water under the surface of his own land.

Rouse recovered in damages \$9,000 from the City of Kinston. It made an unreasonable use of the percolating waters under its own one-half acre of land. The taking of great quantities of water and selling it to the inhabitants of the City of Kinston was an unreasonable interference with the water rights of an adjoining landowner.

### Smile a While

She stormed into the office of the private detective agency and demanded an interview. Immediately, she launched into a tirade against her husband. Finally, the manager was able to get in a few words. "Just what do you want us to do about it, madam?"

"I want my husband and that woman followed," she declared. "I want them followed night and day, and then I want you to make a full report of what she sees in him."

A young widow commissioned a stonemason to inscribe her husband's tombstone: "My sorrow is more than I can bear."

Before the inscription was finished, she married again. The mason asked her if she still wanted the inscription.

"Yes," she replied, "but just add the word 'alone'."

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