

ESTABLISHED JULY, 1922

THEA P. FOX, EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY

YANCEY PUBLISHING COMPANY

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BURNSVILLE, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1967 NUMBER FIFTEEN

SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$3.00 PER YEAR

OUT OF COUNTY \$4.00 PER YEAR

Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

I have been working down throughout Georgia and Florida recently and, in one of my daily letters from Blanche, she enquired what I was going to write about for this week. For a joke, I wrote her that I had figured on discussing taxes and underwear. The more I thought of it, the more I figured it wasn't the worst idea I have ever had because if all of the tax legislation gets through, a lot of people will be down to their underwear. Thus, taxes and underwear is a logical grouping for a Column.

Everyone is aware of the fight between the White House and Congress over the proposed 10% Surtax that LBJ proposed. Everyone is against it in theory if not actually. That means, if the Country really needs it, we don't like it but we'll pay it. Congress, our elected representatives, acted for us. It told the Boss to put up or shut up. Furnish it with figures showing that the bills are being cut and it would furnish the wherewithal to pay the sensible bills we own.

Since some 60-million tax payers will be affected by any surtax, Congress knows that those same people will vote for others unless the Congress makes a convincing argument in substantiation of any action granting the surtax. The big question should be decided upon the need of such legislation. In Congress neglecting to place some taxes where they should be? Are there any loopholes that should be plugged that would raise tax money from those who could afford it but are presently getting a free ride at the expense of us little fellows?

Amazingly, the answer to both of the questions is a definite "Yes." Congressman Henry Reuss of Wisconsin brought into focus the worst loophole in our entire tax structure. He attacked the 27% reduction allowed to the oil millionaires for "depletion." The Congressman suggests the amount be cut to 15% and bring the Government some 600-million bucks a year. A lot of pressure is against that move. Another item, mentioned by the syndicated writer Marquis Childs, would be to close the loophole on estate taxes presently exempt from capital gains. Briefly, this means that any person who dies with say 100-thousand dollars worth of stocks that cost him 40-thousand and leaves them to his heirs, there is no tax collectible. Whereas, had the person sold them before his death, an income tax would have been due. This closed loophole would bring into the Treasury an estimated 2.5 billions of dollars.

There are many loopholes that might be closed. For example the Internal Revenue is certain in its bones that some two dozen people will show an income

of one million dollars or more for the year 1967 and yet, due to various loopholes, will pay no income tax. Chairman Wright Patman, of the House Banking and Currency Committee suggests a tax upon bonds of now "exempt" classification: State and Municipal Bonds. Mr. Patman's figures allege some to be 3 billion dollars return. There are countless other means of revenue but the Treasury is too busy and Congress finds it too risky to oppose the big boys.

If enough of us little fellows hit the roof, we might get some action.

The news of fashions for the coming Spring might well make some of us forget the imminent tax bite and place a smile or possibly a downright idiotic grin on some faces. The news is that the new outdoor wear for home and office for females is — Underwear — without underwear.

This fad or fashion, aptly described as, and to be advertised as, "Outer-wear Under-year" appears to stem from the libidinated mind (that's a good term!) of one Emilio Pucci. I imagine Mr. Pucci is Italian, I am certain he is not Irish because no one ever heard of a Saint Pucci. In any event, Mr. Pucci, if successful with his styles, will have the good ladies wandering about the place dressed for sportswear and cocktail parties in what used to be reserved for bedroom or a real whing-ding. Mr. Pucci only made one rule for the good ladies who purchase his styles: no bras may be worn. That sounds like real "sportswear" but I feel he went a little too far on another number which, for want of a better name might be described as a coat or a robe — although either one would be a loose use of the term since this item is sleeveless and ends just below the hips. The good Mr. Pucci described this garment as ideal for "answering the door" use. If this idea catches on, there will doubtless be a run made on doorbell batteries.

Mr. Pucci suggests for office wear two-piece pajamas "flouncy upper, bare midriff, and wide button pants." That last part bothered me because there are still a few gals around and about who might not need the "wide button" pants. Various of the fashion writers described the new styles as ideal for "sunning" and, being a bit of a Grammarian, I wondered if Blanche wasn't correct when she asked me if they hadn't misspelled the word. Lucky this is a "family" paper or I would have sent Editor Fox some of the pictures that were handed out at the Show so you could judge for yourself. My Pappy would have "belted" me for having them.

Candy Cane Carols Holiday Cheer



Set a pretty table during the holidays with this Candy Cane Centerpiece made from puffed rice. Shaping the puffed rice-marshmallow mixture on aluminum foil is a simple trick and the decoration is easy, too. Just pipe frosting where you want the "stripes," then place halves of red candied cherries over the frosting "glue."

For a colorful holiday effect set the candy cane (still on foil) on Christmas greenery and complete the centerpiece with candles or other Christmas trimmings. Later you can slice the cane and serve it as a fitting finale to a festive holiday party.

CANDY CANE

Makes 1 candy cane

7 cups puffed rice
1/4 cup butter or margarine
4 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
1/2 teaspoon anise extract
Thick white confectioners' sugar frosting
Red candied cherries, halved

Heat puffed rice in shallow baking pan in preheated moderate oven (350°F.) about 10 minutes. Pour into large greased bowl. Melt together butter and marshmallows over low heat, stirring occasionally. Stir in anise extract. Pour over cereal, stirring until evenly coated.

With greased hands, shape to form a log about 28 inches long on a large piece of aluminum foil. Allow bottom side to remain flat. Bend one end of log to form neck of candy cane.

Pipe 2 wide lines of frosting diagonally across cane at 2-inch intervals to form stripes on cane. Attach cherries, cut side down, to frosting. Let set about 3 hours.

Trim foil to edges of cane. Place on bed of Christmas greens; attach bow at neck of cane, if desired. Use as centerpiece; slice and serve as a confection.

Spices Traditional As Christmas Season

RALEIGH — As you use spices during this season, remember they are as festive and as traditional as the Christmas season itself, reminds Mrs. Ruby Uzzle, extension consumer marketing economist, North Carolina State University.

According to Mrs. Uzzle, spices have always been important in history making and world trade. Wars have been fought and countries discovered in search of them.

At one time, spices were used as a medium of exchange. During the middle ages, for example, a person could buy a pound of ginger for one sheep, a pound of mace for three sheep or a half cow or a pound of cloves for \$20.

Spices have not only been important to world trade, they have been important to good cooks. In fact, United States consumers are the biggest users, spending over \$100 million each year for them.

Since cinnamon, nutmeg, mace and cardamon are some of the spices most often used at Christmas time, Mrs. Uzzle discussed each one briefly.

Cardamon, because there's very little of it, is the world's second most precious spice, she said. It's used in Scandinavian pastries and cookies. Try adding 1/4 teaspoon of cardamon to an all-purpose cookie recipe and see for yourself the difference it makes.

Cinnamon is a more familiar spice to most of us. Since it's a natural with chocolate, Mrs. Uzzle suggests you encourage your teenagers with a sweet tooth to make a Cinnamon Chocolate Float. That's a fancy name for chocolate milk flavored with 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon. If you wish, have ice cream floating on the top.

Or for adults, serve a not-too-sweet coffee cake. Add cinnamon

to one of your easy-to-bake coffee cakes and sprinkle the top with sesame seeds. Simple, but not too sweet.

Nutmeg and mace come from the same evergreen tree. Use mace in your pound cakes and use a sprinkling of nutmeg on many of your holiday favorites, especially eggnog, Mrs. Uzzle recommends.

Another quick Christmas dessert is Nutmeg-Raspberry ice cream. Here's how it's done. Mix a pint of softened vanilla ice cream, 1/2 teaspoon of ground nutmeg and a six-ounce can of frozen raspberry-lemon drink. Freeze in ice cube trays until ready to serve.

"Common Cold" Not To Common

CHAPEL HILL — The so-called "common cold," so prevalent in the winter, is sometimes not too common. The North Carolina Heart Association warns that strep's most common form of attack is via the sore throat; and the major threat posed by strep infection is that it may bring on rheumatic fever, which can cause serious heart damage.

Pediatric cardiologists point out that prompt treatment can knock out strep infection before it can lead to rheumatic fever. The important factor is to catch it early—before strep can do its damage.

Of course, every sore throat is not the result of a streptococcal infection. However, parents should take no chances; and if any of the following symptoms appear, they should notify their physician immediately: (1) If a child has a sore throat in addition

New Crafts Cooperative Formed Through WAMY Program

Area craftsmen who have been selling through the W.A.M.Y. Crafts program voted Dec. 4 in Newland to form a new and independent crafts cooperative known as "Blue Ridge Hearthside Crafts, Inc."

The purpose of the new crafts association will be to assist craftsmen in buying raw materials, producing crafts, and selling the finished products. Legally, the group will be a mutual association, which will sell capital stock and operate on a non-profit basis.

The decision to incorporate was made by 25 craftsmen representing Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey. About 125 craftsmen from the four counties have participated in organizational meetings over the past eight months. It is expected that the Articles of Incorporation will be filed in Raleigh before the first of the year.

Officers elected at the meeting were Mrs. Carrie Reese of Watauga County, secretary; and Mrs. Dorothy Brewer of Avery county, treasurer.

Marketing Specialist Ruffin Tucker, who has been advising the craftsmen in the formation of the association, listed several advantages the organization will offer:

1. It will have enough financing to buy raw materials at bulk prices for all member craftsmen.

2. The establishment of the trade name, "Blue Ridge Hearthside Crafts," will result in better prices and quicker national recognition for the area in the production of fine quality handmade crafts.

3. The association will buy directly from craftsmen, and eliminate the present waiting period before payment.

Eventually, Tucker concluded, Hearthside Crafts should be able to take over all the functions of the present W.A.M.Y. Crafts program, and operate on a self-paying basis, without subsidy. Members will be accepted from other mountain counties, Tucker said, to broaden the economic potential of the association.

tion to a moderate fever; (2) Soreness and possible swelling at the angle of the jaw below the ear and possible headache, stomachache, or nausea; and (3) the appearance of yellowish-white spots on the tonsils.

Remember, strep is a highly contagious infection. Any child with known strep throat or suspected strep throat should not remain in contact with other children.

The North Carolina Heart Association reminds everyone that while untreated strep infection may result in an attack of rheumatic fever, modern medicine can still save the victim from massive heart damage in many cases. However, once an individual has had an attack of rheumatic fever, long-term medication and a constant vigil against a recurrent strep attack are vital in reducing the possibility of further heart damage.