

Stake Conference Scheduled

The semi-annual stake conference of the Tallahassee Florida Stake will be held February 21-22 with Regional Representative Elder James O. Mason presiding. Meeting times are as follows:

Saturday, February 21

4:00 p.m. Priesthood leadership for all stake, ward and branch priesthood executive committees. Theme: "An Invitation to Come Back"

6:00 p.m. Adult session for all members 18 years and older. Theme: "Obtaining a Sure Witness of the Truth of the Gospel through the Book of Mormon"

Sunday, February 22

10:00 a.m. General Session for all members of the stake and guests

10:00 a.m. Primary for children ages 3-6

Regional Conference to be held March 14-15

A regional conference is scheduled in Jacksonville with a meeting for priesthood leaders on Saturday, March 14, and a general session for all members and their guests Sunday, March 15. Among the speakers will be Gordon B. Hinckley of the First Presidency, Marvin J. Ashton of the Quorum of the Twelve, and Hartmon Rector, Jr. of the First Quorum of Seventy. Meeting times will be announced. **No local Church meetings will be held in our Stake Sunday, March 15.**

First Stake Mission Presidency Called

President Ezra T. Benson, by disbanding all Stake Seventies Quorums, changed the missionary organization church-wide during the General Conference of October 1986. Seventies now exist on the general level of the Church only. President Paul Nicholson, in affirming his top priority as missionary work, has called Charles H. Madsen, Jr. as Stake Mission President with J.N. Lybbert as First Counselor, Winfield Broadhurst as Second Counselor and Marvin Goldstein as Executive Secretary. President Nicholson has charged the Stake Mission Presidency to coordinate the missionary program throughout the stake. New ward and branch mission leaders, who are also stake missionaries, have been called or recalled in every unit.

A great excitement and enthusiasm is growing within the stake concerning missionary activity. President Kimball indicated that missionary efforts are the lifeblood of the Church. As a result, the new stake mission presidency is stressing a simple program based upon direction from the stake presidency.



L to R: Charles H. Madsen, Jr., Jay Lybbert, Winfield Broadhurst, Marvin Goldstein

Each member is to pray specifically about an individual or family, and when moved upon by the Spirit, invite them into their home for discussions taught by the full-time missionaries. President Madsen said, "There is a spirit of involvement motivated by a love for our Heavenly Father's children in our area. No other church service receives the blessings promised for sharing the Gospel. No one need feel guilty or upset; we merely pray, invite, and love. We do not know whom the Lord has prepared and we must be ready to act when moved upon by the Spirit."

President Charles H. Madsen, Jr. was born in Price, Utah and lived there until his mission to Denmark in 1953. He attended The College of Eastern Utah, Brigham Young University and took his advanced degree in psychology at the University of Illinois. He taught at the University of Illinois, moving to Tallahassee in 1967 to accept a position at Florida State University. He is the founder and president of Psychological and Family Consultants, a comprehensive mental health clinic.

He met and married the former Diane Broadbent of Price, Utah following his mission. They have six children and two grandchildren. Prior to his present calling, he served as Elders Quorum president, executive secretary to a branch president, Young Men president (in three different units), branch president, high counselor, and as first counselor in a stake presidency.

President Jay N. Lybbert, a native of Cardston, Alberta, Canada has lived in Florida since 1958 and moved to Tallahassee from Miami in 1961. He has taught political science at Tallahassee Community College since the college first opened in 1966.

While in Miami, President Lybbert served as the District Mission President and later served on the Miami High Council. In Tallahassee, among other assignments, he served as the branch president on two different occasions, the Tallahassee

Continued on Page 10

Stake Presidency Message

by Paul Nicholson
Stake President

REACH OUT TO OTHERS



The purpose of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that men and women may have joy in this life and in eternity to come. It is designed to help people who want to be helped, and who want to help others. There can be no exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom of our Father in Heaven unless we try to make a sincere effort to bring others with us.

You and I have a primary responsibility for ourselves and our families. This involves not only teaching them the Gospel, and being the proper example, but taking them to the temple to be sealed for time and all eternity.

You and I have a second responsibility to help our neighbors, to help those people we come in contact with who need our encouragement, our knowledge, our talent, our love, our understanding, our testimony, and our time. The Lord has placed these people in our midst for our benefit as well as theirs. The Saviour has provided us with the weak, the hungry, the naked, the sick, the frightened, the lonely and the rebellious. He has placed them among our friends, our relatives and those we work and play with. There are times when each and every one of us falls into one of these categories and needs someone to reach out to us. This may happen even when we have been faithful because the Lord will try us and chastise us.

Missionary activity, fellowshiping, home and visiting teaching and activation are inspired Church programs that are designed to help each of us extend the Saviour's love to others. There is no end to people who need our help. The Lord, as He always does, has provided us with an abundance of people in need of temporal and spiritual help. Our challenge is not to turn our backs on them, but to search them out, and help in the way we can.

When we keep this, the second great commandment, to "love thy neighbour as thyself", and accept the assignment to preach, fellowship, home teach, and try to activate we have kept the most important commandment of all--to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." It is those who do these things that will be put on His right hand with the rest of His sheep, and hear His words recorded in the 25th Chapter of Matthew--"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of my brethren ye have done it unto me."

"If we're not sharing the gospel, we're not living it."

Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Media Campaign

by Charles H. Madsen, Jr.
Stake Mission President

We as a stake are extremely pleased to be a part of a program to help individuals who are not members of our Church to know and understand some of the beliefs of the Church. Each ward and branch is in the process of becoming oriented to this effort and being given the opportunity to share the gospel with others. President Hartmon Rector, Jr. of the First Quorum of Seventy and a counselor in our Area Presidency, came to the region on Friday, January 23 and spoke to priesthood and auxiliary leaders. Brother Hill of the General Missionary Committee was also in attendance and gave instruction.

The Church is preparing media ads which will be in our local magazines and on the radio from February 15 to March 22 to tell individuals about the Church. The public will be able to order a free cassette, "Our Heavenly Father's Plan," and receive a visit from missionaries if they so desire. Members are encouraged to pray and find who in our circle of friends, acquaintances, and relatives, the Lord has designated to hear the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. The self-referral and member referral aspects of this campaign will be conducted simultaneously and will involve complete cooperation between the Stake Mission and the Full-time Mission. This is a glorious opportunity to be involved in the efforts of the Lord to strengthen the Church in our area.

The love we should feel for our brothers and sisters can be extended as we share within our homes the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Love drives out fear and the blessings are great. "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. . . . And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth! . . . And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! . . . if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:10-16).

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Foster Care

by Gail Roberts

Agency Representative for LDS Social Services

Our Stake has received an assignment from the Region to identify several warm and loving foster families. Foster families nurture and love children and unwed mothers who are temporarily uprooted from their homes.

The opportunity to love and foster a child in need is a wonderful, Christlike experience. Heavenly Father is well-pleased when we comfort those in need, and we find happiness when we reach out and love those that are in need.

The following facts are included for your interest in hopes that several myths concerning foster care may be corrected.

After foster families are licensed:

- they have a choice in the age and sex of the children as well as the types of problems they're willing to work with
- they may say no to accepting a specific child if it is a bad

time for the foster family to have another person in their home

- there is financial aid available for the foster child
- an unwed mother would stay approximately 6 months but other children generally stay for short periods of time (4 weeks on the average)
- if problems arise you may ask for the child to be moved to another foster home

A family identified by a Bishop or Branch President interviews with an agency representative from LDS Social Services. The agency representative licenses the family for foster care. The entire licensing process takes about 3 hours. If you have questions contact Carolyn Broadhurst (Tallahassee III) at (904) 668-2227. If you are interested in becoming licensed, speak with your Bishop or Branch President. ✨

New Members



We welcome the following converts who were baptized in our stake during July through December 1986:

Bainbridge: Marion Canion, Jon Childree, Annette and Herbert Cooper, Cale and Kathy Harris, Letha Herring, Dorothy McCray, Janet and Mella Sampson, James Sharpe, Stacy Tomberlin, Daisy Warren

Cairo: Betty, Laytonya, and Patricia Edwards; George, Michael, and Maxine Herring

Crawfordville: Keith Carroll, Roy Tompkins, Paul Young

Monticello: Aleene Adams, Thomas Ward

Moultrie: Laura and Pierre DeJong, Charles Searcy

Quincy: Hattie, LaQuinta, William, William Jr., and Yurakedesha Demous; Toretha Harrison, Joe and Joretha Williams, Inor Young

Tallahassee I: Sheila Alexander, Holly Bond, Benjamin Bonnell, John Clark, Antonio and Martha Fierro, Daniel French, Valerie George, Helena Hamby, William Henning, Virak Lanh, Jennifer Lopez, Carolyn Potter, Mary Smith, Erika Spilling, Kara Urquhart, Kelly Wagers, Terrance Wiggins, Melissa Wilkerson

Tallahassee II: Donald, Heidi and Nicole Hengstabeck; Felicia and Joseph Oguntoye; Tammy Roberts; Doris, Jeffery, Robert, and Steven Williamson; Pamela Zimmerman

Tallahassee III: Gordon Adams, Gary and Jeana Bemby, Christian Bergman, Jennifer Blow, Todd Horton, Kevin and Victoria Kirkbridge, Katherine Kramer, Betty Maxwell, Adewunmi Memuduaghan, Bryan and Jeffrey McLendon, George Nelson, Felicia and Iburn Orenuga

Thomasville: Melissa Barnes; Adolphus Burney; Amber Bush; Christopher, Craig, Dwayne, and Steven Chin Quee; JoAnn Miles; Lynval and Ursula Samuels ✨

Bishop's Corner

by Kenneth Rudd
Bishop, Quincy Ward

OUR FIRST INTEREST AS A CHURCH

The Lord's Church is and always has been a missionary church. The Lord himself revealed to Adam the gospel plan: "And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning." (Moses 5:58) The Apostle Paul was a great missionary. After his conversion he spent the remainder of his life preaching the gospel, enduring many trials along the way.

In this dispensation, missionary work began again with the restoration of the gospel. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith: "Proclaim my gospel from land to land and from city to city.... Bear testimony in every place, unto every people". (D&C 66:5,7) D&C 133:37 says, "And this gospel shall be preached unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." President Spencer W. Kimball has told us that many wonderful inventions will come forth to further the missionary work, and we are seeing this now with increased use of television and other media. President Kimball also said, "The Lord has said that when you have been warned you should warn your neighbor. Now that comes as a command to all of us. It isn't left to our discretion and pleasure. Every member should have a determination that he will take the gospel to others. If he does not, he must consider that he is not in total favor of his Heavenly Father because he has commanded us to do so." Missionary work is so important that President Ezra Taft Benson once stated, "This is our first interest as a Church -- to share and exalt the souls of the children of men." It is necessary for all the people of the world to have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

As members we all have the responsibility to teach the gospel, and if we let it fill our lives with joy we will feel the love and compassion necessary for us to want to share this message with everyone. Our message is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of mankind and it is our duty to spread this message.

Our desire along with the help of our Heavenly Father will help us to be effective in this effort and will bring us much joy. "If it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father. (D&C 18:15) ✨

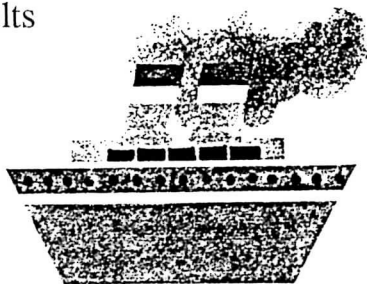
New Branch President

On January 11, 1987 James L. "Pete" Moody was sustained as President of the Monticello Branch. President Moody was raised in Brooks County, Georgia and grew up in the Church, attending the Quitman Branch. He received a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Georgia. President Moody is a major in the Army Reserves, and enjoys hunting, target shooting and tennis. In the Church he has served as a Sunday School teacher, high councilor, Young Men president, district clerk, and branch president.

The Moody's live in Dixie, Georgia, about 10 miles west of Quitman. Sister Harriet Moody is a third grade teacher at Westbrook Elementary School and is presently serving in the Thomasville Ward as Sunday School teacher, Seminary teacher and Relief Society chorister. They have 2 sons--Jim, 17, and Walt, 13.

President Moody plans to work on activation, home teaching and missionary work in Monticello. ❖

Single Adults



ALL ABOARD!!

Join the Singles August 13-16 on board the fun ship "Mardi Gras". \$295 gives you a 3-day cruise to Nassau (including Port tax, tips, and bus fare to Ft. Lauderdale).

Do it now!!

A \$25 deposit was due February 1, 1987 but reservations are still available if you act quickly. For details phone Carolyn Thompkins at 575-0128 or Gail Schrader at 576-6434. Deposits may be mailed to: Carolyn Thompkins, 303-4 Pennell Circle, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.

TALLAHASSEE STAKE SINGLE ADULT LOGO CONTEST

Have you got an idea for a Single Adult logo? Submit it to Carolyn Thompkins at the above address. Ten finalists will be displayed at the Single Adult Spectacular, May 1-3.

Single Adult Calendar

February 22 - Stake S.A. Leadership Mtg., 12:15 (after Stake Conf.). All unit reps please be present.

March 8 - Stake Singles Fireside, 7 p.m. in Institute Bldg.

Regional S.A. Activities

February 13-15 - Regional S.A. Conference at Dothan Stake

March 14 - Regional Dance at Panama City Stake Center at 7 p.m.

March 27 - Pensacola Stake Square Dance Hobo Dinner at the Crestview Ward at 7 p.m. ❖



PCD -- A
Coat of
Many
Colors

Have you ever read an article in your local newspaper about the Mormon youth serving the community or an open house for a new LDS Church? The kinds of news you read may be about who is leaving on a mission, or a write-up on a missionary from another part of the world who is serving in our stake. Did you ever wonder how that information was discovered by the news media? This responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the Public Communications Director (PCD).

The reorganization of our stake leaders a few months ago found Richard Chapple, former President of the Tallahassee Florida Stake, trading jackets when he stepped into the position of Stake Public Communications Director. His job is to promote the Church in a positive vein in the media. He is there to represent the Church when necessary, to take newsworthy items to the press, and to keep the community aware and informed.

If, for any reason, an official statement is needed about the Church, Brother Chapple, under the authority of the Stake President, is our trusted mediating link. Most of the wards and branches in our stake also have a PCD. Information from Salt Lake filters down through Brother Chapple who sends news releases to the PCDs around the stake, who then adapt the relevant items for the media in their area.

Perhaps you read recently about the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Church building in Tallahassee which, along with promoting the Church, provided an opportunity for local politicians to show their support.

The genealogy library is used by many non-members. How do you think they become aware of this great resource? One way is the same way they hear about the welfare programs or youth activities of the Church -- through the valuable PCDs.

Is this ideational calling a demanding job? Conceivably, it could be as time-consuming as a full-time press secretary. Brother Chapple describes the general role as broad in perspective, yet becoming very tedious as he goes where he is needed. "This is a role that is not fettered by the imagination," he says.

Brother Chapple plans to center his attention on promoting the missionary work in the stake by making the Church more visible as a positive influence in our communities. One specific activity he will focus on is National Family Week in November. ❖

New Auxiliary Leaders Called

The calling of Loran Anderson and Arnold Garr as counselors in the Stake presidency necessitated the release of their wives, Renee Anderson as stake Relief Society president, and Cherie Garr as stake Young Women president. At the October 28 leadership meeting, Dena Hall was sustained as the new Relief Society president and Suzanne Chapple as Young Women president. Herewith, we invite you to meet them, their counselors and secretaries.

RELIEF SOCIETY



L to R: JoAnn Bone, Dena Hall, Mary Zauche, Laura Allen

Dena Hall was born in Gainesville, Florida of "goodly parents." Her mother and a brother were members of the Church, and although her father was not, he supported the family in their church callings. Dena grew up in Gainesville and worked for the University of Florida Medical Center in the Pediatric Department until she married. She has served in many different callings in Primary, Young Women, and Relief Society and feels she has benefitted from each one. Just prior to this calling she served as Homemaking counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency.

Her husband, Rex, was in the Navy when they married so they did a bit of traveling in their early years. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Rex joined Control Data, a computer manufacturing and repairing firm, where his hours are long and unpredictable. The Halls moved to Tallahassee from Niceville, Florida (near Ft. Walton Beach) four years ago when an opening with Control Data came available at Florida State University. Rex currently serves as assistant scoutmaster in Tallahassee Third Ward and has a strong testimony of scouting.

The Halls tell us that their four children are "truly our joy here on this earth": Chris, 16; Brian, 13; Mark, 9; and Janel, 6.

After dropping outside employment for 17 years to be a homemaker, Dena recently returned to the workforce. She is a teacher's aid in the craft department at Gretchen Everhart School for physically and mentally handicapped children and finds her association with these special spirits very rewarding. She likes having the same hours as her own children so she is able to be home with them.

JoAnn Bone is the Homemaking counselor. A convert of 4 years, she works for the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as a computer analyst. Her husband, Ernie, is assistant stake executive secretary. They have six children and one granddaughter.

Laura Allen is the Education counselor. She has a degree in Childhood Development, Certified in Special Education, and is a teacher at Gretchen Everhart where she works with the profoundly physically and mentally handicapped children. Laura served a full-time mission for the Church in Mexico.

The secretary, Mary Zauche, is working on her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature at Florida State University. She is a convert who served a full-time mission in Peru. Her husband, Alan, teaches one of the two Gospel Doctrine classes in Tallahassee Third Ward. Their son, Cameron, turned a year old in January. ❖

YOUNG WOMEN

Suzanne (Suzi) Chapple was born in Jackson County (Kansas City), Missouri and was raised in Overland Park, Kansas, a suburb. Her family was active in a Protestant church and in spite of her noble birthplace, she knew nothing of the Mormon Church until she went to Bryce Canyon National Park (Utah) for a summer job following her freshman year in college. She was favorably impressed with the Mormons she met and singled out a young man to tell her what it was all about. He told her, baptized her the following summer, and they were married a year later.

Richard & Suzanne moved to Illinois shortly after their marriage where he continued graduate work. They felt Heavenly Father brought them to Tallahassee in 1971 when Rich was hired to a faculty position at FSU. Suzi explains, "That first winter when Rich mowed the lawn and washed the car on New Year's Day, we knew we were where we wanted to be!" The Chapples have six children: Larissa, 16; Marika, 15; Michael, 13; Allyson, 11-1/2; Ashley, 9; and Lindsay, 6.

Prior to the arrival of her children, Suzi worked in printing production with the University of Illinois Press and later as secretary with an internationally-respected psychologist. Currently, when she is not being what she calls a "harried homemaker" she works occasionally outside the home doing clerical work and housecleaning. With two children in elementary school, two in middle school, and two in high school, she makes time to volunteer her services in the schools. She has also served as Treasurer of Big Bend Right to Life.

In recent years, Suzi has served in the Church in three Young Women presidencies, three Primary presidencies, as Primary chorister and as choir director. Other callings have included stake missionary, Relief Society president and teacher, and several stake youth callings when this stake was first organized.

Peggy Dransfield, first counselor in the Young Women presidency, also served with Cherie Garr as first counselor. She is from Blountstown, Florida, married to Dale Dransfield of the mission presidency, and is mother to three sons and two

*L to R; front: Suzanne Chapple, Peggy Dransfield;
back: Carol Austin, Renee Anderson*



daughters in the Young Women program. "She brings valuable experience to our new presidency and is a sweet and wonderful friend to me and to our young women," said Suzi.

Carol Belnap Austin, second counselor, is from St. Petersburg, Florida. She recently married Curtis Austin in the Salt Lake Temple. Carol grew up in the Church; her father has been a stake president and is now serving as a regional representative; her mother has served in a stake Young Women presidency for 12 years! Carol served a mission to Taiwan and has been a high school science teacher. Suzanne added, "She is an outstanding teacher and has already delighted the young women in our stake who have met her."

Renee Anderson, recently released as stake Relief Society president when her husband was called to the stake presidency, is the Stake Young Women Secretary. Suzi said, "Her talents abound and her experience and dependability are priceless!" Renee is the mother of two and grandmother to five with the sixth on the way.

When asked about goals, Sister Chapple replied, "The Stake young women leadership has been outstanding through the years; we hope to continue the same quality of example, guidance, and encouragement. We desire to see continued growth in the testimonies and in the courage of our young women to live righteous principles. There is the promise of much joy and peace in this life and in the life to come as we stand for truth and righteousness, and we desire that the Young Women of our stake will experience and recognize such joy and peace while they are young." ❖

Genealogy

We now have a 30 minute VHS tape that answers these questions:

1. What do I know?
2. What do I want to learn?
3. What records does the library have?
4. How do I obtain a record?
5. What do I do next?

Please contact Sister Lorine Lahtinen to arrange a private or group showing. Call (904) 878-5087 after 4 p.m.

Calendar

February

- 21-22 Stake Conference*
- 22 Family Fireside via satellite
- 27-28 Stake Basketball Tournament

March

- 1 Quincy Ward Conference
- 7 Young Men/Young Women Super Saturday
- 8 Stake Singles Fireside
- 10 Stake News deadline
- 14-15 Regional conference in Jacksonville (no local Sunday services)*
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Region Basketball Tournament
- 22 Thomasville Ward Conference
- 24-28 Stake Temple Week*
- 27-28 Young Women Girl's Camp

April

- 4-5 General Conference
- 11 Boy Scout Eagle Merit Day
- 12 Perry Branch Conference
- 17-18 Roadshows
- 17 Good Friday
- 19 Easter Sunday
- 25 Primary Day Camp

*see article in this issue for more information

Pumpin' Iron

Although it did not draw the crowd nor will it attain the notoriety of "The Shootout at the OK Corral," 26 males and 7 females clashed in a contest at Doug's Gym, Moultrie, Georgia on December 14, 1986. They represented areas of South Georgia and North Florida in the Sunbelt Bench Press Contest.

Mark Clanton, 149 pounds, from the Thomasville Ward, shot down his opponents and won first place in the 125-149 pound weight division by bench pressing 340 pounds.

Neil B. Roberts, Jr., 169 pounds, from the Moultrie Branch pushed to second place in the 150-175 pound weight division by bench pressing 370 pounds.

If you haven't figured it out yet, Mark and Neil both bench pressed more than two times their body weight. Anybody need a piano moved? ❖



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Tallahassee II and III Break Ground



Bishop Don Whitley (Tallahassee III) takes his turn.

by Jeannie McInelly
Tallahassee Third Ward

On a cloudy, cold, rain-threatening day the people stood on wet clay waiting for the ceremony to start. They were smiling. Smiling? Yes -- the long-awaited groundbreaking for the new chapel on Thomasville Road in Tallahassee was underway.

Charlie Bowen, first counselor in the Third Ward, greeted the hearty band. President Loran Anderson gave the invocation and blessed the site. The construction supervisor described the building plans and expressed the hope that weather permitting, construction would be completed by October. President Paul Nicholson amended that prediction by saying, "That probably means November." The three members of the Stake Presidency, along with Bishop Don Whitley of Tallahassee Third and Brother Roger Lunt, first counselor in the Tallahassee Second Ward, then turned the first shovels of earth.

As the children's choir sang the closing hymn, people forgot they were standing on wet clay and could visualize the children singing in the completed chapel. They could see them returning here many times for Sunday meetings, dances, early morning seminary, firesides, and later as adults bringing their own children. ❀



Children's Choir

Crawfordville

by Fran Council
Crawfordville Public Communications Director

Most people start the New Year with a bang, but Crawfordville outdid itself. On December 31st we had our first double baptism. Orville Bouce Hilliker was baptized by Harold Brown, his grandfather, and Roy Less Tompkins was baptized by his friend Robert Little.

We'd also like to welcome as members Mindy Little, who was baptized by her father Bob Little, Keith Carroll, who was baptized by his friend Jon McCabe, and the Haskins family who moved into the Branch from Tallahassee.

Uppermost in everyone's mind is having FINALLY, totally qualified for the new addition to our building, the "chapel" phase. Hopefully, groundbreaking can be our way of starting the new year right.

Special awards were given to Kelli Allen, Shannon Tucker, Karman Hilliker, Holly Hunter and Sherri Kight for their work at the Atlanta Temple. The Branch is really proud of these young ladies.

Chef Scott Hill was the return guest speaker at the November homemaking meeting with a special presentation on how to prepare a gourmet meal. A chicken dish and rice dish were prepared by him and then served to the group. Salad and dessert were furnished by the branch. Chef Hill announced the class on the Anna Johnson Good Morning Show prior to the homemaking meeting and there were actually equal non-members to members present.

A spontaneous goodbye dinner was given for Elder Shull who we will miss deeply. Stan Tucker brought his banjo. He was joined by Bill Wasdin on the spoons, Bob Little playing his comb, the youth making harmonious noises and the branch joining in singing such favorites as "Oh Susannah," "Clementine," etc. It was a memorable night. ❀



Making music in Crawfordville with Bill Wasdin (left), Stan Tucker (center) and Bob Little (right).

The Language of Prayer



by Richard Chapple
Tallahassee Second Ward

President Ezra Taft Benson has written, "In all of our prayers it is well to use the sacred pronouns of the scriptures--*thee, thou, thy and thine* when addressing Deity in prayer, instead of the more common pronouns *you, your, and yours*. In this arrangement we show greater respect to Deity."

It is noteworthy that President Benson's statement is found in a message entitled "Improving Communication with Our Heavenly Father." It is also noteworthy that President Benson mentions the language of prayer in connection with making our prayers meaningful and pertinent. Thus, in a sensitive and spiritual way, language can improve our prayers.

This improvement will likely not be in what we say but rather in how we feel. Using the language of prayer makes us more aware of our feelings toward our Father in Heaven.

The peculiar language of prayer that is found in the scriptures has its origin in those languages that make use of two pronouns to express the idea of *you*. In these languages one word for *you* (in Old English *thou*) referred to a person with whom the speaker had a close relationship, such as a family member or a close friend. *Thou* could also refer to any child or even the family pet! The other word for *you* (in Old English *ye*) referred to a person with whom the speaker wanted to be formal or proper. *Ye* also referred to a group of people.

All languages did not resolve the matter of prayer in the same way. Some made use of the familiar *thou* to refer to both one's earthly father and his Heavenly Father. Thus, when a person prays in English, he should feel a close, intimate, and loving relationship with his Maker.

Learning to use the language of prayer becomes easy with practice. The most common phrases will be "we ask thee," "we thank thee," "thy Son," "thy blessings," etc. The use of *thou* takes more practice. Common phrases will be "thou art," "thou knowest," "thou lovest," "thou dost," etc.

Other than practice in one's personal prayers, the best thing that we can do to learn the language of prayer is to read the scriptures regularly. This will familiarize us with King James English and place phrases in our minds that will ultimately appear in our prayers. Praying and reading the scriptures complement one another in a most sacred way.

President Benson's counsel to us is important as is his testimony, "I testify that there is a God in heaven who hears and answers prayer. I know this to be true, for he has answered mine. I would humbly urge all persons--member and nonmember alike--to keep in close touch with our Father in Heaven through prayer. That we will constantly depend upon our Heavenly Father and conscientiously strive to improve our communication with him is my earnest plea." ❀

Concentrated Efforts Needed at Temple

The stake president received the following letter from the Atlanta Temple:

Dear President:

As we look ahead to 1987 we feel a great need to achieve a greater balance in our Temple attendance patterns. At present we have relatively few patrons in the Temple on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, while Friday and Saturday are quite heavily attended--and this often results in lengthy delays for many patrons. This disparity of attendance we feel, is counter-productive in that it does not make the most efficient use of our Temple facilities.

In an effort to solve this dilemma we have taken the liberty of preparing a schedule of "Temple Days" for your consideration. See below for the schedule for your stake.

The goals you have selected should be attainable while attending the Temple during the weeks indicated. Please note the schedule is for the entire Temple week, Tuesday through Saturday.

We suggest that you plan to accomplish 60-70% of your goals on the assigned Temple days, with the balance derived from off-schedule attendance. We recognize that Temple attendance in the forepart of the week presents some challenges, but feel it can be solved by a spirit of commitment.

Thanks for your continued dedication and constant support in this great work.

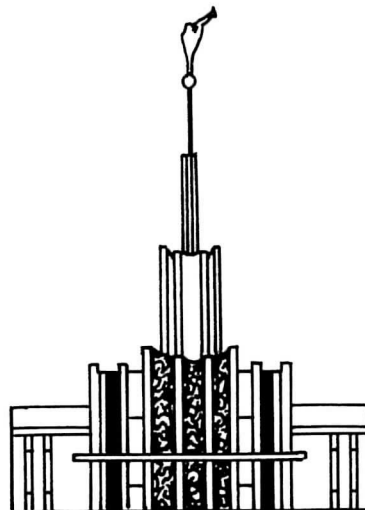
Sincerely,

The Atlanta Temple Presidency

.....

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA STAKE WEEKS FOR CONCENTRATED EFFORT

TEMPLE WEEK OF: (TUESDAY - SATURDAY)
MARCH 24 MAY 19 JUNE 23 SEPTEMBER 29
NOVEMBER 10



YOUNG WOMEN

THE RISING
GENERATION

by Les Horton
Tallahassee Third Ward
Young Women Activities Specialist

On a cool, breezy, somewhat dismal October morning at dawn, about 115 Young Women of the Tallahassee Florida Stake gathered on the steps of the new Capitol building in Tallahassee. Joined by parents, leaders, teachers and friends, they managed to shun the less-than-pleasant weather conditions to tie messages of love, hope, peace, and encouragement to helium-filled balloons as part of a "Worldwide Celebration."

The night before, the Young Women of Tallahassee Third Ward hosted and housed the Young Women from Bainbridge, Cairo, Crawfordville, Moultrie, Quincy, Tallahassee First and Second, and Thomasville to build a closer bond of sisterhood while preparing spiritually to share in this Worldwide Celebration with 300,000 Young Women in 95 countries throughout the world. Their purpose? To renew the Young Women's commitments to living the high standards of the Church in these tempestuous times.

The audience was greeted by Sister Linda Campora (Tallahassee Third Ward Young Women President) who shared a letter from Mrs. Adele Graham, wife of then Governor Bob Graham. It was a letter of commendation and admiration as well as encouragement to the young women of today to hold fast to the values which they profess. Talks summarizing each of the seven values, which are Faith, Divine Nature, Individual Worth, Knowledge, Choice and Accountability, Good Works, and Integrity, were given by Laurels of the Tallahassee Third Ward.

The Young Women's chorus sang beautiful renditions of "My Star Is Rising," "I Walk By Faith" and the powerful finale of "Carry On" as the balloons were released to the four winds to bring their special messages to others.

Breakfast was served at the Church following the Celebration for the girls, their parents and guests.



Youth Film Festival

This year's annual Young Men/Young Women Stake Film Festival was presented November 16th at the Stake Center. The Film Festival is an opportunity for the youth to share the joy of their achievements via service in the community. Through much planning and prayer the youth enjoyed numerous opportunities to have fun and grow spiritually by participating in these service projects.

Tallahassee First Ward planned a birthday party for "their own Earth Angel," Shawnee Stuckey, a Mia Maid who is mentally handicapped and has severe epilepsy. We were able to enjoy the thrill and excitement that was felt by those who took part in this special event through a narrated slide show. One young woman commented that she had learned "a whole new dimension on living."

Bainbridge made the evening come alive by illuminating their project on video tape coupled with some fast-paced music. We all learned how to really get a house painted in a hurry: just spend a few weeks video-taping a group of young people slapping paint on a house and run the tape on fast-forward. The house looked terrific. The Bainbridge youth did a fine job.

Tallahassee Third Ward put their feet in fast-forward to raise money to help Cameron Paige, a leukemia victim, meet medical expenses. Slides and video were combined to highlight their rewarding walk-a-thon experience. The youth met at the Church and walked twenty-two miles to Wakulla Springs. After reaching Wakulla, the participants were treated to a picnic and a refreshing swim for those who could still find the energy!

The Monticello Branch depicted their hardworking youngsters on slides as they helped in the beautification of The Old Opera House which is currently undergoing renovation. We viewed nimble young fingers tugging at weeds, piling scrap, and having more fun than imaginable. (Now to get them to be as enthusiastic about the family garden...) Their service project was a real help to The Old Opera House.

Most of the youth in the other wards and branches of the stake were also involved in service throughout the year but chose not to document their efforts at the Film Festival.

The stake is very proud of the youth and their leaders, from all the branches and wards, for the many hours of planning and labor that went into each service project. These experiences taught them that rewards for giving service come in many forms. It is one of the greatest blessings an individual can enjoy. We are looking forward to increased involvement and enthusiasm for next year's Film Festival. ❖

Calls...

Rob Speck (Tallahassee III)
Canada Toronto Mission

Kerry Hammock (Tallahassee I)
Japan Tokyo Mission



...and Releases

Leslie Williams (Tallahassee II)
Taiwan Taipei Mission

Stake Mission Presidency, from Page 1

District president, a counselor in the mission presidency, the mission executive secretary, stake president, regional representative and is presently serving as regional welfare services agent. President Lybbert was responsible for initiating the first Institute of Religion in our stake and served as Director for two years. The first few classes were taught in his home.

President Lybbert said that this is one of the most exciting church assignments he has had. "We are organized," he says "and I can see a significant monthly increase in convert baptisms in the very near future."

President Lybbert is married to the former Beverly Jean Snow from Provo, Utah. They have six children, seven grandchildren with the eighth on the way.

President Winfield (Win) Broadhurst, Jr. was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. His family moved to the Eastern shore of Maryland on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay when he was two. At fifteen, they moved to Newport News, Virginia and one year later came south to Jacksonville. It was here that he met his future wife, Carolyn Steadwell. They were married in 1962. His employment with the Florida Department of Transportation took them to Gainesville in July of 1965. In 1968 their neighbors, the James R. Christianson family, brought them into the Church.

President Broadhurst said, "They were perfect examples of how members are to perform missionary activities with their neighbors. They prayed about us, taught us the gospel, and held our hands until we went to the temple. They will always be our dearest friends for they have changed our eternal lives and the lives of untold numbers for generations to come."

Win and Carolyn have five children and are also proud grandparents of a granddaughter.

Marvin Goldstein was born in Columbus, Ohio to Bernice and Sanford Goldstein. He lived in Columbus until he was nine at which time his family moved to Ft. Lauderdale where he stayed until he turned eighteen. He attended his first year of college at Tel Aviv, Israel, his sophomore year found him at FSU, his third year at Salzburg, Austria and returned to FSU for his Bachelors and Masters degrees. His area of study was Musical Performance.

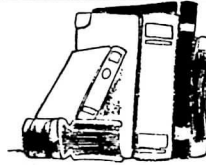
Marvin married Lanae Robison in 1972 and they have one son, Nicholas, age 3-1/2. Lanae has been a member for six years; Marvin joined the Church June 2, 1985 and took his family to the temple June 6, 1986. In addition to his musical performances, Marvin is a realtor with Coldwell Banker.

Our new Stake Mission Presidency hopes all will "catch" the missionary fever and prepare for the ensuing blessings. ❀

* * * * *

Please contact these Ward and Branch Mission Leaders if you have questions or need assistance with your missionary endeavors:

Bainbridge -- Donnie Davis (no phone)
Cairo -- Cal Walker (377-4421)
Crawfordville -- Jon McCabe (421-0474)
Madison -- President Pat Lightcap (973-2313)
Monticello -- James Abbott (997-5695)
Moultrie -- A. James Parrish (985-1917)
Perry -- Jim Lee (584-2848)
Quincy -- Tommy Ferrell (539-8820)
Tallahassee I -- David Salisbury (386-8323)
Tallahassee II -- John Morgan (575-4948)
Tallahassee III -- Steven McInelly (893-7531)
Thomasville -- Woodrow Cranford (226-9336)



Book Review

by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

In his latest masterpiece, *Meek and Lowly*, Elder Neal A. Maxwell addresses a subject vitally important to the modern Latter-day Saint. In a world where strength and power are the objects of popular desire, Elder Maxwell explains why meekness--underrated and seldom practiced--is a virtue necessary for developing a Christ-like life. Because Neal Maxwell is a popular author, this book makes an excellent gift for those who appreciate inspirational writing.

In 1987, Americans nationwide will unite to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States--the most perfect political document ever created. Latter-day Saints believe the Constitution was inspired by God, and that in the last days they will be called on to preserve it. The *Charter of Liberty*, written by William O. Nelson, assistant executive secretary to the Council of the Twelve, explains the Constitution's origin, the motivations of the men who created it, and its relationship to the gospel.

The statistics are constantly rising: in the world, in the Church, even in temple marriages, more and more couples are facing the tragedy of divorce. Divorce is a hard experience. *Divorce and Beyond: Keys To Survival and Success* can help Latter-day Saints evaluate the need for divorce and show them how to make the best of the experience. This book is written by Gary L. Judkins and Marci Owen, both active Latter-day Saints, both divorced. *Divorce and Beyond* would be a helpful gift to a recent divorcee, or an informative reference book for counselors who want to help Latter-day Saints facing divorce. ❀

One Man's Vision

The editors of the Stake News thought it would be interesting to look at the Festival of Music and Lights from the "inside". We talked with Max Sweat, who is not only largely responsible for the idea, the design, and the labor, but who also stayed at the Church every night during the hours that the lights were on. Following is a summary of our visit with Brother Sweat.

Where did you get the idea for the Festival of Music and Lights, and why did you want to see it done here?

While I was in Salt Lake, I saw the lighting of Temple Square and noticed how many people were attracted to the Visitors Center because of the lights. I saw it as a good missionary effort for us to decorate the stake center with lights.

I felt it would do a lot to break barriers and prejudices here. Non-members would be attracted to the Church, feel the spirit and have a desire to know about the Church. Since some other churches are teaching that we are not Christians, we do not believe in Jesus Christ or the New Testament, and since the "Godmakers" film is shown so frequently here, I thought it would be very timely to demonstrate our belief in Christ. The first year of the Festival, the *Tallahassee Democrat* printed a color picture on the front page showing our celebration of Christmas with the Festival of Music and Lights. That same

day, a Church showed the "Godmakers." I couldn't help but think that the people, after seeing the "Godmakers," must have wondered, "If those people don't believe in Christ, then why are they celebrating Christmas in such a grand style?"

Is there a special method or technique for putting the lights up and does it take very long?



Richmond Jones, Max Sweat, and Ann Cluff stringing lights on the eaves of the stake center.

This year it took about 2-1/2 months; Ann Cluff and Richmond Jones helped considerably. Before we started the first year, I went to Salt Lake City to interview the person in charge of lighting at Temple Square and learned how to wrap the lights. Next, I drew a diagram of the stake center, with the bushes and trees, and I went through the picture with my mind's eye trying to create an impression as to how the lights should look, estimating the number of lights needed. John Morgan was able to calculate and construct the electrical requirements in a very professional way. Specially constructed conduit and electrical wiring were needed. The idea I tried to create was of trees and shapes sculptured out of lights bringing out the natural colors in certain areas and bringing out other colors in other areas.

Were there any problems with vandalism or theft?

This year, compared to last, we had very little theft. That's because we took extra precautions. The most frequent problem was the removal of the pretty little lights by members' children; they see them, and they're pretty, and they want to take them home with them so they take the bulb out. One missing light will put out fifty or more other lights. That problem greatly decreased after announcements were made in the various wards asking that the children leave the lights there so Heavenly Father's house would not be dark.

Is there any estimate of how many people came to see the lights?

We had a traffic counter provided by

the Department of Transportation arranged by Byron Rudd. From Thanksgiving (the day we turned the lights on) until a day or two after Christmas, the counter recorded 39,904 cars. If that number were multiplied by an average of three or four persons per car, we would have had between 90,000 and 200,000 people that saw the lights. Many of those cars were our own members, but the cars were only counted at night and the counter was taken down the last two weeks of the Festival.

I wish the members of the Church could have seen the multitudes of people coming here during Christmas week, especially Christmas Eve and Christmas night. There were times when we had traffic backed-up to Call Street and to the stadium in the other direction. There were times when, for about two and a half hours, the sidewalks were crowded with people. Several hundreds were taking pictures, walking around with their children, looking at the lights, listening to the music, and seeing "Mr. Kreuger's Christmas." It was so rewarding to see them enjoying themselves here at the Lord's Church, seeing the name "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" and absorbing the feeling of beauty and peace.

Did you talk to anyone that came to see the Festival?

Yes. One police woman said that she had been in Tallahassee for two years and had driven Stadium Drive frequently. She said she didn't even know there was a building where our church is until she saw these lights. She proceeded to ask some

questions which led me to believe that the spirit was working within her. One woman was from Chicago. She said, "I feel the spirit of Christmas in those lights." Another who saw the lights, heard the music, and came in to see the film "Mr. Krueger's Christmas," said, "All my life I was taught that Mormons do not believe in Jesus Christ. But no one will ever tell me that again." An FSU student was jogging around the track one night and heard Z-103 announce the lights and decided to see them. She said, "I can feel

Christ in these lights. For all the people who see the lights but aren't members of your Church, let me say thank you."

In a previous year an FSU student said, "I haven't had the Christmas spirit at all this year and I saw the lights from a distance and heard the music and I came to see the lights. Now I've got it. Thank you so very much."

These are the things that these lights are all about--helping people to remember what Christmas is for, to remember that Jesus Christ was born and what he means to the world. That is the focus and purpose behind all of the time, money and effort involved. These lights help to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to bring souls to him.

Has there been any interest in the Church because of the lights?

A woman called and asked if she had to be a member to come to the Church to visit our services. She had seen the lights and realized that it was the same Church that she had seen on television producing the "Homefront" series. A man visited the Church and left with a Book of Mormon because of the interest the Festival generated in him. Last year, one fellow said that his daughter had to see the lights every time she went out of the house at night. After the lights were turned off, she told her dad that she wanted to go to church at the church that had all the lights. When members and missionaries talk to people about the Church they report hearing, "Oh, you're the people with all those beautiful Christmas lights!"

Are there any specific things planned for next year's Festival?

We are hoping to do some advertising to let more people know the lights are here. We hope to have more signs for directing the visitors. We would like to have a brochure explaining what the lights are about, with a schedule for performances, and a pamphlet for visitors including our meeting times, a telephone number, and address they can contact for more information about our Church. Next year we might show both "Mr. Kreuger's Christmas" and the abbreviated version of "Our Heavenly Father's Plan." Carollers and a live manger scene are also being considered. The activities committee will work on these suggestions.

Do the lights have a special meaning for you?

Yes, they definitely do! The meaning for me is almost totally spiritual. It is my way of using my creativity and artistic expression to bear my testimony of God, of Christ, his Church and his Gospel. It's my way of creating something that will touch a person's heart and soul. I feel it is a joint creation. I do a lot of praying when I am designing and hanging the lights, I feel the honors and compliments that go along with the lights really belong to the Lord. His spirit is in the Festival of Music and Lights. People feel that spirit and that's what makes it so beautiful. We are just instruments in his hands whereby he can do wonderful things, as is the case in so much of our service.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Both the former and present stake presidencies have been very supportive of the Festival. Also, our stake physical facilities representative, Bill Clark, has been generous with his support to help get the Christmas lighting off the ground and keep it going.

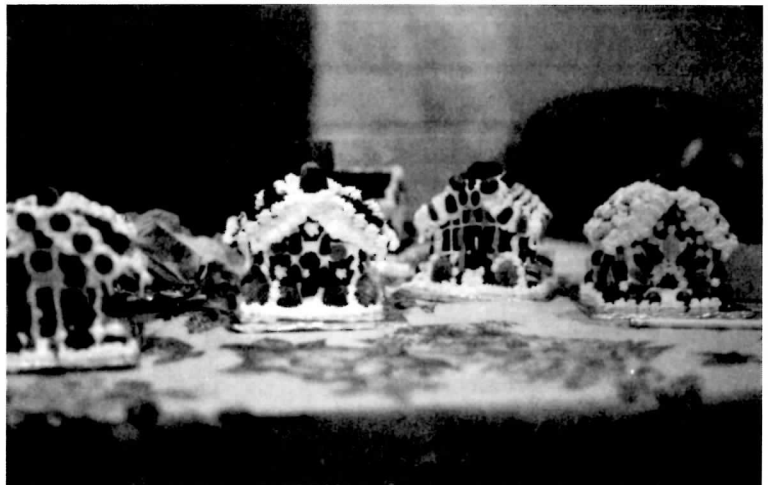
The Festival of Music and Lights is the product of the efforts of many people. Many have contributed their time, their money, their prayers, and support in various ways to the success of the Festival. We had about twice as many people see the lights as last year. I imagine this number will continue to increase. The members have done a lot to spread the word. It does my heart a lot of good to hear members say how good it makes them feel to hear their friends compliment them about the lights, how beautiful they thought it was and how much they appreciated it. I'm glad the members have the opportunity to hear their friends saying positive things about the Church. It warms my heart to see the pride of membership it creates. ❀

At a Glance...

Scenes from the Stake Homemaking Fair held October 25.



Counted cross-stitch class (Cindy Bryan and Lynda Bergstrom)



Making gingerbread houses (Gail Schrader)



Display on food preservation

Other classes offered were: Cinnamon Bears (Connie & Dot Rudd), Stress Management (Lin Voyles), Time Management (Gail Roberts), Food Storage (JoAnn Bone & Leslie Newman), Foil Punch Ornaments (Linda Rudd), Quilting (Sue Haskins). Several displays offered lots of helpful ideas on everything from cleaning to genealogy.

Sharing

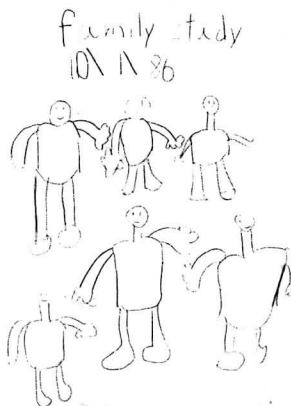


The Stake News is pleased to announce a new addition to the format of the bi-monthly publication. Beginning with this issue we will have a page devoted to the artistic expressions of members of this Stake. You are invited to submit poems, short stories, music script, and drawings. We encourage everyone to participate. As the contributions increase, we would like to have a page devoted to Primary children including their original drawings, poems, and stories or thoughts. Likewise, we would like to see the Relief Society, Young Men, Young Women, and Priesthood represented in each issue. This is your opportunity to share your talents with others and to develop and improve the skills you have been blessed with. Please submit your contributions to "SHARING," c/o Marion Whitley, 5084 Tallow Pt., Tallahassee, FL, 32308.

A FAMILY

Parents and their children are a family. All the people in a family are relatives. My family is the Bowen family. Every family member has a job to do in my house. For instance, my father fixes things, my mother washes things, my brother sets the table, my sister cleans and I entertain my brothers. We're a team.

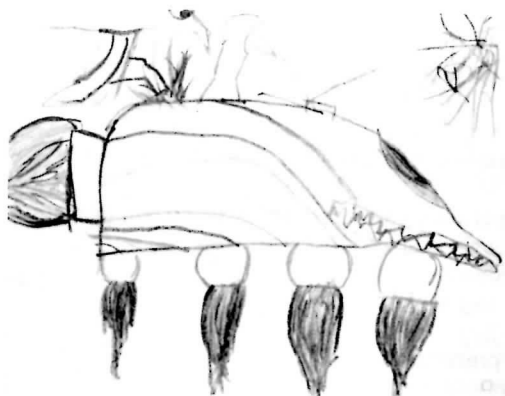
Chuck Bowen, age 7
Tallahassee Third Ward



GUIDELINES

for submitting material to "Sharing"

- ✓ Drawings may be done in pencil, ink, chalk or crayon. Color originals are acceptable; however, it is best to avoid blues and greens. These colors fade in black and white camera reproduction. Also keep in mind that some detail may be lost in reduction of size for printing.
- ✓ Our ability to print will be limited, to some extent, by the length of submissions.
- ✓ All submissions will be printed at the discretion of the editors.
- ✓ Submissions will be returned after use only if requested.



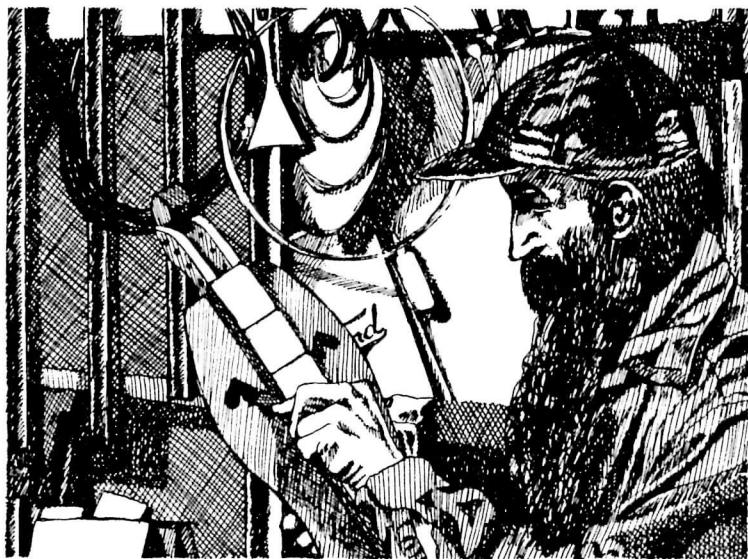
Benjamin Miller, age 7
Tallahassee First Ward

THE NINTH MONTH

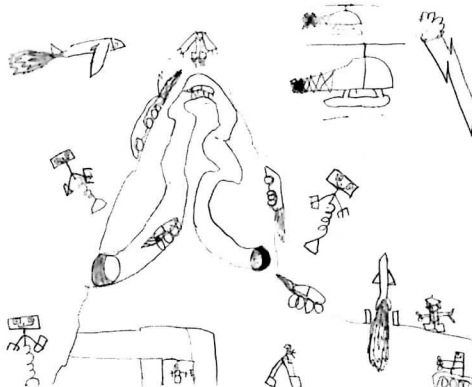
Making ponderous way,
I plow through toys and blocks and briefcase droppings.
I wobble to an easy chair
And lower myself uneasily in.
Resting my arms across a bloated middle,
I stare at the bulk of work undone.

Just then, the baby kicks gently –
A rapid rippling of motion that, if it were sound,
Would resemble tumblers
Shifting in a shiny lock and
Falling into perfect place.

Claire Taber Bowen
Tallahassee Third Ward



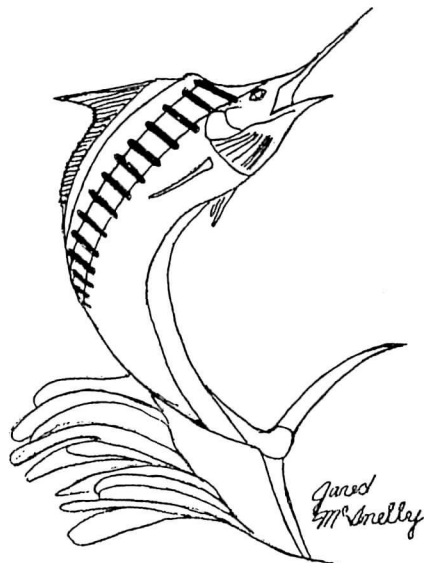
Claire Taber Bowen
Tallahassee Third Ward



Machines can go into the air.
And where they land, I don't care.
Machines can work quite nice
But not at all in frozen ice.
Machines can go into the sea
But the machines of my picture
Are just a fantasy.

Michael Miller, age 10
Tallahassee First Ward

Sharing



23 POUNDS

The smell of bacon, eggs, and toast plus all the noise woke me up. It was 6:00 a.m. and the moon was still up. I got dressed and went out on the back porch of the third story condo I was staying in with my best friend, Michael Faust.

The wind had a certain spice to it, the full moon put a bright

streak across the ocean. I took a deep breath filling my lungs with the strong smell of the ocean. That smell would produce in me the wildest of my dreams.

Half an hour later the Fausts and I were jammed in the car headed for the marina.

We had a little trouble starting the boat but by 7:15 a.m. we were on our way.

The boat rounded the corner and into a channel. It was full of boats, a few had screaming people with rods bent and hard pulling fish.

A little while later Mr. Faust came down from up top (the boat had two stories) and picked out 4 poles from the rack of 12. He began to rig them using an octopus-type lure and a hook with 2 trailer hooks. The first hook was put through the head of a cigar minnow the were left trailing. (sic)

Four poles were rigged and ready, 3 with cigar minnows (for King Mackerel) and 1 with a weighted jig spoon (for Spanish Mackerel).

It was my turn for a fish and I was ready. Suddenly one of the king lines buzzed. At almost the same instance one on the left buzzed. I jumped for the closest one and Michael went for the other. So here we are, my best friend and me, both fighting huge fish not to cross lines. Ten minutes later we were both holding 15 pound bonito's, a fish that resembles the Jack Crevalle but full of bones so we realeased them both.

Around 1:00 we hadn't had a strike for more than an hour, Michael and his sister were asleep in the cabin. The rocking of the boat was putting me and Mrs. Faust (who was sitting in the chair next to me) asleep.

My dreams were awakend by the high pitched screeching of one reel, but before I could make a move the fish came loose. I reeled in the line and rebaited the hook. As soon as I sat down one of the drags screamed.

Mrs. Faust grabbed it, set the hook and handed it to me. I willingly took it and set it in the slot on the chair and held on!

There was nothing I could do, the line was zipping out so fast that it looked as if it would burn!

Twenty minutes later my arms were limp and the fish was

almost in. I stared in horror when a long brownish figure swam up against the boat. Mrs. Faust grabbed the gaff hook and strained when pulling the monster fish aboard. The flipping and banging of the fish awoke Michael and his sister but a few good hits on the head put a stop to the racket.

When we got back to the marina we weighed the fish: 23 pounds!

Luck was with me that day! The fish was hooked with one hook thru the skin on the top of his head.

The fish was put to good use, he was used to help fellowship a new family in our ward at a fish fry. We cooked that fish 5 different ways. It tasted so good!

The most stunning fact was that if I had caught him one week earlier I would have won 10,000 dollars at a fishing tournament held in that marina (the prize winning fish weighed 21 lbs).

Jared McNelly, age 13
Tallahassee Third Ward

THE MAJESTY OF TEMPLE SQUARE

I walked today on temple square.
The spires of the temple rose majestically against the sky,
And the angel Moroni glistened
In the golden rays of the sun.

A feeling of inner peace prevails on those holy grounds
And as I walked along the flower-strewn paths
And pondered in my heart
The messages of prophets of God,

I felt the presence of divinity.
The fears and sorrows of the world disappeared,
And a surge of joy filled my bosom
Such as I have never known.

I was awed by the beautiful spirit
That seems to permeate the grounds;
A spirit of love and peace and happiness,
A spirit of purity and reverence.

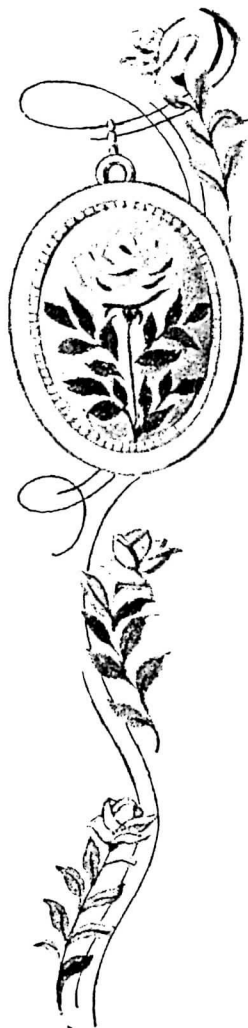
It was as though heaven's gates were opened
For those who cared to glimpse;
If ever there was a heaven on earth
It was there in that holy place.

A voice seemed to whisper
Words of comfort and peace,
The Lord in all His majesty
Was with me there today.

I sat silently with my thoughts,
Thrilling to the beauty and intensity of my feelings,
And I offered a prayer of thanksgiving
For the blessings of this hour.

Lin Voyles
Tallahassee Third Ward

Holidays



VALENTINE'S DAY

There have been valentines from the beginning of time yet, oddly enough, the man who originally offered himself as a valentine had nothing so romantic in mind. St. Valentine was a young Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died in A.D. 270 on February 14, the very day that, by coincidence, had been devoted to love lotteries and to fine-feathered friendships. According to legend, he left a farewell note for the jailer's little daughter, who had befriended him in prison, and signed it "from your Valentine".

Another legend about the imprisoned young Christian, Valentine, states that during his confinement, he thought often and longingly of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being. Beyond his window, within his reach, grew some violets. He picked some leaves and pierced them with the words "Remember your Valentine" and sent them off by a dove. On the following day he sent more messages which simply said, "I love you".

Many signs and symbols connected with Valentine's Day are ancient indeed. The red heart, like the red rose, which often crops up on valentine cards, has signified love and emotion since early Roman times.

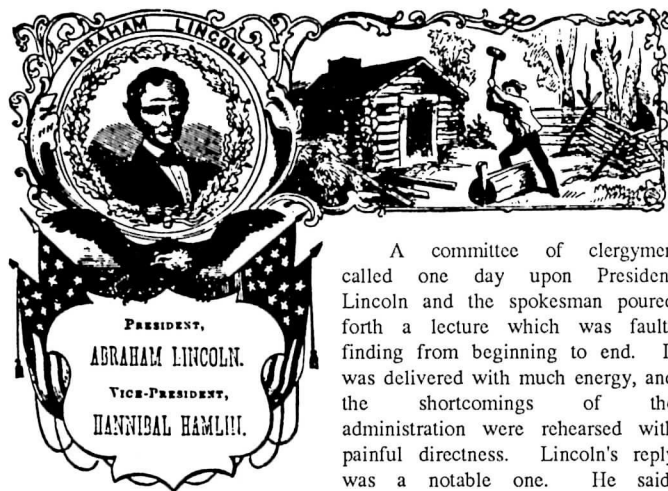


LINCOLN'S AND WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAYS

Every year, by the fortunate coincidence of their February birthdays, America studies again two of its great leaders, Washington and Lincoln, reviews their achievements, and finds new courage in following their precepts and example. Congress each year formally pays tribute to them by reading from their works and listening to an address by one of its members appointed for the purpose, the Congressional Record printing the address.

Lincoln and Washington demonstrate the democracy and opportunity of America--the one born in a log cabin to privation, hardship, and struggle, the other to wealth and position. Each, by his own character, fortitude, and ability achieved the highest honor this country can bestow.

Following are two stories, one from the life of each President.






A committee of clergymen called one day upon President Lincoln and the spokesman poured forth a lecture which was fault-finding from beginning to end. It was delivered with much energy, and the shortcomings of the administration were rehearsed with painful directness. Lincoln's reply was a notable one. He said, "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you possess were in gold and you had placed it in the hand of Blondin to carry across Niagara on a rope. With slow, cautious steps he walks the rope, bearing your all, would you shake the cable, and keep shouting to him, 'Blondin! stoop a little; go a little faster; lean more to the south! now lean to the north!' - would that be your behavior in such an emergency? No; you would hold your breath, every one of you, as well as your tongues. You would keep your hands off until he was safe on the other side. This government, gentlemen, is carrying an immense weight; untold treasures are in its hands. The persons managing the ship of state in this storm are doing the best they can. Don't worry them with needless warnings and complaints. Good day, gentlemen. I have other duties pressing upon me I must attend to."



The Virtue of Truth
(as related to Parson Weems by an aged lady)

"When George," said she, "was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond and was constantly going about chopping everything that came in his way. One day, in the garden, where he often amused himself hacking his mothers peasticks, he unluckily tried the edge of his hatchet on the body of a beautiful young English cherry tree, which he barked so terribly, that I don't believe the tree ever got the better of it. The next morning the old gentlemen, finding out what had befallen his tree, which, by the way, was a great favorite, came into the house, and with much warmth asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time that he would not have taken five guineas for his tree--"George," said his father, "do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry tree, yonder in the garden?" This was a tough question and George staggered under it for a moment; but he quickly recovered himself and looking up at his father, with the sweet face of youth brightened with the inexpressible charm of all-conquering truth, he bravely cried out, "I can't tell a lie, Pa, you know I can't tell a lie; I did cut it with a hatchet." "Run to my arms, my dearest boy; glad I am, George, that you killed my tree; for you have paid me for it a thousand folds. Such act of heroism in my son is worth more than a thousand trees though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold."

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