

Today

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2001

SECTION E



DECORATING

TURN SHUTTERS INTO ART

Exterior Home LLC has launched a new product called Shutterwraps that easily turns shutters into displays of art. Shutterwraps are uniquely designed sections of decorated vinyl that use window shutters as a base for mounting on the home. Shutterwraps' colorful displays simply and securely wrap around any standard shutter on a house giving each home a signature look.

The initial product line includes autumn leaves, pumpkins, ghosts and four Christmas designs. Exterior Home also plans to market spring and summer designs, as well as ones that include religious and cultural symbols, giving homeowners the ability to express personal views and beliefs.

FASHION

COLORFUL STROBES ELECTRIFYING WARDROBES

First there were Belly Lights — a tiny, blinking strobe that allowed people to illuminate their belly button. Now a new product called Body Lights has expanded the use of this flashing fashion feature by allowing consumers to clip the bright flickering light to clothes, hair and shoes.

The Body Light is about the size of a pencil eraser and contains red and green LED lights powered by a replaceable 12-hour watch size batteries. The Body Lights sport a clip much like a clip-on earring that allows a person to attach the flickering light to any article of clothing or hair-do.

HEALTH

BALANCE OUT THE HALLOWEEN INDULGENCE

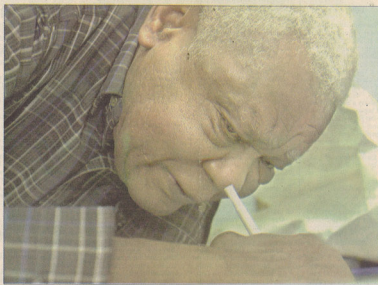
Scare away the pounds this Halloween by balancing out the extra calories consumed and avoiding the candy binge that typically spirals into holiday season weight gain.

Admittedly, eating candy on Halloween is a must. However it does not have to be excessive or result in diet sabotage. The Nutrice Registered Dietitians have compiled a list of ways to balance out the indulgence.

Place the candy for trick-or-treaters upstairs so you have to run up and down the stairs — 10 times and you've burned about 68 calories.

Take your children trick-or-treating and keep up with them 3 hours will burn 500 calories

When eating candy, choose the ones lowest in fat — skittles,



Frank Calloway, a 105 year-old resident at the Alice Kidd nursing facility, draws on butcher paper using a pen. Below is a drawing of a horse that Calloway displays above his desk.

The world THROUGH the eyes OF A 105-YEAR-OLD man

Story by Meredith Cummings
Photos by Jason Getz

Frank Calloway may not be the only resident of the state-run Alice Kidd nursing home facility in Tuscaloosa, but he may draw the most attention.

As other residents sit around a large room waiting for the days to pass, Calloway is hard at work, hunched over a table in the corner, scrawling furiously.

As he stands, bent at the waist peering at an oversized paper-covered table, Calloway leans on his left elbow and fills in a rectangular shape that will become part of a massive 15-foot-long drawing of a house. But not just any house. It is a house he saw long ago, somewhere in his memories.

At 105, Calloway literally draws on his own experiences from more than a century of life in the Deep South. And his houses are in technicolor — with turquoise and pink door frames and orange windows. That's how he likes to think of the world — as brightly colored — even though his memory is one of having grown up in a world of segregation, where black and white were the only colors that seemed to matter.

Calloway speaks in a low, grumbly voice that betrays his kind nature. In his hunched 5-foot-8-inch frame, gray pants, a plaid flannel shirt and coarse, curly gray hair, Calloway could be anyone's grandfather, or for that matter, anyone's great-great-grandfather.

Like his artwork, his weathered face tells a tale of its own — much more than Calloway can tell of himself.

Although Calloway is a spry 105 years, his words don't always make sense, jumbling together quickly.

"I've done all kinds of work, all kinds of work," he says, repeating himself as he often does. "Logging, pigs, brick masonry."

Calloway rambles on as he ticks off the many jobs he has held over the years for countless employers. There's a common theme, though, to the variety of blue-collar pursuits.

"For the white man," he says, "the white man."

Pretty pink houses

As he draws the lines that will become his art, Calloway uses his own system of boxes and straight lines. And even though the lines span 15 feet in some cases, they remain straight the whole way down the long, white paper. For hours at a time he fills in his outline with ink pens that are black as coal.

"Gotta do like they said and keep them lines straight."

"It's on big water, yes ma'am, it's on big water. A heap of people could get on that thing."

Frank Calloway, talking about the drawing of his boat, which he calls the Titanic

he says. "It's hard work I'll tell you."

And when they are done, he heaps on his trademark Willy Wonka-style colors.

Crumpled up sheets of orderly numbers lie beside his drawing. Workers at Alice Kidd suspect that the numbers have something to do with his days as a brick mason and help him to complete his final, brightly-colored product in such a book-like, orderly way.

"All kinds of pretty colors," he says of his drawings of houses. "Pretty colors."

Calloway uses an old, yellowed book cover as a straight edge with occasional help from a weathered JCPenney Catalog. Each line is a labor of love, and as his left fist holds his head, he goes back and colors in the outline with a Bic pen. No fancy tools here, Calloway uses crayons, rolls of newsprint and markers to display his talent.

Calloway's social worker, Jacqueline Owens, says he has been in Alabama's mental health system for 50 years. In the few years she has known him, she's come to recognize his hunched figure looming over the latest Calloway drawing.

"That's all I've ever known him to do," she says.

And watching him, Calloway seems as if he has been in his corner drawing for years, comfortable with himself, neither bothered by, nor interested in, residents who watch old Westerns on television or talk with each other. Calloway talks and sings to himself as he goes, patiently carving his pen into each part of his work, holding it with his curled right hand.

Although he goes on outings to the movies or around town with other residents, when Calloway is home, he is drawing. But if someone approaches him, they are met with kindness.

"He's so pleasant. He's so patient with everybody. I don't know what his secret is. Nothing bothers him," Owens says.

The moon and the sun

Alice M. Kidd Nursing Facility, which sits in the shadow of the main building at Bryce Hospital, is where some of the state's oldest patients spend their final days. It might some day be known as a museum for Calloway, where he sold his first works of art, mostly to Bryce.

SEE CALLOWAY 18E



An example of one of Frank Calloway's drawings is on display in Building No. 35 of the Alice Kidd Nursing Facility. The drawing is about 3 feet high and 15 feet long.

Boomers find themselves desperately seeking Barbie

By Joyce M. Rosenberg
The Associated Press

NEW YORK | She was so pretty — so slender, so poised, her hair in a perfect blond pony tail. Or maybe she was a ruffian with a bobble cut hairdo. Then one day she disappeared.

And now you want your Barbie back. You decide to keep searching until you find her.

That's how the baby boomer quest for Barbie begins. Not the dolls on the shelf at Toys 'R Us or Wal-Mart, but the long-lost Barbies that some boomers would love to find again. The quest often takes them to antique dealers, doll fairs and Internet auction sites.

Dealers say it's all about seeking the comforts of a simpler time. "We have a lot of women who had them and who are rekindling their childhood," said Deanna Overdorf, a boomer Barbie collector who also sells vintage dolls in her Adrian, Mich.-based business, D's Dolls.

That's helped drive up prices for older Barbies. Dolls that date back to 1959, Barbie's first year, and the 1960s can run into the thousands of dollars.

It's not just Barbie that boomers seek — there's a big market for other vintage toys including GI Joe and other action figures, Matchbox and other miniature cars and board games. But Barbie probably tops on heartstrings more than any other toy. Boomer mothers, who have bought multiple Barbies for their children, are a big reason why the doll remains in \$1.6 billion a year in revenue for Mattel Inc.

Many boomers want to replace dolls like their brothers' and sisters' comic books, were tossed into the trash or sold at garage sales, Overdorf said.

Some boomers are getting a replacement Barbie can become something very symbolic. Overdorf

If you're a boomer who only wants to replace a well-loved toy and doesn't need an investment quality doll, these Barbies can also be bought from antique doll dealers or an auction Web site.

said of one of her customers. "Her psychiatrist told her to get the doll she had played with when she was young."

Boomers tend to look for dolls exactly like the ones they had as kids, says Sandi Holder, owner of Doll Attic, a store in Union City, Calif. So if a woman had a Barbie with a blond ponytail or one with a brunette bubble cut, that's the doll she'll seek.

Depending on when the doll was made, its condition and how many are still in existence, that could be pricey.

Collectors look for Barbies and accessories of the highest quality, those that have never been removed from the box or that are free of wear and tear. These dolls can command prices in three, four and sometimes five figures.

Holder said that doesn't mean collectors are looking for replacement Barbies. "They usually know what they're looking for, and they're accustomed to higher prices," she said, noting that she's sold a first-issue mint Barbie still in the box for over \$10,000.

Holder was drawn to Barbie collecting for the same reason as many collectors — her mother once tossed my Barbie and I wanted to pass it to my daughters.

Some boomers might want to look for a Barbie clothes, dolls brought out over the years by



Sandi Holder stands with a few of the hundreds of Barbie dolls she buys and sells in Union City, Calif. Holder's hobby of collecting dolls turned into what is now a 13-year-old business where she buys and sells old and new Barbie dolls. Holder once sold a vintage Barbie for \$14,000.

Mattel competitors who tried and failed to outdo her.

One of the best-known was Tammy, made in the mid-1960s by a company called Ideal. Tammy was always a wallflower compared to Barbie and still is, judging by prices on the auction Web site eBay.

A mint Tammy, still in the box and never played with, recently sold for just under \$90, compared with more than \$3,000 for an early Barbie in similar condition. A collection of Tammy dolls and accessories sold for \$710 —

but one unopened package of Barbie shoes and pocketbooks sold for \$5,000.

If you're a boomer who only wants to replace a well-loved toy and doesn't need an investment quality doll, these Barbies can also be bought from antique doll dealers or an auction Web site.

And if the doll is in good (but not mint) condition you'll pay a lot less than what are known as NREB (never removed from the box) models.

If you still have your Barbie, but it's showing the effects of

having been slept with or used to bash your little brother, you might want to consider taking it to a doll hospital or a dealer who knows how to restore Barbies.

Some dealers say the economy has affected the Barbie business as well as collecting in general, but the demand for the dolls is still very good.

Jo Styers, a collector and dealer in Newton, N.C., reported her sales aren't as robust as they were a few years ago. But, she said of business, "It goes on all the time."

Syers said she has between 4,000 and 5,000 Barbies — an easy total to achieve given the fact that as the doll's popularity has grown, Mattel has turned out hundreds of variations on Barbies.

That's made Barbie a vastly different plaything today than 40 years ago. While the average boomer girl had one, maybe two, Barbies, little girls now are likely to have Barbies running into the double digits.

"My niece is 4 and she has at least 30," Overdorf said.

CALLOWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1E

stuffers. On the wall at Alice Kidd hangs an original Calloway, a picture of a riverboat, where the riverboat. The boat is red, purple, orange and blue and floats smoothly on green water. Just behind the boat trails a perfectly round pink ball, floating just above the water.

The ball, Calloway says, is the sunset on the water the way he remembers it.

It's on big water, yes ma'am, it's on big water," he says of his boat, which he calls the Titanic. "A heap of people could get on that thing."

In another one of his drawings, a two-story multi-colored house that rests on orange grass, is a lavender coracle floating in the sky to the right of the house. It's the moon in all of its eerie, purple seline — the way Calloway sees it. Each story of the house is built carefully and squared, but his art is form.

Even a small horse that he drew recently for an opening of an art exhibit at Montgomery's Museum of Fine Arts has a square at its core. The orange-bodied horse also has pink and purple wrapped around its square form.

105 and counting
In between pen strokes, Calloway has his moments of clarity. "I'm an old man," he says looking around the room. "The oldest one here."

And as a man born in 1896, whose life has spanned three centuries, Calloway would rather not talk about anything else but his art. He often refers to "the boss" as he speaks, and answers everything with yes ma'am or sir, matters from a time when he wasn't allowed to answer any other way. "I was never home when I worked," he says, thinking of younger days. "I had to follow the boss all the time. I'd be gone all the time."

And, he says, the boss asked him to create much of his artwork. It is unclear which employer at which point may have made the request, but it hardly matters. Now, his art is what he has. "The boss told me to draw it, so I did," he says of his riverboat.

Lost time
The only known relative of Calloway is his nephew Johnny Calloway, 43, who lives in Montgomery. He has some memories as a young child of his uncle stopping by to say hello, but he knows little about his uncle's family and past.

"He's been doing that for the longest time," Johnny Calloway

says of his uncle's art. "He's taken up that trade. This is what he does every single day."

Although he hasn't seen any of his uncle's drawings, he will travel to Tuscaloosa soon to do so.

"I can't wait to view some of them myself," he says.

And though no one comes to visit Calloway at Alice Kidd and little is known about his family, Calloway seems content to live his life of art.

Next year his artwork will be featured on 35,000 copies of the Alabama State employees' telephone directory and one copy will be sent to the Library of Congress.

When he was in Montgomery recently, Calloway received the title of Honorary Colonel by Gov. Don Siegelman.

And the governor is not his only fan. Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Commissioner Kathy Sawyer calls Calloway a "most impressive individual."

"We are so pleased that Mr. Calloway's talents are being highlighted so extensively," Sawyer says. "Like many of the individuals served by the DMH/MR, Mr. Calloway is living proof that people with vari-

ous mental or physical disabilities can and do accomplish wonderful and creative things."

Wonderful and creative are words many use to describe Calloway. When he looks up from his drawing — and he rarely does

— Calloway's slumped face conveys an idea of what he has seen and done in his lifetime. His left eye is lower than his right eye and his eyes seem to disappear into his face.

Although dementia has crept

into his life, Calloway says he will keep creating his art, making drawings so thick with crayon that it rubs off on his hands.

As he colors, he squints. The late-afternoon sun is coming in a window and hitting his face.

Through the window tinting, the sun looks pink. Just like the sun in his art.

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