



**AWARDED BRONZE STAR** — Second Lt. Michael S. Cooke is congratulated after being awarded the Bronze Star in Viet Nam. Lieutenant Cooke, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Cooke of Rich Square, has been with the Army's First Infantry Division in Viet Nam for the past three months.

**Century's Fifth Eclipse; Best View At ECU Campus**

By GEOFFREY C. CHAPMAN  
GREENVILLE — North Carolinians will turn their eyes heavenward next March 7 for the second time to witness one of this century's five total solar eclipses over the United States. And many of those who watch with greatest interest will be on the campus of East Carolina University, which is situated dead center of the width of totality.

So rare are total eclipses over any given locale that they occur on an average of once every 360 years. In London there have been only two total eclipses in 14 centuries. In North Carolina, there will have been two in 70 years. As the only major institution in the state so favorably located, and as the center of the most favorable vantage point in the country, ECU will play host to students, scientists and educators from throughout the country for the event. The Greenville campus will be at the center of scientific activity for the eclipse. Only one other spot in the world

is more favorable for telescopic observation — the mountainous area of Oaxaca, Mexico. Because of its altitude and the greater duration of totality, Oaxaca will be the primary area of telescopic observation.

Activity in Greenville will focus primarily on the educational aspects of the eclipse, but scientific observation via radio, photography and telescope will be conducted.

The largest telescope expected to be put to use here during the eclipse is a 10-inch Newtonian Reflector owned by an ECU student from Chesapeake. Sophomore physics major Paul Gallimore will man his huge instrument from atop ECU's new physics building.

Conditions permitting, Gallimore's telescope, which is capable of resolution of a one-half mile area of the moon, will facilitate some detailed study of the action of solar flares during totality. An amateur astronomer and telescope maker since his childhood, Gallimore also plans an attempt to photograph the eclipse.

Dr. R. M. Helms, professor of physics and ECU's resident expert on solar eclipses, calculates that the eclipse will begin at 12:14:05 p.m. on March 7 as the moon moves between the sun and the earth. Totality will begin at 1:31:51 and end at 1:34:48, and the moon will slide completely out of line with the sun at about 2:48:56 p.m.

"In North Carolina," Dr. Helms says, "the center of totality passes near Elizabethtown, LaGrange, Greenville, Williams- ton and Windsor. The totality path enters the United States near Perry, Fla., grazes Tallahassee, passes along the coast of Georgia, South and North Carolina, leaves land at Virginia Beach, passes coastal Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

"The eclipse will be visible as at least partial in all of North America except Alaska, and will be prominent in nearly all of the USA."

The last total eclipse seen in North Carolina was on May 28, 1900. Other totalities occurred on June 30, 1954, in Minnesota and July 20, 1963, in Maine. The only remaining totality in this century after March 7 will come in 1979 in the state of Washington.

Preparations for the eclipse are already underway at ECU and are being coordinated through a committee of professors and administrators, including Dr. Helms. Invitations have already been extended to many students, educators and scientists and more will be made.

Although no predictions are possible yet, Dr. Helms expects the campus to be a beehive of activity with the dawn of March 7. A tentative program following the eclipse will include a report by telephone from Oaxaca on the results of observation, and reports from various scientists who observe the eclipse on the ECU campus.

"Although we anticipate some fine opportunities to study by radio certain interesting aspects of the eclipse, our primary concern will be for the educational value," Dr. Helms says. "The eclipse provides a unique opportunity for East Carolina University to be of great service to the education of scientists."

**New Road On Bid List**

RALEIGH — A new road to tie in with N.C. 45 and the Cashie, Middle and Roanoke River Bridges is among the projects on which bids have been asked by the State Highway Commission. Bids on 19 highway projects in 21 counties are due in Raleigh on January 20 when they will be opened at the Highway Building to determine the low bidders. Confirmation of the bids must be made by the full Highway Commission at its February 5 meeting before contracts can be signed.

When buying major appliances check dimensions against available space.

**Festival Theme Secondary To Good Time Had By All**

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Ancient man held elaborate feasts to honor the seasons, planets and gods. Modern man goes farther: He stages annual festivals to salute daffodils, pumpkins and sauerkraut.

Whether it's animal, vegetable or mineral, chances are that somewhere in the country, it is celebrated by a festival, the National Geographic Society says.

Events range from the summertime Minneapolis Aquatennial, largest annual civic celebration in the nation, to the Puyallup Valley, Washington, Daffodil Festival; from the St. Paul, Minn., Winter Carnival, the big-

gest cold-weather party, to the Thomasville, Ga., Rose Festival, scene of a million blooming buds. MERRY MONARCH HONORED  
Though colorful flowers grow in abundance, the people of Hilo, Hawaii, choose instead to celebrate the gala reign of a 19th-century king, David Kalakaua, at an annual Merry Monarch Festival.

On a less regal level, Mitchell, Ind., enjoys a busy week that includes a pudding-tasting contest at the Persimmon Festival.

Even familiar nationwide observances may receive an unusual local twist, Julian, Calif., for example, celebrates Mother's Day

for 16 straight days by sponsoring a Wild Flower Festival. As many as 2,500 flowers decorate the streets during the event.

Benton, Ky., has used the traditional opening day of county court as an excuse for a festival since 1843.

Rural residents of Marshall County gathered in Benton on the first Monday in April for the new court session. They began using the occasion to transact business, visit friends and barter sweet potatoes. Before long, the informal meetings grew into a full-fledged festival — Tater Day.

The nation's annual galas know no season, says F. Earl Crawford Sr. of Charlotte, editor of "Festivals International," official journal of the International Festivals Association. The group's 70 members promote celebrations in 30 states.

**Explanation Of Housing Program Set In Greenville**

GREENVILLE — The past session of the North Carolina General Assembly enacted into law Chapter 1235 (H1019) which sets up a major new program for financing lower income housing in North Carolina.

This act created the North Carolina Housing Corporation and directs it to engage in a broad-scale program of loans to developers and purchasers of such residences. This act will have a major impact upon this region. It will affect people, local governments, financial insti-

tutions, developers, realtors, contractors, etc., in making available in excess of \$200,000,000 for home construction.

This act should not be confused with the "Low Income Housing Corporation" of Durham.

It is a recognized fact that Eastern North Carolina badly needs housing and stands to greatly benefit from this act. The East Carolina University Regional Development Institute is co-sponsoring, with the North Carolina Housing Corporation, a meeting to explain the details of

the Housing Corporation's program. Joe E. Eagles, executive director, and other officials of the Housing Corporation will present this program.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. It will be at the Loyal Order of Moose Club on Farmville Highway in Greenville.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready at 9 a.m., according to Thomas W. Willis, institute director.

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