

Occupational Class Enrollment Growing

Enrollment in occupational education classes is growing in North Carolina. Almost 200,000 high school students took occupational education courses last year. They represented about 53 percent of the school population.

During the 1964-65 school year, on the other hand, only 40 percent of the students were enrolled. Projections for the future show that more than 300,000 students will be enrolled. Projections for the future show that more than 300,000 students will be enrolled in occupational education classes by 1977. They will represent 80 percent of the total student body.

According to Dr. Charles Law, Director of Occupational Education for the State Education agency, the North Carolina program is growing in size, scope and emphasis. In years past students could study agriculture, homemaking and a number of limited trades offerings. Today North Carolina's comprehensive high schools make training available in everything from horticulture to short-order cooking and from office management to marketing techniques.

State School Superintendent Craig Phillips considers occupational education one of the best solutions to the State's growing dropout problem. By teaching a student about the working world, the opportunities available, and how to meet those opportunities, students who might otherwise become bored with school will remain motivated. Occupational education means relevance to many.

In moving toward a more comprehensive occupational education program the State is offering courses or instruction to handicapped youngsters, younger students, and gearing subject matter for the disadvantaged. Students are learning about the job market as well as developing actual trade skills.

The Middle Grade's Occupational Exploration Program, authorized by the 1969 General

Assembly, provided exploratory experiences to students as early as grade six. The model program, according to Dr. Law, emphasizes the relationships between regular curriculum areas—math, English and so forth—and the world of work.

And in recent action of the State Board of Education, occupational Education has been "extended downward" so that regular State and federal funds may be expanded for seventh and eighth grade occupational programs.

Occupational education, said Dr. Law, is now offered in some 622 high schools across the State. The programs within these schools are being expanded to provide more diversification, he said.

Library News

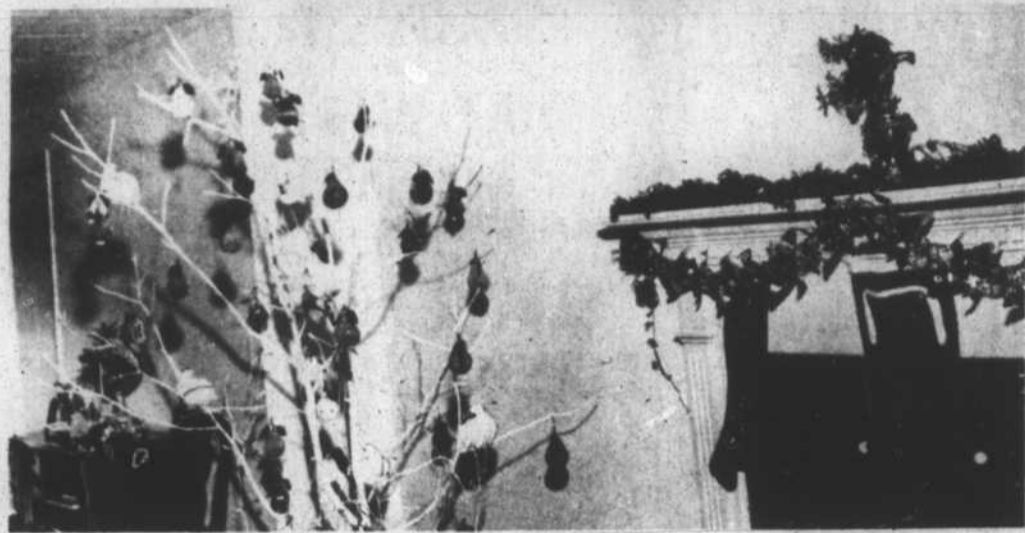
MRS. L. S. DANIEL
Librarian

A blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all the friends of the Warren County Memorial Library. We will reopen after the Christmas holiday on Monday, Dec. 28. Our circulation continues to be excellent in spite of the December rush.

Many beautiful Christmas poems have been written. This one is a favorite:
CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOME
Let us forget for a little while tonight

The clamor of the world, its wild unrest,
And let us set a candle with its light upon a sill,
And know how very blest is any home, though humble it may be,
If Christ be worshipped, and if love be there—
In a Christian land where a people may be free
To live and labor, and to love and share.

—GRACE NOLL CROWELL



Mrs. Henry H. Green's flower garden of the summer can now be seen as true "Winter Wonderland." The area uniquely decorated with running cedar, boxwood plants, wild ferns and pine are tipped with snow, while golden Reindeer frolic about to Christmas music played by sparkling red elves on golden horns.

Inside, the warmth and spirit of the wintery holiday, Christmas, is also present. A bare branched sweetgum tree has been quickly converted into a pear tree. The unique decoration downing the tree heightens the beauty of it. The decoration used consists of colorful sparkling jeweled pears that hang gracefully from the white branches while partridges nestle between them. Miniature clear twinkling lights give the effect of sun upon freshly fallen snow.—G. W. Koonce.



BY JIM DEAN

Take a football stadium and cram it with some 40,000 avid gridiron fans, and you've got visible proof that a whole of a lot of folks are fond of football.

A huge gathering of golf addicts on the links at a major golf tournament is instant evidence that hooks and slices demand the attention of a great number of Tar Heels. Same goes for automobile racing, basketball and the other major athletic sports which get the support of the fans.

Because it is obvious that so many people follow these fine sports, it is understandable that newspapers, television and radio give them a lot of coverage. The ink is well-deserved because so many like to read about them.

Unfortunately, the press has generally failed to acknowledge an equally large and avid audience of readers—the men, women and children who enjoy such outdoor recreation as fishing, hunting, camping, hik-

ing, boating and birdwatching, just to name a few.

The proof that outdoor recreation enthusiasts are at least as numerous as athletic sports fans is not hard to produce.

Take golf, for instance. It's a fine game, and somewhere between eight and ten million Americans play it with even more fans following the results of tournaments in the media. It obviously deserves good coverage, and it gets it.

But wait. There are 15 million licensed hunters and 33 million licensed fishermen in the nation, not to mention the estimated 15 million more anglers who fish legally without licenses.

Does hunting and fishing—not to mention other outdoor pursuits—get as much coverage as golf? Of course not, yet this is only one of many similar examples.

Even in North Carolina, license sales prove that roughly one out of every five people in the state hunts or fishes or

both. That's more than a million folks. Given the additional number of people who participate in other forms of outdoor recreation, and you've got a group that compares favorably with the vast numbers of athletic sports fans.

In all fairness, this lack of coverage is not entirely the fault of the press. After all, outdoorsmen are usually invisible. Never do they congregate, by the thousands to cheer a deer or root for a coot. By nature, and by necessity, they pursue their sports quietly and unobtrusively. The angler seeks solitude, the hunter the same. Hikers like the lofty loneliness of the mountains, skiers search out snow-clad retreats.

Only among some campers is there any tendency to congregate, but even then they are not as visible as a stadium full of football fans.

Do this. Next summer, when you're on a trip, count the cars carrying visible camping or outdoor equipment. You'll be amazed at the number, and no doubt wonder how many people are headed for outdoor pursuits with equipment you can't see.

There may be 40,000 people in several stadiums across the state, but on a spring, summer or fall day, easily that many or more Tar Heels may be tucked away in generally secluded spots across the state enjoying the outdoors.

The snub on outdoor recreation seems particularly inappropriate in an era when the fight has been joined to save the environment (the outdoor enthusiast's stadium).

Another point worth making is that there are many basketball fans who fish and many racing fans who camp. The outdoor recreation enthusiast is not at odds with the athletic sports fan. In many cases, he is the same person.

Therefore, this is not a plea for more outdoor coverage at the expense of athletic sports. Rather, it's a suggestion that the various media bring the largely forgotten multitudes of outdoor enthusiasts into the fold.

Garden Club Holds Christmas Meeting

The Town 'N Country Garden Club held its Christmas meeting on Wednesday night, Dec. 16th, in Alston's Club house, "The Flame," on Franklin Street with Mrs. E. W. Harris as hostess. The Club house was beautifully decorated for the yuletide season. Especially impressive was the beautiful Christmas tree and the brightly burning enclosed fireplace.

During the business session, Mrs. E. M. Brown, Yearbook chairman, passed out the yearbooks and reviewed the program and projects for 1971. The Projects Committee chairman, Mrs. V. C. Henderson,

The Tar Heel Kitchen

By MISS YORK KIKER
N. C. Dept. of Agri.
Marketing Time Economist

Hopefully you will be lucky enough to have one of North Carolina's fine country style hams for the holiday season. A recent visit to one of the most up-to-date ham curing plants, with its cleanliness and careful handling of meat, make it easy to understand why North Carolina is a leader in our modern "old-fashioned" country-style hams. The new method is a far cry from the old days of hog killing when the weather had to be just right.

Do you remember all the work involved and the chore it was to prepare the meat on hog-killing day? Frequently you would be terribly disappointed later when hams would spoil, were too salty, or were not top quality. Maybe you were a "city slicker" who would buy country ham from a farmer. Often they were good, but frequently the quality was not dependable. Now, quality is assured with the curing ingredients measured accurately, the temperature and moisture carefully controlled, and all the scientific know-how put into practice.

The price tag on cured hams may scare you a bit as they seem high in comparison to the regular packer hams. It must be remembered that it takes many days and much effort to cure hams plus the fact that country hams will shrink approximately 20 percent of the fresh weight. Don't forget the vast difference in taste appeal. What could be better than country ham, hot biscuits, scrambled eggs, grits and gravy on a cold winter night?

Enticing packages of sliced country ham are available in most grocery stores. These slices may be pan fried very quickly until the fat is translucent. Be careful not to brown ham for it will become hard. Breakfast in a restaurant not long ago was terribly disappointing for the ham was cooked until it was brittle and almost tasteless. Good cooks differ in ideas about that southern red-eye gravy. An easy way is to take up ham when done then pour the fat into a gravy bowl. Add a small amount of water to the pan, bring to a boil and pour into the gravy bowl with the fat. Some older folks add a tablespoon of strong coffee to the gravy. Have you ever wondered where the name red-eye came from? The fat and water part separate to make

gave the final report of the club's Anti-Litter Campaign citing as highlights the bulletin-board contests at John Graham High School and Marlan Boyd Elementary School; garbage cans that were painted and placed on some of the streets here in Warrenton, and of efforts made to encourage business places and homeowners to "Keep Warrenton Clean and Free of Litter."

Dec. 23 from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. was the date set for judging the annual citywide Christmas Decorations Contest. Mrs. S. H. Brown, Mrs. C. H. Hawkins and Mrs. E. W. Harris will serve as judges.

The club received a check for \$100.00 - the Civic Award for 1970, given annually by the Oxford-Henderson Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The check was presented to the president by Mrs. C. H. Hawkins and Mrs. E. W. Harris, members of the Sorority. The president asked the members to give a rising vote of thanks for this great honor of the Garden Club being chosen to receive the 1970 Civic Award.

The members participated in a round table discussion of "Using Clippings from Evergreens for Christmas Arrangements and Decorations." A workshop "Putting Christmas in The Living Room" was held. Afterwards on display were the following arrangements: Punch Table by Mrs. E. M. Brown and Mrs. S. H. Brown; End Table, Mrs. M. H. Powell; Occasional Tables, Mrs. V. C. Henderson and Mrs. G. J. Exum; Coffee Table, Mrs. E. W. Harris; Door Decorations, Mrs. A. M. Alston and Mrs. C. H. Hawkins, and Window Decorations by Mrs. E. W. Harris.

During the social hour the hostess served a delicious turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Christmas gifts were passed by Mrs. C. J. Exum from "Heart Sisters," a "Yuletide Jumble-gram" game was conducted by the hostess. Mrs. A. M. Alston was the winner and received a beautiful Christmas corsage.

Members present were Mrs. V. C. Henderson, Mrs. G. J. Exum; Mrs. C. H. Hawkins, Mrs. M. H. Powell, Mrs. S. H. Brown, Mrs. A. M. Alston, Mrs. E. M. Brown and the hostess, Mrs. E. W. Harris.

layers and may have given the name. To prepare a whole ham for cooking, wash and scrub thoroughly with a stiff brush. A small amount of mold may be present but that doesn't mean the ham is spoiled. Trim off all dark, dry and hard edges. Some people like to soak country-style cured hams covered in water for at least 12 hours; however, this is not necessary for well-cured hams of good flavor.

Mr. Jim Butler, of the N. C. Pork Producers Federation, says his favorite way to cook cured ham is to place the washed ham on a rack in a large boiler and cover with boiling water. Simmer (do not boil) until tender or the meat thermometer registers 160 degrees F. According to Mr. Butler, cooking time should be approximately 15 to 20 minutes per pound for whole hams. Allow ham to cool in the broth. The broth from my recent ham was refrigerated and used for cooking cabbage and beans. Part of the fat may be removed if there is an excess.

If you prefer baking, the cleaned ham may be put skin side up on a rack in an open pan. Bake uncovered and without water in a slow oven (300 degrees F.) until tender. This will take 25 to 30 minutes per pound for whole hams, or about 45 to 50 minutes per pound for butts, according to Dr. John Christian at N. C. State University. A thermometer can take the guesswork out of knowing when the ham is done. It should register 170 degrees F. inserted in the center of the ham.

Country ham is ready to eat whether "boiled" or baked but may be glazed if desired. Happy eating to you. If you haven't had ham for the holidays, you will want to go out and buy slices or a whole one to enjoy now. When you taste country ham, you will understand why the North Carolina Department of Agriculture has featured them as outstanding gift items.

For
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take 666



Have a most delightful holiday season... and sincerest thanks for your loyal patronage.

MARTIN WELL COMPANY
WARRENTON, N. C.

Merry Christmas to All

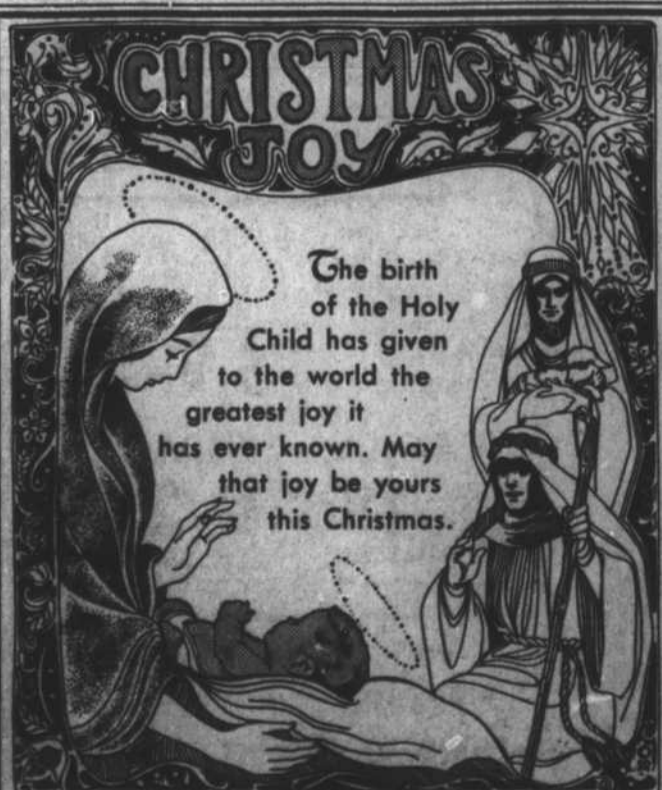
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OPEN - WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23 - 7:00 A. M. TO 9:30 P. M.
THURSDAY, DEC. 24 - 7:00 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.



At this time of year, may we prescribe all that's good as we thank you, our customers and dear friends.

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GREETINGS FOR
Christmas

To you, sincere greetings and thanks... with every good wish that the joy and delight of the Yuletide will be yours.

CAROLINA SPORTSWEAR
WARRENTON, N. C.

sincere GREETINGS

'Tis the season to be jolly, and here's wishing all of our good friends the jolliest of greetings... the warmest of thanks.

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