Carnival benefits

These members of the Hoke County TMH class were able to enjoy summer activities like visiting White Lake, playing Putt-Putt and fooling around in McLauchlin Park among other things as a result of last year's Halloween Carnival. The students enjoy a slide down the board (left) and pose for a group photograph (above) in the park. About $3,400 was raised through the event. The funds are used because school funds are not provided during the summer.

Carnival helping Hoke TMH students

By Ed Miller

For those in the mood to have a little spooky fun before October 31, try the annual Halloween Carnival to be held this Saturday afternoon and night at Upchurch Jr. High School.

The carnival will begin at 4 p.m. and will last until 9 p.m.

Just like last year, all proceeds will be used to fund the summer school program for Hoke County's multiple handicapped children.

There will be booths of all sorts and a general store with something for everyone.

The local Jaycees will have their haunted house set up and anyone willing to take a little heart shock is welcome to come in--though you might not leave.

A good cause is always reason to visit an event such as the Halloween Carnival and the handicapped children of Hoke County need the funding so their summer program will not be discontinued.

The Hoke County Schools pay for the program during the regular school year, but there are no funds for summer programs, according to Janice Brock, teacher of the children.

Brock is highly involved with the program and the Halloween Carnival.

Last year, the carnival raised about $3,400 for the program and they need to do as well or better this year, she said.

Keeping the program going in the summer is a must for some of the children involved, she said.

According to Brock, some of the children, especially the ones with cerebral palsy need this program.

These children especially need physical therapy to keep their limbs from becoming distorted and to keep the muscles alive, she said.

The summer program operates three days per week in the summer and offers much more than just therapy.

It gives some of the children a chance to do some things they may never get a chance to do otherwise, Brock said.

Last summer, the children went to Showbiz Pizza Place and had the time of their lives.

Some of those kids had never been out of Raeford, much less Hoke County, she said.

The parents of handicapped children in the county and volunteers work in coordination with the Raeford Kiwanis Club.