

Preacher's memories will not be retiring

By Ed Miller

During his ministry, the Rev. Arthur William Winstead has seen many things.

Winstead is retiring on June 1 after five years at the Raeford United Methodist Church, and he will be taking along with him memories from his ministries and travels that he will probably never experience again.

Many of the things he has seen will never be experienced by anyone else.

In 27 years of preaching, many of them in small rural churches, a person can see a lot of extraordinary things, Winstead said in an interview last week.

Like the time he baptized a man with water from the radiator of his car.

Winstead was the minister of a small country church in North Carolina at the time.

"You know, some people like to be baptized right now," he said.

That was the case with one particular man.

There was no water running in the church because the well was frozen.

The only water to be found that had not been subject to the cold was that in the radiator of his car.

There was no antifreeze in it, so Winstead used it.

On an earlier occasion, at a different church, Winstead was called upon to finish a grave.

The hole had been started but could not be finished because the men doing the digging were drunk.

Winstead had been called that morning to do the funeral for a baby that had died in a northern state but brought back to North Carolina for burial.

The preacher had not been at home when the call came but his wife took the message and told him when he arrived.

On the way to the graveyard, Winstead passed the family who had stopped at a store for a drink.

They were sitting on the fender of the car and the casket was on the back seat, he said.

When the preacher got to the graveyard, he found where the grave was being dug.

Two "winos" were in charge of the excavation and the hole started nicely but got narrower and narrower as it went down.

The two men could do no better so Winstead handed his Bible to his wife, jumped in the hole and squared off the sides himself.

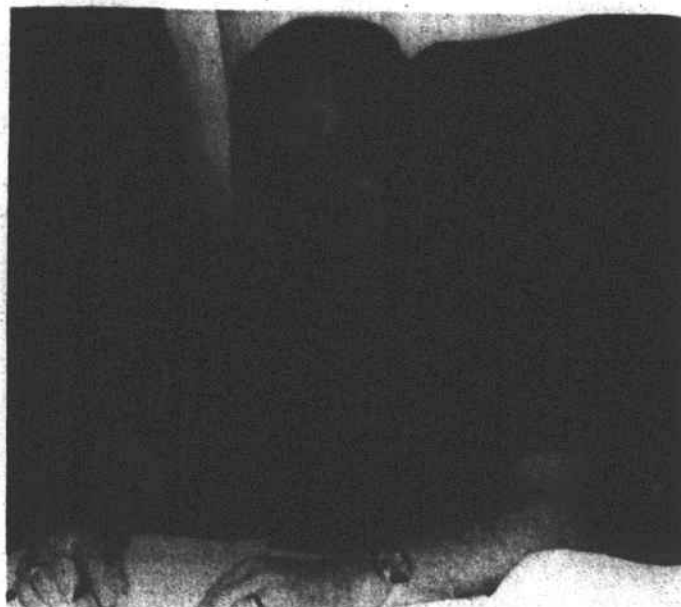
The 80-year-old funeral director sat on the wooden casket while the preacher dug.

Then, there was the time Winstead walked up on a still.

He and a friend were out hunting, he said.

They had spooked a covey of birds and were chasing the singles down the banks of a creek.

Winstead was in the middle of



Rev. Arthur Winstead

the distillery operation before he or anyone else knew it.

It just so happened that one of his church members knew all about the still, mainly because he was operating it.

Before the preacher could say a word, the man begged Winstead not to tell his mother, whose land the still was on.

"I'll tear it up right now if you promise not to tell," the man said.

Although according to Winstead, he had no plans to tell the man's mother, he took him up on the offer.

The man took an axe to the still and left it in shambles.

Needless to say, Winstead probably has grounds and material for a book and, according to the man himself, he might just write one.

He could write about any of these experiences or maybe the time he was invited to a barbecue where they served racoon.

Or the time the church floor came "aloose" from the wall during a funeral. The floor dropped on one side and the casket, which was on rollers, made an unscheduled trip across the room.

Winstead did finish telling stories and he will not soon forget Raeford.

"I wanted to come to Raeford. I asked to be sent here," he said.

"These last four years have been the most joyous of my life," he said.

Foreign trade hearing scheduled for June 3

At the request of Congressman Bill Hefner, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, Sam M. Gibbons (D-FL), has agreed to hold hearings on textile imports on Monday, June 3, at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis.

The Trade Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over all international trade legislation. Gibbons, long known as a free trade advocate, has control over the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act of 1985. Hefner and the Congressional Textile Caucus have been trying to obtain Gibbons' help in restricting the flow of foreign textile imports.

"This is a good sign," said Hefner, "Gibbons is a person who

can really help our cause. Now that he is coming to the Eighth District to see first hand the damage that textile imports are causing, we can hopefully persuade him to take legislative action on the bill."

Gibbons, Hefner and the other members of the Trade Subcommittee will tour several textile plants in Kannapolis and Salisbury area on the morning of June 3, and then begin hearings at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium, of A.L. Brown. The majority of the witnesses will be local textile workers. The hearings are open to the public and the press.

"I hope those people who are affected by textile imports will make every effort to attend," Hefner added.

Parnell seeking DWI funds

Senator David Parnell (D-Robeson) has introduced two bills which will return fines levied for drunk driving to the counties which make the arrest.

"Under the DWI law a person who is found intoxicated and is brought into the police department and blows a .10 or greater, automatically loses his license for ten days and in order to get his license back has to pay a \$25 fine," Parnell explained. "Currently that money is going into a reserve fund for reimbursement for the cost of the program."

"There is now about \$1.5 million in that fund and only \$40,000 has been used because the cost is not being borne by the state but by the local law enforcement

units which make the arrests and the county court systems which hear the cases.

"My bill, SB 678, would instruct the Office of State Budget to distribute these funds from the safe roads act to the 100 counties based on the amount of civil revocations of licenses recorded by the statistical division of the Administrative Office of the Courts," Parnell said.

Parnell pointed out that these funds should return \$5,000 to Hoke County and \$50,000 to Robeson.

Parnell has also introduced a companion bill, SB 695, which would direct that in the future all collected funds would be retained by the various counties.

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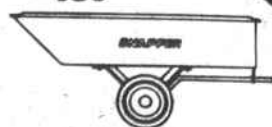
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