



Opening festival Saturday

Members of the Regiment Band of Fayetteville will open the festival on Saturday with a 19th Century touch and the Gen. Robert F. Hoke march.

Regiment adds Civil War musical note

By Ed Miller

Take a step back into the dim corners of the past. Not just Hoke County's past, but everyone's.

To stand beside the Hoke County Library at 11:30 on the morning of September 21 with eyes closed, one might think they were just coming off a battlefield of the Civil War.

The Regimental Band of the 11th North Carolina Troops will be playing their style of music and, their style is the way it was written in the 19th century.

The Fayetteville group plays original civil war band music, not in jazzed arrangements, but the exact way it was written. They use period instruments to play their music on, said Dr. Robert E. Downing, leader of the group.

"What you hear us play is what they heard. We haven't changed it or jazzed it up a bit," he said.

The instruments used in the band are quite different from ones found today.

The regimental band uses two types of cornets, two different horns and a tuba, Downing said.

Instruments for the 15 member band had to be custom made by a California man at a cost of about \$1,000 apiece.

What is very interesting about the band is the way they get their music.

According to Downing, most of it comes from band books from the days of the civil war that have been uncovered in an attic somewhere or in a library.

"Most people don't know what

they're looking at when they see a book of music from that period," he said.

Some of the music has been transposed from books of music for pianos of the period, he said.

Even the transposed music is authentic down to the last chord, said Downing.

The Saturday morning concert will contain tunes recognizable by all including a surprise song, the title of which he would not say.

Downing did say the song was said to be one of Abraham Lincoln's personal favorites.

Another song to be played is one written for the man Hoke County was named for.

Colonel Hoke's March will be heard for the first time in a long time,

if at all, in the county bearing his name.

The song was written in 1862 to honor Robert W. Hoke when he was colonel of the 21st North Carolina Regiment, said Downing.

It takes a special kind of person to research the history of this music and to research the music itself.

"I've always been a history buff since I could read," said Downing.

The man holds a particular fascination for civil war history.

In 1981, he published a compilation set of suites from the period. "It naturally followed that we form a band," said Downing.

The Regimental Band is one of the most respected in this area if not in the country.

The Mayor of Raeford, N.C. wants you to know that to properly strut your stuffin' come Festival time, you need the following:

- (1). Be adorned in the fine Burlington fabric of your choice.
- (2). Get on a pair of J.R.A. panty hose.
- (3). Be sprayed and dusted in the right places with that good smelling stuff from Faberje.
- (4). Eat a House of Raeford turkey hot dog before you leave home.

Happy struttin'
The Mayor

John K. McNeill, Jr.
John K. McNeill, Jr.

SEARS Catalog Sales Merchant

SOME APPLIANCES IN STOCK

If We Don't Have It
We'll Get It For You In 3 To 5 Days.

MYRTLE MILLER

875-4239

ELWOOD AVE. RAEFORD, N.C.

McNair Cleaners

SINCE 1936



- Professional Dry Cleaning
- Fast Service

875-3465

Racket Alley

Raeford, N.C.



SERVING:

Red Springs
St. Pauls
Pembroke
Raeford
Elizabethtown
Fairmont

Harrison R. Daniels
System Manager