

# ...Thousands honor turkeys

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Raeford were back to normal, moving at a leisurely pace, but that few were zipping around like there was a fire.

What they were doing was preparing for a fire that would burn late into the night as The Embers cooked their musical variations at the Turkey Park Ball held behind the old National Guard Armory.

Spectators say they cooked in style as 1,200 guests joined the "beach music" band.

The crowd had fun but did not become unruly as The Embers burned.

Tired concert goers dragged home late Friday night, their ears ringing.

"I have never seen so many people in my life in Raeford," said a resident standing beside a stack of amplifier cabinets about noon on Saturday.

The last day of the festival had started with a crowd and had grown to substantial size as early as 9 a.m.

Saturday began early as members of the Raeford Kiwanis Club began serving breakfast at 6 a.m.

Pancakes and syrup were the main orders of business at the breakfast that went on until 9 a.m.

While the pancake breakfast was going on at McLauchlin School on one end of town, the middle of town was busy with its own festivities.

Craft booths were being set up, fancy cars were pulling into the parking lot beside the Methodist Church and four flatbed truck trailers had blocked off Main Street at the old Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Depot.

There were people atop them unloading tons of amplification equipment.

By 10 a.m., the cars were parked in the church lot and an antique and race car show was happening in full force.

Alice Purdie garnered a win there in the antique and restored division, while Mark Posey won the drag car division and Gary Frederick took the race car title.

On the library stage, The Regimental Band of the 11th North Carolina Troops opened up ceremonies with music from the era of the Civil War.

After a short introduction, the band retired until they presented a full performance at 11:30.

During the time in between, the Ray Codrington Jazz Band and Sammy Scriven showed the crowd what jazz is all about.

Also during the day at the

library stage was a little foot stomping for the sole with the Apple Chill Cloggers.

For the other kinds of souls, there was Gospel music by the Voices of Consolation.

Robbie Mitchell also sang on the library stage.

The afternoon on that end of town took on a definite rhythmical turn when the Steel Bandits took the stage at 2:30 p.m.

The beat was definite on the depot end of town too as Southern Addition began to play at 10 a.m.

Touchstone took the stage at 11 a.m. with a new kind of sound that combined Irish folk music with soaring lyrics and the sound of an electric clarinet.

Revue II made a rock and roll offering at noon on the depot stage to be followed closely by Carbon Badger.

Carbon, when compressed into diamond, is the hardest substance known to man. Thusly, Carbon Badger was the hardest rock heard in Raeford on Saturday afternoon.

The depot end of town was silent except for the low roar of people milling around the craft booths.

A presentation of an American Flag was made to Hoke County Commission Chairman John Balfour just before the onslaught.

The flag had flown over this nation's capital on September 18 in honor of the Turkey Festival. The flag flew at the suggestion of Senator John East.

Then there was quiet. Six men walked onto the stage waving a bit.

A roar grew from the crowd. "Ladies and gentlemen--Nantucket."

For the next hour and a half, Raeford was filled with guitar licks from Allen Thornton and Tommy Redd, a thumping growl from the bass guitar of David Johnston, soaring vocals from Larry Uzzell, stinging keyboards played by Eddie Blair and thumping rhythms from Hoke County resident Richard Gates.

It was a hot afternoon and Nantucket adhered to the old saying "the more you sweat, the more you get."

The band thoroughly wowed the crowd with some old tunes and others from their new album, "Nantucket V."

Just a short walk away at concert's end was a cloud of dust rising out of the old vacant lot between the depot and the corner of Main and Harris where the Raeford Shriners were having their annual fish fry.

It was the turkey olympics. The business of the day was over as party time and about 5,000 people gathered in the lot just to have fun.

Streaker, managed by the Raeford Jaycees, dodged obstacles better than the other turkeys to take one event, and Ben was dressed the best by the Youth Group at the Evangelical Methodist Church of Raeford, as the olympics became the highlight of the week.

Jennifer and John Mannings "Super Turkey" weighed in at 31.5 pounds to take the fattest title.

Tom Turkey Delight out ran the pack and captured the Grand Gobbler's Gallop for his trainers at Howell Drug.

The highjump was amazing as Roadrunner, coached by the Raeford Juniores, topped the altitude of six vertical inches.

The last event of the day was the Turkey Horse Show at Star Farms.

Well over 1,000 people went to the show even though rain sprinkled the end of the event.

Finally, the day was over. The dust settled and the crowds went home, people to their houses and the turkeys to The House of Raeford.

As the dark fell over the deserted streets of Raeford, more than one festival goer was saying, "I'll swear I had a good time."

"I can't wait until next year."



**Dropping in for festival**  
This member of the 82nd Airborne Sport Parachute Jumping Team dropped in on Raeford Wednesday

before the parade. Eight jumpers landed in the area in front of McLauchlin School around 5 p.m.

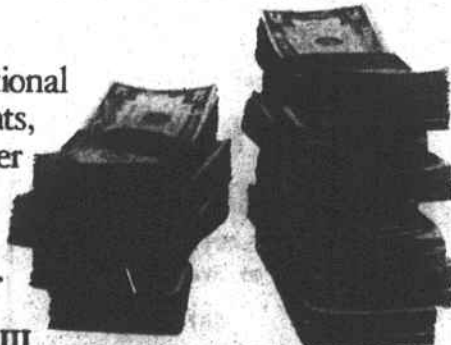
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SAT. & SUN. 1:10, 3:10, 7:10, 9:10  
(PG)

**ABERDEEN**

**STARTS FRIDAY**  
Glenn Close in  
**MAXIE (PG)**  
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Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft  
Meg Tilly (PG13)  
WEEKDAYS 3:15, 7:15, 9:15  
SAT. & SUN. 1:15, 3:15, 7:15, 9:15

**SOUTHERN PINES**

**RED SONJA**  
(PG 13)  
WEEKDAYS 3:10, 7:10, 9:10  
SAT. & SUN. 1:10, 3:10, 7:10, 9:10

**Chuck Norris**  
**INVASION (R)**  
WEEKDAYS 3:10, 7:00, 9:00  
SAT. & SUN. 1, 3, 7, 9

**STARTING FRI., SAT. SUN. MON. ONLY (R)**  
**Barbarian Queen**  
Frank Stallone  
WEEKDAYS 7, 9  
SAT. & SUN. 1, 3, 7, 9