

Willis is ambassador for Hoke County

Every fall, Hoke County sends forth young ambassadors to state and national colleges.

These young folks take with them the best they have been offered in the way of education and upbringing. Their strengths may lie in accounting, computers, the sciences, physical fitness or liberal arts. Whatever their field of study, they reflect our willingness to give them the best we can to help prepare them for their future.

Sometimes a singular student appears who wants more training than our area is able or willing to give. In such a case, it usually becomes his responsibility to find that outside help he desires. The maturity needed to pursue such a course is indeed rare in high school students.

Boris Willis is one of those rare students, however. His determination to succeed as a dancer and to obtain all the training he could from our area attest to the maturity of his character.

This fall, after a strenuous summer of training there, Willis will enter the North Carolina School of the Arts to train in modern dance.

Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls

His desire to dance, and to train with leading people, and to do his very best will finally be satisfied.

Willis, at age six, decided what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was watching Captain Kangaroo. Some dancer was having an argument with Mr. Moose. Mr. Moose threw a ball and the dancer caught the ball in a beautiful, graceful movement. I was fascinated with that movement," remembers Willis.

His fascination with movement led to his enrollment in area dance schools and a constant personal

demand on himself to "always be relaxed and do the very best I can."

Last winter and this summer, Willis intensified his dance instruction and firmly committed himself to the study of modern dance. It is through this media that he feels most expressive and comfortable. He hopes to become a choreographer in modern dance.

Willis' work with Josie Strassnick and the Dance Theatre of Fayetteville are representative of his constant search for training outside of our county.

Mary Archie McNeill, Cultural Arts Director for Hoke County, refers to this determination to train as extraordinary.

"We have realized for a long time that Boris had a natural talent and that he had looked for help with his dancing. He has, as a result of his determination, become such an excellent performer, so strong, very expressive and demanding in his performances. He is a joy to watch and to know," says Mrs. McNeill. "I

think he will go far with his talent."

While a student in Hoke County schools, Willis took advantage of all arts programs offered to him. He cites the chorus and chorale concerts and competitions as extremely helpful in developing his craft. Mrs. McNeill and the Summer Youth Theatre also receive high marks from him.

"But it's not enough," he confirms, "I would like to see a strong drama class developed at Hoke High School and I would like to see dance and drama offered throughout the elementary years in Hoke County. There is a lot of talent here that is not being cultivated early enough."

By this time, Willis is probably deep into his studies, fine tuning his techniques and developing new ones. He will have to compete with students from other parts of the county and state, with students who possibly received more training. But, it's doubtful that they will be any more dedicated than Boris Willis.



Long reach
Boris Willis stretches during a recent dance exercise.

Crawford arrives for Germany duty

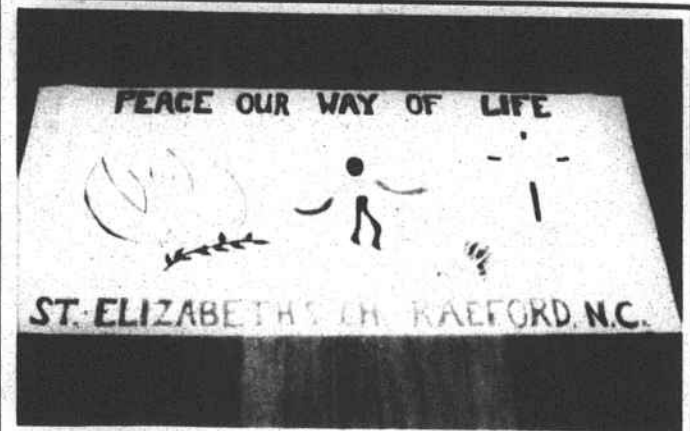
Army Spec. 4 Dwight Crawford, son of Olivia M. Jones of Cockman Hill Road, Raeford, and Paul Hunter of Barry Drive, Jacksonville, Florida has arrived for duty in West Germany.

Crawford is a communications system operator with the 8th Infantry Division.

His wife, Angela, is the daughter of John C. and Julia H. McPhatter of 2113 401st By-Pass, Raeford, N.C.

He is a 1973 graduate of Hoke County High School.

Huck Finn called the Mississippi "a monstrous big river," and it is. The Mississippi River flows some 3,700 miles, draining all or part of 28 states and two Canadian provinces.



Peace note

This banner, made by an adult and youth group from Raeford's St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was among 40 other banners to be taken recently to Russia by Rev. Richard Rodes of Columbia, Maryland. Rodes will tour six Russian cities on his peace mission.

Field trips helping students

It is so nice that the Hoke County Public Library is able to be of service to the Hoke County school system on occasion.

I received a telephone call from Mrs. Carol Coley, teacher from Upchurch Junior High School about two weeks ago.

She told me a tour of historic sites was being planned for all 7th and 8th graders.

She asked if I would gather some information for her concerning some of the historic sites.

In the course of conversation I told Mrs. Coley that if she needed an extra person for the trip, I would like to go.

She called about a week later and invited me to go with the eighth graders last Friday. I had a wonderful time.

The weather was beautiful. The students were extremely well-behaved.

Library News

Elizabeth Barnhart Burgess
Librarian

The entire trip was a delight. We saw many interesting places and listened to several interesting talks given by volunteers at different stops along the way.

The students seemed to have a great time.

I know they went home last Friday with much more knowledge about their country than they came to school with that morning. I thank Allen Edwards and Mrs. Coley for allowing me the pleasure of traveling with the students and teachers.

A reminder that the STORY

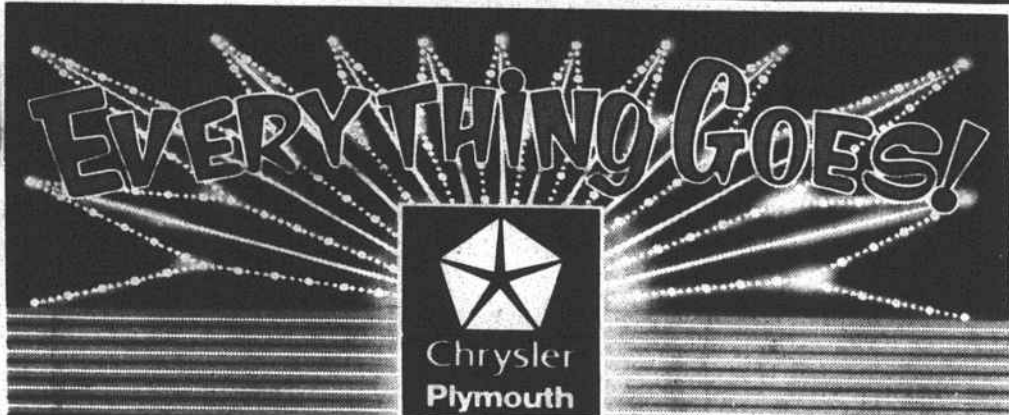
HOURS have resumed. Please call the library if you have a question concerning the time and date. Remember the DIAL-A-STORY number is 875-2039.

Call the library for an interesting story.

These new books were received this week by the Hoke County Public Library, a member of the Sandhill Regional Library System.

They are available at the public library and bookmobile in Raeford:

ADULT FACT
Elizabeth Kaplan, "Good Cats"
ADULT FICTION
Elizabeth Nell Dubus, "Where Love Rules"
Jack Higgins, "Confessional"
Gregory McDonald, "Fletcher Won", SC, "The Second Reel West"



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