

# Artistic group growing

The tremendous wealth, range and depth of creative talent existing in Hoke County never ceases to amaze me.

Feeding into the native artists of this area is a never-ending flow of people from other areas and states. Whether they are here with the local industries or associated with the military, they continue to add to Hoke County's artistic community in very meaningful ways.

Peggy Watts, of the Rockfish area, is a prime example of this artistic group.

Natives of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the Watts moved here when Jack was stationed at Fort Bragg.

"We never wanted to leave our home state," says Peggy, "but we became very involved with our church, Manna Church, in Fayetteville, and its people and we decided to stay here when Jackie retired from the service."

The church and its meaning in her life are also instrumental to Watts' work as an artist.

Working in pastels, she has created some very beautiful and masterful drawings of Biblical people. She has a calligrapher add a Bible verse to each finished portrait. Beautifully matted and framed, the result is a unique and moving piece of religious art work.

"What I want people to see is that Bible people were real people with real pain, real sorrows and experiences, just like us."

"I feel that this is what God wants me to do, and he wants me to perfect this art. I feel happiest when I do a religious portrait," Watts says.

## Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls

Enhancing her feeling that she has been given a gift to share with the world is the fact that she has had no formal art training.

"My mom always drew for my sister and me, so I always figured I could do it, too," she explains.

She began experimenting with pastels in 1976 and kept refining her skills until she began to be pleased with her results.

Pastels, she explains, are more permanent than oils, because they don't chip or peel. The same pigments used in oils are used in pastels, but with pastels, they become a part of the paper itself. In turn, the paper is an important part of the picture.

"The 'tooth' (or grain) of the paper adds much to a pastel by giving texture and depth to the piece, as it does here," explains Watts, pointing to a section in an unfinished portrait.

This portrait, (which might be of Timothy - the artist is not sure, yet), is rich in color and the shadings of color used on the dark brown paper are exquisite. It is easy to see, with this portrait, how the paper itself, is vital to the entire picture.

Watts' ability to create real people from those Biblical names is evident in this portrait. The young man's face shows extreme in-

nocence, a questioning, but trustful expression, all qualities that could have been part of Timothy's experience.

Watts explains that she sometimes sees these faces in her mind but often she does not know who they are. (As with this portrait, she is just not quite ready to name him Timothy).

"Often, I see a person in a crowd, like the mall, that strikes me, or I see a face in a magazine, and I'll work with it awhile. I have a closet full of them," she says, with a laugh.

Although her religious portraits are very important to her, Watts also excels in other media. An acrylic painting of fish expresses an entirely different side of this artist's nature.

"I also like to draw ducks and other animals. I've been doing quite a few of those lately," Watts says.

"My goal is to do something that means a lot to many people, then get prints made that I can sell. The area of christian artwork is virtually untapped. That's where I want to concentrate. I am that woman in Proverbs 31, who 'considereth a field and buyeth it,' and I don't think God minds that. I think he wants me to use my talent in this way. If my portraits sell, then I have said something important to that buyer," she explains.

Hopefully, sometime before Christmas, Peggy Watts will have some of her works on display in the Hoke County Library. Be sure to look for this talented woman and her very expressive portraits. They are superb.



At work  
Peggy Watts works at her easel.

## Allen named to honors group

Genise Merchel Allen, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G. Allen of Raeford, has been selected for membership to KAPPA DELTA PI-International Honor Society in Education.

The selection is based on a student's classification as an undergraduate (sophomore, junior, or senior) and grade point average of 3.2 or better.

Miss Allen, a sophomore at Fayetteville State University majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Child Psychology, will be inducted into the Omicron Beta Chapter of KAPPA DELTA PI, on Friday, November 15 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Rudolph Jones Student Center, on the Fayetteville State University campus at 6:30 p.m.

## Bobcats named in W. Hoke pack

West Hoke Cub Scout Pack, 437 held its pack meeting on Tuesday, October 29 and promoted six boys to the rank of Bobcat.

Receiving the Bobcat patch were: Terry Locklear, Mica McDonald, Tony McLaughlin, De'Allo Tyler, Wayland Hicks and Eddie Garner.

Boys qualifying but were not present were Andrew Brown, Jason Monroe and Alphonso Jackson.

Pack 437 meets each Tuesday night at West Hoke School at 7:00 p.m.

## Hoke students receive DAR Citizenship Award

Two local high school seniors have been selected as DAR Good Citizens of their respective high schools.

Hoke County High School announced that Tonya Pate had been selected as the DAR Good Citizen and Flora McDonald Academy announced that Kim McNeill will represent the Academy as its DAR Good Citizen.

Both young ladies were recently hosted by the Upper Cape Fear Chapter.

The contest is sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and is open to all boys and girls of the Senior Class who best exemplify outstanding qualities of leadership, dependability, service and patriotism in their school, home and community.

Tonya is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pate.

She has been active in the Beta Club, Science Club, Journalism Club, Drama Club, French Club and Annual Staff.

Tonya is a member of the National Honor Society and served as a marshal.

She has received the Biology

award, Physical Science award, Algebra Quiz Bowl award, DAR Essay award and DAR History award.

Tonya has been a member of the basketball, softball and soccer teams.

She works at the Medicine Shoppe after school and weekends. Tonya attends the First Baptist Church and is active in various activities there.

Kim is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken McNeill.

She has been active in the Beta Club, Journalism Club, French Club and Annual Staff.

Kim was a Morehead Scholarship nominee and served as a Marshal.

She has received the Chemistry award and DAR Essay award.

Kim has been a member of the chorus as well as the basketball, tennis and soccer teams.

Kim attends the Raeford Presbyterian Church and is active in various activities there.

Local winners will now compete at the District Level competition and will be honored at a luncheon November 9 at the Woman's Club House in Dunn.

## Hoke Sandhills gears up for beginning of quarter

The Hoke County campus of Sandhills Community College is moving toward the end of its first successful quarter.

New and returning students will need to be aware of some key dates for the coming winter quarter.

New students may take the CGP entrance test on November 12 at 6 p.m. in the Hoke County High School library.

The cost is \$3 (cash).

Returning and new students may pre-register November 18, 19, or 20 at the Old County Office Building from 9 a.m. to noon or at Hoke High from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration for those who do not pre-register will be held December 2 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hoke High School.

For more information, call Betty High at 875-8589.

## Grim is given Army promotion

Michael D. Grim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Grim of N. Queen St. York, Pennsylvania has been promoted in the U.S. Army

to the rank of sergeant. Grim is an artillery fire-support specialist at Fort Bragg, with the 82nd Airborne Division.

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