

# Ghosts keep students spellbound

How would you, if the situation presented itself, hold 900-plus junior high school students spellbound for about an hour?

Tell them ghost stories, of course. And that's just exactly Nancy Roberts-Brown, a North Carolina author, did recently at Upchurch Junior High.

Roberts-Brown, a North Carolina native, was invited by Librarian Elna Averitte, to talk with Upchurch students about ghosts and the stories she has written.

For approximately an hour, the soft-spoken author held the students enthralled as she quietly retold some of the more famous stories in her collection of books.

Using Southern folklore as a basis for most of her stories, Roberts-Brown has written five books and numerous articles for "The New York Times," "Christian Science Monitor," "Southern Living" and "School Library Journal."

Selecting three stories from GHOSTS OF THE CAROLINAS, Roberts-Brown told her rapt au-

## Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls



dience about Lillian, the ghostly hitchhiker who is said to be seen near High Point. She then recounted the "Devil's Stomping Ground," which is located near Siler City and finished her trilogy of horror with the mysterious "Brown Mountain Light."

"And then the driver turns to question Lillian about her home, he sees nothing. She has vanished into thin air!" whispers Roberts-Brown.

"Ooh, Aah!" responds her appreciative audience. (There's nothing like a good ghost story to capture everyone's attention.)

The interest Nancy Roberts-Brown stimulated by her stories bubbled over into an active question-answer session. Immediately she was bombarded with questions concerning her career as

a writer, famous people she might have met, the research involved in her stories and whether she had actually ever seen a ghost.

"In 20 years of research and learning about ghosts, I can honestly say I have seen one ghost," was her response to that question.

"Would you ever pick up Lillian?" queried another curious soul.

"Why yes! I wish I could have the good fortune to see Lillian to pick her up!" verified Mrs. Roberts-Brown, thus proving herself to be one who practices what she preaches.

During an autograph session following her talk, the students had an opportunity to talk with Mrs. Roberts-Brown and to purchase a book from this talented lady.

It is opportunities such as Mrs. Averitte and Mrs. Nancy Roberts-Brown have provided which helps to enhance our young people's education. Growth in education can never be limited to just what happens within the classroom.



**Recent graduates**  
Students who attended the Home-Health Aid class at the Hoke County branch of Sandhills Community College take a break during graduation exercises recently. The 48-hour class was funded by the Job

Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and was part of the Hoke County branch of Sandhills Community College.

# Elkins receives 'I Dare You' award

Missy Elkins of Ashley Heights has been awarded the "I Dare You" Award by the Hoke County 4-H organization.

The honor was presented by Sandra Kelly at ceremonies held recently at the Agricultural Extension Service Office.

Missy was selected for the Award in recognition of excellence in character and well balanced personal development as well as leadership potential.

In addition to the national recognition received, the Award provides the recipients with a copy of William H. Danforth's book **I Dare You**, and a personalized certificate.

Danforth wrote the book out of his own experience.

He dedicated much of his time and philanthropy to youth work.

In the book, he challenges the readers to aspire to their highest potential, to attain constructive lives of service and citizenship and to commit themselves to excellence.

The "I Dare You" Award is made available by the "I Dare You" Committee of the American Youth Foundation in cooperation with the County 4-H Office.

This award has been in existence since 1941, and recognizes thousands of outstanding young people representing every state.

The American Youth Foundation, founded in 1924, is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing programs for youth.

The purpose of the Foundation is the discovery and enhancement of leadership skills and the promotion of balanced growth and development.



Missy Elkins

## Rockfish News

By Polly Barnard

Tel. 875-2736

Sunday began the Advent season. Mr. and Mrs. Jason Brady and son, Matthew, lit the Advent wreath at Galatia Presbyterian Church during morning worship service.

Circle #1 met at the church Tuesday morning.

The W.M.U. at Pittman Grove Baptist Church will have their Christmas party at the church

Wednesday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Sally Brock spent a day recently in the home of Rev. and Mrs. David Miller of Fayetteville.

The community extends sympathy to Mrs. Alton McCulloch and family whose brother Charles Pardue of North Wilkesboro died November 28 after several months

of critical illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Fletcher of Boone spent Thanksgiving with Jeff's mother, Mrs. Mary Benkasky.

Buie Dove of Cheraw, South Carolina visited his sister, Mrs. Lawrence Barnard and family last week. Paul Dove of Cheraw visited Friday.

# US government course offered on Hoke campus

Dr. LeRoy Dare, who has been a member of the Sandhills Community College faculty for 17 years, is no stranger to the county for he taught history here before the Hoke Campus of S.C.C. was formed.

This winter quarter he will teach Political Science 201: The American Political System, a course he feels is essential "both so that we are informed about the

workings of our political system and so we can become more fully involved in that system."

Dare's course, which meets 5-7:25 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings in the Gibson Building of Hoke High, will review the history and philosophy of the U.S. government, the origin and nature of political parties and interest groups, civil rights, and the three branches of the U.S. govern-

ment. Dare encourages students to enroll in the course whether or not they intend to pursue a college degree.

"After all," he says, "understanding the politics of one's own country is a life skill more than an academic skill."

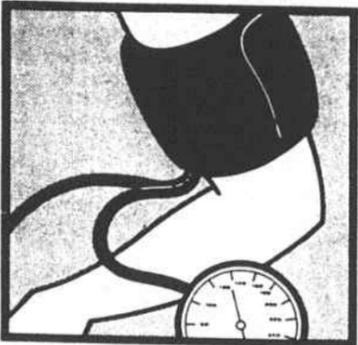
There is no pre-requisite for the course although some knowledge of American history is helpful.

The course, which carries 5 hours of credit, will include discussion of material in the text, unit tests, and relating current events to course content.

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

Six to eight months are usually needed for firewood to dry properly. Split wood dries fastest.

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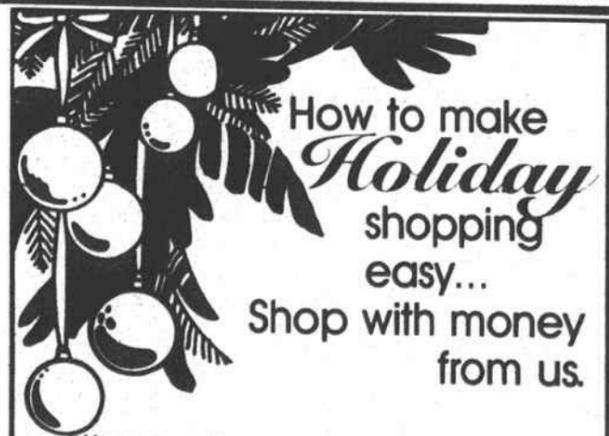
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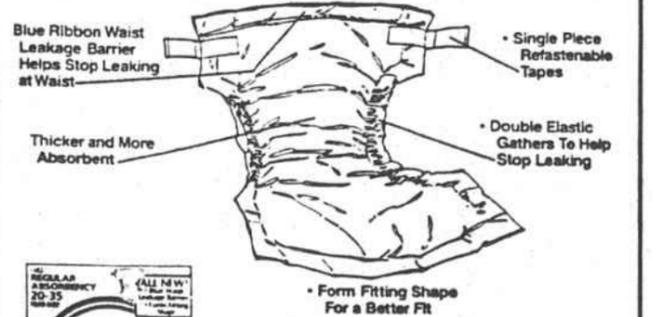
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