



ALBERTSON FOX HUNT - The Albertson Fox Hunt will be held Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Albertson Community Building located on Highway 111. Breakfast will be served from 5 - 8 a.m. with a memorial service at 6 a.m. conducted by Curtis Simmons. Lunch will be served from 1 a.m. until 2 p.m. Local residents will barbecue pork and cook fish stew for the noon meal which will be served by the Albertson Volunteer Fire Department, Ruritan Club and the Recreation Center. The annual Fox Hunt was begun in 1948 and is sponsored annually by the Ruritan Club. It is held each year on the Saturday nearest George Washington's birthday. In recent years, the three com-

munity organizations have united to provide food and fellowship as well as the opportunity for sportsmen to hunt. In addition, the B.F. Grady Junior Beta Club and the EMH classes make posters and address cards to the persons listed on the registry. Shown above, left to right, seated, Stevie Underhill, Mrs. Joyce Rouse (wife of Fire Chief Weldon Rouse), Kim Batchelor, Heather Loftin, Joe Sheppard, Johnnie Summerlin and Angela Cannady. Standing, Ed Lee, Jean Lee, Coy Smith (Albertson Recreation Center), Wendy Stroud, Michelle Taylor, Vickie Stroud, Camille Walton, Willie Rouse (president of the Ruritan Club), and Lori Davis.

Area Auto Sales Up

Sales of new automobiles have increased at local dealerships with a buying trend recognized in large to mid-size cars and trucks. Lower gas prices and interest rates have helped bring the increase, dealers say.

"Things are not all that bad in the auto business," Harold Johnson, co-owner of HJ Chevrolet in Pink Hill, said. "The customers have not been holding back just because of the interest rate but they have been waiting until they could afford to put an automobile payment into their budget." HJ Chevrolet reported about a 40 percent increase in auto sales during December and sold a total of 160 new vehicles in 1982.

"During the last six months, statistics have shown that if a customer comes to the showroom, he or she will buy a car within the next 72 hours." Salesman Craig Rich at Bostic-Hawes in Wallace said. "In the past one-and-a-half years there has been a big quality change in domestic cars. People are driving their cars longer because the autos have better paint, a better ride, and are made from better material." Rich explained domestic automakers have improved vehicle quality to stay competitive with foreign manufacturers, and have reclaimed the small car and truck market in America. During the past two months, the Ford-Mercury dealership has recognized about a 100 percent increase in sales over the same period last year, Rich said.

Warsaw Motor Company, a Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealership, has recognized a small business increase with customers buying in the full-size line. Full-size cars at the company offer about 20 miles to the gallon in city driving. Customers are trading in autos which have been driven six to eight years, salesman Rufus Freeman at Warsaw Motor Company said. Today most trade-ins have 100,000 miles or more on the vehicle. Warsaw Motor Company keeps an inventory of approximately 30 new cars and trucks.

"Everyone is keeping their vehicle longer, especially the farmers," Craig Rich said. "Our dealership caters to a mixed bag of customers — factory workers, small businessmen, mill and agricultural workers. And, I guess the mill and factory workers are buying less than all the others. Workers are more cautious; they know they can get the auto and with the lower interest rate, the customer may can afford the payment right now, but they are looking down the road at a year from now."

"Last year was a fair year. We sold about 90 trucks," Harold Johnson with HJ Chevrolet said. "Farmers had gone three to five years without trading, and had to have new trucks. We serve an agricultural community and I don't think this year will bring a big change in auto sales because many of our customers have over-extended themselves until their backs are against a wall." In the past few months, the auto dealers have recognized a sales increase among the full-size cars, and say with proper maintenance, today's vehicles will last six to eight years. The dealership stocks

about 35 vehicles and a profit begins to be lost when an auto stays on the showroom floor more than 90 days.

"We can't get enough large cars," Rich at Bostic-Hawes said. "The big car market is a funny thing. In 1976 we went to large cars, and in 1980 back to small, and now we are back to large autos. We sell one big car

today for each small or mid-size auto sold."

Bostic-Hawes, like HJ Chevrolet and Warsaw Motor Company, have interest rates of 11.9% available to customers, which, salesmen say, is the lowest in more than 10 years. Bostic-Hawes keeps an inventory of 35 cars and 15 trucks. Dealer incentive rates of 11.9% will end March 31, salesmen say.

By Emily Killette



Along the Way

By Emily Killette

Duplin County citizens have taken an active role in providing good educational facilities and programs for the young people. During 1937, County citizens worked to see a new elementary school built in the town of Warsaw, but the dream did not come true until 1975.

Work Progress Administration funds were used to build and repair many Duplin schools during the late 1930s. In 1937, a guy had just been completed at the Warsaw High School building which was financed with WPA funds. The Warsaw school committee brought attention to the aging elementary building on College Street and requested the Duplin County Board of Education condemn the structure and replace it with a new facility. The Warsaw school committee proposed the construction of a \$40,000 elementary school to be built with the use of WPA funds. A meeting of the general public and the Warsaw school committee, chaired by J.C. Thompson, was set for May 15, 1937 to establish a location for the proposed new building.

The Warsaw school committee passed a resolution and published it in the April 1, 1937 issue of the DUPLIN TIMES which condemned the Warsaw Elementary school building and recommended a new facility to be built before the beginning of a new school term.

"Whereas, the Warsaw Township District School Committee heard for the past several years that the present grammar school building

located on College St. in the town of Warsaw, has been and now is unsafe and unsuitable to house the children compelled to attend school in said building, the same being dangerous structurally and as a fire trap.

"Whereas, the said Committee has had the same inspected by the Chief of Warsaw Fire Department and received from this official on the 13th of Feb., 1937, a ruling that said building was in an unsafe and dangerous condition and that the building was by him condemned and its use prohibited for any purpose.

"Whereas, this committee

does not longer wish to bear the burden of criminal negligence or dereliction of duty in case of collapse of said building and destruction by fire, in either of which cases children might and probably would be killed and maimed in great numbers and now takes this opportunity of informing the general public and the County Board of Education in particular.

"Whereas, it is the sense of this committee that no further school shall be held, after the expiration of the present term, in said building in its present condition.

"Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved: That the Warsaw Township District Committee go on record as pointing out these dangers and request that a new and suitable school building be erected in Warsaw, N.C. before the beginning of the next term of school."

But, WPA funds were not available to build a new school in Warsaw. The College Street school was repaired and the school continued to operate until the desegregation of schools in the mid-1960s. The elementary school remained closed until the land was purchased by the Warsaw Baptist Church. The Baptist Church, located across the street from the school, had the elementary building torn down and a new chapel was built on the site. The elementary grades were housed at Douglass, a formerly all-Black school in Warsaw, and later moved into a new building during 1975.

Invitation Issued

1918 65TH 1983

In honour of the Sixty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ballard Goodson their children request the pleasure of your company at a reception on Sunday, the twentieth of February from three until five o'clock Oak Ridge Community Building Route One Mount Olive, North Carolina

No Gifts

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

A unique new program to help you kick the cigarette habit begins March 29 at 6:30 p.m. and last one hour. Classes will be held twice weekly for three weeks at the Kenasville Senior Citizen Nutrition Site. Registration fee is \$8 and you must sign up by March 1st.

The classes are sponsored by the American Lung Association in cooperation with the Duplin County Health Department. You may call Debra Beasley at 296-1015 for further information.

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