

Foreign Tours Are Arranged

Seven Martin County educators have joined forces to produce a program of student tours to ten foreign countries during the Easter holidays and summer vacation.

The program is coordinated through the American Institute of Foreign Studies which is headquartered in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Two of the tours will occur between April 8 and 17, and the remaining four are scattered throughout June and July.

Although emphasis will be placed on student participation, college students and adults are invited to join any of the tours. Officials noted that high school students must have the endorsement of their local principal in order to apply.

The spring tours each include a week in France and Switzerland or a week in Italy. The groups will depart from New York prior to Easter Sunday and return the following weekend. Costs for either tour will be approximately \$750 plus personal spending money. The fee covers all expenses except lunches.

The summer tours offer visits to Germany and Austria, Paris and London, London Theater, and the Orient. The London Theater tour will cost approximately \$650; the Oriental Tour lasts 26 days and costs \$2250 approximately. The others cost the same as the spring tours and each lasts slightly more than a week.

Wanda Caldwell, local coordinator of the tour project, participated in a London Tour last spring. She noted that the goals of the trips include increased student awareness of other cultures and an opportunity for some students to observe languages they may have studied in high school.

In a statement endorsing the project, Superintendent Eugene Rogers noted that the N.C. School Boards Association encourages foreign study programs and the local system is enthusiastic about the opportunity eastern North Carolina students have to join in the tours. Rogers further stated that he is pleased with the selection of local educators who have been chosen to lead the tours.

Caldwell stated that the following lists of leaders and tours is available and invited interested persons in any Eastern North Carolina county to call the group leader whose tour interests them.

Cultures of the orient, Ms. Flo Stuhlsby, 792-2514; Austria-Germany, Ms. Johnnie Perkins, 792-2658; Paris and the Riviera, Mrs. Wanda Caldwell and Ms. Fernade Dansereau, 792-2907, 792-1251; Showtime in London, Ms. Elizabeth Roberson, 792-2339; Tale of two Cities, Mr. Alan Suggs, 792-3428; and Wonders of the Renaissance, Alton Hopewell, 792-4361. (Please call the above numbers after 5 p.m.)



COLONEL RAYMOND SCHRUPP

Former Vietnam POW To Speak At Academy Dinner

Colonel Raymond Schrupp, a prisoner of war in Vietnam for nearly five years who has received fame for his television appearances in which he discussed patriotic topics, will be the featured speaker at the 12th Annual Albemarle Academy Appreciation Dinner to be held at the academy on Saturday, Jan. 15th.

The theme for the dinner, the proceeds of which go to the support of the school, will be a reunion of all the graduating classes, parents and patrons of the school with a Bicentennial emphasis on patriotism and celebration of the 12th anniversary of the founding of Albemarle Academy.

Colonel Schrupp joined the U.S. Army at age 17 and came up through the ranks spending nine years as an enlisted man and then attending Officers Candidates School graduating with distinction. He served as Commander and Staff Of-

ficer for eight years with U.S. Special Forces. He also served in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Ethiopia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Colonel Schrupp was taken prisoner of war in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam where he was held in the jungles of South Vietnam and Cambodia until he was finally released in 1973.

He was severely wounded during the Korean War. Among his awards and decorations are two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, two Commendation Ribbons, three Purple Hearts, two Combat Infantry Badges. Colonel Schrupp retired from the U.S. Army in December of 1973.

After he returned from communist prisons he became involved in the nationwide efforts to bring attention to the plight of the MIA/POWs.

Tickets for the dinner can be obtained by contacting the office at Albemarle Academy.

Flooded Wildlife: Nowhere To Go

By JIM DEAN
When a huge bottomland is flooded by a new lake, where do the deer and turkeys that live there go? When fields are paved to make parking lots for a new shopping center, what happens to the quail and rabbits that lived there?

The common belief is that these and other wildlife species simply spread out into surrounding countryside. But unfortunately, that's not generally true even when there are plenty of woods and fields nearby.

Several years ago, a segment of the TV show "Wild Kingdom" may have added fuel to this misconception by showing men in boats rescuing animals stranded on islands and trees in a reservoir that was filling up. The impression, possibly accidental, was that the intrepid boatmen had saved the animals from certain death. Undoubtedly, the animals were saved from immediate drowning, but they may have perished anyway. There is strong biological evidence suggesting that such rescues have little or no beneficial effect on the total wildlife populations.

When wildlife habitat is lost, the species that lived there do not simply move over to a nearby woodland area. They can't. If that nearby area could support a larger wildlife population, it would probably already have one.

For example, if you lived in an apartment complex and it suddenly burned to the ground, would you and all your neighbors be able to

move into the apartment buildings across the street? Only if they weren't already full.

The same thing applies to rabbits, quail, squirrels, deer and other wildlife species. A particular piece of land can support only so many squirrels, for example. When additional squirrels are thrust onto an already stable population, the surplus will in all probability die. Death may be by starvation, disease or predation, but it's as dependable as taxes.

This is also why it is not always beneficial to stock fish or game species. A survey may show that an area has very few rabbits, but it is necessary to find out why before more are stocked. The natural carrying capacity of the land may be low, and if the rabbit population is already stable, it would be a waste of time to stock more. It's like trying to put an extra handful of marbles in a full box. If the box is full — no matter what size it is — you can't get any more marbles in there.

Loss of suitable habitat is by far the most significant factor affecting wildlife populations. North Carolina's wildlife populations are in reasonably good shape for the most part. Indeed, those species for which we hunt and fish are more numerous than ever before (the black bear may be the only exception).

But the plight of the black bear is a good example of the effect of habitat loss.

N.C. Schools Compared Nationally

North Carolina ranks eleventh in the nation in public school enrollment, with over 1.1 million elementary and secondary children. Wyoming has the smallest school enrollment, 88,184, and California has the largest, 4,403,000.

These and other facts about how North Carolina compares to other states are included in the 1976 edition of "How North Carolina Ranks Educationally Among the Fifty States," published recently by the Department of Public Instruction's Division of Research. The publication includes comparisons of population, school enrollment and attendance, educational attainment, financial resources, school expenditures, and others.

With State support to North Carolina's public schools totaling over \$1 billion a year, some 68 per cent of all school support, the State ranks third in the nation in percentage of State funding for schools. Hawaii ranks highest, with 85.1 per cent State support, and New Hampshire ranks lowest, with 9.4 per cent. The national average percentage of State support for schools is 44 per cent.

In terms of per capita personal income, North Carolina ranks thirty-seventh, with an estimated average of \$4,665 in 1974, the latest figure available. The

national average is only \$5,448, according to the publication.

North Carolina ranks nineteenth in the nation in percentage of federal money received for schools. Approximately 9.8 per cent of the money spent for schools during the 1975-76 school year was from federal revenue. The national average for federal support is 7.8 per cent. Mississippi spends the highest percentage of federal money, 21.5 per cent. Connecticut spends only 3 per cent federal money, the lowest in the nation.

Local tax support in North Carolina is very low compared to other states. The State ranks forty-seventh, with local contributions of only 21.4 per cent as compared with a national average of 48.2 per cent.

The total money spent on each Tarheel school child is very low compared to other states, according to figures released in the publication. Although the average estimated per pupil expenditure for the 1975-76 school year was \$1,051.00, North Carolina ranks forty-sixth in the amount of money spent on each child. The average for the United States is \$1,390.00. Tennessee spends the least, \$969 per pupil, and New York spends the most, \$2,179 per pupil.

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Seminar Date Set

The Perquimans Weekly seminar date has tentatively been set for Tuesday night, January 25, 1977 from 7 to 9 o'clock. The place will be announced after registration has been completed.

Club representatives, publicity chairmen, columnists, and others contributing news items to the Newspaper are invited to attend this seminar, the first

given by THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY. There is no charge to those attending.

Interested people are requested to register by filling in the form below and returning it to the Perquimans Weekly office as soon as possible. Registration may also be done by calling 426-5723, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9 and 5 p.m.

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