

Senior Citizens Feted At Christmas Dinner



The Craven County Council on Aging under the direction of Lucille Stewart honored the county's senior citizens with a Christmas lunch on Dec. 20.

The group was entertained with music from the violin of Ms. Barbara Hansen, social worker for the blind in Craven, Pamlico, and Carteret counties. She was accompanied by Ms. Pam Gillen, pianist for Pleasant Acres Free Will Baptist Church.

Mrs. Natalie Baggert, Chairperson for Council on Aging, acted as Master of Ceremonies. She introduced Rev. Dean Dobbs who led the group in singing of

Christmas Carols.

There were over 200 in attendance to the lunch. These senior citizens are people who are using the services of the council on aging.

The food for the occasion was donated by interested people of Craven County.

Special guests included Rep. Chris Barker, Rep. Gerald Anderson, Commissioners Sidney French, Roger Forrest, Ed Armstrong, Mayor Paul Cox of New Bern, and several guests representing various agencies in the county.



April Lewis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Danny Lewis, Route 3, Vanceboro was a recent winner in the Sun Journal Christmas Coloring Contest. Congratulations April, we are proud of you.



Leo Hershfield Dean of the Courtroom Artists

For thirty years Leo Hershfield captured the quiet dramatic mood and emotions of the courtroom in his historic sketches of famous trials. The sketches, which were drawn on the spot and later watercolored, were shown on network television news.

Hershfield was hired by NBC's David Brinkley of the Huntley-Brinkley Report to depict the 1954 hearings of Senator Joseph McCarthy after T.V. cameras were banned as distracting in the courtroom. At the time Hershfield was accompanying newsman John Cameron Swazy on his stories for the "Camel Caravan News."

Leo's humorist drawings appeared in CHANGING TIMES, the NEW YORK TIMES, the SATURDAY EVENING POST, the NEW REPUBLIC and other periodicals. He also illustrated numerous books especially for fellow humorists like Groucho Marx.

After his first assignment as a courtroom illustrator at the McCarthy hearings Hershfield traveled the country portraying the trials of Jack Ruby, James Earl Ray, Lt. William Cally, Dr. Benjamin Spock, the Ku Klux Klan, the Vesco extradition and others. Some of the trials were located in North Carolina - the JoAnne Little trial and the Wilmington 10 Appeal. He also covered many Senate and House hearings.

Mr. Hershfield lived to the age of 75 in 1979. Leo, a man of dry wit with a bushy mustache and a ready smile, had besides his family, three loves - art, tennis and sailing. He and his wife, Mary Emma, made their home in Bradenton, Florida. A former New Bernian, Mary Emma Hurst, spent her first 17 years in New Bern. She periodically returns to the city to visit her brother, former city alderman, Ben Hurst, and her sister, Martha Gibbs. Interestingly enough is that Mrs. Hershfield's father was President of the banking establishment which preceded the occupancy of First Citizens Bank and Trust Co. in the Bank of the Arts.

Hershfield's work will be on display through February 11, 1984 and the public is invited to view and buy the historic courtroom scenes which made him famous. Drawings and caricatures of bygone politicians and dignitaries will also be shown from the private collection of Mrs. Hershfield. Now, with the legal intrusion of the T.V. camera into the courtroom, these historic sketches of famous trials should increase in value as collectible art.

Among the galleries which have paid tribute to Hershfield's work are the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the National Press Club in Washington which featured as exhibition "Fifty Years of Leo."

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