

### Reflections By Alta N. Oxendine

Hi! The more interesting experiences I have to write about, the less time there is to jot them down to share with others!

#### CORRECTION

I apologize to Crystal Gayle for spelling her second name without the "Y" in a recent issue: "Is there a green spot in your life?"

#### TO MONTANA AND BACK IN TWO DAYS

(REALLY TWO MONTHS)  
This year it took only two days to go to Montana and back on my annual trip to visit Mother and others in my native state of Montana. But, like last year, I spent two whole months there before leaving the home I shared with Mother, Daddy, and two brothers as a high school student in the 1940's.

The Rocky Mountain ranges circling the wide valley where both my parents were born are another "fixture" of my growing up years which I always find hard to leave. For many of us, growing up near these rugged, powerful-appearing, largely treeless mountains gave a special sense of security and quiet serenity which I can still feel on my visits back home.

Because I used to get so homesick for mountains, Leon kept kidding me about building a hill in our backyard. Sometimes when I go outside to hand clothes, I'm reminded of that imaginary hill.

#### GOOD BYES

In July it was hard to say

### October is Head Start Awareness Month

This year marks the twenty-fourth anniversary of Project Head Start, the comprehensive child development program for low-income preschoolers and their families, and Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland Counties, and 21 Head Start centers will join more than 10,000 Head Start classrooms across the nation in celebrating the program's accomplishments during the month of October. Head Start, described as "the Crown Jewel of the Great Society" and a social program that works, has provided services to almost 11 million children and families since 1965.

Locally, Head Start services are provided to 908 children by Four-County Community Services, Inc.

Project Head Start has received considerable attention in recent years, due to research findings documenting the program's lasting effect on children. Major studies have found that children enrolled in Head Start and similar programs are far less likely to be held back a grade or assigned to special education classes than low-income children who did not attend an early childhood program. Children who had gone through Head Start and other programs also scored higher in math, had stronger self-concepts, and their parents had greater expectations of their children's potential.

Recognizing Head Start's successful record, both President Bush and Congress have supported large increases in Head Start funding and enrollment for 1990. Head Start enrollment in 1989 is projected to be 452,314 children.

Since 1972, Head Start has also mounted a major effort to serve handicapped children, with nationwide enrollment of more than 59,000 handicapped preschoolers in 1988.

"Good-bye" to Wanda Kay and her husband, Jeff. In September it was even harder to leave my nearly ninety-three year old mother.

At a little over 100 pounds, Mother looks more frail than before and much frailer than she really is. She still brings in five or six big sticks of wood at one time, starts her own fire, and does her own cooking.

On Tuesday night, September 19, I told Mother and my cousin Betty "Good-bye" in Butte (where I spent the night before catching an early morning flight to Salt Lake City on Wednesday). At Salt Lake I changed to a jumbo jet to fly to Atlanta, also on Delta Airlines. In Atlanta, I boarded a little plane for Fayetteville on the connecting commuter service--Atlantic Southeast Airlines. That night, when Jeff and Wanda Kay came to the airport to pick me up, I was happy to see them and be back here once more.

#### PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

But, as you can see, these days I'm finding myself torn in two directions, between my mother (and my former Montana home) and my daughter (and my present North Carolina home). There is a positive side, of course. I'm fortunate to have two homes. One is in the northwest, where I was born and "brought up." The other's in the southeast, which I adopted in the 1950's.

Two homes and two families. That's a lot to be thankful for! (To be continued in the future--- hopefully)

### National Fire Prevention Week at Rex Rennert



"National Fire Prevention Week" a member of the Shannon Fire Department, shared fire safety techniques with pre-school through fifth grade students at Rex-Rennert Elementary School October 9-13. Mr. Eddie Locklear, school custodian and

## THANK YOU

Your votes of confidence for me in the LREMC election are deeply appreciated. Your vote did make a difference!

MADIE RAE LOCKLEAR

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# A PLUG FOR CP&L MONEY-SAVING PROGRAMS.

### THE COACH'S CORNER BY KEN JOHNSON

#### MAYBE WE NEED LOCAL HEROES

"Walker All Smiles After Viking Debut," and "Bo" Back with a Bang In Raider Victory," wouldn't it be nice if we had college football at PSU and could look up to some of our own young men as real good players and good leaders for your young people to look up to? They need this and the college needs something the public can grasp and help the college to become alive and not be such a "dead-place" every weekend. It is pitiful to see such a dead social environment. Dr. Joe Oxendine said, "We are going to make a mark on the area." I hope he's right. We at this point don't know what is on his mind but at the first Artist Series he did a great job of welcoming the people and he did say "There are no losers here." A great compliment to the Art Programs but I hope he doesn't mind losing football games as I know from his college days he probably wouldn't trade his football joys and sorrows for anything or experience in life. I know it is the greatest game in the world and nothing can compare with it. It is the greatest sport I ever coached and played and I hope Dr. Joe puts it in.



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