FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT. . by Dr. Barry Harding **Public Schools** of Robeson County

It used to be that the arrival of Thanksgiving signaled the begin-ning of the holiday season that started with the big turkey feast and culminated with the ham hocks and black eyed peas of New Year's Day. In the middle of the season, of course, was the holy day of Christmas. This year. though, with tomorrow being Thanksgiving, we've already, had much evidence of that day which is still a full month away

Still, a visit to our various schoolsmost notably our elementary and middle schools- would have found Thanksgiving decorations in much evidence. The earlier grades have had Thanksgiving's origin told accompanied by songs and plays about the holiday. The age of high school student is such that, while the holiday is also observed there, it's observed

Except for Christmas and Easter. no holiday on our calendar more embodies the spirit of brotherhood. The Fourth of July, Presidents' Day and Veterans' Day among others are more of a patriotic nature but Thanksgiving Day is the one which focuses on the brotherhood of man. Who isn't familiar with the story of that first Thanksgiving when the Native Americans and pilgrims sat down together for a meal which, while not comparable to what most of us will have on our tables tomorrow, was a

symbol of the ability of men of good will to come together and break bread in the spirit of triendship

That first Thanksgiving took place over three centuries ago and, in that simple America, it was Native Americans sitting down essentially with Englishmen Today, this nation is made up of people from many. many countries who have brought their own cultures and religions with them in the hopes making a better life for themselves and their families here than they knew in their homelands Some were greeted with open arms especially if they arrived in an area where some of the people from their homeland had already settled Others were often greeted with suspicion or outright hostility because of being

It was indeed a simpler tome that involved a small group in a small area but it was the attitude of the participants that made the event noteworthy. They looked beyond their differences and considered, instead. how they could help each other It's my hope that as, we observe this holiday tomorrow, our students as well as everyone else have come to

understand that it's not a time to merely sit down to a special meal but a time to reflect on the brotherhood that permeated that first Thanksgiving If they have, then it's possible that we are closer to the day when that feeling will be a universal one

throughout the country

May I wish for all our young people and their families, our educators and their families and everyone reading this column a most enjoyable and most healthy Thanksgiving

Babes of the Cape Fear Calendars now available

The 2001 Babes of Cape Fear Valley calendars will be on sale at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, located at 131 Glensford Drive across from Cross Creek Mall, on Sunday, Nov. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Representing hot dates in the year 2001, tiny tots who were born at Cape ear Valley Medical Center or Highsmith- Rainey Memorial Hospital Are featured in the annual baby calendar sponsored by Cape Fear Valley Health

The cover babe. Jack Cunius, will be on location to meet all his fans on Sunday. Nov. 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. Jack is the son of John and Julie Cunius of Wilmington

Other sale locations include The Gift Shop on Hay Street. Stork News in Hope Mills. Offspring on Ft. Bragg Road and Harris Teeter on Raeford Road. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Friends of Children of Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation.

For more information, please contact Jean Harrison at (910) 609-6400.

Clothes Drive planned in Maxton

"The Town of Maxton.NC will host the third annual CLOTHES DRIVE sponsored by Grace Baptist Church of Fayetteville .NC along with Saints Pauls United Methodist Church, of Maxton and Boy Scout Troop 309. The event will be in conjunction with the Maxton Christmas Parade. December 9, 2000 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Location is at Saint Pauls United Methodist Church. Maxton . All in need of clothes .(of all kinds and sizes), shoes, kitchen utensils, toys, etc. please drop by for a great blessing. The price is right, all items are free!! Mr. Delma Weitman, of Grace Baptist Church. fan be reached at (910) 424-8925 for additional information."

The soul of a journey is liberty, perfect liberty, to think, feel, do just as one pleases.

-William Hazlitt

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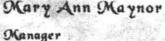
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