

IN AND AROUND ROCKY MOUNT

By R. D. Armstrong

"Music In Our Schools Day" was observed in Edgecombe County Schools during the national observance of National Music Week recently.

Two schools, Bulluck Elementary and South Edgecombe Junior High School, presented special programs during their assembly periods to more than 460 students in the two schools.

Mrs. Harriet Gilchrist, itinerant music teacher for Edgecombe County, was in charge of both programs. At Bulluck School, Mrs. Sara Wilson and Mrs. Dorothy Horne, assisted in staging the program and directing the construction of musical instruments the children used in the program.

At South Edgecombe Junior High School, Mrs. Debbie Sharpe's and David Shelton's physical education classes participated in presenting the program.

A choral group at the junior high school provided two numbers during the assembly, "It's A Wonderful Thing To Be Me" and "Let's Put It All Together". In addition, a dance group from the physical education classes presented several numbers.

The National theme song for the observance throughout the nation, "American The Beautiful", was used at each of the two programs along with other popular numbers, "This Is Your Land" and many others.

Mrs. Gilchrist, in addition to her work at Bulluck and South Edgecombe Schools, also conducts similar music classes at Coker-Wimberley and Phillips Schools in the county. She began her work in the County School System in 1968 and is scheduled in the four schools twice each month.

Her work with the students in music has been well received by the students, their parents and school officials.

Also in Edgecombe County last week, the County's Bicentennial Commission engaged the Rogers Company of Fostoria, Ohio, to stage a spectacular outdoor pageant in connection with the county's observance of the Nation's 200th birthday. The outdoor event will be held during the month of September. The exact date was not set.

Walter Lafferty, who represented the Ohio company at a meeting of the Bicentennial Commission held in Tarboro last Monday afternoon, stated his company would provide entertainment for all people and all ages. He also added, the pageant would create new civic awareness in communities throughout the county.

Lafferty noted that the staging of the event would uncover new civic leadership and stimulate the economy in the county.

In reference to a proposed \$14,000 budget, Lafferty told the commission the figures were realistic and were based on the company's experiences in more than 5,000 communities throughout the nation where they had staged similar pageants.

The heritage of the county, he said, will be honored during the extravaganza which will also focus its attention on the future. The outdoor pageant will tie-in with other events taking place in the county that are related to the celebration.

In addition to the county-wide event in September, other events are being planned by the commission including a gigantic celebration on the Town's Commons July 4.

Three local musical groups, the First Baptist and First Presbyterian Churches of Tarboro and a group to be directed by Walter Plemmer, music teacher at North Edgecombe High School, will present "I Love America", "Freedom" and Negro spirituals respectively.

It was gratifying to learn last week that an extension of "life" has been granted Fountain School in Rocky Mount. The decision to keep the school open came following a report from a sub-committee of the State Youth Service Commission studying the state-wide juvenile rehabilitation program.

From our point of view, two shocking statements were made regarding the state program and Fountain School in particular.

The first concerned the physical conditions of the buildings on all the campuses of the State institutions. It was pointed out that at the Rocky Mount Fountain School alone, there were buildings in very poor physical condition. It was also stated that similar conditions existed on campuses across the state.

It is hard to believe that the State of North Carolina would allow state-owned and operated facilities become "run-down".

The central theme in promoting the closing of the school was an economy measure. It seems from our vantage point, that to allow state facilities to deteriorate is by far more waste of tax money than caring for youthful law offenders.

Another shocking statement concerned the promise that all the employees at Fountain School would be placed in other jobs in the State system.

That was all well and good. Certainly these employees are concerned about their jobs, rightfully so and only natural. People are human and concerned about their livelihood.

However, in assuring the employees work, there was no assurance to the boys and girls of North Carolina that their needs for love and care would be provided. In short, to keep Fountain School open for their care would cost too much.

The question then is simply this, does it cost more to care for these children or is it more expensive to the tax structure to allow the buildings to deteriorate? The answer depends on which side of the political stage you are on.

Fountain School has long been a step-child for youth programs. It has been changed from one type of school to another for a number of years. Never once, in the more recent years, has the school program been given an opportunity to develop its full potential.

It was unfortunate that the decision to close the school became a political football and the action recommended by the director in Raleigh was most unfortunate in the first place.

Never once were the District's Chief Judge, the Rocky Mount Mayor, the sheriffs of Nash and Edgecombe Counties and hundreds of others throughout the community, consulted. It was simply a "snap political decision".

We sincerely hope this judgement will be corrected once and for all. The State of North Carolina needs a place for its youthful offenders and by the same token, they need help from the State.

Walter "Buck" Leonard, Baseball Hall of Famer, threw out the traditional "first ball" to inaugurate the 1976 baseball season at East Carolina University last Sunday afternoon.

The ceremony and game had previously been scheduled for Saturday afternoon, but rain in the area brought about a postponement until Sunday.

A doubleheader was staged with Maryland furnishing the opposition. More than 1,000 baseball fans turned out for the

contest which saw East Carolina post 3-0 and 3 victories. Two former Rocky Mount Senior High school players, Sonny Wooten and Howard McCulough, were in the ECU starting line-up. Wooten was at first base and McCulough was the starting catcher. Leonard was the guest of the Athletic Department at East Carolina.

Five Rocky Mount women were honored here last Sunday by the Epsilon Gamma Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The program was a part of the sorority's observance of National Finer Womanhood Week.

The ladies honored were Mrs. Adairay, Mrs. Mable Lewis, Mrs. Estella Cooper, Mrs. Ada Dunn and Mrs. Beatrice Smith. The guest speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Rosalie Beattie, Guidance Counselor at Nash Central School.

The program was held at the Mt. Pisgah United Presbyterian Church. Officers of the local chapter are Mrs. Ella B. Miller, basileus; Mrs. Martha D. Stith, vice basileus; Mrs. Willie L. Smith, grammeteus; Mrs. Alice D. Bailey, Tamias and Mrs. Ruth Jones, Philacher.

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church culminated its fund-raising drive here Sunday afternoon. The drive was initiated here several weeks ago in an effort to raise \$18,500 to purchase a tract of land adjacent to the present church building on Raleigh Road.

The land had been purchased some months ago by a local Real Estate Development Company and was scheduled to be the site of an apartment complex. The emergency campaign was spearheaded by the Rev. Thomas Walker, pastor of the church and its members along with friends in the community.

In a statement last week, Walker said the drive was necessary because the amount needed to purchase the tract of land was not in the church's present budget and the church had recently bought another piece of property adjacent to the newly acquired tract.

Although the total amount raised during the drive had not been announced when this column went to press, Walker stated earlier in the week one-third of the amount had been raised.

The pastor also said his church was eternally grateful for all the wonderful deeds - for the interest and support given the church during the drive.

The drive was launched when the realty company began building on the site. Members of the church and friends put up a strong protest that sent the developers and church officers to the conference table that brought about the purchase.

UCBI OBSERVES FOUNDER'S DAY SUNDAY

The Union Christian Bible Institute will observe its twelfth anniversary Sunday, March 21. The festivities will begin with open house at the school located on Barnhill Ave. at 1:00 p.m., here in Durham and terminate with services at Laodicea United Christian Church in Raleigh, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The general public is invited to observe the new building on Barnhill Ave. and the services to be held in Raleigh.

The Founder's Day services will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Laodicea United Christian Church, where Rev. D. A. Peace is pastor. The speaker for the occasion will be Rev. William C. Turner, Jr., dean of black affairs, assistant provost of Duke University and acting director of black studies.

Rev. Turner is assistant pastor of Fisher Memorial United Holy Church of America, Inc., in Durham. He earned an electrical engineering degree and his master of divinity degree at Duke University. He is a former director of United Campus Christian Ministry at N. C. A&T University in Greensboro.

The Union Christian Bible Institute was conceived in the mind of the President, Dr. L. W. Reid, in 1964, and was given birth in the New Bethel Baptist Church. The school began a venture in faith. Believing that God provides a way, the school has moved under the able leadership of its president to Ramsey Street. Urban Renewal caused it to move from Ramsey to its present location on Barnhill Ave. Faith and the good wishes of many contributors have brought into fruition a new building that houses the institute.

The school serves as a bridge from darkness to light; from the unknown to the known; from despair to hope.

The President and the entire staff freely and generously give of their time and training to make of this dream an institution where all who desire to know more Christian service may come and be strengthened.

Department of Labor Created in 1884 under the Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Labor later became an independent executive department. Its major functions include: promote the welfare of wage earners in the country; collect statistics concerning labor conditions; and enforce labor, wage, safety and health standards.

Williams

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Williams, is 1) consolidation of charges, by which all the charges of discrimination against a particular employer are filed at the same time and the Pre-investigative Efforts Settlement (PIES) program where by one-on-one discrimination charges have been successfully settled out of court through a formally

prepared conciliation agreement.

In the last fiscal year, Williams contends that the Charlotte office had an increase of 55.8 per cent in the amount of charges resolved out of court. "So we're pretty proud of that record," he added.

Williams also says the Commission has the power to file suit directly in Federal Court when need arises. But

that only comes after out of court conciliation fails. Currently of about a hundred suits on file in federal court only ten of them has been filed by the Commission which somewhat points to the success of the out of court settlement program. In many of the other ninety, says Williams, the Commission goes in as an amicus (Latin term meaning 'friend': an amicus is a friend of the court) which is for the

court's benefit on an explanatory basis. Williams reiterated that "our thrust is to conciliate," a point which has some basis in that 1511 charges in the past fiscal year were settled out of court.

Sailor Hole

The doughnut was invented by a Maine sea captain. The hole enabled sailors to slide it onto the spokes of a ship's wheel so they could eat and steer the ship at the same time.

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