

# Harnett County News

News & Advertising  
Deadline: Monday Noon

Published Continuously Since 1919

VOL. 62

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1978

TWENTY CENTS

## Money, Personnel Asked Of Commissioners Mon.

At the Harnett County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday morning, Harnett County Sheriff Lewis Rosser announced plans for substantial changes in both his office staff and law enforcement personnel. Rosser, who took the office in December, said that the first phase, including renovation of

offices and realignment of the office staff, is nearly completed. He made an appeal to the board for the authority to hire more deputies and detectives. Eventually, he said, he would like a rotating squad patrol system within the department. He told the board he needed "at least" six more patrolmen and two more detectives. There are presently 16 patrolmen and four detectives.

Rosser suggested the possibility of using funds from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program to pay for the additional manpower. Joining Rosser in making requests was Chief Deputy Bill Carson, who asked for permission to submit an application to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for funds to hire temporarily a crime prevention officer.

Carson said he and Rosser felt that the officer's position could be phased out in two years. But it would help cut the county's petty crime rate, he said. Jesse C. Alphin, chairman of the board, said the request would be considered, and he appointed Commissioner Rudy Collins to be a liaison officer between the board and the sheriff's office. Rosser also announced the appointments of Pete Ledford of Western Harnett County, and Donald McLamb of Dunn as detectives. The two men will

work in their home areas. In other action, the board approved a request to hire an additional public health nurse and an aide for the home health program in the Harnett County Health Department. The board took no action on a request for additional workers in the Department of Social Services.

Helen Crews, director of social services, had sought to replace a file clerk, food stamp specialist and three workers in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children division. The positions had been filled by CETA workers who were required to leave after completing their training. The commissioners indicated they would announce a decision on the matter later this month.

## Day Care Center At Coats Baptist

The Coats Baptist Church is planning to open a Day Care Center in the near future. The Center will be equipped to provide competent day care for all in attendance, plus enriching activities in a Christian environment for two, three and four-year olds. Applications will be accepted for children from six months of age up to five years of age. For more information you are requested to call 897-8674 or 897-5623.



ROOSEVELT BRUNSON of Western Harnett scored his 1,000 career point with this basket Friday night against East Wake. The 6-3 senior needed only three points prior to the game to reach the plateau and got them on his team's first two possessions. He led the way for the 66-52 win by scoring 37 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. The Eagles are now 14-5 overall with a 10-3 conference mark. The Lady Eagles who won their game 66-52, are 16-3 on the season and 13-0 in the conference. The Eagles play their final home game Friday against Orange. (Photo by Lorraine Mize)

## Board Avoids Court Suit Against TMR Move

The Harnett County Board of Education Monday night approved three classes for trainable mentally retarded (TMR) students in this area-two at Shawtown and one at Johnsonville. Previously, there have only been two TMR classes in this county, one at Shawtown and another at Johnsonville.

The decision to set up a third came after two months of protests from parents who didn't want to see the Johnsonville class dissolved. Following the advice of teachers, the board had earlier voted to transfer the Johnsonville students to Shawtown where they could be divided according to age.

With just two classes, each at a different school, students from age 5 to 20 had been lumped together making it impossible, Superintendent Gray said, for one teacher to instruct them effectively. The board hoped to remedy that situation by combining Johnsonville's students with Shawtown's and then dividing the children according to age. However their plans were halted when parents of six of the older Johnsonville students organized a lawsuit against the school and had a court order drawn up prohibiting the board from transferring their children.

Sanford attorney Jimmy Love represented the parents at a hearing last Thursday and suggested to Gray that a third class be considered. At that time Superior Court Judge Edwin S. Preston of Raleigh agreed to postpone the hearing until after the school board had time to discuss the new proposal.

Gray said this morning that since the board had compromised and created the third TMR class, the lawsuit would probably be dropped. "I think everyone is satisfied now," said Gray. "What we're

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Monday at 11 a.m.

## WLLN Goes on Air

By STEVE PLUMMER After months of federal setbacks and delays, Lillington's long-awaited radio station will finally go on the air Monday, Feb. 12 at 11 a.m., it was announced this week by WLLN business manager Lincoln Faulk.

Special guests expected to be on hand for the opening ceremonies include U.S. Senator Robert Morgan, station owner Bob Etheridge, Lillington Mayor Frank Lewis, Lillington Chamber of Commerce president Leo McDonald, Tony Tucker of the Harnett Co. Planning and Development Commission and Jesse Alphin, chairman of the Harnett board of commissioners.

Faulk said a formal opening and ceremony will be held in the near future for the general public once the station is on the air. The 2,500-watt station will operate a 1370 on the AM band and will broadcast during daylight hours-seven days a

week. Faulk said the station will feature middle-of-the-road music and community-oriented news and features. "Our musical philosophy is that a greater audience will be reached if we play a little something for everybody," Faulk said. "We will also broadcast regular Sunday morning services from Lillington Baptist Church and daily morning devotionals with area ministers."

Faulk said all community organizations and civic clubs are invited to make use of the radio's facilities for announcements and other activities. Cary Stedman, a radio and television graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, is the station manager. Stedman was employed with a Durham station before accepting the post in Lillington. Faulk, who retired from a Dunn station after 25 years, is well-known in the Lillington area. His wife, the former Polly Eason, is a Lillington native.

## Around Town

### RURITAN FISH FRY

The Neill's Creek Ruritan Club will sponsor a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. A three dollar donation is asked and all proceeds will go to the club's building fund. Tickets are available from all club members.

The feed will be held at the clubhouse, located in Buies Creek near Johnson's Store. To find the building, go down N.C. highway 210 north through the spotlight at the intersection of highways 421 and 401. Take the first paved road to the right and proceed past Johnson's Store. The clubhouse is located on the first dirt road on the right, about one quarter of a mile from the store.

### CLASS REUNION

The Lillington High School class of 1969 is planning, or at least trying to plan, a 10-year anniversary reunion for April 14. The only problem is the organizers can't get up with all the class members to determine if there is any interest in having such an event.

Hopefully all class members keep up with the Lillington folks by reading the News, so here is a message to all of you: If you are interested in the event, or even if you are not, contact Jane Stogsdill Lanier by writing to Rt. 1, Bunnlevel or calling 893-5445.

### CARL VICTIMIZED

While Carl Clayton was busy Friday night coordinating the fund-raiser for N.C. Insurance Commissioner John Ingram, his home was being ransacked by thieves.

Carl reported the break-in at his Rt. 1, Broadway home to the sheriff's department at about 9 p.m. Friday night. He reported the theft of \$753 worth of merchandise.

Carl told investigating officers the back door had been kicked open. Reported missing were a shotgun, a rifle, a base station citizens band receiver, two necklaces and a hunting knife.

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## Telephone Number Established For LIP

By STEVE PLUMMER

A telephone number on the Lillington exchange has been established by United Telephone Systems (UTS) for persons who want to call Project LIP with suggestions about community improvement.

The establishment of the number was announced jointly this week by LIP co-chairman Steve Skinner and Bobby Suggs, UTS manager of community relations.

The number to call is 893-2311. A recorded message will instruct callers on the procedure for leaving their message. Skinner said persons who wish to volunteer for Project LIP can also leave their names and telephone numbers. Someone from the committee will contact them later.

The telephone number was established to encourage more citizen input into local revitalization efforts. The information

taken on the telephone will be used in conjunction with recent merchant interviews and a customer questionnaire that appeared in the Harnett County News.

Skinner said that although several of the customer questionnaires had been mailed to the News office, the committee hopes the establishment of the telephone number will encourage even more citizen participation.

Project LIP is a joint effort by local merchants, property owners and citizens to improve the economy, function and appearance of the community at a minimal cost. The local committee is closely with members of the N.C. Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development and UTS, whose Project PROUD has helped several other North Carolina communities achieve positive results in similar programs.

## Rain, Sleet Never Stopped Byrd, But Retirement Will

by LORRAINE MIZE

Neither rain nor sleet can stop the local mail carrier, but come this Friday, retirement will end the 30-year career of rural mail carrier Carl A. Byrd.

Byrd, who has been with the Lillington Postal Service since 1948, has served the citizens of Route 1 in Lillington since 1956. He said changes over the years have come mostly in the volume and type mail delivered and in the road conditions.

"There's a lot more work involved now than when I started with the post office," he said. "The roads have been changed over the years and the people have changed too. There really aren't any country people any more, they're all city-oriented."

Byrd said, "Along with the volume of mail being greater, the type of mail is different now. Whereas 25 years ago you might get half a dozen Reader's Digest magazines, now you get as many as 100. When I started carrying mail, Progressive Farmer, Reader's Digest and Life were about the only magazines you ever saw. Now you can see just about anything."

Born and raised on a farm in Bunnlevel, Byrd said he had always wanted to be mail

carrier. "I'd watch the mailman come by every day while we were in the fields picking cotton and knew that was what I wanted to do. I just didn't know if I'd ever have the money to buy a car and that was a necessity."

Byrd served as a squad leader in the infantry during World War II and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 25,

1944. "That's something I'll never forget," he said thoughtfully. "We were driven back almost to the Meuse River and Bastogne was surrounded in the southern Ardennes Forest by the Germans. Brig. Gen. (Anthony C.) McAuliffe was asked to surrender and his reply was 'Nuts!' By the middle of January we had recovered all the ground we lost in the

battle." After returning to Lillington in 1945, Byrd worked for his father-in-law for three years at Johnson and Bryan Butcher Shop. Then in August of 1948, he began his work as a mail carrier. For the first eight years, he served the people on Route 3 Lillington before switching to Route 1, where he has been a daily figure for the past 22 years.

attended the fund-raiser for Mr. Ingram. Senator Morgan, after welcoming Mr. Ingram and his family back to Harnett, said the fund-raiser was one of the finest tributes that could be paid Ingram. "Winners in election campaign have no trouble raising Continued on Page 4

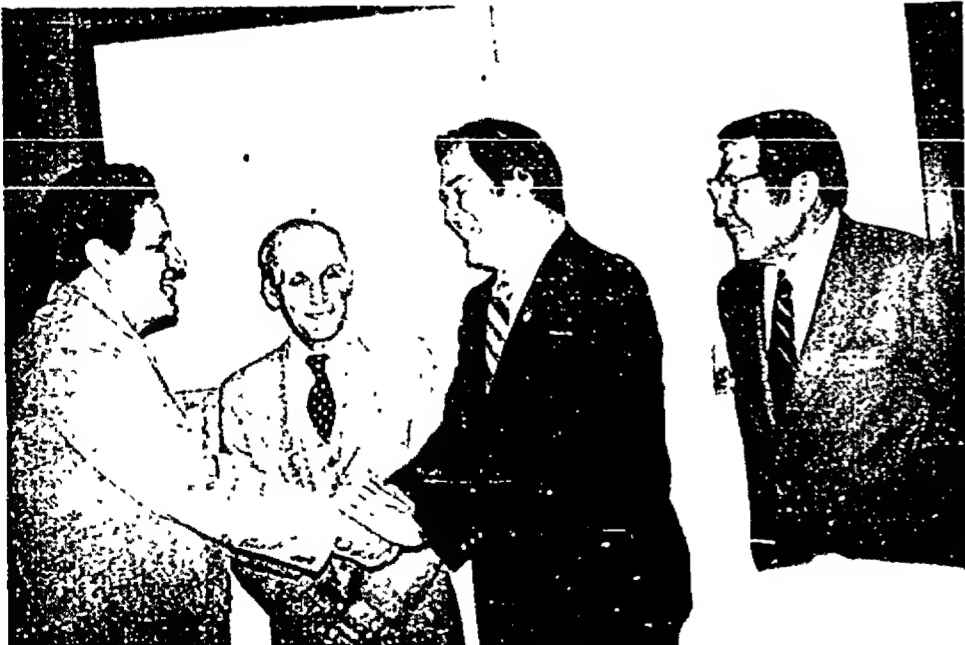
## Ingram Wants Insurance Law Changed, Asks For Help

State Insurance Commissioner John Ingram Friday night appealed to Harnett citizens to bring all the influence they have with their State legislators to change the insurance law to again allow his office to set insurance rates in the State. The last legislature passed a law which enables insurance companies to put into effect high and unreasonable insurance rates over the protest of the State Insurance Commission. "The present law is against

the people and needs changing," said Commissioner Ingram. The Insurance Commissioner spoke at a benefit barbecue chicken supper held in the Lillington Middle School to raise money to help pay off the debt he incurred in his unsuccessful campaign against U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

Co-Chairmen Carl Clayton of Upper Little River and J.D. Stewart of Dunn, terming the event highly successful, reported they had raised over \$800 for Mr. Ingram. U.S. Senator Robert Morgan, his wife, Katie, and two daughters, Mary and Margaret, headed Democrats from throughout the county who

attended the fund-raiser for Mr. Ingram. Senator Morgan, after welcoming Mr. Ingram and his family back to Harnett, said the fund-raiser was one of the finest tributes that could be paid Ingram. "Winners in election campaign have no trouble raising Continued on Page 4



IN APPRECIATION - Two retiring Harnett County employees, Edna Newton (left) of the sheriff's department and Juanita Hight of the agricultural extension service, were honored Monday morning at the regular meeting of the county's board of commissioners. Seen here

with the woman is board chairman Jesse Alphin and dozens of fellow employees who were on hand for the presentation of the resolutions commending the women for their years of service. (Photo by Steve Plummer)

## Fourth Annual Kiwanis Pancake Supper Feb. 22

The fourth annual Lillington Kiwanis pancake supper will be held Thursday, Feb. 22 at the Lillington Middle School cafeteria. The meal will be served from 5:30 - 9 p.m. and tickets for the all-you-can-eat affair are two dollars each.

A country ham will be given away during the evening as a door prize.

The annual rite by the local civic club raises money for the club's scholarship fund, given each year to a local high school senior. This year proceeds from the dinner will also help pay for a Harnett County handicapped youngster to attend Camp Easter-in-the-Pines, a camp in Moore County sponsored by the Easter Seals Foundation. The club voted earlier this year to raise the \$350 necessary for one youngster's participation in the summer program.

Tickets are on sale now and are available from any Kiwanis member. Tickets can also be purchased at the office of the Harnett County News on Main Street.



AT INGRAM FUND-RAISER - Harnett Sheriff Lewis Rosser, left, is shown here as he welcomed State Insurance Commissioner

John Ingram back to Harnett Friday night for a dinner held to help him raise funds to pay off his campaign debts.