

Harnett County News

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Around Town

By STEVE PLUMMER

RTP MEETING
The Harnett County Retired Teaching Personnel Association will meet Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Lillington Community Building on W. Front Street.

This reminder comes from G. Titus Rogers, president of the association, who urges all member to attend.

LABOR DAY
The thought that comes to me as I sit here Monday staring at my nemeses, the typewriter, is "Why do they call it Labor Day if no one goes to work?"

I drove through town several times during the course of the day Monday and I believe that if MGM or 20th Century Fox wanted a ghost town for a movie, they could have shot it here with no problems.

I'm talking deserted, folks. No people, no animals, no traffic, nothing.

Do you know what a lonely feeling that is, to be driving to work and pass through a ghost town that seems to pound home the fact that you are one of only handful of people in the entire country working that day?

Of course, along 3 or 4 p.m., anyone who happened to be on the streets in Lillington began to get a lot of company. Everyone who had gone anywhere had to pass through Lillington to get back to where they had started. Or so it seemed.

I tell you, it did nothing to improve my already-foul mood to stare out of my office window that afternoon and see carload after carload of sunburnt people riding by.

If the curse I mumbled under my breath came true, there is not a single, workable bottle of Coppertone lotion in the country right now.

Yes it's true, folks, I'm nothing if not vindictive.

Anyway, that's in the past and I'm feeling better now. In fact, I am eagerly looking forward to the next holiday, when even newspaper people get the day off (will Saturday ever get here?).

SINGING SERVICE

The Rangers, a gospel group from Coats, will be the special guests of Woodside Methodist Church in Mainers for their regular singing service Sunday at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

BLOODMOBILE DRIVE

The bloodmobile was here Aug. 23 on a visit sponsored by the Lillington Lions Club. Lillington had 72 people to show up, of which 11 were deferred for one reason or another, for 61 productive donors.

That's about a 30 percent drop from the previous visit. Five first-time donors were registered. Teresa Collins of Rt. 2, Lillington received her one-gallon pin.

One reason for the decline in donors, says a Red Cross spokesperson, was the fact that the industry workers did not turn out this time like they did before. An extra nurse was available on this recent visit so the bloodmobile could handle a crowd from the industry in order to better handle the type of crowd that the industries sent last time, but the extra donors never showed up.

Blue Bell had the most donors with 12, but Baker Nall, MB Associates, Southern National Bank and Bank of North Carolina, all big donors on the previous visit, only contributed three each this time.

The bloodmobile will visit Lillington again in December, but if you feel bad about missing this last visit, they will be in Angler Sept. 12 at the Rescue Squad Building. You can soothe those guilty feelings there.

Petition Filed For Special Rescue District

County commissioners Tuesday approved a petition for the formation of a special rescue district for Buckhorn and Hector's Creek Townships.

A contingent of Buckhorn and Hector's Creek citizens have been pushing since April 1978 to establish a special tax district in order to collect money to pay for rescue service from Fuquay Varina.

The two townships have been serviced by the Fuquay squad since it was first established across country lines, but closer to the two Harnett County townships than either the Lillington or Bules Creek rescue teams.

"They (the petitioners) feel like we've had a free ride long enough," said spokesman John McLean of Buckhorn. "They want to pay for it."

The commissioners approval of the petition will enable the petition to go for possible certification by Virginia Warren, Supervisor of the Board of Elections.

If there are enough signatures to warrant it, people from Buckhorn and Hector's Creek vote on the issue at the November elections.

County Manager Commissioner Jack Brock estimated that an 8 cent tax rate on the area's \$18 million worth of

property would net about \$12,000 for the Wake County rescue team.

Wayne Johnson of the Fuquay Varina Rescue Squad told commissioners that the squad receives \$300 per month from the Town of Fuquay, and \$1350 from Wake County.

Out of 654 calls made by the squad since January, 125 or 22.56 percent have been in Harnett County.

Signatures on the petition numbered 71 in Hector's Creek and 165 from Buckhorn.

In other business, the board: Appointed Vanessa Young of the Tax Auditor's office as Assistant Clerk to the Board of

commissioners.

Mrs. Young is filling the position vacated by Mrs. Rachel Blanchard, who retired July 30.

Approved formation of a WIC program for the supplementing the diet of pregnant mothers, infants and unborn children who are considered nutritional risks.

Committee members Brock and Bill Shaw reported after study that there were overlapping programs in Harnett and Sampson Counties, where the new program will operate.

However, they reported that support for WIC was strong among department heads in social services and public health.

The program will require no county money and will be supervised by the Dept. of Health.

Tabled a decision on whether to appoint a Harnett County engineer as Resident Inspector airport construction, or to accept the inspector available through the engineering company, Talbert and Cox Associates.

Brock, Jesse Alphin, and Bill Shaw were appointed to a committee to study the matter. They are expected to reach a decision this week.

The board also heard a request from consulting engi-

neer Fred Hobbs of Talbert and Cox that Solar Material Engineering of Raleigh provide the Quality Control test lab for the project.

The expense of \$25-30,000 has been included in federal funding.

Designated the Harnett County Council of Senior Citizens the focal point for programs on aging in the county.

Ms. May Marshbanks, coordinator of the Harnett County Council for Senior Citizens, made the request.

Awarded certificates to deputies and detectives of the Harnett County Sheriff's Dept.

The men had completed 24 hours of firearms training through Central Carolina Technical Institute.

They were commended by Commissioner Rudy Collins and Chariman Jesse Alphin for the efforts to improve their service.

Heard reports from Earl Jones, Tax Collector Thomas Allen, Tax Supervisor, John Gardner, Captain of the Harnett County Ambulance Service, and Sheriff Lewis Rosser.

After adjourning, commissioners went to the Annual Library Picnic at the Harnett County Library.



A RETIREMENT PARTY was held at the Lillington Post Office last week for Henry Powell (seated), who is leaving the organization after 31 years as a mail carrier. Seen here from left: Tom Glasby, W.T. Simmons, Billy Holder, postmaster Lou Bottiglier, Joan Joyner, Carl Byrd, Faye Wester, Billy Winder and Joe T. Long. (Photo by Steve Plummer)

Powell Resigns as Mail Carrier

Henry A. Powell, an employee with the Lillington Postal Service since 1948, retired last week after 31 years as a rural mail carrier.

Powell, who served five years in the armed forces during World War II, started in July of 1948 with a route of approximately 50 miles and 300 boxes.

During the years, his route changed to 68 miles with 575

boxes. Powell never had a single traffic accident in the 31 years on his route.

Being a rural mail carrier, like everything else, has changed considerably over the years.

"Since I started carrying the mail the people have changed," Powell said. "In the beginning, some of my customers were without transportation, so besides mail in the boxes, I would find medicine bottles that

needed refilling and lists of things they needed from town. I always tried to help them out as much as I could."

Recently, he said, patrons have come to expect more, but the post office won't allow carriers to do favors for them. There just isn't time anymore.

Powell's retirement plans include working on his farm and doing many things he has had to

put off over the years.

He is married to the former Fannie Mae Clark, manager of the Lillington Middle School cafeteria, and they have four daughters: Genny, Becky, Alice and Janice.

"I've enjoyed serving the customers on my route and want to wish them the best of luck," he said. "I'm going to miss them."

Knight is Memorialized

Kenneth Johnson Knight, a Lillington resident who died from muscular dystrophy in 1977, has been memorialized by a gift from his former classmates in Benson.

The last and largest class of Benson High School, the 86 graduates of Benson High School, have given a selection of art books to the Mary Duncan Public Library in Benson in memory of their former classmate.

Knight, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Knight of Rt. 2, Lillington, graduated from Benson in 1969 and went on to study art at Campbell College

and East Carolina University, where he received a degree in art in 1975.

He was an employee of the Harnett County Library in 1977. He died while attending a muscular dystrophy camp near Chapel Hill that same year.

His interest in art was the consuming concern of his life. He painted in acrylics and watercolor.

His favorite artist was the American painter Georgia O'Keefe, whose paintings of the Southwest are considered among greatest produced by this nation. Knight's works showed O'Keefe's concepts of

personal realism and abstraction.

Although he was only 26 when he died, Knight's works had been exhibited widely in North Carolina and his style and coloring showed great promise.

One of his works won a national contest as a poster for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation.

"His valiant battle with the crippling disease hampered his mobility, but never his personality and his devotion to art," said Jimmy Peacock, a librarian.

His classmates have Continued on Page 9

Williford to Hear Case

The Harnett County Board of Education has appointed Rene Williford of Lillington to hear the case of a 5-year-old Erwin boy dismissed from a Harnett County school this year because of medical problems.

September 11 has been selected as the date to hear the case of Agrippa Hymes, son of U.S. Army Sgt. and Mrs. Alvin Hymes, who was dismissed from the Gentry School kindergarten program in March when the school officials refused to provide his daily medical services.

Mrs. Williford, a school advisory committee member, will hear arguments from the Hymeses and their Charlotte attorney Louis L. Lesesne and Gentry school officials.

At the request of the Hymeses the hearing, set for 10 a.m. at the school board's offices in

Lillington, will be open to the public.

The Hymeses have filed a federal lawsuit against the



AGRIPPA HYMES

school board to require that their son be reinstated in a regular classroom program and that a nurse or trained aide provide for his care. An administrative hearing is standard legal procedure for getting a case to trial.

Hymes was born with vocal cord paralysis and has worn a tracheostomy tube since birth according to the suit. The tube which enables him to breathe, must be routinely suctioned and occasionally cleaned. Saline drops must be placed in the tube to help relieve blockage.

A kindergarten pupil last year, the child was removed from the school at the request of school officials who said they were not medically qualified to perform the procedures. Hymes was placed on a homebound tutorial program.

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Town Board Discusses Rescue Squad Problem

by STEVE PLUMMER

The Lillington board of commissioners Wednesday in a special meeting discussed the proposed rescue squad with a regional coordinator for the state.

Ken Porter, regional coordinator of emergency medical services for regions 'M' and 'N', discussed with the board some of the priorities and expenses of running a successful rescue squad.

"Your critical area is manpower," Porter told the board. "Right now your proposed area of service is Lillington and perhaps a mile beyond the city limits. The Harnett County Ambulance Service (at Bules Creek) estimates that it answers about five call per month in that area."

Porter told the board that with only five calls a month, the "excitement factor" will quickly die down and the volunteers will soon lose interest and quit.

"There is nothing longer than sitting before a quiet monitor, waiting for an alarm," Porter said.

Porter told the board that there are about 40 items on an emergency vehicle that are checked by state EMS inspectors for certification of the vehicle. Lillington police chief Lincoln Neal said about \$800-900 more are needed to get the Lillington vehicle up to certification standards.

The ambulance, formerly used by O'Quinn's Funeral Home, was presented to the town by the county in March after O'Quinn's discontinued its rescue service. The county gave the vehicle to the town with the understanding, that Lillington would soon begin providing rescue service.

Some of the Lillington council members expressed concern over the expenses of operating a rescue unit. Commissioner Fred Darroch, who invited Porter to the meeting, summed up their concern.

"The reason I wanted to call you in on this meeting," he said to Porter, "was because the agreed several months ago, probably a little too fast, to accept the vehicle from the

county. I don't think any of us realized what it would take to operate a squad."

Commissioner Marcelle Brown said that "nobody seems to know what it costs to run a squad." He asked Porter if he knew of any volunteer units, as opposed to tax-supported units, that has folded from lack of funds.

"In my experience, only one volunteer unit has folded that I know of," Porter said in response. "However, there is no law that says a volunteer unit cannot charge for its service."

Porter said the national average for rescue squad service charges was \$160.

Porter also told the board that in addition to the expense of maintaining a vehicle for certification, state law requires that a vehicle used in an emergency situation must have at least one emergency medical technician in the patient area and one certified ambulance attendant as driver.

Brown said, "I think we're fixing to spend a lot of Lillington tax money for something we really can't afford. I'm in favor of Lillington having a rescue squad available but I'm also in favor of the county being more responsible for financial support."

"I'm not willing right now to vote for Lillington to take on this responsibility," Brown said.

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Youth Killed

A young Lillington student died Tuesday morning from injuries he received after being struck by a car while he was waiting for his school bus.

Robert Kenneth Slade, eight, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schlagenhauser of Rt. 2, Lillington, died about 11:15 a.m. while being transferred by helicopter from the emergency room at Good Hope Hospital in Erwin to N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Slade was struck by a car as he was walking to his bus stop along state road 2034, about three miles south of Lillington.

According to N.C. Highway patrolman Johnny Morgan, who investigated the incident, Linda Elliott of Rt. 1, Spring Lake was traveling west on the rural paved road when she suddenly veered right onto the shoulder where the boy was walking.

He was struck by the right front bumper of the vehicle.

A school bus was traveling east at the time of the accident, but Morgan said there was no evidence to indicate that the bus was involved.

An investigation of the death is underway.



THE FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA club at Western Harnett High School held its first meeting of the year last week, prior to the opening of school. The group is making plans for a busy year and will kick off its activities soon with the second annual Miss Western Harnett contest. Seen here are, from left, sitting: Gayle Denning,

president; Pam Allen, pianist; Alda Johnson, advisor; Tammy Sutt, committee chairman; G.W. Seymore, advisor; Dot Hales, advisor; Ruth Dodson, secretary. Standing: Linda Sox, parliamentarian; Jennifer Thomas, treasurer; Melissa Buchanan, vice president; Jane Johnson, historian; Billie Jean Humke, reporter. (Photo by Steve Plummer)

Labor Day Accidents

Several accidents were reported over the Labor Day weekend by the Lillington Police Department.

According to police chief Lincoln Neal there was much more traffic than normal, but accident-wise, the weekend was extremely quiet.

The first accident occurred Saturday, Sept. 1 in the parking lot of IGA and was investigated by Officer Clyde Pate.

A 1978 Buick driven by Bobby R. Stephenson of Willow Springs, backed from one parking space into another, striking another vehicle, a 1970 Mercury owned by Veola McKoy of Lillington.

Damages to the Buick were estimated at \$100 while damages to the Mercury were estimated at \$200. No one was charged in the incident.

The second accident occurred at the intersection of Main and Duncan streets and resulted in one passenger being taken to Betsy Johnson Hospital.

According to the report by Officer W.E. Graves, a 1970 Ford driven by Doris Massie of Bunnlevel pulled out of the parking lot of Howard's Barbecue and across the lane of traffic into the path of the second car.

The second car, a 1979 Mercury driven by William M.

Graham of Durham, sustained damages estimated at \$1200.

An eight-year-old boy in the Massie vehicle was taken to the hospital for observation.

Damages to the Ford were estimated at \$500. Miss Massie was charged with a safe movement violation.

The accident occurring Sunday, Sept. 2 was investigated by Officer Clyde Pate.

According to his report, a 1979 Lincoln driven by Jake Lamm of Lillington was traveling south on main Street. Lamm had given a signal for a left turn Pate said, when a 1975 Chevrolet driven by Cleo McPhatter of

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