

Harnett County News

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TWENTY CENTS

around town by Steve Plummer

MUSICAL PROGRAM

"The Believers," a group of young persons from Cooleemee in western North Carolina, will perform at Woodside Methodist Church Sunday from 10-12 a.m.

The group travels around the state to perform, both musically and through what they refer to as "Muppet Ministry," which I take to mean the use of puppets.

Anyway, they are a talented bunch and they obviously believe in their message, so make plans to attend.

By the way, one local connection the group has with this area is through group member Ann Loudermilk, who is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Loudermilk of Marners.

NOVICE ENDURANCE RIDE

Charlie Butler of Marners said last week that a group of people in that area is planning a 25-mile horseback endurance ride for Novices Jan. 13 and he wants a big turnout.

Two annual endurance rides of 50 miles each are held there every spring and fall. The one held a month or so ago attracted riders from about seven states.

Charlie said the novice ride is for folks who have never ridden, ride very seldom or who (like me) have not ridden in a number of years (at least 10 for me).

A nominal fee will be charged and the trail is plainly marked, with plenty of experienced help available. Although it is intended mainly for novices, Charlie says anyone who has not finished in the top 10 of any other endurance ride can participate.

Look for more details in future editions of the News.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Betty Lassiter and members of the Girls in Action group of Lillington Baptist Church did their share of spreading Christmas cheer last week.

The group took a bunch of used toys, worked on them, cleaned them up and made them presentable and then donated them to the Harnett County Department of Social Services.

The toys were given to kids served by DSS.

My wife Anne works at DSS and she said everyone there was thrilled by the work done by these generous young women and the concern they showed for persons less fortunate than themselves.

So on behalf of the whole department and the kids who had a brighter Christmas than they expected, thank you, Betty and thank you, members of the Lillington Baptist Church G.A.'s

While on the subject of Christmas greetings, Andy Collins came by the office last week to show me his Christmas card from the White House.

The picture on the front was a reproduction of a painting done by a Frenchman around 1865. It is a painting of the White House but its either from a side I've never seen or it is a different White House.

Now if memory serves me right, the original White House was destroyed by a fire set by the British during the War of 1812. Seems like another White House was also burned down before the present structure was built, but I could be wrong about that.

In fact, I'm probably wrong about all of it and Ben Johnson, my high school U.S. History teacher, is probably spinning in his grave right now from my ignorance.

Or to put it like old Ben himself said once in class, "Why, if George Washington were alive today, he'd be spinning in his grave."

One final Christmas note: The Lillington Kiwanis Club had their annual Christmas events Friday night.

Several members of the club visited the homes of two families who received food, clothing and toys from the club.

Following that, everybody met at the home of president Rodney and Nancy Tart to go caroling. We visited several Lillington homes before retiring for the night.

Considering the quality of the sound and the off-key harmony, it was difficult to tell if the smiles of the folks we visited were out of appreciation for our visit or out of gratitude for when we stopped.

Just kidding, guys, we really sounded great - just like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, minus about 700 voices.

Kiwanis Auction

The second annual farm auction sale, sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club, will be held Feb. 16 in the parking lot of Harnett Central High School. The sale will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until dark.

A flea market will be conducted during the sale and food will be served on the grounds.

Local Kiwanis Club members will be soliciting donated items from merchants throughout the county to auction during the "free goods" sale, which will be held that afternoon.

According to Kiwanian Bill Singler, chairman of the auction committee, the members will be checking in farm equipment Feb. 14-15 at the school prior to the sale day.

"We hope we can have another successful auction like we did

last year," Singler said.

"The farmers who buy and sell that day will benefit and the entire community will benefit from any profit made, because all of the Kiwanis Club's proceeds go back into the community through our scholarship fund and various community projects," he said.

The Kiwanis Club will collect a 10 percent commission on all items sold to \$1,000, with a maximum collection of \$35 on any item. A seven percent commission will be collected on items over \$1,000 with a maximum of \$150. A five dollar listing charge will be assessed on any self-propelled item, such as a tractor.

Singler said terms of the sale will be cash or good check.

CP&L Not Responsible For Damages

by STEVE PLUMMER

Residents of the Lillington area whose refrigerators, heat pumps and other appliances sustained damages from last week's reduced voltage period by Carolina Power and Light Co. will not be compensated by the company for their losses, an official of the public utility said Friday.

Ray Daniels, are manager for CP&L, said the low voltage period, or "brownout," was a result of vandalism to a major transmission line near, Duncan in northern Harnett.

Daniels, who said the line had apparently been shot with a high-powered rifle, said the company was not responsible for damages incurred by consumers as a result of vandalism. The brownout occurred about 2 a.m. Wednesday morning, Daniels said. The low voltage period lasted about two hours before CP&L officials could

isolate the problem area.

After locating the damaged line, the company shut down the power completely to effect repairs.

Dozens of residents of the greater Lillington area sustained extensive damage to the compressors on refrigerators, heat pumps and freezers.

Leo McDonald of McDonald's Furniture Co. in Lillington said most of the damages sustained by the refrigerator compressors would run in the neighborhood of \$175-\$250, but many local residents have been forced to replace damaged refrigerators with completely new ones.

"As soon as I got the first couple of calls Wednesday morning about refrigerators that had quit working, I figured out what had happened," McDonald, an appliance dealer, said.

"I called CP&L and they told me to refer all customers with

problems to their claims department, but I found out later in the day that they had changed their tune," he said. "They claimed the problem was due to vandalism and that they weren't responsible."

McDonald said the damage was caused when the compressors tried to maintain the same amount of output, or wattage, while receiving less voltage. The units quickly burned out from the strain.

Rodney Tart, manager of the Northeast Metropolitan Water District, said the damage at his plant was less than he had feared when the brownout first went into effect.

"I was afraid that we had lost several of our big motors, which would have run into thousands of dollars in damages," he said. "However, our big three-phase motors are built with safeguards that shut them down automatically whenever the voltage is

reduced."

"At least we know now that our equipment works like it's supposed to," Tart said.

Tart said the plant did lose one motor as a result of the brownout, but he said faulty design and installation was as much of a contributing factor as the reduced voltage. The motor is still under warranty and will be replaced free, he said.

Tart explained that a reduced voltage period affects all inductive loading items, such as electric motors, whereas resistive loading items such as light bulbs are adversely affected by sudden surges, rather than reduction of power.

Dozens of irate area residents claim that if CP&L is not guilty of negligence in the brownout, they are at least guilty of poor planning in allowing the power to continue at a reduced voltage rate.

Most effected residents feel

the company should have imposed a blackout, a complete shut-down of all power, until the problem was resolved.

Daniels disagreed Friday. "Everything we did, from the moment when we first discovered the reduced voltage to the moment it was repaired, was strictly by the book," Daniels said.

"There is a certain procedure to follow in just about every incident we face and we follow that procedure to the letter," he said.

"We are very much in sympathy with the people who suffered damages but we cannot be responsible for every act of vandalism against us."

Daniels said the damaged power line is a major transmission voltage wire that comes out of the Fuquay station, carrying 115,000 volts.

The power line, which Daniels said was apparently shot within

a few days of the power failure, did not completely sever the line.

The break occurred later when the temperature dropped below 20 degrees, causing the line to contract and break, he said.

Daniels said that although a major transmission line of such high voltage is rarely vandalized, such incidents of violence against company property are not uncommon, especially during hunting season.

"This happens all the time, but this is the first time that I know of that the vandalism caused such major problems," he said. "With all the power lines that we have in this county, there is no way that we can tell immediately where or what the problem is," he said.

"As soon as we discovered where the problem was Wednesday morning, we shut down all the power in that area and made the necessary repairs.

Britt Trial Scheduled Jan.

by CARLA BAGLEY

The trial of State Highway Patrolman Hollis H. Britt, accused of the second degree murder of his wife on October 18, is slated for the January 7 special criminal session of Harnett County Superior Court in Lillington.

The trial has been postponed twice, but Britt's attorney Knox Jenkins of Smithfield said the defense "will be ready for trial," but he "didn't know what the district attorney's plans are."

District Attorney John Twisdale said he would not know until the week of January 1 whether or not the case actually will be tried.

Britt is accused of killing his wife of four months, 28-year-old Marian Stewart Britt at their Rt. 2, Lillington home on October 18.

He is expected to plead "not guilty" to the charge which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Attorney Jenkins said the defense has not been supplied with information requested in a

discovery motion filed November 8. "I am entitled to that as a matter of law," said Jenkins. "If I do not get it, I intend to ask the judge why."

A discovery motion is a document filed on the defendant's behalf to request privilege to see evidence held by the state.

Judge Donald L. Smith is scheduled to preside over the session. Among the items Jenkins has requested are:

- copies of statements the defendant has made;
- copies of statements the defendant made which the state intends to offer as evidence in the trial;

- privilege to inspect and copy all papers, documents, photographs and tangible objects which are in the possession of the state and which are material to the defense;

- privilege to inspect and copy mechanical and/or electronic recordings made by the defendant and in possession of the state or other law enforcement agencies;

-privilege to inspect the results of reports of measurements or experiments made in connection with the state;

-privilege to examine, inspect and test physical evidence the state intends to offer.

Britt, 33, was indicted by a Harnett County Grand Jury for his wife's death which occurred at the Britt home shortly after midnight on October 18.

Released on a \$15,000 bond and suspended without pay from the force, he was indicted after an around-the-clock investigation by the Harnett County Sheriff's office and the State Bureau of Investigation. Mrs. Britt was found lying in her bed early Thursday morning with a single gunshot wound to the right forehead fired from a .357 Magnum, a firearm used by highway patrol officers.

Britt called the rescue squad to his home and told them his wife had been wounded. The medical examiner's office determined the shot had been fired at close range.

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NEILLS CREEK RURITANS installed the 1980 slate of officers Dec. 17 at their annual ladies night Christmas party at the Dutch Inn in Benson. Seen here, l-r, are Rudolph Blanchard, vice president; Harold Johnson,

director; Robert Stancil, president; John Wester, secretary; Hugh Jernigan, treasurer; Lewis McNeill, installing officer from Red Springs. [Photo by Bryant Keith]

4-H Honors Members

Harnett County 4-H members, leaders and parents gathered Dec. 3 at the County Office Building in Lillington to recognize outstanding 4-H members and clubs for their work during 1979.

The theme of the Achievement Night program was "4-H Around the World," in honor of the International Year of the Child.

The program was called to order by Sandee Peed, president of the 1978-1979 County 4-H council. Pledges were led by Cindy Hampton, reporter.

Following the pledges, awards were presented to the following 4-H members and clubs:

CLUB CHARTER-Angier Jr. Girls 4-H Club.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS FOR PROJECT BOOK COMPLETION-Wendy Wilson, Crafts, Windy Hills, 4-H Club; Cindy Hampton, Home Environment and Jr. Leadership, Windy Hills; Jeannie Hampton, Career Exploration, Windy Hills; Vicky Blalock, Citizenship Education, Angier All-American Girls; David Austin, Health, Helping Hands.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR PROJECT BOOK COMPLETION-Reisha Lasater, Foods and Nutrition, Helping Hands; Rhonda Lasater, Foods and Nutrition, Helping Hands;

David Austin, Foods and Nutrition, Helping Hands; Cindy Hampton, Home Environment,

Windy Hills; Cindy Hampton, Jr. Leadership, Windy Hills; David Austin, Tobacco, Helping Hands; Jeannie Hampton, Bicycle, Windy Hills; Melinda Omps, Crafts, Windy Hills; Vicky Blalock, Citizenship, Angier All-American Girls; Jeannie Hampton, Crafts, Windy Hills; Sherrie Omps, Crafts, Windy Hills; Linda Farrar, Crafts, Windy Hills; David Austin, Health, Helping Hands; Jeannie Hampton, Career Exploration, Windy Hills; Sandee Peed, Photography, Angier All-American Girls.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (for most blue ribbon project books)-Cindy Hampton, Windy Hills.

DEMONSTRATION AWARDS Suzanne Farrar, Jr. Dairy Foods, Windy Hills; Cindy Hampton, Home Environment, Windy Hills; Cindy Dewar, Jr. Fruit and Vegetable, Busy Bees; Reisha Lasater, Egg Cookery, Helping Hands; Renee Upchurch, Livestock Production, Helping Hands; Steven Howell, Jr. Archery, Busy Bees; Cliff Spaulding, Poultry BBQ, Windy Hills; David McLamb, Horse Public Speaking, East Harnett; Sonja Hayes, Open Class, Angier All-American; Gina Price, Jr. Peanut Foods, Angier All-

American; Teresa Pope, Pork Cookery, Angier All-American; Sandee Peed, Sr. Public Speaking, Angier All-American; Jeannie Hampton, Jr. Breads, Windy Hills 4-H Club.

COMMUNITY SERVICE-Happy Hearts 4-H Club

I DARE YOU AWARD-Gearldine McLaughlin, Shawtown 4-H Club; Frankie Washington, Shawtown 4-H Club.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK AWARD-Shawtown 4-H Club, Happy Hearts 4-H Club.

OUTSTANDING JR. AND SR. 4-H MEMBER-Junior, Suzanne Farrar, Windy Hills; Senior, Sandee Peed, Angier All-American Girls, Cindy Hampton, Windy Hills 4-H Club.

Following the presentation of awards, Ms. Peed installed the 1979-1980 County Council officers. They are president, Jeannie Hampton; vice-president, Carolyn Ridgell, Secretary, Melinda Omps, reporter, Reisha Lasater and historian, Suzanne Farrar.

The keynote speaker, Robin Kinton, then presented a program on her experiences as an IFYE (International 4-H Youth Exchange) delegate to Switzerland. She showed slides and played music and songs that are native to Switzerland.

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Morgan Coming Home To Kick Off Campaign

U.S. Senator Robert B. Morgan will come back to his home county of Harnett to officially announce that he is a candidate for re-election.

The announcement will be made at a mammoth announcement dinner and rally to be held Saturday afternoon, January 26 at the new Harnett Central High School, between Lillington and Angier.

Plans for the event were made Thursday morning at a breakfast meeting held by a group of Morgan friends and key supporters from all sections of Harnett. About 50 attended the breakfast, held at Speedy's Restaurant in Lillington.

Mike Mann, campaign director for Senator Morgan, presided over the breakfast, which was also attended by various members of the Senator's Raleigh campaign staff.



SEN. ROBERT MORGAN

"I don't think it's necessary," said Mann, "to tell you that having Robert Morgan in the U.S. Senate is Harnett County's greatest asset. It's the

biggest thing we have going for us."

He said that although Senator Morgan does not yet have any primary opposition that he does have general election opposition and that a national finance effort in behalf of his Republican opponent is now being made.

Mann said he felt it important that Harnett supporters should turn out in big numbers to give Senator Morgan a rousing send-off and show of support at his announcement event.

He said he is expecting at least 2,000 to attend from Harnett as well as another thousand or two from the adjoining counties and other parts of the State.

The rally will begin at 4 o'clock. There will be a special meal catered by Meadbrook

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HAPPY NEW YEAR