

## Teacher, Artist Concludes 13 Years Of Foster Care

Marshall, N.C. - Linda Gail King graduated from high school just a few days ago. She has been a foster child in the home of Mrs. Thaida Roberts for the past four years. With Linda's move into adulthood and the pursuit of a career in nursing, foster mother Roberts also enters a new roll - retirement.

Mrs. Roberts has served foster children for the Baptist Children's Homes of N.C. for thirteen years. When she and her husband, Elwood, began serving children they were both teachers. She was a public school teacher and Mr. Roberts was a music instructor for Watauga College.

Mr. Roberts' untimely death shortly after their home was licensed for foster care has left Mrs. Roberts alone with this challenge.

"Mrs. Roberts has served children from all parts of North Carolina and she has done an outstanding job," comments Hugh Starnes, Western Area Administrator for the BCH.

Since retirement from teaching, Mrs. Roberts has studied art and is a very successful artist now. Her works in pastels, oils, and chalk have been very well received in several art shows in western North Carolina and are selling well, according to Mr. Starnes. The artist has supplied paintings as door prizes for the past two Christmas parties for western area foster families.

Anyone visiting Mrs. Roberts' home now will soon hear her speak of former children who send Mother's Day cards, flowers and letters to thank her for her investment in their lives.



LINDA GAIL KING gowns up for high school graduation as retiring foster mother, Mrs. Thaida Roberts helps with pride. Mrs. Roberts has been a foster parent for 13 years. In the background are samples of Mrs. Roberts' newest interest: painting. She has held several successful art shows already in Western North Carolina.

"Mrs. Thaida Roberts will be missed as a treasured friend," Starnes notes. foster mother but she will continue to be a

## General Fund Collections Up Nearly 20%

May net N. C. General Fund collections amounted to \$152.9 million, compared to \$127.8 million collected in May, 1975, an increase of \$25.1 million, or 19.6 percent.

For the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, net General Fund collections were \$1.4775 billion compared to \$1.3779 billion for the first 11 months of the 1974-75 fiscal year, an increase of \$99.6 million, or 7.23 percent.

May net Highway Fund collections amounted to \$26.7 million compared with \$24.6 million collected in May, 1975, an increase of \$2.1 million or 8.6 percent. Gasoline Tax receipts amounted to \$23.2 million compared to \$22 million collected in May, 1975, an increase of \$1.2 million, or 5.47 percent.

Net Highway Fund collections for the first 11 months of the current fiscal year were \$356 million as compared to \$330 million collected during the first 11 months of the 1974-75 fiscal year.

## Farm Tips

By Dr. J. W. Pou  
Agricultural Specialist  
Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., N.A.



### FARM RECORDS PROGRAM SERVES MANY PURPOSES

A milk producer in the Piedmont, through a study of computer processed business records for dairy farms throughout the state, learned that his milk output was well below average and his costs were substantially higher than for most other operations of similar size, according to Bill Humphries, agricultural information specialist at N. C. State University.

The farmer realized immediately that he couldn't afford to stay in milk production unless he could improve the efficiency of his operation.

He sought and obtained the assistance of a county extension agent in revamping his breeding and feeding practices. In just one year, his herd average in milk output was increased by 2,000 pounds per cow.

"This farmer didn't realize how poorly he was doing until he saw a summary of the records of other dairymen with operations of similar size," said Stephen R. Sutter, extension farm records specialist at North Carolina State University.

N. C. State University has been conducting a computer farm records program since the mid-1960s. It has been expanded gradually until it now includes 335 farmers producing commodities ranging from milk, beef and hogs to poultry, tobacco, other field crops, and fruit and other horticultural crops.

The benefits of the program, however, are not limited to participating farmers. In fact, the major purpose of the program is educational. The records of producers of various commodities provide valuable information that is used by extension agents and specialists in seeking to improve farm production and marketing efficiency throughout the state.

Sutter said farm business records help the farmer in several ways:

- They facilitate income tax filing.
- They aid in making such management decisions as which commodities to produce and on what scale, and what actions could increase production efficiency.
- They enable the farmer to monitor particular expense items periodically.
- They are useful in applying for and managing the use of credit.

Computerized processing makes it possible to convert data involving a large number of business transactions into usable statements with great speed and accuracy, Sutter said. Thus the farmer has more time available for business analysis and long-range planning.

To participate in the records program, the farmer agrees to pay a fee ranging from \$5 to \$20 a month, depending on the size of his business as measured by cash receipts. The fee covers processing costs for the farmer's records.

Once a month the farmer mails in, on standard forms, records of his expenses and returns and changes in inventory. The transactions are summarized through computer processing and a print-out is returned to the farmer showing his operating statement of receipts and expenses for the month and year-to-date totals.

## Pick Vegetables Properly

Growing your home garden vegetables properly is only half the game. You've got to pick them right, too.

Take lima beans, for example. North Carolina State University extension horticulturists point out that limas that stay on the bush too long

are likely to be less tasty and flavorful. They probably will have a starchy taste.

Picking too early is wasteful, so look for a happy medium.

A good way to tell when the bean is ready to pick is the change in color. Green seeded types of limas turn white as

they become over-mature. Speckled seeded types develop specks or blotches as the green color fades.

Picking snap beans at the right time is important, too. Pick these when pods are fully developed but when seeds are no more than 50 percent of their normal size. If you let them stay on the bush too long, you'll have beans with too much fiber.

The real test of gardening know-how is picking sweet corn at just the proper time. Experience is the only thing that will make you an expert.

It's a shame to waste yield by picking the ears when they are grossly immature. On the other hand, corn left on the stalk far too long isn't good for much but feeding the livestock. On the other hand, if it is only slightly beyond maturity, there is some reduction in quality but the volume is much greater.

If you're inexperienced, there is only one solution: trial and error. But don't pull back the shuck on the tips of too many ears. Exposed kernels attract large numbers of insects, and they can destroy the ear in short order.

Pulling tomatoes isn't so critical. You can pretty well see what you're getting when you take them from the vine. If

you're canning the tomatoes, pick them fully, red ripe but not mushy.

## Registration Deadline Is Mon., July 19

The Madison County board of elections reminds voters that the registration deadline for the Aug. 17 primary is July 19 at 4:30 p.m.

This deadline also applies to those who have changed their address or moved to another precinct. "Those voters residing in the north and south precincts who have moved since their initial registration should contact the board of elections to make sure they are registered in the proper precinct since the former Marshall precinct has been divided," officials said.

## Boating Checklist Available

Do buoys confuse you? Can you remember which ones to pass on the right, and which on the left?

If you're like most boat owners, these things can be confusing. That's why the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is offering a free decal that you



MADISON COUNTY'S Bicentennial Committee has placed a historical marker in Walnut which proclaims the village was once known as Jewell Hill and was the county seat of government.

For a free one, write DECAL, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Motorboats and Water Safety, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, 27611.

## Tomato Varieties To Be Developed

The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station has employed a scientist to develop new and improved tomato varieties for Western North Carolina.

Dr. Kenneth R. Keller, acting station director, said

the scientist is Dr. Randolph G. Gardner, a recent graduate of Cornell University. He will be stationed at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station at Fletcher.

Dr. Gardner's primary job will be to develop and test

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Hendersonville, N.C., Mon., June 28, 1976

## 'Bo' Thomas Barbecue Draws Crowd of More Than 2,700

By JOHN C. DILLS

It looked like a real old-fashioned stumping campaign Saturday for R. P. (Bo) Thomas, as more than 2,700 persons converged on the Thomas family farm on Wilmont Drive to feast on barbecued pork and ribs and fried chicken.

Thomas is seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress from the 11th District, a seat now held by Rep. Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain.

The celebrators came from Henderson, Rutherford, McDowell, Polk, Transylvania, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee, Madison, Haywood and Buncombe counties, and some others would have been there if the rains on the Balsams hadn't stopped them. Some came anyway, late. One visitor, Oscar Lopez, came from Cullacon, Mexico.

They came to eat, to hear the Deep South Band from Waynesville, and to watch the Southern Appalachian Cloggers from Canton and the Piney Mountain Dancers from Hendersonville.

Thomas himself put on a little show with the Canton cloggers, dancing with them.

Friends of the candidate roasted seven pigs weighing about 200 pounds each, and 700 pounds of beef, and fried 1,200 pieces of chicken.

By 5 p.m. the food was gone.

Thomas, in a brief speech, told his audience that "the small business man and the working man have carried the burden" of taxes "too long."

"If," he said, "the income tax is good enough for working people, it's good enough for the rich people. If we get the money the rich aren't paying, education will be better, mental health will be better, and we can clear the clogged creeks."

Thomas said he appreciated the people coming from long distances "on these twisting mountain roads," and pledged that if he is elected to Congress, "I'll be for you. Keep the high priced ones home; said Bo."

In remarks to the press before the 5 p.m. barbecue began, Thomas said

he has stumped the entire 11th district and has discovered that "the citizens of this district are convinced the failure to solve most of our problems in Washington is because the legislative processes for too long have been dominated by the legal profession."

Thomas called himself the "hardworking mountain businessman who presents himself to you as an alternative."

Several other candidates also attended the barbecue, to shake hands and drum up support, but none spoke.

*I would like to thank the mountain people for their interest and support Bo.*

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