

Thad Stem Jr. To Speak

To Literature Dept. May 13

Public Invited

One of North Carolina's most celebrated writers, Thad Stem, Jr., will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Literature Department on May 13.

Stem was awarded the Roanoke-Chowan award in 1954 for his book, "The Jackknife Horse." This award is for the best poetry published in North Carolina during the year. For many years he has written stories, articles, poems, critical works and historical pieces for a wide assortment of magazines and papers.

"I consider myself a full-time poet, since poetry is the real aim and objective of my life," Stem said. "I write poems because I feel that I have to, want to, and love to."

Sam Regan, publisher of the Southern Pines PILOT and former managing editor of the News and Observer in Raleigh, will introduce Stem at the meeting. All departments of the Woman's Club and the general public is invited to come to the Civic Center at 7:45 p. m. to hear Stem's address.



THAD STEM JR.

Commissioners Look Into Report Of Grand Jury

The Hoke County Commissioners are waiting until the new budget is set to decide what they should do about the recommendations made by the Grand Jury in reference to the Health Center. According to the Grand Jury report the Health Center is in need of fresh paint on the outside woodwork, the waiting room and hall and new draperies.

Superintendent Donald Abernethy was called to the County Commissioner's May 5 meeting to report on the Grand Jury's recommendations in connection with the schools. Abernethy did not see why the city garage needed a new heating system, a pot belly stove is now the building's means of heat in the winter. But he said he would check into the possibility of installing a gas wall heater. The lights in the garage he felt would be no problem and said he would get some fluorescent lights installed.

The seventh grade wing at Upchurch

school was found to be in need of heat and a new roof and the auditorium also needed a roof and repairs. Abernethy said that these improvements were either on the drawing board or soon to be started. Larger portions of food to the students at South Hoke School was another recommendation presented by the Grand Jury. Abernethy reported that he would have the school food director look in to the problem.

The Commissioners voted non-support to legislative bill 881. Under this bill the County Treasurer would no longer sign the checks for the County school fund. The commissioners felt that this would weaken their control on the schools.

A letter from SCAP requesting the County's participation in a Neighborhood Youth Corp was tabled until further information can be obtained.

The Commissioners voted to continue their support of the PACE program. Six

summer PACE workers will be employed this year at a cost to the County of \$860.55.

Additional Funds for the air conditioner in the Courtroom, Jury Room and Grand Jury room were approved. The balcony in the Courtroom will be closed except for a small space at the top for ventilation.

Mrs. Ellen Willis, County Home Agent, reported that 32 women attended the district meeting in Salisbury. She also reported that the nutrition aids are progressing satisfactorily and now are working with 20 families each. Wendell Young, County Farm Agent, reported that county crops are having a difficult time. There has been some re-setting of tobacco and replanting of cotton.

The commission re-appointed Dr. Robert Townsend Jr., William R. Windley, and J.H. Austin to the Southeastern Economic Development Commission.

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FOR SALE: Willis Jeep, four wheel drive, motor recently overhauled. See or call 875-3322, Carlton Niven. 52-1C

FOR SALE: Good refrigerator \$75, electric range, good shape \$75, good washing machine, good shape \$75. See after 5:00 in evening and Saturday morning until 10:00 Cecil Guin, 513 E. Donaldson, Raeford. 52P

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Furnished, suitable for couple. Call 875-3791 after 5:30 P.M. tfc

LOST: Golden haired part wire haired Terrier. Female, just had puppies. Collar with dog tag. Phone 875-2206. 52C

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FOR SALE: Cabinet & Table model Zenith TVs. Good condition. W. M. Ridge, Route 3, Raeford. 51-52C

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Veterans Corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Below are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to some of the many current questions from former servicemen and their families. Further information on veterans benefits may be obtained at any VA office.

Q - I am receiving a non-service connected disability pension from the Veterans Administration and was under the impression that I would get an increase starting in January 1969. However, I am receiving the same amount. Please explain.

A - The new pension system does not provide for automatic, across-the-board increases. Pensions are now keyed to \$100 variations in income. This will cause an increase in pensions for some, but no change for others such as yourself. VA representatives will be happy to explain the new pension system and answer any additional questions you may have.

Q - I am a veteran of World War II and will soon reach my 65th birthday. Will I be entitled to a VA pension?

A - You may be eligible for a pension from the Veterans Administration at age 65 if your income from all sources does not exceed \$2,000 a year if you are single, or \$3,200 a year if you have one or more dependents. A wife's income and the size of your estate are factors which must also be considered. For further information and assistance, check with your nearest VA office.

Almost 99 out of 100 servicemen now have the low cost Servicemen's Group Life Insurance which costs \$2 per month for \$10,000 coverage or \$1 for \$5,000.

Modern West Berlin Glitters Two Decades After Blockade

Recent reports of a possible new Berlin crisis recall that two decades have passed since the great 1948-49 Airlift.

For 11 months, Allied airmen working around the clock brought more than 2,300,000 tons of food and supplies to blockaded West Berlin. Some 275,000 trips were made, the National Geographic Society says.

At its peak, "Operation Vittles"-as American pilots called it-landed a supply-laden airplane in West Berlin every 45 seconds.

Soviet authorities finally lifted the blockade on May 12, 1949, but the massive rhythm of the Airlift continued on a lesser scale until early fall. The operation saved West Berlin, and cost 77 lives-41 Britons, 31 Americans, and 5 Germans. Despite the blockade and other harassments, West Berlin has risen phoenixlike from the ashes of World War II.

Now the largest industrial complex between Paris and Moscow, the city stands 104 miles inside East Germany-a 186-square-mile island of freedom in a Communist sea.

Some of Europe's most dazzling nightclubs, theaters, shops, and restaurants line the Kurfurstendamm, West Berlin's Champs Elysees. The city's opera house, orchestra, museums, botanical gardens, zoo, and aquarium rank among the world's finest.

A bustling social life, aided by 4,000 nightclubs, keeps seven breweries busy. A West Berliner drinks 21 gallons of beer annually almost 50 percent more than per capita consumption in the United States.

Berliners favor a variety of malt concoctions. One popular brew, Berliner Weisse, is a dry, foamy beer spiked with raspberry syrup. On sunny weekends, the 189

lakes, rivers, and streams that decorate the city are crowded. Even pets have special privileges: One lovely lake provides a bathing beach for dogs only.

West Berliners also seek recreation on two unusual mountains. Both were formed from wartime rubble.

Allied bombers all but eradicated Berlin, destroying or heavily damaging 132,000 of 149,960 buildings in the western portion alone. The rubble could have created almost 20 Great Pyramids. Some went into rebuilding; the rest was piled in huge hills that now have toboggan slides, ski runs, an outdoor swimming pool, and a miniature golf course.

For West Berliners, the free

world ends at the 2 1/2-mile-long Schandmauer-"wall of shame"-erected without warning in 1961.

Before the Wall made escape from East to West Berlin so perilous, more than three million refugees crossed the border. National Geographic writer Robert L. Conly who visited Berlin in 1958, reported that about 4,700 East Germans a week slipped into West Berlin while he was there.

Safely across, they found their way to Marienfelde, the refugee reception center near the edge of town. The center, a German friend told Mr. Conly, "is known to every three-year-old child in East Germany. First they learn to say 'mother,' then 'father,' and then 'Marienfelde.'"



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