

## Sandhills Re-elects Same Officers

The Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College held their eight annual meeting this week, and re-elected the same officers who have served since the original organizational meeting held in December 1963.

The officers include H. Clifton Blue, Aberdeen, chairman; Dr. W.E. Alexander, Robbins, vice chairman; N.L. Hodgkins, Sr., Southern Pines, treasurer; and J.C. Robbins, Aberdeen, secretary. Dr. Alexander also serves as chairman of the personnel and curriculum committee.

Others are J.E. Causey, Lakeview, who is chairman of the buildings and grounds committee; L.L. Marion, Jr.,

Carthage, chairman of the finance committee; and Ralph Monger, Jr., Sanford, chairman of the memorials and endowment committee. Also on the Board are Paul Dickson, Raeford; Thomas B. Hunter, Rockingham; Jere McKeithen, Aberdeen; Dr. Francis L. Vanore, Pinehurst; and Dr. A.A. Vanore, Robbins.

Dr. Raymond A. Stone, president of Sandhills, spoke briefly on the growth and development of the college, noting that since it opened to students in the fall of 1965 the enrollment has more than doubled, the curricula has been expanded, and the faculty has increased three fold. The projection is that Sandhills will continue to progress with an increasing need for more classrooms and laboratory space and additional funds for maintenance and operation of the buildings.

### WITH OUR College Students

Sharon Lynn Currie has been named to the Dean's List for the fall quarter at Appalachian State University. A freshman majoring in music, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Currie of Raeford.

Helen Jane McMillan, daughter of Mrs. W.L. McMillan, is participating in the Freshman - Sophomore Honors Seminar program at East Carolina University.

She is a freshman. The students in the honors seminar are selected on the basis of their verbal SAT scores and high school records. After successfully completing most of the honors seminars this year, students will be invited to continue.

After two years of the honors seminar, the superior student is better qualified to undertake specialized honors work in his own major.

## Sandhills Mental Health Center Faces Serious Financial Crisis

William W. Winborne, Administrative Director of the Sandhills Mental Health Center, Inc., announced this week that the Center is facing a grave financial crisis because anticipated funds for the Center's operation have been withheld.

It was further indicated that if additional funds cannot be found this Center faces a cutback in staff and programs as of December 31, 1970. Winborne also pointed out that the Center is already understaffed and that any decrease in staff at this time would greatly hinder the effectiveness of the services provided by the Mental Health Center.

In explaining the reason for the financial crisis, it was stated that the Sandhills Mental Health Center was

encouraged during the summer of 1969 by state and federal officials to apply for a federal grant which was available to mental health centers to assist in staffing such centers. This grant would be made available through the National Institute of Mental Health under the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and would cover an eight year period of time. The first year such a grant would provide 75 percent of new staffing cost with a decreasing amount of 15 percent each year of the grant. The Sandhills Center made application for such a grant in August of 1969 with its first year allotment request being \$302,000. The Center was notified in September, 1969, that its application had been reviewed and approved with the effective funding date being November, 1969. The Center was, therefore, encouraged by state and federal officials to begin recruiting staff as proposed in its request. This was done and recruitment was successful. Shortly after receiving information of the grant approval, the Health, Education and Welfare Bill ran into some difficulties in Congress in that it was larger than the President had requested and as a result, the Bill was vetoed by Mr. Nixon and returned to Congress for reconsideration. The Center was, therefore, notified that their grant funds were being delayed and another funding date was set pending the approval of the HEW appropriations bill by the President. Finally, around March or April, 1970, the HEW Bill was approved and signed and the Center was then notified in the latter part of April, 1970, that its funds would be made available May 1, 1970. Several days following the May date, no funds had been received and a call was made to the HEW Regional Office in Charlottesville, Virginia at which time the HEW official advised the Mental Health Center that he had just received word from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington and that all staffing grant funds had been frozen until further notice.

This decision to freeze the already approved funds had quite an impact on the Sandhills Center budget as was true with other centers throughout the nation. The fact was that the Sandhills Center had been successful in its recruitment efforts for several key positions requested in the grant and these persons had been hired and were active in developing the proposed programs for which they were being paid from the Center's existing budget. During these months of delay, the Center

was able to maintain its staff at the May 1, 1970, level. This was made possible through the efforts of the Center to negotiate contracts with other agencies for special programs along with the expectations that the federal money freeze would be only temporary. The Center was successful in completing its 1969 - 70 fiscal year which ended June 30, 1970, within its budget. However, in preparing the 1970 - 71 budget, the administration was advised to include federal funds which were almost certain to be available during that fiscal year. This recommendation was followed and approved on both the local and state level. Then on July 14, 1970, it was announced from Washington by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare that of 104 applications from across the nation (three from North Carolina) for federal staffing funds, which had been approved, only 41 would be funded. The reason for this decision was that there had been a cutback in government spending and the 63 centers denied funds were left without the badly needed money.

It was several weeks later that the Sandhills Center learned it was one of those which would not be receiving its anticipated federal funds and this was learned only after inquiries had been sent to several North Carolina Congressional Representatives in Washington. Of the three centers in North Carolina which had received approval of applications, only one was funded. The reason given for that particular center receiving its funds was that it was connected with another federal project, the model cities program, in which there were funds for mental health services.

Upon learning of its unfortunate situation, the local center appealed to several congressional representatives, including both Senators. They were advised of the Center's situation and what the lack of federal financial support would mean to the Center's program and staff. Also they were made aware of the effect the lack of funds would have on approximately 115,000 citizens including 30,000 children in the four county area of Moore, Richmond, Hoke and Montgomery served by the Sandhills Mental Health Center. The Center's congressional appeals were acknowledged, concern indicated, inquiries made, with all to no avail.

During this time steps were initiated to cut down on operating expenses short of decreasing staff because there was still some optimism that even if the federal funds were not immediately available there

might be other sources of revenue available to aid as a stopgap measure in carrying on the program at its current staff level until the federal money was released. At this point it had been indicated from several sources that the Sandhills Mental Health Center was on a top priority list of centers to be funded whenever the freeze was lifted. During this time several contracts were negotiated with other agencies and institutions, fees for services increased, appeals made to individuals, private foundations, and to the state for help. Some success was met with the contracts with other agencies and foundations, however, these would in no way make up the total amount needed.

The areas being counted on most for the greatest share of support were large private foundations and the state. A formal request was made to these organizations in October of this year asking for consideration of financial assistance to help the Center carry out its current program for the remaining six months of this fiscal year which ends June 30, 1971. This Center was notified on the last of November that its appeal had been turned down in each request with rather vague reasons given for these decisions.

On December 1, 1970, the administrative officials of the Sandhills Mental Health Center met with the administrative officials of the State Department of Mental Health to review the overall situation of the Center and to investigate what steps could be taken to alleviate some of the financial strain on the Center. It was decided at that meeting the only course to take at this time would be to decrease expenses to match the known income. This meant not only a reduction in operational expenses but also a cutback in staff which would include some full time and all part-time personnel as well as all consultants, all of whom are not involved in what were determined to be priority programs. The priority programs are considered to be those which have contractual agreements which counties or other agencies or institutions for which the service being rendered is paid, such as Children Services and Alcoholism Services.

Mr. Winborne stated that unless additional funds can be found immediately, the cutback in staff and services will be effective December 31, 1970. He emphasized the fact that the Center is and will continue to seek help to prevent any loss of staff and decrease in services until the last possible moment. He also

expressed grave concern as to what effect a cutback might have on the services the community is now receiving and also on those people who are already in treatment and those who will be needing treatment in the months to come. It is already an acknowledged fact that the demand for mental health services currently exceeds the Center's ability to provide such before any cutbacks are made.

An example of some of the services currently being offered by the Mental Health Center are alcoholism services; children services, both at the Center and in the public schools; group and individual therapy for adults and adolescents, which includes groups with drug problems; family therapy; marriage counseling; inpatient service; aftercare service; emergency service; group therapy for training school students; training for public school teachers and college students; and consultation with various agencies, institutions, and individuals such as physicians, ministers, Departments of Social Services, public health, school systems, courts and law enforcement agencies, hospitals, etc. regarding mental health related problems.

### Social Security News

C. V. SHELTON,  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
Layetteville Social Security Office

"Just how will Social Security help me in the event I become disabled to work?"

Becoming disabled is one of the unpleasant possibilities of life which all of us may have to face. Either from illness or accident, each day, in our country, thousands of people become disabled. Thank the good Lord, most of these people are back to work after a few days or weeks. But there are some who face the prospect of months or years of being disabled to work and to provide for themselves and their families.

Social Security does pay disability insurance benefits to those disabled persons who have worked long enough under Social Security to qualify and who are considered severely enough disabled. A point to bear in mind, however, is that these disability benefits do not begin until the seventh month of disability. As an example, if a man became disabled as of January 1, 1970, the first month he would be eligible for a payment would be July 1970. How much would his payments be? The amount of the benefit payments would depend upon his average yearly earnings and the number of his eligible dependents. Average yearly earnings of \$923 or less - the minimum - would pay the disabled individual \$64 monthly and with dependents as much as \$96.00. Average yearly earnings of \$7800 - the maximum - would pay the disabled individual \$250.70 monthly and with dependents \$434.40 monthly.

If you have worked under Social Security, and you do have a severe disability which may keep you from working for at least a full year, call us in Fayetteville at 483-2661 and we will explain what Social Security can do for you.

### With Our Service Personnel

Airman Harry McAllister, son of Mr. and Mrs. Washington T. McAllister of Rt. 1, Raeford, has graduated with honors at Sheppard AFB, Tex., from the U.S. Air Force aircraft mechanic course.

The airman, who was trained to repair current Air Force jet fighters, is being assigned to Travis AFB, Calif., for duty with the Military Airlift Command.

Airman McAllister is a 1968 graduate of Hoke County High School and attended Fayetteville Technical Institute.

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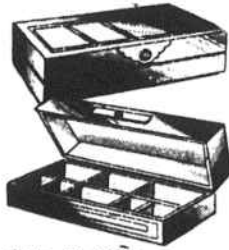


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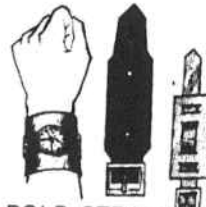


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### NOTICE

**Hoke County Board of Elections will start full time voter registration on Jan. 1st 1971**

**OFFICE AT 126 N. Main St., Raeford N.C. will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**

**from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. each week**

**J. Scott Poole  
Chairman  
Hoke Co. Bd. of Elections**