



AT LAST--After waiting a year and a half, the new pumper arrived for the Raeford fire department last week. The American LaFrance Pioneer II, ordered in July 1973, will pump 1,250 gallons a minute and cost \$41,000 without equipment. The city now has four trucks in good condition.

# Wildlife Afield

BY JIM DEAN

With all the rain and warm weather, it appears likely that the shad spawning runs in North Carolina's coastal rivers may be a week or two early this spring.

With the exception of occasional fish, the first consistent strings of hickory shad are usually boated in the Grifton area (Contentnea, Pitchkettle and Grindle creeks) sometime around mid-March.

The larger American or white shad usually hit the peak of their run from mid- to late March on the lower Cape Fear below Lock No. 1, and some good catches are usually also made in the Tar River up as far as Rocky Mount by late March.

At least, that's been the experience of some fishermen. Of course, there is considerable variation from year to year depending on the height and warmth of the water. When you have a warm, wet spring, the shad tend to run farther up the rivers earlier.

Some experts are saying that's what will happen this spring, especially if the warm weather continues. Then, if the water does not stay so high and muddy that the shad can't see the lures, we can probably expect to see some good shad fishing at some spots in early March.

I wouldn't be surprised to see good catches being made during the first week of March at some of the hotspots,

and barring a drastic change in weather, shad fishing ought to be pretty good by the second week of March.

Then, of course, shad will be around in catchable numbers well into April in many places, although the hickory runs begin to peter out by the first or second week of April in most creeks.

I have caught occasional American shad as late as early May at such spots as Lock No. 3 on the Cape Fear and at Rocky Mount on the Tar River.

The first hickory shad of the season in the Grifton area was caught on February 9 by J.D. "Bun" Henderson of Ayden. Henderson caught the fish in Pitchkettle Creek using a No. 1 Reflecto Spoon.

If you fish regularly in the Grifton area, you've probably seen Henderson and his small brown and white dog Duke. Duke always fishes with Henderson, and gets excited everytime a fish is brought to the boat. It's a comical sight to see Henderson landing a fish with Duke's help. I don't think Duke has learned to cast yet, but it's probably only a matter of time.

I understand that Henderson now owns the only boat in North Carolina with a dog house on it. He built the shelter to "shade" Duke from the hot sun.

If you're planning your first shad trip this spring, here are a few bits of information that may be useful. Although you can fish from the banks at some spots, you'll be far better off fishing from a boat if possible.

A boat is virtually a necessity below the three locks on the Cape Fear and

there are free boating access ramps at each lock. At Grifton, you can launch in Contentnea Creek at Gaskins' Landing, and also at the mouth of Pitchkettle Creek.

I've used cartop boats with small outboards at both of these creeks, and they work fine. A larger boat might be safer for the Cape Fear.

One of the prime spots on the Tar River is behind Bob Melton's Bar-B-Que opposite the old airport. You can fish from the banks here, but during the peak of the run, good spots are at a premium. There is also a free boat ramp here provided by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

A brief word on tackle might be helpful. Most fishermen use standard spinning rods with six or eight pound test line; however, some prefer to use an ultra-light spinning rod with four-pound test.

The best lures are tiny lead-head jigs called "shad darts," and spoons. Shad darts come in a wide variety of sizes and colors, but I have had good luck with a white dart with a red head and a tuft of yellow hair for the tail. The Reflecto Spoons are favored by many anglers, especially in the No. 0 and No. 1 sizes. Some fishermen rig them tandem with a spoon trailing about 15 inches behind a dart.

The best technique is to cast across the current and slightly upstream, then retrieve steadily and slowly while the lure sweeps downstream near the bottom. You'll get hung up occasionally, but when the fishing is fast, it's worth the loss of a few lures.

## Sunday School Lesson

Somewhere I have heard it said that "the wounded healer" is often best able to heal the brokenness of others. A physician who has experienced disease personally is more likely to be effective in bringing recovery to his patients. A counselor who has personally had to work through momentous problems of his own is more likely to be helpful in assisting others to work through theirs.

If we are to help other people, we must be able to understand them. And in order to understand them we ought to be able to put ourselves in their place. An old Indian saying tells us that we cannot rightly judge another man until we have "walked ten miles in his moccasins."

Following this philosophy, a valuable tool often used in problem-solving with people is a device called "role playing." People are asked to act out in an impromptu manner the "role" of another person so that the "actor" may experience that other person "from the inside."

### IRS Lines Busy, But Keep Trying

Taxpayers calling the Internal Revenue Service for assistance should not be discouraged when they cannot immediately reach an assistant, says Robert A. LeBaube, director for IRS in North Carolina.

In the Greensboro office 4,000-5,000 calls are answered each day. The heaviest traffic occurs on Mondays and Fridays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. IRS strongly urges taxpayers to call on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays early or late in the day.

The number toll-free is 1-800-822-8800.

For example, a mother and daughter experiencing conflict over parental rules and regulations may be asked to "reverse their roles," the mother trying to act the role of the daughter and the daughter assuming the role of the mother. Often great understanding comes from these experiments and relationships are healed.

Another reason for the healing power of the "wounded healer" is the greater likelihood that we will respond favorably to someone who has "been where we are." The comforting attempts of someone who has personally known grief are usually more convincing to us. This is why rehabilitated handicapped people are sent to try to help others with disabilities, why "ex-cons" are often sent to work with prison inmates, and former mental patients sent back to mental health facilities to work with the emotionally disturbed.

It is also for these same reasons that the Epistle to the Hebrews exalts Jesus as our exalted "high priest." As the writer puts it: "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:1)"

This is a crucial teaching, for some people think of Jesus in such exalted terms that he is seen as personally irrelevant. Dwelling on his perfection and divinity, some people feel that a person so removed from the common temptations and experiences of men could hardly be of much help. How, they reason, could the Son of God know what it means to struggle against life's temptations? How could a man of so many miracles know what it means to be hungry, helpless, or grief-stricken?

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CARD OF THANKS  
We wish to express our appreciation to all our friends and neighbors who expressed their sympathy in so many ways during our recent bereavement. The family of Younger Stephens. 44P

CARD OF THANKS  
May we extend our heartfelt thanks to those of you who expressed your sympathy in so many thoughtful ways during our recent bereavement. Your kindnesses have meant much to us. The family of Mary R. Taylor. 44C

CARD OF THANKS  
TO THE OPEN ARMS REST HOME: The family of Younger Stephens wishes to convey their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Staff and Residents of the Open Arms Rest Home, for the warmth, loving-kindness and tender loving care given to our father during his recent stay in your home. Just as he was welcomed with open arms, you have touched the lives of all ages and are helping our residents meet the challenge of tomorrow. 44P

**NOTICE**  
All classified advertising must be paid for in advance unless you have an established advertising account. The advertising deadline is 5 p.m. each Tuesday. If you plan to call in your ad, please call in advance so we can receive payment in the mail by Tuesday. Classified ad rate is 5c per word with a 75c minimum.

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---GIFTS---  
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on 401 by-pass. The auction is being staged as a fund raising project for the library in place of the annual horse show usually sponsored by the club.

Kay Thomas, RWC president, encouraged donations of any and everything except clothing. "This may be a way that some of those who haven't donated to the library yet may be able to do so," she said.

---FIREMEN---  
Continued from page 1

about \$1,000, will be paid for from the renovation funds for the former board of education building.

An amendment to the budget to account for the federal public service employment funds was approved. The board also agreed to call for bids to paint and repair the courtroom and offices in the courthouse that were recently turned over to the court. Courthouse renovation is financed by the facility fee included in court costs.

The board approved the application for a federal grant to be used to organize a detective division within the sheriff's department.

They also agreed to a request from Mrs. Frances R. Cox, an employee of the county department of social services, to credit former state employment toward her retirement.

A motion to call for bids for termite treatment of the county health center was approved, however, the commissioners agreed to study the matter further before awarding bids. The commissioners tabled a resolution sent to them for approval by the Anson County board of commissioners. The resolution called for a nickel deposit on all drink cans and bottles sold in the state. The Anson board, calling it a measure to fight litter, asked the commissioners to endorse the resolution and send it to their state representatives.

The meeting of the board of equalization and review was set April 7.