

# A Look Back On 90th Birthday ...

Although still enjoying a fond-ness for cooking and entertaining, Mrs. Walter E. Freeman celebrated her 90th birthday Monda with the same trim figure of the nineteen year-old girl she was when she first came to Raeford to live.

"I love to cook", the former Agnes Gatlin told visitors to her graciously furnished home on West Donaldson Ave. Her large freezer, abundantly stocked from summer gardens, also stores an assortment of homebaked goodies that the independent-minded widow likes to

Born Nov. 10, 1885, in Darlington County, S.C. she started school on her fifth birthday and the next year moved with her family to Yuna, near Hartsville, S.C.

ATTENDING SCHOOL -- Mrs. Mary Ann Sandy of Rt. 2, Raeford.

a civilian employee at Ft. Bragg, has been sent on a special mission to Ft. Lee, Va., for training. She will return Nov. 24.

**ECU Offers Degree** 

East Carolina University, whose main campus is located in Green-

ville, is offering three master degree programs at Fort Bragg.
These programs are in admin-

istrative services, a management -oriented degree, counselor educa-

tion, which prepares students to be guidance counselors in the public

schools, and political science, which has applicability to govern-ment service at the federal, state,

and local levels. All work for all programs may be taken at Fort Bragg. East Carolina University

has an office at Fort Bragg in building 2-1728 open Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. The telephone number is 497-1973 or 396-6737.

Dr. Nils Carlson, director of the

Fort Bragg graduate program, will be available on a walk-in basis from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Thursday,

November 13, at the Chamber of

Commerce conference room in Fayetteville at 320 Green Street.

Manpower Council

The Regional Manpower Ad-

visory Committee will meet Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 P.M. at the Robeson County public library to nominate officers and discuss pro-

jects for unallocated manpower

Evaluation of manpower pro

grams and consideration of sub-contractors to RMAC and the Council of Governments is sched-

A special meeting to finalize recommendations is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 P.M. in the Lumber River Council of Govern-

ments office at 11 W. Fifth St. in

Tom McBryde is a new member of the RMAC.

Masonic Night 15th

The Eastern Star of Raeford #226 invites the Masons of Lodge #306 A.F. and A.M. to attend Masonic Night at 8:00 P.M., Nov. 15, at the Raeford Lodge.

Hoke County Commissioner

uled on the agenda.

Meets 13th, 20th

At Ft. Bragg

"That Christmas, I got a little parasol, you didn't get but one present at that time, except fruit. I was the happiest thing in the world, with that little parasol. Oh, it was cold, but I walked up and down outside with that parasol," she laughed.

Too young to remember the major Charleston earthquake, Mrs. Freeman recollects the fright of witnessing the solar eclipse when she was eight years old.

At fourteen, her family moved to Lydia, S.C., and after finishing high school, she enrolled at Winthrop, the state womens college, at Rock Hill.

"Daddy was not in good health, and Mr. J.W. McLauchlin told him how healthy it was in Raeford. My family moved in 1904, and that June, I came here from school". Mrs. Freeman said.

The journey was by train, and the then - Agnes Gatlin made the roundabout trip through Hamlet and Aberdeen and on to Raeford on the A&R Railroad. The young man who was the first station agent for the railroad in Raeford was Walter Freeman.

"We left Aberdeen on that little train and except for the big Bethune house, it was nothing but woods all the way to Raeford".
"I never was homesick, but it

was different. There weren't any automobiles, of course, and not many buggies. The young people would take wagons, and have hayrides, people had to make their own entertainment in those days. I remember going to a party at Wallace McLean's, there was Lin-

do Sexton and F.B. Sexton, Walter Blue, all of the young people."
"I don't know if I ought to tell this", she winked, "but coming home, Lindo was mad at his girl friend and he drove the wagon right through the cotton fields just to spite her. A two foot stump finally

The Gatlin-Freeman nuptials were Dec. 6, 1905, the first wedding, held in Raeford's First Baptist Church.

"All of the officials and every-

body came down on the train, and they let us have that train to take the wedding party to Hope Mills", she said. At Hope Mills, the young couple was on their way to a honeymoon trip which included a visit to Baltimore.

We took some kind of contraption, like a carriage, to go to the hotel in Baltimore. And when we got there, the driver pressed a button or something, but all the doors just flew open, and I said, 'Oh, God!', or something, I don't know why, except it was such a surprise. My husband didn't say a



Mrs. Walter Freeman

word until later when we were inside and he said 'I didn't know

I'd married a cursing woman!".

The Freemans lived in Josephine McLauchlin's boarding house after their marriage, which was destroyed by fire not long after they moved.

"He was making \$50 a month as station agent, he had the whole responsibility, and the telegraph". Mrs. Freeman said.

Grocery shopping was done at the old McGill store.

"I can remember paying 25 cents a pound for round steak. Eggs went up to 25 cents a dozen a few years after I was married!

The Freemans built their own

home at 107 S. Magnolia St. and after leaving the railroad, he opened a dry goods store on Main St. (where Popes is now) and later a furniture business.

Mrs. Freeman admitted she never really learned to drive, and laughingly recalled her husband's first automobile, purchased in

got out and started the car and it jumped a little, and it ran into a tree. That was the last time

Although busy raising four daughters, Mrs. Freeman became active in the literature club, the education club, and the Mothers Club, forerunner of the Womans

She was a founder of the mission church which is now part of Robbins Heights, a task took on in addition to her Sunday School teaching which spanned 65 years.

In 1932, the effects of the great

Depression had reached Raeford.

and with her husband's businesses declining, the Freemans moved to Aberdeen. She returned Raefor 1, to live in 1952 following his dear.

Nominated as Mother of e Year in 1968, the framed certificate is modestly put away in a corner of

"Oh, I used to sing in the choir, too, but nobody would believe that now". Mrs. Freeman laughed.

### College News

Kelly Jordan of Raeford is a member of the Wake Forest University varsity volleyball team which won the state volleyball champion-ship in Charlotte last weekend.

The team will go to the regional tournament in Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 19 for competition with the southeastern U.S. teams.

Miss Jordan is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Julius F. Jordan.

#### Woman Gets Prize

Mae Woods Bell, founding director of Rocky Mount Children's Museum, received the fifth annual North Carolina Museums Council award for her "notable achievement in the museum profession.

In addition to founding, direct-ing, and guiding the Children's Museum from a one room facility in the library basement to the present two-wing building in Sun-set Park, she has been very active in community affairs. For ten years she had a museum-related television program, and is a free-lance writer of science features.

## Our 9th Annual Sealed Deal Sale

is in progress and will continue until Nov. 29th

Do Your Christmas Shopping in November and Save From 10%, 50%

We Guarantee You A Savings From 10% To 50% On Any Purchase You Make Which Exceeds \$15.00 **During This Fun Filled Sales Event** 

Joe Sugar's

of St. Pauls, N.C.

OPEN FRIDAY NIGHTS UNTIL 8:30





#### More Christmas for Your Money

OUR BIGGEST EVER FREE GIFT-WITH-PURCHASE

GIFT-WITH-PURCHASE
With this coupon and any \$20
purchase of Meile Norman
cosmetics\* you get our FREE
gift of a smart mock tortoises
shell and crystal look purse.
Inside, a Holiday Collection
of six Metle Norman beautymakers including: Intense Body
Moisturizer, Candescent Face
Makeup, Taupe Creamy Eye
Shadow, a Trio Compact with
Satin Sienna Lipstick, Tawny
Cheek Color Creme and Russett
Moist Lip Gloss.

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MERLE NORMAN

### MERLE NORMAN COSMETIC STUDIO

East Central Avenue RAEFORD