

BRAND NEW -- Many of the wreath decorations which went up in the downtown area in the past week were purchased new by the Raeford Merchants Association after getting donations from member stores and a little help from the city and county.



HEAVE - HOOOOO -- Workers observe as a derrick lifts a derailed coal car back onto the tracks. A&R president, W.R. Fornyduval explained that a sharp flange caught on the switch point and jumped the track.

Exceptional Children Services Increase 9%

Services to children with special needs in the North Carolina public schools during 1974-75 showed an increase of nine percent over the previous year, according to statistics compiled from principal's year-end reports to the Department of Public Instruction and special local unit reports to the Division for Exceptional Children.

According to Theodore R. Drain, director of the Division for Exceptional Children, over 127,800 exceptional children received instruction designed to meet their individual needs in school programs last year, an increase of 11,167 over the 1973-74 total. "This number," said Drain, "represents about 42 1/2 percent of the State's estimated number of school-age children who are either mentally or physically handicapped, learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, speech and/or hearing impaired, or gifted and talented."

Analysis of the data revealed large increases in numbers of children served in several program areas. In the area of learning disabilities, some 12,508 children were enrolled in special programs in 1974-75, an increase of 55 1/2 percent over last year, said Drain. Other areas indicating sizable increases included services for speech impaired, growing from 28,748 children served in 1973-74 to 32,349 in 1974-75, and gifted and talented, moving from 29,815 to 33,649. Special instructional programs also served 4,039 trainable mentally retarded children, 664 visually impaired children, 366 hearing impaired children, and crippled children.

Only three programs showed a decrease in numbers of children served, programs for educable mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, and hospitalized-homebound. Some 38,850 children were in programs for the educable mentally retarded in 1974-75 indicating a decrease of 165 as compared to the 1973-74 enrollment. However, services for children with emotional problems last year were provided to 2,123 children as opposed to 2,159 the year before, and some 2,474 children were served in programs for hospitalized-homebound for a decrease of 1,187 over the previous year's figures.

According to Drain, increased opportunities in the regular classroom for mildly handicapped children, better diagnostic services and a decline in public school enrollments can account for the differences in the areas of the educable mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed. Numbers served in hospitalized-homebound programs will fluctuate from year to year. "Moreover," explained

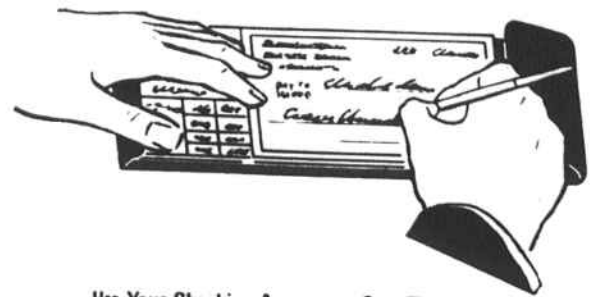
Drain, "removal of architectural barriers, increased mobility, control of crippling diseases, and more accurate reporting of children needing the services of a special teacher are other factors which have brought about decreases in this area.

The total number of teachers of exceptional children funded by federal, state, and local sources was 3,553 1/2, an increase of 390 1/2 over the 1973-74 school year. In addition, 59 persons were employed in local school units to serve as coordinators of programs for exceptional children.

Approval by the 1974 General Assembly of a \$15 million increase in funding for programs for exceptional children is expected to provide services to several thousand additional children during the present school year. The \$15 million will provide 500 new teaching positions, including 55 in the area of learning disabilities; staff development activities; support services funds; and an increase in the grant-in-aid program for trainable mentally retarded children and in the education expense grants available to severely handicapped children whose needs cannot be met in the public schools.

"Priorities for the future," said Drain, "are increased psychological services and positions for local leadership personnel. Accurate diagnosis of a child's learning needs is absolutely essential in the placement of children and planning of appropriate programs," he explained. "It also is important to have someone at the local level knowledgeable of all types of programs and services available in this area and coordinate them into a program plan that will provide children with special needs with the most appropriate education possible."

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1. Checks save you time, trouble and travel. Instead of driving or walking all around town to pay your monthly bills in cash, just write checks and mail them. Takes minutes instead of hours.
2. Checks are the safe way to pay. Unlike cash, a check can be spent only by the person or firm you've written it to. And since you don't have to keep large sums of cash on hand when you have a Checking Account, there's no danger that your money will be lost or stolen.
3. Checks prove you've paid. If there's ever any question about whether you paid a certain bill, your cancelled check - endorsed by the recipient - provides legal proof of payment.
4. Checks make personal bookkeeping easy. Your Checking Account is a perfect record of how much you've deposited from your earnings, how much you've spent for food, clothing, medical care, entertainment, and all the other items in your budget.
5. Your checking account gives you a clear and complete record of tax deductible items to refer to when making up your income tax return.

The Bank of Raeford



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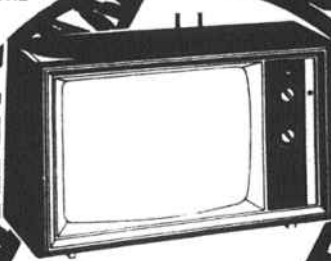
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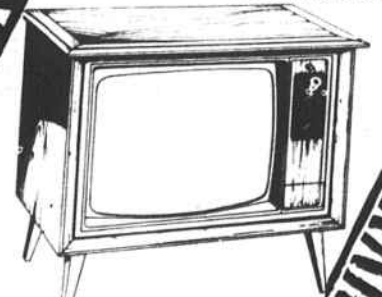


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Cabinet finished in simulated grained Walnut with gracefully tapered legs of simulated wood material in matching color. Control panel in matching Walnut color accented with an Ebony color acrylic lens.

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Lower Fuel Charges Seen On Electric Bills

Carolina Power & Light Company has filed with the N.C. Utilities Commission to lower the approved fuel charge on January electric bills to .414 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh), a reduction of 87 cents per 1,000 kwhs from the

December charge. The January figure represents the lowest fuel charge since June 1974, and is 62 percent lower than the charge in January, 1975.

The proposed charge includes the additional temporary fuel charge of .089 cents per kwh previously approved by the commission.

The approved fuel charge is based on actual fuel expense three months earlier. Therefore, the January charge is based on October's fuel expense. CP&L said that the fuel charge represents no profit to the company, but only allows recovery of the actual cost of fossil fuel.

The fuel charge can fluctuate from month to month, with the customer receiving the benefit of lower fuel costs when prices go down.

Last September, when the commission replaced the fossil fuel clause with the approved fuel charge, the charge was .619 cents per kwh. It declined in October, but was up slightly in November.

The December charge will be .501 cents per kwh.

CP&L credits the general decline in the fuel charge to lower prices for coal, the company's main generating fuel, and increased generation from nuclear units.

**AMERICAN
CANCER SOCIETY**

This space contributed by the publisher.

Announcing ... Sunnybrook Nursery REAVES STREET WILL BE OPEN Tuesday and Friday nights

6:30 until 10:30 until Christmas

TO ALLOW ALL PARENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, ETC.

2.50 Per Evening per family

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