

## ASCS Taps '76 Leaders

The Hoke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) elected its county committee and community committee representatives at the convention held Monday night.

Elected were Joe Upchurch, chairman, (three-year term); D.A. Currie, vice-chairman, (one-year term remaining); Julian Love, regular member, (two-year term remaining); Ken W. McNeill, first alternate, (one-year term); and Tom Jones, second alternate, (one-year term).

Committees elected for each township in order of chairman, vice-chairman, regular member, and first and second alternates are: ALLENDALE - L.A. McGugan, James H. McGugan, Doc Monroe, Welton Locklear, and Isaac Locklear. ANTIOCH - H.A. Boyles, G.B. Bostic, Herbert Gillis, F.C. McPhaul,

and Willie McNair. BLUE SPRINGS - Earl Hendrix, C.H. Gainey, T.J. Harris, Billy Dalton, and Roosevelt Platt. MCLAUCHLIN - Douglas Monroe, Edwin B. Newton, Julian Barnes, Thomas A. Ray, and Hugh Overton. QUEWHIFFLE - James R. Nixon, James R. Strother, J.W. King, Horace Walters, Jr. and M.A. Robertson. RAEFORD - Ken W. McNeill, J.B. McLeod, James L. Warner, J.A. Williamson, Eddie Baker. STONEWALL - Tom Jones, M.C. Boyles, Henry Maxwell, Dan McGougan, and Ernest Davis.

These committeemen take office Jan. 1, 1976.

## Christmas Blessings

## Public Defender's Office Rapped By Officials Here

Strong criticism by law enforcement officials of the public defender's operation was voiced here Friday during District Court, which had an unusually large number of cases docketed.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington expressed resentment because of the unavailability of a public defender for some of his prisoners charged with felonies, who were scheduled for their probable cause hearings in District Court.

"Some of my people worked all last night and have been here all day for court and will have to go back to work tonight, and the public defender came in at noon and left at 1 P.M. I've also had witnesses here for certain cases that have been here all day waiting for the hearing," said Barrington.

Assistant public defender John Decker was in court about 4 P.M. and a hearing was held for two people charged with armed robbery.

Chief public defender for the twelfth judicial district, Jim Little said Tuesday that one public defender usually covers District Court for Hoke County, except during Superior Court week or when the load requires more than one.

"There is no way to tell how many we will need until the judge decides who needs a public defender," he said.

Little said the public defenders are not required to be in court when it convenes on Friday because they are usually the last ones to present their cases.

"Since the general rule is to get the private attorney's cases out first, we're usually last on the totem pole," he said.

"The reason the private attorney's cases are done first is because that is how they make their living and since we're getting paid by the state, we usually don't mind waiting," he said. Barrington disagreed sharply with the suggestion.

"Based on Mr. Little's statement, I have had a misconception of the court system for the past twenty years. It was my impression that the courts were for the people of North Carolina, not the lawyers, the judicial officials, or even the police officers. We're all paid to do our jobs," Barrington said.

"The citizens of the great state of North Carolina pay for the court system through taxes," he added.

## Chancel Choir Performs Special Service Dec. 21

The Chancel Choir of the Raeford Presbyterian Church will give the Service of Nine Lessons on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 8:15 P.M. The worship service will be conducted by Rev. John C. Ropp and Chris C. Watkins, director of music.

The practice of combining traditional Christmas Carols with suitable Scriptural Readings has become very popular in recent years in the celebration of the greatest of all Christian festivals. In preparing such a service the director has followed a well-known English use, adapting it for present-day American choirs in this country.

The choir will be assisted by several well-known soloists of the area. They include Kathy Lakoski, mezzo-soprano from Greensboro College, Cecelia Ropp, soprano from Raeford, Bruce Shafferman, a baritone from Greensboro, Lester Southern, a baritone from Raeford, Marian Condit, harpist from the North Carolina School of the Arts, and Anne Lester and Ann Farrington, flautists from the University of

North Carolina at Greensboro.

Among the selections that the choir will sing are "Masters In This Hall", "See, Amid The Winter Snow", "I Saw Three Ships", "The Shepherd's Carol", "Still, Still, Still", "Lo, I Bring Tidings", "The Lord At First Did Adam Make", "I Wonder As I Wander", "Silent Night" and several carols to be sung with the congregation.

"I am really excited about this service," quotes Mr. Watkins. "Not only is it my first music program in this church, but I believe that it is going to be a truly beautiful gift to God through our music. I have had such wonderful response from all the great choir members in the church and all the fine musicians in the town that I am really thrilled over my wildest expectations!"

This service will be held in the newly-remodelled church sanctuary. The public is cordially invited to worship with them at this music service.



OWL MAKERS - 4-H members created decorative owls made from leaves singed by candle during the workshop sponsored by the home agent's office last week. Ellen Willis, Marsha Smith, and Hazel Niven helped the owlmakers with their work.

# MACKS

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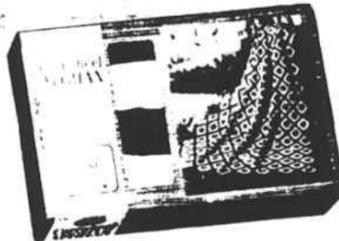
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OPEN HOUSE - Carrie Lowery is served punch by Agnes Wilkes of the food service class at their Friday "Open House". The class has been learning catering, short order, and dining room service skills.



OCCUPATIONAL CLASS - Students Betty McMillan and Idell McNeill show curtains the occupational skills class has learned to make.

