

BEST DOOR—Mrs. Blue Woodard's eighth grade homeroom won the Christmas door decoration contest sponsored by the Career Exploration Club with the house shown here. Second place was won by Spencer Sampson's homeroom and Mrs. Harriett McFadyen's homeroom was third.



MERRY CHRISTMAS—Workers in the county offices located in the courthouse annex chipped in to decorate the lobby area and trimmed this tree to greet visitors with the Yule spirit.



CHRISTMAS PARTY—Brother Alvin Walker is pictured presenting a fruit basket to Mrs. Rebâ Holmes at the annual East Freedom Masonic Lodge Christmas party for widows of past members held at the Gibson cafeteria. Emmett Steele, past master of the lodge, was guest speaker. Mrs. Holmes is worthy matron of Evening Light Chapter 256, Order of Eastern Star.

Beware Of Christmas Frauds, Consumer Protection Says

During the Christmas season, consumer frauds generally surface, warned the Attorney General's office, as perpetrators attempt to capitalize on the general excitement of pre-Christmas buying.

The Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office issued a reminder to consumers to beware of a number of known swindles:

MAIL ORDERS: The U.S. Postal Service anticipates a record number of mail order swindles this year. Orders not delivered could easily be attributed to the high volume of mailing activity when in fact there was no intention of filling the order.

A postal official cited a camera swindle from a previous holiday season when the firm advertised a well-known make for about \$50 less than its market value.

Thousands of \$19.95 checks followed to the mail order firm but no cameras were ever mailed to buyers. Court action resulted in refunds to those who fell for the scheme but it's reasonable to presume that some plans for Christmas-giving turned into major disappointments.

There is no way to flatly state what mail order advertisement is a scheme and not all of them are. Prospective buyers could:

---Beware unusually attractive prices; compare to local prices as an indicator.

---Never send cash; always pay by check or money order.

---Keep a copy of the order and the advertisement.

---Ask friends if they have ever dealt with the firm.

---Do not pay for anything not ordered. And, mail order frauds should be reported to the local postmaster.

CHARITY DONATIONS: The clarion call for giving rings louder during the Christmas season and sympathy appeals from charity racketeers seem to be the shrillest. While many charities are worthy of assistance some are simply channels to a con-artist's pocket.

Whether solicited through the mail, the knock on the door, the telephone plea, the heart-tugging ad or on the street, consumers should make themselves aware of the true nature of the charity and its professed course.

A North Carolina law went into effect October 1 to protect legitimate charitable organizations and to stop fly-by-night charity rackets from operating in our state. The complex of comprehensive regulations covers all professional promoters under licensing requirements and restrictions on how they use funds collected.

Inquiries about suspicious charity solicitations may be made to Ed Edgerton, N.C. Department of Human Resources in Raleigh (829-4510).

"OFFICIAL" BICENTENNIAL: Bicentennial-related products are now being mass-marketed in time for Christmas buying. Many commemorative items are simply mementos of the nation's birthday celebration. When they are peddled as "official" commemorative issues such implication could be misleading unless, in fact, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, D.C. has authorized use of the word in promotions.

According to an ARBA spokesman unauthorized use of "official" or "American Bicentennial" and similar phrases have already resulted in some consumer frauds.

Fraudulent schemes, deceptive advertising and misleading offers are expected to become unlimited in scope through colossal maneuverings for the consumer dollar and consumers should be extremely cautious before getting involved in them.

Inquiries about bicentennial articles or programs indicating that they are "official" may be made to local bicentennial committees or to the N.C. Bicentennial Committee in Raleigh (829-2430).

The myriad of frauds to capture Christmas dollars also include:

UNORDERED MERCHANDISE: (Keep it or return it; don't pay for it!)

CREDIT AND CONTRACTS: December is also the prime time for credit buying and contractual sales. Credit is credit and a contract is a contract no matter the season.

Consumers should exercise more caution, however, during this "mood" buying time when emotions run high and almost any terms seem acceptable in order to satisfy that special need to get just the right gift for a loved one.

To avoid pitfalls and later distress, it's a good idea to begin with a list of anticipated expenditures. After determining how much will be needed is the time to decide how the credit will be sought (i.e., a lump sum cash loan, use of a credit card or the retail charge account).

Before entering any credit agreement, carefully determine the total cost of the credit (interest, finance charges, fees, etc.) and evaluate the

total in terms of the true value of what it will buy.

Be sure to convert credit costs into actual dollars and add these to the principal dollars of the loan or charge account.

The length of time it will take to repay the account is an important money factor to be considered.

The sky-rocketing use of Christmas credit calls for a special emphasis to take time to figure it all out beforehand as opposed to the "worry about it later" syndrome.

All contracts, whether for credit,

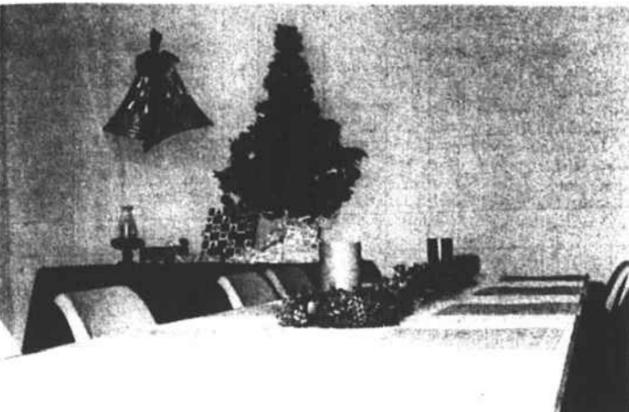
cash purchases of goods and services or warranty agreements, should be given careful scrutiny to avoid costly mistakes. Serious problems can arise from signing a blank contract or one that is not clearly understood.

Reading the contract at home, away from outside pressures, is using good judgement. Never sign without asking questions about portions which are not clear.

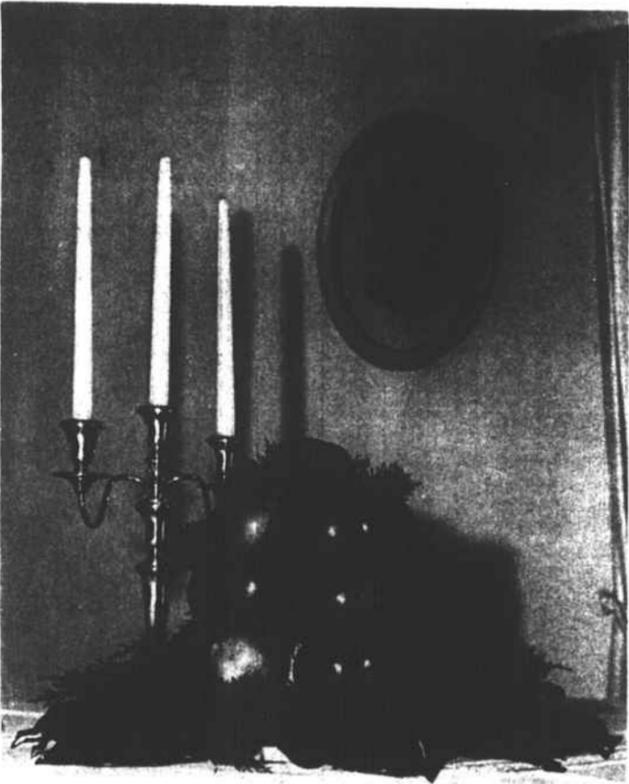
Saying "I'll take it, where do I sign?" is serious business and should be treated with thoughtful consideration.



20 YEAR PIN—Clyde Ferguson (in center) receives his 20 year service pin and certificate from Burlington Menswear Dye plant. He is a section man in the top preparation department. Also pictured, left to right, are Jasper Canady, supervisor; Gib Bernhardt, plant manager; George King, superintendent of topmaking; and Jim McLawhorn, department head.



HOLIDAY TABLE—Holiday colors of red and green and a brightly decorated tree accented the auditorium of the county office building Friday night for the Raeford Extension Homemakers Christmas get-together.



CENTERPIECE—At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Copper on College Drive this elaborate centerpiece mixing Christmas greenery and shiny red apples is admired by holiday guests.

LEGALS

to the undersigned.
This, the 19th day of December, 1975.

Mary McGirt Smith
Drawer W
Raeford, N.C. 28376
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34-37C

NOTICE

Effective January 1, 1976:
A Hoke County Ordinance adopting N.C. State Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning Codes will be enforced County-wide including the City of Raeford. Copies of the new Ordinance will be available for public review in the Courthouse Annex building. This Ordinance along with the Electrical Ordinance presently in effect will require that permits be obtained and fees paid prior to any work being started. Permits may be obtained from County Inspector's office located in the Courthouse Annex building.

33-34C

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of John Crawford Wright of Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said John Crawford Wright to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 8th day of December, 1975.

Mrs. Ida Tapp Wright
Raeford, N.C. 28376

33-36C

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153-9 (17)

North Carolina
Hoke County

The City of Raeford advises all interested persons that a public hearing is to be held on January 5, 1976 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., at the City Hall in the City of Raeford to act upon a proposal to close Knit-Away Drive located in the southern portion of the City of Raeford.

North Carolina General Statutes Section 153-9 (17) provides for the closing of streets by a municipality if it appears to the satisfaction of the City Council that the closing of said street is not contrary to the public interest and that no individual owning property in the vicinity of said street or road, or if the subdivision in which said street or road is located will thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property.

This the 8 day of December, 1975.

Willis C. Sellars, Acting City Manager
City of Raeford, North Carolina

R. Palmer Wilcox, City Attorney

32-35C

CREDITORS' NOTICE

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Henry Eldon Rogers, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit them to Miriam G. Rogers, as Executrix of the decedent's estate on or before the 30th day of June 1976, at Rt. 1, Box 171-A, Lumber Bridge, N.C., or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.

McManus & McManus
Attorneys at Law
110 East Third Avenue
Red Springs, N.C. 28377
Telephone (919) 843-5541
Attorneys for:
Miriam G. Rogers, Executrix

32-35C

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOKE COUNTY

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of Martin L. Wood, Sr. of Hoke County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Martin L. Wood, Sr. to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of November, 1975.

(Mrs.) Clara M. Wood
Route 3, Box 612 Fayetteville, N.C. 28306

31-34C

Legals

NORTH CAROLINA
HOKE COUNTY

CREDITORS' NOTICE

The undersigned, having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Alton Eugene McGirt, deceased, late of Hoke County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of June, 1976, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment

