

# Carolina Turf A New And Progressive Business

Carolina Turf started with four employees in 1961 and now employs 12 full time and 36 hourly paid employees. William L. Poole Jr., started with a small turf business operating out of a tiny building and has vastly increased his holdings to include two concrete plants, one in Sanford, one here.

A licensed contractor, Poole cites further company increases as building a fleet of vehicles from two tractors and two trucks to nine concrete mixers, four tractor trailers, five dump trucks, eleven pickup trucks, and nine tractors.

Carolina Turf engages in a variety of services. They sell ready mix concrete, seed and fence highways, plant grass on golf courses and sell turf commercially.

The company now commands an entire house for its office space. On its walls hang diagrams of the many golf courses which grow "Carolina Turf" like the Country Club of North Carolina, Pinehurst; Atlanta Country Club, Atlanta; MacGregor Downs, Raleigh; and Irongate Golf

Club, Fayetteville. A native of Raeford, Poole is a graduate of the Citadel earning a degree in civil engineering. Prior to entering the turf business Poole spent five years with the Army Corps of Engineers at Ft. Bragg. He and his wife, Anne, have six children and attend the Presbyterian church. He was formerly a deacon in the church. Poole is past president of the

Kiwanis Club. Also a member of the Kiwanis Club, Eldon Allen manages the turf production of the company. He has a M.S. in turf management from Clemson University. He is from Aynor, S.C. Steve Phillips manages the two concrete plants. He earned his degree from Pembroke. He and his wife Susan have two children. He also belongs to the Kiwanis Club.



Bee Be Smith - Ed McNeill - Tommy Baxley



William Poole



Eldon Allen



Steve Phillips

# Glimpses Of Hoke's History In 'A Cairn Of Remembrance'

Anne Wright, Raeford art teacher and grand-daughter of Hoke County's first sheriff, came honestly by her interest in history and in architecture. That interest — and a chance remark to Ruth McEachern in 1975, led to the production of "A Cairn of Remembrance", sketches of buildings and persons of historical interest to Hoke Countians.

Mrs. McEachern, a history buff, enthusiastically endorsed Mrs. Wright's suggestion that the two of them produce the book during the bicentennial year.

The spirally-bound work includes 18 of Anne's ink and charcoal sketches of old houses and institutions, and 19 narrative sketches written by Ruth to present significant facts about each site.

Only one subject, the Hoke County Courthouse, is dated after the county was formed in 1911. Others span the period between 1760 and 1906 in upper Robeson and western Cumberland counties, the area comprising present-day Hoke.

The title, "A Cairn of Remembrance" is the slogan of one of the Highland clans; and with the thistle of Scotland on the cover, gives recognition to the strong Scottish heritage in this area.

Mrs. Wright's artistic ability and especially her interest in architectural history were honed to a fine edge in studies at Limestone College and at Pembroke State University. But it is highly probable that her love of architecture and of history had its genesis long before she entered school. Her father, Archie Byrne, is widely known as one who loves history and who has accumulated an impressive store of facts and artifacts relating to the early settlers of this area. Mrs. Byrne is the former Thelma Hall, a daughter of Hoke County's first sheriff, and the granddaughter of Nathan Hall, a 19th century builder who is known to have assisted with the construction of Antioch Church and other buildings in the county.

The home which Nathan Hall built for his family soon after the middle of the nineteenth century is a spacious structure with enormous windows, high ceilings, wide pine flooring, impressive paneled mantels over the generous fireplaces, and roomy porches. The house is in



Ruth McEachern & Anne Wright

good repair except for some vandal-inflicted damage, and it stands near Dundarrach, a monument to the skill and artistry of Anne's great-grandfather.

Her aunt, Miss Josephine Hall, headed a committee which compiled a history of Hoke County for the Golden Jubilee celebration in 1961.

Mrs. McEachern, a native of Wake County, was married to Laurie McEachern in 1943 while he was living in Raleigh and was director of the Registration Division, N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles. He later was named Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, and they returned to Hoke County after his retirement in 1962.

The house to which they returned had been owned by the McEachern family since early in the 19th century and is thought to have been built by John Gilchrist in the 1790's.

Mr. McEachern represented Hoke County in the 1931, 1933, and 1941 sessions of the General Assembly. He died in December, 1968.

Anne's husband, Harless Wright, was a willing accomplice in getting "A Cairn of Remembrance" published. Specifically, he

served as navigator and chauffeur while Anne and Ruth scoured the county in search of interesting old houses and stories. And it wasn't always easy.

The three of them well remember one time when their enthusiasm got them on a farm road — unpaved — too soon after a downpour of rain. Harless' truck was thought to be equal to anything Hoke's roads had to offer, but as it turned out, Anne and Ruth had to push while Harless gunned the motor to get the disgustingly cheerful-looking red vehicle — slipping — sliding — and slinging mud — through to higher ground.

And then, of course, there were a few late meals for the Burlington supervisor, and a great deal of hauling sketches to the printer, assisting with matting and framing, and setting up the exhibit which introduced the book on April 25.

The Wright's enthusiasm for the traditional country life is reflected in their new home nearing completion in Allendale Township. The construction is largely of old timbers from houses scheduled for demolition or already torn down. The heart-pine floors came from an old house in Harnett county; the

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Allison Poole



Graham Poole



Allison Poole



# Carolina Turf Company



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