

**WINNERS** -- Cynthia Locklear displays one of the ribbons won by Hoke students at the Educational District IV Annual Occupational Education Fair. Held Friday and Saturday at Cross Creek Mall, the fair featured exhibits, live demonstrations, fashion shows and other activities illustrating how students learning various skills. (Photo by Harold Gillis)

## Sunday School Lesson

The older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son was spiritually nearsighted; he was unable to look beyond the fatted calf -- a very limited horizon indeed!

Of course, the same was true of the younger brother, at least in the beginning. As the story opens we see a willful young man who decides that he has had enough of the confinements of homelife and family. What he wants is "what is coming to him," his share of the family capital. As he looked over his father's flocks he knew that a certain portion of these animals were his by right of anticipated inheritance. But he didn't want to be a shepherd. Instead he wanted to cash in his share and take it to some "far country" where the action was.

We all know what happens next

in the story: how the prodigal spends his inheritance in the wild pursuits of the "far country," how, reduced to poverty, he scratches out a bare existence performing a task no sane Jew would accept: feeding and tending the pigs! We know too that at last he "comes to himself," realizes what he's done and decides to return home, even though he has forfeited his status as a son. We know too that the father has been scanning the road and, seeing the returning prodigal, hurries down the road to greet him.

Many of us tend to drop the story at that point. But there is an important sequel or coda to the story that we must not miss. In the midst of the joyous celebration we see the older brother return wearily from the fields. Hearing the celebration and seeing the bright lights, he learns that his prodigal brother has returned and his grateful father has declared a banquet.

The older brother does not join in the celebration. No, he is "angry," very angry. And can't we understand how he feels? After all, he didn't run away to a far country and demand his share of the inheritance. He stayed on and worked faithfully for his father -- yes, even having to pick up some of his brother's work in his absence. He did all the things a dutiful son is supposed to do, but there was never any celebration for him.

His problem is that he cannot see beyond the fatted calf on the banquet table. Both had wanted what they thought was theirs by right, although they pursued it in different ways. The younger brother had learned that there is more to life than one's share of "what is coming to you." The older brother by his words and actions reveals that he still does not understand that. In other words, it does not appear that the older brother remained and loyally served his father because he loved him, but because he had his eye on the "fatted calf."

Some of us are the "prodigal son" and some of us are the "elder brother," but both of us must look beyond the "fatted calf."

The Veterans Administration is sixth among all federal agencies in budget outlays, with annual appropriations exceeding \$18 billion.

## Wildlife Afield

By Jim Dean N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

John Mills, an Englishman and author of "The Sportsman's Library" published in 1845, had some definite ideas about the relative roles of hunters and wives.

"Following the hunt," wrote Mills, "the sportsman will take his comfort stretched upon a sofa, slippers and robed before a blazing yule log, gazing upon his glass of good old ruby bright; the reigning silence broken only by the sharp crack of the walnuts which his gay-hearted, pretty wife is industriously peeling and preparing as a zest to the wine. God bless both her and him, for she loves him for his deeds of gallant daring, like a true English sportsman's wife; and he loves her, that she doth listen to them."

I suppose there are still those who would say that this man Mills had a proper view of the way things ought to be. On the other hand, I suspect that, even back in the mid-1800's, such sentiments were written with more tongue-in-cheek than objectivity.

Such are the pleasures of old books. It is fascinating -- to me at least -- to read hunting and fishing books written years ago. Even books only a few decades old often reveal marked contrasts in tackle, techniques and traditions, and books from prior centuries can be a delight.

Mills' book, for example, has interesting chapters on the care and training of horses and dogs, shooting and the selection of a proper gun, hunting tactics, and fishing. Whereas old books often reveal many unappreciated prejudices and misguided opinions, Mills was apparently a very knowledgeable sportsman; and some of his views are valid today.

For example, Mills says that "the true sportsman directs his attention

not only to the killing of game but also to its preservation." Certainly, that is as true today as it was then.

Mills also had little respect for those who broke game laws or allowed their dogs to run wild and destroy various kinds of wildlife. Mills sarcastically refers to feral dogs as "self-hunting quadrupeds," and calls poachers "interloping bipeds."

Occasionally, there is an unexpected bit of sophisticated humor, as when Mills discusses the problem of accidentally snapping off your fly while fishing. He notes that it is exasperating to continue fishing in the twilight unaware that the fly is no longer on the end of the leader. "Pay attention to this," writes Mills, "and if you have any doubt after dusk, you may easily ascertain the point by drawing the end of your line quickly through your hand, particularly if you do not wear gloves."

There is even one section in Mills' book which lists laws of interest to sportsmen as they existed in England at that time. Apparently, the theft of valuable hunting dogs was a problem then (as now), and offenders were not apt to get off lightly. For a first offense, the offender was fined a sum of 20 pounds plus the value of the dog -- a stiff fine in those days. For a second offense, the dog thief would be imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding 12 months, or whipped, at the discretion of the justice.

It would be interesting to spend a few days swapping tales with Mills; but even though he has long since gone to his Maker, his book is the legacy of a man -- who like many of us -- admits that "field sports have been the study, the thought, the occupation of my life from a time my memory cannot date."

### RCDS Parents Elect Board

On March 7, at the annual corporation meeting, the parents of students in Robeson County Day School met in the school's auditorium to discuss and vote on election of new members to the local Board of Trustees and a possible modification of the school's name.

J.C. Hasty of Maxton and Earl Parnell of Parkton were re-elected as board members and Dr. Bill Lewis of Lumberton and Ed Bodenheimer of Red Springs were elected as new board members. A.T. White of St. Pauls was re-elected as president of the Corporation. Parnell was elected as vice-president and Mrs. Nancy Tyson of Fayetteville was re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

Parents also decided to retain the name "Robeson County Day School" rather than to adopt the name "Flora MacDonald School."

Dr. Neill Powers, headmaster of the school, explained to parents the process and meaning of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. R.C.D.S. is presently engaged in

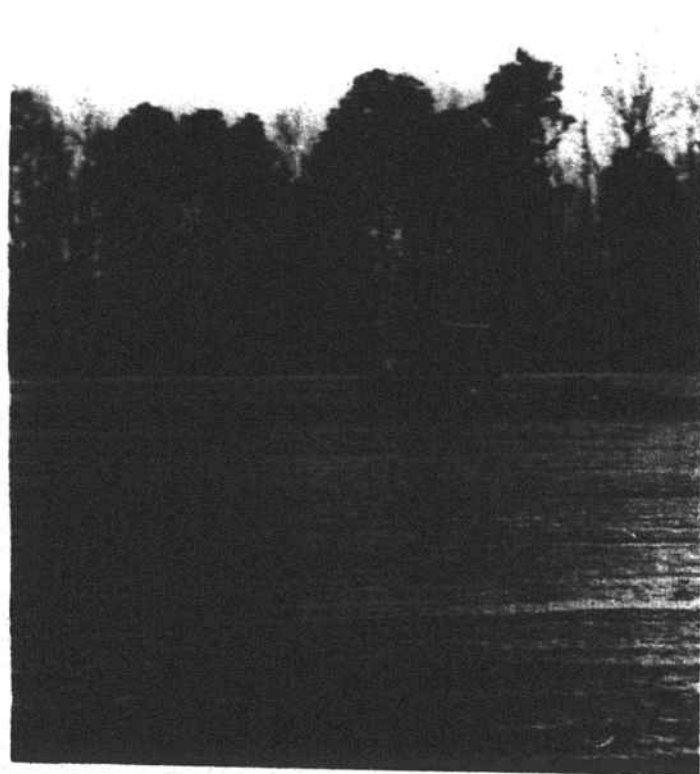
an intense endeavor to seek such accreditation and has already affiliated itself with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Powers has arranged to have Dr. George Bell of Greenfield School in Wilson as an outside consultant to the accreditation process.

### Church News

Shiloh Presbyterian Church announces a series of evangelistic services to be held at the church (located on N.C. 211 near McCain Hospital) Sunday, March 20 through Wednesday March 23 at 7:30 each evening.

The Rev. Charles Kirkpatrick, pastor of MacPherson Church, Fayetteville, will be the preacher. All are welcome to attend.

The Veterans Administration leads all federal agencies in the hiring of Vietnam-era veterans with more than 33,000 on its rolls.



**PLOWING** -- Spring is traditionally the season of growth. This farmer was seen preparing his fields off St. Pauls Dr.

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### Health Tip OF THE WEEK



It can be safely assumed that the Creator is the superior Bio-chemist and that the natural foods are superior for human nourishment than are man's synthetic or processed foods. For example: Brown sugar, molasses, and honey are more nutritious than the highly refined white sugar. Whole wheat flour, which contains the wheat germ, is considerably more nutritious than so-called "enriched" but highly refined white flour. Milk and natural fruit juices are rich in vitamins, proteins, minerals and other essential nutrients, while soda water contains nothing but carbohydrates and calories.

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