

At Hoke High School

New Assistant Principal Named

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Winter weather has been with us for the past several days, but the forecast is for the temperature to rise for the coming weekend, of course the weatherman says that rain will be with us on Wednesday.

The work on the city parking lot between Elwood and Edinborough Avenues has stopped because of the weather. It has been so cold that concrete could not be poured to complete the curbing in the lot. When completed, this should not only help downtown parking, but should help the flow of traffic on Elwood Avenue. The parking lot, as I understand it, can be entered from Elwood but exit must be made on Edinborough. There will also be an entrance on Edinborough.

Raeform Savings and Loan is also adding to their parking lot by paving and marking off space between J.H. Austin Insurance Agency and Shelton Furniture.

So when these are completed you can shop downtown if employees will use the off-street parking lots. Let's give it a try.

The Christmas season is upon us and it should make us feel like giving. This would be in the true spirit of the day, but in past years this has not always been the case. Recently on TV, shoplifting was a feature part of a program. The announcer was saying that most merchants were on the lookout more than ever for these people. It was also stated that the amount of merchandise that was lifted ran into huge amounts of money. As we all know, these losses must be paid for and in the end it gets back to the shopper. That is you and me.

The store personnel will be on the lookout for these people, but it will save you money in the long run if you would report any shoplifting that you see.

Another reminder that appears in this column every year is to be sure and lock your car when you park it to go shopping. If you bring packages back to it, then put them in the trunk of the car so they will be out of sight of someone who would take it or would break into your car.

We can do many little things that will prevent the loss of our articles if we just try. It may take a few minutes longer, but it will save in the long run.

Law enforcement officers will also have a nicer Christmas.

Some readers have mentioned to me that they miss the School Menu in the paper each week. This was not stopped by the editor, but for some reason we did not receive a copy of the menu for December. This should be corrected and the menu should start again after Christmas.

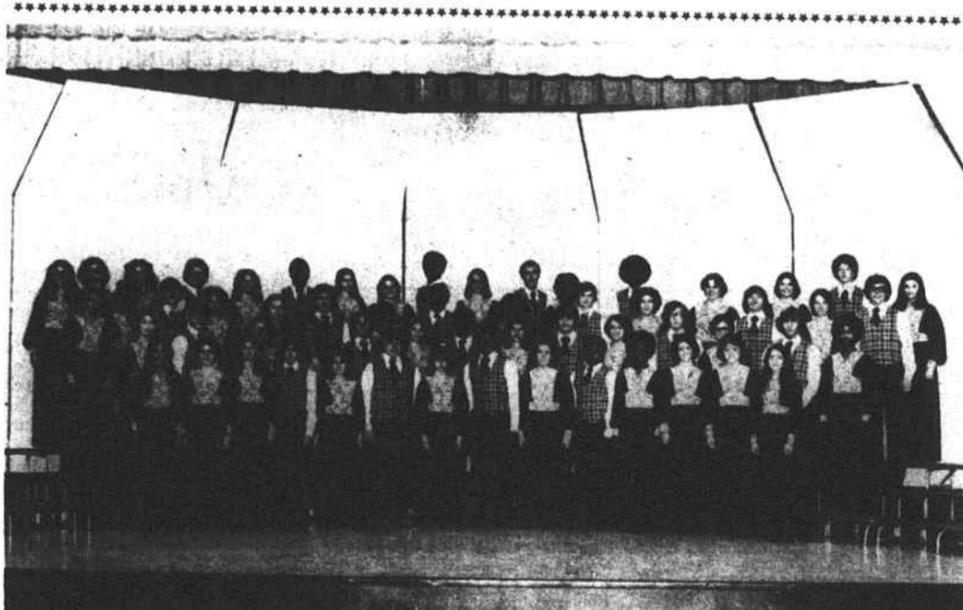
According to Graham and Helen Monroe the visit of President Jimmy Carter to Fayetteville this weekend has put their son, Zan, on his toes. Zan who works for Carolina Telephone is in charge of getting the telephone system in shape for the visit. I don't know all the details, but from what little I could gather in talking to Graham and Helen, it is more than just running a line.

Of course, knowing Zan, everything will be in tip top shape and the President will have 100% telephone communications.

So you see, Hoke County and Raeform are in on the visit also.

The annual Raeform Kiwanis Club pancake supper came off last Thursday night without a hitch in any way except the customers were not as plentiful as the Kiwanians were expecting. Avery Connell, chairman for this event, had

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CHORUS TO PERFORM -- The Hoke High School Chorus will present a concert of Christmas music Thursday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. in MacDonald Gymnasium. The high school Chorale will also perform. Both groups are under the direction of Mrs. Neill Adams McNeill. Admission will be one dollar at the door.

Child Support Officer Active In Hoke County

By Cassie Wasko

Roxanna Lowery, child support officer for Hoke County, spends a great deal of her time in the Hoke County Courthouse. She works with Charles Hostetler, attorney for the office, in an attempt to obtain support for the children of the 283 clients of the child support office.

The purpose of the program is to obtain and enforce child support for homes with absent parents. This program, operated through the N.C. Department of Human Resources, began in Oct. of 1975. The first court actions were taken

in Jan. of 1976.

The program is open to anyone, regardless of financial status. There is a fee based on a sliding scale for those who are able to pay. The maximum fee anyone pays is \$100. Non - Aid For Dependent Children (A.F.D.C.) clients are also responsible for their own attorney fees should an attorney be needed.

According to Lowery, when a client comes into her office, the first step is to try to locate the absent parent. This may be done through local contacts such as employers and relatives. If this

effort fails, then state agencies are contacted. As a last resort, the location process goes on to the federal government. Approximately 85 percent of the absent parents are located.

The local office then contacts the absent parent in regard to support. Lowery determines his income and demands support. She then works with him to establish a basis for support. The payments are made to the Clerk of Superior Court's office. In A.F.D.C. cases, all of the money collected must be returned to the state for repayment of A.F.D.C.

When the absent parent is not cooperative and does not keep up the payment established by the Child Support Office, Ms. Lowery may attempt to contact him by mail. If this does not produce results, a warrant for the absent parent's arrest is issued. The child support officer can issue warrants for those families receiving A.F.D.C. If the client is not A.F.D.C. then the remaining parent must issue the warrant.

"Very few people keep up the payments like they should," Ms. Lowery says. Collection ranges from 61 percent to 77 percent per month.

Lowery says her office prefers to use the civil courts to prosecute those who do not pay. In the civil

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Inmate's Art Work At Hoke Library

Paintings by Don Perkins, an inmate at McCain Prison, will be on display at the Hoke County Library here Dec. 16 - 31. The work will be for sale, and anyone interested in purchasing a painting should get in touch with Charles Blackburn at The News-Journal office on Elwood Ave.

The 32-year-old artist has had showings at the Raleigh Civic Center and at the public library in Carthage.

Perkins was convicted of being an accessory after the fact to arson. He was a school teacher in Rockingham County for 10 years before that and has taught high school equivalency courses for his fellow inmates while in prison.

Perkins took up painting to fill the tedious hours of confinement. He works as much as 10 hours a day and has sold paintings to people in Southern Pines, Raeform and elsewhere, as well as to inmates and prison staff. Whatever money he makes he puts back into art supplies. About \$15 is the most he charges for a painting. He has many for \$3 and \$5.

Working with acrylics on pressed rayon, he paints nature scenes, religious scenes, portraits, whatever anyone wants him to paint. He has been commissioned to do special works, including illustrations for a short story.

He was sent to McCain to recover from wounds inflicted during an assault last Nov. by two inmates at Odom Prison in Northampton County, where he was teaching. Two inmates cornered him one day and demanded money, Perkins said. When he told them he didn't have any, they stabbed him, he said. Although he is not disabled, Perkins said that the attack left him without feeling in portions of his back and abdomen.

His sentence was reduced at a post conviction hearing. Another hearing is scheduled to review his case, and he feels that his time may be cut even more. While at McCain, he has made Honor Grade and will stay there until he is eligible for the work-release program. Perkins said that his home county has extended him an invitation to do clerical work in the county manager's office once he's earned the right for work-release.

Christmas Concert

The Hoke County High School Chorale and Chorus will present a concert of Christmas music Thurs. at 8 p.m. in MacDonald Gymnasium.

The Chorale and Chorus are directed by Mrs. Neill Adams McNeill. Admission will be one dollar at the door.

The Chorale and Chorus will enter singing "Joy to the World" followed by the "Hallelujah" chorus.

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo" will be presented by the chorale. This selection will feature Robbie Shook on the violin. They will also sing three Alfred Burt carols and "Carol of the Drum."

Following the performance by the Chorale, the chorus will sing "Silver Bells," "While By My Sheep" and "He Is Born." "He Is Born" will be done by a vocal ensemble made up of members of the Chorus. It will feature Len Shook, flutist. "Gesu Bambino" will be sung by Don Brock, guest tenor soloist. Brock is a former graduate of Hoke High.

The Barber Shop Singers, a group of 11 young men specializing in harmonizing, will present a medley of spirituals and "A Holly Jolly Christmas."

Julie and Joan Frazier, sopranos; Tim McKenzie and Duncan Buoyar, trumpeters and Dennis Ellis, percussionist, will present "Gloria." This will be an exciting, rhythmic musical experience Mrs. McNeill, director, says.

The main feature of the evening will be "Sing We Now of Christmas" by Harry Simeone. It will involve an instrumental ensemble and Chorus and Chorale members of the Raeform United Methodist Church Bell Choir. Instrumentalists will be Robin Niven, trumpet and guitar; Jimmy Soles, trombone; Charles Thompson, trumpet; and Donald Calloway, tuba. Polly King, Kim Hardin, Gay Ivey, Cathy Morgan, Brian Scarborough and Susanne Wood are members of the Bell Choir.

The program will end with "A Jingle Bell Travelogue." The singers will present the old favorite, "Jingle Bells," as it might be sung in different countries. This selection is to be light and comical.

Accompanists for the Chorus are Joan Frazier and Melinda Quick. Janet Best will accompany the Chorale.

Mrs. McNeill said the program goes all the way from Bach to rock. She promises an enjoyable evening of entertainment for those who attend.

In Monday night's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Raz Autry recommended that Don Steed, assistant principal at Hoke High School, be hired as co-ordinator for the Community School Act program to begin Jan. 1.

Autry recommended that Milton L. McDonald take over Steed's duties at the high school. McDonald is currently teaching drafting.

The board unanimously approved both of these recommendations.

The Community School Act is a program under Governor Hunt's educational plan that would open the school facilities to the community. The purpose of the program is to totally involve the community and the schools. An advisory board would be named to work with the co-ordinator.

The co-ordinator would be responsible for establishing the program. He would determine courses that would be most beneficial to the community, and he would supervise the program and the use of the school facilities.

Autry explained that courses could be in cake decorating or brick laying or any program the community expressed an interest in. Mina Townsend, board member said she feels a real need for this program exists. She also stated that she feels Steed is capable of handling the job.

The Hoke County Schools have received \$11,154 in state funding for the six months involved this year; \$25,000 was appropriated by the state for next year's program.

Board Chairman R.L. Gibson and Dr. R.M. Jordan, board member questioned the wisdom of moving the assistant principal in the middle of the year.

"We've had one major upheaval in the administration at the high school. I hate to tamper with it anymore," Gibson said.

Autry told board members that he shared their concern, but that McDonald was, in his opinion, capable of handling the job at the high school.

"He (Steed) does an awful lot that holds that place together, popping up at a service station to get a kid out of trouble, popping up here and there," Jordan said.

Jordan also expressed concern about other school system employees who had been with the system longer than Steed. Autry told the board that just because an employee has been with the system longer, he is not necessarily qualified for the job.

The board then went into executive session. Following the executive session, a vote was taken, and the board voted unanimously to hire Don Steed as program co-ordinator and Milton L. McDonald as assistant principal of the high school as of Jan. 1.

In other business, the board approved Autry's recommendation to hire Deborah Childress as a classroom aid. The board also approved a motion to move up the pay date to Dec. 22 so the school personnel would receive their pay before Christmas.

Florence Cohen and Roy Maynor, directors of instruction, appeared before the board to explain the programs they are currently working with. They explained the testing to be used in the schools this year and Maynor explained the Early Prevention of School Failures program.

Autry brought up the problem of heating at the Gibson building at the high school. He told the board members that studies had been made and the only solution to the problem would be to replace the heating system. The current system is not capable of heating the rooms satisfactorily, Autry said. No action was taken.

The Hoke County School's free lunch program has received national recognition, according to Autry, and during the month of Nov. the program made \$1184.38.

A new high school policy was recommended to the board and was accepted after the addition of a class in composition.

Autry also recommended a personnel policy concerning the use of alcohol. The policy, drawn up by board attorney Bill Moses, said

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SANTA COMES TO TOWN -- To the delight of 500 children, Santa Claus made an appearance Dec. 10 at the Children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission at Raeform Elementary School. The party was held from 3 till 4 p.m. and included prize drawings, singing, candy canes, and, of course, Santa.