

Mrs. L.M. Lester
226 Harris Ave.

Service Personnel



Private Lavern Lide, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lide, Route 3, Pine Grove Trailer Park, Raeford, recently completed training as an armor crewman under the One Station Unit Training (OSUT) Program at Ft. Knox, Ky.

OSUT is a 13-week period which combines basic combat training with advanced individual training.

During the training, students learn the duties of a tank crewman, including the firing of the tank's armament and small weapons. They also receive instruction in field radio operations, map reading and tank maintenance and repair.

Pvt. Lide entered the Army in August of this year.

He is a 1977 graduate of Hoke County High School.

Navy Seaman Recruit Stephen H. Caughlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Caughlin of 216 W. Donaldson Ave., Raeford, recently participated in exercise "Unitas XVIII" in the Southern Hemisphere.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Mahan, homeported in Charleston, S.C.

He was one of more than 1,000 Navymen taking part in the annual exercise, which included circumnavigating South America. "Unitas XVIII" was the 18th in a series of combined U.S. and South American naval exercises. It was designed to promote a high state of preparedness and cooperation between the various naval and air forces that protect the southern sea lanes of the Western Hemisphere.

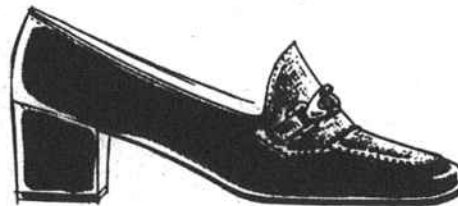
U.S. forces, along with navies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in the training operations, including antisubmarine and anti-air warfare, surface gunnery and communications exercises.

During the cruise, he and his shipmates transmitted the Panama Canal and visited Peru, Chile and Colombia. Participating ships crossed the Equator twice, cruised 24,000 miles and visited 22 South American cities during the 4 1/2 month exercise.

A 1976 graduate of Hoke High School, Caughlin joined the Navy in September 1976.

Thrifty Cobbler's

Semi - Annual Clearance Sale



Ladies Shoes Up To 50% OFF



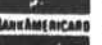
Ladies Boot Special !!

Regular \$46.00
SALE PRICE \$30.00

LARGE GROUP OF LADIES HANDBAGS NOW ON SALE !!

THRIFTY COBBLER

DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN PINES



HOKE COUNTY

LIBRARY NEWS...

334 N. MAIN STREET
RAEFORD, N.C.
PHONE 875-2502

MRS DOROTHY CAMERON
SUPERVISOR

LIBRARY HOURS
MONDAY 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.
TUESDAY thru SATURDAY
9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY 2:00 to 5:00 P.M.
BOOKMOBILE
CALL 875-2502 FOR SCHEDULE

Long Overdue Books

The library is announcing a new plan to help our patrons remember OVERDUE BOOKS. Starting next week those who have LONG OVERDUE BOOKS will find their names in our library column to help them remember they are OVERDUE. Not all names will be published at one time so watch our column each week to see if your name is there. If so, please keep in mind to bring the overdues back. There are books, records, pamphlets, and magazines in our OVERDUE listings.

Front Door Wreath

On the front door patrons will see a lovely pine cone wreath made and given to the library by Miss Beth Johnson. Beth teaches kindergarten at the Scurlock school system and lives with Mrs. Cameron. We do appreciate the wreath very much and our patrons are enjoying it, also.

Reminder of Film Showing

Young folks, don't forget!! There will be Christmas films and music at the library Thursday, Dec. 22 -- 10:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m. and starting again at 2:30 p.m. until???. Again, we would remind mothers who will be picking up their youngsters, there will be a library meeting of all the staff at 12:00 noon and the library will be closed from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Typewriters Given

Some time ago we announced our need for typewriters to help out with our student needs here at the library, and found our "library news" is being read. In response to this need Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dickson and Mr. and Mrs. Henry David Smith have given typewriters to the library. These stay pretty busy. It's so nice not to have to turn someone away for lack of a machine. A very special "Thank You" to these nice folks.

Year Winding Down

Like you, when we look at our calendar we see the year is winding rapidly down. It is a time to remember all the blessings of the past year as we look forward to the next. But before moving again to a New Year it is very fitting that we pause and lovingly celebrate the birth of Christ who we look to with

grateful hearts for all gifts of life especially His own.

God bless all of you with His presence and make your Christmas, 1977 a very special one. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! The Hoke County Library Staff.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE
WAYSIDE: The bookmobile will not run on Dec. 26th due to Christmas Holidays. This run will be made Jan. 23, 1978.

PHILIPPI AND ROCKFISH: The bookmobile will not run on Dec. 28th due to Christmas Holidays. This run will be made on Jan. 25, 1978.

Sunday School Lesson

Background Scripture:
Micah 2:1-12;
Micah 4 through 5.

Devotional Reading:
Micah 7:14-20.

The Old Testament prophets spoke of a better day to come, a day when God would save his people and fulfill his covenant with Israel. The prophet Micah proclaimed:

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains...and people shall flow to it...(4:1)

It was a wonderful prophecy, but there was still one problem: When would these "latter days" come to be? The prophets gave clues of various kinds, but no certain answer. Thus, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem centuries later there was no precise way of proving that the time of fulfillment of the promise was at hand. Christian writers and apostles later reflecting upon the birth of Jesus were convinced that in his birth the promise was fulfilled. Paul, writing to the Galatians, says: "...when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman..." (4:4)

So Christmas is a celebration of the keeping of God's promise that had been long cherished by the people of Israel who walked and

endured in the strength of it. The prophet Micah had seen the little town of Bethlehem as the focus of that fulfillment:

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (Micah 5:2)

Micah painted a picture of hope, foreseeing a time when men would "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks," when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree..." (4:3,4)

Yet, although Jesus has certainly come, it is also obvious that the times Micah foresaw have not. This is why, for some, Christmas is a time of depression, for despite its pretensions, the season of Christmas may seem an empty, false celebration. Christmas "cheer" may hardly last for the day and the brief "Peace on earth" goodwill is soon replaced by "business-as-usual." When, then, are those "latter days" people have looked and longed for? Have they come or are they still to come?

The answer, I believe, is that in Jesus we see the vision of the fulfillment that began in his incarnation and continues until all persons accept the "Good News" of Jesus Christ and permit God to fully live in them. Christmas is a time when we climb up to the mountaintop to view the Promised Land of God's Kingdom which lies before mankind in "the latter days" when what was begun in Bethlehem will have been completed.

Energy Conservation Now