



CHRISTMAS PARTY -- Teacher aide Mrs. Ethel Marshburn serves cake and cookies to children enrolled at the Hoke County Children's Center during a Christmas party Dec. 21. The center teaches developmental skills to handicapped children. The party included songs and presents, with a special visit from Santa Claus. Center director Judy Hendrix wished to thank local merchants and others for their contributions to the party and for the support they have given to the center. Thanks were extended to the Family Dollar Store for the loan of a Santa suit and for the discount the store gave on toys for the children.

Hoke ASCS News

Acting Secretary of Agriculture John White on December 20 announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's tobacco task force recommends modifying the price support eligibility provisions for flue-cured tobacco.

The modification would become effective for 1978 and would allow growers, on a voluntary basis, to market a larger share of their poundage quota in higher value, upper stalk leaf. Under the proposed change growers could plant up to 120 percent of the farm acreage allotment and receive price support if they agree not to harvest

the four lower leaves of each stalk. Producers who do not agree must plant no more than 100 percent of their acreage allotments to be eligible for price support. Under the 1977 program plantings were limited to 110 percent of the farm acreage allotment as a condition for price support. This provision would be reviewed annually thereafter.

White also called for public comment on the proposal to help him make a final decision. The tobacco task force was created by the Secretary of Agriculture to review and develop recommendations for modernizing the tobacco program. No other recommendations of the task force are expected to be completed in time to be proposed for 1978 -- crop operations, White said.

The proposed revision announced on December 20 reflects producers' views as well as buyers who urged the necessity of producing more upper stalk tobacco to supply foreign markets. The task force held seven field hearings in September and October in the five-state flue-cured belt.

The proposed change, Department officials explained, would help to strengthen the tobacco price support program by reducing the possibility of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) losses on large quantities of lower stalk flue-cured tobacco currently under loan and expected to be placed under loan from future crops. The change would also enable growers to share in additional foreign tobacco markets.

Producers would produce and market more upper stalk tobacco in substitution for lower stalk tobacco for which demand is weak. Present loan stocks of lower stalk tobacco represent about a two-year supply. Demand is expected to remain strong for upper stalk grades which typically are bought for export and provide producers higher net returns.

The overall support level is set by law and would not be affected. To the extent producers enter into agreements at their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices not to

harvest lower stalk tobacco, the anticipated grade percentages which are used in determining the grade loan rates would change.

The grade percentages which will apply to the 1978 crop have not been determined, but the following example illustrates what approximate changes would result if agreements are executed for about 50 percent of the 1978 crop. Because the anticipated percentage of the upper stalk grades which have the higher grade loan rates will be increased by the agreements, the grade loan rates to average the support level will be lower. For example, if grade loan rates averaged \$1.31 a pound on the upper stalk grades and \$1.01 a pound on the lower stalk, grades would average \$1.22 a pound if the marketings are 70 percent upper stalk grades and 30 percent lower stalk grades. The same average would result from grade loan rates averaging \$1.29 a pound on the upper stalk grades and \$1.00 a pound on the lower stalk grades if the marketings are 76 percent upper stalk grades and 24 percent lower stalk grades.

This proposed change will be published in the Federal Register, with public comments due 30 days or earlier after publication in the register. Comments should be sent to the Director, Price Support and Loan Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ASCS, P.O. Box 2415 Washington, D.C. 20013. All written submissions will be made available for public inspection during regular business hours in Room 5751 of the Department's South Building.

Tax Figures Released

The sales and use tax figures for the month of November in Hoke County have been released by the N.C. Department of Revenue. According to a report, gross collections here totaled \$59,067, while gross retail sales amounted to \$2,742,622.

Counties with the smallest tax collections reported were Camden, with \$16,589 in gross collections, and Tyrrell, with \$16,016. Counties with the largest gross collections were Mecklenburg, with \$5,631,609, and Guilford, with \$3,602,811.

Single veterans who are going to school full-time under the GI Bill receive \$311 per month in VA education benefits, the Veterans Administration reports. Those with dependents receive more.

NOTICE

The annual stockholder meeting of the Raeford Savings and Loan Association will be held Tuesday, January 10, 1978 at the association's office at 10:00 A.M.

The purpose of meeting is for: The election of directors for 1978.

PROXIES MUST be submitted to the secretary on or before January 3, 1978 to be voted on at the meeting.

Proxy forms are available at the association office. They may be obtained by request, by mail or in person.

Lumber Bridge News

By Lib Sumner

On December 25 services at The Baptist Church were conducted by the pastor, Stacy A. Wells.

The community extends sympathy to the McGougan families and relatives in the loss of their father, Ernest Duval McGougan who died in Veteran's Hospital, Fayetteville on December 26.

Mrs. Margarite Scanlon spent last week in Pottsville, Pennsylvania with her daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Engleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Shaw spent Christmas Day with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Alfred, Kathy, Laura and Heather in Raleigh.

Spending the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bullard were their daughters and families -- Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Fowler, John Cooper and Eliza Sinclair of Southern Pines, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Tyner, Beth and Leslie of Raleigh and Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Meaney and son, John Paul of Farmingville, N.Y.

Mrs. William Brown of Augusta, Arkansas visited her parents several days last week. Mr. and Mrs. John Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Clark spent Wednesday in Elizabethtown with Mr. Clark's sister, Mrs. Lina Moore.

Johnny Balfour spent the holiday with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John G. Balfour. Johnny is a student at N.C. State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Cobb's weekend guests were their daughters -- Miss Freda Cobb of Grayslake, Illinois and Mr. and Mrs. Jon Reid Lewis of Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wooley, Mrs. Billy Troutman and grandson, Richard Jackson visited relatives and friends in Mississippi last week.

Mrs. Edith Troutman is visiting her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Troutman in La Port, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Schell's last week guests were Sgt. and Mrs. W.H. Schell, Jr. and daughters, Deborah Lynn and Billie Sue of Goldsboro and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schell and children, Sherry and Michael of Swansboro.

Visiting Miss Mildred Williford during the holidays were Mrs. Elizabeth Tolar of Lumberton, Rev. and Mrs. J.M. Smith of New Bern, and son, James Shaw -- student at University of W. Va., Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McLean Williford of Rocky Mount and daughter, Professor Jan Williford of University of Iowa, and friends Miss Marira Reirada of British Columbia and Craig Hughes of Ames, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Williford of Fayetteville.

Mrs. A.F. Tolar's children and grandchildren spent Sunday with her -- Mr. and Mrs. Worth Williford and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. John Cudd and Julie of Raleigh -- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Courtney, Michelle and Kimberly of Fayetteville, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Williford of Siler City, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pinkston and Jessie Robert of Charleston, S.C., Miss Pamela Williford of Louisburg College, Mr. and Mrs. Alfreda Tolar and children, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Tolar, Nancy and Kay of Red Springs, David Tolar, and Tommy Tolar of Spring Lake.

Mrs. N.H.G. Balfour spent the holidays with her daughter and family, Dr. and Mrs. Major Goodman and sons, Sean and Scot in Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Sumner, Miss Pamela Sumner, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Caddell and Mr. and Mrs. Fulford McMillan were dinner guests of Misses Lib and Lois Sumner Tuesday night.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Townsend of Asheville and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Norton and sons, Ken and Van of Greenville, S.C. spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Johnson and Mrs. Mary McNeill.

Mrs. Ethel D. Gibson was able to return home from Cape Fear Hospital before Christmas and is getting along better.

Mrs. John Covington's holiday guests were -- Mr. and Mrs. Jon Evans, Allison and Susan of Raleigh, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Maxwell, Sally Lynn and Mary Monroe of Dundarrach, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Maxwell of Raeford, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Covington, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Covington, Jr. and son of Fayetteville.

R.F. Hall, Jr. of Southern Pines spent Christmas with his parents, Col. and Mrs. R.F. Hall.

Mrs. Ruth Tolar visited her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tolar, Jr. and children, Robert, Christina and Alana, on Sunday.

Joe Hough is a patient in Southeastern Memorial Hospital since Friday.

The Sumner's were disappointed last week due to their aunts who failed to arrive for Christmas. Mrs. Flora G. Boykin of Alexandria, Virginia and Mrs. Isla G. Miller of Van Nuys, California spent Christmas in Williamsburg, Va. Monday morning Mrs. Boykin was carried to Community Hospital in Williamsburg with pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin Clifton visited relatives and friends in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. area, Dec. 16-Dec. 28. They spent some time in Maryland with Mrs. Clifton's four sons and their families. Also in Washington with Mr. Clifton's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Euvel Mohler. Mrs. Clifton talked with Mrs. George Emch, sister of Mrs. Mildred Watson, in Rockville, Maryland, on Dec. 26. They had lunch with a former patent office employee, Ernest Norwig and Mrs. Norwig in Richmond. In Rocky Mount they visited Mr. and Mrs. Hermon Creech (daughter of the late Ava Clifton). Arriving home on Dec. 28 they learned of the death of John Shaw, son of the late Les and Allie Shaw, formerly of Lumber Bridge and the deaths of Mrs. Clifton's uncle, Harvey Younher of Johnston, Pa. and Ernest McGougan.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Koonce and children, Jeffrey and Michael of Chapel Hill spent the week with Mrs. Koonce parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. McGougan.

Skateboard Injuries May Double In '77

One of the many gifts your child might have found under the Christmas tree this year is a skateboard. In case you didn't realize it, today's skateboard is a little different from the homemade boards of ten years ago. Before skateboards were mass produced, many a pair of roller-skates were dismantled and nailed to a piece of board.

More popular than ever before, the modern skateboard is a downhill delight made of gleaming fiberglass that dazzles the eye as well as the feet. It is lighter, faster, and, because of the number of kids riding them, more dangerous than ever.

In fact, injuries due to skateboards are expected to exceed those due to amateur football for the year 1977. A Consumer Product Safety Commission study estimates that 375,000 people will be injured in skateboard accidents. This figure compares with 370,000 injuries in all nonprofessional football games in the country. The number of skateboard injuries expected for 1977 is nearly double the 188,000 injuries experienced in 1976.

In addition the study indicates that only a very small percentage of the injuries will occur as a result of defects in the skateboard itself. Instead, most will be caused by inexperienced riders or environmental hazards such as potholes, rocks, or other obstacles.

While many of the injuries suffered will be minor cuts and bruises, more serious injuries have occurred -- from sprained ankles and wrists to concussions, bone fractures, and shattered elbows.

What can you do, to help lessen the chance of serious injury? Two things, mainly. Make sure your children ride their skateboards in a safe place. An empty parking lot is better than a city street and many areas now have special skateboard parks.

Also insist that your child wear protective clothing. Along with the skateboard boom has come a boom in skateboard protective gear including helmets, knee pads, an elbow pads. However, just like seatbelts, they work a lot better when they're worn.

Housing Tips

By Willie Featherstone, Jr.
Asst. Agri. Ext. Agent

If you are looking for a vacation place that's big enough to hold your whole family without breaking the budget -- try house swapping. That is, temporarily trade your house with someone in a different part of the country or the world. Among the advantages are -- no hotel bills, cooking your own meals and getting a community view, instead of a tourist eye view, of a new area.

Among the disadvantages, you may be nervous about leaving your own possessions with strangers and the house you select may not be what you had in mind. There are a number of house swapping plans around, but they all operate in the same way.

An interested person pays a fee to have his home listed in a directory published by an exchange service. Copies of the directory are sent to everyone who lists a house. Or you can subscribe to the

directory without listing your own residence.

Solar collectors have caught the fancy of many a person concerned about the energy shortage and high heating bills. But before you invest -- investigate. It is true that most commercial dealers in solar collectors are reputable. But, unfortunately, some are trying to make a fast buck by making false claims about the worth of solar collectors.

It's true that some time in this century solar collectors will be prevalent. But there's still much research to be done on how to make them more efficient. And until there's a greater demand, the cost will stay high. If you are seriously interested in a solar collector for your home, read some reliable books or pamphlets on the subject.

Before you lay any money down, check on the reputation of a dealer through the Better Business Bureau or the local Chamber of Commerce.

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