

# Orphan 'Possums Have 'Foster' Homes

Two infant orphan girl opossums were being reared last week by four human people at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Curran, 205 Patterson St., just north of Raeford.

The "foster parents" are Charles Cash, 15, his brother Ronnie, 12, and their half-brother and half-sister, Michael Matthew (Matt) Curran, 9, and his sister, Melissa, 6.

They found five infant 'possums with the babies' dead mother about July 23 in the woods across the street from the Curran home. They sent two to the Raeford Animal Clinic and started taking care of the three others.

One of the infants, a male, died August 5 and was buried next to his mother's grave in the woods across the street.

The young people started feeding the little animals milk from a syringe substituting for a regular baby bottle with nipple, and later put them on pieces of bread in milk.



L-R, with infant 'possums in photo taken August 6: Charles Cash, brother Ronnie, Melissa Curran, and her brother Michael Matthew [Matt], at the Curran home.

## SANDHILLS Continuing Education Classes

The new school year of classes will begin in early September, with registration on Thursday, September 4, from 4 to 8 p.m., in the Hoke County Library (please note this change in location). Actual classes will begin the week of September 8 a complete schedule will appear in this paper soon.

**Returning Classes:** Auto Tune-Up by Noah Vaughn will return Thursday evening, 6-10, at the Hoke High School Auto Shop starting September 11. **Typing:** Barbara Ross will again have typing classes at Hoke High School Monday & Wednesday evenings.

**Road Reopened**  
SR 1422 between Arabia and Rockfish has been reopened to traffic after being closed a week for repairs to a bridge.

A 'possum, being one of the Seven Sleepers (which include the beaver), are fed at night since they sleep by day (except when a photographer comes by to take its picture).

Meanwhile, the two brothers were doing "just fine." Sandy Ramey, a veterinary technician at the animal clinic here, reported last week. She's keeping them at her home in Cameron.

Miss Ramey said she was feeding them lixotinic vitamins with an eye dropper, watermelon, a substitute for mother-dog milk, a moist-pellet type cat food, and a mushy puppy chow (though not all at once). Later, she said, she'll put them on vegetable. The vitamins are for dogs and cats, and the 'possums are given the watermelon mainly for the water supply, but they also love the fruit.

Miss Ramey has had some experience rearing 'possums. She reared one before, from infancy till it was 6 months old, and in good health, then gave it its freedom.



L-R, Cheech and Chong [or is it Chong and Cheech?] with Sandy Ramey. The picture was made Thursday morning. Chong [or Cheech] has a firm grip on Sandy's finger, either from hunger, affection to keep from falling, or all three. [Staff photos by Bill Lindau]

## Raeford Resident Is Appointed To Commission

Shirley Gibson of Raeford has been appointed by Gov. James Hunt to the State Credit Union Commission effective August 6. She is one of the seven members of the commission, which reviews, approves or modifies any action taken by administrators of credit unions in the state. Mrs. Gibson was appointed to a term which will expire July 4, 1983.

## College News

Gene Hasty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hasty, graduated Thursday from Robeson Technical College in advanced electrical installation and maintenance. He was on the Dean's List for academic excellence each of the three quarters of the past school year. He is now employed at Westinghouse in Fayetteville.

## County Crops Tour Set

County Crops Tour of all On-Farm Tests is planned for Wednesday, August 20, starting at 1 p.m., from the Agricultural Extension office. The participants will tour soybean variety plots and observe some drought resistant varieties in the Sandhills area. They will visit drought stress variety corn plots later in the day. They will also observe several types of nematode tests for several types of nematodes. Anyone interested is invited to join.

## Woods' Daughter Was Governor's Page

Martha Lynne Wood, daughter of Mike Wood of Raeford and Louise Wood of Raleigh, served as a page in Gov. Jim Hunt's office August 4-8. She is rising junior at Millbrook Senior High School and is an employee of Raleigh Community Hospital.

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