

Exceptional-child Referral Deadline Set

Forms referring exceptional children to the service they need should be completed and returned to the principals of the children's schools by Friday, March 27, Mrs. Rhenda Cameron, coordinator of special children's programs for the Hoke County schools system, advised last week.

The services are for mentally handicapped, learning-disabled, gifted and talented, hearing-impaired, emotional handicapped, and speech and language impaired.

Mrs. Cameron said, "Each spring, the exceptional-children's programs within the Hoke County public schools makes an assertive effort to identify children in need of special services."

"An initial referral for these services is necessary prior to beginning an appropriate evaluation."

"Parents, teachers, other pro-

fessional educational people and support people from various community agencies may refer children to any of the (six) special services."

Mrs. Cameron said the appropriate referral form may be obtained from the principal of the school in which the child is enrolled.

The March 27 deadline for returning the referrals to the principals was set because extensive testing must be done.

More information may be obtained from the principal of the child's school or from Mrs. Cameron at the County Board of Education office (telephone number 875-4106)

'Crib Death' Seminar March 25

Doby Funeral Home is sponsoring a seminar on the sudden infant death syndrome, commonly known as "crib death," at 7 p.m. March 25 at East Freedom Lodge Hall on Vass Road and U.S. 401 at the caution light.

Robert Doby of the funeral home says SIDS is a medical entity that suddenly and unexpectedly strikes healthy children when they are placed in bed. Each year in North Carolina between 160 and 165 infants ages one month to one year die of "crib death." SIDS is not hereditary and not contagious. It is something that happens.

Doby says he is often called upon to serve families who have experienced this malady and he is mostly concerned in assisting these families to cope with the situation.

This program should be most helpful to families and to make them aware of the situation, he says. The speaker will be Mrs. Pat Summerhill of the Hoke County Health Department who is specially trained in dealing with the syndrome.

The public is invited.



Parade, Program Here Notes Girl Scout Week

(Staff photos by Pam Frederick)

On Saturday, the Hoke County Girl Scouts culminated Girl Scout Week with a parade and a program at J.W. Turlington School.

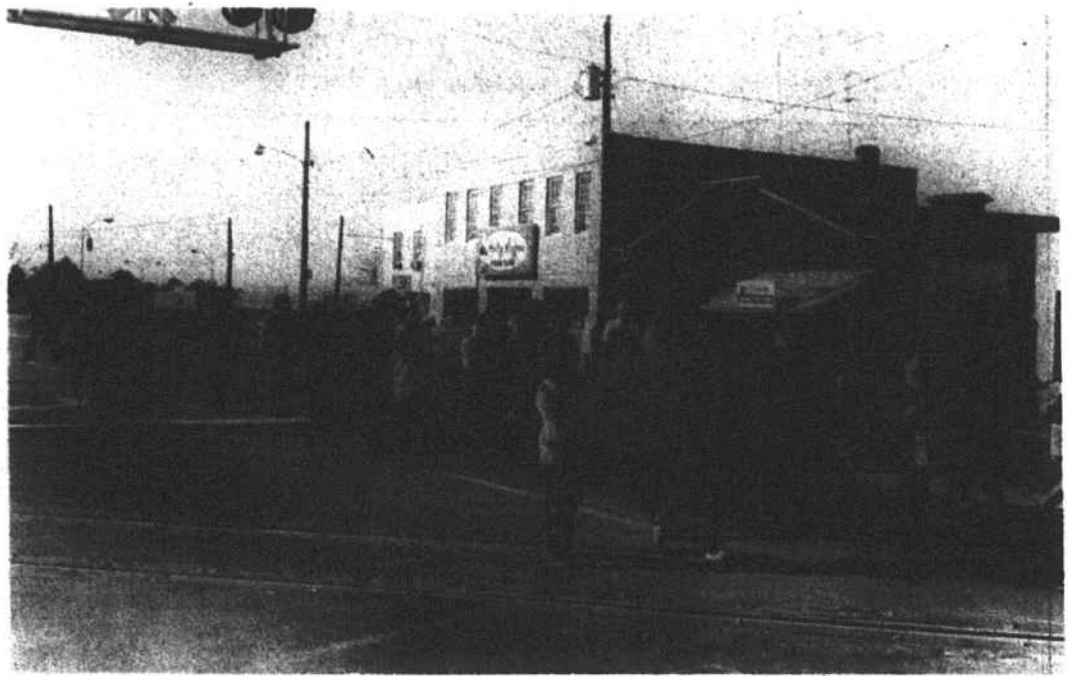
When the parade was over the scouts and their parents viewed a film, "Girl Scouting - Where the Future Begins."

After the film was a fashion show. The theme was "Around the World with Girl Scouting". Eight countries were represented in the fashion show. They were the United States -- Brownie Troop 318; Ghana -- Brownie Troop 17; Greece -- Brownie Troop 821; Philippines -- Junior and Brownie Troop 620; Kenya -- Junior Troop 645; Mexico -- Junior Troop 201; Peru -- Junior Troop 619; India -- Cadette Troop 521, and Senior Troop No. 913.

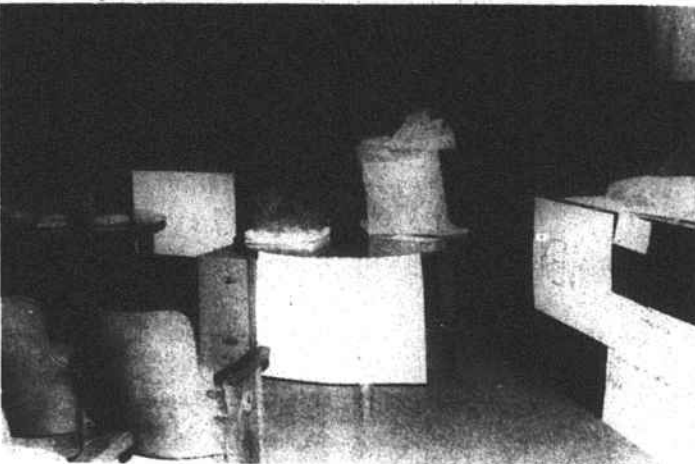
The girls modeled a Girl Scout uniform and the national dress of the countries they were representing.

After the fashion show were exhibits that the troops made representing arts, crafts and recipes from their countries.

Refreshments were served to all at the end of the program.



Girl Scouts parade.



Kenya exhibit of Junior Troop 645.



Girls modeling Scout uniforms of different countries.

Poison Prevention Week

Old Prescription Bottles Can Bring Credit

People who have old, outdated prescription bottles for medication can earn free merchandise -- even perhaps save their lives -- through a special service being offered by a local pharmacy.

Merchandise credit will be given for every old prescription bottle or container brought to The Medicine Shoppe, a prescription-only pharmacy at 121 South Main St., Raeford, during National Poison Prevention Week, March 18 through 25.

"Old, outdated medicines should not be used and are hazardous to children," pharmacist Ruth Parish says. "Many people don't realize that old prescriptions are potential poisons and should not be kept in medicine chests or cabinets where children can easily get to them."

Local citizens are encouraged to collect their outdated prescription containers and bring them to The

Medicine Shoppe, where they will receive ten cents in merchandise credit for each bottle turned in. There is no limit to the number of containers that can be exchanged for credit for this special program nor do they have to be from a Medicine Shoppe.

The Medicine Shoppe Poison Prevention Week program is one of several health services offered regu-

larly to local residents. Others include screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, glaucoma and oral cancer.

The store is part of a national chain of some 260 Medicine Shoppes. Unlike conventional drug stores which carry a great deal of non-prescription merchandise, more than ninety per cent of

Medicine Shoppe's business is prescription.

The store guarantees a low price on all merchandise it sells and offers a unique customer registration program.

Karen Jackson, Health Occupations II student of Hoke High School, is in charge of this program for her project.

Sunday School Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 23 through 24:35
Devotional Reading: Joshua 23:14-16

Years ago there was a humorous review on Broadway called "Beyond The Fringe." One of the sketches in this show was built around an anonymous religious group that had predicted that the "End of the World" was going to occur on a specific date. On that day the group assembled on a mountaintop to await the great cataclysm. As in chorus they counted down to the precise

minute when their prophecy was to be fulfilled, nothing happened. For a few breathless minutes, actors and audience waited together in silence for something to happen. When at last it was apparent that nothing was going to happen, the leader of the cult announced to his group, "Oh well, everybody back tomorrow at the same time!"

Not One Stone Upon Another

The humor in the sketch, of course, lay in the fact that the group was quite undeterred by the failure of their prophecy. They had their hearts set on the "End of the World" and nothing was going to take that glorious expectation away from them. There was also a sense in which we in the audience were laughing at ourselves, for we too are often infected with the same kind of arrogant confidence that assumes we have some kind of "inside knowledge" of God's plan. History has been full of "Doomsday" groups.

Yet, these repeated failures of doomsday prophecy do not seem to have deterred today's prophets of doom and destruction. Books about the "End of the World" are very popular in the religious and general markets. Religious leaders today are still confidently -- almost gleefully -- telling us that we are in "the last days" before the world is utterly destroyed. And when we look at the symptoms all round, who can help but wonder at times whether the sickness we see is not fatal and the clamor we hear is the "death rattle" of the world as

we know it? Yet, if we seriously study the symptoms -- "wars and rumors of war", "nation against nation", "famines and earthquakes", when has there not been a period in the world's history when these things were not so? When has not the followers of Christ known hatred, the church experienced a falling away of the fainthearted, and "false prophets" who "arose and led many astray"?

Perhaps what we need to concentrate upon in these somewhat confusing words of Jesus are not the "signs of the end", but the counsel as to what we are to do in the meantime: "see that you are not alarmed" (24:6) and remember that "he who endures to the end will be saved" (24:13). For Jesus, despite all of his prophecies concerning "the last days", did not commission his followers to preach a message of impending disaster, but "the gospel of the kingdom ...throughout the whole world".

Let God watch his calendar and determine the time of "the last days".

Rhymes of the Times

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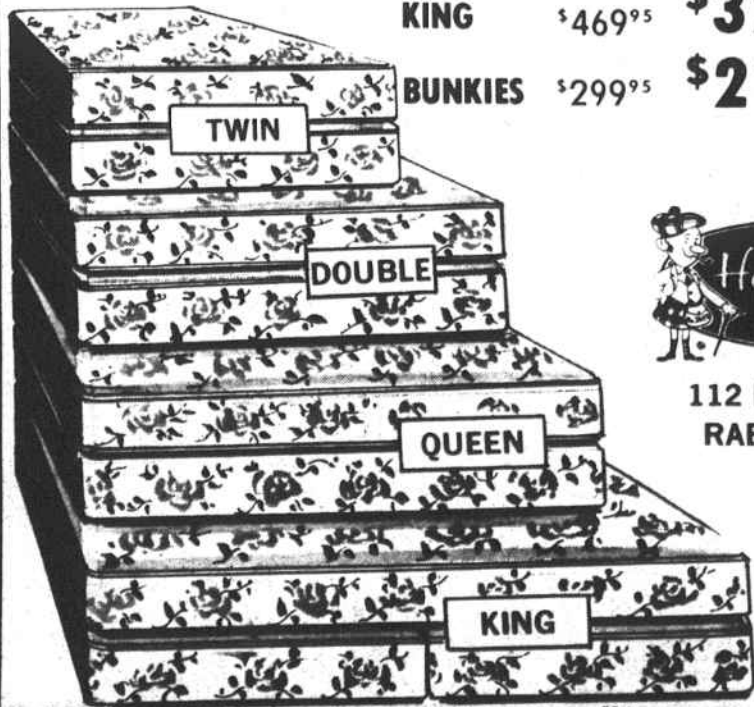
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