



First-place winners in the Sailboat Regatta were, front, L-R -- Ron Parson and Jason Flowers; and, rear, L-R -- Demond Dockery, Jamie Davis and Kevin Booker.



DEN OF MONTH -- Den One was named for the honor, and here are its members: front, L-R -- Timmy James and Jamie Davis; and rear, L-R -- Dusty Wilson, Chad Jones and Bobby Jones.

Cubs Receive Awards

Ron Parson was the over-all winner of the Cub Scout Sailboat Regatta race August 27.

Den One was named Den of the Month.

Other awards presented were to the following:

Jamie Floyd -- Artist, Craftsman, Engineer, Forester, Geologist, Scholar, Scientist, Showman, Sportsman, Traveler's Award, Graduation Certificate, and Three Year Pin.

Dusty Wilson -- three Silver Arrow points, and Bear badge; Jason Flowers -- Citizen; Scott McGinnis - Athlete; Trampus Bennett -- Sportsman; Jodie Elkens -- Sportsman.

In the Regatta, the medal winners in the age divisions were:

Eight-year-old -- first place, gold medal, Jamie Davis; second place, silver medal, Lawson Bennett.

Nine-year-old -- first, gold medal, Demond Dockery; second, silver Kevin Booker.

Ten-year-old -- first, gold, Ron Parson; second, silver, Jason Flowers.



READY FOR FIRST DAY -- Mrs. Cleste Wilkerson, one of West Hoke School's 22 teachers, is shown in her first-grade classroom with West Hoke Principal Milton Williams with the room all prepared for Thursday's opening of the new school year. [Staff photo].

Adults Can Earn HS Diplomas

High school classes for adults who want to earn high school diplomas started Tuesday night.

They are being sponsored by the Hoke County Board of Education and Sandhills Community College.

A person must be at least 18, out of school at least a year, and have proof he or she completed the eighth grade satisfactorily or can handle ninth-grade studies, to be eligible to take the classes. The county schools superintendent can make exceptions to the requirements of minimum age and length of time since leaving school.

The program consists of 12 required units of study; four in English, three in mathematics, two each in social studies and science, and one elective. A Basic Skills Class will be offered as an elective each quarter. This course is designed to help prepare the student to take a competency test in reading or mathematical skills essential for the individual to function successfully in modern society.

Students are urged to enroll for two classes per quarter. This will allow them to complete the required courses in six quarters. Students enrolling in the ninth grade may complete the course in that time, if they take two classes per quarter.

To complete a single unit, students must attend classes three hours a week for 11 weeks; spend sufficient time in home study to cover the entire unit; and make a satisfactory grade on a unit test.

More information can be obtained from Eleanor Gentry, 875-2156 Extension 28, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or 875-4846 after 6 p.m.



Assistant Coach Abdy Brown is rushed by the defensive team as he puts in Thursday afternoon's practice. [Staff photo].

Single Parent's Association Formed

Sandhills Single Parent's Association is now established and will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Campbell House, 482 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines.

Approximately 40 persons attended the first meeting August 19. At this meeting the group elected the following officers: director - Dr. John McBride; assistant director - Faye Williams; secretary - Lynn Saunders; treasurer - Kendra Mann. The Advisory Board is composed of Chuck Meek, Ron Wolfe, and Johnny Williams. Sponsors of the association are Sandhills Center for MH, MR, and SAS, and Southern Pines Recreation Department.

The first program consisted of talks by McBride on the subject "We're Not Alone", and Meek on "Organizational Need and Struc-

ture of the Association". Wolfe led in group dynamics which provided time for sharing of the first group needs and possible solutions through the establishment; and Johnnie Williams presented the services that could be provided by the Southern Pines Recreation Department.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at the Campbell House at 7:30 p.m. At this time various committees were to be established and committee chairmen elected.

The program will consist of small sharing groups. Criteria for membership is that a person must be a single parent and pay yearly membership dues of fifteen dollars. Persons from a five county area (Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland) are invited to join.

Sunday School Lesson

Background Scripture: Genesis 1: 1 through 2: 3.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 33:4-9.

I hope God has a good sense of humor - how could he survive our follies without one? for his children are at it again (or still): fighting bitterly among themselves over the creation accounts in the Book of Genesis. It's that old literal "7-days-vs-Darwinian evolution" fuss that's gotten so many people steamed-up over the past century. Whatever else God intended when he inspired the writing of the Bible, I am convinced he never intended this book as something for his children to fight over. There's nothing that says they can't or shouldn't disagree about its meaning, but that they need not get so hostile, arrogant, and unloving over it.

What God needs, I'm sure, is not people to fight over the Book of Genesis, but people who will open their hearts so that it can instruct and inspire them. There's very little inspiration taking place within us when the bloodline is rising silently above our collar. Many people spend so much time and effort fighting over whether the Genesis accounts are literal reports that they miss some of the really vital things that God is trying to say to both literalists and nonliteralists alike.

One of the most important of these-and of far more importance than how many days it took-is the declaration: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1: 1). The world did not blunder into being without plan or purpose, but represents the Crea-

tor's creative will behind everything that happened. God was in the whole process of creation, so that Genesis begins with the affirmation that in the very beginning, it was God who conceived and began to create his world, just as the writer of Revelation closes the Bible with the declaration that God is at the end of the all things, too, and the whole Bible in between Genesis and Revelation is a testimony that God is ever-present from the beginning and the ending. God didn't start the whole thing going and then go on vacation or retirement: he created us, he moves us toward our destiny with him, and, in between, he is constantly with his creation.

Some of the ancient people believed that the world had been created by accident as some of the gods brought it into being without forethought and purpose. But the Genesis stories of creation indicate that there is a plan, and orderly progression towards the purpose God wants to fulfill.

Most unique, however, is the concept that the world that God created is inherently good. God intended to create the world, he followed-and follows-a plan and, best of all, he was pleased with his work: "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (1:31). Note ("very good"! Not "fair-to-middling," not "pretty good," but "very good"! God was pleased with his creation and so, too, should we be. Often, religious people have regarded the world as "evil," "corrupt," something from which to escape. Our sins may cloud this world's skies, but the world God created -- and continues to create -- is VERY GOOD!



In 1971 I contracted encephalitis in Vietnam. With a temperature of 105.6 degrees, I went into a coma.

Telegrams sent to my parents gave little hope for my life, let alone emotional and mental stability. After nine days I emerged from the coma. Except for the memory of my mother, everyone and everything else was a blank. After four months of physical therapy in a military hospital, I received my discharge.

I returned to civilian life with a frail body and a mind that registered little more than nothing. I felt bitter, and suicide enticed me as a pleasant and easy way out.

But hundreds of people were praying for me. I began to see God as a friend. Little by little I relaxed in God's love and acceptance until faith was born for my healing. I asked God to heal both body and mind and committed myself to the healing process by physical exercise and reading.

Within six months of the time of my new commitment to God, mental and physical health returned. I went back to college and graduated with honors.

PRAYER: Dear God, while Your love and wisdom do not always grant physical healing, thank you for the times You have healed our bodies, minds, and spirits. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: The God of love is also the God of healing.

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--Ron Lanthrop (Ohio)

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