

From Hoke Commissioners At Mid-month Meeting

Nutrition Program, Road Get Attention

Addenda

by Paul Dickson

The title and byline above will probably be new in this space to most readers, but not all. There are those who will remember that it was that way for some years in the distant past. Then, I began to get more involved with the publication of the post newspaper at Fort Bragg, which we had undertaken in 1960, and Sam Morris began his "Around Town" column. I don't remember exactly when, I do know that he has seldom missed an issue of *The News-Journal* with it, and if he has missed being involved in producing the paper a whole week in the last couple of decades, I don't remember it, so I know everyone hopes he is enjoying a little break.

Sam taking a few days off is not to recover from the town election, for he had his plans made well beforehand. I did hear him explain his loss in the election by pointing to me and asking someone: "How well could you do with such a campaign manager?" Well, it is a shame he can't really use such an excuse, but he can't, because I didn't punch that doggie. I wasn't even here until the day of the voting.

One thing about this issue of the paper, whatever is wrong with it we can lay to Sam not being here, as in the past I suspect a few things from time to time have been laid to the fact that he was here. He has been here to praise or blame for quite a spell, come to think of it, since he turned up in 1946 still wearing his first lieutenant's uniform. I don't believe there have been as many as a half dozen issues of the paper since then that Sam wasn't involved in, and I trust after this one he'll be involved in many more. A letter like that by Anna Mae Hendrix last week makes up for getting blamed many times, and I know he appreciates it, as do I and all those who get the paper together.

It is difficult, after a long spell at an activity, not to slip into tales of how it used to be, how hard we used to work and how little we used to get for it, and all that stuff, on and on. It must get right out, and pretty fast, for those of us not so old, whose problems are the here and now.

If you recognized my line about "punching that doggie" above as being lifted from a beer commercial by that billiard player on the tube, then you must know that I am somewhat with it still, and speaking of that, old Tom Bradshaw seems to be still hobnobbing around getting with it as he threw a record five touchdowns passes Sunday for the Steelers, although when he started with the Steelers most of his teammates were still in grammar school.

The trip of the space shuttle "Columbia" last week had to make us all proud of some of the things we can still get done in this country in spite of high interest rates, big rigging, white house discounts, and the like. The Columbia was a week late and a couple of days short, but fine, nevertheless. My thoughts about the little details this shuttle program is turning into are similar to those of Walter Cronkite, who is only a little younger than I. He is impatient with them for fear they won't get the thing to going into space every two weeks in time for him to make the trip just once. I don't know much about the highs I hear so much of these days, but that would be a real one, wouldn't it?

Item in one of the weekend papers which can appeal to all of us over its reported that Exxon was lowering the price of gasoline a cent and a half. The oil companies are beginning to advertise and try to sell the stuff, too, which would have to lead an ordinary person to the conclusion that the oil crisis may be over. I believe that is the case, and I believe it came about largely because the President in one of his early actions removed controls on oil produced in this country and let the market determine the price. Oil we didn't know existed is being found as a result. Natural gas should be treated the same way. Price controls take away the incentive for producing and thus create shortages, which should not be.

(See ADDENDA, page 15)

Carol Ronalter Hoke Teacher Of Year

Carol Ronalter, a teacher of the trainable mentally handicapped at Hoke County High School, has been chosen Teacher of the Year in Hoke County for the 1981-82 school year.

The announcement of the selection by a committee of teachers representing the seven county schools was made Monday afternoon by Hoke High Principal Lenwood Simpson.

Miss Ronalter didn't know of her winning the title till she appeared in Simpson's office in response to the principal's telephoned request.

"I'm ecstatic," she said after learning she had been selected for the honor. "You couldn't have made me more happy. I hope I can represent Hoke County well in the regionals." Her winning the county title advances her to the competition for the title of Regional Teacher of the Year. The regional winner will advance to the judging to choose the North Carolina Teacher of the Year. The regional judging is scheduled for later this month.

Miss Ronalter is in her second year of teaching the Hoke High TMH, beginning with the class's initial stage in 1980. She graduated in 1979 from East Carolina University with a degree of Bachelor of Science in special education.

After her selection as Teacher of the Year was announced, Miss Ronalter was presented a rose by Rhenda Cameron, coordinator of the county school system's exceptional children's program.

Members of the selection committee, County Schools Supt. Ric Autry, and Florence Cohen, county schools director of instruction, were in Simpson's office when Simpson made the announcement. The members of the committee are John K. McNeill, Jane Johnson, Nancy Martin, and Harold Livingston. Gloria Williams served as coordinator of the selection procedure.

Miss Ronalter became curious about trainable mentally handicapped students while she was a student in Southern Pines Middle School, in the town where she was born and reared. She said a reporter some TMH students were in the school and they drew her attention by the way they talked. They showed interest in the students they were talking with, not themselves; they seemed outgoing and caring about other people.

That made her interested in wanting to get to know them better - "see what was beyond talking with them in the lunchroom," she said. So after going on to Pinecrest High School, she asked the Middle School TMH teacher if she would work out an arrangement with the high school. The teacher said she could, and the high school administration allowed the arrangement. Thus, for her last two years of high school, Miss Ronalter served as the



TEACHER OF THE YEAR - Carol Ronalter, holding a rose, is shown with members of the Selection Committee and County Schools Supt. Ric Autry Monday afternoon shortly after she was informed she had been chosen as Hoke County Teacher of the Year. L-R - John K. McNeill, Jane Johnson, Nancy Martin, Miss Ronalter, Autry, and Harold Livingston. The rose was given to Miss Ronalter by Rhenda Cameron, coordinator of the county school system's programs for exceptional children. Miss Ronalter teaches the trainable mentally handicapped class at Hoke County High School. (Staff photo).

unpaid volunteer assistant to the TMH teacher, from noon to 3 p.m. every school day after taking her regular high school classes during the mornings.

Speaking of assistants, she said "I couldn't have done any of this without my assistant, Ardella Smith." She was speaking of her work with her Hoke High students. Of Ardella Smith, she said, "The kids adore her, and she adores them."

Her greatest thrill in teaching so far, she said, came last spring when she saw her first TMH senior, Gemme Leach, graduate from high school.

Miss Ronalter became a teacher also because she enjoys teaching and working with children. She also has been working with them during her summer vacations the past two years. She has been serving in the Moore County summer special education program, which she calls "A total recreation program."

For serving in recreation, she is well qualified by interest and experience; she enjoys every sport, especially the outdoor sports. She also has an American Red Cross Senior Life Saving certificate, successfully completed, last year, the Sandhills Community College course in Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation and also has completed the Red Cross first-aid course.

As for taking care of children, her experience goes back to her early teens when she devoted summers being, as she put it, a

"Nurse."

Of the CPR training and certification, she said she took the course because many TMH students have respiratory - system problems and some cannot communicate by word of mouth when something goes wrong. Her training in CPR, however, will enable her to recognize the danger symptoms of a student gets into trouble.

Her ability in sports she credits largely to her mother, Mrs. Ralph Ronalter. Sr. Mrs. Ronalter is a Southern Pines housewife now, her daughter explained, but she once taught health and physical education in New York state. She got her daughter interested in and taught her many sports, including horsemanship, and they both rode. Miss Ronalter became proficient enough to compete in horse shows in the Southern Pines - Pinehurst area. She doesn't ride any more, though, she said, a bit sadly; the cost has gone up to \$15 an hour.

Miss Ronalter in college participated in all the intramural sports her sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma, competed in - flag football, soccer, swimming, basketball, tennis, archery, and perhaps some others she couldn't remember during the Monday interview. She also snow-skis and water skis.

To indulge in the snow rope, she tries to get out West yearly to ski because of those long slopes in those mountains. You can keep going "for an hour" down a Colorado slope, she says.

She also has tried skydiving. She said she told her parents if they'd let her skydive just once she'd never do it any more. They agreed, and she took the basic training at Pinebluff, about 12 miles south of Southern Pines, then made her skydive. Keeping her agreement, that one was her first and her last.

Outside of sports, she also has fun doing needlework.

Off the campus, she's active as a volunteer with young people. For one example, Miss Ronalter directed last Saturday night's Miss Teenage Hoke County Beauty Pageant, sponsored by the Youth Council of the County Parks and Recreation Commission.

She also is active in the Hoke County Association for Retarded Citizens.

Miss Ronalter lives in Abbeville now, and she commutes daily to her Hoke High students.

In her family besides her mother are her father, who is president of Ingraham Co. of Lumburg; her brothers, Ralph, Jr., of Charlotte, a salesman with CSR, an electronics-parts company, and Bill, who is at the University of Colorado studying to get his master's degree in business; and her sister, Jane, who is women's news editor of the Asheville daily newspaper, *The Courier-Tribune*.

Thursday, Miss Ronalter will be honored at a reception at the Hoke County Board of Education offices, for being selected Hoke's Teacher of the Year. The reception will be held from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Hoke County commissioners at their mid-month meeting Monday night voted to take over the transportation costs of the senior citizens attending the Nutrition for the Elderly luncheons at the Cameron Heights and South Hoke community centers.

The action was in response to a letter from James B. Perry, chief administrator/planner of the Lumber River Council of Governments. The letter, written October 30 to County Manager James Martin, says the transportation cost requires local cash matching funds, and in the past the matching has been met by funds from the nutrition program. This won't be possible this year, the letter adds. "Because we received no increase in federal funds, it will require all the funds contributed by the counties just to serve 620 meals, which is a decrease from what we were serving last year."

Hoke County's local matching share for the program at Cameron Heights and South Hoke is \$2,636.

In other business, Mack Sessoms, Raeford assistant fire chief, asked the commissioners to ask the State Department of Transportation to take over maintenance of the private road connecting U. S. 401 north and the Airport Road.

John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners, told him after the commissioners discussed the matter the commissioners needed letters from Hoke Fire department officials including the fire marshal to make an effective request. Sessoms said he would get the letters.

The discussion indicated the road, unpaved, is private but used by the public. Commissioner Matt Riley said it is "traveled quite a bit."

If the state agency puts the road into the state system, thus taking over the responsibility of maintaining the road, it would improve the thoroughfare. One benefit of this was described by Mrs. Riley; she said Hillcrest firemen would be helped in getting to Tlertown in an emergency.

Sessoms told the commissioners using the road cuts two miles from the distance firemen otherwise would have to travel to go to fires in certain areas.

Balfour said the state declined several years ago to put the road into the state system because at the time it did not meet state standards.

Earlier in the meeting, the commissioners adopted a motion to extend the boundaries of the South Anrioch Fire District. The petition presented to the commissioners had been signed by property owners of the area proposed for annexation into the district. Members of the South Anrioch Fire Department attended the commissioners' meeting.

Betsy McNeill, chairman of the Hoke County Steering Committee for the North Carolina 2000 Commission, said the commission is identifying issues for state improvement between now and the year 2000 and that every decision of participating business and other organizations will affect Hoke County.

"We want Hoke County people to listen to the issues and give opinions," she said. Mrs. McNeill advised that the Hoke County kickoff meeting will be held January 11. The hour and place will be announced later.

The commissioners also received an invitation to attend a reception scheduled for Thursday afternoon to honor the Hoke County Teacher of the Year (1981-82). The title was awarded to Carol Ronalter, teacher of the Hoke County High School class for the trainable mentally handicapped. Dr. Lenwood Simpson, Hoke High principal, announced Monday afternoon.

In other business the commissioners adopted a motion authorizing County Health Department Administrator Lloyd Home to buy a new microscope costing \$1,700, using Safe Drinking Water funds from the Non-communitary Water Supply Survey program to help pay for it.

Raeford Women's Club To Be Clearing Board

'Share Your Christmas' To Aid Hoke Needy

For many years generous organizations and individuals in Raeford have made it part of their Christmas tradition to share with those who are less fortunate.

As a result some families have been given an overabundance while others have been overlooked. The Raeford Woman's Club will be acting as a clearing board to more evenly distribute the Christmas giving in the community with project "Share Your Christmas."

Families with special needs will be referred through the schools, Health Center, churches, or individuals and organizations in a position to know their needs. These

referrals will be screened.

Donations of food, clothing, gifts and money will be received at the Hoke County Library from 1 to 5 o'clock on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday morning from 9 until noon from December 1 to December 12. Referrals will be taken at the same times. Checks may be mailed to: "Share Your Christmas," c/o *The News-Journal*, Post Office Box 550, Raeford, 28376.

Items that are received early will be repaired by Sandhills Youth Center.

The Christmas gifts will be distributed as events as possible

among those who have the greatest need.

The Raeford Woman's Club

invites you to contribute to the success of "Share Your Christmas" by giving your help.

State Agency Considers Local Bank Merger

The State Banking Commission at its regular meeting Wednesday was to consider the application for the proposed merger concerning The Bank of Raeford.

United Carolina Bank of Whiteville has applied to the commission for authority to merge the Raeford bank into United Carolina Bank and establish branches at all banking offices operated by The Bank of Raeford.

The Bank of Raeford's main office is at 207 S. Main St. It has an in-town branch at 138 N. Main St., where the main office was located

before the present main office's building was opened in the summer of 1979, and a drive-in branch in Sunset Hills off Harris Avenue.

United Carolina, whose headquarters is in Whitesville, has 85 offices in the state's southeastern and south-central Piedmont areas.

The State Banking Commission was scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Dobbs Building, 430 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

The agenda was announced by State Banks Commissioner James S. Curme Friday.

News-Journal Out Day Earlier

The *News-Journal* will go to press Tuesday next week, instead of the customary Wednesday.

The earlier press time has been scheduled because of the Thanksgiving holidays.

The earlier press time also means the deadline for receiving advertising and news for publication next week is Monday, a day earlier than usual.