

These Scurlock second-graders are shown in costume shortly after they gave the play at school. [Staff photo].

S. Hoke Students Play Book People

Mrs. Darlene Clark's students in the South Hoke School Fourth Grade observed National Book Week last week by illustrating characters of their choices from books they have read.

A contest was held to decide who had the best costume. The winner was Brian Allen in his costume as Israel Hands in "Treasure Island." Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel. Redrick Graham placed second with his John Henry. "A Steel-Driving Man," working on the railroad. Ronda Chappelle placed third with her Goldilocks costume. She had a big stuffed bear with her, playing one of the three in the story.

The other students who participated and the characters they showed in their costumes were: Tammy Leggett, Ceci, "Nine Days to Christmas"; Laura Jones, "Cinderella"; Tiffney Hollingsworth, Mother, "They Were Strong and Good"; Ebony McGregor, "Cinderella"; Albert McArn, Darth Vader of "Star Wars"; Duboris Peterkin, James "James Jerome Hill," and Thomas Bissett, Andrew "Freckle Juice"; Dennis Locklear, The Rag Man; "The Seven Sneezes"; Joy Kinlaw, Dorothy, "The Wizard of Oz"; Kevin Booker, President Ronald Reagan, "From Jellybeans to President"; Gina Kinlaw, Peppi Long-

stocking, "Pippi in the South Seas"; Jeff Huffman, the devil, "Duffy and the Devil"; John McPhaul, Buffalo Bill; Scott Edwards, "President Richard Nixon"; Leslie Adams, Big John, "Pirate's Promise"; Katina Cunningham, Japanese Woman, "The Funny Little Woman"; John Roper, Cowboy Small, "The Best Cowboy of the West"; John T. Furrage, "Paul Bunyan"; and Sherman Purcell, "The Lone Ranger."

During class also, book reports were read aloud, and the qualities of "Why Some Books Are More Special to Us Than Others" were discussed.

LAW For Laypersons

We occasionally hear of a person being charged with the crime of bigamy. North Carolina General Statutes § 14-183 provides that if any person, being married, shall marry any other person, being married, shall marry any other person during the lifetime of the former husband or wife, he or she shall be guilty of a felony. The punishment for committing the crime of bigamy is imprisonment for up to ten years or a fine up to \$5,000, or both.

Before the state can convict a person of bigamy, it must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a valid prior marriage existed before the person attempts to marry the second time. Naturally, if the prior marriage is invalid, only the second marriage would stand, and the person would not be guilty of bigamy since he or she did not, while married, marry a second person.

The question about the existence

of a valid prior marriage came up in a recent North Carolina Supreme Court case. A man and wife had been married by a person who held the "credentials of minister" of the Universal Life Church, Inc., of Modesto, California. He had obtained this certificate by mailing his name, address and \$10 to the church's California headquarters. However, he had never had been through any further proceeding or training with the Universal Life Church, Inc., when he applied for membership; apparently, the Universal Life Church would ordain anyone without question of his or her faith for life. He officiated at no church, was still a lay member of a well-established denomination, and was regularly employed in a nonreligious job.

The husband and wife later became separated after going through the marriage ceremony. Soon after the separation, the husband was married a second time by an ordained minister of a well-established denomination without ever going through any divorce proceedings with his first wife. Soon thereafter, the husband was arrested on charges of committing bigamy.

Naturally, the whole question revolved around whether the first marriage performed by the person who held the "credentials of minister" of the Universal Life Church, Inc., was a valid marriage. The North Carolina Supreme Court recognized that in order to have a valid marriage in North Carolina, the parties must express their solemn intent to marry in the presence of "an ordained minister of any religious denomination" or a "minister authorized by his church" or "a magistrate." The court held that the state had failed to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the person who performed the first marriage was an ordained minister of a religious denomination or a minister authorized by his church.

It decided that a ceremony solemnized by a layman in a non-religious occupation who bought for \$10 a mail-order certificate giving him "credentials of minister" in the Universal Life Church, Inc., is not a ceremony of marriage to be recognized for the purposes of a bigamy prosecution in the state of North Carolina. Since the first marriage was therefore not a valid marriage, the husband could not be guilty of bigamy since he did not, while married, marry a second person.

"This article is written as a matter of general interest only. It is not to be construed as legal advice, and you should not rely on the statements made in the article to govern your actions in any specific case. If you have a particular question or problem, you should contact an attorney."

Raeford Bank Merger Request OK'd

The State Banking Commission November 18 approved the Application of United Carolina Bank, Whiteville, Columbus County, for authority to merge The Bank of Raeford, into United Carolina Bank and establish branches at all banking offices operated by The Bank of Raeford.

Miss Helen A. Powers of Ashe-

ville newly appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., to serve on the Banking Commission, was administered the oath of office by Edward B. Clark, judge of the Court of Appeals, at the meeting. She is a former senior vice president of North Carolina National Bank, Asheville, and is an account executive for J.C. Bradford & Company in Asheville.

Accent On Agriculture

The story of American agriculture is amazing. When our forefathers settled this country, practically everyone farmed. This was necessary to feed and clothe the people, but as time passed farmers became more and more efficient. Today, with only about 2.8 percent of our population on the farm, we are the best fed and clothed people in the world; and, in addition, we export about one out of every three acres to foreign countries to help feed and clothe their citizens.

Many people, unfortunately, are unaware that food is the best buy

in this country. According to U.S. Department of Commerce studies, the average American family spent 20.2 percent of its disposable income in food in 1960, while the percentage decreased to less than 17 percent in 1980.

We in the United States are one of the very few people left on earth that have, so far, met the problem of successfully feeding and clothing our people at reasonable costs. This is one of the tremendous strengths of this nation, and it represents more than just the fertile land of our plains and valleys. It's a product of our system; of our education; of our beliefs; of our motivation and of our goals.

To those directly involved, it seems sometimes that the agriculture of our day presents a great range of problems—and it does. The basic truth of the matter, however, is that the challenges outweigh the problems. The future of agriculture is exciting. The opportunity has never been greater for farmers to help shape events, to have a big hand in improving the country.

The key to the future success of agriculture is that all segments of our society recognize that farming is a vital link—an integral part of our overall economy; and that agriculture, other business, industry and labor are dependent upon each other. Each must share the opportunities, challenges, responsibilities and rewards in the years ahead.



"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."
—Franklin D. Roosevelt
31st President
1933-1945



\$ FOR LITERACY WORKERS -- These children and adults will work November 28 in the "\$ for Literacy" campaign to raise money to help finance the work of the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council program, of teaching adults to read and write. L-R, rear -- Marie Davis, Susan Townsend, Serena Oxendine, Bunkye Williams, and Nellie Flowers; and, front, L-R -- Dio Purcell, Vincent McCormick, Travis Lawrence, and Traci Maynor. Mrs. Flowers is campaign chairman, and Miss Townsend will work with the tabulations in the campaign office in Marks Store Saturday. The children will go from house to house, asking for donations of at least \$1 from each adult in each home. [Staff photo].

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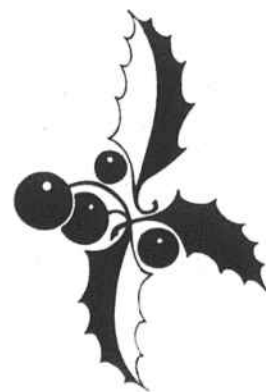
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