

Motivational Rec Program Drawing Many

The new Motivational Recreational Program, established in Hoke County to provide wholesome weekend activities for young people who have had little or nothing to keep them occupied on weekends, is attracting many students every weekend. The program is designed for boys and girls ages 10-17.

George Maynor, a supervisor of

the program held at J.W. Turlington School's gymnasium, said this Monday.

He said the program started the weekend of February 6 for 10 weekends, and 75 youngsters participated in the first games. Maynor said he recommends that the program be carried on in the

future, after its 10 weeks expires.

The supervised recreation runs 9 a.m. to noon and 1-6 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

The games now are basketball types and include free play, one-on-one tournaments, free-throw contests, basketball relays, shoot-out championships, and organized

team competition. Instructional drills also are held.

The program is being financed by a \$1,995 grant from the State Community-based Alternatives office. It is for 150 young people. The County Board of Education is providing \$119.50 worth of utilities for the county's share of the budget.

Cub Pack 437 Holds Blue And Gold Banquet

Cub Scout Pack 437's meeting February 24 was held in the Scurlock School cafeteria.

Cub Scouts gave their annual Blue and Gold Banquet. Guests were George Wood, principal of Scurlock, and John Cabeza, district Scout executive.

Den 1 Scouts also held their Pinewood Derby. Starter was George Wood and judge was John Cabeza.

The winners in the fastest category were: first -- Tony Mitchell; second -- Heath Brock; and third -- Edward Burns.

Judging also was done for the Most Beautiful and the Most Unusual categories. All the boys won ribbons.

This month's big event is Scout-A-Rama which will be held Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in Laurinburg.



Cubmaster Jimmy Allen and District Scout Executive John Cabeza judging Derby racers.



Cubs getting Pinewood Derby instructions just before the races start.



Cubmaster Jimmy Allen speaking to the banquet audience.

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Raz Autry

Recently, I came to the very profound conclusion that I had been fighting with someone or some organization all my life. However, there is one group that I have never fought with, at least in written form. The news media. I had sense enough to know that I couldn't win.

The press is a powerful source of relating information to the public. All good newspapermen will tell you that it is most important to write the truth. There has been a slanting of that truth in recent years, and I am sure good newspapermen will admit that also. The press and the American people, in my personal opinion, have turned more and more to emphasizing the dramatic, the controversial, and the "day of doom" type of news. We very seldom see the good, the heroic and the optimistic news on the front page.

In this article I will deal with the school system and emphasize only the news dealing with either our school system or some other school system, or an article relating to it, to try to get my point across.

All articles dealing with controversies involving me and my dealings with the public are front page news. Case in point: Controversy with school custodian/school principal, county commissioner's reply to me about an article I had written, Hoke "drug bust", test scores if they are low or below average, etc. News articles dealing with awards and honors are middle-page or back-page items. Case in point: Scholarship awarded to student, the Governor's School recipients, appointment to military academy. Let me dwell on that one for a moment.

How often do we, in Hoke County, get an appointment to a military academy? I have been here 15 years and it has happened three times: Paul Currie was appointed from N.C. State University to West Point; Ralph Huff to the Air Force Academy; Earl H. Oxendine, Jr. (Bucky) appointed to West Point this year. Surely three students in 15 years deserves to be front-page news. After all, this is not an every day occurrence in Hoke County.

Let me hasten to say that I am not being critical of *The News-Journal*, they are only following the trend of all newspapers of today.

I have a copy of three newspapers on my desk from other localities; two from Brunswick County and one from Person County.

The front-page news from *The Brunswick Free Press* says:

"Brooks Suspends Two Over Schedule Change"; "School Board Meets Illegally". Most of the positive news about the county is hidden inside the paper. *The Brunswick Beacon* headline says "Grand Jury, DA Probe Land Sale"; "Brooks Disciplines School Principal"; "NCAE Hearing Date Set". The headline of *The Courier Times* in Person County said "Board Assures It Wants To Hear Teachers". This article deals with a complaint from the teachers that they want to meet with the board of education.

My whole point is that along with the sensational news should go some good news. I know enough about newspaper business to know what attracts headlines. I also know enough about human nature to know that many human beings have been totally destroyed because of headlines that, in many cases, were only half-truths.

People coming into our county, or any other county, will judge the county by what they read and hear. If all they read and hear deals with controversy, they will look elsewhere.

I would be the last one to try to tell our local newspaper how to do business. In the first place, they wouldn't listen to me, and even if I wanted to I couldn't because I don't know how.

The News-Journal has given me a free hand to express my opinions. They have supported me on many issues; they have also crucified me quite often when they disagreed with me. All of this was on the front page.

The important thing, as I see it, for a school system, or a newspaper, is to emphasize the positive. All of us need to re-evaluate ourselves often and decide if we are headed in the right direction. Our youngsters are the most important ingredient of our school system. The things that happen to them, good and bad, deserve equal billing on the front page or the lead story on radio or television.

I am equally sure that the most important ingredient of the news media is what is happening to our country, good and bad, and that both should deserve equal treatment on the front page or the lead story on radio and television.

Since I am such a mild-mannered man, the controversies I get into don't amount to a hill of beans, but they make good reading. After the controversy dies down, I am sure that most of the readers would much rather read about some of the fine accomplishments of our youngsters and relegate me to the back page.



TOPS IN NEW PROGRAM -- Four of the youths who are participating in the new Motivational Recreation Program sponsored by the Hoke County school system and County Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the County Youth Task Force are shown here with George Maynor, a supervisor of the weekend program. Standing next to Maynor is Charles Andrews, 14, an Upchurch Junior High School Seventh Grade student named Best All Around in the program. In the front, L-R, are Darris Daniels, who topped everybody on the free-throw line, basketing 35 of 50 attempts; Barry Fellows, named Go Getter; and Johnny Maynor, the coach's nephew, named Jump Shooter champion. The three are 11 years old and J.W. Turlington students. Johnny Maynor is in the Fifth Grade, and the others are in the Sixth. George Maynor is a supervisor of the program held in the Turlington gymnasium. [Staff photo.]

Ex-Hoke Man Preaches Introductory Sermon

Clarence W. Page, a former Hoke County resident, preached his introductory sermon on Sunday, March 7 at New Hope Baptist Church in East Orange, N.J.

The theme of his sermon was "A Matter of Life and Death." His Bible text was taken from John: Chapter 3, verses 16 and 17. He warned unsaved listeners that "now is the time to come to Christ if they want to live for evermore."

For the past several years, Page has served as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher and has

been actively involved in visiting and witnessing to those in prison, and the sick and shut-ins. He is also actively involved in many other church organizations and is devoted to Christian missions.

Page is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Page, Sr., of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge. He is married to Vivian Mundy, formerly from Catawba, N.C. They have one son, Bryan, who is 4 years old.

His parents and several other members of his family witnessed his sermon.

Sunday School Lesson

Background Scripture: Mark 4: 35 through 5: 20.
Devotional Reading: Galatians 3: 23-29.

The man was, according to Mark, a "demoniac"—a "man with an unclean spirit." In other words, he was a man possessed by some entity other than himself, an entity that was evil and made him mentally ill, just as other "unclean spirits" made people physically ill.

If you've ever worked closely with the mentally ill, you will know that, although the term "demoniac" may seem archaic in this day and age, it is an apt description for those with serious disturbances. Their behavior easily may be described as "demonic," as if under the control of something not themselves.

The picture of the demoniac is dramatic. The man is ostracized from society, living among the tombs (particularly avoided by Jews) where no one was likely to disturb him. They had tried to chain him, but his strength was also "demonic." It seemed too, that the man was more destructive to himself than others: "always crying out and bruising himself with stones."

The demons—whatever they were—seemed fully in control. Yet, as soon as Jesus came near, they felt threatened: "What have you to do with me, Jesus Son of the Most High God. I adjure you by God, do not torment me." Illness, whether mental, spiritual or physical or all three, recognized in Jesus

a mortal enemy. There was not room enough for them and Christ.

Another indication that the demons were not Jesus' "little helpers" in disguise is the way in which he disposed of them. For the Jew, there was no more despised, hated animal in creation than the pig. Religiously, all swine were "unclean," able to separate a man from his God. So there could have been no more terrible finale than for the evil spirits to be sent headlong into a herd of swine.

Jesus' healing of the man was more than making him mentally whole. The man's dis-ease was social as well. He was a man ostracized from all human fellowship. They had tried to chain him. When they saw him cured, sitting next to Jesus, "they were afraid."

In fact, "they began to beg Jesus to depart from their neighborhood." The fact is, there are many times when we'd like to ask Jesus to depart from our neighborhood. We may complain about the "demoniacs" among us, but often we are even more disturbed when he begins to bring healing into our midst. We are afraid of wholeness because it changes people. The sickness in that neighborhood went considerably beyond the madness of the demoniac. And in ours, too.

Jesus healed a madman and the madman, restored to his right mind, began to heal the neighborhood: "And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and all men marveled."



In old Norway it was believed that keys in the fields would protect the crops from hail.

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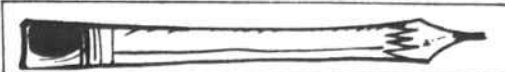
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