



Kevin Akins with children at the Children's Center. Mrs. Irene Goins, a member of the staff, is at left. [Staff photo.]

## Sandhills Youth Center's SWAP

# Helping Handicapped Helps Inmates

Kevin Akins is a 20-year-old Rockingham man working with the handicapped children at the Hoke County Children's Center.

"It's good to be able to help kids," he says.

Judy Crawley, director of the center, says, "It's meant a lot to us having Kevin here. Not only is he just a hard worker, but it's meant a lot just having him here. He's dedicated to the kids."

But it's a two-way street: working with the kids at the center is helping Kevin to get ready for his return home.

Kevin is due for parole from the Sandhills Youth Center at McCain in July. He was the first Sandhills inmate to be chosen to work at the Children's Center. He started April 8.

Before being selected as the badly needed helper, Akins was screened thoroughly. The screening included inspection of his record of conduct at the Youth Center, his record before coming to the center, and his attitude.

He is one of 35 to 40 youthful inmates (ages 18 to 21) of the Youth Center and the Morrison correctional facility at Hoffman who are working helping the regular staffs help the handicapped. The inmates include some of the young women at Hoffman who help at the McLaurin Center sheltered workshop at Rockingham.

Every one of them had to go through a thorough screening like Akins' before being selected. Their day away from their state residences is like Kevin's.

Kevin catches a ride from a volunteer "chauffeur" at the Youth Center in the morning, goes to the Children's Center, helps with the youngsters there till about 5 p.m. when his "ride" returns him to the Youth Center for the night.

Akins' fellow residents at the Youth Center are working daily between weekends with the pre-school-age youngsters at the Moore County Youth Center in Southern Pines, and the school-age boys and girls in the special classes for the multihandicapped students at Upchurch Junior High School and in Moore County schools.

Tom Olsen, a counselor at the Youth Center (not to be confused with the State Correctional Facility for over-21 men across the road), says the participation of the selected Center residents is done in SWAP program, which is about two years old. "SWAP" is composed of the first letters of the

words of the official title: Sandhills Work Adjustment Program. Olsen is working in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Human Resources. He explained the program during a visit to the Children's Center Friday morning.

Olsen sees SWAP as a perfectly appropriate "slang" name for the program for the McCain and Hoffman institutions because "we trade things," he said.

"The boys give of themselves to help the community with its programs, and the community helps the boys to readjust socially and provides them with experiences."

"Whether or not the boy will be associated later with these experiences, they make him feel pretty well off."

Akins said "it's good" for him "being needed." He added, also, "All the staff is real nice. They have helped me out a lot, just with their friendship. It has increased my self-confidence."

Olsen described the principal requirements Kevin said the others in SWAP had to meet to be selected:

Kevin had to reach his "behavior level" to go out into the community.

He had to be free of infractions of Youth Center rules for at least 90 days, showing he is progressing, has "got his act together."

His current and past record had to show he has an even temperament.

He had to have completed requirements for a high school diploma (Kevin did this at Richmond Technical Institute in his home county, before he got in trouble with the law. He had dropped out of Richmond Senior High School in his junior year.)

Akins also had to be a volunteer to work with the severely handicapped.

He has to fill a need in his general rehabilitation plan.

For Kevin, Olsen continued, a "work adjustment socialization" let him reemphasize his obligations to others.

Speaking of Akins and the others in the program, Olsen said, "We feel they gain a lot more confidence in themselves through successful personal interaction with other people."

Akins was sentenced in February 1981 in Richmond County to three to five years. He said this was for larceny (of a motor vehicle) and indicated a violation of probation imposed earlier in a breaking-and-entering case was involved. "Drugs and stuff messed my life up," he said.

He said he committed these offenses while he was drinking and taking drugs. Asked about his home life, Kevin said very firmly: "My parents are real good people. ...I feel I have to make it up to them." He was talking about the worry he caused them with his collisions with the law.

Kevin revealed he was "born again" as a Christian last October and vowed never again to take alcohol or drugs. He said he became reborn after he started reading the Bible and got to talking with other people at the Youth Center.

"I could feel it here," he said, pointing to his heart, when the new spiritual experience came to him.

Honestly coming to realize that one is a sinner, feeling contrition for having sinned, and putting faith in Jesus Christ are the elements necessary for becoming born again.

Kevin, like his fellow inmates at Sandhills, earned his way to Sandhills by his good conduct, from his

original confinement in a more conventional institution.

Olsen said that regular groups of the inmates at the Youth Center also work in the community, in SWAP: members of the Jaycees, and alumni of "I Can," the Motivated Training program whose courses, followed by a graduation banquet and ceremony at the end of each series of classes.

Kevin started with the Children's Center April 8. He was practically destined to the assignment of helping with the youngsters. In a trial visit, part of the screening, a week or so before he was selected, he visited the center.

The director said he took to the children immediately, and the children took to him immediately. It was love at first sight.

One advantage for having Kevin and the other young men from Sandhills helping with the youngsters, one member of the staff pointed out, the regular staff at the

Children's Center in the schools' classes consist of women. Consequently, for the children, the Youth Center boys provide an important male presence, somewhat like substitute fathers.

Kevin spoke of the friendliness of the staff at the Children's Center. The women show it, as though he were a member of the family. They gave him a surprise birthday party one day (a few days later than his 20th birthday), and then there was an Easter card on Good Friday at the end of the day as he was leaving to return to the Youth Center. Those are special little things that mean a lot, and are not done in the line of duty.

It adds up to friendliness.

After a month's experience with Kevin and his services to the children, the center's director says "we definitely plan to get another guy when Kevin leaves." She was talking about another boy from the Sandhills Youth Center.

## Mrs. Wood Attends Farm Aviation Meeting

Mrs. Roy Wood, Rt. 3, Raeford, director of N.C. for the women of National Agricultural Aviation Association participated in the 15th annual Congress on Aerospace Education, held at the Atlanta Sheraton Hotel, April 1-3.

Over 700 educators, administrators, business and industrial leaders met to better equip the teaching profession in informing the public of the significance of aerospace on all aspects of society.

Among the dignitaries present were George P.A. Forschler, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force Reserve Affairs; Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, USAF Retired, the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound; A. Scott Crossfield, pilot of the X-15 rocket aircraft; and Astronaut David M. Walker.

The U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command briefed the Congress on the Soviet military threat. Teachers' workshops and field trips to Lockheed Aircraft and Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport were conducted.

The Congress is jointly sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Civil Air Patrol.

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## Rockfish News

by Polly Barnard

There was excellent attendance at Galatia Presbyterian Church the past Sunday morning for worship service. The message by Dr. David Sutton was outstanding and the Chancel Choir, directed by Mrs. Patty Hasty was an inspiration.

Attendance for worship service was excellent at Philippi Presbyterian Church the past Sunday morning. The sacrament of Communion was observed.

The "Sunrise Service" was well attended at Tabernacle Baptist Church the past Sunday morning. The attendance for regular morning worship service was also good.

Dr. John Wesley White, Billy Graham Evangelist Associate is conducting the "Fort Bragg Spiritual Life Crusade" at Hedrick Stadium this week. Dr. White will be speaking each evening through Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The Evangelist team was invited by the post Military Chaplains and is assisted by the Fayetteville area churches. The 200 voice choir is composed of local church choir members. Ken Carter, Choir Director, Ted Cornell, pianist and Myrtle Hall Soloist are with the Evangelist team. The public is encouraged to attend.

Pittman Grove Baptist Church reported good attendance Thursday evening for the Communion Service. Dogwood blossoms decorated the Communion table and the church was lighted by candles. Sunday morning worship service was well attended also.

Revival services will begin Sunday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. and will continue through April 23 at Pittman Grove Baptist Church. The public is cordially invited.

There was excellent attendance at Parkers United Methodist Church the past Sunday for worship service. The altar was very beautifully decorated with a profusion of Easter lilies furnished by church members.

Sandy Grove United Methodist Church and Parker's United Methodist Church held joint "Sunrise Service" the past Sunday morning at Camp Rockfish. There was good attendance and Sandy Grove Church served coffee and sausage biscuits following the service.

Attention!! Members of Rockfish Precinct! The Registrar will be at the Rockfish Fire Station Wednesday, April 21 from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. to register anyone who has failed to register to date. If you are not registered please register! And please Vote!

Mrs. Mattie Hales of the Wayside Community received a fractured hip from a fall last week. She had surgery following the injury and is getting along very well at this report.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Davis of Selma visited Mrs. Davis's parents Mr. and Mrs. Amos Grant, Jr. the past Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carson and children, Pricilla and Robert of Raeford visited Mr. Carson's mother, Mrs. Elvira Carson the past Sunday. Others visiting her were Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jackson and son, Denny and Mrs. Kay Kelly.

Mrs. Beulah McInnis Lee of Dunn spent the past weekend with Mrs. Neda Mae Williams and attended church with her at Philippi Presbyterian Church where she saw many friends of long standing. They had lunch with Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Long, Jr. Mrs. Lee's son, Kenneth of Dunn came for a visit Sunday and she returned home with him.

D.A. "Zan" Gillis of the Galatia Community who had surgery at Highsmith-Rainey Memorial Hospital last week is recuperating at home now. Hurry and get well Mr. Gillis! Everyone misses you!

Eric Wood who has been a patient in Cape Fear Valley Hos-

pital in Fayetteville was released from the hospital last Friday and is recuperating at home now.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wood of Newton stopped by for a visit with Mr. Woods' grandmother, Mrs. A.W. Wood, Sr. last Friday. They were on their way to the beach for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. David Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wood all of Burlington also visited their grandmother Mrs. A.W. Wood, Sr. during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Wood and sons, of Raeford, Marion Wood of Charlotte and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Monroe were visitors of A.W. Wood, Sr. the past Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D.D. McCraney and daughter, Carolyn, Mrs. Robert Lisenby and son, Michael spent the past weekend with Mrs. Mary Gaddy and son, James Jr. in Gray Court, South Carolina. On their return trip they toured Cowpens Battleground and Kings Mountain Battleground and had lunch in Belmont, North Carolina. Everyone enjoyed the trip very much. Michael is a history "buff" so he especially enjoyed the tour of the points of historical interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton McCulloch visited Mrs. McCulloch's mother, Mrs. Olive Pardue and sister, Mrs. Howard Brown and Mr. Brown in Greensboro the past Sunday.

Mrs. Alton McCulloch has received word that her brother, Robert H. Pardue of North Wilkesboro who has been in the hospital for the past two weeks has become critically ill.

Mrs. James White who underwent surgery at Highsmith-Rainey Memorial Hospital in Fayetteville last week is now recuperating at home.

Mrs. Wright Parker of Selma is visiting her sisters Mrs. Louise Watson and Mrs. Grace English.

Miss Nellie McFadyen spent last week in Raeford with Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Baker, to be with her aunt, Mrs. Minnie McMillian who was critically ill and passed away last Friday. She also attended the funeral the past Sunday afternoon. Sympathy is extended to Miss McFadyen and the other family members.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton McCulloch attended the wedding of M/Sgt. Stephen Morris at John F. Kennedy Chapel at Fort Bragg April 3. Reception followed at the home on Iverness Dr., Asheton Forest, Fayetteville.

Mrs. L.D. Long and daughter Mrs. Dianne Udeck of Fayetteville visited Mrs. Louise Watson Friday of last week.

James and Jason Turner of Fayetteville spent several days last week with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Turner, Jr.

Todd and Mitzi Plummer of Morehead City spent several days the past week with their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plummer.

John Plummer of Fort Rucker, Alabama is spending the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plummer.

Miss Becky Plummer of Rocky Mount spent the weekend at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Plummer and children of Fayetteville visited Mr. Plummer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plummer the past Sunday.

Correction please! There was an error in the spelling of the name TROST in last weeks paper. It was incorrectly spelled FROST. Mrs. TROST is the former Betty Jean Wood who now lives in St. Paul, Minnesota but has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wood. Apologies!!

**New City Shop Numbers**

The telephone numbers of the City Maintenance Shop are now 875-5031 and 5032.

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**QUAKER STATE**  
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10W-40 all season motor oil. Limit 5 quarts, please.

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Rinso 44-Oz. Detergent  
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Heavy duty laundry powder. Limit 2.  
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Reg. 1.49!  
**75¢** Sylvania Pk. Bulbs  
Pack of 2 60, 75 or 100 watt  
Buy 2 Packs, Get 1! Rebate!  
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**59¢** Chocolate Ea. Candy  
Large size 4-oz. Chunky or 3.5-oz. Raisinets, Goobers and Sno Caps.

**1.59** Sure Deodorant  
2.5-oz. solid, 4-oz. spray and 1.5-oz. roll-on. Regular or unscented.  
**4 \$1** 4-Pk. Tampax  
Pack includes 2 regular and 2 super absorbent tampons with travel cases.

**\$3** Men's Knit Shirts Or Print T-Shirts  
Crew and v-neck knit shirts with contrasting shoulder stripes or slightly irregular screen print tees. S,M,L,XL.  
**5.99** Sandals And Casuals  
Popular leather-look strap sandals or kitten step-in casuals. Brown and tan. Ladies' and children's sizes.

**4.99** Ladies' Novelty Tops  
Short sleeve knit and woven tops in stripes, solids and prints. Many with embroideries and appliques. S,M,L.  
**8.99** Pair Fashion Pants  
With waist and bottom details including pleats, ties, elastic, buttons and d-rings. 5-6-15 16 and 8-18.

**\$3** Men's Knit Shirts Or Print T-Shirts  
Crew and v-neck knit shirts with contrasting shoulder stripes or slightly irregular screen print tees. S,M,L,XL.  
**5.99** Sandals And Casuals  
Popular leather-look strap sandals or kitten step-in casuals. Brown and tan. Ladies' and children's sizes.

Prices Good At All Family Dollar Stores Through The Weekend While Quantities Last. Quantities Limited On Some Items. No Sales To Dealers.  
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