

**About Writing**

# Hoke High Teacher Teaches Teachers

by Gene Warren

With 25 language arts teachers in her audience at Pembroke State University who are learning how to teach other teachers "how to better teach writing," Harriett McDonald, instructor of 11th grade college preparatory English at Hoke County High School in Raeford, gave some strong suggestions.

--"Positive comments makes for good writing."

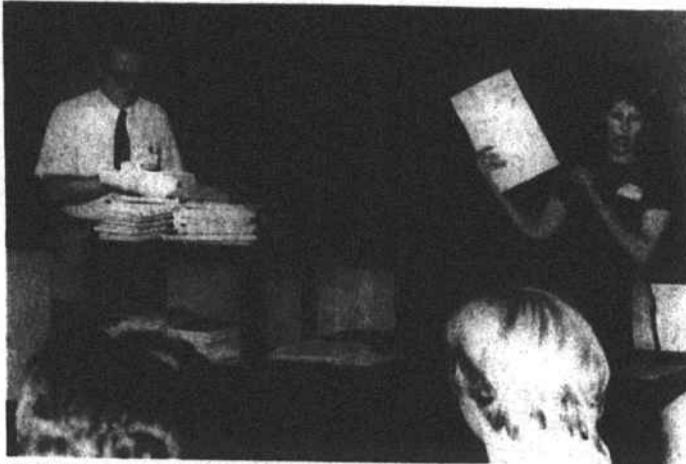
--"Writing has been used as a discipline tool. A teacher of writing ought to be a coach--not a dictator."

--"Publish your pupils' writing constantly. We have a literary

magazine published by our classes in high school. Put students' writing on the bulletin board. Have them write for the school newspaper and annual. If what they write is really good, send it to the newspaper--all, of course, with the child's permission."

All of this was part of a three-week North Carolina Writing Project being held at PSU under the co-direction of Mrs. McDonald and Dr. Robert Reising, professor of communicative arts at PSU.

Provided with an \$18,000 grant from the State Board of Education, Pembroke State University is one of five geographical locations in N.C. for this N.C. Writing Project.



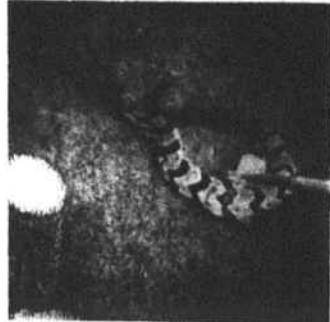
Harriett McDonald of Raeford addressing teachers in the Pembroke State University course of the N.C. Writing Project. The man on the left is Dr. Robert Reising of the university's Communicative Arts Department.

gestions for those teaching children how to write: "Never force a child to read what he or she has written. Be respectful of their privacy. However, ask them to share if they are willing. Don't ask them to do what you will not do."

When the teachers, who all range from K-12 and are exemplary teachers, started the three-week project, Mrs. McDonald asked them to begin by writing something themselves. "Write what you think you know about. I believe teaching of writing is based upon our own experiences."

Once the teachers have been through this intensive three-week study, they will be asked to return to their areas to teach the same ideas to their fellow teachers. This is how the National Writing Concept works, says Mrs. McDonald.

From it all, the State Board of Education hopes better instruction of writing skills in N.C.'s public schools will come.



IN YARD -- This rattlesnake was killed in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. James Pierce on N.C. 211 South one mile from Raeford. The snake was approximately five feet long, six inches in diameter, weighed approximately 15 - 20 pounds, and had nine rattles.

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## Jackie Is 10 And Needs A Home

The Children's Home Society of North Carolina provided this information about a black boy who needs a permanent home.

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Like most 10-year-old boys, Jackie enjoys football and watching cartoons. In fact, Jackie has many interests and activities at school and in the community.

Jackie is a lively child. His personality is warm and outgoing. He finds it easy to meet new people.

Jackie likes to be the center of attention.

School is fun for Jackie, and he does average work.

Jackie is like lots of other boys his age except for one thing: he needs a permanent home. Jackie is living in a foster home.

Jackie's first family could not take care of him, and his foster home is only temporary. It seems the best answer for Jackie is adoption. Jackie needs an adoptive family who will be committed to making him a permanent part of the family.

Jackie's social worker says the ideal family for Jackie would have two parents and children older than he is. A single parent who could give Jackie a great deal of attention might also be a good possibility.



Jackie is not the only school-aged child who needs an adoptive home. Many other children throughout the state are waiting for some family to reach out to them. Most of them are school-age. Many of them are black. Some of them are brothers and sisters and who need a home together. All of these children need to feel the security of belonging to a family.

Two area agencies want to give these children a chance. Cumberland County Department of Social Services and The Children's Home Society of North Carolina have thrown open their doors to black families interested in adopting a black child.

Others are being held at Atlantic Christian College in the northeast, Wake Forest University in the Piedmont, UNC-Charlotte in the south central, and Western Carolina University in the west.

"The worst fear of someone trying to write is the blank page," said Mrs. McDonald, who has studied for the last two summers in England, particularly secondary English in the London metropolitan area. She said writing is really advanced in England where only 1 percent of the high school graduates go to college.

In England, she says "no one pays to attend college. Those who qualify to go must do so by written examination."

Mrs. McDonald notes that Winston Churchill was a poor student in high school, "but he had a fine writing talent--and this skill enabled him to qualify for college."

"Writing is a process," she continued, "that takes constant revision. And remember this: children won't write unless we give them plenty of time to write."

In the N.C. Writing Project, the teachers write, then read their compositions aloud to the others for a critique, then are lectured on theory by consultation, and thereafter put the theory into practical applications. The class members are also divided into small groups and are required to write a class paper with one of the following topics: (1) literature in the writing process; (2) editing, revision and

proof-reading; (3) conferencing; (4) scope and sequence in writing, K-12; (5) applying the beliefs of Donald Murray and Ken Macrorie to the K-12 classroom; and (6) handling the paper load, K-12.

Among the consultants for PSU's writing project are: Turdy Whalen of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, instruction on: "Writing in the Elementary School"; Denny Wolfe of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., teaching on "Writing in the Elementary School"; Denny Wolfe Dixie Dellinger, public school teacher from Cherryville, lecturing on "Moffett and Writing"; and Jo Ann Seiple of UNC-Wilmington, teaching on "Classroom Management of Writing."

Mrs. McDonald had these sug-

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