

Ethelyn Baker Named Teacher Of Year



Ethelyn Baker

Ethelyn Baker, a West Hoke School teacher, is the 1982-83 Hoke County Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made as a surprise to Mrs. Baker by Raz Autry, county schools superintendent, Monday afternoon as Mrs. Baker stepped into West Hoke Principal Milton Williams's office in response to a call from the office.

In the office with Autry and Williams were members of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee of Hoke teachers, Janice Worthy of McLaughlin School, Pat Livingston of Scurlock, Harold Livingston, an assistant principal of Hoke County High School, John K. McNeill of Upchurch Junior High School, Mary Thomas of West Hoke, Valerie

Bagley of J.W. Turlington, Choldia Lyons of South Hoke and Gloria Williams, representative of the county school system's central office, make up the committee, but not all the members could attend.

Winning the County Teacher of the Year title is the first step toward the title of North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Carol Ronalter, a special education teacher at Hoke County High School, was last year's county winner.

Mrs. Baker has been an elementary school teacher for 20 years and has had a Third Grade class at West Hoke since the start of the 1981-82 school year. She has been teaching in the Hoke County schools since 1976 after serving in

Cumberland County and in Virginia.

In Hoke County, she taught at Raeford Elementary School from 1976 through 1979, then at J.W. Turlington the following year.

In 1980-81 she taught an Alternative Learning Class at Upchurch Junior High School.

Ironically, only two years ago while teaching at Turlington School, the county school board first granted her tenure, but later reversed its decision, terminating her, but the situation later was resolved.

Mrs. Baker is a native of Nashville, N.C., and was educated in Fayetteville schools. She graduated from Fayetteville State University with a Bachelor of Science

degree in elementary education, then started her career at Armstrong School in Cumberland County. In 1963-64 she taught at Farmville, Va., in the Free School Association, when the public schools were closed, then taught in the Farmville public school from 1964-67 after it was reopened.

Mrs. Baker taught at Hopewell, Va., from 1967 to 1974, then at the Education Center at Ft. Bragg, at the dependents' school, going to Hoke County after two years there. In Virginia, she took further studies, at Virginia State University in Petersburg.

Mrs. Baker has three children, Tanya, 14, in the Ninth Grade of Chestnut Junior High School in Fayetteville; Michael, a Campbell

University freshman; and Andrew, a secretary at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. She also has a 4½-months-old grandson, Andre.

Mrs. Baker is a member of First Baptist Church of Moore Street, Fayetteville. She serves as a volunteer in the American Red Cross and is a Red Cross blood donor. She also teaches Bible School, is a 4-H Club counselor, and a Girl Scout leader.

Mrs. Baker also does acting with Fayetteville Showcase and Ft. Bragg Playhouse and likes to write poetry. She is now writing a book of poetry.



"Things That Matter" by Lucien Coleman

IN DEFENSE OF A NAME

Not since the hideous suicide-massacre of Jim Jones' followers in the jungle of Guyana four years ago has the world seen anything so brutal as the annihilation of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon on September 19.

Associated Press photographs of the mangled corpses were shocking enough. But what really chilled my blood were the headlines, "Hundreds Killed by Christians."

What could possibly be "Christian" about this systematic slaughtering of old men, middle-aged mothers, teenage girls, and babes in diapers, all unarmed and unable to defend themselves? The depraved, machine-gun wielding thugs who were responsible for the human carnage in the Chatilla and Sabra refugee camps certainly have nothing in common with the Galilean from whom Christians get their name.

He taught, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." They burst into homes and butchered whole families without mercy. He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." They fanned the smoldering embers of old hostilities into flames of cruel vengeance. He commanded his followers, "Love your enemies." They bulldozed the tangled corpses of their enemies into common graves.

The world has been sickened or repeated occasions by the savagery of Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization. But none of the atrocities committed by Palestinian guerillas ever surpassed the brutality of this latest outrage against the human race.

We all realize, of course, that the name "Christian" has become nothing more than a political label in some quarters. The so-called "Christian" militias in Lebanon bear the name of Christ in utter indifference to what the Prince of Peace really stands for. So do those Americans who put on white robes or battle fatigues and tarnish the name of Christ with hate-filled racist language as they posture and strut about with automatic weapons cradled in their arms.

An ancient story has it that Alexander the Great once called a young soldier to task for engaging in drunken debauchery. The young man, it seems, also bore the name, "Alexander." The famous conqueror, so the story goes, slapped the soldier with the back of his hand, sending him sprawling across the room. Then Alexander said, in a menacing tone, "I won't have my name disgraced any longer. Either change your conduct or change your name!"

One could wish that the ersatz Christians filling the world today would heed that advice.

Deaths & Funerals

John Walter Bishop

The funeral for John Walter Bishop, 62, of Rt. 1, Raeford, who died November 1, was conducted Sunday afternoon in Silver Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. W.K. Mitchell. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Buie Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Robert W. McNeill

The funeral for Robert William McNeill, 16, of Rt. 3, Raeford, who died October 28 of complications from injuries suffered in a traffic accident October 16, was conducted at 4 p.m. November 3 in Silver Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. W.K. Mitchell.

Burial was in the church cemetery.

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