

Sandhill's Furches Calls It Quits

by Bill Lindau

D.L. Furches, who was responsible for starting the adult education programs in Hoke County, is retiring from the staff of Sandhills Community College near Southern Pines.

He was a charter member of the staff when he joined the college on October 26, 1964, as director of adult education and started the Hoke programs in the late 1960s.

Furches in the past four years with the college has been working exclusively with the Hoke County program and has extended it to communities in a radius of six to eight miles beyond Raeford in all directions.

Besides in the old County Office Building, classes are held in South Hoke Community Center, the Wayside Community Building, Cameron Heights Neighborhood Center and the Laurel Hill activity building and Elizabeth Jones' ceramics shop in Rockfish, among other places.

He has established classes in Adult Basic Education and the adult high school program as well as in the general adult program but turned over the high school programs to another college staff man several years ago.

Sixty working associates and friends gave a retirement dinner November 19 at the Sheraton Motor Inn Restaurant in Southern Pines honoring Mr. and Mrs. Furches. Furches was presented with several gifts, including a portable radio. The date was the day after Mr. and Mrs. Furches celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary.

The guests at the Retirement Dinner included a large delegation from Hoke County.

Forty Hoke County students, teachers, co-workers and friends honored Mr. and Mrs. Furches December 2 at a Retirement Party in the Hoke County Public Library

and presented them with gifts, most of them made by hand by the people in the Hoke County craft classes conducted by Sandhills Community College.

In an interview with *The News-Journal* Monday morning, Furches said Ellen Willis, Hoke County Extension home economics agent, was largely responsible for getting the classes started here. He recalled that the first was a sewing class, and it was held in the kitchen of the Old County Office Building. The kitchen once had been used by Mrs. Willis in her Extension work.

Furches also said the county has been very helpful in making the building available for classes and also providing space in the library for their use.

He said the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department has worked regularly with the college in the Hoke programs and that all the public school people have been extremely helpful also, especially in providing classroom space. The supervisor of the college's night classes, incidentally, is Hank Richards, principal of South Hoke School. Furches said also that in the beginning he received valuable help from Maurice Hayes, then principal of West Hoke School.

He also said the senior citizens' organization and the association of retired teachers have worked with him and the other college people in recent years.

Generally, he said the people of Hoke have been "extremely nice to work with."

Furches said that "one of the big things" he has done in his work was extension of the education programs from Raeford to the rural areas of Hoke County.

Furches said Betty High has taken over his work in Hoke County and also the work of Eddie Coleman, who retired this year, and had taken over from Furches the ABE and high school programs.

Furches had five counties to start with, but subsequently Richmond Technical Institute, opened later, took on the adult education work for Richmond and Scotland counties, and Montgomery Technical Institute, also organized later, assumed the responsibility for the Montgomery County programs, leaving Moore and Hoke to Sandhills and Furches.

He said he had no plans "right now" for activities in retirement.

Furches grew up in Davie County, graduated from Mars Hill Junior College in Madison County and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He then taught and coached at high schools in Stokes and Forsyth counties for four years. He said he coached basketball mainly, and baseball and track.

Furches served 22 years in the Army, his years covering World War II, and the Korea and Vietnam wars. In service he served as principal of the Elementary School

in Yokohama, Japan, for children of U.S. servicemen's families; served as dean of instruction at the Chemical Corps School; and ROTC instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at MIT, he started his graduate studies at Harvard University, later completing his work for a Master of Education degree at Johns Hopkins Evening College.

He retired from the Army June 1, 1964, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and moved to Southern Pines, principally because the community college movement was getting under way there.

Furches is married to the former Mildred McDonald, a native of Rutherford County who is a former home economics teacher. She taught in Japan while Furches was there and holds a bachelor's degree from East Carolina Teachers' College (now East Carolina University) and a master's degree in clothing and

textiles from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

He said "Starting the Adult Program at Sandhills in 1964-65 meant starting three major programs."

These were:
-- Adult Basic Education: classes are offered to adults, ages 18 or older, who have less than an Eighth Grade education. The classes were started in the five counties mentioned previously and continued under Sandhills till the then new technical institutes took over.

-- Learning Lab: students may complete high school, improve skills used in their jobs, or study subjects of their choice.

-- General Adult Classes offer a wide variety of courses designed to meet the needs and interests of all adults. They offer opportunity for growth in basic and general knowledge, to develop crafts and to develop the students culturally.

The ABE program now reaches most areas of Moore and Hoke

counties. Many adults have finished the Eighth Grade in the program, and others have moved on and earned their high school diplomas. The General Adult Classes serve thousands in Moore and Hoke. And local school teachers could get renewal credits by taking adult classes.



D.L. Furches, standing beside the blackboard in a room used for Sandhills Community College adult classes in the Old County Office Building.

Bad Conduct Cancels Show

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made a regularly scheduled class, daily Monday through Friday.

The chorus class, however, is optional.

The students may go to music, library and occupation-exploration classes as formerly if they choose.

Of the members of the chorus, 80 are Seventh Grade boys and girls and the rest are boys and girls in the Eighth Grade. Edwards said most of the misconduct was done by Seventh Graders.

He would do the same to a scheduled public appearance of any other student group, the football team, for example, if the same situation arose and could not be corrected any other way, Edwards said.

The text of Edwards' letter to the parents of the members of the chorus follows:

TO: Parents of Upchurch Junior High School Chorus Members
FROM: C. Allen Edwards, Principal

RE: Concert Cancellation

I have cancelled the concert scheduled for December 15 for the Upchurch Junior High School Chorus. This cancellation is due to my personal observations of the behavior of the students in chorus during their daily rehearsals.

The chorus of Upchurch Junior High School has traditionally been an elite group of students that worked during their free time at school to prepare for concerts. This year, the chorus meets together for one class period daily. Because of the scheduling this year, a great deal of practice during activity period and after school would not be required. I have not been satisfied with the chorus this year as it has been one of the most unruly groups I have ever worked with. Individually, the members of the chorus are fine students. Collectively, the group is very immature, boisterous, fail to follow directions and obviously unaware of their responsibilities as a member of the Upchurch Junior High School Chorus.

I will assume a great deal of the responsibility for the problem our chorus is now having. The change in schedules and the addition of about 50 students to our chorus has created a most difficult situation for the chorus director and the members of the chorus. This problem can be resolved for the 1983-84 school term.

I have talked with the chorus members on several occasions this year. I have indicated to them because of the large number in our

chorus, it would be imperative for them to follow the simple rules and regulations that have been set up for our chorus. Many have failed to do so. Students in the chorus have been removed from the chorus permanently, removed from the chorus for ten day periods, placed in ALC, paddled, and numerous parents have been notified. I indicated to the chorus that unless their behavior improved that they would not perform for Upchurch Junior High School. Their behavior did not improve. Therefore, the concert was cancelled as had been promised.

The chorus will perform at 8:20 on Wednesday morning December 15 in the Upchurch Junior High School auditorium for the student body of Upchurch Junior High School. Parents are certainly invited to attend this concert. In addition, if the performance of the chorus during their regular rehearsals improve as they have in the last few days, there will be a concert scheduled for the parents in January.

I solicit the support and assistance of the parents of the members of the chorus with this situation. It is imperative that the students, parents and school officials work together to assure that the chorus program for the 1982-83 school year improves considerably and worthwhile activities are afforded to the members.

Please call or visit the office if you would like to discuss this matter or if I may be of any additional service to you.



Honors List -- Jerrie L. Miles of Raeford has been named to the Southeastern Community College Dean's List for the fall quarter. She maintained a grade point average of above 3.5 on at least 12 quarter hours.

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