



Clockwise, L-R: tutor Juanita Holland, Melton, tutor Ethelynde Ballance, Soon Torn Davidson, and Ruth Ansley.

*It's a one-on-one tutoring program, with six to seven volunteers serving 26 students.*

## Literacy Group Needs Help To Keep Helping

by Bill Lindau

The Hoke Reading/Literacy Council since the winter of 1979 has been teaching people to read and write, and given them also the basics of arithmetic.

It's a one-on-one tutoring program, with six to seven volunteers currently serving the 26 students. Barbara Buie, the fulltime director of the Council, who also serves as a tutor at times, said Monday that four of the students include Hoke school children enrolled on recommendations of their school principals to help bring their reading and/or math skills up to the levels they should have for the school grades they are in.

Miss Buie said, however, that enrollment of school children is not an "ongoing" practice and is for general tutoring.

Of the 26 also, she said, one is an Iranian -- Mohamed Shodja -- and the other, a young Thailand woman, Soon Torn Davidson, wife of National Guard SFC Willie Davidson.

Both are in the courses to learn to read and write English and improve their speaking knowledge of it.

The other students are adults who feel the need to learn to read and write, for practical purposes. One student, 56-year-old Howard Melton, said his primary purpose was to learn to read so he could read the Bible.

Melton is a textile weaver who became inspired to become a lay preacher in Manuel Holiness Church. He enrolled in the program in 1981. Last year he made so much progress and become so proficient, he was named "Student of the Year."

Melton particularly has an excellent aptitude for mathematics, Miss Buie said. Melton said that now he can read the Bible fairly well.

A student needs at least two years to learn enough to function, but this statement of the time could be misleading. The reason is a student is allowed to set his or her own pace, since the student learns better when he or she is free of the pressure of time, of a "deadline," Miss Buie explained.

The classes are not group affairs, Miss Buie said, but sessions for individual students, two a week, an hour and a half each.

She said the students also set their own goals and go as far as they want. Some go as far as qualifying for study in the Sandhills Community College's Adult Basic Education classes.

The student is given mathematics instruction after getting the basis for reading.

Mrs. Juanita Holland, one of the volunteers who also is Miss Buie's mother, said of her work: "It gives you a very pleasant feeling once you've got it into somebody's head that they know what they're doing."

Other tutors include Ethelynde Ballance, who volunteered in 1980 soon after retiring as secretary of the Raeford United Methodist Church. She also was named Tutor of the Year for 1981 and is a former member of the Council Board of Directors. She said of her work with students, "I find it very satisfying."

Another tutor is Mrs. Ruth Ansley, current chairman of the board and Tutor of the Year for 1982.

Miss Buie said the program operates on a budget of about \$20,000 a year. The county commissioners provide \$5,000, the Raeford City Council \$5,000, and private donations, from churches, industries, businesses, and other organizations, and from individuals, the rest.

The contributions for this year came from 30 such groups. Miss Buie said most of the contribution amount to \$100 and \$200 each.

But Miss Buie said it takes members of the staff and board time to raise the donations, time which could be spent on tutoring and recruiting tutors. After a volunteer comes, he or she is trained in the Laubach system of literacy tutoring.

But, she said, it is hard to find volunteers in Hoke County.

Hoke County has one of the state's highest rates of illiteracy, and this is what the people associated with the Reading-

Literacy Council program are trying to remedy in its classes in the Old County Office Building on West Elwood Avenue across from the Post Office.

The effectiveness of the program shows in Howard Melton's experience, but there are others reflecting the success.

For example, one woman lost good jobs in spite of the fact she was a good worker and got promoted because of her efficiency. But when she reached the point where she couldn't handle the paper work, because she could neither read nor write, she was fired. So she turned to the literacy

program and, after going through the classes, she got another job and went up. That was 2½ years ago, and she's still there.

Another woman had what appeared to be a simple need: to be able to let her husband know, by writing him a note, that she would be away from home for a while.

But she couldn't leave home, because she couldn't leave her husband a note, Miss Buie said. Now she can, after learning to read and write in the program.

The new week started off on a bright note: someone gave the Council \$100, Miss Buie said.

Ella Mae Ransom, literary aide, works part time at the council office and also does tutoring.

Outside the office, the others associated with the administration are J.D. McAllister, chairman of the personnel committee; Mina Townsend, chairman of the budget and the ways and means committee; and Eloise Campbell, treasurer.

McAllister and Mrs. Townsend are active in public education in Hoke; McAllister is associate superintendent of the school system, and Mrs. Townsend is vice chairman of the Board of Education.



**Send The News-Journal  
To Someone Away From Home  
in college, service, or  
Just Away From Home**

**Dial 875-2121**

**The News - Journal**

### St. Andrews Sponsors Youth Program

St. Andrews Presbyterian College will sponsor a Family Child Studies Center for exceptional youngsters from ages 3-17, beginning February 14 and continuing through the end of April.

Conducted through the Health and Physical Education Program at St. Andrews, the center is designed to contribute to the psychomotor or physical development of pre-school and school-age exceptional children. These include

the orthopedically impaired, hearing impaired, visually impaired, mentally retarded, special education and other health/motor impaired individuals.

The program is directed by Dr. Jerry Acanfora, associate professor and director of adapted physical education at St. Andrews. St. Andrews health, physical education, and education students will serve as activity instructors.

The activity sessions will be held

in the St. Andrews gymnasium two days per week on a MONDAY-WEDNESDAY or TUESDAY-THURSDAY schedule. Participants will be involved in selected activities such as movement and aquatics, based on their needs, for one hour.

Further information may be obtained and application made by calling Dr. Acanfora, St. Andrews Physical Education Center, 919-276-3652, ext. 209.

### Feb. 18 Deadline Set For Youth Legislative Assembly Program

If you are a high school student and would like to be a legislator, here's your opportunity.

Hoke County High School students and young people from throughout the state are invited to participate in the annual Youth Legislative Assembly in Raleigh at the Marriott Hotel, March 11-13.

The purpose of the mock legislature is to give young people, many of whom are not old enough to vote, an opportunity to voice their opinions and recommendations on important current issues.

Topics scheduled to be addressed are constitutional amendments, discrimination, education, environment, health and nutrition, human sexuality, juvenile justice, substance abuse, violence and youth rights.

Participants will draw up bills, vote on them, and report the results to state leaders.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost per student is \$51 which includes lodging for two nights (four students per room), three meals and conference materials. Cost for

adult chaperones is \$51 (two per room) and \$72 (single).

Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 18. For information, contact the Youth Involvement Office, N.C. Department of Administration, Elks Building, 121 W. Jones St., Raleigh 27611, or telephone 919-733-5966.

The Youth Legislative Assembly and other activities throughout the year are sponsored by the State Youth Council, a component of the Youth Involvement Office. The Raleigh Youth Council is cosponsoring the event.