

OBITUARIES

Martin

(Continued from page 3A)

should be warm-ups for the publication later this summer of Lee Smith's new novel, *The Last Girls*.

Ask your bookstore to call you as soon as it comes in. Be sure they put your name at the top of the list.

The *Last Girls* is the story of a reunion of a group of college women who took a raft down the Mississippi River in the late 1960's. Now, more than 30 years later, several of them travel together down the Mississippi wheel riverboat. Each woman has a separate life story that reaches back to college days. Smith blends their past with the women's present challenges. She mingles the separate stories as the women travel down the river. Her stories of each woman's life are compelling, perhaps because the characters and their problems seem so familiar.

Along the way the stories sometimes seemingly drift toward no certain conclusion. But Smith brings them all together like tributaries of a single river and resolves all the stories, just as their riverboat comes into New Orleans.

Lee Smith's gift for storytelling has earned her many fans. This book will bring her many more. The *Last Girls* will be treasured by generations of people who want to know what the South was like during the last part of the 20th Century — and who love good storytelling and good writing.

I promised to tell you why I have been reading so many books. Here is the great news: UNC-TV is producing a new series of North Carolina Bookwatch.

They asked me to do the interviewing again and we will be back on the air next month on Sundays at 5 p.m.

I hope you will watch. In the meantime, read these books about Southern women — and enjoy.

D.G. Martin is Carolinas Director of the Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization that preserves land for people.

Yvette Garcia
Ms. Yvette Garcia, 48, of Elmhurst, New York, died Sunday, May 26, 2002.

Funeral services were conducted at 12 Noon Friday, May 31 in Good Shepherd Catholic Church held by Father Thomas J. Gaul.

Survivors include one daughter, Franthe K. Badillo; three sisters, Anna Mazo and Elia Garcia, both of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Lydia Locklear of Hope Mills; one brother, Richard Garcia of Gurado, Puerto Rico; and her parents, Lydia and Santiago Garcia of Hope Mills.

George Johnson
George Johnson, 66, of Raeford, died Tuesday, May 28, 2002.

Mr. Johnson's wife, Bertha Ross Johnson, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2 in Mountain Grove AME Zion Church held by the Rev. Sarah Kelly. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include seven daughters, Patricia McNeill of Asheboro, Martha Campbell of Fayetteville, Flora J. Morris of High Point, Linda M. Johnson of Red Springs, Mary Johnson of Raeford and Gloria J. Miles and Gladys McDonald, both of Southern Pines; three sons, John Johnson of Homersville, Jarvin Johnson and Eddie Ray, both of Raeford; his mother, Beatrice Johnson of Raeford; five sisters, Carrie Ross, Lois McLean and Rosie Stephens, all of Raeford, Annie Corbett of Fort Washington, Maryland and Dorothy Johnson of Houston, Texas; one brother, Willie Johnson of Bolton; 21 grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren.

Purcell Funeral Home in Raeford served the family.

Grace F. Moser
Grace Arlene Fain Moser, 72, of Raeford, died Thursday, May 30, 2002 in her home.

Her husband, Junior L. Moser, and her brother, Elwood Fain, preceded Mrs. Moser in death.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2 in Raeford United Methodist Church held by the

Revs. Richard Vaughan, J. B. Loving and Mrs. Louise Hall. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

Survivors include two sons, Retired Chief Master Sgt. Gary J. Moser of Conway, South Carolina and Larry L. Moser and wife Eleanor, of Red Springs; two daughters, Rowena M. Smith and husband Tommy, and Teresa M. Wilson and husband Ronald, all of Raeford; two brothers, Odell Fain of Elkin and Billy Fain of Pinnacle; two sisters, Myrtle Hicks and Ethel Rachel, both of Pinnacle; grandchildren, Ken Moser, Christy Trechill and Elizabeth Pierce; three great-grandchildren; five step great-grandchildren.

Crumpler Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Raeford served the family.

John D. McKeithan
John Daniel "JD" McKeithan, 83, of Mt. Gilead, formerly of Southern Pines, died Saturday, June 1, 2002 in Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Mr. McKeithan was born in Raeford to the late John A. and Emma Core McKeithan. He and his wife owned and operated McKeithan Funeral Home and Ambulance Service in Southern Pines from 1959 until his retirement in 1984. He moved to Mt. Gilead where he worked with his son, Bill, at McKeithan Funeral Home in Mt. Gilead until 2001. He was a member of the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association, First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Gilead, and formerly of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, June 3 in Boles Funeral Home and Crematory Inc. in Southern Pines with a 3:30 graveside service in the Raeford Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Margaret Branton McKeithan; two sons, Jim McKeithan of Millford, New Jersey and Bill McKeithan of Mt. Gilead; two daughters, Ann Campbell of Aberdeen and Beverly Daly of Greensboro; one brother, Julian McKeithan of Leland; 10 grandchildren, Billy, Susan, Vinita, Chuck, Brad, Kelley, Kristin, Colin, Caroline and Eric; and three great-grandchildren.

dren, Ashley, Gabrielle, and Meredith. Memorials may be made to the Roy Hinson Cancer Center C/O Stanley Memorial Hospital, 301 Yadkin St., Albemarle, N.C. 28001.

Annie B. Bratcher
Ms. Annie B. Bratcher, 67, of Raeford, died Thursday, May 30, 2002 in her home.

Funeral services were conducted at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 4 in Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church held by Sherman Brooks. Burial was in Highland Biblical Gardens.

Survivors include one son, Larry Bratcher of Raeford; six daughters, Brenda Clegg, Sarah Ross, Marshall Bratcher, Debra Bratcher and Kathy Bratcher, all of Raeford, and Lindora Bratcher of Fayetteville; two sisters, Lula B. Murchison of Washington, D.C. and Dorine Davis of Columbus, Ohio; 26 grandchildren; and 37 great grandchildren.

Doby Funeral Home in Raeford served the family.

Mary F. Smith
Mrs. Mary Frances Smith, 61, of Raeford, died Thursday, May 30, 2002, in Cape Fear Medical Center in Fayetteville.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 4 in Friendship Grove Free Will Baptist Church held by Bishop R. L. Douglas. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include her husband, James E. Smith; one son, James C. Smith of Raeford; one daughter, Tracy Smith of Henderson; three brothers, John H. McArn, William H. McArn and Albert J. McArn, all of Raeford; three sisters, Christina McArn, Lee Ester Fields, and Dequilla Purcell, all of Raeford; and three grandchildren.

Doby Funeral Home in Raeford served the family.

Around town

(Continued from page 1A)

In Raeford and Hoke County and others who are natives or have lived in Raeford. I understand that donations in memory and honor of local citizens have already been received at City Hall.

I have received letters from out-of-state people who can't come to the reception, but are looking forward to visiting the museum at a later date. I hope a large crowd will show up for the reception. The committee has worked hard.

Another event is the Dr. Bob Townsend Scholarship Golf Tournament at Bayonet Friday, July 26. More about this later.

Do you like to hear church music? If you do, mark your calendar and go to the Raeford Presbyterian Church on Monday, June 10. The program begins at 7 p.m. The Youth Choir of the First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida will give a concert. This youth choir is traveling up the east coast and giving concerts at many churches. So go and enjoy good musicians and enjoy the fellowship of the Presbyterians.

This item would not have appeared in this column a few years ago. Tuesday I attended a political rally at Clayton Buoyers' pond for Congressman Robin Hayes.

There was a large crowd on hand and most of them were Democrats. As you know, Hayes is our Republican Congressman.

I saw two former county chairmen and a former secretary of the Hoke Democratic Party there. Most of the people in attendance were impressed with the remarks made by the congressman.

How the politics of many people in Hoke County have changed over the past few years!

Raz Autry was by the house last week and we were talking about his peach crop and other crops. As most of us know, we need rain. Many people ask me each year when Raz's peaches will be ripe and when he will open his stand. When I asked him he said that it would be between July 1 and 5. So I imagine other peach growers will also open about this same time.

Last Saturday Julian McKeithan, a native of Raeford, of Leland, stopped by the house. You could tell by his looks that he was worried and very emotional. He said his brother, J.D., was in critical condition at Moore Regional Hospital.

In the Sunday morning daily paper, I read where J.D. had died Saturday. J.D. was the son of the late John and Emma McKeithan of Raeford. They lived in the house at the corner of E. Prospect Avenue and N. Jackson Street. J.D. had funeral homes for many years in Southern Pines and Mt. Gilead. His funeral was in Southern Pines and he was buried in the Raeford Cemetery. We offer sympathy to his family.

Will we have an election this year? The district maps have been drawn twice, by the legislature and by the judge that said they were wrong. Now the state Attorney General has appealed the judges' decision. Let's hope that a decision will soon be made. Newspapers and television stations are losing advertisement money. Also, the roadside signs will be destroyed before we vote.

Who would have thought some years ago that the Stanley Cup would come to North Carolina? In a couple of weeks we will know if it does come to North Carolina. I don't want to be in Raleigh! I can't imagine folks here going so crazy over ice hockey!

HealthKeeperz Celebrates National Nursing Assistants Week June 6 - 13, 2002

HealthKeeperz wishes to spotlight our Great American Caregivers in our Hoke County office as well as all our nursing assistants in each county we serve. Thanks for working hard and providing quality care to our clients.

Hoke County and Raeford Nursing Assistants

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Betty Bennett | Margaret Johnson | Brenda McPhaul |
| Everest Brickhouse | Debbie Jones | Connie McQueen |
| Annie Campbell | Mary Jones | Juliet McRae |
| Emma Carpenter | Etherine King | Juanita Murchison |
| Shemika Chavis | Lily Leslie | Betty Oxendine |
| Pamela Clark | Stephanie Lilly | Mioshi Patterson |
| Lyndora Cole | Zearrie Lilly | Charlene Purcell |
| Dazza Conely | April Locklear | Frances Purcell |
| Sonya Daniels | Betty Locklear | Audrey Rogers |
| Lucy Dial | Melissa Locklear | Matilda Sanders |
| Eloise Everett | Tora Locklear | Dorothy Shaw |
| Rhonda Ewing | Linda Long | Deldrea Shaw-Hamilton |
| Joyce Faircloth | Crystal Lowery | Daisey Singletary |
| Tasha Gillispie | Marion Lowery | Linda Smith |
| Tonya Gillis | Angela Loyd | Vicky Stackhouse |
| Christina Gray | Tyesha Mack | Kathleen Talbot |
| Tabetha Hailey | Phylcia McGeachy | Gary Tillman |
| Carolyn Harris | Shaunye McLean | Delores Williams |
| Vanessa Hobson | Mary McNeil | |

Corporate
PO Box 1030 Pembroke, NC 28372
1 (800) 309-3784

Administration
107 Howard Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0001 • Fax (910) 521-1049

Marketing
102 Howard Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-8466 • Fax (910) 522-8469
admin@healthkeeperz.com

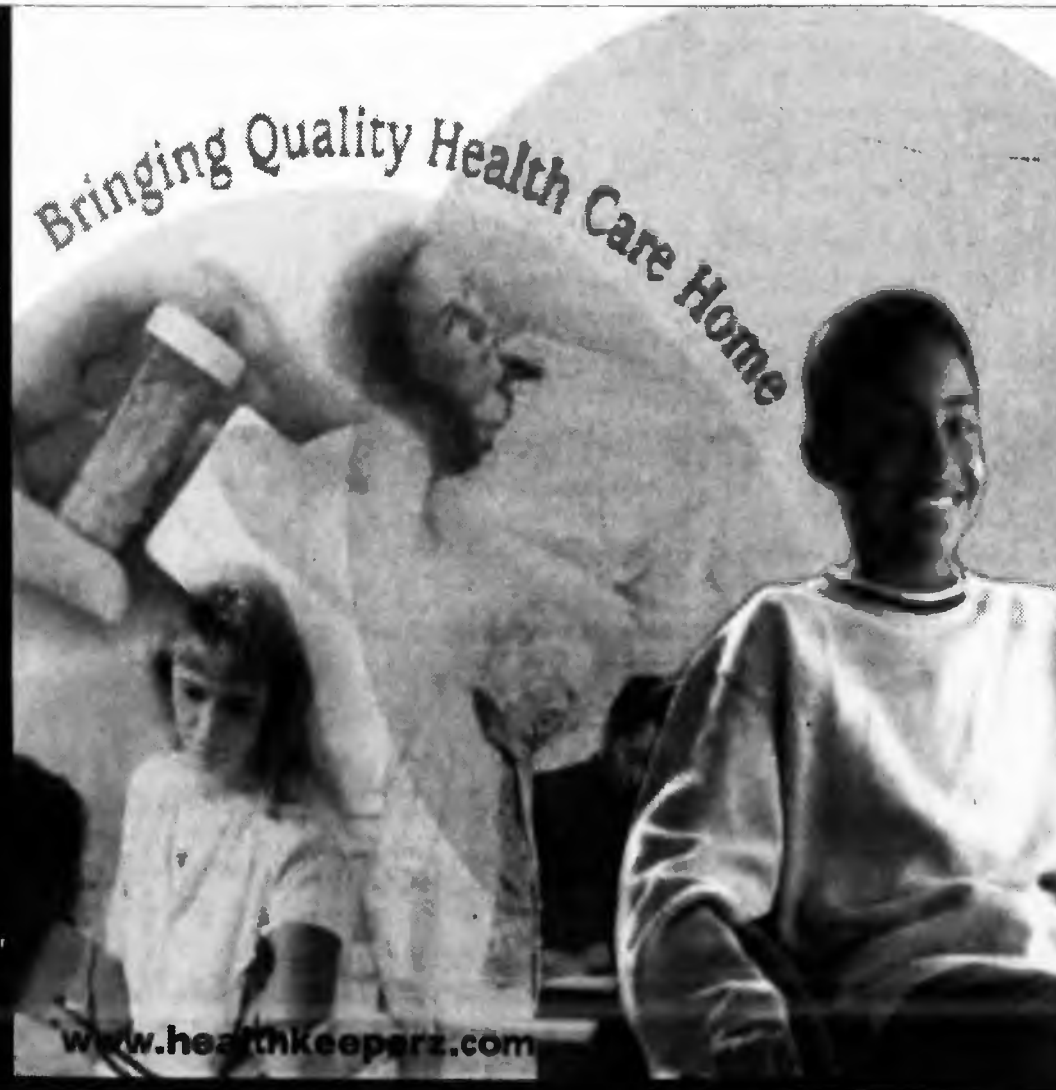
Pharmacy Services
509 West Third Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0002 • Fax (910) 521-2850
pharmacy@healthkeeperz.com

Home Medical Equipment
304 Normal Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0009 • Fax (910) 521-5654
hme@healthkeeperz.com

Respiratory Care Services
102 Howard Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0004 • Fax (910) 522-0005
rsp@healthkeeperz.com

Personal Care Services
508 East Third Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0010 • Fax (910) 521-3411
114 East Elwood Avenue, Raeford, NC 28376
Tel (910) 875-6010 • Fax (910) 875-8152
613 S. Madison Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
Tel (910) 642-3799 • Fax (910) 642-9373

Home Health Services
508 East Third Street, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tel (910) 522-0010 • Fax (910) 521-3411
nursing@healthkeeperz.com



STOP ARSON
Call 1-800-334-3000

HEALTHKEEPERZ
Southeastern NC's premier Home Health Services provider

www.healthkeeperz.com