

Christmas set at Hope Plantation

Hope Plantation will welcome the holiday season with a Christmas Candlelight Tour on Sunday, December 6th from one to six in the afternoon. Adding to the holiday atmosphere, the Bertie Senior High Chorus under the direction of Fonda Sanderlin, will perform at 4:00 p.m. Hot spiced cider and ginger cookies will be served in the Museum Shop.

"Christmas at Hope Plantation" will give visitors a glimpse of an early 19th century Christmas. Hope (c.1803) and the 1763 King-Bazemore House will be decorated with materials native to eastern North Carolina. There will be an admission charge.

A Holiday Tea Room will be open from December 7th through 12th in the Museum Shop. A selection of delicious homemade baked goods will be available by the slice or in their entirety and coffee will be served. The public is invited to browse in the Museum Shop when they visit the Tea Room.

Other special events during Christ-

mas at Hope will include a Clarinet Concert, presented by Eugene Jones the Visiting Artist at the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, on Wednesday, December 9th at 12 noon in the drawing room at Hope. On December 12th, Louise Anderson, Visiting Artist at Martin Community College in Williamston, will present a Children's Story Hour at 10:00 a.m. in the Hope drawing room. These two programs are open to members of Hope Foundation at no charge to non-members for the cost of a membership. Reservations are also required.

The public is invited to visit Hope Plantation during this special holiday season. The site is located 4 miles west of Windsor, N.C. on NC Route 308. Hope is open for guided tours, Monday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Hope Plantation will close for the season on December 23rd. For more information contact: Hope Plantation, P. O. Box 601, Windsor, N.C. 27983 or (919) 794-3140.

Museum establishes new building fund

Elizabeth City, N.C.—The Museum of the Albemarle recently announced the establishment of a Building Fund. The Guild of Museum Friends and the Board of Trustees have supported this move and numerous contributions from both organizations and individuals have been made to the fund to date. In fact, over \$300 have been contributed.

We extend an invitation to the community to make similar contributions

to the Building Fund, whenever appropriate, whether made in honor of a living person, as a living memorial or just a gift to the Museum of the Albemarle. During the Christmas season, any contributions made to the Building Fund through December 31st will be represented with a wrapped present, complete with the contributors name, and if appropriate the memorialized person. A contribution to our Building Fund will mean a Merry Christmas for the museum.

Dogwood extension club holds meeting

The Dogwood Homemakers Extension Club met at Corky Miller's home with Mrs. Miller, president, presiding.

Modpodge baskets were made by members present. These baskets will be used to take sunshine baskets to our shut-in members at Christmas.

The clubs annual Christmas party will be held December 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Coinjock. Gifts will be exchanged by secret pals and new secret pals for 1988 will be drawn. All members are asked to bring a covered dish. Members, bring your families and enjoy an evening out.

The members prepared cupcakes

for the Bloodmobile held recently. Several members helped with the Social Services Food Distribution and the Bloodmobile.

The Dogwood Club won the Best Club of the Year award, and the Best Scrapbook, at the Achievement Night. Rachel Robinson, Annie Sawyer, Connie Brice, and Corky Miller received perfect attendance certificates and several members received reading certificates. Mrs. Brice and Mrs. Miller helped with decorating the CCHS Dining area for the Farm City Banquet.

The next meeting will be January 13, 1988. Call Mrs. Miller for more information.

Local American legion auxiliary holds meeting

The American Legion Auxiliary met recently at the Post Home in Coinjock, with Vice Pres. Joan McCleery presiding.

New members were initiated by Mrs. Lue Stollings, Past Pres. of Unit 288, and Dept. AIA Emergency Fund member. Initiated were Erica Marsh, Jr. member of Elizabeth City, and Martha Midgett of Harbinger; Assisting Mrs. Stollings were, Mrs. McCleery, Joann Ringer, Corky Miller, Connie Brice, Evelyn Geddings, and Ann Brimhall.

The Annual Childrens Christmas

party will be held Dec. 19, at 2:00 p.m. All children to age 12 are welcome to attend. Santa Clause will be there to give our goodings to the children and other surprises also. Ann Brimhall is chairman.

A donation was made to the SADD program at CCHS. Members were asked to begin their collection for the Social Services "Operation Santa Clause", to be held at the Post Home Dec. 15-18.

Members will have their Annual Christmas Party at the next meeting. They are asked to bring a type of finger food and a gift valued at least \$5.00 to be exchanged. For more information call Mrs. Miller at 232-2410 or Mrs. Brice at 435-6461.

The next meeting will be December 8, at 8 p.m. at the Post Home.



Dr. Chester Black, director of the North Carolina Extension Services congratulates Juanita Bailey, Perquimans County home economics agent, at the annual North Carolina Agricultural Extension Awards Program. Bailey received a state tenure award for 10 years of service.

Homeowners are urged to have heating units checked

Government safety experts are cautioning homeowners to have home central heating systems inspected this fall, even though the heat has already been turned on.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, consumers should rely on a qualified heating contractor to check the system. Regardless of the age of your system, electrical and mechanical components, including valves, thermostat controls and automatic safety switches, should be inspected. Special attention should be paid to heavy soot buildup in the furnace or its venting system.

While venting systems are not always examined during routine servicing, consumers should ask the contractor to inspect the flue and chimney. Blockages can be caused by mortar and other materials loosening from chimney walls, bird nests or other debris. Chimneys and flues should be clear at all times so exhaust gases, including carbon monoxide (CO), are properly vented outside the home. Flue and flue connections should be checked for a tight, secure fitting, and for signs of rust or corrosion which could allow exhaust gases to spill into the house.

CPSC said carbon monoxide exposure in the home is of special concern. Consumers exposed to harmful levels of CO often show symptoms similar to having flu-like illnesses, including dizziness, fatigue, headaches, irregular breathing and nausea. Exposure to continued high levels of carbon monoxide could be fatal. CPSC estimates that some 200 deaths occur each year from carbon

monoxide associated with gas heating equipment.

Homeowners who have recently converted their heating system from oil to gas also were cautioned by CPSC to have the chimney inspected. After converting to gas, soot and debris which may have accumulated over the years on chimney walls may loosen and fall; if enough falls, it could block the exhaust and cause a buildup of dangerous levels of exhaust fumes in the house. If the heating contractor finds soot in the flue, a chimney sweep should be called to clean the chimney and flue each fall until no more soot is detected.

If you plan on converting from oil to gas heat, have the chimney inspected when the new furnace is installed, and annually thereafter.

Tips on Carolina Hemlock

Two species of hemlock grow well in the Piedmont. Both are attractive, graceful and satisfactory for most yard uses.

The hemlock offered most frequently by nurserymen is *Tsuga canadensis*, Canadian hemlock, which has all the positive attributes of a fine evergreen: it grows easily, is easily sheared and forms an excellent hedge. Unfortunately, it grows quickly and sometimes takes more space and maintenance than the homeowner wants.

The other hemlock found occasionally in this area is *Tuga Carolina*, the Carolina hemlock. Although harder to find through nurseries, the search can be worth the effort. Carolina hemlock has long been prized as a yard tree. Beautiful specimens often are seen adjacent to abandoned mountain homes.

Carolina hemlocks do not grow fast as their Canadian counterparts. Their branches are stiffer, and the growth more dense. Carolina hemlock needles are darker and more intensely green. The needles also are

longer and form bristles all around the stem, unlike Canadian hemlock bristles that grow in two sections on the stems. The Carolina's cones are larger than those of the Canadian hemlock also.

Because the Carolina species is the slower of the two hemlocks, it is better suited for use in specimen plantings or for hedges that need control. For the most success in acclimatizing this hemlock, it must receive shade and adequate water after planting.

Native clumps of Carolina hemlock often are found among rhododendrons and mountain laurel.

In the mountain habitat section of the N.C. Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the two hemlocks are practically side by side and can easily be contrasted.

For those who wonder about any connection with the poison hemlock that killed Socrates, do not worry. Poison hemlock is a rank Eurasian weed in the carrot family, and bears no relation to these hemlocks.

North Carolina Power files for rate reduction

Raleigh—North Carolina Power filed a proposal with the North Carolina Utilities Commission that would lower the company's rates by 5.57 percent, or \$7.9 million, annually. The decrease would reduce a typical residential customer's monthly bill of 1,000 kilowatt hours by \$4.22, from \$76.26 to \$72.04.

The reduction, which reflects a major part of the company's savings under the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986, is the result of a series of actions by the utilities commission over the past year.

The proposed decrease continues a series of rate reductions that have already lowered the average residential bill of a North Carolina Power customer by 3.1 percent since 1984.

"This is our fourth rate reduction in four years," J. R. Frazier Jr., North Carolina Power vice president, said. "The savings for our customers add up to more than \$12.7 million—and even more if you consider that the cost of living has risen over 9 percent."

In today's filing, North Carolina Power is proposing to put a new, lower set of rates into effect for all

customers January 1, 1988, to reflect the 12 percent drop in the federal government's corporate income tax rate.

The federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 lowered corporate income tax rates from 46 to 40 percent in 1987. Starting in 1988, the 40 percent rate will be reduced to 34 percent.

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Celebration of Life

Help us reach our goal of \$6,000

A live Christmas tree on the front lawn of the hospital with hundreds of lights and topped off with a star will be lit during a special ceremony on Sunday, December 13, at 5 p.m.

Celebrate Life and show your admiration or love for someone with a Christmas light. Honor your favorite friend, teacher, babysitter, and doctor. Businesses may show their appreciation to their staffs by buying a light in the star.

Individuals or groups may purchase lights through December 31. Each tree light costs \$3.00 and a light in the star costs \$25.00 This year a special light, bought by children, will be available for \$1.00 This year's contribution to the Auxiliary will be used to buy 2 ECG monitor/recorders needed by the recovery room.

The person you honor will receive a Christmas card announcing that you have purchased a light in his or her name. Each name and contributing business will be acknowledged in the paper throughout the Christmas Season. Support your hospital and buy a light for someone special.

To purchase a light, fill out the coupon below and mail it with your check to:

Sharman Haskett
Chowan Hospital Auxiliary
P.O. Box 629
Edenton, N.C. 27932

You are cordially invited to the lighting ceremony on December 13 at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the classroom of the hospital.

For further information call:
Chowan Hospital, 482-8451, Extension 200

★ Forms are available at area medical offices, businesses, the post office, and the library.

Your Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for the purchase of _____ Christmas tree lights at \$1.00, \$3.00 or Christmas tree star lights at \$25.00

Each purchase in the name of; or in the memory of (Please place check mark in appropriate box.)

Please send acknowledgement card to:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

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The election of officers and directors of Farm Bureau and delegates to the national convention is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, December 8. Registration for the convention begins Sunday, December 6, at 1:00 p.m. at the Grove Park Inn.