



Lib Stewart

In Washington, D.C. a calendar isn't necessary to tell when it's Leap Year. Just remember the rhyme: Thirty days hath September, April, June and November, all the rest have 31 except for Election Year That's the time when February's days are 29.

Arlene (Mrs. J.D.) Barrett and I were in the nation's capital during the recent weekend to attend the 1984 Awareness Assembly which featured a keynote address by President Ronald Reagan. Last year, when we were three, the Auxiliary delegates went to the White House for a tea with Mrs. Reagan and a brief address by the President. This year, The President came to the Washington Hilton and addressed the 600 delegates in the International Ballroom. We don't know if his appearance before the world's largest patriotic organization had anything to do with politics, but out of 64 invitations the President received this week to address meetings underway in D.C. he chose four groups to speak before the Auxiliary was one of them.

The Auxiliary also heard the Vice President's wife, Barbara Bush, on Friday and went to the State Department for a briefing and to present the prestigious third annual Public Spirit Award to Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Sixteen North Carolinians attended the Assembly which focused on "The World On Your Doorstep Is Your Concern". Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. addressed the group Saturday morning and Kathleen Troia, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense of Public Affairs, was the speaker on Thursday evening.

Lt. Robert O. Goodman, the flier shot down by the Syrians and dramatically rescued by Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson, was also a keynote speaker.

Goodman, 27, seems older and more poised in his perfectly pressed Navy uniform, his dark skin striking against a crisp white shirt, he looks all American: taut body, strong jaw, closely cropped Afro, dazzling white teeth. It wasn't surprising to learn that he had once modeled for ads that appeared in Ebony and Jet.

Every once in a while American anoints a national hero, an event that sometimes says less about that person's achievements and more about the patriotism that can be found in this country. Goodman, who knows he did nothing more than his job, and who in fact did nothing more than survive, may have been as much a hero for the graceful, articulate control he showed under pressures of the public and press.

The Washington Post featured Goodman in a feature, "An Officer and Gentleman" and used his picture atop the wing of an airplane and the caption, "Out of the Glare of a Hero's Welcome The Navy Man waits For His Next Test." He's back home in Hangar 122 at the Naval Air Station Oceana, trying to settle down after his celebrated release from Syrian captivity. The rest of his squadron is still stationed off the Lebanese coast.

Goodman's squadron won't be back until May. He reports to the base most days but spends a lot of time making public appearances and speaking to ROTC groups. The Navy is delighted with their minority spokesman, he said.

Buy back to Leap Year. Leap Day was not created, as rumor has it, to give women one day out of 1,461 to chase men (who need a special day for that) even though the town of Aurora, Ill. deputizes single women and allows them to arrest bachelors, fine \$4, every Feb. 29.

The origins of Leap Day are far more scientific. Leap Day was designed to avert precisely the kind of disaster we now face, time slipping out of joint. Throughout history astronomers have struggled to create a calendar that is the same length as the cycle of the seasons. And it's not easy.

Julius Caesar, being an honorable man, tried to get the calendar into seasonal sync in 46 B.C. Up until then, a committee of priests tossed a few leap days or leap months into theyear at their whim.

So if you think time flies fast as you get older, you are right. Today's year is about nine seconds shorter than it was when lions dined on Christians.

The most popular calendar innovations let you know what day of the week any particular date falls on without having to look it up.

For example: Thirteen months of four seven day weeks always start on Sunday. The leftover day is a holiday. The second is always a Monday, the 18th is always a Wednesday, the 24th is always a Tuesday. But the 13th is always a Friday.

Board Discusses 12 Areas For Improvement

The Kings Mountain School Board Monday night discussed with Superintendent William Davis 12 areas it wants improved during the next year.

The list includes some items, such as promoting guidance and counseling services in grades kindergarten through five, which will depend on whether or not the county commissioners approve all the funds requested for the 1984-85 budget.

Other improvements suggested would not require additional funds. The board suggested that Davis set the time frames for ac-

INSURANCE WOMEN

Roger White, of the Gaston County Department of Mental Health, will be guest speaker at the March meeting of Gaston County Association of Insurance Women on Tuesday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Western Sizzlin Steak House on Highway 321 in Gastonia. White will speak on the warning signals of depression and other mental health problems.

JOINT SERVICE

A joint Sunday evening worship service will be held by congregations of Second Baptist and First Wesleyan Methodist Churches Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at the Wesleyan Church. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper will be observed.

complishing the goals, but suggested completing as many as possible by March of 1985.

The areas of improvement include:

- 1 - Promote guidance and counseling services in grades K-5.
- 2 - Raise performance expectations of students.
- 3 - Articulate the gains made in reading programs in grades K-7 with grades 8-12.
- 4 - Establish more consistency of administration in school board policy.
- 5 - Improve public relations.
- 6 - Minimize the loss of teaching and learning time by eliminating early dismissal of high school students except for workers and extreme hardship cases.
- 7 - On the junior-senior high level, articulate more effectively the inter-scholastic sports program with the rest of the school programs.
- 8 - Do a policy study to determine if any policies are irrelevant.
- 9 - Make an appropriate response to the state accreditation study which recommended 58 areas of improvement.
- 10 - Update personnel procedures.
- 11 - Implement interpretation of the annual financial audit.
- 12 - Keep school board better informed regarding the status of facilities.



PRESIDENT REAGAN ADDRESSES AUXILIARY—President Ronald Reagan was the keynote speaker at the American Legion Auxiliary Awareness Assembly in Washington.

D.C. last week. The crowd of reporters are pictured in front of the podium. Over 600 women attended the national meeting.

Grover Projects On Go

From Page 1-A

to be about \$100,000 when completed. McCarter said that local citizens cut pulpwood from the land this year. Board members looked at plans for the development at Monday's meeting.

McCarter estimated that the park would be playable for daylight use by 1985.

Survey crews have been in Grover for the past few weeks mapping sewer line locations and running elevations. said McCarter.

In other actions: The Board unanimously appointed Don Rich, of 101 Brookside Drive in Spring Acres, to replace Commissioner Dennis McDaniel on the Board. Rich, an employee of Overnight Trucking in the Gaffney, S.C. terminal, is a deacon in Grover First Baptist Church. Mrs. Rich is employed by Southern Bell in Gastonia.

The Board drew criticism from former alderman Juanita Pruette and former alderman Martha Byers, also an unsuccessful candidate for mayor, for "going outside and appointing

someone who did not run for the office in the recent elections." Both Mrs. Pruette and Tony Anthony ran unsuccessfully for the office in November. Mrs. Pruette said that "next highest votegetter should have been selected" and Mrs. Byers and Mrs. Mary Lou Adkins agreed. Mayor McCarter defended the Board's action and said that it had not been Board policy in recent years to appoint one of the unsuccessful candidates. The only criteria is that the person chosen be a registered voter of Grover, he said.

Rich will serve until the 1985 elections when Grover will elect four commissioners. The three highest vote getters will be elected to four year terms and the fourth highest will serve a two year term.

Because of a legislative change, the new member would not serve out the full term of McDaniel.

The Board reiterated its opposition to a proposed change by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners in the sales tax distribution system. McCarter said a change in the distribution

method would cut about \$7,000 or 51 percent from the town's present share of the county sales tax money. Mayor McCarter said he attended a meeting of county mayors recently in Polkville protesting the change.

After an executive session to discuss water department personnel, Mayor McCarter announced that the board is hiring Hoyt Brooks on a full-time basis as meter reader and maintenance inspector for the water and sewer departments. In a related action, the board agreed to purchase meter boxes, meters and connectors at cost of \$600 to serve five houses outside the city.

Town Clerk Laura Mellon reported that she had written letters to delinquent utility accounts and reported that 70 percent of past due accounts were collected. The Board authorized her to continue the policy of sending out second notices to water customers.

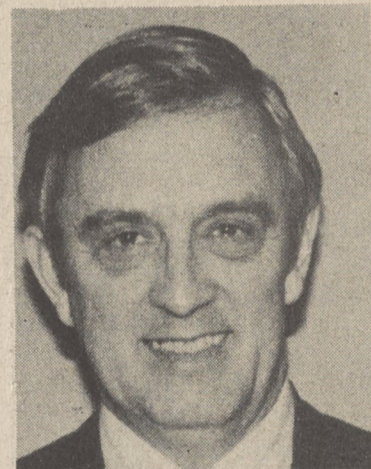
The Board designated the week of April 8-14 as Clean Up Week in Grover and authorized a heavy trash pickup on April 13.

Rev. Looney Elected

Rev. Ken Looney was elected chairman of the Kings Mountain Cemetery Committee at an organizational meeting of the mayoral committee recently.

Mrs. Gerry Werner will serve as secretary of the group which meets weekly on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

At the organizational meeting Mayor John Moss explained the need for an in-depth study which would address the short and long term needs of the city with respect to the cemetery situation. The city is committed, he said, to perpetual care. Mayor Moss noted that cemetery privileges extend to those living within the Kings Mountain School District, thus the committee is dealing with a population of 35,000 as compared to 10,000. He charged the committee with exploring all aspects of expansion, land acquisition,



KEN LOONEY

alternate procedures for interment, fees structure, etc. not only for the immediate future but far into the next century. Moss asked that this committee submit a written report of their recommendations within 30-60 days.

Ken Jenkins, cemetery superintendent, displayed a map

of the new part of the cemetery and explained that at the present rate of use the cemetery will have only four more years of unsold lots available. Many of the large lots are held by absentee owners.

Chairman Looney requested that city commissioner Curtis Gaffney contact other municipalities of similar size where the city has undertaken perpetual care and determine how they were handling their expansion problems.

Chairman Looney asked Bennett Masters to explore the use of alternate interment forms such as mausoleums, particularly where a chapel might be included in the structure.

Other members of the committee include George H. Mauney, Senator Ollie Harris, Jonas Bridges, Commissioner Corbet Nicholson and Lib Stewart.

Police Investigating Rash Of Vandalism

Wrecks

City police are investigating five accidents which occurred in the city limits during the past week.

Cars operated by Minniea McClain, 521 Baker St., and Coraine Covington, Route 3, Bessemer City, collided in South

Piedmont Ave. March 1 at 2:55 p.m. doing approximately \$300 to the Covington 1975 Ford and \$10 to McClain Pontiac.

Alvin Scott Falls, 109 Marigold Ave., operating a 1976 Jeep, and Charles Parker, 704 Landing St., operating a 1979 Chevy, were involved in a colli-

KM Youth Killed

From Page 1-A

Carson's Place looking for a man of Dallas. An argument ensued, according to officers, and they were ordered to leave the tavern. According to the investigating officers, the argument spilled over into the parking lot. Three hours later, the shooting incident occurred, according to investigators.

The Griffin brothers were first charged with assault and battery with intent to kill. The

charge was changed to murder on Wednesday morning and the pair was jailed in Cleveland County jail.

The Mecklenburg Medical Examiners Office said that the boy's body would be returned to York County, S.C. where the incident occurred and where the investigation into the death was continuing Wednesday afternoon.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements, which are incomplete.