



RUNNER-UP - Pictured above is the Rotary Club team which finished second place in the recent Dixie Youth Campaign in Kings Mountain. Front row, left to right, Travis Queen, Timmy Harrelson, Brian Ware, Dwayne Patterson and Deshon Hicks. Second row, Josh Newton, Dale Wilson, Bobby Petterson, Kyle Sellers, Brian Leftwich and Kelly Ware. Back row, coaches James Harrelson, Ray Lightsey and John Queen.

Short Session Is Over

RALEIGH — The gavels fell at 8:05 p.m. Tuesday and the 1987 General Assembly adjourned its 1988 session just 28 days after it convened.

During the short session, legislators introduced 804 bills and resolutions, most of which dealt with fine-tuning the state's two-year budget. At session's end, 245 bills and resolutions had been ratified, or signed into law by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House.

Other matters dealt with in the 1988 session include economic development, the nursing shortage, taxes, the aging, driving while intoxicated, disposal of hazardous and low-level radioactive waste, and latchkey children.

The 1989 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly will convene at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 11.

Old Movies Of Area Slated At Webb Theatre

—Before VCRs. Before Steven Spielberg. Before "Dirty Dancing." Even before "The Little Rascals" — there was H. Lee Waters and his movies. Waters is a photographer who traveled to Gastonia and more than 100 other North Carolina cities during the 1930s and 1940s making movies of ordinary citizens.

The movies he made of Gastonia in 1937 and again in 1940 will be shown publicly for the first time in more than 40 years on July 21 at 8 p.m. at PlayStreet (formerly Webb Theater). First American Savings Bank, FSB is sponsoring the public showing, which is free to the public. Refreshments will be provided to enjoy during the movie.

The movie represents a brief time in the history of movie making when the men, women, and children on the streets of Gastonia became the stars of the show. The movie feature footage, much of it in color, of Gastonia's trolley cars, Cox Drug Store, youth groups at school playgrounds, Jolly Hotel, Firestone Mill, Summerow Furniture Company, and many more vintage scenes of Gastonia's people during the Depression era.

For six years, between 1936 and 1942, Waters traveled to small towns and cities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. His Pontiac was equipped with loudspeakers and brightly-colored banners announcing the arrival of a professional cameraman to each city that he visited. It took him two or three days in each city to film a movie. During this time, he usually shot footage at public buildings, neighborhoods, school yards, mills, or any other gathering place where he could find a local face.

Waters would return to the town about two weeks later to show his movie at the local theaters. He tacked his footage on as the second part of a scheduled double feature and was paid on a percentage basis from admission ticket proceeds. His movies were shown along with regular features which had stars such as Hoot Gibson, Clark Gable, Myrna Loy, and Norma Shearer.

Waters, now 85, still operates his photography studio at the same Lexington location where he has had his business for more than 60 years. He said, "Theater managers were some of the nicest people to meet. We sometimes filmed three or four times in the same town. And we would pack the theater every time." He noted that most people at that time had never seen themselves in any kind of motion picture. Waters said, "Seeing yourself in the movies was the thrill of a lifetime for people during the Depression."

"I didn't make a lot of money making movies, but then if you made any money at all during those times, you were lucky," he recalled. "I did it as much for the good times I had as any money I made."

Waters came to the towns armed with the top-of-the-line equipment. He had the best 16mm movie camera that Eastman-Kodak made at the time. The photographer was proficient with the equipment and punctuated the films with in-camera effects, such as fast motion, slow motion, trains disappearing behind telephone poles, split-screen scenes, and reverse action.

Motion pictures with sound had been available for about 10 years when Waters began his work. His movie camera made silent movies, so he played popular records in the theaters while showing the movies.

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