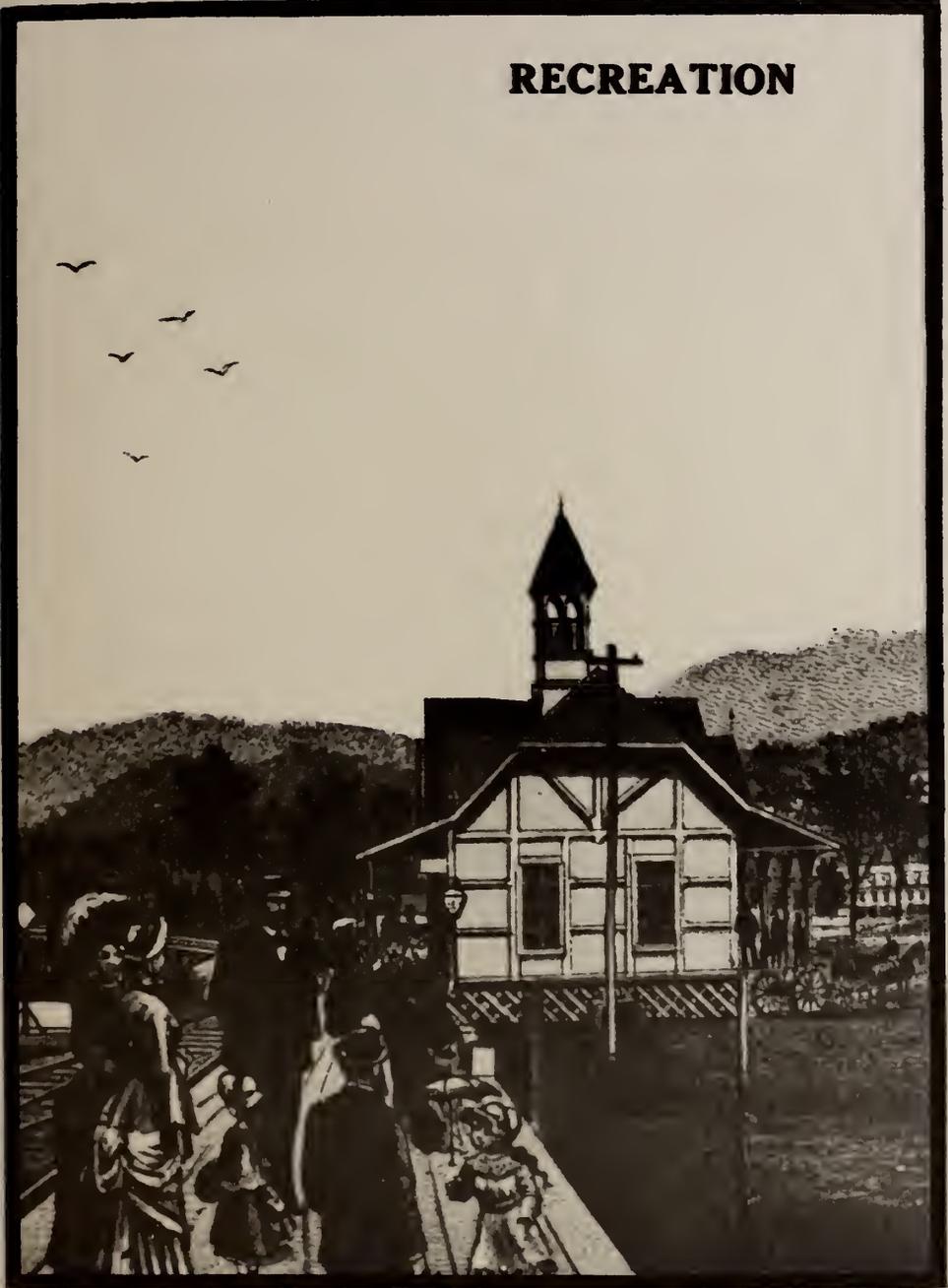


**RECREATION**



**tar heel  
junior historian**

May, 1974

# Charter Charlie's Chats

Twenty-six new clubs with 720 members joined the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association in 1974. The year closes with a total of sixty-one clubs and 2,100 members—the largest association membership in the past six years! **MANY THANKS** to all of you whose contributions appeared in the magazine as well as those who worked on contest entries or special projects in visual history or service hours. We've enjoyed working with all of you and look forward to having you with us as club members next year.

The Third Tar Heel Junior Historian Day was held on Friday, May 17, with Mrs. James E. Holshouser, Jr. as the featured speaker.

Junior Historians from Albemarle, Edenton, Henderson, Lucama, and Salisbury took top honors in the twelfth annual Tar Heel Junior Historian Literary and Arts Contest sponsored by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. **CONGRATULATIONS** to all for the fine research and beautiful arts projects.

Visual history and service hours projects received special attention from the Bloomsbury Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, Raleigh. This group presented two copies of *The North Carolina Gazetteer* to the History Seekers of Albemarle Junior High in recognition of their outstanding work in Visual History and to the Yadkinville Tar Heel Junior Historians for their Community Service Hours project. The club from Yadkinville Elementary assisted the Yadkin County Historical Society with the restoration of an old school house; their project is described on page 15.

Topics for the four issues of the magazine this coming year follow: **SEPTEMBER**, "Archaeology in North Carolina"; **DECEMBER**, "Moravians"; **FEBRUARY**, "Prelude to Revolution" (events in North Carolina leading to the Halifax Resolves, April 12, 1776); and **MAY**, "North Carolina Governors." This summer is a good time to draft an article, write a poem, draw a cartoon, or make up a crossword puzzle on one of the topics for next year. Each junior historian whose work appears in the *Tar Heel Junior Historian* will receive a special THJH plaque.

The twelfth annual Junior Historian Directors' Conference will convene in Augusta, Maine, June 12-15. The program will emphasize cable and video tape programs as well as the American Revolution Bicentennial. Your executive secretary will report on the meeting in the September issue of THJH.



## IN THIS ISSUE

the *Tar Heel Junior Historian* examines various forms of recreation. The articles treat popular forms of recreation that have been enjoyed by North Carolinians since the colonial days. The staff hopes you will find this issue interesting and trusts you will become more acquainted with North Carolina's many recreational attractions this summer.

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May, 1974

VOL. 13, NO. 4

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Cover: Warm Springs Station and Hotel

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*Tar Heel Junior Historian* is published four times during the school year by the Division of Archives and History. Copies are provided free to club members. Individual and Library subscriptions may be purchased at the rate of \$1.00 per year.

Illustrated by: John D. Ellington  
James R. Vogt

Photography by: Division of Archives and History. Photo on page 6 from *They Were There* and photos on page 7 from *A Pictorial History of the Confederacy*.

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## Introducing North Carolina

Charles Heatherly  
Publications Editor  
Travel and Promotion Division  
Department of Natural and Economic Resources

Which do you like best—the mountains, the coast, or something in between? Take your choice; North Carolina has them all. It is a fun state for the summertime. Nowhere else in the country can you find such a variety of places to visit during your vacation.

Beginning with the east, there are more than 300 miles of beautiful beaches along the coast of North Carolina. Each summer the story of the first English settlement in America is retold in the outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, at Manteo. Nearby on the Outer Banks are such interesting places as Kitty Hawk, where Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1903 flew the first powered aircraft, and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the tallest brick lighthouse in America. A climb to the top offers a breathtaking view of the land and sea.

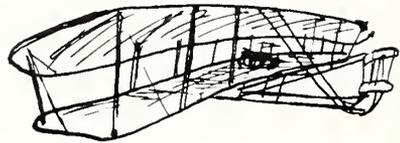
The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is the nation's most visited national seashore. Here you may camp, hike, or just stroll along the quiet, undeveloped beach.

Among the many small communities to be found along the coast are Rodanthe, Buxton, Avon, Beaufort, Southport, Yaupon Beach,



**Cape Hatteras**  
First National Seashore

### **Kitty Hawk** Site of Man's First Flight



Sunset Beach, and Calabash—each with its rich heritage and its individual history. Ocracoke, once a haven for Blackbeard, is now a quiet fishing village but just as enchanting to modern visitors as it was to pirates.

If you don't like salt water or you've already had enough sand between your toes, perhaps you should visit the Piedmont section of North Carolina this year. In the capital city of Raleigh, many attractions await your visit. The Capitol, the North Carolina Museum of History, the North Carolina Museum of Art, as well as the Natural History Museum, are some of the highlights. Here, too, is the house in which President Andrew Johnson was born. The simple, two-story dwelling will be moved this summer to Morehead Square where it will be part of the historic park. It is presently located on the North Carolina State University campus.

The Morehead Planetarium at Chapel Hill, the first in the South, features lectures on the solar system and elaborate programs created to suit the season. Its facilities have been used for training astronauts and others in the space program. The Museum of Life and Science at Durham is equally interesting to children. At Asheboro, the new state zoo is open on a limited basis. Carowinds at Charlotte provides thrills and excitement for the young and the young at heart.

You may wish to see the pottery shops around Seagrove where craftsmen will let you watch as they take a handful of clay and create a beautiful jug or pot before your eyes. Two hundred years ago, the Moravians brought advanced technology to Salem. They had running water and were skilled gunsmiths, tinsmiths, cabinetmakers, and potters. Today you may see the village at Winston-Salem much as it was then.

The mountains of North Carolina, highest in eastern United States, are a unique recreational center. Mount Mitchell at 6,684 feet is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River. Along the crests of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains National Park is also the nation's most popular national park. In the late spring and early summer, native wild flowers of the mountain-side burst forth in fragrant, colorful array. Again in autumn, there is another magnificent splash of color.

At Boone each summer, the story of Daniel Boone and his trail-blazing ventures through the wilderness is replayed at the outdoor drama, *Horn in the West*. Nearby

are many attractions: Land of Oz, Tweetsie Railroad, and Grandfather Mountain. At Cherokee, Oconaluftee Village presents an insight into the life style and folklore of the proud, self-reliant Cherokee Indians. Each summer the outdoor drama, *Unto These Hills*, tells the sad story of the history of the Cherokee nation.

Hunting for gems—emeralds, sapphires, rubies, and even gold—has become a popular pastime in this state. Thousands of rockhounds flock to Hiddenite near Statesville, Spruce Pine, and Franklin each year to hunt for precious stones.

No matter what you're seeking in the way of recreation, North Carolina has a great deal to offer. There are more than 350 campgrounds in North Carolina. For specific information on camping, rockhounding, hiking, and attractions, write: Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources, Travel and Promotion Division, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

Happy traveling this summer!

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This issue of the *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine marks the end of an era. Since its authorization by the 1953 North Carolina General Assembly, the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association has been guided and promoted by a person who felt that the youth of North Carolina should have wider opportunities to learn and love their state and local history. With the growth of the club program over the past twenty years, the association expanded its horizons to include an annual statewide arts and literary contest, a magazine on North Carolina history written for and by club members, and visual history and service to the community projects. Junior historians have received national recognition for their valuable contributions to state and local history from the American Association for State and Local History. All these benefits have occurred through the tireless efforts and perseverance

of the one who served as FIRST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association from 1953 through 1972. Her interest in the organization has continued despite the demands of her position since 1973 as assistant director of the Division of Archives and History. The association will miss her upon her retirement in June.

The club members, advisers, and association staff members send their best wishes and a much deserved

THANK YOU, JOYE E. JORDAN!

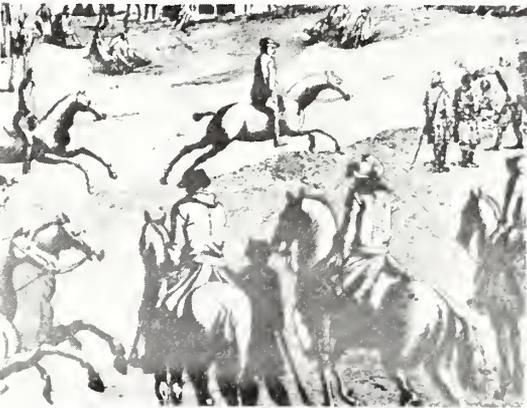


## Recreation in Colonial North Carolina

Alan D. Watson  
Assistant Professor  
History Department  
UNC-Wilmington

Recreation in colonial North Carolina consisted of those sports, games, and pastimes which the provincials or their forefathers had enjoyed in Europe or which were the product of the special circumstances of New World life. Recreation was valued in the rural colony of North Carolina not only as a rest from work but also as a means of socializing. Women engaged in quilting bees and spinning matches which passed the time and improved their skills in those necessary household arts. Men gathered for log-rollings, house-raisings, and corn-shuckings.

Any occasion which brought people together—elections, militia musters, and social gatherings—provided an opportunity for competitive games. Among the favorite outdoor sports were foot-races, jumping and wrestling contests, and quoits, which was a game similar to horseshoes. Some colonials played “cambuc” or “goff” (a kind of golf) and “fives,” a type of hand tennis. Boys shot marbles, pitched coppers (pennies), and skipped tops.



Horse racing



Bowls and skittles or ninepins provided many hours of entertainment for the colonials. The object of the first game was to roll the bowls (small balls) near a stationary ball called a jack. In skittles, also played outdoors, the object was to roll a ball down a track or lane in order to knock down a number of pins. The number was nine in the colonial period. Thus the game was known as ninepins, and only a little change was necessary to produce the modern game of bowling.

An emphasis on physical strength in frontier life led to contests in such events as long bullets, hurling the tomahawk, and throwing the rail. Long bullets was a sport which involved slinging an iron ball weighing several pounds from a leather strap so that it rolled through a marked goal. Andrew Jackson was a reputed champion of the game. Throwing the rail was not new to North Carolinians; Scottish colonists brought the activity of “tossing the caber (tree trunk)” with them to America.

Outdoor recreation also included fishing and hunting. Yet, fish and game were so plentiful that the element of sportsmanship was lost. In fact, hunting was more a business than a sport. The exportation of deerskins was a major enterprise in the colony, while the government paid bounties for the

killing of wolves, panthers, wildcats, and other "vermin." Nevertheless, a by-product of hunting, marksmanship, was easily converted into a competitive activity.

Dancing was a popular pastime, particularly when fiddles or bagpipes could be obtained for accompaniment. However, musical instruments were scarce and often Carolinians resorted to singing in the absence of instrumental music. The dances ranged from the stately minuets to jigs, reels, and country dances occasionally interspersed with marches.

North Carolinians seemed excessively fond of gambling. Dice, cards, billiards, chess, checkers, and backgammon found widespread favor. Among the various card games enjoyed by the colonials were whist, which was the forerunner of bridge, piquet, quadrille, and all-fours. Billiard tables beckoned to many. Francisco de Miranda, the Latin American patriot, stopped at the billiard house in Wilmington in 1783 and remarked that every town through which he had passed contained at least two or three such gaming houses. Moreover, Miranda found that Carolina wives often scolded their husbands for spending too much time at the billiard tables.

The two most popular diversions of all classes were cockfighting and horse racing. Most communities had cockpits and race tracks. When possible, Carolinians obtained their cocks from England or Ireland. Where this was impractical or impossible, they raised their own blooded stock. Cockfights were well-advertised, and on the day of battle the people came from miles around to participate in the festive, though barbarous, event.

The popularity of cockfighting was rivaled only by that of horse racing. Quarter racing, an exercise in sheer speed, was the most prevalent form of racing in the colony. Nonetheless, many towns had oval tracks as well as quarter courses. Of course, North Carolina racing did not enjoy the reputation of that in Virginia or South Carolina, but the wealthy in the colony imported European breeds and crossbred their own stock to best advantage.

The importance attached to horse racing is difficult to overemphasize. When Willie Jones of Halifax courted Sukey Cornell, he found that Sukey's father, a New Bern merchant and one of the richest men in the province, would not consent to his daughter's marrying a man who would risk a fortune on a horse race. Jones thereafter declined any further courtship since horse racing was his favorite amusement and he under no circumstances would forgo that pleasure. Racing, then, in North Carolina was frequent, competition keen, and the stakes often high. While the gentlemen bet large sums on the outcome, boys, white and black, wagered a shilling or two, a quart of rum, or even a drink of grog. Races, like cockfights, were scenes not only of betting but also of quarreling, cursing, and immoderate drinking.

Diverse forms of recreation occupied Carolinians during the colonial period. The outbreak of the American Revolution undoubtedly dampened the spirit of amusement. Yet, many of the colonial sports and games survived in one form or another. Today, a number of amusements enjoyed by Carolinians may be traced to the colonial era.



Colonial recreation  
exhibit, N. C.  
Museum of History

## Rebel Recreation

Maggie Odell  
Editorial Assistant  
Civil War Roster

Manassas, Petersburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Chickamauga—these were some of the great battles of the Civil War. Johnny Reb was called on to fight, to march many miles, and to submit himself to a regimented camp life. But his time was not all taken up in fighting, marching or drilling; in fact, he had many, many idle hours on his hands. He was young, good natured, and full of fun. How did he while away the time between battles?

The rigors of army life, especially the continual marching between camp sites, prevented the Confederate soldier from developing many well-organized diversions and activities. But the young soldier still found ways of enjoying himself, mostly in spontaneous horseplay. During a march, one soldier might cackle like a chicken and be answered by his fellow soldiers with squawks, whinnies, oinks, and moos, until the entire regiment was transformed into a barnyard of sound. Their hoisterousness also included rolling their buddies in the mud and bumping each other against trees.

Johnny Reb also loved to play jokes on comrades and tell stories about camp life. The new recruit was a popular target. A favorite trick was to put a new private on night picket duty with an unloaded rifle and strict instructions to defend his post to the death if the enemy should attack. The recruit, even though he was anxious to prove himself in combat, would usually run away most unheroically when his joke-loving buddies came charging upon him with demonic howls and shrieks. Another favorite practical joke was to “promote” an over-boastful or over-zealous new recruit to the bogus rank of fifth lieutenant.

Pompous officers or visiting civilians often would receive rough teasing from the soldiers, especially if they sported dandy



Soldier playing a cigar-box violin

moustaches, new boots, or fine clothes. A man with a neatly trimmed handlebar moustache might be urged to “take them mice out'er your mouth; take 'em out, no use to say they ain't thar, see their tails hangin' out.” Or a heavily bearded man might be asked to “Come out'er that bunch of har—I see your ears a workin.”

Sports and games were another dimension of Johnny Reb's recreation. Card games were a large part of camp life, and often groups of soldiers would while away the afternoon hours playing euchre, twenty-one, or poker. With such frequent use, cards wore out quickly, and the shortage of manufactured decks forced soldiers to make their own. Gambling was frequent, but usually the card games were played just for enjoyment.

The most common sports were those which required no equipment, such as foot-racing, wrestling, boxing, leapfrog, and hopscotch. If a regiment were camped near a river or lake during warm weather, the soldiers would enjoy swimming. Makeshift bats (fence posts) and balls made of walnuts wrapped in yarn made it possible to play baseball. When the soldiers played tenpins, they used cannonballs for the balls, and

holes in the ground represented the pins. The frequency of louse races attested to the scarcity of soap and water in many camps.

Ring tournaments, borrowed from the feudal times, were popular with the young cavalrymen. Carrying lances, the men rode their horses at full speed and tried to lance rings which were suspended from a bar from above their heads. In this contest participants displayed a steadiness of hand, a sharp eye, and mastery of their horses.

The winter was an especially boring season for the soldiers, for they were generally engaged in little fighting or marching. Camp life was particularly monotonous, and even the best-loved diversions grew dull. When the first snow fell, the soldiers eagerly staged snowball fights of monstrous proportions. Whole regiments would be pitted against each other as if in real war, with the officer commanding the action and with real wounds—black eyes, bloody noses, twisted ankles, and loosened teeth—being inflicted.

Perhaps the favorite diversion was music. Robert E. Lee recognized the importance of music in the camps and remarked, "I don't believe we can have an army without music." Johnny Reb sang with enthusiasm sentimental melodies, hymns, patriotic tunes, and parodies. When the soldier sang sentimental tunes like "Home, Sweet Home," "Lorena," "Annie Laurie," "Juanita," and "Auld Lang Syne," he was reminded of family and sweethearts. Leaving home for the war was a popular theme: "When This Cruel War is Over," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and "Just Before the Battle Mother." Other songs which probably reminded him of home but more importantly strengthened him during hardship were hymns. Some of these were "How Firm a Foundation," "Rock of Ages," and "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand." Patriotic zeal was bolstered by such songs as "Maryland! My Maryland!" a newly written song which spoke of repelling the invading tyrants of the North; "Bonnie Blue Flag," a song named after the first flag of the Confederacy; and, of course, "Dixie."

Music was the backbone of planned camp activities. Concerts, dances (with or without women), and minstrel shows all de-



Snowball fight

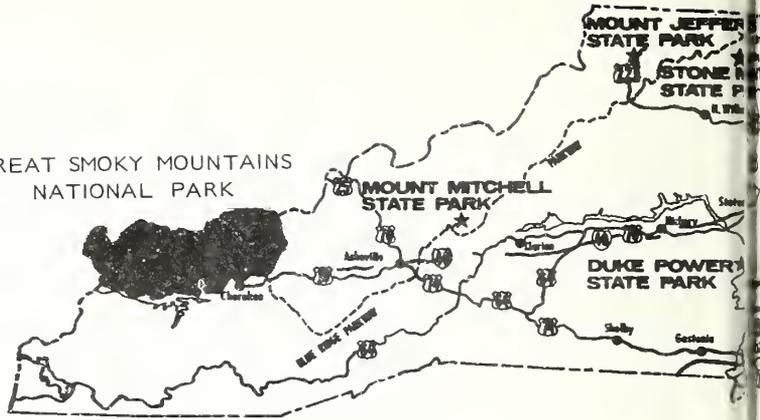


Card playing was a popular amusement

pend on the musical ability of the regiment. Besides providing marching airs for drills, the regimental bands would sometimes give evening concerts for the officers and troops. Nearly every regiment boasted of having a fiddler, banjoist, or flutist in its ranks. These musicians provided music for singing around campfires or for dances and talent shows. Usually, women were too scarce to make bona fide dances possible, but soldiers would dress as women, but usually the men paired off as they were. In addition to dances, some regiments with exceptional talent and initiative staged minstrel shows for both the troops and civilians. Admission might be charged to raise money for a military hospital or to help a destitute family. In addition to music, singing, and dancing, these shows would also include humorous skits about army life.

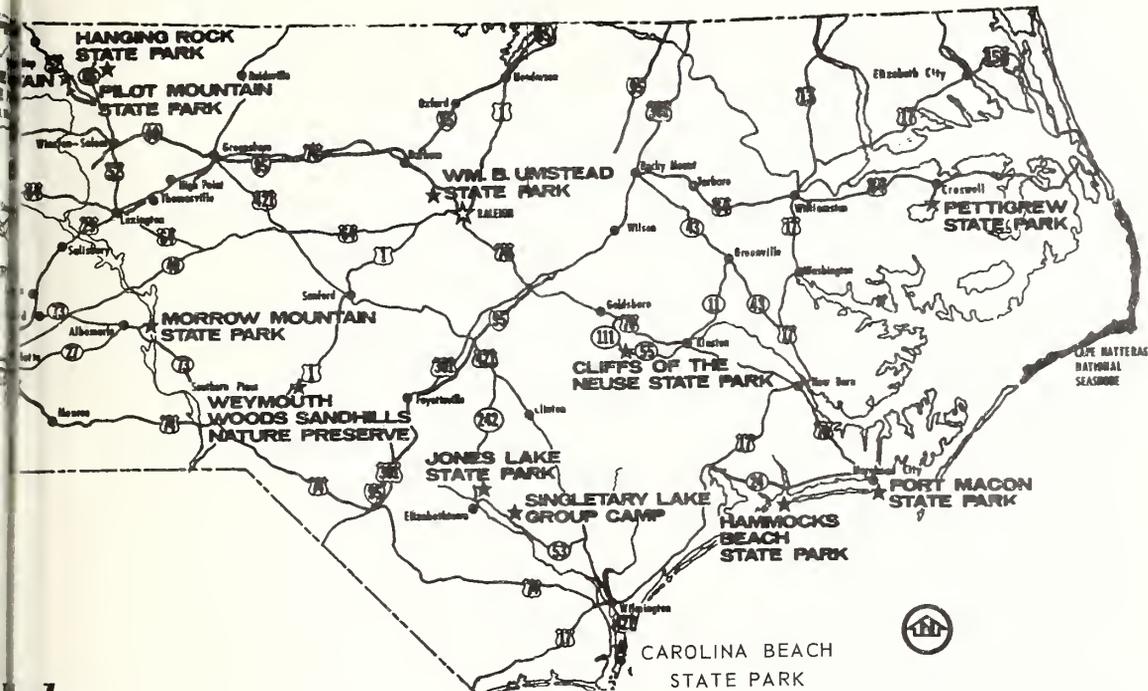
There were other diversions, such as reading, holiday celebrations, and handicrafts. Johnny Reb kept busy and tried to keep smiling. It was this spirit of humor and fun that helped to carry him through a tedious and heartbreaking war.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL PARK



# North Carolina State Parks

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT			PRIMARY VALUES													
NAME OF STATE PARK	LOCATION	HIGHWAY	SCENIC	RECREATION	HISTORIC	PICNICKING	REFRESHMENT	SWIMMING	VACATION STAND	TENT CAMPING	TRAILER CABINS	ORGANIZED CAMPING	RESTAURANT	BOATING	FISHING	HIKING
CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE	14 Miles SE of Goldsboro	US 70 NC 55 & 111	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
DUKE POWER	10 Miles S of Statesville	US 21 & State Road	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
FORT MACON	2 Miles E of Atlantic Beach	US 70 & State Road	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HAMMOCKS BEACH	5 Miles SE of Swansboro	NC 24 & Perk Ferry	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HANGING ROCK	32 Miles N of Winston-Salem	NC 89 & 66	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
JONES LAKE	4 Miles N of Elizabethtown	NC 242	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CAROLINA BEACH	1 Mile NW of Carolina Beach	US 421	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
MORROW MOUNTAIN	7 Miles E of Albemarle	NC 27 & 73 NC 740	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
MOUNT JEFFERSON	1 Mile SW of Jefferson	US 221	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
MOUNT MITCHELL	33 Miles NE of Asheville	Blue Ridge Parkway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PETTIGREW	9 Miles S of Creswell	US 64 & State Road	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PILOT MOUNTAIN	24 Miles N of Winston-Salem	US 52	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SINGLETARY LAKE	10 Miles SE of Elizabethtown	NC 53	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
STONE MOUNTAIN	5 Miles W of Roaring Gap	US 21	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WEYMOUTH WOODS - SNP	1 Mile SE of Southern Pines	US 1 & 501	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD (Creech Creek Section)	17 Miles NW of Raleigh	US 70	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD (Reedy Creek Section)	10 Miles NW of Raleigh	US 70A NC 54	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



arks

STUDY	ACRES	ESTAB
●	572	1945
	1328	1962
●	385	1924
	892	1961
●	4040	1935
	1893	1939
	337	1969
●	4425	1935
	539	1956
●	1469	1915
	17369	1939
	2143	1968
	1221	1939
	2109	1969
	413	1963
	891	1943
	1323	1943

### HOURS OF OPERATION

November, December, January, February .... 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 March, October ..... 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 April, May, September ..... 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 June, July, August ..... 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## “University wins. 6 to 4.”

Intercollegiate football has always been a popular sport in North Carolina. In 1891, about three years after the adoption of football at the University of North Carolina, Leslie Weil, a freshman, wrote to his parents about the outcome of an opening season contest with another school.

(Gertrude Weil Papers, Unpublished, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.)

University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, N. C.  
November 15th 1891

My Dear Ones,

Maybe we didn't have a big time last Tuesday night! Whew! I suppose you know University played Wake Forest then. Well that evening just before supper about thirty or thirty five boys went out to the depot to hear the news from the telegrapher operator. (I did not go.) Imagine, if you can, our feelings when this telegram was read. “University wins. 6 to 4.” The telegram was for Prof. Williams (Rev. Horace) & the boys who took it to him say he threw up his hat clapped his heels together four times. Perhaps we didn't holler; perhaps we didn't ring

the bell; and perhaps we didn't fire off fireworks. At supper it was proposed that we welcome the victorious club home with a torch-light process & before we left the table we had laid our plans. Directly after supper we procured some cans & sticks from Mrs. Graves & half an hour afterwards we were ready in line of march. First in the line was a band hired for the occasion then those with “musical” instruments. Next the torch bearers and lastly unaroused citizens who afterwards proved better armed than we for they had umbrellas. We took along two profs. We met in front of Josh Gore's house and just when we were ready to start for the depot it began to drizzle but still we marched on “the brave one hundred.” How do you suppose we felt at the depot where we waited an hour with the rain coming down in torrents. It began to slacken up a little just before the train came in, so that we could come out of shelter & not be drenched. Hark! the train comes. The team gets off and show their surprise at our ovation. Alas! Although the score was 6 to 4 in favor of the Univ. they quarrelled & the game was given to Wake Forest, and just about that time it began to rain. But why dwell longer upon such torture suffice is it to say that I got home drenched & totally unfit for anything but bed. Luckily however the Profs. knew all about it & were not hard on us the next day. . . .

.....  
Your loving son, grandson, bro, nephew  
Leslie



## Football Season.

### The Opening Game Played at Athletic Park Yesterday.

Raleigh was full of college boys yesterday; the orange and black, the white and blue vied with each other. It was the opening of the foot ball season, the game between Wake Forest and the University. Many were here from both institutions and the college boys, with a good sprinkling of city people, were at Athletic park when the game was called at three o'clock. The two sides were very evenly matched and the game was hard fought. Each side cheered its favorites at every point and when a good play was made the crowd went wild. Perhaps the most brilliant play made was the run of Hoke, of the University, making a splendid touch down. Then the ball was held by Bernard while Hoke kicked a beautiful goal. Within ten minutes of time a difficulty occurred which ended the game. It is claimed that Furgurson, of the University attempted to throttle Hall, Wake Forest, in a scrimmage. The umpire decided that Wake Forest should be given twenty-five yards advantage. The University team took exception to the ruling of the umpire and refused to play. The game was given to Wake Forest. At the end of the play the score stood University 6, Wake Forest 4. Umpire: Prince, Wake Forest; referee, Shaw, University. Neither side was satisfied with the result and it has about been settled that they will play again the 21st. ints.

When the next game is played it is to be hoped that there will be an umpire and a referee who do not belong to any college in the State, so that there can be no complaint in regard to decisions.

### *Answer to February Quiz*

FIRE ENGINE...One of two that belonged to the Moravian town of Salem. This early version can be seen at the Market-Fire House on the town square at Old Salem. The earliest correct answer was submitted by:

William Kirks, Eden  
Billy Richardson, Eden  
Vanessa Robertson, Lawsonville

Derike Shelton, Eden  
Jeff Wray, Eden

The following composed the teams:  
University: Gibbs, Currie, Austin, Hudgins, Houston, Little, Bigg, Barnard, Whidbee, Furgurson, Hoke (captain.)

Wake Forest: Payson, Webb, Hall, Frye, Sikes, Garland, Cook, Blanton, Wilson, Howell (captain), Powell.

(*The State Chronicle*, Raleigh, November 11, 1891, p. 4.)

### Celebration at Wake Forest.

Special Cor. STATE CHRONICLE

WAKE FOREST, N. C., Nov. 11.

Wednesday night was a night of jollification at Wake Forest College. The Hill was ablaze with enthusiasm, burning tar barrels and sky rockets. The foot ball victory of Tuesday was celebrated in patriotic style. Students and citizens of the Hill gathered upon the football ground at an early hour and vied with each other in manifesting their satisfaction and pleasure the result of the recent game between Wake Forest and the University. Speeches from Prof. E. W. Sikes and Mrs. S. M. Brinson, of the class of '91, E. Y. Webb, O. H. Dockery, Jr., and others were enthusiastically received and generously appreciated. The boys entertain the kindest feeling for the University men, and hope to arrange game at an early date.

(*The State Chronicle*, Raleigh, November 13, 1891, p. 4.)

# Mineral Springs: Fashionable Resorts of the Nineteenth Century

Catherine W. Cockshutt  
Survey Supervisor  
Historic Sites and Museums Section

The "Spring season" is almost at hand, and soon the moneyed part of our population, who have time at their command, will be moving off on various lines of travel, in pursuit of health and excitement, at the numerous watering places and fashionable resorts of the Union. Newport, Saratoga, Niagara, Cape May, the Virginia Springs, Old Point, Nag's Head, and many other places of less note, will be thronged with visitors, and almost every one of these will have some plea of ill health, some dyspepsia or rheumatism or other, to reveal to their acquaintances as the true cause of their travels.

This account in the July 2, 1853, edition of *Southern Weekly Post* of Raleigh described an important element in the social life of upper class (and upper middle class) North Carolinians—visiting spas.

Dotted across the United States, including North Carolina, are springs which are naturally heated below the earth or which, because of the rock around them, have unusually high concentrations of minerals like barium, iron, and sulphur. These were believed to have great beneficial effects upon a wide variety of ailments—benefits which could be obtained either through immersion in the water or through drinking it. Originally, these mineral springs attracted people seeking mainly the medicinal effects, but the hotels which were built up around the springs often became popular for those seeking improvement of their social life as well as of their health. A tour to one or many of these springs became an important part of the social year of the upper class citizens of town and plantation, and the social activities there were gay and brilliant, including dances, elaborate suppers, and informal concerts. Ladies took extensive wardrobes along and often changed their costume sev-



Vade Mecum Hotel, Danbury

eral times a day. (Not everyone enjoyed such social busyness: Mrs. Ebenezer Pettigrew of Washington County wrote, "I think those people who are constantly gadding about from Shocco to Saratoga, from thence to the city, etc.—are in a state of most perfect derangement.")

Two of the most famous out-of-state resorts were Saratoga Springs in New York and White Sulphur Springs in present West Virginia. There were, however, a great many springs in North Carolina—some in the eastern part of the state, and many more in the west. Among the most notable in the east were Shocco Springs and Jones Springs in Warren County. Nothing remains of them now, for Shocco Springs burned in 1889 and Jones Springs fell into ruin. In the antebellum period and for a brief period after the Civil War, however, these were among the most popular and elegant resorts in the state. The *North Carolina Standard* of September 2, 1857, reported, "We have seldom seen a more handsome or a more brilliant display of female beauty than we looked upon in the ball room at Shocco on Saturday and Monday evenings. The young men were of course gallant and attentive to the fair, and some of them were positively handsome." During the Civil War, Robert E. Lee's daughter, Annie Carter Lee, visited Jones Springs; while there she became mortally ill and was buried in the Jones family graveyard. Her father, unable to visit her, sent the wording for her tombstone; on his Southern tour after the war,

Lee got off the train at Warrenton and made a pilgrimage to his daughter's grave near Jones Springs.

There were several other mineral spring resorts in the eastern part of the state, few of which are still standing. Seven Springs, near Goldsboro, became a favorite local spa in 1880 when a hotel was built; it was notable for the seven mineral springs, each giving water of a different chemical content, within an area fifteen feet square. Kittrell in Vanee County, which burned in 1885, was also quite a popular resort in the antebellum period; the great hotel was used as a Confederate hospital during the Civil War and the cemetery nearby contains the graves of the many soldiers who died there. A large building still stands at Holly Springs in Wake County.

The Piedmont contained many mineral springs. Piedmont Springs Hotel was near Danbury, in Stokes County; three resorts have burned there, on a site which was famous for having freestone and mineral water side by side. Moore's Springs is a small town near Hanging Rock State Park, which grew up around Moore's Springs resort hotel, and the mineral water which flowed there was bottled and sold for its curative powers long after the hotel closed.

Farther west were many more springs; these mountain resorts were popular not only for the power of the mineral waters but also for the healthful mountain climate, a welcome relief in summer from the wet heat and yellow fever of the lowlands, where so many of the wealthy plantation residents lived. A famous mountain resort was Hot Springs, formerly known as Warm Springs, popular well into the twentieth century. It is said that the healing powers of the waters were valued by the Indians and were discovered by Henry Reynolds and Thomas Morgan in 1778, attracting invalids there despite the hazards of the mountain roads. One hotel at Hot Springs was the Patton Hotel, where Zebulon Vanee—later the state's Civil War

governor—is said to have served as a clerk. After this burned in 1884, the Mountain Park Hotel was built; one of its booklets extolled the virtues of the springs:

Here flow the new-born crystal, untainted waters, and here, far down in the mysterious laboratories of Nature, are found the minerals which impart to these waters the life-giving virtues that bring the bloom back to the cheek, the lustre to the eye, tone to the languid pulse, strength to the jaded nerves, and vigor to the wasted frame.

Whether the waters accomplished all this or not, they were indeed popular, as seen in the many mountain resorts. Vade Mecum Springs, for example, had alkaline water that was credited with considerable healing power; between 1900 and 1902, two 40-room hotels and eleven cottages were built there. Barium Springs near Mooresville was made popular by waters whose powers were reportedly used by the Indians; the site has been used as a Presbyterian orphans' home since 1891. Connelly Springs near Valdese; Cleveland Springs (originally Sulphur Springs) in Cleveland County; All Healing Springs, northwest of Taylorsville in Alexander County; Ellerbe Springs in Richmond County; Catawba Springs Hotel at Lincolnton; Mt. Vernon Springs Hotel, south of Siler City in Chatham County; Sulphur Springs Hotel at Waynesville; and Jarrett Springs Hotel at Dillsboro—these are but a few of the watering places that were popular in the nineteenth century.

Of the many spas that flourished, few still exist. Some of the great hotels have been converted for use as schools or orphanages or camps, but at most of them, only a dilapidated building is left—or nothing at all—as a reminder of the candle-lit dances, the leisurely promenades, and the gay laughter of ladies and gentlemen who visited the spas in their heyday.

## Movies of the Nineteen Thirties

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"Sure I remember the Nineteen Thirties, the terrible, troubled, triumphant, surging, Thirties."

—Steinbeck.

North Carolinians were shocked and confused as the prosperous twenties ended in a sudden crippling depression. Prices dropped, wages were cut, banks failed, and no one seemed to know why. Motion pictures offered Tar Heels an escape from the harsh realities of day-to-day living. Their movie attendance helped to inaugurate the cinema's "Golden Age."

The harshness of the depression brought poverty, unemployment, crime, and chaos into the daily lives of the people. The public began to demand "realistic" pictures, and what they wanted was a hard-hitting, naturalistic drama that took its themes from the headlines of the day. The early thirties saw the arrival of the anti-hero in forms of gangsters and fallen women. People flocked to the theaters to see *Little Caesar* (1930), *Front Page* (1931), *Public Enemy* (1931), *Blond Venus* (1932), and *Susan Lenox* (1931). James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, and Jean Harlow were applauded for the characters they portrayed because, even though they lost out in the end, their lives were glamorous and exciting, a glaring contrast to the drab realities of life in the 1930s. Through the movies, the public could blame certain individuals for what were in fact national problems. Audiences seemed to find comfort in the triumph of good over evil, and in the fact that things will turn out all right in the long run.

Despite the popularity of realistic movies, there were many who felt that the honest portrayals were placing too much emphasis on the immoral and irreverent aspects of life. The Legion of Decency was formed in 1934 to lead the attack against frank realism in films, and against this background of protest new forms of entertainment were created.



Capitol Theater, Raleigh, advertises vitaphone talking movies in 1930.

The first was termed the "fantasy of good will," putting forth the idea that any problem (obviously an allusion to the depression) could be overcome if everyone were kind and generous to his fellowman. *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936) was a classic example of this philosophy, but the best known and most popular exponent of good will was the curly-headed moppet, Shirley Temple.

The second form was the "screwball" comedies in which anything and everything was done for a laugh. The terrible realities of unemployment, hunger, and fear were the bases for the antics of the comedians, and being masked in humor the people could laugh at the troubles that surrounded them. *My Man Godfrey* (1936) and *Easy Living* (1937) placed hunger, poverty, and the attitudes of high society in a comedic light, but made no attempt to offer solutions to the problems.

As the European war came closer to America, still another form appeared in the movies, a forthright belief in the inherent strength of democracy to bring about national recovery and a solution to the world's problems. The screen version of *Grapes of Wrath* (1939) was infused with a strong declaration of faith in the ability of the American people to pull through a crisis. In *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*, the public identified with an American hero whose life symbolized the democratic tradition.

Three other types of movies were extremely popular in the 1930s, the slapstick comedies, westerns, and musical extravaganzas. While they did provide an escape from the depression, they outlived the thirties and became classics in themselves. People for several generations have enjoyed the antics of the Marx Brothers, the Hope-Crosby "Road" shows, Our Gang, Laurel and Hardy, and W. C. Fields. The westerns have remained a favorite of kids ever since their inception, even though the sixties saw a trend toward the adult westerns.

Finally, the musical extravaganzas, as created by Busby Berkeley, completely captured the fancy of movie-goers. In *42nd Street* and *The Gold Diggers of 1933* the public could forget their troubles for the moment and lose themselves in the sights and sounds of a spectacular show. These shows were classics of their times and they inspired other composers to try their hand at writing for the silver screen. With minor exceptions, musicals have been box office successes ever since the days of Busby Berkeley.



*Little Caesar*

No discussion of movies in the thirties would be complete without a mention of the most classic of all movies, the Civil War drama, *Gone With the Wind*. Perhaps it represents the most common form of escape from reality, not only to the people of the 1930s but for people in all times. When beset by problems, the tendency of any generation is to look backward to a time when things were much better and life was easier. Dissatisfaction with the present is an age-old problem, and through the movies one can retreat into history and enjoy the romanticism of the past.

### **“2,000...2,001 and Counting”**

About 40 students of Lloyd Pardue's eight grade class at Yadkinville Elementary School have reached over two-thirds of their goal of making a board roof for an old-timey log school building that is to be restored on Starmough High School grounds in the coming months.

Using instruments that date back to before the Civil War, class members, taking turns after school hours during this school session, had made 2,327 boards as of April 11. Their goal is 3,000.

Hubert Hoots, of Yadkinville, Rt. 3, and Pardue have cut the white oak logs being used in the project. Taking them from there, the student volunteers split the 20 inch sections in half, then quarter them, then one-eighth them. The sections are then dehearted and de-sapped, which leaves a bolt.

The students then take a froe and a maul and continue to split the sections one-half inch to three-eighths inch thick. The next process is to take the remaining sap off,



after which the section is placed on a "horse" and a drawing knife is used to shave the rough edges.

The class is working on the project for a service award presented by the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association. The volunteers rotate on the project, six or eight working one day, with another group working the next day. They have stacked the boards on the cement rim of the barbecue pit behind the lunchroom, where they will season for three or four months.

Reprinted from *The Yadkin Ripple*, April 11, 1974.

Winners of the 1974 Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Literary and Arts Contest received their awards from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association May 17 at a picnic held at Yates Lodge, Raleigh. The awards were presented by Dr. H. G. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. The winning projects were selected from eight categories in a statewide contest and are now on display in the Junior Historian Gallery of the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.



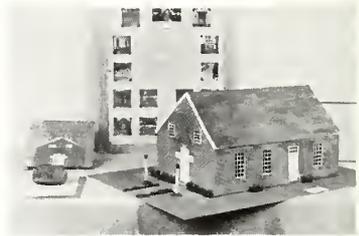
Special Achievement, Individual Literary: The History of Organ Lutheran Church, Anne Holshouser, Albemarle Junior High, Albemarle.



Special Achievement, Individual Arts: History of the Civil War in North Carolina, Tim Dwight, Albemarle Junior High, Albemarle.



Special Achievement, Group Literary: The Reed Gold Mines, The History Seekers, Albemarle Junior High, Albemarle.



Special Achievement Group Arts: St. Thomas Church at Both, The History Seekers, Albemarle Junior High, Albemarle.



Individual Literary: Newbold-White House, Melanie Morris, Chowan Academy, Edenton.



Individual Arts: Corn Mill, Ronnie Deans, Springfield Junior High, Lucama.



Group Literary: Church Histories: Chowan, Gates, and Perquimons, Chief Rockahock Junior Historical Society, Edenton.



Group Arts: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Tar Heel Eagle Historians, Erwin Junior High, Solisbury.

Special Achievement, Group Arts-Honorable Mention: Tobacco in Vance County, Vance Junior Historians, E. M. Rollins School, Henderson.

Group Arts-Honorable Mention: Moonshine, North Carolina Style, The Five Teenagers History Club, Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf, Wilson.

## GOING THINGS. . . .

The FIVE TEENAGERS HISTORY CLUB at Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf, Wilson, have had several guest speakers on city and county government, the sheriff's department, and food values.

The MOUNT OLIVE JUNIOR HISTORIAN CLUB at Mount Olive Junior High School, Mount Olive, visited Charles B. Aycock Birthplace, Fremont, in February. They sponsored a poster contest for Heritage Week and have planned trips to Raleigh and Tryon Palace.

The CHIEF ROCKAHOCK JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY at Chowan Academy, Edenton, cleaned the Coke House for the Edenton Symposium and conducted a bake sale with the proceeds going to Historic Edenton, Inc. Cole Hines won the area DAR contest.

The OXFORD JUNIOR HISTORIAN CLUB at Oxford Elementary School, Claremont, collected toys and games for the needy at Christmas. They have studied the history of an area church and plan to invite a musician to their school. Heritage Week projects have also kept the club members busy.

The HICKORY GROVE CLUB at Hickory Grove School, Garland, visited the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh and sponsored an antique show at their school open house.

The DOUGLAS BYRD HISTORICAL CLUB at Douglas Byrd Senior High School, Fayetteville, invited the 82nd Airborne Stage Band to perform for the 1,600 students on April 4. The band is the only airborne one in the United States Army.

The HISTORY SEEKERS at Albemarle Junior High School, Albemarle, held a history fair with two hundred projects entered, and over 2,500 visitors came to the school to see the projects on display.



*The colonial unit of the Vance Junior Historians appeared for the second year in the Henderson "Viking Day" Parade on March 8.*

**Historic Sites and Museums Section  
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**LIBRARY RATES**