

## Pet Corner

Q. My cat has a very strange habit of climbing up on my lap and sucking, yes actually sucking, on my neck. I don't mind it, but she's a pitch black cat and when she did it to one of my guests, he freaked out and said it wasn't normal. Why do you think she does this?

A. Your cat is displaying the sucking instinct, which of course is very strong. If kittens are not suckled by their mother, they must be provided an appropriate substitute until they are old enough to eat. If this is the case, it may also develop a non-nutritional sucking habit that persists in later life. If it doesn't bother you, don't worry about it, but you may want to try to get her to stop if it bothers your guests. Simply push her away each time she does it, until she gets the hint.

Another sucking habit is chewing or biting on the tail. But don't always assume the sucking instinct is the cause. Cats chew on their tails for a number of reasons, including boredom, frustration or infection. (If there is anything wrong with the cat's tail, the cat will often turn on it and attack it as if it were not part of itself. Then what is a minor abrasion may become a festering, bleeding sore.)

Just as a child sucks his thumb, a cat tends to suck when in need of attention and affection. To discourage the habit, try putting an anti-thumb-sucking preparation on the tail.

Q. My cat has not defecated in three days. She does this occasionally, and it worries me. Would it be okay to give her a human constipation remedy?

A. Absolutely not. Many human constipation remedies are too harsh even on humans. In addition, many of these remedies contain styrene which is fatal to the cat. The most common cause of constipation in cats is hair balls, but overfeeding and lack of exercise can also bring it on. If the problem in hair balls, you can give the cat a bit of mineral oil or special hair ball pills.

## Mrs. Hagler Dies; Funeral Last Friday

Mrs. Pauline Kerley Hagler, 61-year-old resident of 324 Delburg St., Davidson, died Wednesday morning of last week at the Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.

Born in Mecklenburg County on June 24, 1926, Mrs. Hagler was a daughter of the late Paul and Lena Henderson Kerley.

Surviving are: the husband, Bruce Hagler; one son, Reginald Hagler of Marion; two daughters, Mrs. Rene Powers and Miss Robin Hagler, both of Mooresville; and one brother, James Hagler of Fredericksburg, Va. Three grandchildren also survive.

A funeral for Mrs. Hagler was conducted at 3 p.m. Friday at the Community Baptist Church at Mount Mourne, with the pastor, the Rev. J. H. Speece, officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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FLOWER SHOW



South Iredell High's Student Council Officers

These students are leading the South Iredell High School student body this school year. They are officers of the Student Council. From left are Amber Sloop, treasurer; Krista Alexander, president; and Robin Torrence, secretary. Kim Cloaninger is council vice president.

## Counsel On Aging

By Anna Rice, Outreach Director  
Phone 663-5112 or 873-5171

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association periodically publishes a newsletter. In a recent edition of "A.D. Newsletter," Dr. Linda George of the Duke University's Center for the Study of Aging spoke to the difficult role of adult-child caregivers. Today, it is estimated that five to eight million family members—mostly women—are providing care to one or more older adults. George notes that of this group, 40 percent are daughters or daughters-in-law and 50 percent are spouses. Because special attention is now being given to this very important role of caregiver, research is beginning to document that family caregivers, especially adult-child caregivers, are at risk of developing or experiencing several kinds of problems. These problems could include: financial difficulties, lack of time to participate in social and recreational activities, physical health problems, and emotional/mental health problems such as tension, stress, grief and feelings of being overwhelmed.

George divides adult-child caregivers, especially those serving family members with Alzheimer's Disease, into two major groups: primary caregivers and secondary caregivers. Primary caregivers are the folks who have the major responsibility for a demented older adult. Most probably, this caregiver lives with the patient and provides nearly full-time care. Adult-children are most likely to fill the role as secondary caregivers. In all likelihood, the primary caregiver experiences a greater total burden than the secondary caregiver. However, the adult-child or secondary caregiver may have some additional resources available. Labeled by George as the "sandwich generation," these

caregivers must also struggle with the demands of their own children and perhaps a job. These competing demands can lead to feelings of guilt. Unfortunately, it is a vicious circle. Sometimes the secondary caregiver feels guilty about ignoring his or her own family while caring for a demented parent. Conversely, while spending time with his or her family, this caregiver feels guilty about not being with the demented patient.

George suggests several steps that may help caregivers deal with this tremendous burden. It is most important, she writes, that caregivers learn to recognize that there are things they can do. Feeling overwhelmed may be a signal that it is time for the caregiver to do something for himself. Her suggestions follow: 1) "Stop for a while" and think about your priorities. What can you change? How can you lighten the load between family, work, and caregiving responsibilities? 2) Participation in support groups may provide an opportunity to share and work through some of the negative feelings as well as to obtain practical information from others in a similar situation. 3) All caregivers need time away from caregiving.

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## Shepherd Community News

By MRS. HELEN R. KEICHIE

—Happy birthday and best wishes to Ralph Heston on September 10; Mrs. Mitchell (Susan) Bell and Miss Ruth Ketchie on September 13; Keever Kennedy on Sept. 14; and Grady Mundy on Sept. 15.

—Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Carrier on their wedding anniversary on September 9.

—Best wishes also to Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Etchison on their wedding anniversary on September 15.

—There will be a Church Building Workday on September 12 beginning at 8:00 a.m. there will be storm windows to install and other insulations. These materials are being furnished by Duke Endowment.

Energy Department at no cost. We need lots of help, so mark your calendar and come. Men and ladies are needed.

—The children of Mr. & Mrs. Shufford Wiggins request the pleasure of your company at a Reception to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of their parents on Sunday September 13, 1987 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Vanderburg United Methodist Church, no gifts please.

—Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Miss Mattie Lambert of Catawba Ave., Mooresville who died Saturday at Alexander County Hospital in Taylorsville. Funeral services were held Tuesday Sept. 1 at 4:00 pm at

E.C. Cavin Memorial Chapel with Rev. John Duvall officiating. Burial followed at Greenwood Memorial Park. May God comfort and sustain each of you in your bereavement.

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## Exciting Year Begins For Students At Lincoln School Of Technology

By JACKIE CLOUTMAN

All eyes are on the Lincoln County School of Technology, especially those of 160 East Lincoln Senior High School students who enrolled last spring.

For them, the excitement is just beginning. Ahead for these students is an experience in a revolutionary concept in education that will give them job skills and the advantage in industry's workplace. For the county, the school offers great potential for attracting industry.

Dr. Stephen Canipe is principal of the centralized vocational school. He said the concept was discussed in 1978. A proposal asking for funds from the Tinklen Foundation in Ohio was submitted, but Tinklen, which has a major manufacturing plant in Lincoln, wasn't interested.

Then, local educators and community leaders hired the Research Triangle Institute to study the proposition and come up with a basic plan. What resulted was a suggested, centrally-located facility accessible to students from each of the three county high schools.

The building also would be Lincoln County's Gaston College campus, and it would reflect the growing trend toward the two-year specialized degree.

The proposal was accepted and the Tinklen Foundation donated about \$1 million to the project. The county's Tinklen Company donated land and building for the project.

Gaston College and Lincoln County school provided \$500,000 worth of equipment for the school. Ten county-businesses, financial institutions and industries supported the project with donations of \$15,000 each. Classrooms were named after these benefactors in appreciation.

But the whole story of industry's participation hasn't been told. A steering committee made up of local business people was formed. The Vocational Improvement Program helped develop an up-to-date curriculum using new and easily modified for future use.

Altogether, Canipe estimates private participation at \$1.5 million in money and time. "I'm extremely pleased with everything that has been done here at the school," said Canipe. "The facility is wonderful and everyone involved in the development process was fantastic. We think the school is going to provide an opportunity for all the students involved."

A unique partnership has been formed among three community components. Gaston College is

providing materials, equipment and instructors. High school students have the opportunity to get high school and college credit at the same time in some of the courses being taught at LOST.

In addition, Gaston College will offer college transfer classes, vocational classes, Adult Basic Education and General Equivalency Diploma programs. Short courses and seminars will be set up to meet the needs of local business and industry.

Gaston programs will be offered during the day and at night.

Another of the partners, the Economic Development Commission, has as its goal attracting industry to the county and expanding existing industry. The commission will bring potential clients to visit LOST because it is unique and a valuable tool in recruiting high-tech business.

The Lincoln County school system is the third partner. Juniors and seniors from West Lincoln, Lincoln, and East Lincoln will use the facility.

The environment of the school is much like a manufacturing plant. The three educational components will work together to actually produce a marketable item. Every aspect of the product will be taught, from employment procedures to manufacturing to accounting to marketing.

The three educational components

are Health and Human Technologies, Business and Marketing Technologies, and Industrial Technologies. Canipe said 444 high school students are enrolled in courses ranging from computer science to auto mechanics.

Though a tremendous amount of money has been spent and work has been accomplished, Canipe is looking for another \$150,000 to equip a tele-communication system for broadcasting specialized instruction

from LOST to the three junior high schools and the senior high schools. He is determined to have a state of the vocational arts program.

The General Assembly has endorsed the school, and it has put its money where its endorsement is. The recent session appropriated \$442,000 to LOST.

So, the eyes of all North Carolina are on this unique and challenging educational facility in which all North Carolina has an investment.

## ENERGY

By Harriette B. Skaggs  
Duke Power Consumer Products Specialist

North and South Carolina are abundant in a wide assortment of produce and other commodities. Many of these products are available fresh almost six months out of the year. By preserving these foods, you can prolong their storage life, making them available year 'round and at an economical price. Common home methods for preserving the shelf life of foods include: Freezing, canning, drying, salting, smoking and preserving.

Freezing is a comparatively simple and convenient method of food preservation. But before you attempt to freeze large quantities of food make sure that your freezer is defrosted and that you have enough space to accommodate the food you want to freeze. A freezer that is three quarters full works most efficiently. Your freezer should be set at zero degrees F. for best results.

When freezing foods for a family, you should allow 5 cubic feet of freezer space for each person. Should you consider buying additional freezer space remember that there are two basic styles of freezer models: upright and chest. They are now available in many sizes. They can be purchased with both manual or frost-free features. Allow a new freezer to cool at least 24 hours before attempting

to freeze food in it.

When you're ready to start freezing you may want to consult one of the several good sources of information on the proper procedures for freezing certain types of foods for the best results. The last paragraph of this article for two examples of reliable sources for food preservation information.

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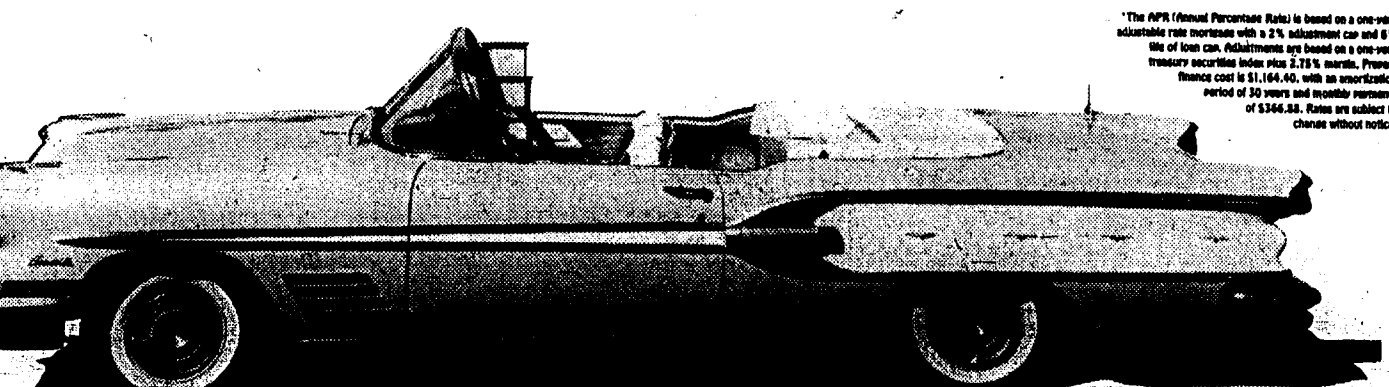
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