

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

In the early thirties when the late Dizzy Dean was pitching for the St. Louis Cardinals television was still to come. The radio was what was used to keep up with ball games. There were some top announcers in those days and they knew the game of baseball inside out.

I can remember listening to the World Series when Dizzy and Paul Dean won two games each to defeat the Detroit Tigers. This was back during the depression and ball players didn't draw the salaries of the ones of today. Most of them were what you would call hungry players. They played hard and fought to keep the job because they had to eat. Someone was always waiting to take your place.

The passing of Dizzy Dean has removed from the world a great ball player.

The trip to the beach last week was very restful and the weather was perfect until Sunday. I don't believe I have ever seen it rain any harder than it did on the way back. You could hardly see 15 feet in front of you but still traffic moved along the highway. I always enjoy going off to the beach or mountains but getting back home safe and sound is a good feeling also.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam:

I thought it would be of interest to the parents of Hoke County to know that the Hoke County Board of Education voted to eliminate the majority of fees in our schools for the 1974-75 term. The students in the elementary schools will be charged \$1.00 this year. The students at Upchurch and Hoke High will be charged only \$1.00 each and those taking PE will pay a \$2.00 fee. Of course, the parents will understand that insurance will be optional. The \$1.00 fee for all students is only a token fee and this money will be used for extra things at school such as special tests, paper back books, or whatever the principal and faculty decide. The \$2.00 PE fee will be used for towels, soap, and other necessities in the locker room.

The fee business is quite expensive in the schools in North Carolina and the board is to be commended for their action on eliminating the fees. I would suspect that we are one of the very few schools in the state and perhaps in the United States, that has taken this step. The commissioners should be commended for furnishing the money that enables the board to look to the best interests of the students and parents. In the past we have charged at the high school alone a \$3.50 high school fee, \$7.00 typing fee, \$8.00 band fee, \$3.50 Vocational fee, and a \$2.50 Science fee. This will be no more and I am sure it will be a great relief to the parents. Some of the other things the board is doing this year that will be of interest to students and parents: 2 Guidance Counselors will serve Upchurch. Last year they only had 1; 1 Guidance Counselor will serve South Hoke. This is a new experience for that school. A nurse has been hired to serve all the schools in Hoke County. For the first time Art will be taught in the high school and at Upchurch. A Physical Education Coordinator will be furnished for Grades K-6. We are instituting a full testing program throughout our school system for all of our students so we can know where we need to help them and where they belong and how to handle them in the many different types of classes and educational programs that we have in Hoke County. The News-Journal has been very kind, Sam, in informing our students and parents about the schools in Hoke County. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to use your media once again. Sincerely, Raz Autry

## Woman Hit

Mrs. Jessie Dupree, Rt. 1, Box 148, was treated and released from Raeford Medical Center after she sustained shoulder and arm injuries when she was hit by a half-ton truck on North Main Street about 10:10 a.m., Monday, report Raeford police.

Patrolman Kermit Griffin said no one was charged in the accident in which Mrs. Dupree reportedly walked from between parked cars into path of the truck driven by W. C. Honeycutt of Raeford. The accident occurred in front of Sugar's Department Store.

# Rose Asks Leaf Support Increase

## Bond Issue Meeting Set

There will be a joint meeting of the county commissioners and the board of education 8 p.m., Thursday (July 25) in the Board of Education Building. According to the North Carolina open meetings law the meeting should be open to the public.

The topic of the meeting will be the school bond issue. This bond was originally recommended at \$3 million, based on abandoning Raeford Elementary School, construction of a new middle school (6, 7, and 8), renovation of South Hoke, Scurock, West Hoke, Upchurch, and upgrading Hoke County High School gymnasium into a gymnasium, new media center to house library, administrative offices, health facilities and guidance department. The upgrading of the high school alone is estimated at \$800,000.

At the July 1 county commissioners' meeting, Raz Autry, school superintendent, said the amount could be cut to \$2.5 million by keeping Raeford Elementary School. The reduced figure would include about \$1.25 million in state funds and a \$1.5 million local bond referendum which will probably be voted on in the November general election.



Betty L. McNeill

## Bank Promotes Betty L. McNeill

RED SPRINGS-Betty L. McNeill Antioch Community, was promoted to assistant vice president of Southern National Bank here.

Mrs. McNeill joined Southern National Bank staff in 1965 as teller, was promoted to assistant cashier and operations officer in 1967 and to installment loan department manager and assistant branch manager in 1972.

The Red Springs native is a graduate of Worths Business College and the Carolina School of Banking at Chapel Hill.

A member of the N.A.B.W., Mrs. McNeill served as Antioch Community Development president and Hoke County Community Development program vice president. She is a member of the Antioch Presbyterian Church where she served as youth advisor, and is presently circle treasurer.

The former Betty Hicks is married to Everette W. McNeill and they have two children, Billy and Cynthia.

## Sales Tax Collections

The June report from the state of North Carolina Department of Revenue listed net collections in Hoke County for local one per cent sales and use tax as \$19,084.43.

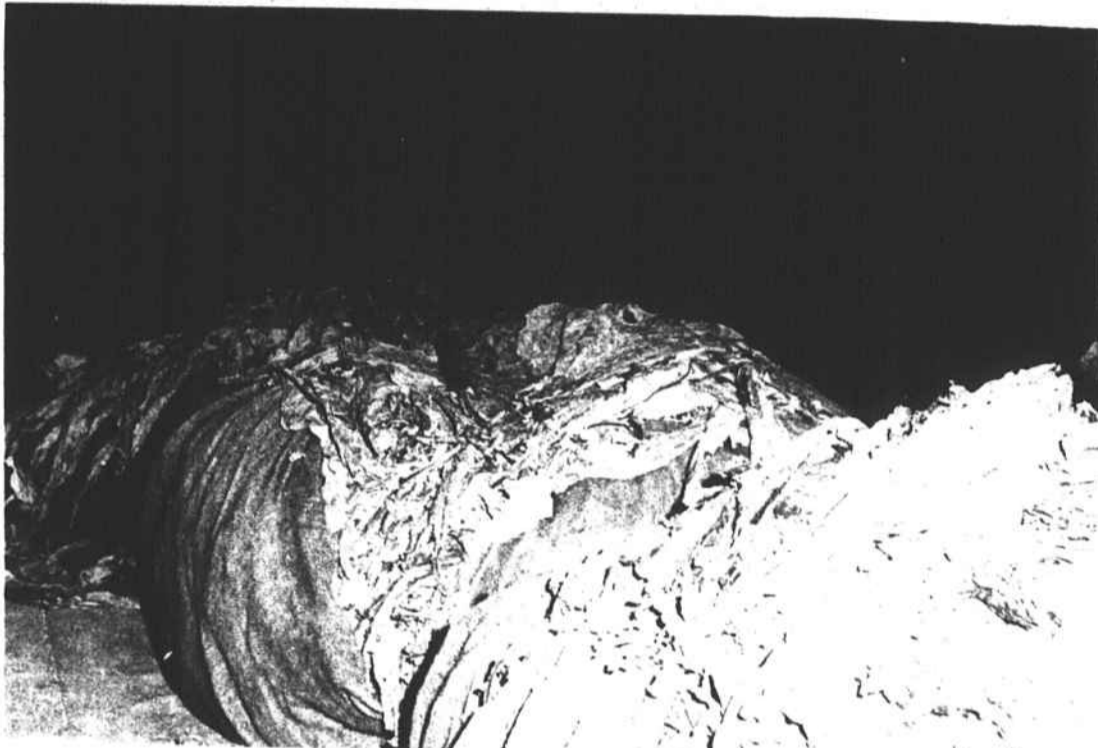
## Area Incidents

Raeford Volunteer firemen fought a blaze about 5 p.m. July 17 at Knit-Away plant, South Main Street.

Chief Crawford Thomas said the fire was in lint, oil and other materials in dryer duct work on the roof of the building.

Thomas said, "The fire did not appear to damage equipment in the plant but some duct work will probably need replacing." The chief had no estimate of dollar value of damage in the two-hour fire.

An air conditioner valued at \$100 was reported taken from Isaiah Jackson's carport July 18 between midnight and 7



PRICE HASSLE - Piles of tobacco are finding low prices at warehouses this year which has incensed the area's tobacco producers. Farmers lodged complaints with Seventh District Congressman Charlie Rose III during the weekend and he returned to Washington and pushed a ten percent increase in flue-cured tobacco price supports through the Tobacco Subcommittee of the full House Agriculture Committee Tuesday afternoon. Rose said he hoped the full Agriculture Committee would hear and pass the bill Wednesday. (N-J Photo)

## Council Pushes Workers Rules

The National Safety Council reports July 25 to 31 is National Farm Safety Week.

The council stresses the ABC's of avoiding falls - alertness, balance, and care. The organization urges farm workers to watch their step by surveying path to spot slipping and tripping hazards; keeping a clear view of walking area when carrying large items; and

Looking for hidden hazards when walking in weeds and tall grass; providing plenty of light to view obstacles; remembering fatigue, illness, excessive alcohol, worry, poor vision, anger, and medicants cause alertness to decline; wearing shoes and boots with slip-resistant soles and heels; using hand holds when climbing on and off machinery; setting ladders in good repair on firm footing; and never permitting children to ride on farm equipment.

## More Bank Construction

The corner of Main Street and Elwood has gone through quite a few changes since Southern National Bank first bought the old Raeford Theater in May 1973.

First, the theater was torn down in June. However, the wall adjoining the J.H. Austin Insurance office building cracked and the bank then bought that building and had it torn down in March with the area to be used for parking.

SNB is now in the process of building two drive-in windows on the north side of the bank building. There will be a 35 to 40 foot canopy extending over the new window.

One teller will be able to operate the three drive-in windows, with outside window contact being made through pneumatic tubes. Entrance will be from Main Street, and there will be two lanes of angle parking going thru to Elwood.

A portable drive-in window should be at the bank next week for use until construction is finished, reports Freddie G. Williams, SNB vice president.

## Substitute Form Renewal Asked

Prospective Hoke County schools 1974-75 substitute teachers should complete new applications by August 5. Applications may be obtained at the Board of Education Office.

Applicants must be high school graduates or equivalent and have been out of high school for three years or be seniors in college.

## Office To Visit

Congressman Charlie Rose's mobile district office will be in Raeford from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 2. The office staffed by Rose's administrative assistant, Rip Collins, will be parked near the post office.

## Creek Area Is Fight Site

Several warrants were being drawn Wednesday morning charging individuals with entering into an affray in which deadly weapons were used. Sheriff D. M. Barrington said the charges are being lodged in connection with a Saturday night incident at Rockfish Creek, just outside Raeford City limits at Prospect Avenue.

He said witnesses report several shots were fired during the incident and one person was treated for eye injuries and released from a hospital. Barrington reports the investigation indicates the eye injury was probably not a gunshot wound.

It was first thought the affray took place within the city limits and Hoke deputies assisted Raeford police at the scene. It was later determined the incident occurred on county land and the investigation was turned over to the Sheriff's Department.

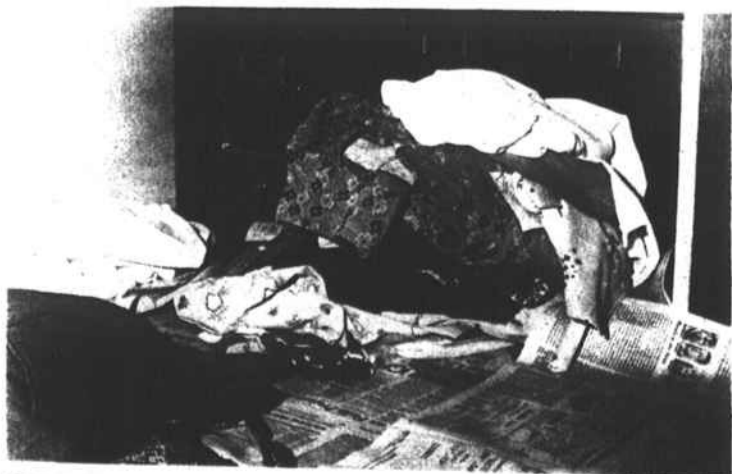
## P.D. Recovers Stolen Items

Four women face larceny charges in district court August 8, in connection with alleged larcenies from four Main Street stores July 18. Raeford police say they recovered more than \$450 worth of stolen merchandise.

Eva Mary Pate, 23, McColl, S. C., and Martha Monroe, 23, and Elizabeth Pemberton, 23, both of Laurinburg, were released on \$1,500 bond each.

The merchandise listed in the arrest warrants includes eight pairs of men's pants valued at \$153 belonging to Raeford Department Store; a sport coat, four dresses, five tops, robe, pajamas, cape valued at \$179, belonging to Macks Stores and

Three pants suits, linens and a hair brush valued at \$43 belonging to Super Dollar Store; and two pants suits valued at \$77 belonging to Theresa's Dress Shop.



RECOVERED - These clothes are part of the \$450 worth of merchandise police allegedly found in automobile at Edenborough Shopping Center July 18. Three women were arrested and charged with theft of the items from Macks Stores, Raeford Department Store, Theresa's and Super Dollar Store. (N-J Photo)

Rep. Charlie Rose (D-N.C.) took steps early this week to increase prices being paid at market for this year's tobacco crop. Monday, Rose introduced and Tuesday the House Agriculture Committee's tobacco subcommittee unanimously passed a bill that would increase flue cured tobacco price supports by 10 percent retroactive to the first of 1974 sales. The bill was tentatively scheduled for hearing and vote by the full House Agriculture Committee, Wednesday.

The Congressman's actions were in response to complaints from leaf farmers during the weekend.

The situation came to a head amidst growers' boycott threats; charges of collusion between Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz and tobacco buying companies; and pleas for Congressional action.

Outcome of the price squabble will have a considerable economic impact on Hoke County since more than 25 percent of the county's crop income is derived from tobacco. Wendell Young, county agent, reports approximately \$3.5 million of Hoke's \$12 million farm income comes from tobacco, with soy beans running second with about \$3.2 million and cotton third with \$2.8 million in revenues.

Many of the tobacco farmers blame the current low prices on collusion between Butz and the buyers. In January, Butz ordered a 10 percent increase in tobacco allotments because domestic companies said they needed more tobacco to meet increased export demands. USDA crop report figures show 966,000 acres in tobacco for 1974. This is a nine percent increase over 1973 acreage.

John Jenrette, Democratic candidate for Congress from South Carolina, reportedly plans to file a \$500 million suit against tobacco companies and Butz charging collusion in keeping prices low.

Early market days found buyers paying an average of only one or two cents above the current price support levels. As a result of the low prices, Stabilization has been taking 21.5 percent of the tobacco offered in Tar Heel markets as compared with 2.6 percent of national flue-cured sales in 1973.

However, during early days reports indicate first tobacco on the floor was low quality primings and some experts feel prices will rise in relation to supports when higher quality smoking leaf hits the floor.

Thomas R. Burgess, Hoke ASCS director, estimates farmers would have to receive an average \$92 per hundred pounds for primings now being sold to net same dollar net amount per acre as last year. He also estimates leaf will have to bring at least a \$100 to maintain dollar profit.

He points out, "Fertilizer and chemical costs have doubled this year. Labor costs more and curing fuel has gone up from about 28 cents to around 40 cents."

Prices being paid on Fairmont, Carthage, Fayetteville and Aberdeen markets for type of tobacco currently offered by Hoke County farmers, averages \$84.30. Rose's 10 percent price support increase would bring that average to about \$92.60.

Price supports vary widely depending on grade of tobacco and are revised each year. Current supports range from \$56 to \$105 per hundred pounds. Supports on grades usually offered by Hoke farmers during the marketing season vary this year from \$72, to about \$91. A ten percent increase would bring the higher grades to just over \$100.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, Rose said, "I returned to Washington Monday afternoon after a weekend in the seventh district talking with farmers who were understandably very upset about prices being paid for this year's crop.

"We introduced the bill Monday; the full Agriculture Tobacco Subcommittee met this afternoon; we heard testimony; we heard assurances that the Secretary of Agriculture would not oppose this bill; it passed unanimously and we hope that the full Agriculture Committee will be able to hear this bill and pass it Wednesday.

"I am hopeful we can get immediate action on this piece of legislation and if passed will provide retroactively to the first of this year's tobacco sales a 10 percent increase in the support prices on all flue-cured tobacco."

Earlier in reference to the low market prices Rose said, "If tobacco companies financially break my tobacco farmers, I am going to do everything I can to break them."