

Man Sentenced To Two Years In Jail For Bad Checks

A 35-year-old Raeford man was sentenced to two years in jail last week in Hoke District Court after he pled guilty to five counts of issuing worthless checks.

James Ray Polk of Moore Street in Raeford also pled guilty to one count of using a vehicle without the owner's permission.

Newly appointed District Court Judge Warren L. Pate ordered Polk confined for no less than two years and no more than two years in the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

Polk had been charged with writing \$137.34 in bad checks that were written between December 1981 and January 1984.

The defendant gave notice of appeal immediately after he was sentenced.

Another Raeford resident was given a 60-day suspended sentence after pleading guilty to two counts of Employment Security law violations.

Willie E. Smith, 39, of Keith Avenue pled guilty to giving

Employment Security Commission (ESC) personnel false work statements.

Records show that Smith reported no income for one seven-day work period when he was actually employed by Lumbee Farms and had been paid \$99 for his labor.

The second violation came after Smith falsely told ESC personnel that he made \$27.20 during a weekly pay period when he actually made \$71.88.

Judge Pate gave the defendant a suspended one-year sentence with one year of unsupervised probation.

Pate also instructed Smith to pay \$103 in restitution to the ESC office.

In other court action, a Hoke County woman was given a 12-month suspended sentence after pleading no contest to charges that she received Department of Social Services (DSS) benefits that she was not entitled to.

Records show that Mary L. Chavis of Rt. 1, Red Springs received over \$600 in AFDC benefits while a member of her household was employed.

Pate suspended Chavis' 12-month sentence with three years of supervised probation.

Chavis was also ordered to pay \$656 in restitution to the Hoke DSS office.

In other court action, 10 out-of-towners were sentenced on traffic violations during Pate's first Hoke County session.

During last week's session, a Maryland man pled guilty to careless and reckless driving and consuming a malt beverage in a vehicle.

Melving Otis Bracy of Maryland was given a 60-day suspended sentence on those charges with unsupervised probation scheduled.

Judge Pate instructed the defendant to pay a \$100 fine and court cost in the action.

Brett Steven Sutton of Florida pled guilty to speeding (70-55) and consuming a malt beverage in the passenger area of a vehicle.

Sutton also pled guilty to throwing a beer bottle on the highway.

Judge Pate gave the defendant a 30-day suspended sentence and ordered him to pay a \$50 fine and court cost.

Keve Wayne Faircloth of Hope Mills pled guilty to speeding (65-55) and was given a prayer for judgement upon payment of the court cost.

John D. Gilmore of Rex pled guilty to careless and reckless driving after drinking and was given a 90-day suspended sentence.

Judge Pate also ordered the defendant to pay \$100 and court cost and enroll and complete the alcohol and drug abuse school within 90 days.

William Issac Lloyd of Southern Pines pled guilty to driving while

consuming a malt beverage and was given a 30 day sentence and ordered to pay \$25 and cost in the action.

Lloyd gave notice of appeal in the case.

William Ray Parrish of Aberdeen pled guilty to speeding (65-55) and was given a prayer for judgement upon payment of cost in the action.

Yvonne Hardison Wheeler of Fayetteville pled guilty to speeding (55-45) and was given a prayer for judgement upon payment of cost in the action.

Sherman Lee Arnold Jr. of Ft. Bragg pled guilty to DWI and driving without a license charges and was given a 60-day suspended sentence.

Arnold was instructed to pay a \$100 fine and court cost in the action.

Pate also ordered the defendant to perform 24 hours of community service work within 30 days as part of the judgement.

Arnold was also ordered to enroll and "successfully" complete the alcohol and drug abuse school within 90 days.

John Leslie Engle of Gibsonville pled guilty to DWI charges in District Court last Friday and was given a one-year suspended sentence with two years of supervised probation.

Engle was also instructed to pay a \$400 fine in the action.

Pate ordered the defendant to seek an appointment with an alcohol and drug abuse counselor as part of the suspended sentence judgement.

Rudolf King of Raeford pled guilty to driving while impaired (DWI) charges and driving without a current inspection sticker.

Judge Pate gave the defendant a 90-day suspended sentence with one year of supervised probation.

King was also instructed to perform 48 hours of community service work within 60 days.

Wellington Files For NC House Seat

Saddletree farmer, Tommy Wellington has filed for the North Carolina House of Representatives from District 16 which includes Robeson, Scotland and Hoke counties.

In announcing his candidacy, Wellington said he "plans to plunge into the workings of state government to first understand its structure and then to avidly support programs that will be beneficial to all the people of this district."

He said he hopes to "restore some of the respect for our political system that has seemingly slipped away through the years."

A resident of the Saddletree

Community, Wellington and his son operate a family farming business. He is active in volunteer work, particularly with the elderly and in rehabilitation programs that work against drug abuse and alcoholism.

He is married to the former Joyce Powers, a math teacher at Lumberton Junior High School. They attend Rozier Baptist Church where they serve as Sunday School teachers. Wellington also serves as a deacon and choir director. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Good Shepherd Home in Lake Waccamaw.

His educational background includes St. Pauls Elementary



Tommy Wellington

School, Lumberton High School, Wingate Junior College and Wake Forest University.

DeVane Hits Campaign Trail

State Rep. Daniel H. DeVane said this week he is working hard in an effort to seek a second term in the House.

DeVane is hoping to gain the Democratic Party nomination for one of the three seats in the district which represents Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties.

During his active freshman year in the House, DeVane served on eight committees, including Appropriations, House Rules and Operation, Judiciary II, Health, Local Government II, Law Enforcement, Cultural Resources and University Board of Governors Nominating Committee.

He is currently serving on a special commission studying fire and EMS training services in North

Carolina. He also serves on the special commission studying peat mining and large scale land clearing.

DeVane resides in Raeford with his wife, Alice, and 11-year-old son, Howie. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Raeford.

DeVane was born in Bladen County.

After graduating from high school and working from several years in retail clothing, he joined the Fayetteville Police Department where he served as a patrolman for two and half years.

In 1969, he moved to Raeford as manager of a local clothing store and later opened his own men's shop.

In 1975, he completed Auctioneer's School in Kansas City, Missouri, and is presently a licensed auctioneer and real estate broker doing business as DeVane Realty and Auction in Raeford.

He entered politics in 1976 winning a seat on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners and was re-elected to a second term in 1980.

He served on numerous boards and committees including Governor's Transportation Efficiency Council, Joint Regional Forum, Older Adult Advisory Commission, Employment Training and Advisory Committee and the Region N Council of Government.

He also served as a volunteer fireman and rescue squad member.

Truck Stop Soil Tests Indicate Low Lead Level Readings

By Sherry Matthews

Recent samples taken from one of two new suspected hazardous waste dumping areas in Hoke County have shown "low level" concentrations of extractable leads, Hoke Health Director Lloyd Horne said Monday.

Preliminary test results taken at the second site, located along U.S. Highway 401 behind Virgil's Restaurant, were not available at press time.

Samples did show, however, that the site, located at the old Big

Star Truck Stop on Highway 401, has a 1.7% lead level in the soil.

"That is a pretty low level concentration," Horne said.

According to Horne, the "cut-off" for extractable metals in the soil is 5.0%.

"The tests show that the Big Star site is well below the cut-off limit," he added.

Tests conducted nearly two weeks ago also show that the Big Star site contained low level readings of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB).

"The soil at that site contained less than .8 parts per million of PCB," Department of Human Resources (DHR) Solid and Hazardous Waste spokesman Richard Gay said.

Those findings are way below the "safe limits" of 49 parts per million, Gay added.

According to Horne, DHR authorities will now "try to identify" the land owners or people responsible for the alleged dumping or spillage.

"Whoever is responsible will

have to disk lime into the soil and treat it," Horne said.

"Right now, I think that is all that will be required at that site," he added.

"The levels are not in any way hazardous or of a great concern," Horne said.

Although no test results have been completed at the Virgil's site, sources close to the investigation say that there is some concern about possibly high lead concentrations suspected to have been dumped in the area.

"There has been some obvious

burnings in that area," Gay said.

"We are doing the tests to see what, if anything, might be out there," he added.

Although "well below" the PCB safe limits, the Virgil's site contained nearly .9 more parts per million than the Big Star site.

Tractor Accident Kills Davis Bridge Man

A Davis Bridge man was killed Monday after the tractor which he was driving fell on top of him.

Ernest Michael Fossio, 67, was pronounced dead at the scene by Hoke Medical Examiner Dr. Riley Jordon after rescue workers removed him from beneath the tractor.

Fossio was apparently attempting to pull a 60-foot tree with the vehicle when the accident occurred, Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad had to raise the vehicle with air bags and a wench in order to free Fossio, a spokesman said.

The accident occurred around 3 p.m. on Camden Road near Davis Bridge.

It was the second tractor death in the county in the last two months.

Another Hoke County man was killed in December in a similar accident while attempting to pull a tree with a tractor.

McNair Files, Monday Deadline Nears

School board member Ruth McNair filed Monday for reelection to her third term on the board.

At press time, no one else had filed for the remaining school board seat that is presently being held by vice-chairman Mina Townsend.

According to Board of Elections

Supervisor Rose Sturgeon, candidates have until Monday February 6 at 12 p.m. to file for the primary election.

Since opening the books, no one has filed to oppose incumbents running for Register of Deeds, two county commission seats or the two school board seats.

Sturgeon also said that anyone wishing to vote in the primary election must register before April 9. That is when the books will be closed.

Residents can now register to vote at the Hoke County Library with librarian Elizabeth Burgess, Sturgeon said.

... Around Town Continued

(Continued from page 1)

teville Highway near where the bypass is now located on the north of Raeford.

She and her husband have attended every class reunion our class has had, and I last saw them in 1980.

They take *The News-Journal* so I will say, "Sorry I missed you." Stop the next time; I could be in the office.

I will miss seeing many politicians in the next few weeks, but they will leave either a card or note.

...

Mrs. Floyd Monroe called me last week and was talking about the death of J.L. McNeill. She was wanting to know if I knew what his mother's maiden name happened to be. I told her the last name was Scales, but I couldn't remember the first name. Also I told her she was from Moore County and went to the Old Cypress Church.

She said that she had some folks that attended that church and thought the name was Scales, but was not certain.

This is something else you miss in retirement. That is talking to some of the older citizens of the county every once in awhile.

...

The article on the front page of last week's paper about the absentees at meetings is being somewhat misused by some folks in the county. The article was well written and offered only the information on the number of meetings attended and not attended by members. There were no excuses given for any members why they had not attended. Only facts and figures were given.

Now attendance at all board meetings are important, but in my opinion there are some other things that are more important than attendance.

During my 60 some years in

Hoke County I have served and am still serving on boards. During this time at some of the board meetings, a person or persons, would have perfect attendance and the only time they opened their mouth was to answer present or to vote with the majority or whatever subject was before the board.

These people offered no input into the subject and most times had not prepared themselves for the meeting.

Some members of boards I have served on missed some meetings, but always seemed to be in attendance at an important meeting, well prepared and willing to talk about the agenda.

The attendance article neither condoned or condemned board members.

The above remarks are from this writer. This is the way I see board members. There is no need to be in attendance if all you are going to do is be like a "knot on a log."

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