



The first signs

With May not even here, the first heads of grain begin to peek out in Raeford area fields. These small grains will be harvested and sold mainly as livestock feed. This is an embryonic peek at money in Hoke

County farmer's pocket. Grain sales from this year's crop are expected to top the \$1.1 million mark.

... Around Town

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300 trees and he expects to produce 700 bushels this year. He told the editor that he should produce about 1000 bushels next year, if the weather is suitable.

Anyway it will be good when the peaches get ripe and Raz brings a sample by the office. Maybe this is asking too much?

Maybe most of you folks have been reading about the North Carolinians who are going to England this week for festivities to begin a three-year celebration of the 400th anniversary of America's founding by English settlers, who landed at North Carolina's Outer Banks.

There will be approximately 200 North Carolina residents who will make the trip. The leader of this group is Governor Jim Hunt. Along with Mrs. Hunt and others, they will be in England for three days, Wednesday through Friday. The festivities Friday will be carried on many local TV stations.

Leaving in a group on Tuesday was Mr. and Mrs. Neill L. McFadyen of Raeford. They will be gone for eight days and will be with a group of dignitaries. Neill of course, was a representative for many years in the N.C. General Assembly and Mary Virginia was on the Roanoke Colony committee for many years. She still may be on it.

So look for them on your TV screen Friday. We are proud that they are not only representing North Carolina, but also Hoke County and the City of Raeford. Maybe we can get some inside facts when they return.

American Legion, was by the house Monday and asked that I remind all members of the post of the Open House at Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg which will take place Saturday, April 28. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

The local members will meet at Edinborough Restaurant at 8 a.m. to go in a group to the Open House.

This will be one of the largest demonstrations ever put on at the two bases. They are expecting over 100,000 to attend this event.

Last Friday night as I entered a local restaurant, a stranger came up to me and introduced himself. He said his name was Robert E. Bruton of Merritt Island, Fla. and that he had been reading "Around Town" for many years and someone at his table told him who I was. Of course this caused my head to swell and feel like a big shot.

I talked to him and his wife, nee Christine McNeill, of the county, later on during the evening. He was with the McNeill family group and he and his wife were here on a visit. He was given *The News-Journal* many years ago and had kept his subscription up to date ever since.

He must have served at Fort Bragg when he met his wife because he said he was a veteran and enjoyed reading about the 252nd N.G. reunion.

It was good to talk with the Brutons and I hope they will keep in touch with me in the years to come.

Don't forget to vote absentee if you are going to be out of town on Tuesday, May 8.

... School plan given committee OK

(Continued from page 1A)

dung would come from the balance of the bond issue.

In the years prior to the major construction push, the committee recommends that roofs be repaired and that maintenance schedules be increased. Funds for those improvements would come from a special "roofing fund" and could be earmarked from ordinary revenues.

Under the proposal, Turlington would be phased out by merging the school with Upchurch through the addition construction on the Upchurch site.

The old Turlington facility could be used as an audiovisual area, to consolidate a cold storage area for schools and to accommodate general storage needs.

In order to make the plan work, the committee recommends the purchase of land which now adjoins the Upchurch School. That acquisition would bring the total land area at the facility to 32 acres.

In addition, all classrooms under the gym floor at Turlington should be eliminated before the

opening of school next year, the report says.

According to a memo to the committee from Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson, three mobil units would be needed at Turlington and one at Hoke High School to ease space problems for the ROTC program.

The four units are available used and can be purchased from a neighboring school system for about \$20,000, which is half the cost of new units, Nelson says.

By combining the funds from the bond issue and using revenues from the present one-half cent sales tax, the committee feels all improvements can be made without a tax increase.

"The committee recommends that the County Commissioners commit no less than 60% of the

sales tax revenues to the solution of the school facility problems during the year 1984 through 1989," the report says.

That amount would decrease to 40% during 1990 to 1993 and to 30% thereafter.

If the funds are available, the plan also calls for the construction of a gymnasium at West Hoke and Scurlock schools.

Committee members plan to air the recommendations next Monday night at a public hearing to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoke County Courthouse.

Following a public question and answer period, which will include a slide show, the committee's proposal will be addressed by members of the Hoke County Commission and the Board of Education in a joint session.

In the recommendation, the committee members are urging the school board and the commissioners to make the "recommendations become actions as soon as possible."

... Defendant caught

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evaluation, Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

He had not been charged with escape on Tuesday.

Following the incident Friday Detective Harris expressed concern about security in the courtroom saying, "That's the reason that the prisoner escaped this morning. There are not enough deputies in the courtroom."

Commander Sam Snead of the local Post 20, North Carolina

... DWI draws weekends

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tion" and was made to pay fines and costs totaling over \$450.

Two unrelated cases of fraud were heard in last week's court session.

James McMillan, of Raeford, was found guilty of writing a bad check to Kemp Radio and made to pay restitution, court records show.

Renee Hanna Taylor, of Red Springs, received one year probation after being found guilty of writing a stolen check for over \$90 to the local Sky City.

The check was reportedly stolen from Betty L. Murphy.

A Raeford man, Jeffery Smith, was sentenced to one year unsupervised probation after being found guilty of seven counts of "Employment Security Law Violation."

Court records say that while Smith was receiving unemployment benefits, he worked and was paid wages during the months of May, June and July of 1982, but did not report these wages to the Employment Security Commission.

Smith was also made to pay court costs and over \$100 to the commission.

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