

# McCain guard busted

By Ed Miller  
For the second time in less than three months, an employee at McCain Prison Hospital was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

A Pembroke resident, Virgil Owen Lowry, was arrested after he was found with the controlled substance on prison property, Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Lowry was arrested on December 8, Barrington said.

According to a McCain spokesman, Lowry, 29, has been recommended for termination.

Lowry never intended to sell the marijuana to prison inmates, a statement in a report by Hoke Detective Jimmy Riley said.

According to the report, Lowry had the pot in his pants pocket by mistake when he arrived at work the morning of the December 8.

Lowry hid the illegal substance in a bathroom of the prison but

was arrested after he retrieved it, said Barrington.

Lowry has already been tried for the offense, according to records in the Hoke County Clerk of Superior Court's office.

Lowry's charge was down graded to maintaining a vehicle for keeping a controlled substance, according to court records.

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell could not be reached for comment as to why the charge was reduced.

Lowry was placed on unsupervised probation for one year and fined \$100, records say.

The first prison worker, John Henry Love, was arrested on September 28.

Love, a Raeford resident, was searched and arrested after two bags of marijuana were found in his possession.

Love had allegedly hidden the bags of pot in the collar of his jacket, reports say.

## ... Hoke wells clear

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before more healthy consumers of the water, Rundgren said.

"It is something to be avoided," he said.

According to Rundgren, there are some highly poisonous chemicals in petroleum distillates such as gasoline.

Ethylene dibromide (EDB) is an additive to gasoline that can make people very ill or cause skin rashes, said Rundgren.

Benzene, another gasoline additive, had been known to cause leukemia in workers, according to the release.

"Even slight contamination of drinking water can make it unfit for human consumption," says the release.

Other poisonous components of gasoline may include toluene and tetraethyl lead.

Even a small amount of gasoline can cause a major problem, according to the release.

A leak as small as one-half drop per second amounts to 1.2 gallons per day.

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate a million gallons of

groundwater, and one gallon per day leaking into groundwater is enough to contaminate the water supply of 50,000 people, according to the release.

Person living near gas stations, who get their drinking water from wells should be aware of any strange odors in their water, Rundgren said.

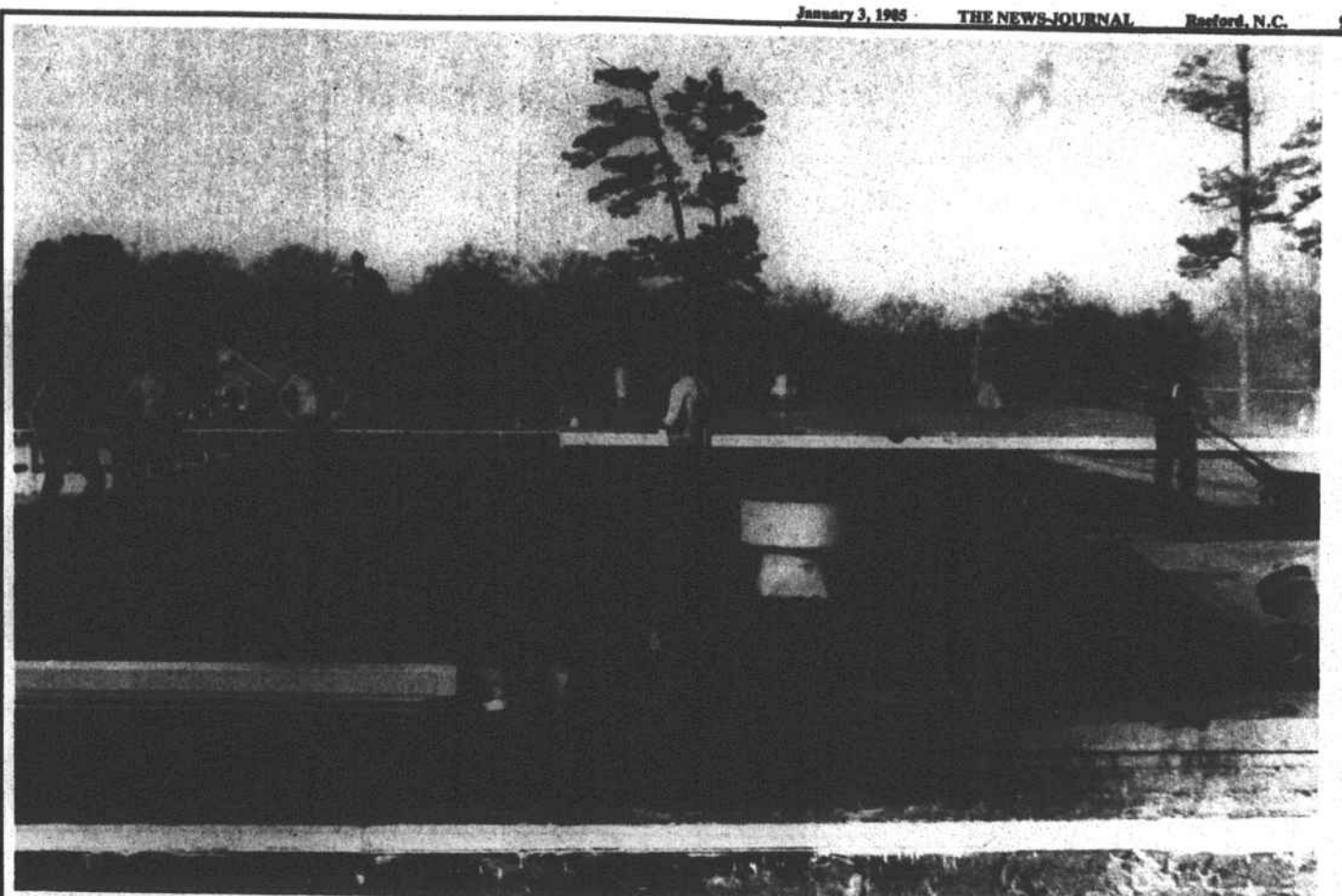
Even years after a station has closed and the underground storage tanks are empty, there may be problems, he said.

According to Rundgren, it may take a petroleum product years to migrate from a leaky tank to 100 yards away.

People who suspect their water may be contaminated are asked to contact the Hoke County Health Department for assistance in water analysis.

Because the analyzation process is expensive, persons who have no real reason to have their water tested are asked to go to private laboratories, said Rundgren.

Owners of tanks that may be leaking may also contact the Health Department for advice on testing methods.



**Winter job**

Working shirtless is not unpleasant when one is in the roofing business on a 70° December day. These workers are attempting to finish this

job on McLauchlin School before classes resume January 2. The new roof is part of a countywide school rehabilitation plan.

## Need still critical for foster homes

By Ed Miller  
There are currently only 11 families licensed in Hoke County to be foster homes, and a recent push by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to get more involved with the program has met with little response.

Of the 11 families presently in Hoke, almost all the spaces for homeless children are full, said DSS spokesperson Susan Moss.

A meeting held just after the release of some publicity on foster homes was attended by only one couple who wished to volunteer.

A second meeting, held shortly thereafter, was attended by one

person and the couple from the first meeting did not come back, Moss said.

When asked why there was so little public interest, Moss replied: "I don't know."

There is the possibility that the recruitment push could have come too close to the holidays, she said.

An avenue that is being discussed for getting more families involved is the mailing of personal letters to persons around the county known to be interested in the program.

There is also a plan under way to advertise again and hold more meetings, said Moss.

To date, there have been a few inquiries about the program and information packets were sent to all those people but little response has arisen from that also, said Moss.

Families from all races in the county are needed for the program, said Moss.

Currently, there are seven black

foster homes, three white homes and one Indian home in Hoke County.

There are no openings in the white or Indian homes and the black homes are almost full, she said.

Two white children in Hoke County have had to be sent out of the county for housing because of the shortage, said Moss.

One Indian child has had to be sent to Brunswick County because no local housing was available, she said.

No local foster housing puts a burden on local taxpayers through DSS because that department must go pick up children, from wherever they are, and bring them back to Hoke for visits with natural parents or relatives, said Moss.

The Department of Social Services must then take them back to their foster homes at visit's end.

According to Moss, there will be another attempt to get people in

Hoke County interested after the beginning of the new year.

DSS is planning the start up of a foster parent organization if interest can be aroused, said Moss.

Hopefully, if the organization gets started, more interest can be spurred from the community.

### Chambers re-enlists

Tech. Sgt. Ronald C. Chambers, son of Curtis and Lillie M. Chambers of McCain, has re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, after 15 years of military service.

Chambers is an aircraft maintenance technician with the 438th Organizational Maintenance Squadron.

His wife, Evelyn, is the daughter of Marla Mercado of 95-06 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven, New York.

He is a 1969 graduate of Berkley High School, Aberdeen.

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