

School enrollment increases

Enrollment in the school system is increasing at a steady annual rate. However, Hoke County is still 47 students short of having 5,000 pupils and being eligible for additional state funding.

During the 10th week of classes, Hoke County schools had reached an enrollment of 4,953, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ginny Hayes said.

"We've been trying to get to 5,000. We would benefit by it if we did," Hayes said.

Additional money for instruction, as well as, more administrative state funds would be received once the county tops the 5,000 mark, the assistant superintendent said.

In a comparison with the third month of classes last year, the school system has grown by 88 students, figures released by the

board of education show.

Hoke High School's enrollment grew by 83 students from 1,203 in November 1983 to 1,286 in November 1984.

Upchurch Junior High School showed an increase of five students over the previous year, and Turlington Middle School lost 16 pupils during the period.

Although the school lost enrollment, changes in state dictated student-teacher ratios and the loss of classrooms under the gym floor, resulted in the need to add four portable units to the Turlington facility.

All of the elementary schools in the county, except South Hoke, showed increases in enrollment.

Scurlock, which is the largest elementary school with an enrollment of 736 students, grew by the greatest amount during the period. The school showed an increase

of 32 students, which Hayes attributes to Ft. Bragg families moving into the county in the Rockfish area.

South Hoke dropped by 25 students from 494 to 469 pupils.

West Hoke was up by three students with 430 enrolled, and J.W. McLauchlin went up by six.

Two portable classrooms were added at McLauchlin, where 363 students are attending school.

Most of the increase at Hoke High was in the ninth grade, where the student enrollment went from 350 in 1983 to 390 in 1984.

Hoke High's 12th grade also increased by 22.

Although the eighth grade at Upchurch increased by 22, the seventh grade fell by 15.

At Turlington, the fifth grade was down by 23 and the sixth grade went up by seven students.

... Around Town continued

(Continued from page 1)
are not hidden away where folks can't see them. They have almost become a landmark for Raeford.

Someone said they would be moved to the Hoke County High School. For what reason I haven't been able to find out, unless it is just somewhere to place them for safety. Frank Crumpler said this week that maybe they could be placed around the Courthouse where people could see them. Any place is fine with me just so they aren't destroyed.

The above mentioned deer were sculptured by the late W.T. Covington of Raeford. He also sculptured the bust of J.W. McLauchlin that is now in the Hoke County Courthouse.

On the site where City Hall now

stands was a log cabin that had pigpens in the yard, along with dogs and other animals in the yard. Pigs were in the pen and they along with the other animals were sculptured by Mr. Covington. This was done in the 1920s.

Our family had a nice setter bird dog and Mr. Covington asked my father if my brother, Spec, and I could bring it up for him to use as a model. The dog was a pet and wasn't any good as a bird dog, but did make a good model for his works.

I don't know what happened to the pigs, chickens, dogs, etc. that were at the cabin, but we should see that the deer are not destroyed.

I understand that the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce will soon start a membership drive. With the new office and a new secretary in the job, we should en-

courage businesses to join and get a very active chamber working for Raeford and Hoke County. If business people will put their money in the chamber, then you will want to get the organization moving to get your money's worth.

Maybe it would be wise to look into getting individuals to contribute to the chamber. There are many retired people in Raeford and Hoke County who could contribute, both in time and money, to the organization.

To make the chamber move to benefit Raeford, we must have everyone's support.

Don't forget the Super Bowl on Sunday. This should be one of the best games ever played since the Super Bowl was started.

Montana against Marino should be super!

Seasonal slowdown causes jobless hike

By Ed Miller
Seasonal agricultural slowdowns and manufacturing layoffs partly account for Hoke County's unemployment rate rising to 10.3% in November, North Carolina Employment Security Commission officials said last week.

This is the first time since last June that unemployment figures have topped the double digit mark.

The unemployment rate has risen from 9.9% in October, 4%, or almost one half of a percent.

Farm labor has been tapering off during the winter months, according to Unemployment Security Commission Raeford Branch Manager Burnest Graham.

The Thanksgiving layoffs from manufacturers are also beginning to show up on November reports, said Graham.

Unemployment is down from

November of 1983 when the rate stood at 12.1%.

Statewide, unemployment rose slightly, increasing from 6.9% to 7%, figures show.

Of the counties surrounding Hoke, Robeson is the only one sharing a rate in double digits. The Robeson rate is 13.3%.

Cumberland County rests at 7.4%, a decline from last month's 7.9%; Scotland is at 8.5%, down a full percentage point from last month; Moore has 7.7% unemployed, a slight rise from October's 7.4% rate.

The counties in the state with the highest unemployment in

November were Tyrrell, Swain, Graham, Cherokee and Robeson.

Those with the lowest were Orange, Wake, Pamlico, Mecklenburg and Durham, say figures.

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... Woman sentenced

(Continued from page 1)
beside the head with the gun," Bowles said.

"She (Simmons) was a little rowdy," Bowles added.

According to testimony from both men, Simmons went outside after the gun went off for a few minutes then returned to the door of the trailer saying she had been shot.

It was established during the trial that Simmons, Williams and Bowles had been drinking throughout the night.

An odor of alcohol was detected around the two men on the night of the assault, Harris and Odum said.

By her own admission, Simmons had been smoking marijuana that night.

When Simmons came to the door, Williams and Bowles took her to local authorities.

Twice during the trial, motions for dismissal from the defense were denied.

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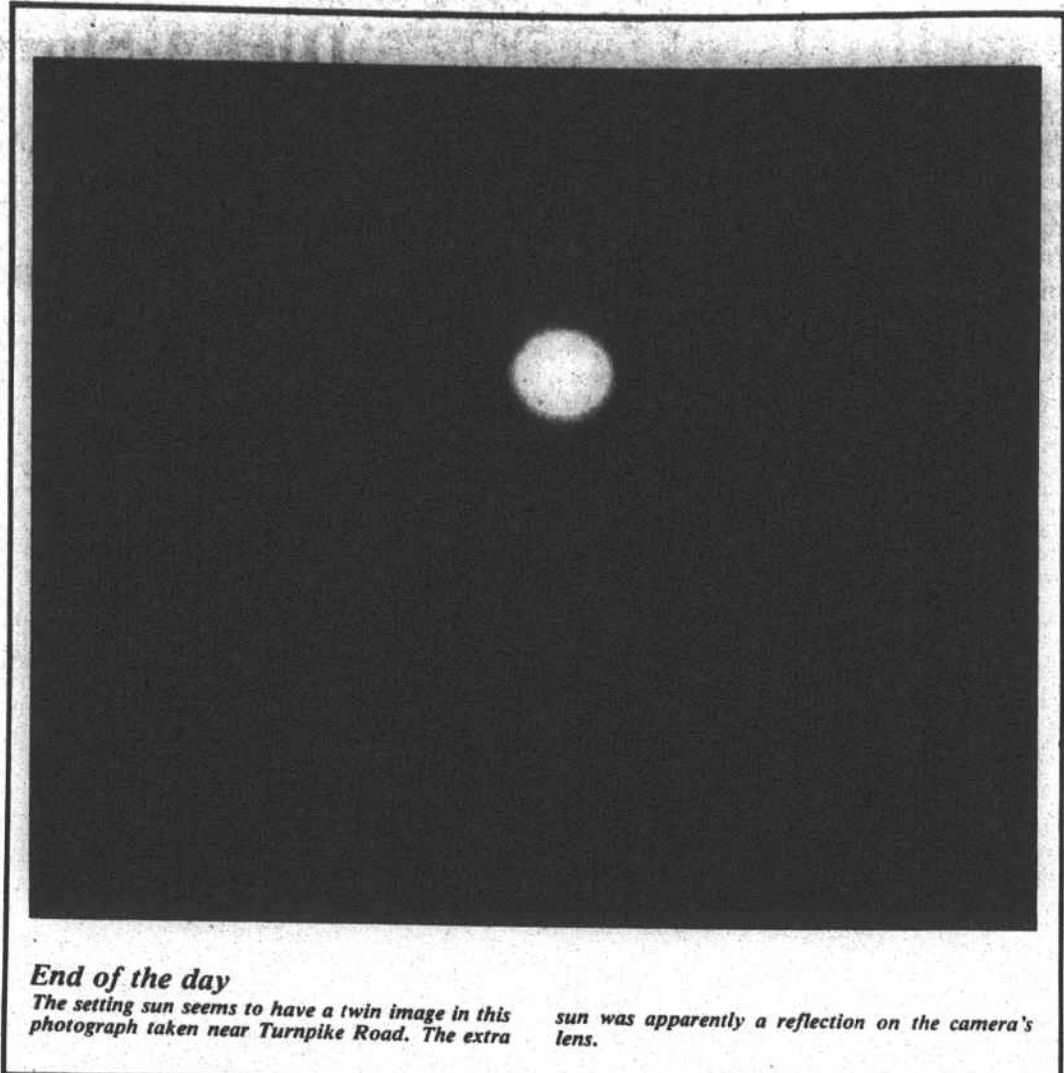
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End of the day
The setting sun seems to have a twin image in this photograph taken near Turnpike Road. The extra sun was apparently a reflection on the camera's lens.

... Deadline set for recruiter

(Continued from page 1)
The total figure for the proposed budget is \$50,000.

"That is the bare minimum," Howell said.

According to Howell, the figure was arrived at through the research of City Manager Tom Phillips and Hoke County Manager William Cowan.

Facts about what other counties spend on industrial recruiting were gathered to come up with the proposed budget, Cowan said.

The \$50,000 figure was decided in a prior meeting along with a

proposed 25%-75% split between the city and county.

Hoke County is to fund the larger part of the split.

"We need to make sure the split is specified to each board," Commissioner Vardell Hedgpeth said.

According to Cowan, the \$50,000 figure does not reflect costs of maintenance and heating and cooling of the old depot building, where the offices of the development director and the Chamber of Commerce will be located.

The figure also does not show money that is being put into the salary of the executive secretary by the Chamber, said the County Manager.

"The board (Hoke County Commission) is going to want to know about that," Commissioner John Balfour, who is also the county commission chairman, said.

Balfour and Hedgpeth are to present the budget to the Hoke County Commission and the Raeford City Council, respectively, during February meetings.

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