



A mess
Local farmer, Billy Dalton (right) and Extension Agent Willie Featherstone, examine the damage to tobacco plants in one of Dalton's fields. "Hail can clean one end of a field and not touch the other. I've seen it happen," Dalton said. He added that his

whole field in this case was cleaned. According to Featherstone, although farmers have insurance, it may not be enough to cover the high costs of tobacco production, not to mention any profit the farmer may have planned for.

...Storm damages Hoke tobacco

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down, they turn yellow in the leaves, said Featherstone.

Dalton's plants were already showing signs of discoloration.

Both farmers had insurance against hail damage, but according to Featherstone and other officials, insurance will cover the price of production for the crop

but will not cover any profits that farmers would have realized at the market.

Insurance may not even cover the cost of production, said the agency chairman.

Cape Fear Production Credit Official Julian Butler said that it generally cost between \$1,000 and

\$2,000 per acre to produce tobacco.

Farmers generally estimate \$1.05 per pound to produce the crop not counting rent for allotments and land, said Butler.

Butler deals in Carlton State Mutual Insurance for tobacco.

Damage in Hoke County for farmers covered by insurance ranged from 15% to 90%, said Butler.

County unemployment shows increase

Hoke County's unemployment rate rose by three tenths of a percent during the month of June from 8.1% to 8.4%, recent figures from the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC) show.

The decline of the textile industry and an addition of students, both high school and college graduates, into the job market ac-

counts for the slight increase during the month statewide, according to ESC spokesman Bob Campbell.

"It is expected that graduates seeking jobs at this time each year will be reflected in the unemployment picture. The declining textile industry, however, continues to be the strongest influence on the state economy," said Campbell.

The statewide unemployment

figure rose from 5.4% to 5.5%.

Of the counties surrounding Hoke, both Scotland and Robeson have higher unemployment rates resting for June at 9.6% and 10.4% respectively.

Moore County has 5.2% unemployment and Cumberland County rests at 6.4%.

The local ESC office has announced that it has received funding for all 1985 programs.

Suspect sought for heist

A man who allegedly walked out of Virgil's Drive-In with \$150 in cash last Thursday has not been caught by Raeford or Hoke County law enforcement officers.

The man was identified by witnesses and is said to have walked up to the cash register of the diner, taken the money out and run away before people inside could stop him, reports say.

Witnesses said the man asked a clerk in the store repeatedly how much money was usually kept in the register, according to reports.

When the man allegedly took the money out of the register, he was reported to have told witnesses that the sum was exactly what he needed.

In an unrelated case, on July 20, Jimmy's Exxon was broken into again minutes after a Hoke County

Deputy Sheriff checked the store, reports say.

Mack High, the reporting officer, said he had checked the very window that was removed when apparent thieves took \$15 in cash and over \$550 in cigarettes from the store.

According to High's report, the drive-in window was removed from the side of the building.

An employee of the store, who lives nearby, chased a gold colored van with out-of-state license plates, but lost sight of the vehicle in Cumberland County.

About 80 cartons of cigarettes were taken from the store, reports say.

On July 19, Otis Bryant reported four guns taken from his home, say reports.

A screen was removed from the house by apparent thieves to gain entry, say reports.

Four 12 gauge shotguns and a .22 caliber rifle were taken.

The total value of the stolen weapons is \$662.20, reports say.

A trailer, belonging to Enviro Chemicals, Inc., was apparently stolen last Wednesday, according to reports.

John Conoly reported the trailer stolen from his house.

The trailer was valued at \$350, say reports.

On July 18, \$286 in household items were reported stolen from Mary Mack Campbell.

A video game, soap and glasses were among the items reported missing, reports say.

... Around Town continued

(Continued from page 1A)
and big days are expected in September.

The group will meet again at the library at 7 p.m. August 15. If you want to help with the festival, please be in attendance.

The remodeling work at the depot is moving as scheduled. They hope that the offices can be occupied by Sept. 1.

The committee needs furniture to go in the offices. If you have any antique furniture you would like to donate, get in touch with Warren Johnston at *The News-Journal* office. If you would like to donate some money for furniture it will be accepted.

The Raeford Woman's Club has taken the landscaping of the grounds for a project.

Yes, it was August 1935 that I started to work at *The News-Journal*. The publisher and editor was Paul Dickson Sr. Workers in the shop were the late J. Minor Davis, Cecil McKenzie and Russell Lassiter. I was the "printer's devil."

It was the last year of Raeford High School in 1935. The next year it became Hoke High and moved to the now J.W. Turlington building. W.P. Hawfield was superintendent in 1935, but was

replaced in the fall by K.A. MacDonald.

The depression was still in force and Franklin D. Roosevelt was in his first term as president.

It was the year of the first night baseball game in the big leagues. Also that year came the following: Gallup Poll, hearing aid, sulfa drug, beer cans, nylon, Alcoholics Anonymous, parking meters, public housing, Social Security and some other things.

So you see besides my starting to work at the newspaper other things happened.

If you can think of something that happened or started 50 years ago, let me know.

...Murder charges groundless

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freed from murder charges in the last year.

In July of last year, District Court Judge A. Elizabeth Keever found "no probable cause" to proceed with a trial for Larry Donald McCain, who was charged with the May 23 slaying of his estranged wife Sarah Ann McCain, 33.

Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney William Van Story said at the time that there were no witnesses to the murder, although there were people who saw the truck McCain was supposed to be driving at the scene of the apparent slaying.

"There is no real physical evidence. No gun was recovered," said Van Story.

"There was totally insufficient evidence," said Cumberland County Public Defender Paul Herzog, McCain's attorney.

"If you believe what all the witnesses said, it just puts him (McCain) at the scene of the crime," said Herzog.

Sarah Ann McCain was found dead leaning on a chest of drawers with a fatal shotgun wound to the neck, sheriff's reports say.

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