

# The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1966

## Yule Parade Will Feature Cowboy Nick

Raeform's annual Christmas parade will have a definite "western" flavor when the event is staged here Friday at 3:30 p. m.

Jimmy Seagroves, parade chairman, said all entries will be decorated and used as floats, sponsored by individual merchants and built and shown by members of Hoke Saddle Club.

Hoke High School band will be at the head of the parade, preceded only by a color guard and the parade marshal. Upchurch High School Band, Raeform Elementary School Band, and possibly an elementary band from Upchurch will participate.

Between the bands will come the marching units -- Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and a company of drum majorettes.

Then will come the horses and riders and the horse-drawn floats.

"We're trying to get a horse-drawn vehicle rigged up for Santa Claus," Seagroves said. "If we don't come up with anything suitable, we will use the fire truck," he said.

Christmas lights will be turned on downtown at the beginning of the parade and will burn throughout the holiday season. Carols will be played throughout the shopping day over the town's public address system.

"Santa Claus will be downtown in the business district from 4 to 6 p. m. daily, and from 2 to 6 p. m. on Saturdays," Seagroves said.

A special mail box for "Letters to Santa" will be placed in front of the Chamber of Commerce office on Main Street. Youngsters may "post" their letters there without postage.

The News-Journal also will welcome "Letters to Santa" and will publish as many as practical.

Special shopping hours will be observed by most downtown business establishments during the pre-Christmas season.

The Christmas parade will signify the beginning of the Yule shopping season. Merchants were busy this week putting out new Christmas merchandise and new stock will be added throughout the season.

Jim Stephens, president of Hoke Saddle Club, has asked that motorists and pedestrians give horses the right-of-way during and after the parade. If the horses can be moved out of town in a group, it will lessen the possibility of an accident, he said.

The parade will form near First Baptist Church on North Main. It will proceed southward to the street below the A & P store on South Main, where units will disperse.



CLARK ALLEN  
...Third To Die...

## FIRE'S THIRD VICTIM Clark Allen Dies At Duke

A 13-year-old Hoke County lad lost a courageous battle against death Tuesday and died in Duke Medical Center, the third victim of a tragic fire.

Clarkson Allen, son of Mrs. Nickie Allen of Aberdeen Rt. 1, was given no chance to survive after receiving severe burns early in the morning of November 19.

On that date, he and four companions, all 13 years old, were camping overnight in a grove of pines in Quewhiffle township. At about 3:30 a. m., fire engulfed the canvas tent in which

the lads were sleeping. David Womble, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Womble, Aberdeen Rt. 1, was trapped in the tent and burned to death.

The other four hurried to the home of Hugh Pickler, father of one of the boys, some 400 to 500 yards away.

They were rushed to Moore Memorial Hospital, where Pickler's son, Harry Duke Pickler, died the following day.

At about the same time young Allen was sent to Duke, John Crissman, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Crissman, Aberdeen Rt.

1, was transferred to N. C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. He is still on the critical list at that institution.

The fifth lad, Harry Lee Thornberg Jr., whose parents live on Raeform Rt. 3, was less seriously burned than the other four. He is still a patient being treated at Moore Memorial Hospital.

Four of the youngsters were eighth graders at Raeform Elementary School, while young Crissman was a ninth grader at Hoke High School.

Reports indicated that Pick-

ler, Allen and Crissman suffered third degree burns on 30 per cent or more of their bodies. The Womble boy, of course, was burned beyond recognition.

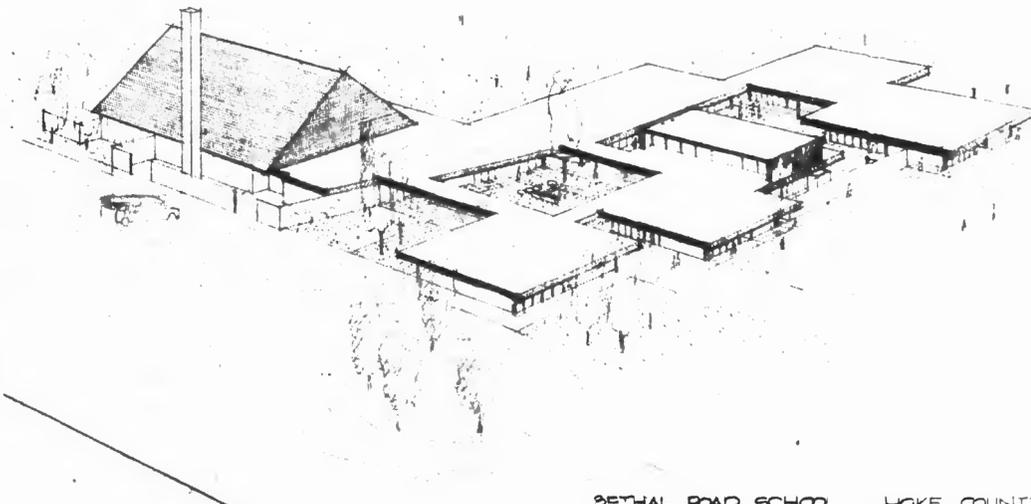
Investigating officers theorized that the tent was set afire by a spark or coal from a campfire some 12 feet from the tent. Young Thornberg told officers that he awoke to find the walls and the top of the tent in flames.

It was miraculous, officers said, that the four made it to the Pickler residence.

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## COMPETITION EXTREMELY KEEN

# Bids On New Elementary School Show Total Cost Of \$605,000



BETHEL ROAD SCHOOL, HOKE COUNTY, N. C.  
HAYES, HOWELL & ASSOC. - ARCHITECTS

Architect's Drawing Of New Elementary School Across Bethel Road From Hoke High School

## Contracts To Be Let Tomorrow

Bids have been opened on Hoke County's proposed new elementary school and contracts are expected to be awarded tomorrow.

Low bids on the project, which entails five contracts, total \$568,629. That figure does not include equipment and furnishings, except for the kitchen, or architect's fees of \$37,151, raising the total cost to \$605,780. Bidding apparently was highly competitive on the project, judging from the closeness of the bids.

Low bidder on the general contract was Ellis Construction Company of Sanford, which bid \$375,700. Of the seven bids on the general contract, the six lowest were separated by only \$17,400.

Low plumbing bid came from Carroll and Gift Plumbing and Heating Company, Sanford, at \$44,877. There were four bids for the contract and the highest and lowest differed by less than \$1,000.

T. R. Driscoll Company of Lumberton was low bidder for the heating contract at \$80,435. Four bids were submitted and the difference between the highest and the lowest was about \$2,500.

Griffin Electric Company of Sanford was low bidder on the electrical contract with an offer to do the job for \$58,642. Six bids were submitted, with the five lowest within a \$4,000 range.

See BIDS, Page 2

## Perjury Charged In Traffic Case

Perjury charges against Allen Parks, former service station attendant, were bound over to Superior Court here this week after he waived preliminary hearing. Bond was set at \$1,500.

Parks was charged with felonious perjury in a Superior Court case last week in which Calvin Foster McBryde was given nine months on the roads on conviction of a drunk driving charge.

Solicitor Lester Carter filed the charges against Parks after he testified in the case against McBryde, operator of a service station on U. S. 401 Bypass. Parks was employed by McBryde at the time the latter was charged with the drunk driving offense.

State Highway Patrolman J. E. Stanley, arresting officer in the case, testified that he came upon a pickup truck weaving back and forth across the road. He said about the time the car was meeting him, it went off the road.

Stanley said he stopped his patrol car immediately and went to the pickup, where he found McBryde under the wheel in a drunken condition. He put McBryde into the patrol car and

brought him to town, where charges were lodged.

Parks took the stand in McBryde's behalf and testified he was driving the pickup truck at the time because "McBryde was too drunk to drive." Both Stanley and Patrolman J. D. Robinson, who came to the scene in response to a radio call, testified they did not see Parks at any time.

Parks contended he was driving and that the pickup went into the ditch because of icy conditions.

He said he went to call a wrecker, leaving McBryde in the truck, and did not return to the scene.

McBryde testified and also denied that he was driving the truck at the time.

After the jury returned a verdict of guilty against McBryde, he was given nine months in prison under the work release program. He has several prior convictions of violating traffic laws.

He gave notice of appeal and was placed under \$1,500 bond. Parks' bond was set at that amount by Judge James H. Pou Bailey, who recommended that Carter draw the charges.

## JAILBREAK 'BUDDY' GIVEN 10 YEARS

# Cummings Gets Life For Murder

A Hoke County murderer and a convicted burglar who broke out of jail here in September received long prison terms last week when their cases were tried in Hoke Superior Court. Jerry Cummings, 27, Raeform Rt. 1, entered a plea of guilty of first degree murder in the

fatal shooting of his uncle, James Otis Bryant, also 27, one summer Sunday morning in the Arabia community.

Judge James H. Pou Bailey handed down the mandatory sentence to prison "for the remainder of his natural life." Cummings and Bryant, both

Indian, and a female companion were riding along the paved road, testimony indicated, when Cummings, who was seated in the rear seat directly behind Bryant, the driver, pulled a pistol and shot Bryant six times in the back.

The woman said she jumped from the car and fled.

In addition to the murder charge, Cummings was charged with escape from jail, auto larceny, attempted safe robbery, and breaking and entering. Those cases were not pressed with leave.

Cummings was in jail awaiting trial when he and Jackson, who was being held for transfer to prison to serve a two-year term for breaking and entering, sawed their way out of Hoke County jail in September. They broke into Raeform Auto

Company, attempted to break open a safe, stole some auto parts and office machines, and fled on a new Mustang car stolen from the firm.

Within 24 hours, Jackson was picked up in Allendale, S. C., by Palmetto state patrolmen. He was driving the stolen car.

Officers said Jackson told the South Carolina officers Cummings was at a motel in Sylva, Ga.; that he was armed and dangerous, and that they should exercise care in attempting to arrest him.

Officers in Georgia were alerted. They broke into the motel room and found Cummings drunk and in bed, the sheriff's department here reported.

"The only thing that saved Cummings from being shot by the officers was the fact that

he was drunk in bed and didn't make a move when they entered," one officer said. "If he had moved, they would have blasted his head off."

Jackson also was charged with escape from jail, for which he received two years, auto

See CUMMINGS, Page 9

## Gillis, Currie Get Year Suspended

Harold Gillis, former county commissioner and Raeform businessman, was convicted last week in Hoke Superior Court of failing to account, within reasonable time, for some \$14,000 entrusted to him by a real estate client.

Gillis had been indicted on an embezzlement charge in August following an investigation by the S. B. I. and sheriff's department.

He was accused of embezzling \$14,453.57 in handling the sale of a house belonging to Dr. and Mrs. Harry H. McLean after they moved from Third Avenue to West Donaldson Avenue. James G. Davis and his wife, Lula C. Davis, were the purchasers.

The embezzlement charge was not pressed (meaning the state does not wish to prosecute) and Gillis entered a plea of guilty to the lesser offense, which is a misdemeanor.

He was given one year in prison under the work release program by Judge James H.

Pou Bailey. The sentence was suspended upon payment of \$150 and costs and not engage in the real estate business for five years.

The sale of the house by the McLeans to the Davises took place last November. Restitution was made when the misappropriation came to light last summer.

Meanwhile, another Hoke Countilan was given a one-year term, suspended, after pleading guilty to obtaining narcotic drugs with forged prescriptions. S. B. I. Agent Gary Griffith testified that William Douglas Currie procured extra quantities of a synthetic narcotic which his doctor prescribed for treatment of a stomach disorder. The medication began after surgery.

There was "absolutely no indication" that Currie procured the drugs for sale or any use other than his own, Griffith said.

Griffith, whose testimony

See CURRIE, Page 2

## Judge Andrews Taken By Death

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at Antioch Presbyterian Church for Judge Mebane Andrews, 73, who died Friday.

Services were performed by the Rev. Ben Ferguson, pastor. Burial was in the church cemetery.

A native of Chatham County, Judge Andrews devoted some 30 years to education as a high school principal before retiring to the farm, a lifelong dream. He was educated at the old Bingham Military School in Mebane, attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and studied law at Wake Forest College before embarking on his career as educator.

His first school job was that of commandant of Bingham. He later served as a high school principal in Wayne, Bertie, Robeson, Scotland and Polk Counties before buying a farm in the Antioch community in 1940.

After settling there with his wife, the former Grace Holder of Bertie County, he was persuaded to serve as principal of Milldouson School until the end of World War II.

Having been admitted to the North Carolina bar in 1930, he became solicitor of Recorder's Court in 1948, but devoted most of his time to farming, which, members of his family say, was the love of his life.

He subsequently served as vice recorder until the death of Judge Jerry Greene, and presided over the court until Judge Greene's successor was elected. After that, he appeared in court only occasionally to represent a client or to visit friends there.

He was president of Lumber River Electric Membership Corporation; on the board of managers of Southern National Bank; a ruling elder in Antioch Presbyterian Church; a member of the Antioch community in 1940.

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JUDGE J.M. ANDREWS