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PLUMB PRETTY--The killing freeze of about a week ago denuded peach trees of their blossoms and killed many outdoor flowers. This hardy camellia on Central Avenue shed a bushel of browned blossoms and burst forth with another beautiful crop. Other shrubs and trees followed suit, and by mid-week, spring was once again in evidence.

Cold Spell Not Fatal To Peaches

Last week's killing freeze may not have wiped out the Sandhills peach crop after all. Visitors to the peach-growing sections of Moore County -- and at Poole Orchards in Hoke County -- report trees are showing new blossoms which apparently were not far enough along to be wiped out by the frost.

Temperatures plunged below the 20-degree mark on the night of Friday, March 17, and it was feared the entire peach crop in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia had been killed. Hardest hit were the Elberta orchards. Later-blooming varieties apparently show the best signs of producing an appreciable percentage of a crop, according to growers.

Meanwhile, the cold spell left tobacco beds unaffected, farm officials here said -- although the cold weather may have retarded their growth for a few days. Indications from farmers and others are that there will be an ample supply of tobacco plants if they continue to mature as expected.

Farming activity was evident in the county last week and early this week as the arrival of spring brought mild, windy weather. Land was being prepared for corn and cotton planting and other crops.

Indications are that most of the cotton acreage in the county will be planted this year. Last year, adverse growing conditions drastically cut production.

Technical Action Panel Is Formed

A "technical action panel" of local employees of the federal government has been organized in Hoke County "to assure that rural communities ... have access to all existing services in their development efforts. Heading the panel is James W. Pittman, county supervisor for Farmers Home Administration. Other members include the local heads of Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Agricul-

tural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the U.S. Forest Service, Farm Agent W. S. Young and Home Agent Josephine Hall.

"The county technical action panel will serve as a one-stop source of information on programs available to rural communities that might help them solve economic problems and develop community facilities," See ACTION, Page 9

Hoke Board Hears Budget Requests

County commissioners spent the day Tuesday receiving the annual budget requests of all county departments before beginning to act on allocations for the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

"We mostly sat and listened," said T. B. Lester, county manager and clerk to the board. "I haven't begun to figure up the requests, so I cannot at this time say how much the budget may be increased. It will be higher, however, since the new school bond issue comes into account and the cost of everything is up."

Welfare costs, too, will be substantially increased in the General Assembly authorizes and increase in old age assistance.

"The welfare budget may turn out to be \$10,000 more than

last year," Lester said.

Cost of public welfare is borne primarily by the state and federal governments; however, the county's share of the welfare budget is still a sizeable consideration.

Lester said it appears the county budget almost certainly will exceed \$600,000 for the first time. It still is far too soon to determine what tax rate consideration will have to be made, he said.

The current county tax rate is \$1.28 per \$100 valuation, based on assessed valuation of \$37 million for all real and personal property in the county.

"The school budget has not yet been presented," Lester said. "I have told Mr. Gibson (Superintendent of Schools W. T. Gibson Jr.) that he can wait until April 17 when the board of equalization meets."

Incumbents Will Wait Deadline

With the deadline for filing little more than two weeks away, it is hard in Raeford to find anybody who'll say he will run for mayor or any of the five seats on the town board of commissioners in the May 2 election.

Not that members of the present board are gunshy. Individually, four of the five said yesterday they have not made up their minds and the fifth member, J. D. McMillan, was not immediately available for comment.

Mayor H. R. McLean, nearing the end of his third two-year term, said he has not fully decided whether he will run. Similar expressions of indecision were spoken by C. P. Kinlaw, Palmer Wilcox, Franklin Teal and John K. McNeill. "I don't know for sure, but I am considering strongly not running," said Kinlaw, a Raeford jeweler. "I will decide in a week or so."

McNeill said he is not ready to announce his intentions because "I really don't know, but I probably will know by this time next week."

"Ofhand, I don't know," said Franklin Teal, manager of Raeford Saving and Loan. "I'll probably wait and decide that final week."

"It's too early for me to tell," said Wilcox, a young lawyer. "I really haven't given it a lot of serious thought. It is sometimes a thankless task, and I sometimes wish we'd have more candidates. I will decide before filing deadline."

In recent elections, there has not been a rush to the town clerk's office to pay the \$5 filing fee required of candidates for mayor and the town board. In fact, there usually had to be a lot of prodding to get incumbent members to stand for re-election.

Both the mayor and town commissioners serve with only token pay. They often have to conduct meetings in addition to

Car Burns

Fire of undetermined origin broke out in a parked automobile Tuesday noon just inside the town limits south of Raeford.

Firemen were called out and quickly brought the blaze -- which was burning in an old-model car -- under control.

'THANKLESS JOBS' Candidates Hard To Find For May Town Election



SUBJECT, EDUCATION--Dr. Raymond Stone, president of Sandhills Community College, speaker at the annual supper meeting of the education department of Raeford Woman's Club, chats with Mrs. John Balfour, president,

at the dinner table. At right are Mrs. Stone and Tommie Upchurch. Mrs. Upchurch, not shown, was program chairman for the night. Husbands and friends were special guests. (Story on page 5)

Turkey Production Raises Livestock Cash To Second

Livestock and Livestock products ran a close second to field crops as sources of farm income in Hoke County in 1966, according to a survey just completed by the farm agent's office.

With the cotton crop drastically reduced by adverse weather, crops produced only \$5,218,231 in receipts, and livestock and livestock products turned out \$5,086,800, according to W. S. Young, farm agent.

Other income, including forestry, was \$325,000--making a total of \$10,630,031 for all agricultural endeavors.

Add to that a total of \$946,340 in government payments, and Hoke County farmers had an income of \$11,576,371. Tobacco again was the biggest money producer. Farmers harvested 2168 acres, which produced an average yield of 1906 pounds per acre and averaged \$65 a hundredweight for total receipts of \$2,685.

Cotton, which usually ranks second, was way off. Only 4213.7 acres of cotton was harvested and it averaged a meager 288 pounds per acre. At an average price of 21.5 cents a pound, that amounted to only \$260,912.

Soybeans, which showed a giant gain in production because some of the cotton plowed under was succeeded by soybeans to make use of the fertilizer already in the ground, passed the \$1 million mark in Hoke County for the first time. Some 18,000 acres of soybeans was harvested, and at \$2.80 a bushel, the 486,000-bushel crop brought in \$1,360,800.

Number two income producer, however, was turkeys. Total receipts from 500,000 birds was \$2,375,000 at \$4.75 per bird.

Swine also accounted for more than \$1 million in cash. Farmers sold 28,000 head for \$1,428,000, an average of \$51

per hog. Beef cattle accounted for \$472,500, with 3500 animals going to market. An estimated 1000 other cattle were sold for \$70,000.

Poultry growers also produced 100,000 broilers, which averaged 40 cents per bird for \$40,000 in sales.

Other agricultural income was listed as:

Corn, \$337,500; wheat, \$72,900; oats, \$19,000; barley, \$16,335; rye, \$65,130; sweet potatoes, \$75,000; lespedeza, \$16,000; hay, \$30,000, sorghum, \$4,515. Apples, \$800; peaches, \$66,500; cucumbers, \$30,000; lima beans, \$6,000; tomatoes, \$4,875; watermelons, \$90,000; field peas, \$13,500; cantaloupes, \$1,600.

Greenhouse crops, \$3,000; outdoor flowers, \$1,500; pulpwood, \$90,000; lumber, \$210,000.

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Dr. Lake To Preach At Revival

Dr. Julian Lake, pastor of Brownson Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines, will be guest minister at the annual spring revival at Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The revival will begin with the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday, April 9, and continue each evening at 7:30 through Wednesday, April 12.

On Tuesday morning, April 11, there will be a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. for women. Men are invited to the session, as are women from other churches.

On the closing day of the revival, there will be a luncheon meeting for men from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Men from all churches are invited, said the Rev. C. A. Cooper Jr., pastor.

Song leader for the revival will be the Rev. Robert O. Freeman, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.

Dr. Lake, a native of Atlanta, was educated at Davidson College and Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

EXPECTED TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Annual Horse Show Offers \$2,400 In 114 Classes

A total of \$2400 in cash, plus trophies and ribbons, will be offered at the third annual Raeford Woman's Club Horse Show here April 29 and 30.

Final approval of 114 classes was made between club committeewomen and Col. R. W. Barrett, manager of the annual show, when Barrett visited Raeford recently.

The show will be held again this year at Jimmy Norris Stables on Highway 401 Bypass, using two rings to accommodate the hundreds of entries expected to compete here.

There also will be four performances again this year, with major classes and staves assigned to Ring 1 and hunter and jumper classes to Ring 2.

Clubwomen already have sold enough sponsorships and program advertisements to help underwrite production costs, a spokesman for the horse show committee reported.

Begun here only two years ago, the show was an immediate success, although rain curtailed attendance at the Saturday night performance of the inaugural show. After showing the first year at the Jaycee fairgrounds, the show site was changed to the Norris stables, by arrangement with Norris, where a clay ring and better facilities in general are to be had.

Attendance at the second show was much improved over the first year, and with an upsurge in local interest in horses, it is expected that this year's show will be considerably larger and better-attended than the first two.

Emphasis has been placed on including as many classes

for local horse owners to show their animals, whether registered or not. No less than a dozen classes are strictly for local horses, and many other classes are open to locally owned pleasure horses.

Following is a complete list of classes for both Ring 1 and Ring 2:

Friday night, Ring 1, 7:30 p.m.--\$50 open roadsters to bike; \$50 amateur walking mares; \$100 amateur three-gaited stake (set tails); open pleasure horse class; \$50 open five-gaited stallions and geldings; open roadster ponies to bike (47" and under); \$50 amateur walking stallions and geldings; open roadster ponies over 47" but not exceeding 50"; \$50 open five-gaited mares; \$25 native Arabian costume class; \$100 amateur five-gaited stake; local juvenile walking horses; \$50 open three-gaited; \$100 amateur roadster to bike; \$50 open walking horse class; \$50 junior five-gaited horses; local pleasure horse class.

Saturday morning, Ring 1, 10 a.m.--Juvenile pleasure horse class; pleasure pony class; saddle seat equitation (riders 12 yrs. and under); colt class (to be shown in hand); juvenile three-gaited (set tails); novice walking horses; ladies pleasure horse class; saddle seat equitation (riders 13-18 yrs.); \$25 three-gaited Arabians; men's pleasure horse class.

Saturday Afternoon, Ring 1, 1 p.m.--Local pleasure horse class; local pleasure pony class; men's Arabian horse class; go-as-you-please pleasure horse class; open Morgan horse class; juvenile five-gaited; open pleasure pony class; saddle

seat equitation championship (riders 18 yrs. and under); pleasure mare class; \$50 junior walking horses; ladies Arabian horse class; local western pleasure horse class.

Two-year-old walking horses; pleasure pony driving class; natural tall three-gaited horses; go-as-you-please pleasure pony class; natural tall walking horses; \$50 amateur roadster pony stake (47" and under); pleasure stallion and gelding class; ladies five-gaited horses; \$50 amateur roadster pony stake (Over 47" not exceeding 50"); \$50 three-year-old walking horses; ladies three-gaited horses; ladies walking horse class.

Saturday Night, Ring 1, 8 p.m.--Go-as-you-please pleasure horse class; \$100 championship roadster pony to bike stake (47" and under); Morgan horse championship; \$150 championship three-gaited stake; local pleasure horse championship; \$50 three-gaited ponies (set tails); juvenile walking horses; pleasure pony championship; \$50 Arabian horse championship; \$200 championship five-gaited stake; \$100 championship roadster pony to bike stake (over 47" not exceeding 50"); five-gaited ponies; \$100 amateur walking horse stake; \$150 championship roadster to bike stake; championship pleasure horse stake; \$150 championship walking horse stake; \$50 pick-up race; groom's choice.

Friday night, Ring 2, 6:30 p.m.--Local barrel race; local pick-up race; local pole bending race.

Saturday morning, Ring 2, 9 a.m.--Open working pony

jumpers; open working junior hunters; open working hunters; open green working hunters; green working pony hunters; working pony hunters over fences; green working hunters; junior working hunters over fences; working hunters over fences; green working hunters over fences; green working hunter ponies over fences; open pony jumpers; junior jumpers.

Green jumpers; open jumpers; hunter seat equitation-on-the-flat (riders 10 yrs. and under); hunter at equitation-on-the-flat (11-15 Yrs.); pleasure hunter class ponies; pleasure hunter class; walk-trot pony hunter class; working pony hunters under saddle.

Saturday afternoon, Ring 2--Junior working hunters under saddle; green working pony hunters under saddle; working hunters under saddle; green working hunters under saddle; walk-trot hunter class; hunter seat equitation-on-the-flat (16-20 yrs.); junior working hunter appointment class; \$100 working pony hunter stake; working hunter appointment class; hunter seat championship.

\$100 junior working hunter stake; \$100 working hunter stake; \$100 green working hunter stake; hunter seat equitation over jumps (15 yrs. and under); pony touch and out; hunter seat equitation over jumps (16-20 yrs.); hunter seat equitation over jumps championship (20 yrs. and under); maiden horsemanship (open to riders who have never won a blue); limited horsemanship (open to riders who have not won six blues); novice horsemanship (open to riders who have not won three blues); open barrel race; open pole bending; potato race; clove race.