

# The News - Journal

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## Federal Team Suggests Immediate Integration Of Most Hoke Schools

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### Court To Open Monday

A mixed term of Hoke Superior Court will get under way here Monday with Judge Edward B. Clark of Elizabethtown presiding.

Scheduled for trial the first day of court are a variety of charges against four men accused of taking and disposing of tires from the State Highway Commission garage here.

The defendants are John D. Strider, a former employee of the garage, charged with seven counts of embezzlement; Calvin Foster McBryde Jr., charged along with Strider in two counts of embezzling and converting; Louis C. Cunningham, charged along with Strider in six counts of embezzling and converting; and Charles Lewis Blacksheer, charged with one count of larceny and receiving.

The quartet was arrested last fall after an intensive investigation by State Bureau of Investigation agents and officials of the highway department. The tires allegedly were passed from the garage through an intermediary to pulpwood operators.

A first degree burglary charge against Larry Donnell Peterkin, 19, of Raeford will go to the grand jury when it convenes Monday.

Peterkin is accused of breaking and entering in the nighttime at the home of Odessa McKinnon in Tyertown on June 8.

The woman told officers she was asleep with her three children when the offense occurred.

### Break-In Is Foiled

Two out-of-state men were charged Friday night with breaking and entering after officers allegedly caught them in the act of breaking into Howell Drug Company.

Raeford Police Chief L. W. Stanton identified the pair as Henry Samuel Bivens, 32, and Frederick Joseph Roberts, 36, both of Lewisville, Ky.

Chief Stanton said Officers Jim West and Leonard Wiggins were checking back alleys when they saw a man at work on the back door of the drug store with a crowbar. When they drove up, he dropped the crowbar and his hat and fled.

The officers pursued in their patrol car across the taxistand lot and saw the man duck into the recessed doorway of Raeford Barber Shop. Both men were found lurking in the doorway.

### Judge Swears In Jury Commission

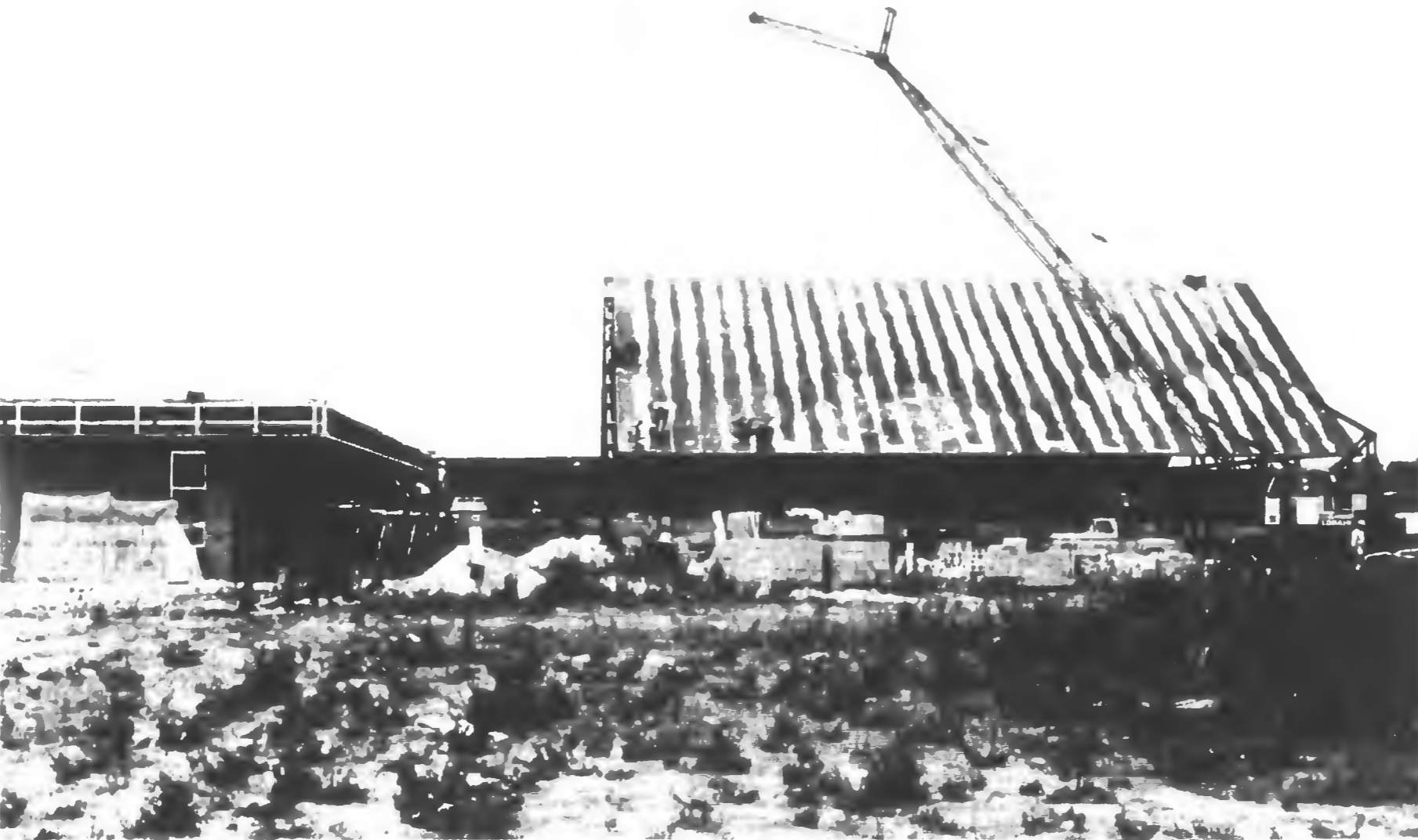
There no longer will be standard exemptions from jury duty in North Carolina, Judge Maurice Braswell told three persons who make up the Hoke County Jury Commission before he swore them in Friday afternoon.

"Nobody's profession or job will automatically relieve him of this civic duty as has formerly been the case," he explained.

Three persons sworn in during a brief ceremony in the office of E. E. Smith, Clerk of Superior Court, were Former Sheriff Dave Hodgin, chairman; William Lamont, vice chairman; and Bonzie Dobbin, secretary. Election of officers was held immediately after the ceremony.

The three were appointed last week by Judge Braswell, Twelfth Judicial District Judge, the clerk of Superior Court, and county commissioners.

In explaining the newly-created



Bethel Road School, Under Construction, May Become Integrated Junior High

### Bethel Rd. Plant May Be Jr. High

Federal officials have recommended major intergration of Hoke County schools if the county is to continue satisfactory compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Their suggestions include "elimination of racial identifiability" of the new school under construction on Bethel Road by making it an integrated junior high school and total desegregation of several other schools.

The recommendations followed an inspection tour of Hoke County schools and a day-long conference with Hoke school officials, made several weeks ago by a six-man federal team.

The team came here from Washington at the invitation of the local school board when it appeared Hoke County might not qualify for continued federal aid to education.

The recommendations regarding the Bethel Road School are to move at least one junior high school grade from Upchurch High School (predominantly Negro) and perhaps one junior high grade from Hawk Eye (Indian), along with the junior high school grades from Hoke County School (predominantly white).

"Further efforts to eliminate the racial identifiability of the new Bethel Road School should include the significant: desegregation of faculty," Hope wrote to W. T. Gibson Jr., superintendent of schools.

Regarding the integration of Hoke Schools to date, Hope wrote:

"The staff found that while the number of students in a desegregated situation increased a degree over the 1966-67 school year, the total number of Indian and Negro students in the district increased, meaning little actual progress in the area of student desegregation was made.

"... Members of my staff also learned that a new school was being constructed and would be ready for occupancy by December, 1967. Current plans call for housing grades 6, 7, and 8 from the Raeford School (predominantly white) in this new structure."

Fortunately, the Bethel Road school was planned so it could be used at some future date as a junior high school if the need arose.

Gibson was away on vacation his week and not available for comment. Hope indicated his office must be notified within 15 days of "your district's intention with regard to this matter so that our recommendations to the commissioner on final action might be made."

The state also made these recommendations: "Students in all grades or in the high school or elementary grades alone might be assigned to school on the basis of residence.

"The grade organization of the J. W. McLaughlin (predominantly white 1-4), Raeford (predominantly white 5-8), Upchurch (Negro 1-12) and new Bethel School might be changed, that is, all children in the same grade would be assigned to the same school.

"If school officials contemplate eventually making the new Bethel School a consolidated high school for all students in the district, plans for this action and the necessary reorganization which will follow should be submitted with a probable date for accomplishment."

Hope indicated that further integration should be accomplished through the school board's own initiative.

"It is our sincere hope that your district will find it possible to take additional steps in order to accomplish progress adequate to meet the requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," he wrote.

The recommendations, if put into operation, would totally integrate all the schools in Raeford, leaving only West Hoke, Scurlock, Burlington and Hawk Eye as predominantly non-white schools.

Hoke County schools, all of which are in a single, county-wide district, have been operated on a "freedom of choice" plan for the past two years and students have been assigned on that basis for the upcoming school year.

The result has been token integration of all schools which previously were all-white, with the largest number of transfers to Hoke High School.

The team indicated that "discussions with various members of the community would suggest that free choice procedures might have been a more effective means of desegregating students if school officials had made greater efforts and provided more direct leadership.

"Officials of school systems which have not yet eliminated their dual school structure have the responsibility for adopting and carrying out a desegregation plan which will change their school district into a single non-racial system as expeditiously as possible," Hope said.

### McKeithan Drowning Victim

Funeral services for Daniel Martin McKeithan, 10, who drowned Friday near Leland, were conducted Sunday at 3 p. m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Douglas Kelly. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

The youth, according to a member of the family, was playing with a boat in a small lake near their home when it capsized. He and a seven-year-old playmate could not be rescued by a 14-year-old who ran to the site and tried to pull them out.

The McKeithan family, who have a home here on Jackson Street, have been living near Leland this summer while their father was at work in the area.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian B. McKeithan, four brothers, Milton, Lee, Johnny and Michael McKeithan, all of the home; one sister, Kay of the home; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. John B. McKeithan of Raeford, and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McLamb of Clinton.

### Patrolmen Probe Rash Of Wrecks

A tractor-trailer loaded with about 20 tons of cured tobacco was spilled down an embankment when the rig overturned Friday afternoon on Highway 401 Bypass as it attempted to turn off the road at Webb's Tire Service.

State Trooper E. M. Roberts identified the driver as James Alton Womack of Selma, who

was transporting the tobacco from South Carolina markets to a redrying plant at Rocky Mount.

Roberts said Womack told him he attempted to turn into a steep downhill driveway and a rear wheel of the rig dropped into a ditch. He left the scene to call for a wrecker. While gone, the load apparently shifted and upended the truck.

Roberts investigated five more wrecks during the week end. They included these mishaps:

On Thursday afternoon, a car driven by Iris B. Jackson of Carthage skidded on rain-slick pavement at McCain, left the road, and hit a utility pole. There were no injuries. No charges were filed. Damage

to the car was approximately \$200.

Friday afternoon, vehicles operated by Flossie Phillips Stone of McCain and James Oscar Coe, Sanford Rt. 3, collided on N. C. 211 at Ashley Heights.

Roberts said his investigation revealed the Stone woman See WRECKS, Page 11



Shifting Load Blamed For This Spilled Tobacco

### Alligator Incident Closed; Sheriff Absolved

BY JIM TAYLOR

The Hoke alligator incident apparently is closed as far as state wildlife officials are concerned, and nobody appears likely to be prosecuted for killing the creature.

Leon Lineberry of Elizabethtown, district supervisor, protection division, N. C. Wildlife Commission, last week absolved Hoke Sheriff Dave Barrington of blame in the death of the seven-foot, 80-pound creature.

Earlier, reports indicated Sheriff Barrington would be called into court to explain why he shot the gator as it writhed and popped its 80-tooth teeth on the J. W. McLaughlin School grounds here.

"We have investigated the matter, and after talking with Sheriff Barrington, have concluded that Sheriff Barrington acted in good faith," Lineberry said. "It is our opinion that Sheriff Barrington felt that



the alligator was dangerous and a menace to the citizens who were immediately present when the alligator was released from the automobile. So far as we are concerned, the matter is over."

The case began several weeks ago when Willie McPhaul of the Antioch community saw the alligator alongside a dirt road near Antioch. He and Lerow Henderson, a neighbor, caught the alligator, put it in the trunk of McPhaul's car, and brought

it to Raeford.

After reporting the capture to Barrington, they drove the car onto the school grounds adjacent to the courthouse. When the trunk was opened, the alligator was dislodged.

A bystander reportedly stuck a two-by-four into the alligator's jaws and it chewed up the wood. At about that point, Barrington shot the reptile with his pistol.

It was not until later that

Barrington learned it is against the law to kill an alligator in North Carolina. The 1965 General Assembly made it an offense punishable by a minimum fine of \$150 to "take" an alligator or its eggs.

Voight Sutton, author of "Sportsman's Nook," and outdoor columnist which appears on Sundays in The Fayetteville Observer, raised a howl and suggested that "proper authorities should take a hand."

The protest eventually found its way to the N. C. Wildlife Commission in Raleigh after the matter already had been probed at lower levels. Jerry Rudd, local wildlife protector, first investigated the incident and later was joined by Lineberry.

Barrington, who does not hunt even small game, said his biggest regret about the whole affair is the embarrassment it may have caused the people of Hoke County.

He was kidded by friends and fellow officers at first, but when the incident gained notoriety and charges became somewhat serious, they rallied to his defense.

"Sheriff Barrington did what any sensible law enforcement officer would have done," one supporter said. "If they had brought him to trial in Hoke County, he would have been acquitted in a minute."