

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1968

Leaf Growers Will Discuss Market Plan

Hoke County tobacco growers and other planters in the six Southeastern states in which flue-cured tobacco is grown will begin a series of meetings Monday in an effort to cure the ills of marketing their crops in the late summer and fall.

Last season was the worst ever experienced by farmers, warehousemen, tobacco companies, and the Stabilization Corporation. Markets were flooded from opening day until the end of the season, and sales holidays punctuated the entire season, making it difficult for farmers to process their tobacco without danger of loss.

Local farm officials and tobacco growers seemed to view the extended time in which growers are allowed to market untied leaf accounted for a great many problems of the past season.

When the tobacco requires very little processing before being moved from the packhouse to the warehouse floor, farmers can move large amounts of tobacco daily, farm officials said. When they are required to tie it, each worker can process a limited number of pounds per day. The tying process tends to stabilize the flow of tobacco to market, they said.

The untied leaf program, however, has generally delighted farmers. It cuts down on personal involvement and labor costs, and they declare the difference in price on the warehouse floor is not so great that selling tobacco in untied form is not a practical and profitable procedure.

Tobacco experts in Hoke County (farm agents, warehousemen and leading growers) declared lower prices during glutted sales periods were entirely because of a flood of untied leaf.

Naturally, when farmers can

process almost unlimited amounts of cured tobacco, they flood the market when weather conditions are favorable for "stripping" tobacco. That creates a severe problem among warehousemen, who can sell only a designated number of baskets per day, and it overtaxes the redrying facilities of tobacco companies, whose redrying operations are set up to take care of normal flows of marketed leaf.

The public hearings set to begin Monday are to determine farmers' feelings about marketing orders for flue-cured tobacco in all six states which produce the leaf. A map of the proposed districts is on Page 11.

The first meeting will be held Monday at Greenville, beginning at 9:30 a. m. in the Moose Lodge. The other North Carolina meeting will be staged next Wednesday in Greensboro, also at 9:30 a. m., at the coliseum.

March 1, a meeting will be held in South Boston, Va.; March 4, in Live Oak, Fla.; March 6, in Douglas, Ga.; and March 8, in Florence, S. C.

"The proposal for establishing a marketing order for flue-cured tobacco will be considered formally at the hearings, the U. S. Department of Agriculture revealed. "A USDA examiner will conduct each hearing, and a transcript record of each hearing will be made. Testimony may be presented for or against any or all of the proposals by any interested individual or organization."

"The proposed order for flue-cured tobacco would provide a general framework within which the movement of tobacco

See GROWERS, Page 11



PAINTING THE POLE -- Raeford Post Office's flagpole got a new coat of paint this week when a painter climbed to the top, then painted his way down. That dressed-up fellow holding the ladder appears to be Frank Crumpler, local undertaker, which would be a small comfort to the average steeplejack.

Washington Backs Up On Threat To Schools

Guidelines Coming In Mails

Government school desegregation officials were reported Wednesday to have substantially modified guidelines sent two weeks or more ago to about 45 school districts in North Carolina, including the Hoke County system, in which cutoff of federal funds was threatened unless "dual school systems" were not eliminated by fall.

A news story The News and Observer, Raleigh, said Wednesday morning desegregation officials think there has been over-reaction in North Carolina, especially urban areas, to what they called "routine letters" mailed recently.

The letter received by D. D. Abernethy, superintendent of Hoke County schools, said Hoke County was suspected of "probable non-compliance" with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and declared that if the dual school system is not eliminated by the fall of 1968, action will be instigated to deprive the county of the some \$500,000 a year in federal funds it receives.

Wednesday's news story said officials in Washington were mailing out new guidelines spelling out what will be expected in the way of racial integration in the next few years.

The new guidelines will stress do - it - yourself desegregation, drop race mixing percentages which have been used as yardsticks in current regulations, and require districts to set a definite target date for removing the conditions of a dual white - Negro system.

Abernethy said Wednesday afternoon his office has not received a copy of the new guidelines.

Some officials in Washington conceded that some "over-reaction" may be understandable, since the letters were "necessarily vague and necessarily went to some districts which have never received them before."

The letters were designed to meet a new congressional requirement which says that federal civil rights enforcers

See THREAT, Page 11

Hoke Among 45



HONORED -- Alfred Cole was touched Tuesday when honored on his retirement as Hoke County Civil Defense director. Here, he is noticeably deep in concentration as Mrs. Catherine Brown reads a poem written as a tribute to him upon his retirement on behalf of workers in the county building

where his office was located. Looking on is Col. W. H. Dawson, who previously had presented him with a citation in commendation of his devoted service from the N.C. Association of C. D. directors.

Joe Gullledge Running Again

Joe Gullledge, incumbent register of deeds for Hoke County, has filed for re-election, subject to the Democratic primary in May.

Gullledge, a Hoke native, became the latest candidate to file for local office. Also being contested this election are two members' seats on both the board of education and county commissioners.

Deadline for filing for state office is tomorrow noon. To date, three Democrats and two Republicans have filed for the gubernatorial primaries.

Cole Is Commended For Civil Defense

Alfred Cole, who recently retired as director of Civil Defense of Hoke County, was honored Tuesday by the North Carolina Civil Defense Association of Directors in a brief ceremony held at the Hoke County Office Building assembly room.

A citation was presented to him by Col. W. H. Dawson Jr., "for outstanding contribution to Civil Defense work in the state and the nation." He said that over the 14 years Cole served as Hoke County director, he has been "a dedicated man." The citation was to have been presented recently at a state meeting in Durham, but Cole was unable to attend. His retirement came several weeks ago following a serious illness.

A former mayor of Raeford, Cole worked eight years without pay as county Civil Defense director and for the past six years, had served the county as

part-time paid director.

Cole also was presented a gift by workers of other offices in the building. The presentation was made by Mrs. Clarence Brown, who read a poem of devotion and well wishes written by Miss Mabel McDonald.

Following the ceremonies, Mrs. Carl Morris, Cole's secretary, gave a coffee hour in his honor for the some 30 persons attending.

Out of town guests included his daughter, Mrs. Robert E. Jordan Jr., of Mt. Gilead, County Commissioner J. A. Webb of Ashley Heights, and Joe Jenkins, McCain Sanatorium teacher and county Civil Defense instructor. His daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McNeill, and his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cole, C. P. Kinlaw, Town of Raeford Civil Defense director, and other friends and relatives from Raeford and from offices in the building.

Hoke Man Stricken At Wheel

Floyd Nelson Stanton, 65, of Antioch died Saturday in his car on Main Street in Raeford.

Stanton reportedly was suffering with chest and arm pains at his home early Saturday morning and left for the doctor's office. His car stopped just after passing the Harris Avenue and Main Street traffic light about 7:10 a. m., and Police- man Kermit Griffin, summoned by a passerby took the patient to the doctor's office, where he was pronounced dead.

Stanton is a brother of Chief of Police L. W. Stanton of Raeford.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 3 p. m. at Crumpler Funeral Home Chapel by the Rev. Cortez Cooper and the Rev. John Glenn.

Burial was in Antioch Pres- See HOKE MAN, Page 11

Damage Claim Fails In District Court

A damage suit filed against The Johnson Co., Inc. by Sarah Marie Bullard was non-suited last week in District Civil Court presided over by Judge D. B. Herring.

Plaintiff claimed that the defendant was negligent in allowing cows to become unpened and run across the highway and that when they did so, her car struck one of them. She claimed her personal and property damages to be \$4,919.

The suit of Pauline Faulk versus James C. Lentz was settled out of court. Plaintiff received \$2,000 of the \$3,250 she claimed was owed to her by way of a note.

A case of Neil Jackson versus Transcontinental Insurance Company also was settled out of court.

Marshall M. Brewer was awarded \$500 in his case against Ornamental Iron Works. The defendant filed notice of appeal. Plaintiff claimed that defendant lost or disposed of an antique automobile boiler he had loaned him. Defendant claimed the boiler was beyond repair and was taken by unknown persons.

Divorces granted Thursday were Lucile L. Walters from James David Walters, and Gladys Sanders Moore from William McCoy Moore.

Mrs. Marie Webb Keeps Vigil In Fire Tower

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

It may be lonesome sometimes in the lofty Hoke County fire tower at McCain, but that time is not now, Mrs. Marie Webb, fire tower observer, declared last week.

Mrs. Webb, keeper of the sanatorium fire tower atop the hospital, spotted 80 forest fires in Hoke County during the first two weeks in February. This made for a busy woman and some hard-working forest rangers.

She is used to it, though. In December, she ended her eleventh year on the seven-day-a-week job. Before then, her husband, R. D. Webb, now a county assistant forest ranger, was tower observer.

From October until June is called the fire season. But the worst time of all is February through April, when farmers are burning field grass and when dead roadside grass becomes dry under warmer sun and less rain and is easier to ignite from the motorist's tossed cigarette.

Last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Webb was watching smoke on Rockfish Creek east of Raeford when she picked up the radio microphone to call for a car. Before she was able to obtain an answer from a ranger's radio, she had caught sight

of another smoke south of Antioch.

"Some days they pop up so fast I don't know which way to turn next," she declared.

"If people would abide by the law, much time and money would be saved as well as valuable property," she asserted.

The law requires one to obtain a permit before lighting any fire within 500 feet of areas under the fire-fighting jurisdiction of forest rangers. (This means, primarily, the forest-land.)

"Permits obtained a day or two, or three ahead, tells us in which direction to keep a close watch. It tells us, almost invariably, where the smoke spotted in that direction is coming from. Therefore, if the fire runs wild, no mapping is necessary and no searching time is consumed," she said.

Robert Jones, forest ranger, says it is his duty to bring every person to court who breaks the above-mentioned law. "Forest fires are too devastating and fire-fighting too expensive to be caused by carelessness and lawlessness," he avowed.

Mrs. Webb told of a fire which was spotted on Drowning Creek. Both she and the girl at Scotland County tower worked on it for an hour trying to determine the exact location. At a cer- See FIRE TOWER, Page 11

Illicit 'Stumphole' Booze Slows To Trickle In Hoke

Local and federal officers smashed a small illicit still Sunday in the first moonshine operation detected this year.

Meanwhile, the annual report of Sheriff Dave Barrington indicates the manufacture of "stump hole" whisky has slowed to a trickle in Hoke County since legal sale of liquor was voted in about five years ago.

Sunday's raid was staged by Hoke ABC Officer J. K. Riley, Sheriff Barrington, and two federal ATU agents.

It occurred at about 3 p. m. on the old Henderson place on Raeford Rt. 2, officers said, after having been watched for some time.

Barrington said E. V. Monroe, 37, came to the still while officers had it under surveillance and was captured after leading officers in a footrace.

The still, a submarine type, was of 100-gallon capacity, and was filled with mash.

Barrington said Monroe was charged with possession of materials for use in the illicit manufacture of liquor.

In all of 1967, only four illegal stills were discovered and destroyed in the county, according to Barrington's report, made to county commissioners. Two of those operations were in Antioch Township and the other two in Allendale Township. A total of five men were arrested as a result of the raids.

Before ABC sale of liquor was authorized by Hoke voters, upwards of 100 stills per year were destroyed in the county, according to courthouse records. Now, despite the constant scouting of Riley and other officers, a still discovery is

becoming more and more rare. Barrington's department made 293 arrests in 1967, answered 1,047 calls, made 327 investigations, served and processed 2,354 criminal papers and 324 civil papers, summoned 218 jurors and 850 witnesses, and traveled 105,400 miles.

Break-ins continued to be the number one problem in local law enforcement, with a total of 89 reported. Of that number, 44 arrests have been solved. Stolen property recovered by the department was valued at \$6,620.

Sheriff's officers spent a total of 849 manhours in court and made 209 trips out of the county, most of them to Scotland County Jail in Laurinburg, where Hoke defendants are being housed while a new jail is being built here.



HIGH IN THE SKY -- Mrs. Marie Webb ascends the last flight of stairs to her post in the six-story-high tower above the sandhills at McCain. Manning the lookout has been a daily occurrence for her for more than 11 years with the exception of a few months off eight years ago when her little girl was born.