

All Voters
In County
Required
To Register

The News - Journal

Registration
Books Open
In Precinct
March 30

The Hoke County News- Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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CBV Television Crew, David Schumacher, Right Front

Sleepy Kids Figured Out

BY JIM TAYLOR

Upchurch School's sleeping class mystery apparently was laid to rest, at least temporarily, when principal figures in the investigation braved flood lights and the questions of national television newsmen at a news conference in Fayetteville.

International interest in the first grade class was created last week when United Press International transmitted a story and photographs about six or seven youngsters who had been mysteriously going to sleep and were hard to awaken.

The News-Journal first carried a story about the mystery in its March 14 issue. Another story was carried the following Thursday, March 21, and UPI moved the story Friday night.

Tuesday, Dr. Harry McLean, Dr. Don Schulte, and Donald D. Abernethy related the entire story of the youngsters before the cameras of NBC, CBS, ABC, and a North Carolina TV station, as well as newspapermen.

They had set up the press conference after the national TV networks asked permission to come to Raeford and film the story, including taking movies in the classroom. Permission to disturb the classroom was denied, but the three principal investigators offered full cooperation in any other area.

Dr. McLean, regional consultant, North Carolina Board of Health, acted as spokesman for the three-man panel. Dr. Schulte, a Pinehurst psychiatrist, was called in as psychiatric consultant on the case. Abernethy is superintendent of Hoke County schools.

Dr. McLean's opening statement revealed that the youngsters first began going to sleep in mid-morning on March 7. The routine started with one or two children, and by March 11, the number had increased to six or seven.

(See SLEEPY, Page 8)



TEACHER AND CHILD

...Mystery Appears To Be Solved



BOB SCOTT

Bob Scott To Visit Tuesday

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Scott will be in Hoke County Tuesday, April 2, on a campaign swing through this area.

Hoke County ladies for Bob Scott will stage an open house at Hoke Civic Center, giving people in this area an opportunity to meet and talk with the son of the late W. Kerr Scott, former governor of the state and a U.S. senator. Mrs. Joan Balfour and Mrs. Mamie Gattin are co-chairmen of the woman's campaign organization.

Prior to the open house, Scott (See BOB SCOTT, Page 11)

East Of Raeford

Two Young Men Killed In Car-Bus Accident

Greyhound Load Of 27 Uninjured

Two young men were killed a mile east of Raeford at about 11 p. m. Tuesday when the driver of their car apparently disregarded a stop sign at the intersection of East Prospect Avenue and Old US 401 and plowed directly into the path of a Greyhound bus.

The dead men were identified as Sherman E. Eredon, 26, of 215 Sixth Avenue, Red Springs, and Dockery Jones Jr., 25, believed to be from Raeford.

Identification was made by Hoke County Coroner Frank Crumpler from papers in the personal effects of the victims. Both men were Negro.

State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson said the bus driver, T. J. Whitaker, 49, of Raleigh, told him he was headed toward Fayetteville when the car entered the intersection from the south at a high rate of speed.

The bus, bound from Columbia, S. C., to Raleigh, was carrying 27 passengers, in addition to the driver and an off-duty driver returning to Raleigh. None of them appeared to be seriously injured.

The crash occurred at the intersection where East Prospect Avenue goes from the highway to Robbins Heights, Long's Fure Oil Station is on the southeast corner of the intersection.

The car was knocked some 25 feet by the impact, down a slight embankment, and came to rest upright. The vehicle was demolished.

The bus traveled a distance of some 150 to 200 feet, also going down the slight embankment. The front end of the bus was smashed and its windshield broken. Whitaker received a broken leg.

Band Concert

Hoke High School Band and W.T. Gibson School Elementary Band will stage a "pop" concert tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock in the high school gym. Admission will be 50 cents and the public is invited, said Jimmy James, band director. "Most of the music will be popular, musical comedy, and marches," he said.



Squashed Car In Which Two Young Men Died After Auto-Bus Collision

Upchurch Principal Page Dies

Funeral services were held here Monday afternoon for George Arthur Page Jr., 60, principal of Upchurch High School, who died March 20 after an illness of several months.

Page, a native of Cumberland, Md., was admitted to an upper hospital during the Christmas holidays. He later was transferred to Veterans Hospital in Durham, where his death occurred after several weeks of treatment.

He had only recently returned to the hospital after a brief visit to his home here. He was a veteran of World War II, and had been principal at Upchurch for the past 17 years.

Funeral services were conducted at the school at 2 p. m. and followed requiem mass intoned at 11 a. m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church here. Last rites were performed by the Rev. W. Lynch. Bural was in Rockfish Memorial Park, Fayetteville.

Page was graduated from Morgan State College and received a master's degree in

education from Columbia in 1934.

His first school job was in Wagram. After returning to Scotland County after World War II, he served as a county school supervisor until he came to Raeford in 1951.

At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of directors of Hoke County Community Action Program (the local anti-poverty agency). He also was institutional representative for Boy Scouts of America; past president, North Carolina Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, and a member of various teacher, principal, and other professional organizations.

Page's Mother Dies In Chicago

Mrs. Iola Page, mother of G. A. Page, principal of Upchurch High School whose funeral was held here Monday, reportedly died of a heart attack upon reaching her home in Chicago after attending funeral services here.

Mrs. Page, the principal's widow, is said to have told courthouse officials of the death. Funeral plans were not revealed, but it was assumed they would be held in Chicago.

Vote Books Will Open Saturday

Registrars in Hoke County's 13 precincts gathered Tuesday night for final instructions from J. Scott Poole, chairman of Hoke County Board of Elections, before opening a county-wide registration in which every citizen must register.

The mass registration was made necessary by the 1967 General Assembly of North Carolina. It passed a law requiring each of the state's 100 counties to maintain "loose-leaf" registration books.

Briefly, that means that each voter will have a page in the registry. When he moves away, or otherwise becomes ineligible to vote, his "page" is removed from the looseleaf registry. Similarly, when a person becomes of voting age, or moves into the county, he can be registered.

If You Think Upchurch Kids Interesting, Take A Gander At New York Newsmen

BY JIM TAYLOR

Upchurch School's much-publicized (since last Friday) classroom was back to normal this week, with some six or seven students who had created the nation-wide stir back at their desks, bright-eyed and none the worse for the whole experience.

The Upchurch story gained national circulation Friday when United Press International learned of it, used four photos from The News-Journal, and transmitted a story and the photographs on its national news wires.

The story, of course, was about six or seven Upchurch first graders in Miss Hazel Glabreath's room who were going to sleep, mysteriously and usually in mid-morning, and were ostentatiously awakened. After a thorough physical examination of the children, plus investigation

of the room and its environs, doctors concluded the whole thing was psychological.

That, dear reader, was all that needed to be said on a nationwide hookup. Mention "psychological phenomenon" and every newsmen, behavior expert, and do-gooder of whatever stripe perk up their collective ears.

Thus, when the UPI story hit New York, telephones began to ring in Raeford. And if you think their observation of the children was interesting, you ought to observe the observers.

Dr. Harry H. McLean of Raeford and Donald D. Abernethy, superintendent of schools, were the primary targets, in that they were quoted in the UPI dispatch. Dr. McLean, who formerly practiced medicine here, is now a regional consultant for the North Carolina Board of Health. He continues to live in Raeford, but covers a 10-county

area out of an office in Fayetteville.

Among the first outsiders to call was a writer at The New York Times. He apparently had the UPI story before him and wanted more depth. He quizzed Dr. McLean.

Then came calls from the television people -- NBC, ABC, CBS -- who wanted to know the possibility of sending camera crews to Raeford to gather in-depth material for nationwide television. They were put off for the time being.

Individual newspapers, radio stations, and other media from as far away as California got in on the act. Dr. McLean taped a 10-minute interview (by telephone) for a Los Angeles radio station. There came an inquiry from a television operation in Atlanta. A Cleveland, Ohio, newsmen talked to Dr. McLean, apparently wasn't satisfied with his answers, and

subsequently talked to Abernethy and Sam Morris at The News-Journal.

Meanwhile, reports indicate the story was on the Huntley-Brinkley report (NBC) Friday night. The New York Times is supposed to have had a thorough story in its Sunday edition. Newspapers throughout the nation carried the UPI dispatch, and it presumably was broadcast by most radio stations who subscribe to UPI news service.

And, of course, there were crank calls, or what amounted to calls of no real significance.

One woman called Abernethy from San Francisco, informing him that her children had an identical experience in their school, and it eventually was discovered their teacher was inadvertently hypnotizing them.

Another woman, a nurse, called Abernethy from somewhere in New Jersey, telling

him she had the whole thing figured out. The kids were staying up too late at night, watching television, and needed sleep the next day. (As if a hundred people in Hoke County hadn't already made that theorization.)

A man called Dr. McLean from Los Angeles and told him the children are sitting too close to the television set and are picking up radiation. (There is no television set in the classroom.)

After the initial deluge of inquiries, the flow trickled down to only a few organizations which expressed an interest in doing "in-depth" inquiries into the phenomenon.

They included the Huntley-Brinkley show on NBC, and ABC out of Atlanta.

School officials were undecided Monday at noon whether they would permit the national

(See NEWSMEN, Page 9)