Drought To Blame

· Hoke Corn Crop Is Feared Lost

There's an old superstitution about ruining the rhubarb, but it hasn't crossed Hoke County farmers' minds recently.

Their main concern right now is an extended drought which threatens to ruin the corn crop, and to inflict serious damage on tobacco, soybeans and cotton.

For more than a week, temperatures have hovered 100 degrees, and there hasn't been any appreciable rain here in almost a month.

Before the last rain - which totaled something more than an inch of rainfall during a two-day period - the county had been suffering from drought. The welcome rain set the tobacco crop to growing, and before the recent heat wave set in, it had sprung from ankle to waist high and most of it is in the blooming stage right

Weather records are not kept here (there is no official reporting station closer than Fayetteville), but many Hoke residents say the current heat wave is about as bad as any they remember. One would have to go back

many years to find records of a spring and early summer as dry as this one has been in this

Weather forecasters were predicting at the first of the week the heat wave and drought will be broken this

The Hoke County jail is getting a coat of inside paint

and isexpected to be ready for occupancy July 15 or soon thereafter, according to

County Manager T. B. Lester.

purchased for delivery on July
15. Some pieces already have
arrived, such as a kitchen
range, a heavy duty food
mixer, and some pieces for the

Last week final work was

being done on the plumbing

and finishing touches were being put on by painters. The inside is being done throughout

in pastel colors, including pale

A team of men, under the name of the State Jail Study

green bars.

Commission,

Furnishings have been

week, with rain beginning in the mountains either Tuesday night or Wednesday. Extended forecasts often don't pan out, though, and disgruntled farmers won't start pulling down windows until the

raindrops start to fall. Farm experts declare the tobacco, cotton and soybean crops have not been drastically damaged at this point, but have reached a stage where they must have moisture soon, or their growth and maturity will be affected.

The corn crop is a different

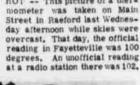
Late corn has been damaged beyond any hope of recovery, farm experts declare, and damage to early corn depends upon what stage of maturity it

Where corn is just tasseling, or has not yet tasseled, fodder has burned from top to bottom of the stalk. Because of more developed root system, early corn has fared better: however a few more days of drought

Lawns and gardens were suffering, too, and where they were not being irrigated, had (See CORN, Fage 10)



HOT -- This picture of a thermometer was taken on Main Street in Raeford last Wednesday afternoon while skies were overcast, That day, the official reading in Fayetteville was 100



Jones and J. A. Webb, Sheriff Dave Barrington, and T. B.

but also a freezer. The hood for the kitchen

range was also off-size and had to be sent back, Lester said.

These situations, plus some

other slow-moving projects, may keep the new jail from

into use before August I.

The Commissioners

approved payment of three

bills for extra work not included in the construction contract; \$130 for bars to be

placed at the medical window;

\$90 for enclosing the sallyport;

\$1,260 for concrete paving of

drive through sallyport, curb

and gutter.

Extra money will also be

(See JAIL, Page 10)



PARCHED CORN -- This corn is "kaput," as they say in Germany when the Jig is up. Earlier corn still has a chance to survive the current heat wave, but rain and ceoler weather have to hurry.

the commission; and Les

Smith, chairman of the state's

The refrigerator for the Hoke County jail should have been delivered long ago and the structure built around it.

County Manager T. B. Lester reported to the board of county commissioners at

Monday morning's meeting that the large unit was

delivered last week and it had

This was an assumption after

The men were taken on the Lester, county manager

Jail Cold-Shoulders

Too-Big Refrigerator

jail and detention services.

State Commission Eyes Hoke Jail

who was appointed by Gov. Dan Moore, toured the facility

Friday to get a first-hand view of a newly constructed North Carolina jail.

Among the group were Judge David Taylor of

Judge David Taylor of Tarboro, representative of the North Carolina League of Municipalities: Rep. Thomas Hunter of Rockingham; Sheriff W. G. Clark of Fayetteville, representative of North Carolina Sheriff's Association; Chief of Police W. M. Alderson

Chief of Police H. W. Alderman

of Tarboro, representative of the North Carolina Police

Executive Committee; L. P. Zachary of Raleigh, representative of the N.C.

Association of County

Commissioners; Allen Ashman

of Chapel Hill, assistant

Few Citizens Complain

School Board Acts After Stormy Hearing

Monday night to totally integrate grades six through 12 throughout the county this fall, and to consolidate the county's three high schools

The resolution was adopted following a sometimes stormy public hearing on the high school consolidation question in which discussion sometimes wandered far afield.

The two-hour session, held in the county courthouse, was attended by 95 adults-71 of whom were white and 24 Negro. There was at times an obvious verbal sparring between the two groups.

The decision to totally integrate all county public school facilities actually was made a month ago when the board moved to comply with a federal order to eliminate the dual school system in Hoke

school board in January with a warning that if the board did not submit a concrete plan for elimination of the dual system, administrative action would be

taken against the county.

Several weeks ago, the Civil
Rights district office in
Charlottesville, Va., informed
the local school board that it was not satisfactorily complying with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (regarding integration of public school facilities) and that administrative action against the county had been initiated and the case forwarded to Washington.

The next logical step in the case, had the board not complied with the order to eliminate the dual system, would have been a hearing in the case and subsequently the denial of federal school funds to the county

Total federal assistance to

schools amounts to some \$750,000 per year, school officials declare.

At Monday night's public hearing. County Attorney Bill Moses explained that North Carolina law requires such hearings be held before consolidation of high schools.

Donald D. Abernethy, superintendent of schools, explained the necessity complying with federal regulations and outlined the consolidation and integration plans of the school board.

In a spirited question and answer period (in which some questions did not receive a full answer and some others required none), the floodgates were opened and the tide Lloyd Jackson, who told the

school board he buys pulpwood at Timberland, said: work with colored people. They have said to me that Upchurch High School is being taken away from them and they are being told where they have to go to school. What about that?

D.R. Huff Jr., chairman of the school board, answered (after several other questions along the same line) that the board was operating to satisfy a federal edict and that the federal government hadn't made allowances for who the action would make unhappy and who it would not.

The Rev. Thomas Walker said he was not disturbed about the elimination of Upchurch as an all-Negro school-that what he was interested in was equal opportunity for his children to educated as well as white children in the county, and that inferior facilities in previously all-Negro schools

Willie Bratcher, who before graduation from high school several years ago was president of the Upchurch student body, said his experience while in school was that facilities (primarily in foreign languages and lab) were better at Hoke High School than at Upchurch.

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Dr. Riley M. Jordan, vice chairman of the school board, said it is conceded that more interest in and attention to all-white schools were given before 1946. Since that time, however, the boards of education here spent school

money with the intention of making all county schools as

nearly equal as possible.
"We don't deny that 30 years ago the white schools were favored, but we can't do anything about 30 years ago. We have to deal with the present. I think we now have an opportunity to do more for more people than ever before. The important thing now is will have the best possible school system," he

One citizen asked Dr. Jordan (See STORMY, Page 10)

Autry, Bledsoe Assigned Hoke, Upchurch Principals

Hoke County Board of Education this week assigned principals to newly integrated schools and retained the principals in other elementary

Raz Autry will be principal at Hoke High School, Lonnie Bledsoe at Upchurch, and J. D. McAllister will be an assistant superintendent.

The appointments were made Monday night after the

board resumed its regular monthly meeting following a public hearing at the county courthouse on the matter of consolidating the county's

three high schools.

Other principals -- all of whom served in the same capacity last year -- will be James Turlington at Raeford Elementary; James Bowles at McLauchlin Elementary; Earl Oxendine at South Hoke; M.

W. Hayes at West Hoke, and Floyd Caldwell at Scurlock.

There had been much speculation as to the assignment of principals in the totally integrated and consolidated sections of the school system, which next fall will erase the dual school system in grades six through

It was assumed that Autry, (See PRINCIPLES, Page 10)

Hoke Budget Is Slightly Higher Than Last Year

Hoke County commissioners have adopted a \$1,083,912 budget for the new fiscal year, which began July 1. The budget is only slightly larger than last year, when the total was \$1,068,231.

Biggest items in the budget were \$553,653.27 for schools, which does not include federal assistance; law enforcement, \$55,161; register of deeds, \$28,752.36; farm and home demonstration, \$16,218.56; welfare administration, \$83,067.90; welfare public assistance, \$35,369; health, \$58,779.97.

The new budger.

The new budget includes a 6 per cent increase in wages and salaries of all county employes except those under the state merit system.

The tax rate will remain the same as last year - \$1.38 per \$100 taxable evaluation, according to T.B. Lester Jr.,

county manager. Following is a complete listing of budget appropriations, all of which are on file at the county accountant's office (last year's totals are in parentheses):

Administration, \$8,490.44 (\$8,433.16) - Salary of board, \$2,640; clerk to board, \$600;

county attorney, \$300; social security, \$121.44; travel of board, \$200; supplies and expense, \$3,600;

e x p e n s e , \$ 3 , 6 0 0 miscellaneous, \$100; auditing, \$850; hospital insurance, \$60; workmen's compensation, \$19. Tax Listing, \$9,529.81 (\$8,723.64) - Social security, \$657.81; travel, \$150; books and supplies, \$800; list takers, \$2,000; tax receipts, \$400; Raeford tax lister, \$3,510.

collector, \$4,505; security and retirement, \$1,632.96; travel, \$200; telephone, \$150; supplies and expenses, \$1,330; workmen's compensation, \$29.07; hospital insurance, \$120.

Elections, \$5,419.20 (\$12,100) - Officials, \$3,400; travel, \$150; supplies and expenses, \$1,250; workmen's compensation, \$19.20; chairman's salary, \$600.

Law Enforcement, \$55,161

(\$45,914) -- Salaries: Barrington, \$7,420; Norton, (See BUDGET, Page 10)

Bike Riders Told Observe Rules

Town authorities have again declared war on irresponsible bike riders, promising to impound bicycles for 10 days and take whatever other action the law permits against violators.

Mayor H.R. McLean, crusader against the "bicycle takeover" in downtown takeover' in downtown Raeford, declared the police department will begin strict enforcement of local ordinances regulating bike traffic, particularly those dealing with riding "wheels" on the sidewalk.

"I've nearly been run over several times." the mayor said, "and if we don't stop this riding on the sidewalk, someone is going to get seriously injured, perhaps an old person." old person.

Mayor McLean revealed that Raeford policemen will be instructed to warn a youngster for the first offense improper riding on parking of bikes. A second offense will cause the youngster's bike to be impounded 10 days.

Actually, traffic laws stipulate that bicycles are subject to the same laws governing operation of motor vehicles, except the bike rider

does not have to have operator's permit and does not have to license his bike.

In operating a bike, the rider must move on the right side of the street or road, observe stop signs and other directional instructions, and keep on the pavement or shoulder of the

It is particularly dangerous— and unlawful—to ride facing oncoming traffic, or without lights at night. Nightriders should wear white clothing or other apparel easily seen by auto drivers.

Bike parking stands have been placed in the downtown area and youngsters are requested to use them. It is unlawful to park a bike on the sidewalk at sites other than those designated for that

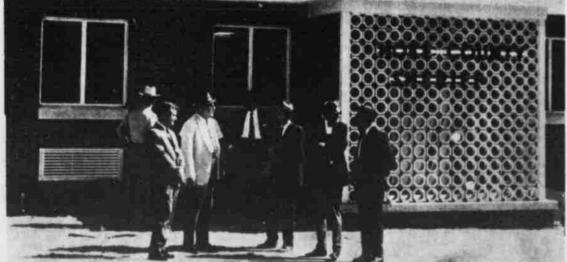
purpose, the mayor said. "We surely must have more problems with bike riders than other towns," Mayor McLean said. "We do not wish to place unusually severe restrictions on bicycle operators, but we insist they be sensible and safe- for protection of both the bike rider and the pedestrian. If we cannot control the situation with present ordinances, we will have to enact adequate restrictions."

a body

established by the last general assembly and headed by Judge director of the Institute of Frank Snepps of Charlotte,







JAIL VISITORS -- A state jail study commission visited

Sheriff Dave Barrington and other local officials chat, above with some of the visitors while they wait for others to arrive

Raeford Worsted Plant Sets Safety Record

Raeford Worsten Plant has completed 2,000,000 safe manhours without lost time due to accident, the mill announced this week.

To recognize employes for their efforts toward the prevention of accidents, the mill will entertain employes with a mid-shift meal on

Tables will be set up in four

barbecue, chicken, potato salad, slaw and hushpuppies will be served cafeteria style.

A torch warning in front of the plant symbolizes the no time due to accident theme. It continues to increase, according to Ashwell Harward, personnel director.