

Shoplifting A Major Worry To Local Merchants

By Laurie Telfair

His is 16 years old. He is black. And he was brought before District Court accused of shoplifting.

He is typical of shoplifters in Raeford except in one respect...he was arrested and prosecuted through the court.

Shoplifting is described by Raeford merchants as a serious problem, yet few persons are ever arrested or tried here for the offense.

Clerk of Court E.E. Smith estimates that fewer than a half dozen cases have been tried in District Court during the past year and he remembers only two juvenile cases for shoplifting.

Yet the manager of Mack's 5 & 10 Store, Bob Riddle, estimated his store lost \$3,000 last year to shoplifters.

A self-service shopping basket there contained a collection of empty boxes and cardboard holders of cosmetics that would have cost about \$5 if shoplifters

had not stolen the make-up from them. That represented only the missing cosmetics from the past few days, Riddle said.

"They are so slick," Riddle said. "I can be standing there looking at someone and they can still take something off the counter and get away with it."

"They'll take anything that shines," William Howell of Howell Drug Company said. "They love sunglasses."

All age groups - children, teenagers and adults - are involved in stealing from stores, most of the merchants said. However teenagers are the ones most frequently caught.

"We never catch the adults," Howell said.

Children go for the nickel and dime items, Riddle said, but adults will take more expensive goods. Several merchants told of small children who had taken items from their store and had been made to return it by the parents.

Raeford police chief, L.W. Stanton, said that usually children under twelve who are caught stealing are turned over to their parents. Juvenile petitions are usually taken out on those over twelve, although children under twelve could be sent before juvenile court. Teenagers 16 and older and adults are prosecuted in District Criminal Court.

Shoplifting is a misdemeanor which carries a fine of not more than \$100 or a jail term of not more than six months or both. A person may be arrested in a store as soon as he conceals an item or fails to leave the store without paying for it. Under the old shoplifting law, the person had to leave the premises before he could be arrested.

Shoplifting is not confined to any particular racial or economic group, merchants say. While they estimated that more black teenagers are observed shoplifting, youngsters from white, middle-class families in Raeford are also sometimes involved.

The problem of dealing with offenders was described by one merchant. "It's very ticklish when you start dealing with other people's children. On the other hand, I don't want to let them go unpunished but I also hate to arrest them and have them go to court and have a record against them for the rest of their lives."

In a recent incident in his store involving two young white boys, he explained that he decided to handle it by talking to the boys rather than by having them arrested or by calling their parents. "I felt like maybe in this case just talking to them would be enough," he said.

Most of the merchants questioned said they relied on watching customers to control shoplifting. However, several people will come into a store together and split into groups to divide the attention of the salespeople, merchants said.

Riddle said he had moved his jewelry behind glass and had drilled holes to

install pins behind the doors of his security cases to keep the doors from being opened.

Several merchants indicated they had rather get the shoplifter to pay for the item than to prosecute him.

"I can't afford to spend a day up in court every time I have a shoplifter," Riddle said. "I'd rather he pay me for the item."

However, Riddle said he did intend to prosecute shoplifters in an attempt to reduce his losses.

Ed McNeill of Home Foods, told of an incident in which a customer told him he had seen a man put a wrapped chicken under his coat. McNeill approached the other customer and asked him for the chicken. It turned out he had asked the wrong man, but that customer also had a chicken under his coat, McNeill said.

Most of the people he catches shoplifting run from the store, McNeill

said. Merchants frequently give chase when they see their goods leaving the store. Riddle told of chasing one boy to Upchurch School, through the school building and across the playground. The boy outran him, but dropped the merchandise, Riddle said.

J.I. Hubbard of Collins also said he had chased culprits who have fled his store with goods.

Several merchants suggested taking co-operative measures to try to curb thefts. Both Howell and Riddle said they were going to prosecute shoplifters caught in their store and suggested that all merchants in town try to prosecute as a means of discouraging shoplifting.

Hubbard said that Collins sealed their shopping bags as a means of controlling thefts and suggested other merchants staple or tape their bags closed before customers left the store.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1970

Hoke County School Superintendent Appears Before Senate Committee Wed.

Around Town

BY SAM MORRIS

Below is the letter received from John A. McInnis of Japan. The advertisement he refers to is here at the office and anyone interested can drop by, and look it over. We appreciate the letter very much and hope our readers will also. Dear Mr. Morris,

At the time my brother Daniel and I visited your office in late August last year I am afraid that I gave the wrong idea about building in Japan.



Most of the structures for homes were about 2 stories in height, while office buildings were 8 or 10 stories. This has been changed by building laws and now office buildings are up to 36 stories, 40 stories, and now a hotel building is being built to be 44 stories. Apartment houses are being built higher, and this has caused many landowners to think of razing the old structures and take advantage of the permission to build higher structures on the scarce building sites. I am sending you some photos to show some of the new structures.

I came across an ad in the December issue of Best's Insurance Review. It may be too late to be of help to anyone, on the other hand some of your young readers might find some hope of assistance in getting a good education for the field of insurance. I have read that outstanding actuaries get from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. If you think that this information could be of any help please use it. Your courtesy in doing this will be appreciated.

I am very happy to receive The News-Journal and wish that I had kept

See AROUND TOWN, Page 9

Food Freezing Program Tues.

Are you always pleased with the foods you freeze? Miss Nita Orr, Extension Frozen Foods Specialist, N.C. State University, will present a program on freezing foods Tuesday, June 23rd, 2 P.M. in the kitchen of the County Office Building. She will discuss principles in freezing, what to do when freezer goes off and foods to freeze for picnics and camping. There will be time for questions and answers. The public is invited.

Judge Joe Dupree Named In \$53,000 Damage Suit

Judge Joseph Dupree will be appearing in court as a defendant Friday morning instead of presiding over District Court here as usual.

He has been named with three others in a \$53,000 damage suit by the operators of a Fayetteville book store.

Fayetteville police chief, L.E. Worrell, Charles G. Rose, III, District Court solicitor and Doran J. Berry, solicitor of Superior Court, have also been named in the suit.

A hearing has been set for 10 a.m. Friday before U.S. District Judge

Algernon Butler in his office in Clinton on a motion for a temporary restraining order that would prohibit the arrest or seizure of property of Charles W. Shinall and Dennis L. Bryant, owners and managers of the Fayetteville Adult Book Store.

The civil action was filed June 12 by attorneys for Shinall and Bryant and the papers were served on Judge Dupree at 11 a.m. last Monday.

A motion was filed at the same time for a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against the arrest and property seizure by the four defendants.

The book store operators are asking for actual damages suffered before the injunction, which they estimate at \$3,000, and in addition, \$50,000 in punitive damage from Judge Dupree and Chief Worrell.

Shinall has been arrested three times since he opened the book store on Donaldson Street in the latter part of April. The first arrest came on April 23, the suit states, when he was charged with "purposely, knowingly and recklessly disseminating obscenity by possessing for the purpose of sale and selling an obscene magazine."

Shinall was tried in District Court before Judge Dupree who found him guilty and who ordered a pre-sentencing

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Funeral Today For G.F. Koonce

G.F. Koonce, retired Hoke County farmer, died early Wednesday morning at Highsmith - Rainey Hospital at the age of 92.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 4 p.m. at Galatia Presbyterian Church. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ferman Martin of Fayetteville, and Mrs. Charles Johnson of Winston - Salem; three sons, Herman, Stanley and Clarence Koonce, all of Raeford; ten grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; one brother, D.D. Koonce of Hoke County; two half-brothers, Jarman and James Koonce and one half-sister, Mrs. Bessie McMillan, all of Cumberland County.

Demos County Convention To Convene Saturday At 1

The Democratic county convention will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Elections will be held for the officers of the County Executive Committee, the members of the State Executive Committee, and delegates and alternates to the biennial Congressional District Convention and to the biennial State Convention.

One member will be elected from the county to the state executive committee. Approximately eleven delegates and

Abernethy Reports On Steps Toward Total Integration



D. D. ABERNETHY

Census Says County Lost 110 Residents

Hoke County lost 110 residents during the past ten years, according to preliminary figures announced this week by the district Bureau of Census. The preliminary count for the county is 16,246. The previous census listed 16,356.

The figures came as a surprise to local officials, who had expected the population to increase.

"I think the count is inaccurate," Harold Gillis, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce said.

County manager T.B. Lester said that over the past few years, the tax rolls had increased.

"Of course this doesn't indicate the number of people in a family," he said.

D. D. Abernethy, county superintendent of schools, said that the school population had increased slightly each year. There are now 4,850 students enrolled in grades 1-12 in Hoke County.

The estimated population for the county by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners is 17,456, Lester said.

An accurate head count of the county is important because revenue for beer sales and any sales tax that may be passed in the next ten years will be based on population. The fee for such services as the Institute of Local Government and the county commissioners organization is also based on population.

Post office officials in Raeford began casing the cards which were collected by the census takers to determine which addresses had been missed. Postmaster Charlie Morrison said.

The list of missing cards will be turned over to the census office, he said, and census takers should then visit the addresses which were missed in the first canvass.

Donald D. Abernethy, superintendent of county schools, appeared before the Senate Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity Wednesday morning to testify on integration in Hoke County schools.

"Integration is working well. We have had no racial disturbance," he told the committee. "I attribute most of the success to the positive leadership of the school board, who, once the decision was made, never reneged, even privately on its commitment...I share the conviction of the school board that our schools now offer equal educational opportunity to every student and the schools are better than ever before."

The committee is headed by Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota.

Also on the committee are Senators John L. McClellan, (Ark.); Warren G. Magnuson (Wash.); Jennings Randolph, (W. Va.); Thomas J. Dodd, (Conn.); Daniel K. Inouye, (Hawaii); Birch Bayh, (Ind.); William B. Spong, Jr., (Va.); Harold E. Hughes, (Iowa); Roman L. Hruska, (Nebr.); Jacob Javits, (N.Y.); Peter H. Dominick, (Colo.); Edward W. Brooke, (Mass.); Mark O. Hatfield, (Ore.) and Marlow W. Cook, (Ky.)

Abernethy was the only North Carolina school superintendent scheduled to appear before the committee. He planned to remain in Washington through Thursday.

Julian Bond, Negro member of the Georgia legislature, testified at the committee hearings on Monday. Abernethy related the background of integration in the county.

"The history of Hoke County is not marred by any serious racial disturbances, even though the races were segregated in schools as well as other community activities," Abernethy told the Senators. "In fact, until recently, the races were segregated three ways. Hoke County operated White schools, Negro schools and an Indian school. Most community activities are still segregated."

Abernethy said "I came to Hoke County in 1964 as principal of the only white high school in the county. At that time, no integration had taken place. In addition to the white high school, there were two other schools serving white students. Both of these schools were located in Raeford. One of them housed grades 1-4; the other, grades 5-8."

"Negro high school students attended a large union school, just outside of town. Additionally, three elementary schools located from three to nine miles from Raeford all had black pupils. All Indian students attended one union school about six miles outside Raeford. Three

See SENATE, Page 9

Clyde E. Upchurch

Suffers Heart Attack

Clyde E. Upchurch, who is in his late seventies, suffered a severe heart attack last Friday at the Upchurch cottage on Bogue Sound. He is improving and is at Carteret General Hospital in Morehead City. With him at the time of his attack were Mrs. Upchurch and General and Mrs. Robert Hill of Southern Pines. Gen Hill is a retired army doctor.