

Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

Neil McKeithan of Aberdeen was by the office last week and picked up a couple of papers that had a picture of the 1915 baseball team. He was in the picture and named all the players and also the older group of spectators in the grandstand. Neil is a brother of John D. and Annie McKeithan of this town. As we have stated before it is always good to talk with oldtimers about Hoke County and Raeford.

Another visitor to the office last week was Rufus Dickson, Paul's uncle and a native of this section of the state. Mr. Dickson is over ninety years old and is a lawyer in High Point. He said he was just returning from Wrightsville Beach to High Point after a few days vacation. He certainly didn't look like a man nearing the century mark and he also looked in the best of health. It is always a pleasure to see Mr. Rufus because he always has high praise for the paper and what his nephew and yours truly write about.

We understand that Ken McNeill has gone on a diet of catfish stew. We haven't heard much of catfish stew since the death of John McGoogan, but it seems Ken has a taste for it. Full details can be obtained from Bert Pope, drum majorette of the local high school band.

There is still time to sign up for the Raeford Lions Club golf tournament which will be held at the Arabia Golf Course Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16. Contact either Doug Wallace or Don Steed and they will fix you up for play in the tournament.

In talking with Representative N.L. McFadyen this week he stated that at the present time it was impossible to say where the county would be in the Congressional, Senatorial, or State House. There are numerous bills before the committee and what they will come out with is still awaited by all the legislators. We do know that in the Senatorial district that we are in with Cumberland, that the 1970 Census put the district population above what the courts call right. So we can expect to either move away from Cumberland or be joined by another county to give the district three senators. We would like to remain with the same district we are in now, Congressional, Senatorial and State House. Only time will tell.

The new column Speak Up has brought forth the opinions of many citizens. Also they didn't just agree or disagree but offered reasons for the opinions they gave. Also many have sent in questions they would like to have the people give an opinion on. So send in or bring in your slip. You do not have to sign the slip and it costs nothing.

Sr. Citizens Plan Luncheon

The Senior Citizen Friendship Club will have a covered dish luncheon at the Raeford Methodist Church on May 4 at 12:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend and to invite other senior citizens as their guests.

Girl Charges Teacher With Sex Offense

One Arrest Made In Stabbing Death

A former Raeford resident is being held in jail on a murder charge following the stabbing death Friday night of Ernest Louis Bratcher, 21, at the Adult Club near the Raeford city limits.

Leon McPhaul, who Deputy Harvey Young said is originally from Raeford but who is now staying in West End, was arrested Monday morning in Moore County.

Bratcher died shortly after he arrived at Cape Fear Valley Hospital while he was being treated for a stab wound in the lower abdomen. He was taken to the hospital by Dennis and James Bratcher. The stabbing occurred about 10:45 Friday night.

McPhaul is being held without bond

pending a hearing in district court on May 7.

Three other men were also arrested over the weekend in connection with another cutting here.

Glen Chavis and Johnny Scott are charged with engaging in an affray and Glen West is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Chavis was admitted to Highsmith Hospital with knife wounds following a fight at the Tasty Freeze about 7:45 Saturday night, Deputy Young reported.

Chavis's condition was described by Young as not "critical."

The three are free on bond pending trial and a hearing in district court.

Abernethy And Maynor

Head Professional Groups

Don D. Abernethy and Gerald D. Maynor have both been named recently to leadership positions in professional organizations.

Abernethy, county school superintendent was elected president for 1971-72 of the superintendent's division for District Ten of the North Carolina Association of Educators at a district meeting in Lumberton last Thursday.

Maynor, a guidance counselor at Hoke High, was appointed chairman of the Human Rights Commission for the North Carolina Personnel and Guidance Association for 1971-72 at the state convention in Winston - Salem.

Maynor and Bobby Locklear, both counselors at Hoke High, also attended a special session on human rights at the national convention April 5 at Atlantic City, N.J.

Director Says

Social Services Cost Less Than County Budget Shows

The budget request presented to the county commissioners for the department of social services amounted to \$124,025, Miss Mabel McDonald, director of the department, said.

Miss McDonald objected to the figures listed for the social services department in the county budget, saying that no participation was shown by the state and federal governments.

The county budget lists a total social services allocation of \$204,676.

"The difference comes in the way Mr. Lester presents the figures and the way I do," Miss McDonald said. "He understands his bookkeeping system and I don't, but these are the figures I presented to the county commissioners."

The budget presented by Miss McDonald included requests for:

	County's Part	Total
Administration	\$ 30,264	\$110,023
Public Assistance (including Medicaid)	82,450	657,082
Aid to Blind	3,411	15,337
County Programs	7,900	7,900
Totals	\$124,025	\$790,342

If the state takes over Medicaid, the county's share will be reduced by \$47,368 for a total of \$76,657, Miss McDonald said. To this figure, however, an additional \$2,183 must be added for increased welfare costs already ordered by the state board, so the county's total costs for social services if the state takes over Medicaid is expected to be \$78,840.

Figures included in the county budget now open for inspection at the county manager's office are:

Jury Finds Men Guilty Of Night Club Shooting

After a trial in Superior Court that lasted the better part of two days, a jury returned a verdict of guilty for Joe Walter Lowery and Robert Graham, who were charged with shooting into an occupied building.

Judgment was to be passed sometime Wednesday by Superior Court Judge Thomas Cooper.

The jury returned the verdict Tuesday afternoon. During the deliberations, they returned once to the courtroom to have the charge of aiding and abetting defined by the judge.

Attorneys for the two men indicated they would appeal the verdict.

Lowery and Graham were accused of shooting into a night club near Raeford one night last summer. Several other persons were arrested and charged following the incident but were released after a finding of no probable cause was returned in a district court hearing. Two men were injured during the shooting.

The Lowery - Graham case is the only case to be heard by a jury so far this session. Judgments have been entered in several guilty pleas however and several cases have been remanded back to district court.

Jim Bright Boahn was given an active

sentence as a youthful offender after pleading guilty to driving under the influence. Boahn, 18, was appealing a district court conviction for DUI.

Four cases of violation of prohibition laws against Louise M. Morris were remanded back to district court and she was ordered to comply with the district court judgment.

The state took a nol pros on four liquor law violation cases against David Kelly, who had compiled with his district court judgment.

Prayer for judgment was continued until the August term for George Hollingsworth and Bertha Hollingsworth, who pleaded guilty to liquor law violations. They were appealing a district court verdict.

Lawrence Shaw, Jr., appealing a driving under the influence charge, was ordered to comply with the district court judgment.

Prayer for judgment was continued for five years upon payment of court costs by William James McLean, who was charged with issuing a forged check. A forgery charge was nol prossed.

The state took a nol pros with leave against Willie Kelly who was charged with assault.

Judge Cooper Sets Bond At \$5,000

A Hoke County High School teacher was fired by the school board Monday night and was arrested and jailed the same night on a charge of carnal knowledge.

Alfonso Willingham, a freshman football coach and teacher of introduction to vocations, was dismissed by the school board following a public hearing at the Board of Education building. He was accused of having sexual relations with a 15 - year - old student at the high school. About 50 persons, many from Fayetteville, attended the meeting.

He was arrested immediately after the hearing and was taken to Hoke County jail.

The grand jury met Monday afternoon and returned a true bill of indictment on a charge of carnal knowledge. A capias was then issued for Willingham's arrest and bond was set by Superior Court Judge Thomas D. Cooper at \$5,000. Tuesday morning, the Rev. David Darnell, pastor of First Christian Church in Fayetteville, and two members of the church, acting, they said for themselves and several more members, posted the bond.

Solicitor Jack Thompson, who also attended the school board hearing, said that Willingham would probably be tried at the next term of Superior Court, to be held sometime in August.

Carnal knowledge, he explained, pertains to sexual intercourse with a minor between the ages of 12 and 16 who has not previously had intercourse. Consent is not a factor in the charge, he said.

Willingham was suspended from teaching on April 2 by county superintendent D.D. Abernethy. The board met Monday night to consider the findings of investigations made by Raz Autry, Hoke High principal; Phil Diehl, attorney for the school board; Sheriff D.M. Barringer, several of the Hoke High teachers and the Rev. Thomas Walker, a local minister.

Charles Hostetler, attorney for Willingham, cross - examined the witnesses for the school board and presented evidence to refute the charges.

In addition, several witnesses who testified to Willingham's good character were presented. These included the Rev. Mr. Darnell and about 30 members of his church, Hoke High teachers Miss Carol Condos, Glen Langdon, and Billy Colston and student Cathy Bounds. Willingham, teaching his first year at Hoke High, was a football player at Fayetteville State University. He did his student teaching here last year and his wife, Mrs. Betty Willingham, teaches at Hoke High. A Fayetteville resident, he is a deacon in the First Christian Church of Fayetteville. Most of the witnesses who appeared in behalf of the tall, handsome black man were white.

Delores Bratcher, a 15 - year - old tenth grader, accused Willingham of having sexual relations with her in an office in the Gibson building gymnasium last Nov. 3.

She reported the incident that day to her home economics teacher and to her former pastor, yet the story did not come to the attention of principal Raz Autry until four months later. The reason for this, according to testimony given to the school board, appeared to be tangled in feelings of racial and solidarity and distrust of whites.

The girl, the teacher to whom she confided, the pastor and the accused teacher are all Negroes.

Mrs. Gloria Williams, who testified to the school board, summed up the feelings that resulted in their silence.

"Mrs. Foster called me that night and said she had promised a student that she wouldn't tell, but she had to tell someone," Mrs. Williams told the board. "The first thing Margie said was 'I can't go to Mr. Autry with this. I'm black and he's black and the first thing they are going to say is that's what happens when you throw a bunch of niggers together.'" "I know too that Mr. Autry doesn't like gossip and at first I didn't entirely believe Delores. I thought she may have been imagining something she wanted to happen, not something that happened."

"I thought that either she was crazy or Mr. Willingham was crazy and that someone should see about someone," she said.

See TEACHER, Page 7

Speak Up

Those who voted two weeks ago on the Speak Up question concerning the Vietnam war were overwhelmingly in favor of an immediate cease - fire and an immediate withdrawal of American troops and equipment.

As one reader included on the ballot, "When the pitcher of milk has gone sour, you might as well pour it out."

Speak up is a new feature that asks a question of local, state or national interest. You vote and we'll tabulate the results and publish them two weeks later. In addition, we'll send copies to local, state and national representatives. Deadline for ballots each week is Wednesday.

This week's question concerns that old bugaboo - liquor. The legislature, after defeating a statewide referendum on liquor - by - the - drink, is toying with the back door approach of allowing referendums through local bills. Statewide or local, the people would be able to vote on the matter. Here is a question regarding mixed drinks in general.

Question: I am in favor of selling liquor by the drink in those cities or counties in which it is approved by a majority of the voters.

Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

No opinion
 The second part of the question was submitted by a reader.
 Question: By outlawing alcoholic beverages, there would be a fewer drunken drivers, alcoholics and related problems.

Strongly agree
 Agree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

No opinion
 Now for the results of the Vietnam question:
 I am in favor of an immediate American cease - fire in Indochina.

Strongly Agree 15
 Agree 3
 Disagree 4
 Strongly disagree 1
 No opinion 4

Thus, by a margin of 17 to 5, those who voted approve the an immediate cease - fire in Indochina. One person explained "Except, of course, for necessary protection of our troops. But stop offensive shooting and particularly promiscuous bombing."

Those who disagreed said the president should be supported in his policy. One person pointed out that the president is still commander - in - chief. Another said "I think we should stand by the officials that we elected and uphold their decisions." And a third said "he favored going along with President Nixon on this."

The results were similar on the second question.
I am in favor of the immediate withdrawal of all American troops and equipment from South Vietnam.

Strongly agree 14
 Agree 6
 Disagree 5
 Strongly disagree 1
 No opinion 2

Those who favored withdrawal outvoted those who disagreed 19 to 6. Usually those who favored the first part of the ballot, also favored the second, but not always. One person opposed a cease-fire but supported immediate withdrawal and another supported a cease-fire but opposed an immediate withdrawal. One ballot was marked "no comment" as to the cease-fire and disagreed with immediate withdrawal.

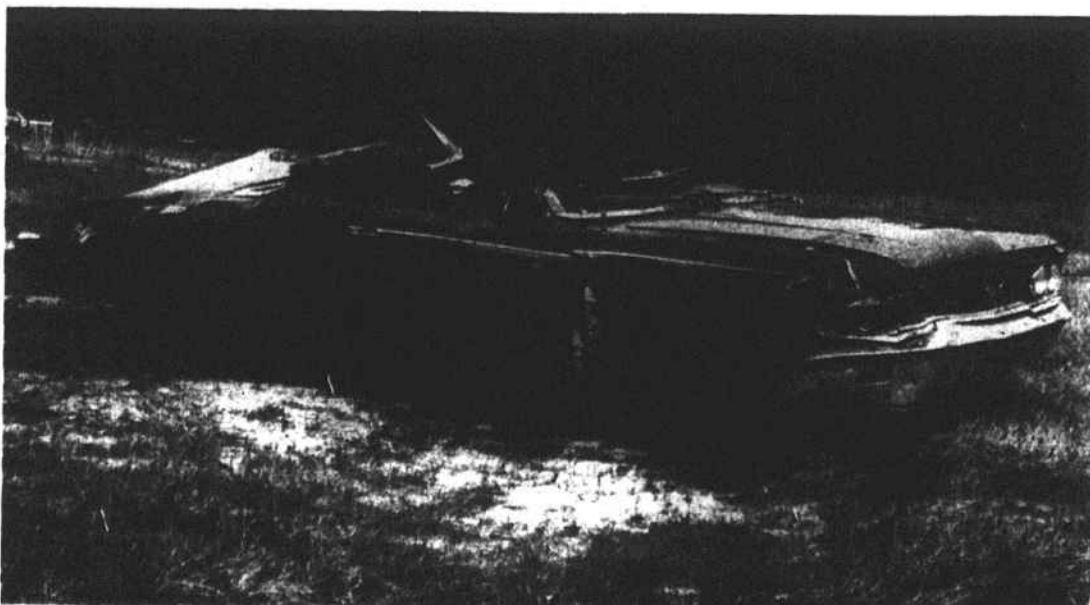
One reader posed the question "Is President Nixon timing Vietnam so he'll be out in time for the 1972 election - but so the votes will be counted before the ARVN Army collapses?"
With the small number of ballots, it is unfair to draw many conclusions about opinion on Vietnam in Hoke County. So, if you have an opinion on future questions, Speak Up.

City Bonds Are Sold

Water and sewer bonds amounting to \$140,000 issued by the city of Raeford were sold Tuesday to J. Lee Peeler & Company, the Local Government Commission announced.

The bonds were sold at an interest rate of 6.0702 per cent at an average maturity rate of 10.18 years.

Three bids, with interest rates ranging from 6.0702 per cent to 6.2126 per cent, were made on the bonds.



DEATH ON A JOYRIDE - A 19-year-old St. Pauls man was killed and four persons injured when this '63 convertible left the road on a curve, hit an embankment and flipped end over end, landing on its top. According to the investigating officer, the driver was looking over his shoulder into the back seat when the accident occurred.