

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Thunderstorms in January are something that are unusual. The weather this winter has been anything but right for this time of year. It would seem that some explanation would come forth from someone as to what has caused the warm winter so far. Some folks have stated that maybe this is caused by the men walking on the moon. This could be true!

The comment last week by Editor Paul Dickson on mini-bikes has brought forth much agreement with what he had to say. We hope that this agreement is from parents that have purchased bikes for their kids. Agreement is one thing, but taking the right action is another.

The trip to Raleigh every other Friday to attend the meeting of the study commission on insurance has opened the eyes of this writer. It seems that one group wants to leave the auto insurance like it now stands and another group would like to have a change in the auto insurance plan. It would seem that the majority of people in this state don't know what the insurance policy they are paying for covers in the final show down. The study commission will listen to all sides before coming up with any recommendation to the governor. If anyone has anything they would like to get before the commission, send it along and we will be glad to bring it up at one of the meetings.

The United Fund drive is still going on and Burlington Industries will start their drive next week. If any business has completed their drive, please turn the envelopes and cards in at The News - Journal office or call 875-2121 and someone will be glad to pick them up. If you don't have a pledge card or if you haven't been contacted, don't let this hold you back from giving. Just send your check to the United Fund, Box 550, Raeford, N. C.

The political races are beginning to warm up and you can expect to see politicians around the county almost everyday. The four candidates for governor, three for congress and later on, local candidates, will file, bringing forth enough people to have someone around everyday of the week. So far, all candidates have conducted themselves as gentlemen, but we suspect that some name calling will come forth before the races are over.

Congressman Alton Lennon has been very quiet as to who he would support for his old job. Some have made the comment that his backing of a candidate could swing the election. Congressman Lennon has always been very outspoken on any subject but we think that he will stay out of this race and let the candidates run on their own merits. This is an opinion only and the congressman has a right to do as he pleases.

Anyway the political season is here and it is a time to renew old acquaintances.

Seven Charged In Theft At Burlington Plant

Three women and four men were arrested last week and charged with armed robbery and auto theft at the Burlington Mill on Dec. 27.

Those charged are Elaine Hartman Spencer, 22, of Raeford; Johnnie Leon Spencer, 28, of Raeford; B.L. Cox, 33, of Rt. 3, Raeford; Linda Locklear Cox, 24, of Rt. 3, Raeford; Annie Grace Jackson, 33, of St. Pauls; Calvin McLean Jackson, 45, St. Pauls and Don W. Thomas, 41, of Lumber Bridge.

The men are all charged with entering into a conspiracy to commit robbery, armed robbery and larceny of a truck. The women are charged with conspiracy and armed robbery.

Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Spencer were arrested Jan. 4, according to Deputy Harvey Young. Thomas and the Jacksons were arrested in Robeson County early the next morning and Cox and Spencer were arrested last Thursday night in Dillon, S.C.

The money changers were found in Rockfish Creek near McKinnon's Bridges

Fine Choice Over Hair

A long-haired defendant in district court Friday had a choice between a fine and a haircut.

Dwight Andrews English of Raeford, charged with speeding 55 in a 45 mph zone, was given a choice by Judge Joseph Dupree of paying court costs and a \$10 fine or getting a haircut and paying court costs only.

"I'll give you a \$10 fine and costs or you can go get a haircut and come back looking like a man and I'll tax you with costs of court," the judge said. "Which do you want?" English chose the fine.

Rain, Speed Blamed

One Person Killed, Two Hurt In Four Wrecks During Rain

Boy Killed On NC 211

A four-year-old boy was killed Sunday afternoon on N. C. 211 when he ran in front of a car.

Raymond Lee Moody was struck about 5:10 p.m. by a car driven by Hoyt B. Guyton of Bladenboro.

According to Highway Patrol Trooper E. W. Coen, the youngster was accompanied by two older boys who crossed the road first. Guyton told him he was traveling about 55-60 mph toward Raeford and saw the child as his car came over a hill near the Moose Lodge entrance about two miles west of the city. He applied brakes but was not able to stop before he hit the boy. There were no charges.

This is the first traffic fatality in the county this year. There were no traffic deaths here at this time last year.

Door Smashed

The glass door at the Little Giant food store was discovered shattered early one morning last week by city policeman, Jimmy Riley.

Riley found the broken door while on night patrol about 4 a.m. on Jan. 4. A concrete block apparently had been used to break the glass, police chief James E. Lamont said.

Missing items valued at about \$500 included cash, panty hose and eight-track tapes.

City Council Approves Water Fluoridation

The city council voted Monday night to add fluoride to the city water supply after hearing from a delegation from the Raeford Woman's Club who supported the measure.

The delegation, headed by Mrs. Hubert Cameron and Mrs. Crawford Thomas, Jr., told the council that Raeford was the only city in the area that does not add fluoride. The woman's club voted Jan. 4 to support fluoridation after a panel discussion by Drs. Robert Townsend and Julius Jordan, M.R. Mills, county sanitarian, John Gaddy, city manager and John K. McNeill, mayor.

The council also voted to investigate obtaining a grant from the state to purchase fluoridation equipment.

Clyde Leach appeared before the



FATALITY — Danny Harris of McCain died Wednesday following a one-car accident Monday afternoon near 15-501. He lost control of his car on the wet road and skidded into a utility pole.

Woman Fights Firemen

A fire in Tyler Town destroyed a house and garage while the homeowner fought off firemen with a hatchet and broken soft drink bottle.

Fire departments from Hillcrest and North Raeford answered a call to Tyler Town Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Mildred Smith Campbell attacked Hillcrest firemen Bobby Conoly and Johnny Smith, injuring them slightly. She also damaged the fire truck. Her nephew was treated at Cape Fear Valley Hospital for a

cut received during the incident, according to Hillcrest fire chief, Ed McNeill.

Mrs. Campbell was taken to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh by sheriff's deputies Saturday night after the fire.

According to Deputy Alex Norton, Mrs. Campbell set fire to the house, told her neighbors she was "going to do God's work" and burn the house down. He said her family had tried to have her committed to a mental hospital before this incident but had failed to do so.

Hearing Monday On Hicks House

A public hearing on the proposal to establish a rehabilitation center for former prisoners in the Hillcrest area will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom.

The Rev. Donald Ned Hicks is seeking

Director Says

Craig Charges Alienate Hoke Welfare Workers

Recent statements by the state social services commissioner Clifton Craig have alienated county departments from the state department, Miss Mabel McDonald, county director of social services said Monday.

John T. Morrissey, Sr., executive director of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, suggested that if welfare cleanup is needed, it begin at the top.

"It is a sad state of affairs when county departments of social services are alienated from their state departments by such statements as Mr. Clifton Craig has recently made to the press," she said. "In this difficult job of helping disadvantaged people and still keeping faith with taxpayers, we desperately need the proper guidance and support from our state officials. It would be wonderful to again feel the supportive hand of the state commissioner."

Craig released a report last week in which ten per cent of the welfare recipients were said to be ineligible to receive benefits and another 33 per cent were found to be receiving either too little or too much in payments. He blamed the high error rate on "improper management" by county welfare departments.

Morrissey disputed the claim in letters to Craig, Dr. Lenox Baker secretary of the Department of Human Resources, and to the editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, which printed an editorial on welfare reform.

Morrissey wrote Craig: "I am sorry that you felt it necessary to issue a blanket indictment of county administration of

Social Services as reported in the press this week. It seems to me that if criticism is justified then it should be leveled at the system itself and not just to one of its parts. I believe that the great majority of social service directors are sincere, dedicated and competent and that their task is exceeded only by yours in its complexities."

In his letter to the editor, Morrissey said: "Indeed, if welfare cleanup is needed in North Carolina, then perhaps it should begin at the top. Precedent may be found in the experience of football coaches whose teams do not produce."

The report released by Craig is based on a survey made by state quality control workers using 239 AFDC (aid for families with dependent children) cases. As of September, there were 38,000 families or 148,000 persons receiving AFDC payments in the state.

In discussing the report, Miss McDonald noted that quality control workers spend only a small amount of time of a case compared to the regular case worker. In her experience, she said, there have been instances in this county where the judgement of a quality control worker differed from that of the case worker on a disposition of a case.

Hoke County rated very highly on a recent state report on reviewing cases regularly for revision, she said. Some of the counties lag far behind their caseload in reviews, Miss McDonald explained.

"We are indeed grateful to Mr. Morrissey for speaking out in our behalf," she said.

Arrest Is Ordered

A defendant who had appeared in court four times for trial failed to come the fifth time the case was called and a capias was ordered issued for his arrest.

Neill McEachy was charged with harboring and aiding an escaped felon and the case was first set for Oct. 8. According to court records, the case was continued until Oct. 29 at the request of McEachy so he could consult an attorney.

The case was continued then on Oct. 29, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3 because the witnesses for the state were not present. When the case was called on Dec. 3, McEachy told the court that he had been to court three times already and asked for the case to be tried.

According to the record, witnesses for the state have been subpoenaed three times and have failed to appear in court. They are B. O'Brien and Tooney Poole, members of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Neither the witnesses for the state nor McEachy were in court Friday when the case was called. A capias was ordered issued for McEachy's arrest and his \$5,000 bond was raised to \$15,000.

McEachy was also scheduled to be tried Friday for driving without a license after that case had been continued from Dec. 17.

Prices Must Be Posted

Under price commission requirements, all retailers must display base prices for merchandise and provide price information request forms for customers.

As of Jan. 2, according to an Internal Revenue Service poster, all retailers must (See PRICES, Page 9)

GI Robbed; Tyler Jailed

A Hoke County man is in jail here, charged with robbing a Ft. Bragg soldier of \$600 on payday and stealing his car.

Lannie Ray Tyler is in jail in lieu of \$4,000 bond. He is charged with common law robbery, in which a weapon is used, and larceny of an auto.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington said he received a call on Dec. 31 to Riley's Garage to investigate a public drunk complaint. When he arrived, he said he found SFC Garland M. Robinson of Ft. Bragg staggering around. Barrington said Robinson had a small gash on the back of his head and examination at Raeford Medical Group revealed a concussion.

Robinson told the sheriff that he had borrowed a car at Ft. Bragg that day and had gone to a bar in Fayetteville where he had a few beers and met a man named Ray. He invited the man to ride to Raeford with him to pick up his car that he had left here, the sheriff said. Robinson told him. According to the sheriff, the two men stopped near Riley's Garage of U.S. 401-A. Robinson told the sheriff they got out of the car and he was knocked unconscious. When he regained consciousness, the borrowed car and \$600 from his pocket were gone.

Tyler was arrested after the Fayetteville barkeeper identified him from photos as the man who left with Robinson. The car was found the next day.

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Weston said Locklear's car ran off the left shoulder on a curve and then crossed the road to the right shoulder where it overturned and skidded upside down into a tree. Weston said Locklear's car had prevented more serious injury or death.

Locklear was charged with exceeding a safe speed. Damage was estimated at \$1,300.

A 17-year-old driver was slightly injured in an accident about 11:30 a.m. Monday when his pick-up ran off the curve on NC 211 at Timberland and overturned against a fence.

Anthony Harold Stone of Rt. 3, Raeford, was treated for minor injuries at Raeford Medical Group.

He is charged with exceeding a safe speed. Damage was estimated at \$600.

A Ft. Bragg soldier received a scratch on his elbow from an accident on 401 by-pass early Tuesday morning in which his car skidded and turned end over end for 564 feet. He was wearing a seatbelt, Weston said.

SGT Bruce Wayne Cotton, 21, lost control in a curve on the by-pass near the overpass. His car was demolished and the loss was estimated at \$1,900. The accident happened at 5:30 a.m.

Cotton was charged with exceeding a safe speed.