

Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

The following article was written by Bruce Phillips, sports editor of the Raleigh Times. Bruce is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Phillips of Raeford.

SOFTBALL ON A SATURDAY NIGHT

"Buck City", the shortstop, made a fine play to his right and threw out the runner. The third baseman, "Bad Attitude," gloved a hot line drive for another out.

But then the hitters started to get to "Crazy Dave," the pitcher, and on top of that, "Rock," the rightfielder, muffed a couple of fly balls.

Out came "Needle," the manager, his nostrils twitching and his mouth turned down at the corners like parentheses marks. He took the softball from Crazy Dave and called in "Poison Wagonwheel" from the bullpen.

The House of Raeford Turkey Farms team was the host for a double-elimination invitational softball tournament Saturday night. House of Raeford, the leaders of their local league with a 13-1 record, would champion the town's pride against teams from Fayetteville, Lumberton and Laurinburg.

You've got to understand, softball is the king of summer in Raeford. Each summer the sleepy little pine-thatched town in Hoke County comes alive four nights a week when the citizens gather at the ballpark.

The teams - eight of them in all - wage nothing short of war through August. All of the participants are friends and neighbors, of course, but when they pull on their softball costumes the game becomes a labor of hate.

Definitely

The Most Unusual

House of Raeford apparently has the best team and, definitely, the most unusual. It's an odd amalgam of, as they describe themselves, "blacks, Indians and soda crackers."

They have great rapport and camaraderie. They give each other nicknames, practice religiously and equate defeat with doomsday.

The rest of the lineup goes like this. "Mexican" or the "Exciter" behind the plate. Exciter is usually the starter if he's sober or it's a big game. The other pitcher is "Tank."

"B. B. Gun" is on first, "The Von" on second, "The Flea" in leftfield, "Bo Bo Mooney," is shortfield, and "One Beer" in center.

One Beer got his sobriquet when he showed up for a game dead drunk. Needle asked him what he'd been drinking and he claimed he'd had "only one beer."

Needle is Jack Lee and got his nickname because he's as thin as a string of uncooked spaghetti and doesn't hesitate to stick it to his players if they let down.

Even the fans, and they are a faithful lot, have been afflicted with handies. "Tightrope," who is about the size of a pygmy elephant and whose equine teeth flash like a Rolls Royce grill, never misses a game. "B. C. Powder" is another regular, along with "Two-Door" and "Bad Hand."

They Celebrate

In The Woods

There's nothing bush about the Raeford softball league. The players wear sharp uniforms, with bright colors that look like an explosion of a paint factory. Every man has his own warmup jacket.

When the lights go on, just about everybody in Raeford is there. They bring their lawn chairs, blankets, and best vocal chords and settle down for four games a night.

They munch popcorn and hotdogs and drink soft drinks and have a ball. Those who don't attend can still keep up with the game. The PA announcer blares out a steady play-by-play that can be heard for miles.

Kathy Bounds runs the ticket gate and her sister, Susie, runs the concession stand. They are the busiest people in town Tuesday through Friday.

House of Raeford has a ritual after every victory. They pitch in and buy several cases of beer and ride down in the woods in a pickup truck and celebrate.

When they lose, the faces are long as fungus and there is a scarcity of jollity. There was no joy in Raeford Saturday night. House of Raeford lost both of its games.

Firearm Dealer Arrested

Licensed federal firearm dealer Fred North Riley of Hoke County was arrested Tuesday morning for violation of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

Youth Choir Stages Musical

The Winterville Baptist Youth choir will present the musical "Goin' Somewhere" at the First Baptist Church on Sunday, June 25, at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to the presentation, which will be directed by Jerry Cribbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Cribbs of Raeford. Pianist will be Mrs. Paul Braxton.



DESTRUCTION - House belonging to Mac Ridge, on N. C. 211, after flames demolished it last Thursday. The Sheriff's Dept. feels that arson was a factor in this and two other fires set that night. There were no injuries in any of the blazes.

Two Arrested For Break-Ins Investigated April ABC Theft

As a result of investigations by State ABC Board officers J.K. Riley and Robert Yonts and the Hoke County Sheriff's Dept., two persons have been arrested in connection with the April 22 larceny of the ABC Liquor Store on U.S. 401 in Raeford.

A search of the trailer belonging to William C. Tanner Jr., Rt. 2, Raeford, turned up 10 cases of liquor believed by the Sheriff's Dept. to be stolen from the store. Tanner, 46, was charged with receiving stolen property and possessing tax paid liquor for the purpose of sale. He is being held on a \$5,000 bond pending hearing on June 30.

Also arrested was Erastus Graham, Rt.

1, House Springs, Mo., who was found to be transporting three cases of liquor on N.C. 211. He was charged with the transport of tax paid liquor above the legal amount without having a license.

Sheriff Barrington said other warrants in connection with the April 22 robbery of the ABC Store are pending.

Total value of the liquor and cash stolen from the store two months ago was set at \$3,000. During that incident a safe was pried open and \$450 in change was stolen along with 46 cases of liquor. The incident marked the second break-in of the store. No arrests were ever made in the first break-in, which occurred over a year ago.

Break-In At Golf Course

The Arabia Golf Course was broken into Tuesday night and a quantity of goods estimated at \$8-10,000 was stolen.

The alarm system did not go off because entry was gained through the wall of the Pro Shop instead of the door, where the alarm was set up. Manager Brown Hendrix said the break-in was not discovered until the Pro Shop opened up on Wednesday morning.

Hendrix said that the golf cart shelter was first broken into and four golf carts were removed. He said he believed the carts were used to transport merchandise from the Pro Shop to the get-away vehicles. A hole was then cut through the cinder block wall into the Pro Shop and "they about cleaned us out," Hendrix said.

Among the items stolen were golf balls, clubs, shirts, golf gloves, putters, golf bags, shoes and a quantity of small items.

This is the second break-in of the Arabia Course within a year. In August of 1971 the shop was entered through the

Purse Stolen

The Hoke County Sheriff's Dept. arrested a juvenile in connection with stealing a purse belonging to Mrs. Connie Ellis of Raeford last Thursday.

She had picked the youth up in her car at the Five Point and N.C. 211 intersection after he flagged her down. After riding in the car for awhile he fled with her purse, containing a small amount of cash, her driver's license and other identifications.

The youth was later picked up by the Sheriff's Dept. and identified by Mrs. Ellis. He will be sent before a juvenile court judge later this month.

glass doors and a quantity of merchandise valued at \$8,000 was taken. Most of the merchandise was recovered and two persons were convicted off larceny in Hoke Superior Court.

The Hoke Sheriff's Dept. is investigating Tuesday's incident.

Housing In Hoke

The 1970 Census of Housing counted 4,305 housing in Hoke County, and 3,901 households had at least one television set (689 UHF - equipped), the Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, announced this week. The figures are from the first report for North Carolina which presents detailed statistics on housing for each county.

The report shows that in the county: There were 1,253 housing units with air conditioning (1,061 with room units and 192 with a central system), 2,947 units with a clothes washing machine, 659 with a clothes dryer, and 146 with a dishwasher.

The 1970 population was 16,436, with an average of 4.0 persons per housing unit.

A total of 2,089 housing units were built before 1949, 976 during the 1950's, 558 during 1960-64, and 678 within the five years preceding the April 1970 census.

Utility gas was used to cook the meals in 202 households, electricity in another 2,495, and bottled, tank, or LP gas in yet another 1,198.

There were 3,153 housing units with complete kitchen facilities and 2,769 with complete bathrooms, both for the exclusive use of the households. The number of bedrooms in all housing units ranged from none (in 0 units) and one (in 325 units) to four or more (in 699 units).

Owners occupied 2,669 units, renters 1,291 units, and a total of 341 units were vacant year round with 48 for sale and 111 for rent.

Copies of the report, Detailed Characteristics, 1970 Census of Housing, North Carolina, HC(1)-B35, are available for \$2.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from U.S. Department of Commerce field offices located in major cities.

Bank Robbed By Armed Man

Fire Destroys Brick Home

Hoke County was again struck last week by an apparent outbreak of arson, causing damages in excess of \$20,000.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington said that the home belonging to Mac Ridge on N.C. 211 caught fire at about 4 a.m. last Thursday. The North Raeford Fire Dept. was called out to help control the blaze, but the brick home was destroyed before the flames could be extinguished.

The owner of the home was living elsewhere at the time, but the house still had furniture in it. Barrington said damages were estimated at \$15-20,000.

Earlier that night a vacant tenant house on the Lentz farm in Thomasfield was also destroyed by fire. The building had been set afire in one of the earlier outbreaks in the county, but the blaze had been extinguished before destroying the property.

A third fire on the McDonald farm near the Ridge house was also destroyed by fire. The structure was a vacant tenant house.

Barrington said he believed arson to be involved in all of the incidents. The burnings on June 15 marked the third major outbreak in the county in recent weeks. Most of the earlier structures burned were abandoned houses and tobacco barns. No arrests have been made in connection with any of the 15 fires.

A lone armed Black man held up the Sunset Branch of the Bank of Raeford Wednesday morning shortly after opening, and stole an undetermined amount of money.

The man held a gun on the two tellers who were in the bank and forced them to lie on the floor while he took the money and fled. One of the tellers, Sarah Maxwell, said that he told them to lie on the floor for five minutes and added that he did not threaten them in any other way.

Mrs. Maxwell said as soon as he walked into the building with the gun she pushed the burglar alarm button, and after he left she crawled to the other side and pushed the other button.

Manager Robert Conroy reported that the man left in a car with an out of state license.

Neither Mrs. Maxwell nor the other teller, Jean Long, were injured and the man did not discharge the revolver. The money was stolen from the drawers of the tellers. The safe was untouched.

Investigations by the Raeford Police Dept. and the State Bureau of Investigation are being conducted. The bank reopened for business about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Region N Meets

Guest speaker for the Region N Council of Governments' Annual Meeting will be Charles Bradshaw, secretary of the North Carolina Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources.

Date for the meeting is set for Monday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Robeson County Public Library in Lumberton.

The Council will also elect its officers

Three Hurt In Shoot-Out

Investigation by a team of over 12 members of law enforcement units in and around Hoke County led to the arrests of two persons involved in a shoot-out Monday morning at Sara's Drive - In in the Antioch section. Hoke County Sheriff D. M. Barrington said warrants for the arrest of four more persons connected with the incident are pending.

Barrington said the incident apparently started Sunday night when Horace Jacobs, of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge shot Roy Locklear in the chest. Locklear, 20, of Rt. 4 Red Springs, issued a warrant for the arrest of Jacobs, charging him with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

The next morning about 11 a.m. Locklear was allegedly seized at the drive-in owned by Sara and Russell Locklear of Rt. 4, Red Springs, by a group of four persons including Jacobs, and questioned

about why he issued the warrant. The store owner, Russell, apparently then came out from the back and shot at Jacobs but hit Wilfred Jones in the right shoulder. Also injured was Stoney Locklear, who shot in the arm.

Following investigations warrants for the arrest of Jacobs and Stoney Locklear, 20, Rt. 1, Red Springs were issued charging them with entering into an affray in which deadly weapons were used. Barrington said warrants for Wilfred Jones Jr., 20, Rt. 1, Shannon, Roy Locklear, 20, Rt. 4, Red Springs, Russell Locklear, 30, Rt. 4, Red Springs and Jerry Jones, 18, Rt. 1, Shannon, are now pending.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Dept. was aided by members of the State Dept. of Corrections, including CPT Ray Griffin and Jack Locklear from McCain. Also See SHOOT-OUT, Page 11

Rockfish Clean-Up Drive Continues

Work on restoring the old swimming hole portion of Rockfish Creek as a picnic and recreation area continued last week as Ft. Bragg soldiers worked on dragging the bottom of the creek and clearing debris from the area.

Work on the area began in April with a Scout sponsored "Rockfish - Ho" clean-up drive, lead by Mrs. Milo Postel. Youths policed the area during that clean-up session and collected bags of trash and debris that littered the half-acre spot.

Last week, further efforts to turn the area into a recreation center continued with help from the 95th Civil Affairs unit from Ft. Bragg and city of Raeford officials, who dragged the bottom of the creek for broken bottles, cans and silt.

According to Mrs. Postel, who is spearheading the drive, the next step will be the cleaning of a nature trail in the Rockfish Creek area. She said that the water is now safe for swimming and a number of youths have already been taking advantage of the cleaned-out creek.

One factor which has been detrimental to clean-up efforts, Mrs. Postel said, is that people are still dumping trash along the creek and are not using the trash cans provided by the city for the area. "People should realize that this is their park and they have to take care of it," she stressed.

Other improvements Mrs. Postel anticipates for the swimming hole area are a sand beach, picnic tables and barbecue pits. In order to complete the swimming and recreation area, she said a community effort will be needed.



HEAVING HAND - The city of Raeford and the 95th Civil Affairs group from Ft. Bragg work together at Rockfish Creek clearing debris from the area and dragging the creek bottom. The water is now safe for swimming and further plans for the recreation park are underway.