

## Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

A note from Raz Autry, principal at Hoke County High School, says that report cards went out Wednesday, January 24. He also stated that all teachers at Hoke High would be in their rooms on Thursday, January 25 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. So if any of you parents don't agree with the grades on their report card this will give you a chance to talk to the teachers.

I went to the courthouse Monday morning to do my duty as a citizen of this county to serve as a juror in the January term of Superior Court. This is the first time I have been called in many years.

I was fortunate to be drawn for the grand jury and was glad because I have never served on the grand jury before. After being sworn and receiving instructions from Judge Maurice Braswell the group adjourned to the grand jury room to deal with the business at hand. Everyone should at one time or another serve on the grand jury. It is hard to realize the power this body has. So I look forward to my year on the grand jury and hope that I can do a job that will be for the best of our courts.

The writer of the column Rockfish News, Mrs. A. A. McInnis, sent me a clipping from the Laurinburg Exchange written about her brother, Henry J. Smith. The article was written by Jasper L. Memory, Professor Emeritus, Wake Forest University. I will not run the entire article but will run a few paragraphs.

"Home for Christmas in the Riverton Community was Henry J. Smith, the 83-year-old 'Squire of Rayview' as he is affectionately known by his many friends.

"Mr. Smith has been a patient for several weeks at Veterans Hospital in Fayetteville.

"Respected and admired by farmers and others for hundreds of miles around, he has performed for more than half a century the important assignment of transporting their cattle and hogs to market."

Professor Memory writes about many times that Mr. Smith had trouble with loads or how he handled wild animals. He ends his article with the following two paragraphs.

"Mr. Smith, a native of Scotland County, has forebearers with the estimable names of Baldwin, Powell, and McGirt. He is a member of Montpelier Presbyterian Church at Wagram. He married the former Miss Ethel Walters of Hoke County and they have three fine children: Jack, an airplane mechanic who is looking after his father's trucking business now; Sam, who is with Pioneer Seed Company; and Mrs. Trady Hester of Jacksonville.

"Henry's many friends wish for him complete recovery, are grateful for his excellent services and treasure his friendship. So here is a salute and a right-angle bow to the Squire of Bayview!"

## Grand Jury Delivers 17 True Bills Of Indictment

The Hoke County Grand Jury examined 17 Bills of Indictment in a one-day session at the beginning of the Superior Court session which began Monday. All of the bills were found to be true bills.

Indicted were Annie Rachel Peguse, arson; T.B. Gainey, uttering and passing forged check and forgery; Tommie Bowers, escape; Amos Chandler, escape; Roy Thornton, escape; Clifton Barton, murder; John Bethune, murder; Mack McLaughlin, two counts each of breaking, entering, larceny and receiving; James Breeden, two counts each of breaking,

# Woman Given Five-Year Sentence

## Police Arrest Five Youths

At least five high school aged boys were arrested by Raeford police in connection with several breakins in the city.

Arrested were Billie Dean Holland, 18, Harris Ave.; John Richard Harrell, 16, Elwood Ave.; Eugene Hawkins, 16; Howard Hayes, 16; and Louis Parker alias Louis Shands, 16, Dundarrach, reports Chief James F. Lamont.

Holland and Harrell were arrested in connection with a Jan. 15 breakin at the Edinborough Ave. residence of A.D. Austin. Items valued at \$490 were taken. Police say all items have been recovered.

Hayes and Parker were arrested in connection with a Jan. 16 breakin at Austin's residence. Nothing was taken report police.

Harrell and Hawkins face charges in connection with a Dec. 10 breakin at the Raeford Elementary School. Police have recovered a copy machine valued at about \$150 taken from the school.

Lamont says a juvenile was also involved in each of the three breakins.

Harrell is charged with two counts each of breaking, entering and larceny. Holland and Hawkins are charged with breaking, entering and larceny. Hayes and Parker are charged with breaking and entering.

Lamont says the Sheriff's Department also plans to file charges against Harrell and Holland for county breakins.

All were released on bond.

## Sheriff Reports Eight Deputies Left Department

Sheriff D.M. Barrington said he gave incorrect information to The News-Journal last week when he said only two deputy sheriffs had left his department in the past seven or eight years.

Barrington says eight men have left the department since he took office ten and a half years ago. Of the three who left in 1972 one resigned to accept a higher paying job; one resigned for health reasons and the third resigned on request.

Three of the remaining five resigned and took higher paying jobs; one was asked to resign and one suffered a heart attack and died while on duty.

## Girl Scouts Ring Bells For Sales

The 1973 Cookie Sale of Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council is now in progress. Hoke County Girl Scouts are ringing doorbells and taking orders for

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## Two Million Dollars Asked To Fund Sickle Cell Fight

State Representative Joy J. Johnson of Robeson introduced five bills to the state General Assembly last week. Three of the bills deal with prison reform, one with sickle cell anemia and one with welfare lien elimination.

Johnson's sickle cell anemia bill would appropriate two million dollars from the General Fund to the State Department of Public Health to finance testing and counseling to victims of sickle cell anemia and sickle cell trait for 1973-1975.

The bill would require State Health Department to set up counseling tests of all newborn infants who are susceptible to sickle cell anemia or sickle cell trait.

Under the bill the examining physician or local health department would be required to notify the infant's parents. Each county board of health would be required to furnish counseling, and

treatment. The counseling will be furnished without cost to the individual.

The bill also provides sickle cell anemia or sickle cell trait be grounds for voluntary sterilization in the state of North Carolina.

The lien elimination bill, House DRH 7007, would no longer require land owners to sign a lien on their property in order to receive welfare assistance after July 1, 1973.

The prison bills call for paying working inmates the minimum wage, allowing absentee registration and voting for prisoners serving prison terms for misdemeanors and restoration of citizenship for former prisoners, parolees and probationers.

The minimum wage proposal would authorize payment of the minimum wage to inmates in state prisons. Rates fixed by

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**STATE PRESENTS AIRPORT CHECK** - Friday in Raleigh Tom Broughton, state Division of Commerce and Industry administrator, presented a check for \$20,000 to City Manager John Gaddy. The check fulfilled a pledge by the state government to contribute to funds needed to match a federal grant for the Raeford airport improvement project. At the ceremony, from left, are Rep. Frank White, Sen. Luther Britt, Al Caloway, Division of Commerce and Industry, Rep. Joy Johnson, Mayor John K. McNeill, Gaddy, Broughton, City Councilmen Frank Teal and Graham Clark, Chamber of Commerce President Sam C. Morris, and George Gold, Commerce and Industry regional representative. Gaddy reports the city recently applied for \$20,000 of the total \$61,000 federal grant funds. The federal money will be paid in increments as various stages of work are completed on the project. Because of bad weather and wet ground a stop work order was recently issued. An order to resume will be issued when ground conditions will permit paving to begin.

## Energetic Bank President Has Influenced Community

By Kay Piotrkowski

A report on the condition of the Bank of Raeford published in the March 11, 1920 edition of the Hoke County Journal lists the bank's assets as \$533,652.27. The report was attested to by R.B. Lewis, cashier.

A similar report published in last week's News-Journal lists assets as more than nine million dollars. This most recent report was attested to by R.B. Lewis, president.

The 79-year-old Lewis who announced his retirement at a stockholders meeting earlier this month will remain on the job for several months or until a successor is named. After his retirement he will continue as a member of the board of directors.

The Wilmington native joined the bank as assistant cashier on April 19, 1919, became cashier in Jan. 1920, executive vice president in Jan. 1946 and president in Jan. 1961.

The only break in his years at the bank came during his military service in World War II. Lewis entered the service in Sept. 1940 and returned to the bank in early 1946.

He has watched both the firm and the city grow during his more than 53 years with the bank. "Main Street was sand and there was a well down near the depot for watering horses and mules," recalls Lewis. The bank had five employees in those days. Now there are fifteen.

Many things happened in 1920: Lewis was promoted, carpenters were earning \$1.30 an hour, newspaper subscriptions were increased from \$1.50 to \$2 a year, and a most important event appeared in the June 24, edition of the newspaper.

"Mr. R.F. (sic) Lewis, the efficient and popular cashier of the Bank of Raeford, and Miss Maude Upchurch, the popular and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Upchurch were happily married Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock, the Rev. B.P. Robinson officiating."

In the early 20s the Raeford Volunteer Fire Department began and Lewis, who helped organize the unit, served for many years as a fireman and as chief. He recalls the first big truck purchased for the department. "We used a hand reel for the hose and a hand pump for water. There were few hydrants and we pumped water from mill streams and ponds.

The stock market crash of '29, often called Black Thursday, led to the Bank Holiday in 1933. Beginning with Michigan, the 49 state closed banks to prevent runs by panic-stricken depositors.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt took the Presidential oath of office on March 4 of that year. He ordered all banks in the nation closed on March 6. Three days later Congress passed emergency banking legislation and within a few days banks



**RETIRING BANK PRESIDENT** - R. B. Lewis, Bank of Raeford president, works in his office amid papers, files and memories collected during 53 years with the bank.

throughout the nation began to reopen.

The Bank of Raeford was the third bank in the state to reopen after having been closed only seven to ten days. For a while it was the only bank open between Lumberton and Wilmington. People came from Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen and other communities to conduct their banking business, remembers Lewis. "And some of them are still with us," he notes.

When Lt. Col. Robert B. Lewis executive officer of the 252nd Coast Artillery, left Raeford with his unit to participate in one year's military training in Sept. 1940, many of Hoke County's young men went with him. Capt. J.H. Blue, Lt. Younger F. Snead, Lt. T.B. Lester, and 1st Sgt. Paul Dickson were but a few.

That year stretched to more than five and the banker who had risen from enlisted rank during World War I returned from Trinidad in 1945 with the rank of colonel. When Lewis retired from the National Guard Gov. Luther H. Hodges appointed him to the rank of brevet brigadier general.

Active throughout the years in community affairs, Lewis was instrumental in organizing not only the fire department but also the Kiwanis

Club, Boy Scouts, United Fund and Chamber of Commerce.

He has served as a city councilman, president and member of the chamber of commerce, division lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis International, commander of local American Legion Post, United Fund director, president and general chairman of the Hoke County Golden Jubilee Inc., and chairman and member of the Raeford School Board.

In addition he has been an active member of the Methodist Church and served many years as a member of the board of stewards and as teacher of the men's bible class. He was honored as Hoke County's outstanding citizen for 1960 with the presentation of the "Man of the Year" award in 1961.

Although planning his retirement in a few months, Lewis is found daily at the bank, working as he has for the past 53 years. The vitality in his step belies his 79 years. He says, "There is right much hanging fire in the banking business around the first of the year."

He springs from his desk, disappears around the partition which separates his office from the rest of the bank, attends

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Chief Superior Court Judge E. Maurice Braswell sentenced a Shannon woman to five years in prison Tuesday afternoon when a jury convicted her of involuntary manslaughter in stabbing death of a Raeford man last June 10th.

The jury deliberated almost three hours before returning the verdict against Betty Scott alias Betty McArn. The judge instructed the jury they could return verdicts of guilty of second degree murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter or innocent.

The victim, Joseph Covington, was stabbed in the chest about 11:30 p.m. June 9 while standing just outside the entrance to the Robert Billinger Club. He died at Cape Fear Valley Hospital about three hours later.

Miss Scott testified she was in the club with her friends when Covington approached her and roughed her up, twisting her arm and hurting her. There were apparently several altercations between the defendant and Covington both inside and outside the club.

The stabbing occurred with Miss Scott standing in the doorway of the club and Covington standing just outside the entry.

Testifying in the case were Evelyn Marie McPhatter, Evelyn Murchison, Lillian Sally Bratcher, Jerome Ray, Otis Ray, Robert Arthur Billinger, and Sheriff D.M. Barrington.

A three-year sentence with recommendation he be considered for the work release program was given Johnny Jones, Fayetteville, after he entered Nolo Contendere pleas to breaking, entering and larceny, and receiving stolen goods.

Jones was charged with the theft of a 1971 car from inside the Hoke Auto Company Oct. 29. Sgt. J.R. Riley and Patrolman Lloyd Leazer, Raeford policeman, discovered a broken window in the Hoke Auto Company building while on routine patrol. When discovered the stolen vehicle was not damaged.

Fred Usher entered guilty pleas to DUI and driving while license was revoked. He received four months suspended two years if he pay \$250 fine, and costs, violate no laws, nor drive for 12 months nor thereafter until properly licensed, and not have use, drink or possess any alcoholic beverages for two years.

Roy Lee Monroe was sentenced for assault with a deadly weapon. He received five years suspended five years and was placed on five years probation. The sentence was suspended upon condition Monroe pay \$940 restitution, \$50 doctor's bill, \$520 hospital bill and costs.

In a companion case charging Monroe with malicious damage to personal property prayer for judgment was continued upon payment of costs.

Bud Brown was found innocent of a worthless check charge. He was charged with putting his mark on a check to Crumpler's Handy Mart.

Brown testified he had made an x mark on a blank green check and the check submitted in evidence was a white one.

Court is scheduled to remain in session through today.

## United Fund Goal Topped

Wednesday total United Fund contributions reached well over the goal of \$19,636 with a collection of \$3,612.50 from Knt-A-Way, Inc.

Younger Snead, Jr., campaign manager said the funds should increase as other businesses submit their contributions. Snead also said other wishing to contribute to the fund may send donations to The News-Journal.

## Mrs. Symanski's Leonard Article Earns Award

Flaine Symanski, who was a reporter for The News-Journal from March until September of last year, won an award for the paper in the weekly division of the 1972 Newspaper Contest of the North Carolina Press Association. The award, second place in the category entitled "Investigative Reporting," was accepted at the midwinter press institute in Chapel Hill last Thursday by Publisher Paul Dickson of The News-Journal.

The award was for an article done in May of last year by Mrs. Symanski entitled "Leonard School Has Needs," and the comments of the judges were: "This follow up of a report made by the North Carolina Bar Association's Penal System Study Committee is interesting, informative, and, best of all, it got immediate action in the community." Her entry was judged second best of fifteen entries in the category.

Mrs. Symanski worked for The News-Journal while her husband was stationed at Fort Bragg in the Army. She now works for a daily newspaper in Danville, Illinois.