

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

August has brought to Hoke County between seven and eight inches of rainfall so far. It rained eight of the first nine days and it has kept the farmers out of the fields for the past week. Tuesday morning it was raining again after a dry weekend. I don't believe too much will fall as I write this column Tuesday morning.

The temperature has been in the 80s, so it has not been too bad heat wise. If the rainfall continues, a record could be set for August. Time will tell.

About everyone I have talked to in the past few days is glad that the Watergate affair is about to come to a close. Why this event ever took place is beyond all reasoning that comes to my mind. All polls showed that Richard Nixon was a solid choice of the people for President. George McGovern had about a 10% chance of winning. So why the breakin and all the other things that occurred during the campaign happened, I can't see.

There is one thing that the American people can be proud of, and that is the form of government we have and how smoothly the turnover from one man to another, the Presidency of this country can be.

In most countries the military or an angry mob will control the turnover of power. This did not happen here because our forefathers had a Constitution that has stood through many years of trials and tribulations. They had fought for freedom and wanted a government that would stand against any form of government except a democracy. Yes, we can be proud of our Constitution.

I watched on television the address Monday night by President Gerald Ford to the joint session of Congress. As you watched and listened to him speak, and then watched the Senators and Congressmen as they listened and the look on their faces, you could almost feel, with each of them, a feeling of let's forget the past and look forward to the future with cooperation between the Congress and the President.

The fight against inflation outlined by the President was certainly music to the ears of the listening public. The President and Congress can work hard for a plan to curb inflation, but to make the plan work, will take the cooperation of every citizen of the United States.

Some will say it can't be done, but last spring the American people buckled down and helped whip a gas and fuel shortage that was the worst this nation has ever seen. This issue can also be whipped with all of us working together, and, as the President said, with the help of God.

Opening Day Shorter For Students

The first day of school will end at 11 a.m. on Aug. 26 for students at Hoke High, South Hoke and Upchurch, school superintendent Raz Autry announced. Students at McLaughlin, Raeford Elementary, Scurlock and West Hoke will be dismissed at 10 a.m.

The next day, Aug. 27, will be a full day.

Help Asked In Dumping

Clyde Leach, who holds the county contract for servicing the garbage containers, appealed to citizens to help make the collection system work better.

Whenever possible, Leach asked that garbage be deposited in the containers late in the week to help relieve the weekend overflow.

Additionally, he asked that abandoned appliances, limbs and other bulky items not be placed beside the containers.

The containers are intended only for household refuse, he said. Other trash should be hauled directly to the landfill.

Meeting Seen On Bond Issue

A special meeting of the board of county commissioners is expected to be called for August 26.

T.B. Lester, county manager, said that according to a schedule sent him by the attorneys for the school bond issue, the introduction of a bond order and a call for a public hearing should be



Kathy McMillian . . . waits to jump.

Kathy Wins Broad Jump; Sets A Jr. Olympic Record

Kathy McMillian, a tall, eleventh-grader at Hoke High, set a record for the Junior Olympics in Lincoln, Neb., last Saturday when she jumped to first place at the national meet.

Kathy scored a 19' 9" to win the broad jump, topping the previous Jr. Olympic record of 19' 6".

Setting records isn't new to Kathy. The jump of 18' 6" that sent her to the national meet set a record for Region 3 and Kathy also holds the state records in the 220 dash, the long jump and the 880 relay.

Kathy qualified in Lincoln with six other finalists, making preliminary jumps Saturday afternoon of 19' 4", 18' 6" and 19' 5".

Her three final jumps all measured 19' 9". The second place jump was 19' 5".

Kathy's winning jumps were shown on a nationally televised sports show last Sunday afternoon.

Asked if her win has changed her plans, Kathy was emphatic.

"I'm going to practice harder," she said. "I want to go to bigger track meets this year. There's one in Florida, a big

one, I want to go to.

Kathy said that a number of coaches talked to her following her win in Lincoln.

"I didn't know it would be this much fun at the big meets," she said. "I'd really like to go on."

Kathy left Charlotte last Thursday with a group of about 25 contestants from this area, accompanied by two coaches and two chaperones. The group flew to Lincoln where the meet took place at the University of Nebraska.

Her winning broad jump took place on Saturday and on Sunday she ran in a 440 relay team with other Region 3 girls. The team did not place. The group returned to Charlotte on Monday.

The only other winner from the state was Jeff Moody, 880 runner from Pinecrest, who took first place.

This was Kathy's first entry into national meets. Last year she qualified for Region 3 competition in Nashville but did not make the finals.

Her mother, Mrs. Alexander McMillian, said she got to see Kathy on television.

"We're proud of her, she said. "It's really something."

Appeal Pending

Jury Convicts 2 Of ABC Robbery

A jury found two men guilty of the June 6 armed robbery of the Hoke ABC store after a week-long trial in superior court.

William Franklin White, 28, of Hamlet, was sentenced to not less than 20 years nor more than 25 years by Judge Donald L. Smith. White gave notice of appeal and his bond was set at \$25,000.

Leroy Pinkney, 19, also of Hamlet, was sentenced to not less than eight years nor more than ten years.

However, after the sentence was passed, Judge Smith ordered it set aside. Ed Grannis, prosecutor for the state, indicated he would appeal the order and Pinkney was released under his own recognizance.

According to James Little, public defender and attorney for Pinkney, the decision to set aside the sentence was based on a similar case heard by the state supreme court in which the court

ruled that there had not been enough evidence presented to send the case to a jury. By imposing a sentence and then setting it aside, rather than by granting defense motion for non-suit, Judge Smith allowed the state to appeal the ruling, Little said.

The trial had taken up most of the week term. A jury as selected late Monday (Aug. 5), opening day, and the state concluded its case about 4 p.m. on Thursday. During the week, witnesses for the state testified that on June 6 a light complexioned, slender black man, wearing a flowered shirt and a white floppy hat robbed the Hoke ABC store at gunpoint, taking \$586.

Sheriff D. M. Barrington testified that by driving at speeds hitting 133 mph, he overtook a car matching the description given to him and arrested White and Pinkney just across the Cumberland County line.

White was identified as the gunman by Wayne Ashburn and L. E. Wilkes, who were working at the liquor store when the robbery took place.

Doran Berry, defending White, presented testimony from a bank official in Hamlet, who said he had approved a loan to White for \$500. His father testified he had lent his son \$200, and his wife said she had given him part of her \$160 salary. According to Berry, the money was to be used to purchase a car.

Berry also had White try on the shirt

45 Pounds

Marijuana Cache Found, Three Arrested In Arabia

Two trash bags filled with marijuana were impounded and three persons were jailed Sunday after an all-night watch on a barn near the twin bridges area.

Charged with possession of a controlled substance (marijuana) with intent to sell are George Pittman, Rt. 2 Raeford and Mrs. Shannon L. Falscroft of Cocoa, Fla. James M. Falscroft, also of Cocoa, Fla., is charged in two warrants with possession with intent to sell marijuana and possession with intent to sell cocaine.

Bond for Pittman and Mrs. Falscroft was set at \$50,000 each. Bond for Falscroft was set at \$5,000 in one case

and \$50,000 in the other.

According to Sheriff D.M. Barrington, an all stakeout on a barn on the Upchurch farm was set up by Deputies Henry Bowen and James Peterkin. Alec Norton relieved the two deputies in morning and at noon the three suspects were spotted at the barn loading the marijuana contained in two plastic leaf bags into a blue VW van.

The van was stopped on the Arabia road by a Highway Patrol car and the three were taken into custody, the sheriff said.

The bags contained 45 pounds of marijuana valued at \$18,000, he said. A preliminary hearing is set in district

court for Aug. 30.

In an unrelated case, Highway Patrol Trooper Ken Weston stopped a car on U.S. 401 Friday morning and charged the occupants with possession of a controlled substance (marijuana).

Charged were E3 George Shaver of Ft. Bragg, William Patience of Fayetteville and Steven Allen Reel, also of Fayetteville. Reel was also charged with littering by throwing from his car plastic bags, cigarette papers and 'green vegetable matter.'

Bond for Shaver and Patience was set at \$200 and at \$250 for Reel. Trial is set in district court on Sept. 13.

Official Declares:

Dupree's Assignment Not 'Special'

As a county seat, Raeford is just as entitled to have a judge and prosecutor assigned to it as any other county seat, a court official declared Monday.

Both District Court Judge Joseph Dupree and J. D. Chappell, comptroller for the Administrative Office of the Courts, both denied recent newspaper allegations that Dupree is being paid special travel expenses to commute from his home to work in Fayetteville.

In a front-page story, the Fayetteville Observer last week said that Dupree and assistant district attorney Duncan McFayden, also of Raeford, were the only court officials to receive a mileage allowance and meal costs for the days in which they are in court in Fayetteville.

Chappell confirmed the payment and said it was a proper expense.

"Judge Dupree is an elected official from Hoke County and Raeford is a county seat, just as Fayetteville is a county seat. Judge Dupree is assigned to the court at Raeford as his headquarters," Chappell said.

"This is not a special case, not a special assignment and not any special handling," he said.

Chappell said that in addition to holding court here, Dupree is also responsible for all other judicial matters in the county, such as juvenile hearings and exemptions from jury duty.

"Now we recognize that Fayetteville

is a whole lot bigger than Raeford and that the Cumberland County courts are certainly the busiest in the 12th Judicial District, so Judge Dupree and McFayden are brought in to help Fayetteville dispose of court business there."

"But we still feel it is justified that as an elected official from that county, that he be assigned to the court in the county seat there," Chappell said.

Dupree said his travel expenses are no different from those paid to Fayetteville-based judges and court attorneys when they come to Raeford on official business.

"If they had bothered to check, they would have found out that any other district court judge, who holds court in Raeford, gets his expenses from Fayetteville," Dupree said.

Chappell confirmed that judges, district attorneys public defenders and other personnel assigned normally to Fayetteville are paid travel and meals when they are in court in Raeford.

Ed Grannis, who will take office in January as district attorney, said he saw no impropriety in having McFayden assigned to court in Raeford.

"It is a service to the county to have a solicitor over here," he said. "I certainly don't see anything unusual in assigning him here."

Grannis said the state paid travel expenses when it was necessary for any of the other attorneys from his office to attend court in Hoke.

Jim Little, public defender for the 12th Judicial District, also said that personnel from his office received expenses from Fayetteville to Raeford.

Chappell said he objected to the implication that Dupree and McFayden are receiving special treatment.

"We have 2400 employees under the

Administrative Office of the Courts," he said. "When cases don't fit neatly into categories, we look at each case individually, and that is what we have done in this instance."

Chappell said there are many variations among the personnel covered by his office, such as magistrates who have an office in one place and serve a jail in another town or county, as well as judges and attorneys who hold court in several different towns.

"We first must determine where an official's headquarters will be, then anywhere else he goes, he'll be paid expenses for," Chappell said.

"Judge Dupree and assistant district attorney McFayden are headquartered in Raeford," he said. "Raeford is just as much a county seat as any other county seat or as Fayetteville is."

"One guideline for determining where a person is headquartered that we never use is this commuting angle," he said.

In an editorial last Friday, the Fayetteville newspaper suggested that Dupree and McFayden pay back the money they have received as expenses.

Judge Dupree pointed out that when he took office in Dec. 5, 1966, the law specifically provided for compensation to judges for travel outside their county of residence.

According to Sec. 7A-144 of the 1965 session laws, "Each judge shall also receive reimbursement on the same basis as state employees generally, for his necessary travel and subsistence expenses while attending court or transacting official business at a place other than in his county of residence."

The law was amended in 1969 to provide reimbursement on the same basis as state employees generally, for necessary travel and subsistence expenses. The portion specifying reimbursement for travel outside a judge's county of residence was deleted.

However, Judge Dupree contends that the portion of the state Constitution that forbids the salaries of (See DUPREE, Page 11)

Pecora Elected



John Pecora, athletic director at Hoke High, has been elected president of the North Carolina Coaches' Association.

He will preside over the organization of more than 2,000 coaches from the state for the next year. This is the first year that women have been admitted to the organization, Pecora said.

George Cushman, athletic director from Thomasville Senior High, was elected vice-president.

Boosters Will Meet

The Booster Club will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the Hoke High School library and president Noah Hendrix, Sr. issued an invitation to the public to attend.

Prospective members can join the club by signing up at either drug store in Raeford by contacting any of the Booster officers, he said.

On Vacation

The public library will be closed Aug. 26 - 31 while the staff is on vacation.