



OLDEST TREE—County forest ranger Robert Jones stands next to the loblolly pine at Drowning Creek, believed to be the biggest in the county. The circumference of the trunk measures over eleven feet.

Any Older?

Pine May Be Hoke's Oldest Tree

By Marty Vega

Officers of the state forestry service believe they have found the oldest living tree in Hoke County, but are cautiously withholding any official announcement in case another should bark a protest to dispute the record.

The tree, a loblolly pine, stands in a densely wooded area at Drowning Creek some distance south of Turnpike Road on the Horace Walters farm.

Friday, Don Robbins and Harold Grady of the N.C. Department of Forests, Fayetteville District, and county ranger Robert Jones and assistant ranger Ronald Webb, led the way on a trek through the woods for a look at the pine. A reporter trailed behind, choosing her steps carefully over the rugged route after getting assurances she was unlikely to meet a snake, or other frightful reptile.

"Mr. Walters' son, Robert, spotted the tree a couple of weeks ago and called me," Robbins said. "I came down for a look and it impressed me."

The forestry department would like to collect information on all the oldest known trees and someday compile a record for the entire state, he said.

Hmm. Better keep it out of the hands of Ewell Gibbon; if he gets hungry, no tree will be safe.

"We'd like to hear from anyone who knows of a very large tree," Robbins said.

As we trudged along, Robbins and Grady studied the woods with a professional eye.

"Trees are one of our few renewable resources, you know, and now, more importantly than ever, wood will be playing an ever increasing role," Robbins observed.

"If the country is going to meet its future needs, we've got to increase our timber yield. And I'll tell you something else, it's going to come from right here, the Southeastern United States."

"It's been estimated the demand for wood in the Southeast by the year 2000 will be 2.3 times greater than what was harvested in 1968. And that's talking about 13 billion cubic feet," he continued.

"That's one hell of a lot of wood," he said.

"Timber is the third largest industry in North Carolina. There's real opportunity for the average private woodland owner to grow wood. We highly recommend it be put under management, and the situation for profit looks good."

The forester pointed to a dense growth of trees, where each seemed to be elbowing its neighbor for room.

"That needs to be thinned. With proper management, it will again become productive," Robbins commented.

Magistrates

Court

The following cases were heard by the magistrates.

Sanford Jones, Maxton, speeding 69 in a 55 mph zone, \$10 fine, costs; Edwin W. Leonard, Columbia, S.C., 66 in a 55 mph zone, \$10, costs; Robert L. Daughtrid Jr., Charlotte, inspection violation, costs; Joe Harris, Lumber Bridge, inspection violation, costs; Wilbur Barton, Jr., Shannan, inspection violation, costs; Joseph Stanley Lucas, Aberdeen, at a speed greater than reasonable, costs; Russell L. Agent, El Centro, Cal., 66 in a 55 mph zone, \$10, costs; Willie M. Graham, Rt. 2, Raeford, expired inspection, costs; Joyce F. Black, Rt. 2, Raeford, 66 in a 55 mph zone, \$10, costs.

At last our destination was reached and the tree was in sight.

The aged pine is immense, dwarfing the others in comparison.

Robbins pulled out his notebook and read off the vital statistics.

"The circumference, taken at a height of four and a half feet from the ground, is 11 feet."

"The total height, measured from the base to the tip of the highest needlepoint, is one hundred and ten feet."

Wait a minute. Where'd you get a ladder big enough for that?

The forest rangers exchanged glances. "Well, the way you calculate the height, you run a straight line from the base to a certain point. At that point, you draw a sight line with an instrument to the top of the tree and you get your angle...."

Ah, just like high school geometry. Dumb question.

"Based on our examination, we put the age of the tree at about 180 years", Robbins continued.

Okay, how can you measure that? "That I can show you. Take a look at this stump".

BI Bowling

Intruders Are Still Ahead

By Blanche Farmer

Top Ten Bowlers

The race for first place drew closer with the Intruders defeating the Stompers three games to one last week.

The Fantastic Four won three games to one from the Heatwaves while the Junkyard Dogs gave the Misfits no trouble - just a four-game win. The Rolling Stones wrecked the Wrecking Crew three games to one.

High game went to George McKoy with 200 while Coy Jackson rolled a 199. Congratulations to Joy Riddle with a 153.

Standings

	W	L
Intruders	18	6
Fantastic Four	15	9
Misfits	13	11
Rolling Stones	11	13
Stompers	11	13
Junkyard Dogs	10	14
Heatwaves	10	14
Wrecking Crew	8	16

Plans Made For Center

A plan that may open the civic center for use at a nominal sum was discussed Monday by the center's executive board and will be presented to the sponsoring organizations.

According to Kay Thomas, a member of the board, the plan calls for a \$3,000 operating fund to be established with each of the sponsors sharing a proportion of the obligation.

This will mean, she said, that the Raeford Woman's Club, the principal sponsor, will contribute 40 per cent.

Chaminade Music Club will contribute ten per cent; Kiwanis will contribute 35 per cent and the Lions will contribute 15 per cent.

With the operating expenses guaranteed, the center could be opened for a small fee, she said.

The plan must be approved by the sponsoring organizations.

Better question.

We bent down for a look at the stump of a nearby pine.

"See all these rings? Starting in the center and continuing through? These rings represent the years of growth."

Sure enough, the surface was covered in a series of concentric circles, though you had to have pretty good eyes if you cared to count them all.

"The thin, narrow rings mean a period of poor growth, something happened. The rings which are wider mean good years", Robbins explained. "So by comparing stump sizes, we can estimate the age of our tree."

Robbins pointed to the pine. "The average crown spread is 52 feet across. For a tree that old, that's a very healthy crown."

"Most of these old, residual pines were cut when the fields were abandoned, so this is unusual. The tree is healthy, there's no sign of disease", he said.

"Our opinion, right now, is that this is the biggest and most unusual loblolly pine in the county. Until we hear otherwise," he smiled.

B. Monroe	177
C. Jackson	161
G. McKoy	160
L. Woodcox	155
R. Morgan	154
L. Tyner	153
B. Elledge	152
L. Bruton	150
S. Glines	150
A. Leggett	149

Davis To Sing In ECU Recital



Ken Davis

Ken Davis, a voice student at East Carolina University School of Music, will perform March 13 in A.J. Fletcher Center Recital Hall.

The recital, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Davis will perform songs by Hayden, Schubert, Duparc, Poulenc and Tres.

Davis is a student of Dr. Clyde Hiss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Davis of Raeford.

Bucks Tie Opener

George Maynor walked home with the first run, as Hallsboro's pitcher, Powell, walked the first four batters of the game.

The Bucks scored again in the third when Thomas got on base with a single and came home on a fielder's choice hit by Timmy Ross.

Webb's Holds

Top Spot

Webb's Tire continues to hold the top spot by 16 games.

In the action this past Thursday night the Tirmen trimmed Raeford Auto four games. Oakwood Laundry held the runnerup spot this week sacking Mack's four games. WSHB remained in the third spot as the Radiomen wiped out Moore's four games. City of Raeford racked up four wins from Hollingsworth and McNeil's picked up four wins from Kermit's.

The high 200 last week went to Larry Woodcox for the City of Raeford with a 233. The high series went to Charlie Smith for the City of Raeford with a 586 series that included a 214. Others hitting the 200 mark were Billy Posey for Marks', 203; Silas Glims for Hollingsworth 203, Fletcher Oldham for Moore's, 202; Jesse Taylor for Marks', 202. Harry Walters for Webb's has had a 500 or better series for the last 17 weeks.

Standings

	W	L
Webb's Tire	74	26
Oakwood Laundry	58	42
WSHB	57	43
City of Raeford	56	44
Marks' Food	53	47
B.C. Moore's	50	50
McNeil's	49	51
Raeford Auto	38	62
Kermit's	34	66
Hollingsworth	31	69

Top Ten Bowlers

Jesse Taylor 177, Thad Marks 176, Harry Walters 175, Waylon Fulk 175, Mackie Carter 174, Charlie Smith 174, James Nixon 172, James Gay 171, Bob Canady 171, John Canady 171, Billy Posey 170.

This week schedule: Hollingsworth vs WSHB; B.C. Moore's vs Oakwood; Webb's vs McNeil's, Marks' vs Kermit's, City of Raeford vs Raeford Auto.

READ THE WANT ADS

McMillian 5th

Kathy McMillian attended the national AAU indoor championship meet Feb. 28 at Madison Square Gardens and placed fifth with a leap of 19 feet 2 1/4 inches.

Martha Watson of Lakewood International Track Club in California won the long jump with a leap of 21 feet 2 inches for a new record for the meet. Second place went to Willye White of Chicago State Track Club with 19 feet 11 1/2 inches.

Watson went on to win the Russian-American games in Richmond on Monday and White placed second.

Third place at the New York meet went to Sharon Walker of Falcon Track Club with a jump of 19 feet 6 inches and Modupe Oshikoya of Sports International Track Club placed fourth.

Kathy was the youngest of 25 jumpers competing in the meet. Watson first won the long jump at this meet in 1967 and won again in 1972. White first won in 1962 and has competed for the U.S. in four Olympics.

The other competitors were college age or over and most represented track clubs from larger cities in the nation.

Kathy plans to concentrate on running for the Hoke track team for the next couple of months and after the high school season, she hopes to enter the Junior Olympics again.



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