

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weekend weather brought forth golfers to the courses and had most people looking forward to the coming of spring. Spring arrived last Friday and with the temperatures in the 70's, things were just great.

Then Monday morning everything looked for a fine week for the weather until about two o'clock that afternoon. The winds got up and the skies turned a greenish gray and things began to happen.

One phone call after another came, reporting trees and buildings down and power lines falling on the highways. Not in just one path across the county, but from east and west the calls came into the office.

Along with the wind was heavy rain, and this just added to the bad situation.

Of course the first thing most of us think about is our own possessions, families, homes and personal property. Then we become more relaxed as word is received saying this or that is not hurt or destroyed.

The people in Hoke County can be thankful that only property was destroyed and that no one was injured seriously or killed. This was the situation as this column is written and I hope that this will remain, as further reports come in.

Anyway things were bad in Hoke County, weatherwise, for a few hours Monday afternoon.

Last week I mentioned about William Poole seeing several sea gulls in his pasture and asking that a photographer be sent out to take a picture, as stated they were gone when the photographer became available to take the picture.

This week several others have come forth to say they have seen gulls in Hoke County during the past two weeks.

One report came from the Dundarrach section of the county and the information came from Laurie Telfair and Becky Jones, NJI staffers, who said they saw a gull last Friday.

Another report is from Mrs. Jimmy Conoly, who may give the clue to these late reports. She said she saw a gull the same day that William Poole did, but wouldn't say anything about it because people might think she was a little off.

Now this is a good explanation, but someone said that since last week William had the answer for the gulls. He said, "they followed Graham home." You must see Poole to find out what this means.

Anyway if you see any sea gulls around your place let me know and join the crowd of gull watchers.

Hikers Wanted For Walkathon

Raeford Jaycees hope to get a thousand people to walk for cerebral palsy in the 20-mile Walkathon planned April 12.

Drive chairman Larry Phillips spoke to Hoke High and Upchurch students this week to recruit walkers. However, while students will probably make up the bulk of the charity volunteers, Phillips said he hoped to have a number of adult walkers take on the 20-mile route.

Sponsor sheets will be distributed at the schools or may be obtained from Jaycee president Bobby Strother. Each walker is to sign up as many sponsors as possible, Phillips explained.

The Walkathon will begin at the Hoke High stadium and will meander in a circle about Raeford. Phillips traced the route as Bethel Road to Dickson Street; then to Donaldson; Donaldson to Main Street, out Main to 211; down 211 to McLeods Crossroads then to Oakdale gin, back up NC 20 to the armory, down business 401 to Prospect, up Prospect to Upchurch School, then to Turnpike Road, down Turnpike to a crossroad leading to Bethel and back down Bethel to the school.

Sr. Citizens

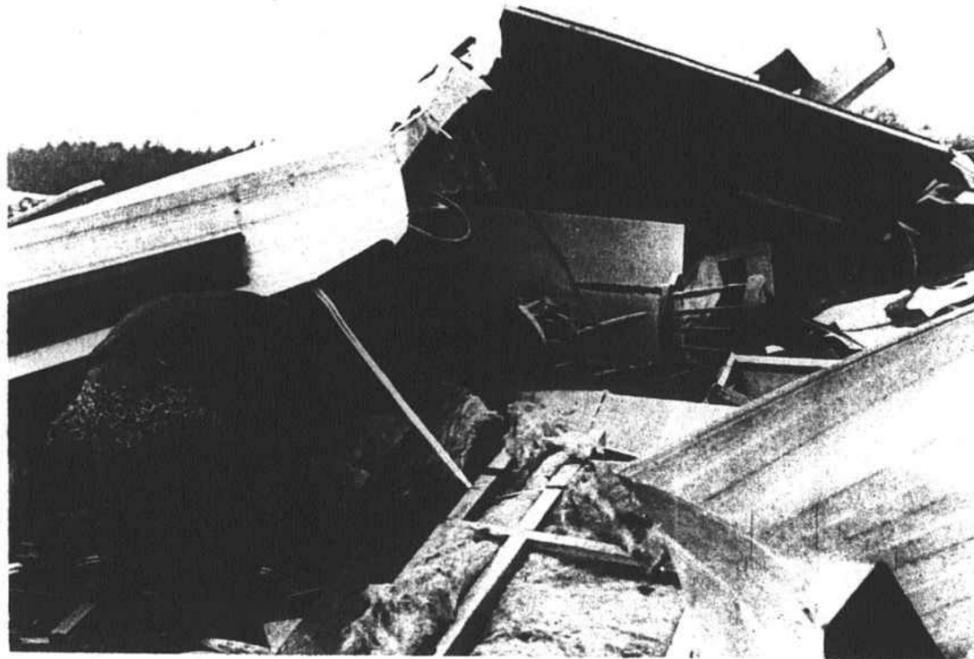
A tour of the Southern Pines and Pinehurst area will be taken April 1 by members of the Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club.

Among stops will be the Golf Hall of Fame, the candle shops and country store.

Members are asked to meet at 1:45 at the Raeford United Methodist Church. A donation to help pay transportation costs is requested.

Twister Cuts Path Across County

Damage Estimated At \$100,000



SAIVAGE - Henry Dockery pulls out cans of infant formula from the wreckage of his mobile home, ripped by a tornado that hit several trailers in West Hoke as it cut a path through the county Monday.



CRUNCH - Extensive damage was reported to this car hit by a tree during the storm Monday. The auto belonging to Billy Hayes, Sr., was parked in the drive on North Fulton, one of the hardest hit sections in the city.

Inquest Is Tonight For Deputy Sheriff

The inquest into the shooting death of Angus Thompson by sheriff's deputy George McGuire March 16 is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the courthouse, county coroner G. Franklin Crumpler said Monday.

Subpoenas have been served on a number of witnesses, Crumpler said, but declined to disclose the names of those expected to testify.

The coroner said he expects to begin a jury selection about 7:00 p.m. The proceedings are open to the public.

The six member coroner's jury will be chosen from a list of fifteen selected Monday.

Names appearing on the jury list are Edward E. Parsons, Rt. 1; Robert L. Conoly, Rt. 1; Robert L. Long, P.O. Box 182; Alma Moseley, Rt. 2; Charles H. Daniels, 710 Bethel Rd.; Marshall L. Parks, Rt. 3; William A. Smith, Raeford; Mrs. Ida T. Wright, Rt. 3; Olivia C. Jones, 225 Maxwell St.; Grace V. Purcell, Rt. 1; Kenneth McNeill, 115 Fulton Street; Lee Van Blue, Rt. 1; Christana McB. Howell; Rena R.

Washington; Rose Smith, Rt. 1, Shannon.

McGuire, 25, was routinely suspended with pay following Thompson's death by gunfire at the home of Mrs. Illa Evans on Turnpike Road.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington requested the State Bureau of Investigation to probe the shooting and take charge of the investigation.

Barrington issued a statement following the shooting and disclosed McGuire fired at Thompson after Thompson produced a shotgun and fired at the deputy. McGuire was uninjured.

Eyewitnesses to the shooting, including Mrs. Illa Evans, are expected to testify.

It was learned Thompson's wife, Betty, and the Thompson children have also been subpoenaed.

McGuire, who is related to the Evans and Thompson families by marriage is expected to testify along with See INQUEST, page 15

Police Still Probe Fire

Investigation into the fire that destroyed the South Main Street home of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Walters is continuing, Raeford police chief said this week.

The Feb. 10 fire gutted the split level home and hospitalized three members of the family. Walters, the most seriously burned, was released from Moore County Hospital on March 17, according to Chief Leonard Wiggins.

Wiggins and SBI agents have questioned some 15-20 persons since the fire, including the members of the Walters family.

Wiggins said at this time, the fire is considered to be "of a suspicious nature." Fires have destroyed three businesses owned by the Walters in the last two years.

Sales Taxes

Local one cent sales and use taxes mounted to \$16,944.32 in February, state revenue officials reported.

Mobile homes were demolished and extensive damage occurred Monday afternoon when a tornado touched down just inside the county line at Drowning Creek and cut a path of destruction as it hopped over the county.

The twister hit before 2:30 p.m. at the Horace Walters farm on Turnpike Road, crossed the road and then bounced about three quarters of a mile from the West Hoke Trailer Park. Two mobile homes were blown off their foundations and flattened about fifteen feet away. Apparently neither was occupied at the time.

The tornado continued to the West Hoke Trailer Park where it demolished two more trailers and caused extensive damage to others. Most of the trailers were occupied when the storm struck, but no serious injuries were reported.

The switchboard at the sheriff's department was jammed with calls as reports came in on the path of the tornado over the county.

Sheriff deputies and rescue squad members were called to the scene at the Trailer Park to determine if anyone was trapped. Power lines were downed, and rescue squad members and gas company workers continued up Turnpike Road checking for gas leaks.

Henry Dockery's mobile home was smashed by the tornado and twisted in a heap into the trailer next to it. Dockery, who was in the trailer with his wife and children, received minor injuries to his arm and head.

Deputy Harvey Young reported the children, who had been trapped in the rear of the trailer, received bumps on the head but did not appear to be seriously injured.

"Everybody is just lucky that nobody was killed", Dockery's neighbor, Thomas Ray said.

Ray's home suffered a caved-in side but was not crumpled as the trailers in back and in front of it were.

Ray was in the trailer with his nephews and niece, Terrace, 6, Randy, 3, and Peticia Ray, a week and a half old, and his sister, Frances Ray.

"I seen it coming. It was like a wind storm in the summer, you could see it. I went on back in the house and closed the windows."

"Then I seen the trailers in front of me messing up and there wasn't nothing we could do but get in the back room and get on the floor," he said.

LaVerne Harris, another resident, reported he "was picked up and thrown from one end to the other."

"I was standing back in the kitchen in the back part," Harris said, as he stood looking at the wreckage of his home. "My little brother was with me. I saw the storm coming and knew it was going to hit the house. I started down the hall and when I got to the middle, it hit."

"The next thing I knew, I was crawling out here at the end."

Sheriff D.M. Barrington and two deputies were at the scene, attempting to determine if anyone was trapped, as cars lined Turnpike Road with persons looking for neighbors and friends.

Lonnie McMillian, who drove up to the rubble of his trailer home about a mile from the Trailer Park, jumped out of a van and asked frantically about his wife and children. He dashed across the road to the

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home of H.W. Ellis, which was untouched by the tornado, and came back to report they were away when the twister hit.

The tornado continued toward Raeford, down Turnpike Road, uprooting trees and causing damage to outlying farms and then swept down near the Burlington plant on the south side.

A trailer in North Raeford was damaged as the twister touched down.

Louise Morris who lives near the North Raeford fire station on Baker road, said the front canopy of her patio and part of the roof of the trailer were blown off.

She was at home with her 3-year-old, Guy III, when the storm hit, but no one was hurt.

"The baby was out playing and I called him in. When I looked out, it was all black and I heard a thundering noise and then the top of the trailer went, blamm. It blew it at least 75 feet from the house, out across a field. We got down on the floor and we must have stayed there 30 minutes.

"We were scared to death."

"It looked like I was right in the middle of the storm."

Considerable wind damage was found in the Fulton Street area, with trees uprooted, or split in two, power lines fallen, and wind damage to homes and sheds.

A tree fell on a parked car.

Civil Defense Coordinator Bill Niven said a mobile home west of Raeford on the Hallie Blythe farm was destroyed.

Niven said the tornado apparently left Raeford and struck again at

See TWISTER, page 12

For Easter

Sunrise Services Planned

Several Easter sunrise services are planned in the county Sunday.

Montrose will hold a sunrise service at 7 a.m. at the church.

In Raeford

The Raeford Ministerial Association will sponsor an Easter sunrise service at 7:15 a.m. in the schoolyard of McLaughlin School on North Main Street.

Sandy Grove

An Easter egg hunt for the nursery and primary children will be held Saturday at 3:30 at Sandy Grove Methodist Church.

Youngsters are asked to each bring two eggs.

Evangelical Methodist

Revival services will begin Easter Monday and continue through April 6 at the Evangelical Methodist Church on Sixth and Green Street.

The Rev. Lowell Beeler, pastor of the Grace Evangelical Methodist Church in Morganton, will be the guest evangelist. Services, with special music, will be held nightly at 7:30.

Shiloh

Shiloh Presbyterian Church in