

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Don't forget the 252nd CA and the 530th FA Reunion in Greensboro this weekend. It will be held at the Royal Villa Motel. So if you are a member of these outfits, go up for a day anyway. Fred Smith said he was looking for members from all over the United States. You can call him at 275-7526.

Most of the time when I write about the weather it has to do with rain, but for the past two weeks the weather has been hot in Hoke County. The daytime temperature has been above 95 degrees most of the time. The humidity has also been high and this makes it very uncomfortable.

Maybe by the weekend the front will move and it will cool off somewhat. I hope so!

I don't know how many businesses will be closed Monday for Labor Day but according to reports resort areas are looking for a record turnout. I do know that the banks, savings and loan and city and county offices will be closed. The schools will close down for the day also. This will make a three-day holiday for most people in the nation. If you are one of these and will have a resort place drive carefully.

School doors opened Monday morning and another school year is upon us. Many mothers made the trip to school grounds with their son or daughter for the first time. This is just the beginning of a long road to give a child an education. With the costs going up every year it is hard to imagine what the future holds for parents and children, of course time will tell.

From all reports everything worked smoothly at all schools. The weather was hot and most students and teachers are looking forward to a change in the weather. If schools continue to open this early something must be done to air condition the buildings.

I can already hear someone saying "It wasn't air conditioned when I was in school." That is right. It was never air conditioned when I was in school, nor were offices and homes either. Neither were the mules and plows, but many farmers now have cabs on tractors air conditioned.

It is what you get used to and all of us have been making life better for living for a long time.

The report from the high school was that the dress code's absence didn't seem to be as bad as some expected. I fully believe that the young people of this generation want to look and do what is right. So let's all give them a chance.

Football season begins Friday night for Hoke High Bucks and they open with Southern Durham in Durham. If you can make it go and be a Buck Booster.

The first home game will be under the lights at the high school stadium Friday, September 5, with Pine Forest giving the opposition.

The Booster Club is still helping defray the expenses of the team, so if you haven't joined do so today.

County Planner Hired

County commissioners filled the job of county planner at a special meeting Wednesday but are still without a building inspector after interviewing an applicant who wanted a higher salary.

Lester G. Simpson, 43, of Rt. 4, Box 289, Raeford, got the board's unanimous approval as planner and will start the \$8,760 post Sept 1, T. B. Lester said.

Simpson, who was graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in industrial management, worked as a management analyst with the management engineering office at the Camp Lejeune Marine base. He was also a revenue officer with the IRS Greensboro center.

Simpson's duties will be land use planning and working closely with the region council of governments on



WHERE DO I GO? -- This seemed to be the most popular question of the day as these first graders at McLaughlin School seem a bit confused about where they are supposed to be Tuesday morning.

Suspect Held In Attack On Health Worker

Sheriff's deputies Sunday arrested one of two suspects sought since February in connection with the attempted rape and shooting of county health worker Mrs. Jessie Nicholson at a McCain cabin.

John (alias Track) McNeill, 22, Rt. 3, Raeford was arrested about 2 P.M. at his home off Turnpike Road near the Montrose community by deputies A.S. Norton and E. Dial, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

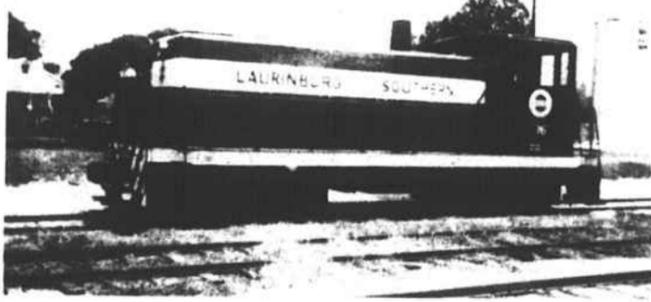
McNeill was charged with breaking and entering and larceny and assault with attempt to commit rape. He was jailed under \$21,500 bond.

McNeill was indicted by the grand jury in April along with four other suspects who were arrested shortly after the Feb. 19 wounding of Mrs. Nicholson.

One other suspect, identified by authorities as Robert Lee King, is still at large.



John McNeill



BICENTENNIAL TRAIN - The special train of the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad to commemorate the Bicentennial celebration will visit Raeford Saturday at noon.

Bicentennial Train Coming To Raeford

The Laurinburg and Southern Railroad Bicentennial train, decked out in red, white and blue, will be in Raeford Saturday, the Hoke county Bicentennial commission announced. The Bicentennial Engine No. 76

diesel will be in Laurinburg at the Gulf Oil plant from 8 - 11:30 A.M.

The train is scheduled to reach Raeford at noon where it will be on display until 1:30 P.M. at the Edenborough Shopping Center.

Robert Gatlin, heritage chairman for the local Bicentennial celebration, will be master of ceremonies for the occasion.

grants and aid, Lester said. He will work closely with the eight member county planning board.

M.A. Maxwell, an electrician at Knit - Away, was interviewed for the inspector job but told the board he wasn't interested if the pay was less than \$12,000. The job is budgeted at \$8,500-9,500.

The board discussed the furniture bid on the new library building, but no action was taken. Lester said board members have still not yet seen a copy of the specifications.

Lester said commissioners John Balfour and Tom McBryde will be meeting this week with the extension agents and department of social services director Benjamin Niblock to go over proposed furniture needs for their offices in the new county office building.

Pan - Am Trials

Kathy Off

Hoke High athlete Kathy McMillan left this morning (Thursday) from the Raleigh-Durham Airport enroute to the Women's Track and Field Pan-Am Trials on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles, California.

"I'm really excited about going. I'll probably be competing against the same people I have jumped against in the past," said Kathy this week.

"I've jumped every day since I've been back except on the weekend. On weekends I still worked out, but I didn't jump," she said.

Kathy said that a friend of hers who had been previously helping her with her jumping called her from Ohio.

"Al Lanier, from Cleveland, called and told me that Sharon Walker had told him that she was going to jump 22 feet," she said.

Kathy turned to her coach and said, "I'm going to jump over 22 feet, right Mr. Colston."

"Al told me that I had better get ready and wished me luck in the trials," Kathy said.

Kathy's coach, Bill Colston, said that Kathy had been resting from competition and that he thought she was ready to compete.

"Kathy has to finish in the top two to qualify for the national team that will compete in the Pan-Am games," said Colston.

He said that Miss Audrey Long will accompany Kathy to Los Angeles and that they would return late Monday.

Kathy is scheduled to jump Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday, according to Colston.

Cash Taken At Grocery

Police are seeking three suspects in a Friday afternoon theft from the cash register at Harrell's Grocery on West Prospect Avenue, police chief Leonard Wiggins reported.

Wiggins said owner Bob Harrell notified police shortly after 4 p.m. between \$800-1,000 in twenty dollar bills were stolen from the cash register in the store.

Wiggins said Harrell was working alone inside the store when two men

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Man Killed On Road, Brother Driving Car

A thirty six year-old farm laborer was struck and killed by an automobile driven by his brother in an early Tuesday accident on a rural road.

William McKenzie, Rt. 3, Red Springs, was pronounced dead on arrival at Scotland Memorial Hospital after the 12:30 A.M. accident, trooper K.W. Weston said.

Weston said McKenzie and another man, Lamon Dupree, 23, were lying on the pavement of rural paved route 1124 about six miles south of Raeford when a car operated by McKenzie's brother, Weldon H. McKenzie approached in the

westbound lane.

According to Weston, the driver swerved to avoid hitting Dupree and the auto struck his brother in the center of the highway. The impact crushed his head, the trooper said.

Weston said the car, a 1968 Plymouth, was traveling without operating the bright headlights at about 40 miles per hour.

The driver was charged with improper use of headlights, failing to have a discernible distance of 200 feet, Weston said.

Dupree, who was uninjured, was charged with lying in a road to impede traffic, according to Weston.

Schools Open, Enrollment Up

Gaddy Trial Set

The trial of city manager John Gaddy on charges of misapplication and misuse of city monies has been scheduled for Oct. 13, assistant district attorney Duncan McFadyen announced last week.

McFadyen said a special session of Superior Court was set with the agreement of Gaddy's defense attorney, Philip Diehl. The next regular session of Superior Court in November was shortened by one week to accommodate the action, McFadyen said.

Judge for the trial will be Henry A. McKinnon.

McFadyen said the trial is expected to last most of the week.

Gaddy, indicted on two counts of felonies related to repair work paid by the city and alleged to have been performed on a 1963 Chevrolet pickup driven by his son Chris, has denied any part in the accusations. About \$385 in city funds is named in the indictments.

McFadyen gave no indication on whether the state will also try Billy H. Barefoot, the ex-foreman of the city garage indicted for misapplying \$137 in funds for his personal car, during the same week of court.

"I have no comment," McFadyen said.

Barefoot, whose accusations about operations at the city garage prompted a probe by State Bureau of Investigation agents, is expected to be a chief witness against Gaddy at the trial.

Rose's Office Here Aug. 29

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Friday, Aug. 29 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

The van will be parked in the post office lot.

Aids Elderly, Shut-ins

Home Visits Begin

An innovative new program designed to help meet some of the special needs of elderly persons and shut-ins began this week as Raeford's first "home visitor" started her rounds.

Dorothy Shell, who has lived in Raeford 24 years, was hired by the city last week as home visitor, a new idea which received the approval of the city council in June during budget sessions.

Mrs. Shell, a registered nurse, received her training from the H.F. Long School of Nursing in Statesville and has worked at the county health department and in doctor's offices. She was also employed as industrial nurse at Raeford Turkey Farms.

"This is not a home nursing program, though", Mrs. Shell explained, "there will not be a lot of medical visits, unless of course it is requested by the family doctor."

The real aim of the program in her view is to keep a check on elderly people living alone and offer help to alleviate some of the loneliness oldsters may experience.

"I feel there is a great need for this, so many elderly people are living alone and there are invalids who have no way of getting around. They may need to go to the doctor's office, or get to the drugstore for medicine. I'll be checking to see people don't go without transportation", she said.

The home visitor, who will have a telephone installed soon at city hall, will make daily phone calls to check on people living alone, who perhaps have no close family member nearby.

Frequent visits to homes with no telephone are planned.

"The people with telephones I feel should be called every day", she said. Neighbors are good about keeping an eye on an older person, but they may be away on a trip, or not notice if something seems to be wrong, she pointed out.

County schools opened this week with first day enrollment totaling 4,688 students, a slight increase over last year.

After a morning session of orientation Monday, regular classes resumed Tuesday and the schedule went smoothly, according to Superintendent G. Raz Autry.

Some minor confusion was caused by the changing of fifth and sixth grades to Raeford elementary school, Autry said, and he also mentioned bus changes in the central district.

Enrollment figures reported were McLaughlin elementary, 361; Raeford elementary 599; Scurlock, 531; South Hoke, 598; Upchurch, 736; West Hoke 353; and Hoke High, 1,510.

Raeford elementary showed a big increase over last year's enrollment of 400 due to addition of all sixth grades this year, Autry said. Upchurch school, which had sixth grade last year, showed a corresponding drop from last year's 909 first day enrollment.

Autry said the enrollment figures were not expected to change appreciably, although he said some older students may be out for harvesting and will return to school next week.

Attendance at the high school increased by about 140 students and principal Allen Edwards reported there may still be some pupils still out harvesting who will report next week.

Edwards said a large number of new courses are offered at the high school this year and this caused some confusion, but otherwise it was a normal day.

Edwards said the majority of students in classes were dressed appropriately, despite the court-ordered dropping of the school's long standing dress code and hair regulations last May.

"We haven't had any problems at all. I have told the students I would like them to be neat and clean, and the vast majority are", he said.

Edwards denied a new ban on student smoking this year except during lunch was put into effect to take away a privilege, or act as a

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Mrs. Shell, who is starting out as part-time with hourly pay and a mileage allowance, sees more possibilities for helping older folks with day-to-day needs.

"I don't know how the grocery store situation is with some, possibly I could take them", she said. Also mentioned are trips to senior citizen meetings for those without a ride, a chance to get to the library.

Mrs. Shell already has a list of nearly 100 names and expects to increase it.

Miss Josephine Hall, the senior citizens coordinator, will help keep the list up to date", she said. Input will also come from the city's two doctors, pastors of area churches, possibly the social services department.

"Possibly an elderly person will know of another elderly friend, and that's a source", she pointed out.

"As we get into it, I'm sure more things will come up and we'll work out our guidelines. I just hope people will take advantage of it and the city will want to continue it", she said.



Mrs. Shell