

Early History Remembered

Although approaching his ninety-third birthday, Will Pope works every day with no thought of "taking a rest as he goes about his job of cleaning homes and driving a truck for builder Julian H. Wright.

"I've been working ever since I was 10 years old," Pope laughed. Born on Christmas Day 1882 in what was known as the Battlefield area and then a part of Ft. Bragg, Pope watched Raeford grow from a tiny settlement and his mind is filled with sharp impressions of the early days.

Pope and his sister Laura McCullough were the only children of John and Lily Laura Pope, who came from South Carolina to Moore County.

"After slavery time, the first person my mother and father worked for was N. S. Blue. My mother cooked for \$2 a week," Pope said.

Pope's parents built the first house along Vass Road and the section became known as Pope's Hill. His father worked as a turpentine distiller and later went into carpentry, helping build homes for Marquis Dew.

Pope's earliest recollections are of going down to South Carolina to pick cotton with his mother and sister.

"Thirty cents a hundred is what we got, and my mother she'd be picking 300, 400, we'd be out early to get the dew," Pope laughed, referring to the moisture increasing the weight.

Pope only attended public school for three months, and learned to read and write when he went to work for the old Hoke Mercantile Co. (located where Joe Sugar's is now) in 1904.

His job was to drive the "collection wagon," an early day repossession measure taken against farmers who couldn't pay their bills. The wagon would go around picking up mules and articles of value from people whose crop didn't pay.

"Raeford was just starting out, people would come in on Saturday and the street would be filled with mules and wagons. We had a well in the middle of the street, where the Bank of Raeford is now, people would drive up and water their mules and horses. My father dug that well," he related.

"Guiton's store was where the bank is now. The bank was in just a small place, down the black, where Kinlaw's Jewelers is."

Pope remembers clearly the widespread flu epidemic in 1918.

"I remember a fella named Brown, he got up too early, to shave, and it did him in. I had it, too, but I didn't get up and shave," he laughed.

Pope witnessed the big fire of Dec. 30, 1925, which destroyed much of the business district.

"We heard the alarm and went down there. I saw a rat look like he was running 90 miles an hour come out of Howell and Nesbitt's store. The whole front end of it exploded. In McGill's, (now the site of the Raeford Dept. Store) somebody had whiskey for the firemen in there, it was so cold. It was still smoking the next morning."

Pope remembers the flurry of excitement when the first automobile was seen in Raeford.

"The first automobile anybody can recollect was 1905, a man came selling books. Miss Mattie McLaughlin had a boarding house and that car came up the street, everybody was amazed at it. I believe it was a Maxwell. It was right after dark and it come up the street, its lights on, and people went following it," he related.

"J. W. Johnson was the first man here to have a car. He got a Cadillac, and you know the gearshift was on the left. I believe it was along about 1906-1908."

Pope left Hoke Mercantile after 14 years when it went out of business in the 1920's and began farming, working on J. W. Johnson land, and W. T. Covington land.

The tremendous snowfall of March 1-2, 1927, sticks in his mind as 27 inches fell.

"There wasn't no way to get around. We had a time feeding the stock," he said.

When the Great Depression came, people here called it "Hoover times" Pope explained.



NINETY TWO YEARS YOUNG -- Very active and doing a day's work every day, Will Pope is seated on the porch of his home telling his impressions of early Raeford.

"1929-1932, we called it Hoover times, and it was tough. You'd see Hoover carts, we called them. People's automobiles would quit and they'd take the front wheels off and pull it with a mule or a horse," Pope said.

Despite some hard years, Pope continued to farm cotton and never went under, or had a visit from the collection wagon which he drove

years ago.

"There was a time if a man got \$25 on a bale of cotton, he'd have money," he recalled. "In 1943, I had 112 acres in cotton, and I made 119 bales. I never did go into debt, I

always paid up my accounts and never had to carry over into the next year," he said.

Stonewall Report

By Mrs. Earl Tolar

LCDR Ernest L. Davis of Pascagoula, Mississippi, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis, this week.

Mrs. Frances Blake entered Highsmith-Rainey Memorial Hospital for surgery last week. We are glad to hear that she is doing fine.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Maxwell, Ellen and Robert spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Preston Phillips and family of Washington, N. C.

Mrs. Leta Yates of Fayetteville spent the weekend with Mrs. Lib Tolar.

Mrs. Chester Beasley, Mrs. Lindy Ellis, Mrs. Bobby Bostic and Mrs. David Jackson visited Mr. and Mrs. Bob Irvin of Fayetteville and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin's daughter who is visiting them from California Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. J. A. Jones returned home Friday after spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford Jones in Colonial Heights, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hontz of Mt. Olive visited their aunt, Mrs. Eva Winburn, and Mr. and Mrs. George Winburn Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cook of Fayetteville and Minor McGougan of St. Pauls were guests of Mrs. Allie Kate Maxwell and Mrs. Flo Clardy Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Jones and children of Norfolk, Va., Mr. and

Mrs. Rudy Cobb and children of Windsor, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Jones of Charlotte and Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford Jones and Ronnie of Colonial Heights, Va., spent the weekend with Mrs. J. A. Jones and attended the Conoly reunion Sunday.

Mrs. Roger Shelton, Regina, Michael, Rebecca, and Michelle spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Harold Chason.

Mr. and Mrs. Algon Britt of Orrum visited Mrs. Harold Chason Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Garner of Aberdeen were Sunday afternoon guests of Mrs. Mary Adams and Mrs. Bert Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was spending the weekend with Mrs. Adams.

Mrs. Bertha Hendrix and David Lupo spent Sunday in Charlotte with Mr. and Mrs. John Barwick and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Webb of Fayetteville and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Webb were dinner guests of Mrs. P. A. Webb Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown Hendrix spent Monday in Chapel Hill.

The family of Mr. Frank McMillan had a picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neill A. Jackson Saturday afternoon.

Seventeen from the Mildouson Extension Homemakers Club enjoyed an outing at the H&W Cafeteria Monday night.

Deaths And Funerals

Mrs. Carrie Davis

Funeral services for Mrs. Carrie Bouyer Davis of Red Springs were held Sunday at 4 P.M. in the Red Springs Funeral Home chapel. Burial was in Alloway Cemetery.

Mrs. Davis, 86, died Aug. 23. Surviving are two sons, George Davis of Red Springs and James Minor of Rocky Mount; a daughter, Mrs. Lucy Grimsley of Norfolk, Va.; a sister, Mrs. Rachel McNeal of High Point; two brothers, John Bouyer of Raeford and Luther Bouyer of Florida; four grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Amos Cobbs

Funeral services for Amos Cobbs of Red Springs were held Monday at 4 P.M. in the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Cobbs, 80, died last Thursday.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Estella McKoy Cobbs; five sons, Elworth Cobbs and Richard A. Cobbs, both of Raeford, John C. Cobbs of Jersey City, N.J., and Roosevelt Cobbs and Amos Cobbs, Jr., both of Chicago, Ill.; two daughters, Mrs. James Lide of Raeford and Mrs. Halbert Patterson of Jersey City, N.J.; 16 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

Tax Totaled

Net collections of sales and use taxes in Hoke county amounted to \$54,328.89 for the quarter ended June 30, state revenue officials announced.

Net distributable proceeds totaled \$53,866.10 after cost of collections, which is \$852 per \$100.

Total net collections statewide totaled \$29,809,577.14, according to the department of revenue.

Area Incidents

Larceny, Break-Ins Reported

The Sheriff's Department is investigating breaking and entering and larceny cases that were reported last week according to reports filed.

Bobby McDowell, Rt. 1, Red Springs, reported that two shotguns were taken last Tuesday, August 19. The guns were valued at \$575.

McKoy Maxwell, Rt. 1, Red Springs, reported that someone broke the vent out of a 1970 Dodge

and took two chrome rings from his radio speakers and two car batteries about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 20. Damage to the car and property loss was estimated at \$185.

Beulah Breeden, P. O. Box 402, Raeford, complained that someone took a lawnmower from her smokehouse sometime between August 15 and August 20. No estimated value was reported.

Mrs. Martha Hendrix reported that

someone broke into the home of Lenard Ransom, Rt. 2, Raeford, last Thursday and took guns, clocks, and some money. No estimated value was given.

Walter Scull reported that someone broke into the mobile home of Marvin Scull of Rt. 1, Raeford, last Thursday. A TV set and stereo equipment valued at \$700 were taken.

Mrs. Stewart Smith reported that a bicycle valued at \$90 was taken from her home on Rt. 4, Red Springs.

Dora Chason, Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge, complained that a portable TV and a .22 caliber rifle was taken from her home sometime between Tuesday, August 19, and Friday August 22. The loss was estimated at \$200.

Carolyn Thompson, Rt. 2, Raeford, reported that on Saturday, August 23, someone broke into her home and took \$808 worth of furniture and stereo equipment, and a gun.

A dog valued at \$150 was reportedly taken from the home of Denise Pearce, Rt. 4, Raeford, on Saturday, August 23.

Edgar T. Pittman, Rt. 2, Raeford, reported that someone broke into his home and stole a shotgun, electric razor, radio, and clock valued at \$153 last Sunday.

A stereo and watches valued at \$318 were reported stolen by Redy Belle Jones, Rt. 1, Shannon, last Monday.

A .22 caliber pistol was reported stolen from John H. Brown Sr., of Rt. 1, Aberdeen, Monday, August 25. No estimated value was listed.

In other incidents, Patricia Hignite, Lot 63, Old Trail Mobile Park, reported that someone had cut the convertible top of her car August 22. The damage was reported at \$150.

Hoke A More Active Market

(Special to the News Journal)

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 - Hoke County proved to be a stronger market than most during the past year, according to a nationwide survey of business activity, just released.

Despite the fact that the country was going through a period of recession and inflation, which affected every corner of the nation, the local economy held up relatively well. Its stability is indicated by its income and spending figures.

The details are contained in the new, copyrighted "Survey of Buying Power," compiled by Sales Management, the marketing publication.

For the Hoke County population as a whole, it shows, income was at a high level in the year. The total amount that was available to local residents for discretionary spending, after payment of personal taxes, was \$41,409,000, as against the previous year's \$35,649,000.

The rise, 15.8 percent, topped the 11.0 percent rise in the United States and the 14.8 percent in the State of North Carolina.

Just what this boiled down to, in terms of the individual family, is

Airport Panel Loses One

Larry Upchurch has submitted his resignation from the airport committee, city manager John Gaddy confirmed.

Upchurch cited his work schedules interfering with attendance at committee meetings as his reason for the action, according to Gaddy. He served as secretary to the panel.

The airport committee, which did not hold a regular meeting this month, will meet next on Sept. 10.

Chairman Joe Rackley said Tuesday the panel will discuss naming a replacement for Upchurch at the meeting.

indicated by the median income per household, which is the midpoint on the local income scale. It amounted to a net of \$8,227.

Although local residents were more restrained in their spending than normally, many of them having difficulty in making both ends meet, the majority were better situated financially and were in the marketplace in sufficient strength to produce a fairly good year for retail merchants.

As a result, stores in the area chalked up gross sales of \$16,528,000. The survey gives each community a rating, based upon the amount of retail business actually done as compared with its estimated full capacity.

This it does via an index of buying power, a weighted figure involving income, population and sales.

Hoke County's index rating is .0046, which means that it is believed capable of producing that percentage of the nation's retail business.

Because it accounted for less than that in the year, .0030 percent, it is concluded that a considerable amount of local buying potential has not yet been realized.

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| 31-35 hours | 13.50 | 11.00 |
| 36-39 hours | 15.00 | 12.00 |
| 40-45 hours | 18.00 | 15.00 |
| 46-60 hours | 20.00 | 16.00 |

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and

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