

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather took a turn for cooler days over the past weekend and if it hadn't been for the rain last Friday night, would have been perfect for football. The Bucks waited until Monday night to defeat Red Springs 21-0.

They now have a week's rest until they take on Sanford at the Stadium Friday night, September 26. This should be the toughest game for the Bucks this year.

Make plans now to attend.

Russ Carter, Jr. of Quewhiffle Township was by the office recently and was inquiring about old cars. He said someone told him that a 1930 or 1930 Model A Coupe was owned by someone in the county that wanted to sell it. If this is true and you know where the car is located, get in touch with Carter.

His address is as follows:  
Russ Carter, Jr.  
Route 3 - Box 177B  
Raeford, N.C.  
Telephone 281-3214

On the day of the groundbreaking for the new Hoke County Library a welcoming speech was made in front of the Courthouse by Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr. The speech was heard by Congressman Charlie Rose, who was in attendance, and it impressed him so that he put it in the Congressional Record for September 8, 1975. Most of the readers of this column heard the speech but I thought the remarks Congressman Rose made before the House would be of interest to readers.

They are as follows:  
"Mr. Speaker, during the recess, I went home to my district in Eastern North Carolina, and on August 8, I attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hoke County Library in Raeford, N.C.

"The mayor of Raeford, John K. McNeill, Jr. gave the following address which I want to insert in the record today. It shows an example of community spirit and pride which is typical of my district and which is the backbone of this country of ours. "I think it is especially fitting to see a group of citizens spend their money and time to build a library in honor of our Nation's Bicentennial, and by doing so, pay homage to the foundations of democracy as expressed in our written language. "I salute my friends in Hoke County, N.C. for their efforts, and I hope that my colleagues in the House will be inspired by the words of Mr. McNeill."

Thanks, Congressman for these words and the placing of the speech in the Record. Thanks to Mayor McNeill for delivering such an outstanding address.

The Hoke County United Fund will start its drive in a few weeks and this letter is from an organization that is funded by the fund.

It was sent to me as treasurer of the fund and I thought it would be of interest at this time.

The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Morris:  
The squad members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad thank you, the officers of the Hoke County United Fund for your annual contribution.

Your contribution, along with donations from Hoke County, City of Raeford, industries, merchants, and individuals from Hoke County have enabled your squad to become one of the most modern, up-to-date rescue squads in the State of North Carolina.

The equipment purchased and available for emergency use, in the saving or retaining of an individual's health or life, can not be based on monetary values.

Your local squad has twenty-two Emergency Medical Technicians certified by the State of North Carolina. These men are dedicated, trained and available for emergency service on a few minutes notice through the Hoke County Sheriff's Department at any hour of the day or night.

Thank you, for helping us to serve others.

Very sincerely,  
Robert L. Conoly  
Treasurer



SMASHUP: The driver of this car was listed in critical condition following a Saturday morning smashup with a tractor trailer rig on 401-Bypass.

## 13 State's Witnesses Heard

# Pruitt Defense Begins

## Crash Injures Two

A seventeen year old Raeford man was hospitalized in critical condition following a smashup with a tractor trailer rig on 401-Bypass Saturday morning.

Highway patrolman J.D. Thigpen said a 1970 Ford operated by James Bowles, Jr., was struck by a tractor trailer traveling north about 8:20 A.M. in front of the Pig 'N Chicken restaurant.

The impact knocked the car about 43 feet into the restaurant's parking lot. Bowles was transported unconscious to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition, Thigpen said.

A passenger in the car, James Robert Riddle, 20, Rt. 1, Raeford was also admitted with injuries.

The driver of the truck was identified as Kenneth E. Grantham, 29, of Warner - Robbins, Ga. Grantham, who was uninjured, told Thigpen the car approached the stop sign and then pulled onto the roadway too late to avoid the collision, the patrolman said. Grantham was not charged.

Thigpen said the truck was traveling about 50 M.P.H. at the time of the accident.

The car was termed a total loss. Damage to the truck was put at \$1,000.

The prosecution rested its case here Tuesday in the trial of Frank Pruitt II for the murders of a Fayetteville woman and her two children after calling witnesses over five days.

Pruitt, an ex Ft. Bragg soldier, was convicted in Cumberland County last year of the Oct. 9, 1973 killings of Christel Donlin, 30, and her children, Patricia, 7, and Jeremiah, 4.

In March of this year the N.C. Supreme Court overturned the convictions and granted Pruitt a new trial on the grounds his constitutional rights were violated when he allegedly confessed to the crimes.

The trial, which began last Tuesday before Judge Henry A. McKinnon, was moved to Raeford because of publicity surrounding the earlier trial. District Attorney E.W. (Ed) Grannis, Jr., is leading the prosecution.

Judge McKinnon denied a motion to dismiss the case made by Pruitt's court appointed counsel Donald Grimes and the defense called its first witness late Tuesday afternoon.

Grimes said he expects to put on about ten witnesses and the trial may last the rest of the week.

The jury was ordered excused numerous times in last week's sessions while Judge McKinnon ruled on admissibility of state's evidence in light of the Supreme Court decision, and the jurors were absent for all of Monday's proceedings.

Pruitt, who faces an automatic death sentence if convicted, has appeared calm, showing little emotion as he listened intently to testimony, sometimes taking notes.

A pair of blood - stained fatigues described as found in Pruitt's home the same day the bodies of Mrs. Donlin and her children were found were introduced into evidence over defense objections.

Det. Bob Conerly of the Cumberland County sheriff's department testified the fatigues were found after Pruitt consented to a search of his home.

Pruitt disputed Conerly's account, in testimony given without the jury present. Pruitt said he told if he didn't consent, the officers "would go get a search warrant". Pruitt denied that he had been advised of his rights, as Conerly so testified.

SBI serologist Laura Ward testified both Pruitt and Mrs. Donlin had type A blood and she could not determine positively subgroupings from the blood taken from the fatigues.

State medical examiner Page Hudson testified Mrs. Donlin died as a result of blows on the head. She also had been stabbed three times and choked.

The cause of death of the children was heat from the fire which swept the Donlin's Bonnie Doone home, according to testimony.

Hudson testified he could not determine if the woman had been sexually assaulted.

Pruitt was placed at the scene of the burning home on Cannon St. by Bonnie Doone fire chief Jimmy

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## Arrest Follows Hit And Run

A twenty three year - old Raeford man was arrested for hit and run and other driving charges after he allegedly rammed a tobacco barn and left the scene in a Saturday afternoon accident.

Highway patrolman J.D. Thigpen said Willie H. McNeill, P.O. Box 109, Raeford, was operating a 1962 Pontiac traveling north on RPR 1145 about one fifth of a mile from Hwy. 401 shortly before 5 P.M.

Thigpen said a witness, Virginia Scarboro, of Raeford, was traveling south on the road and reported the Pontiac was on the wrong side of the road and swerved to avoid a collision. The car left the road and hit a tobacco barn, causing about \$1,000 in damage, Thigpen said.

According to Thigpen, McNeill and three passengers in the car got out and flagged down a passing car and left the scene.

McNeill was later arrested at a Clay Hill home and charged with driving left of center and hit and run. Thigpen reported, the owner of the car, Preston Locklear, also filed a complaint and McNeill was charged with unlawful use of a conveyance.

McNeill was released under \$300 bond pending a Sept. 19 court appearance.

## Airport Panel Seeks Increased Powers

The airport committee passed a motion to bring a proposal before the city council to make them a commission so that they would have full responsibility of the airport, during their regular meeting last week.

Members expressed dissatisfaction about continuing problems, such as boundary settlement and FAA requirements, and unanimously passed the motion for the proposal.

A grant that was applied for in June of this year was turned down because of insufficient federal funds and new forms have been sent in updating development, layout plans, inflationary trends, and the environmental situation to await congressional action.

Paul Rose of Rose Aviation presented plans for a new building on his premises which would include an office, a lobby area, and bathrooms.

and it was passed unanimously by committee members. Rose then made a request for 200 additional feet after the present lease is settled.

Members decided that it would be wise to wait and check on the fence that might be required to border the airport before a decision could be made on whether to move the old hangar owned by William Poole and Tom Cameron.

The committee decided to have the area engineer from the FAA attend the next meeting along with Gene Thacker of Raeford Aviation so that they could check on the boundaries and get Thacker's intentions of his lease proposals.

Airport manager John Gaddy read reports from Andy Abernathy, of the safety division of the FAA, on complaints he had received. These complaints stemmed from pilots hauling jumpers at 2,000 feet or less and jumping in poor visibility.

Members then passed a motion to recommend pilot Gene Carter to the city council to fill the vacancy on the airport committee.

A proposal to take federal funds to employ a full-time manager was turned down by committee members as they felt there was no actual need for one.

Rose did not like the idea and indicated that it would be worthless to have such a manager.

"That's an insult to the people who are there now. I know what's right," he said.

Gene Vance made a request to

open a sales operation for eight or ten airplanes. Questions such as how quickly he could start operations and the size of lot needed were asked, and the request was tabled until the next meeting when Thacker and the FAA representative would be there. Committee member Ed Brown requested that the committee look into the possibility of building a run-up area at each end of the runway. Members unanimously passed a motion to look into the cost and the funds available to pave the end of the taxi-ways and make them an apron or run-up area.

## More Costs Seen On Trash Disposal

The cost to the county for the solid waste disposal system will rise by upwards of \$8,500 if recommendations made by the health department in a special report are carried out.

County sanitarian M.R. Mills announced Friday the results of a special survey done on the use of the 91 garbage containers located in the county have been submitted to county manager T.B. Lester. The survey recommends the purchase of an additional 25 containers.

Sites where the containers need to be located to relieve heavy use at other container locations are already plotted, Mills said.

The type of containers now in use cost about \$340, Mills said, so the cost of the plan is put at about \$8,500.

The county began the disposal system with the purchase of 50 containers and increased it to the present 91 in use.

Pick-Up Sanitation Service of Raeford, franchise holder, charges \$1 per cubic yard for disposal. Most of the containers are four cubic yards size.

The recommendations in the report will be detailed to the county commissioners at their Oct. 6 meeting.



AIRPORT NOMINEE - Gene Carter was nominated by the airport committee to replace Larry Upchurch, who recently resigned from the position.

## Committee Nominates Carter To Airport Seat

Gene Carter, president of The Bank of Raeford and a pilot, has been nominated by the airport committee to replace Larry Upchurch, who resigned recently.

Carter's recommendation will be brought before the city council in their next regular meeting.

"I want to work along with the committee for the betterment of Raeford and Hoke County," said Carter.

The committee also voted to request that they be made a commission by the city council at their next meeting. This action would give the members of the present committee responsibility of airport matters.

Carter indicated that this would give the members a chance to make the airport even more efficient than it is now.

"If it is made a commission, I feel like it can manage the money and handle the dollar and make it a good airport, one even more efficient than it is now," said Carter.

Carter seemed enthusiastic as he said, "I want to get ready for the future, paving taxi-ways, parking lots and other things. If we are going to grow, we ought to be ready for it."

"You see other towns making improvements; we ought to also," he said, "This will help businesses such as Burlington and Knit-Away."

He indicated that he was hoping for the federal grant that was turned down recently because funds ran out. "We still have our name in and we hope to be first in line when they

approve new money for such improvements," he said.

Carter said that he thought the new business of selling aircraft at the airport will help, as it would not merely be a market for the people of Raeford and Hoke County, but would probably bring business in from other areas.

He said he did not think it would interfere with the businesses that are already out there.

"Of course, competition always helps," said Carter.

Carter indicated that a map of the airport would be helpful.

"I want to get a map of the airport and study what is Raeford's land and what is the private land of individuals, so we can see how the city stands and what we can do for the city's benefit," he said.

Carter again commented on the advantages of turning the committee into a commission.

"It would relieve the city council of a job they have now and it would be placed in the hands of a group of people who are responsible and capable of managing the airport," he said.

Carter said that it would take the burden away from the city council and place the responsibility in the hands of people who participate in airport functions.

"Even as a commission, it still will be run through the airport manager," he said.

"I hope we can continue to improve what we have," said Carter.

## Council Race

# One Incumbent Files

Incumbent city councilman Robert W. Weaver is the first to file for the Nov. 4 election since the filing period opened Friday.

Weaver, 57, is seeking a second term on the city council.

Co-Operator of Weaver's Antiques on 401-Bypass, he is a Wake Forest graduate with a B.S. degree in general science. He spent 12 years as a textile industrial engineer and was employed by Burlington Industries for ten years. He is a standards engineer for Waverly Mills.

The Raeford native worked for the city under the old mayor council form of government before the city manager form was adopted. His duties as clerk - treasurer included tax collections, water bills, bookkeeping, and serving as clerk to the town council.

Weaver and his wife, Edna, a Laurinburg native, live at 816 E. Prospect Ave.

Weaver alluded to the criminal charges pending against the city manager and the ex-garage foreman in outlining his reasons for seeking a second term.

"Basically, I feel I have an obligation to the citizens of the city of Raeford in light of things that need to be given attention. I feel I should seek re-election", he said Tuesday.



Robert Weaver

Weaver did not speculate on his chances of winning the election, saying "the public has got to decide that".

## Rose's Office

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Thursday, Sept. 25 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Rip Collins, Rose's administrative assistant, will be on hand.