

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

A letter last week from Laurie Telfair, former associate editor of The News-Journal, says that she is now working for a newspaper in Canyon, Texas. From the letter she seems to like the place fine. She did say that the paper didn't need a court reporter as crime was at a low ebb there.

Maybe we could send a few cases from Hoke County to Texas.

Laurie gives regards to everyone.

The cutting of the trees off the school campus for the new library building brought forth a howl from many in the community. This is up to par when progress continues. The need for the library is great in Raeford but is it great enough to destroy trees that are over 75 years old. This can be argued from now until doomsday and you will always have people on both sides.

So let's all wait until the new building is completed and maybe it will make us forget the trees. Time will tell!

Don't forget the big football game Friday night at the High School Stadium between the Bucks and the Sanford Yellow Jackets. Game time is eight o'clock. So go out and be a Booster.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Friends of Hoke County:

Jim, Ruth, Bobby and I want to thank everyone for their prayers, and concern for Jimmy. He will be so happy to know so many people were standing in the wings while he was struggling for life.

We believe and trust that he will be healed bodily and mentally when he wakes up.

Thank you for the gifts of love in the form of food, money, flowers and cards.

Until something like this happens one doesn't know how to appreciate rescue workers and ambulance drivers. Thank you, Danny Morrison and your fine crew.

Truly God moves through these dedicated people and through ministers, surgeons, medical doctors, nurses and orderlies.

Thanks to all you beautiful people.

Sincerely,

Frances H. Bowles

My good friend and weather chart maker, Robert Gatlin, had tough luck last Wednesday afternoon. Someone relieved him of his station wagon while he was doing a good turn. (Gatlin and I have had a few words about the station wagon wouldn't have come up missing if the keys had been removed when he left the wagon.)

Of course in Hoke County when misfortune befalls a fine, upright citizen like Gatlin the people come to his aid.

One incident was the offer of help to him from Buddy Blue, manager of the local chamber of commerce, and Crawford Thomas, a member of the city council.

In talking with Gatlin they came to the conclusion that he could walk to work at the high school and the board of education building, and the only other problem he would have concerning transportation would be getting to his pond in the northern part of the county near the city dump.

Now with two heads together, like Blue's and Thomas', they came up with a solution. Gatlin could ride the trash and garbage truck up to his pond, as they made trips like a bus schedule. This was Blue's solution.

Thomas added that since Gatlin was not an employee of the city he could not ride in the cab but would sit on the back.

From reports Gatlin left the meeting at this point but Thomas said he couldn't let his cousin run afoul of the law.

Some people don't appreciate help!

Rose's Office Here Today

The mobile office of Rep. Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford today (Thursday) from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. in the parking lot of the post office



STRUGGLE SITE - Sgt. F.M. Lemmond and Hoke County Deputy Harvey Young point out area where Trooper J.D. Thigpen struggled with LeRoy McKenzie. McKenzie was shot during the struggle.

Man Shot In Struggle With Trooper

A local state trooper had to struggle for his life in a field near Bowmore Community about 2:10 P.M. Saturday as his service revolver was wrestled away from him by an assailant, who was shot in the struggle.

Patrolman J.D. Thigpen placed LeRoy McKenzie, 42, Rt. 1, Box 175, Raeford under arrest for driving under the influence (DUI) after McKenzie had turned off of 401 South onto a dirt path that led to his house, according to F.M. Lemmond, Command Sgt. for the District.

Lemmond said Thigpen gave him an account of what happened before he was taken to the hospital. Lemmond said that when McKenzie refused to go with Thigpen, a struggle developed and both men had possession of the gun when it went off.

Lemmond said both men were transported to Scotland Memorial Hospital where they were treated.

Jury 8-4 To Acquit

Pruitt Pleads Guilty

With a jury apparently deadlocked 8-4 in favor of acquittal, Fank Pruitt II unexpectedly changed his plea to guilty in a plea bargaining agreement Friday afternoon and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the killings of a Fayetteville woman and her two children.

Pruitt, 23, an ex-Ft. Bragg soldier, was tried for the second time for the slayings of Christel Donlin, 30, Jeremiah Donlin, 7, and Patricia Donlin, 4, in their Bonnie Donne home in the early morning hours of Oct. 9, 1973.

Judge Henry A. McKinnon accepted a guilty plea to voluntary manslaughter in the death of Mrs. Donlin and two counts of second degree murder in the deaths of the children.

One count of arson, related to the fire which destroyed the Donlin home, was dropped by the state as part of the plea negotiations.

Pruitt had received four death sentences in Cumberland County following trial in January, 1974. In March of this year the N.C. Supreme Court overturned the convictions and granted a new trial on the grounds an alleged confession Pruitt made to detectives was not voluntary.

Pruitt was given credit for the nearly two years he has spent in custody in the sentencing and may become eligible for parole in six years.

The second trial, which lasted nine days, went to the jury shortly before 4 P.M. Thursday after 13 prosecution witnesses testified and four witnesses for the defense, including Pruitt, took the stand.

Much of the state's evidence relied on testimony from several persons who said Pruitt admitted the killings to them at different times.

Pruitt denied making any admissions of guilt and told the

building.

Administrative assistant Rip Collins will be on hand.

He said the .357 magnum slug entered McKenzie below his breast and angles up into his left side and exited through the rib.

McKenzie was listed in fair condition late Monday according to Mrs. Ava Gentry, hospital spokesman.

Lemmond said Thigpen suffered cuts and bruises and was released Sunday afternoon, but he would be out of work for a week.

He said McKenzie's nephew, James T. Ross, 17, Rt. 1, Box 162, Raeford, and his son, Elvis McKenzie, 14, witnessed the struggle and substantiated Thigpen's account. Lemmond said Ross and McKenzie's son heard the siren and went to the site on bicycles.

He said McKenzie has been charged with DUI, (fifth offense), assaulting an officer and resisting arrest. He said no breathalyzer had been administered, but a blood test had been taken.

jurors he had no part in the killings.

Jury foreman Mrs. J.K. (Mabel) Riley confirmed the vote was 8-4 for acquittal at the time of Pruitt's announcement after an earlier ballot of 7-5 for acquittal.

Mrs. Riley, who did not vote for acquittal, said the majority of the jurors "felt they didn't give us enough evidence".

The jury was apparently headed for a deadlock, as Mrs. Riley said one juror vowed to remain for three months and continue to vote for acquittal.

The second trial, which was ordered moved to Raeford because of publicity during the first trial, attracted little interest. Pruitt's surprise announcement came in a near-empty courtroom.

Indian School Funds Lost

Much of the programs for Indian school children and the job of Indian counselor have been eliminated for the current school year because officials here were too late in filing the application for the federal grant, said to be in excess of \$40,000 for this fiscal year.

The funds, available under the Indian Education Act, have been received by Hoke schools for the past two years. The 1973-74 allocation was \$43,847 and the 1974-75 allocation was \$56,140.

Confirmation of the late application and loss of funds was disclosed by Ed Presson, program specialist for Indian education with the U. S. Office of Education, who was reached in Washington Tuesday.

"I remember this one rather well, as Hoke County made a vigorous appeal. Of course, we could not waive the deadline. There were about 50 to 55 applications out of 11,084 that were rejected for lateness. We simply cannot make any exceptions, and none were made", Presson said. "Once the date is published in the federal register, it is a matter of law, it is final".

Lemmond said the investigation was conducted by the State Patrol and Hoke County Sheriff's Department and no further investigation would be needed.

"If a man decides to kill you, and he is willing to pay the penalty, then there is not a lot you can do about it," said Lemmond.

"If someone is willing to take the

New Library

Board Buys Furniture

County commissioners ended debate over the choice of new furniture for the library building and voted to accept a revised bid of \$41,000 from Institutional Interiors of High Point during their Friday meeting.

Sandhills region library director Bill Bridgman appeared before the board and gave his approval to the revised plans which will utilize some of the present furnishings. The move is a reduction from the \$52,000 original bid received from Institutional.

In other business, the board reviewed a proposed ordinance for heating, plumbing, and electrical inspections submitted jointly by county planner Lester Simpson and inspector Jack Ellis and also proposed permits for such work.

The proposed ordinance, which encompasses the N.C. State Building Code, was ordered sent to county attorney Charles Hostetler for his opinion before action by the board.

Proposed fees as outlined by Ellis are \$25 for electrical, \$22 for plumbing, and \$12 per unit for heat pumps. Total fees for a fully equipped new home would be \$59.

An application for a permit would not be approved unless the work is to be done by a licensed person under the proposed plan. Ellis also urged the board adopt a requirement that a previous license must be held in addition to a permit.

\$21,920.61

UF Budget Set, Kick-Off Oct. 6

Directors of the United Fund met last week and approved a \$21,920.61 1975 budget in preparation for the Oct. 6 kick-off to this year's campaign.

This year's goal is nearly \$2,500 more than the 1974 campaign, a reflection of the improved economic outlook for the area. Last year's United Fund drive coincided with layoffs at the Burlington plant and other firms.

Named as co-chairman for the campaign were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Carter. Carter is president of the Bank of Raeford.

Officers of the United Fund are Ashwell Harward, president; Dick Lovette, vice-president; Mrs. O.B. Isreal, secretary; and Sam C. Morris, treasurer.

Elected to three year terms as

directors are Larry Phillips, Mrs. O.B. Isreal, Mrs. John Balfour, Mrs. Alfred K. Leach, and Milton R. Williams.

Mrs. Richard Neely, Wyatt Upchurch, Cleo Bratcher, and James Hunt all have two years remaining in their terms as directors.

Sam C. Morris, Ashwell Harward, Dick Lovette, and Younger Sneed, Jr., have one year remaining to serve.

Campaign officials are optimistic the goal will be reached this year. The drive is scheduled to run through Oct. 17.

"I think we can do it", Carter said. "The economic situation and the employment situation is a lot better this year, so I don't think it will be as hard to raise. Of course, we may have to spend more to raise more".

Harward echoed Carter's view, saying "we are going to reach our goal".

Eighteen organizations will benefit from this year's United Fund contributions, including for the first time The Hoke County Association for Developmentally Disabled. Its share is \$1,500.

Other agencies and the amount of each's share in the budget are broken down as:

Girl Scouts, \$5,000; Boy Scouts, \$5,500; Red Cross, \$4,531; White Cane, \$750; 4-H Clubs, \$1,075; Hoke County Rescue Squad, \$1,500; Senior Citizens, \$150.

\$1,914.61 of this year's total is earmarked for Carolina United, an arm for all national agencies supported by UF.

Carolina United Funds are allocated as:

Children's Home Society of N.C., \$546,511; Florence Crittenton Services of N.C., \$238,700; N.C. Mental Health Association, \$249,690; N.C. United Community Services, \$351,640; Research Fund of N.C. United, \$195,600; United Health Services of N.C., \$121,270; American Social Health Association, \$34,190; Traveler's Aid, \$13,690; USO, \$154,520; and National Association Of Hearing and Speech, \$8,800.

Committee chairmen for the canvassing divisions are expected to be named next week.

Thieves Hit Cato's Shop

Thieves removed approximately \$2,000 in merchandise from Cato's Department Store on Main Street in a weekend break-in and several suspects are under investigation by city police.

Police chief Leonard Wiggins said a Raeford Hotel resident notified police about 1 p.m. that the rear door to the store was open and an apparent break-in had taken place.

Wiggins said coats, pantsuits, shoes, and other items estimated to be worth about \$2,000 were missing. Exact losses could not be determined before an inventory.

Two juveniles and an adult were picked up by police for questioning. Wiggins said, and \$219 worth of stolen merchandise was recovered.

The suspects are believed to be involved in entering the store and taking merchandise after the break-in, Wiggins disclosed.

Warrants are expected to be issued.

mailing the application was that the person designated for federal projects

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Served Two Terms

Ex-Councilman Files

Former city councilman Hestel Garrison is the second candidate to file for the city council race in the Nov. 4 election.

Garrison, an analysis planner at Burlington, is making another bid to regain his seat after being defeated in the 1973 election. He had served two terms on the council.

Garrison, a native of Greenville, S. C., lives with his wife Ellen at 501 E. Prospect Ave. They have three children, Andrea, who works for the city as an administrative assistant, Gathael, who lives in Greensboro, and Tommy.

Garrison has been a resident of Raeford for 24 years.



Hestel E. Garrison