

SBI Investigates Stadium Fire

Damages up to \$30,000 were done in a suspected arson that destroyed the equipment room at Hoke High School Monday morning.

The Raeford Fire Department answered a call about 11:40 A.M. and later called the North Raeford Fire Department to aid them with a water truck, according to Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins.

He said the door to the equipment room was open when the firemen arrived.

"The lock had been pried off the door. It was open when the firemen arrived and it usually is kept locked," he said.

"There were no injuries," he added.

Wiggins said police and SBI officials are questioning suspects and an official investigation has been launched.

"About \$25 - 35,000 worth of football equipment was in the room along with some other things," said Hoke School Superintendent, G. Raz Autry.

"It was about the last place in the world that I thought would catch on fire," he said.

Autry said the fire would be covered by insurance.

"We're insured with the state just as all school systems are," he said.

He said he would hate to think that anyone would set the fire.

"I'm speculating, but if anyone set the fire, I couldn't put into words how terrible it would be," he said.

"I'm thankful no student was hurt and if it was set, I hope we find the guilty person," he added.

Autry said the outer surface of the stadium was not damaged, but he was going to get the stadium structure checked.

"It seems to me that the fire was set," said Hoke High Principal Allen Edwards.

"There will be a full investigation," he added.

Students reported that shortly after the fire, an announcement came over the school PA system that there was a \$250 reward offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator.



CHECKING IT OUT- Firemen rush to check damage done by a fire that broke out at Hoke High Stadium Monday morning.

Indian School Funds Meetings Set To Begin

John D. McAllister, assistant superintendent of schools, announced Tuesday a series of meetings in connection with securing funds provided by the Indian Education Act. The following area meetings are scheduled:

Monday, Dec. 8, South Hoke Community Building; Tuesday, Dec. 9, Hoke County Holiness Church; and Wednesday, Dec. 10, Lowery's Chapel Church.

In addition to the area meetings, there will be a public hearing on Thursday, Dec. 18 at the courthouse. A parent committee and officers will be elected at this meeting. All

meetings are scheduled for 7:00 P.M. The public hearing, required by the Indian Education Act, will provide an opportunity for discussion of the special educational needs of Indian children enrolled in Hoke County schools, and how IEA programs will be coordinated with current programs to meet the educational needs for Indian students, McAllister said.



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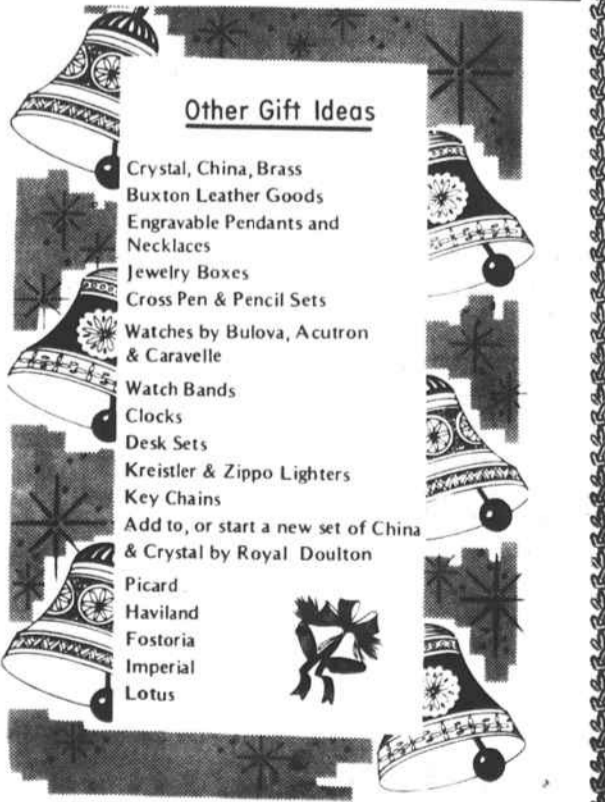


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QUITE A CROWD - The derailed coal car last week brought quite a crowd of spectators to the tracks as workers from Hamlet replaced the car.

Area Incidents

Housebreakers Net Large Hauls

Sheriff's deputies are investigating a series of break-ins that occurred last week in which thousands of dollars of property was taken.

Julian Johnson, of Rt. 1, Raeford, reported that someone broke into his house sometime Monday, Dec. 1, and took a color television, a stereo, hairdryers, a camera, a sewing machine, a radio, clothes, jewelry, and silver. The stolen goods were valued at \$4,056.

Roger E. Konkol, Rt. 1, Box 499, Raeford, complained that someone broke into his house sometime between 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. Sunday, Nov. 23, and took a black and white television, a stereo, a tape recorder, jewelry, and watches valued at \$1,726.95.

Jimmy McIntosh, Rt. 3, Raeford, reported that someone broke into his garage sometime Friday, Nov. 28, and took auto equipment including two tires, a battery charger, two cases of anti-freeze and oil. A color television was also taken. Total value of the stolen goods was \$1,170.

Doug Hord, employee of Bedo Corp. reported that someone broke into a trailer used as an office sometime between Friday, Nov. 28, and Monday, Dec. 1, and took a calculator, a typewriter, a helmet and drill valued at \$352.

Shirley Smith, of Rt. 1 Box 166-A, Lumber Bridge, complained that someone broke into her house sometime prior to Friday, Nov. 21, and took a sewing machine valued at

\$369.95.

John Alford, Rt. 3, Box 343, Raeford, reported that someone broke into his house sometime Monday, Dec. 1, and took a .22 rifle valued at \$130.

Alexander Smith, Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge, reported that someone broke into his house and took about 200 lbs. of beef sometime Friday, Nov. 28.

Bill Southern, state employee, reported that someone took a 12 volt battery from a state truck sometime Wednesday, Nov. 26. The battery was valued at \$35.

Herman Saunders, Rt. 2, Raeford, reported that someone took a motorbucane out of his yard sometime Friday, Nov. 21. It was valued at \$425.

In other incidents, Julian Wright, reported that someone broke five windows in one of his trailers at the Wright Street Trailer Park. Damage was estimated at \$104.30. The damage was done sometime Saturday, Nov. 8.

Nancy Smith, of P.O. Box 593, Raeford, reported that someone cut her telephone wire at her house sometime between 12 and 8 A.M. Monday, Nov. 24. Damage was estimated at \$40.

William Boles, Rt. 1, Raeford, reported that someone ran into the fence in front of his trailer sometime Saturday, Nov. 29, and did \$100 in damages.

J.D. Soles, reported that someone

broke into West Hoke School sometime Monday, Nov. 24, and did \$110.50 in damages.

City police reported that about 8:15 P.M. Sunday, Nov. 30, someone broke into a 1973 Ford owned by Julian Johnson, of Rt. 1, Raeford, and took a .25 pistol and other items valued at \$50. The vehicle was parked in the Raeford Presbyterian Church parking lot.

About 2:15, Monday, Dec. 1, Jack Bray, owner of Quality Motors, reported that someone had broken the glass on the right side of a 1975 vehicle and bent the trunk lid causing \$100 in damages, and put a dent in the right front door of another 1975 vehicle doing \$40 in damages.

On Dec. 1, about 4:30 P.M. Younger Sneed of Hoke Auto Company reported that someone had taken two tires, four wheel covers, and two trim rings, off a 1975 vehicle in the parking lot. The loss was estimated at \$222.60.

Deaths And Funerals

Mrs. Helen A. Robbins

The funeral for Mrs. Helen Austin Robbins, 83, who died Thursday, Nov. 27, was held at 11 A.M. Saturday, Nov. 29, at the First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount.

Burial was in the Pineview Cemetery.

Surviving are a son, C. Austin Robbins of Rocky Mount; a daughter, Mrs. Helen R. Clark of Raeford; a sister, Mrs. John R. Chambliss of Rocky Mount; and nine grandchildren.

Mrs. Bessie Brooks of Roxboro, Mrs. Minnie Grinstead of Bahama; two sons, T. Jeff of Red Springs, and Paul H. Harris of Durham; 21 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

William T. Holland

The funeral for William Thomas Holland, 72, of Rt. 1, Shannon, who died Wednesday, Nov. 26, was held at 3 P.M. Saturday, Nov. 29, at the Antioch Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Ben Ferguson.

Burial was in the Raeford Cemetery.

Surviving are eight sons, Robert T. of Shalimar, Fla., Charles of Wagram, and Richard, David, Randy, Benny, Johnny and Don Holland of Shannon; three daughters, Mrs. Dave Johnson, of Ft. Dix, N.J., Mrs. Julian Williford of Red Springs and Mrs. J.C. Harris of Raeford; two brothers, Ike of Augusta, Ga., and H.H. Holland of Dunn; three sisters, Mrs. Ata Payphress and Mrs. Maimie Taylor of High Point; and Mrs. Sally Moody of Jacksonville; 16 grandchildren.

Mrs. Lelia W. Harris

The funeral for Mrs. (W.W.) Lelia Wrenn Harris, 94, of Rt. 1, Timberlake, N.C. (Roxboro), who died Wednesday, Nov. 26, was held Friday Nov. 28, at 2 P.M. at the Antioch Baptist Church.

Burial was in the Burchwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Harris was born Feb. 22, 1881.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Grace Dickerson of Hurdle Mills,

Bicentennial Coins

'1776 - 1976' Minted

A Bicentennial series of specially minted coins containing 40 percent silver and dated "1776-1976" are available in uncirculated sets pre-packaged.

The sets, which are being offered by any Southern National Bank office, contain the Eisenhower dollar, the Kennedy half-dollar, and the Washington quarter.

Health Conference

Linda Assad, Zenobia Byrd, Persis Goins, and Peggy Woolard from Hoke County attended the Institute on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease held in Fayetteville recently.

The Institute is co-sponsored by the Mid-State Lung Association, the Cape Fear Lung Association, Fayetteville Technical Institute and the Fayetteville Area Health Education Center.

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