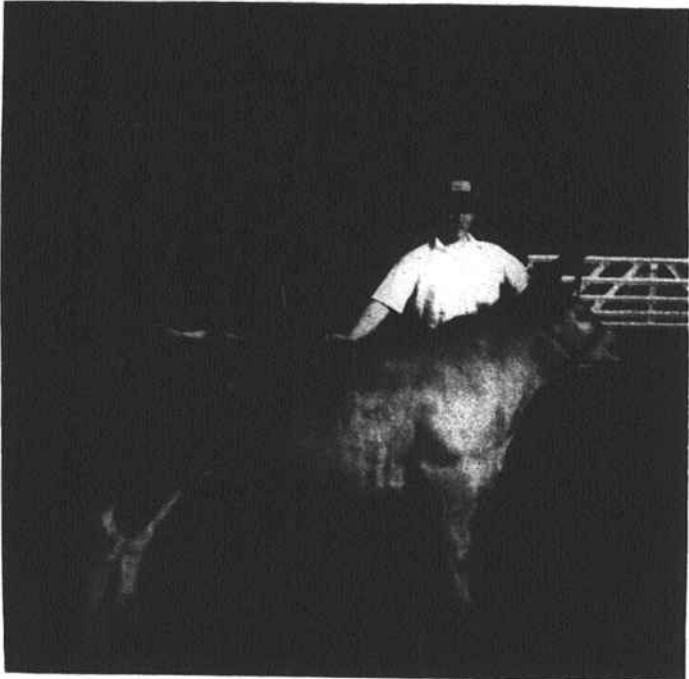
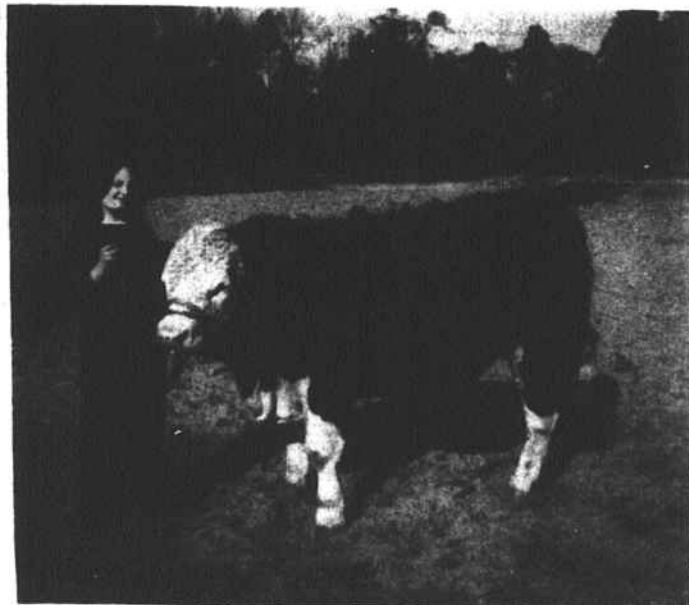


SOFT TOUCH -- 4-H member Gary Hendrix is pictured talking his steer to sleep. Hendrix is one of three 4-Hers from Hoke County who have been training steers in preparation for the 1976 Market Stock Show and Sale on April 14.



STEER SHOWING -- Showing is an important part of the 1976 Market Stock Show and Sale and can make a difference of two or more placings, according to Robert Attaway. Attaway is pictured here practicing with his steer.



STEP GENTLY -- Tammy Hendrix [shown here with her steer Billy] has learned the importance of stepping carefully around the hooves of a 600 pounds-plus steer to avoid mashed toes. Tammy will show Billy in the 1976 Market Stock Show and Sale in Fayetteville on April 14.

4-H Corner

By Freddie O'Neal
and
Marsha Smith

Many hours have been put into training of steers for about 10 to 15 minutes of excitement at the 1976 Market Stock Show and Sale, sponsored by the Cumberland County Livestock Development Association and the Fayetteville Jaycees, at the Jaycee Fairgrounds in Fayetteville, on April 14. This show is opened to 4-H and FFA members in several counties.

Robert Attaway and Gary and Tammy Hendrix will be attending the event with three fine animals. The animals were purchased last September with an average weight of 610 pounds. From then on it was feeding, watering, grooming and probably the hardest part, that of halter breaking. Since September there has been a lot of skins scratched and sore feet, Tammy says: Man, this calf is heavy, feels like he just mashed my foot off.

The showing will begin at 1:15 p.m. with market hogs first and then market steers. After the showing there will be livestock judging teams and Pig Pickin'. At 7:15 p.m. the presentation of awards will be presented, followed by the sale.

The sale is open to anyone who wishes to go and see what the young people are doing. You must be present to bid on steers and hogs. So let's get out on the 14th and see these three Hoke County 4-Hers show their steers and support them.

Anyone who plans to bid on any of these steers should contact Freddie O'Neal at the Hoke county extension office, 875-3461.

Trooper Finishes School

A Hoke County trooper finished a five-week public administration training course entitled Principles of Organization and Management presented by The Traffic Institute of Northwestern University last week.

Sgt. D.L. Minshew, ranking member of the Hoke County Troop, covered various aspects of administration, organization, personnel management, and legal administration during his five week stay in Wrightsville Beach.

Minshew said the course was given through the Governor's Highway Safety Council and eleven policemen and 19 state troopers attended the course.

The course consisted of 180 hours with a major part involving organizational management.

Minshew said members of the class were subjected to problems that were to be solved by them through procedure taught by the course.

"We would divide the class and tackle the problem by going through channels of command," he said.

"Most of the problems involved situations that happen during daily duty," he added.

Minshew said the school cost approximately \$1,300 per student, which was paid by the state.

Carlsbad Caverns once sheltered 9,000,000 bats in its famous Bat Cave. Today, at sunset, hordes of bats still swarm out of the cave -- 18,000 a minute, more than 1,000,000 an hour -- to feed on insects in distant fields, according to National Geographic's book, "The New America's Wonderlands."

School Board Rejects Calendar

The Hoke County Board of Education rejected a proposed calendar for the 1976-77 school year at their regular meeting Monday night.

Board members carefully viewed the calendar and expressed a desire to eliminate dates designated as "additional days of employment" during the school year, and place them either at the beginning or end of the year.

The proposed calendar ran from

Aug. 23 to June 22, and included 17½ days designated as additional work days for teachers.

The calendar also included eight days for the Christmas holidays, two days for Thanksgiving, and three days for Easter.

"I can see a need for a change in the calendar, but I don't have a solution," said Robert L. Gibson, board member.

In other business, the board passed a motion to grant an

ease to the City of Raeford for a new water line that will run around the new vocational building, which is now being constructed. The present water line runs under the new building.

The board also approved Martin Hall, Faye Best, and Louise Wood as interim teachers, and the hiring of Rodney Johnson as physical education teacher and head basketball coach at Hoke High School next year.

TAR HEEL OUTDOORS

About the time "Jaws" was at its popularity peak in theaters last year, some of the charter boats at Morehead City were offering shark fishing trips and advertising with little signs at the dock. Now shark fishing is all the rage along the North Carolina coast and the outdoor magazines are running articles about where and how to catch them, how to dress them, eat them, and make jewelry from the teeth.

Frequently when fishing for cobia you catch small sharks from the sounds and inlets, but they are mostly sand sharks, not highly regarded as food. Dogfish, which are caught by the thousands from piers and from the surf, are another story. Their flesh is good for both taste and texture, and cleaning them is not nearly as much trouble as dressing a large fish. It's a shame that so many are wasted.

I've seen some very large sharks in North Carolina inshore waters and offshore. Mostly these have been hammerheads, but there have been others, although I don't know sharks well enough to identify a swimming fish. Even those on the dock sometimes stump me.

More than anywhere else, I've seen large sharks near the jetty at Cape Lookout. Hammerheads to 12 feet are not unusual. I saw a real giant there once, but whether it was a harmless basking shark or one of the toothy kinds, I don't know. It was every bit of 15 feet, maybe 18, and I couldn't have reached around it with both arms.

Wrecks and artificial reefs are good places for large and small sharks. We were float fishing for kings and amberjacks last November at the reef off Wrightsville Beach when a 10-footer came into our baits and acted like it might take one. We had caught a false albacore earlier and I cut it deeply so it would bleed and tossed it back to the shark, hoping it would eat that and leave the baits alone. That fish took it like a dog would a bone and promptly disappeared, to my great relief. We were fishing 30-pound test and would have been hooked up to that creature the rest of the day if it had taken a bait.

Often you find lots of 15 to 25-pound sharks around wrecks offshore. The "smell wreck" and

the "oil wreck" off Hatteras Inlet usually have so many you can't get a game fish to the boat before one takes half.

It's not unusual for one or two fairly large sharks to hang around wrecks. One summer I hooked what I hoped was a large grouper on a heavy jig at the WR-4 wreck off Carolina Beach. It was a small level-wind reel with 20-pound line, so I was grunting and straining in the hot sun for more than an hour before I could see the shark down deep. It was at least eight feet long and would have weighed over 150 pounds, but I didn't want it and was embarrassed to have stopped everyone else from fishing that long for only a shark. I gave the rod to a buddy and said for him to either catch it or break it off. He broke it off.

A fishing companion once caught a 60-pound blacktip shark off Ocracoke. Another guest said he read that blacktips were one of the good eating sharks, so I filleted and skinned it and took the meat home. I really didn't care much for the broiled steaks, but little strips cooked up in chop suey were excellent. I ate off that fish for over two months and served it to company without telling them it was shark. All pronounced it good.

If they asked, I said it was cobia.

The most available sharks in North Carolina probably are sand sharks and dogfish. The species are similar, but the latter have smaller teeth. Sand sharks are not bad on the table, but dogfish are--at least good to my taste. You catch quite a few of both kinds while surf fishing and if you come behind a beach haul seine crew in winter you can pick up all you want. One species of dogfish is the primary ingredient in the English fish and chips.

You would expect some shark species to be better than others. None will hurt you and quite a few are worth dressing out. You should not dress sharks until you can put them on ice. They keep better in the round because they are protected from drying. However, they should be dressed and iced the same day they are caught and eaten within a couple of days. You can freeze them also, and if the pieces are properly wrapped they will keep for months.

Accent On Agriculture

The Culprit is Inflation

The spread between farm and retail prices continues to widen. The U.S. Department of Agriculture notes that over the past few months the farm to store margin has expanded by nine percent.

To farmers, this is a perplexing occurrence. Farm prices for several foods have been drifting lower in recent months, but consumer prices for the same foods have gone down little, if any.

Beef is one example. The amount paid a farmer to put one pound of meat on the retail supermarket counter declined by ten cents between December and January. At the same time, marketing margins for meat packers, handlers, and

supermarkets increased by a total of eight cents a pound. That eight cent increase less the ten cent decrease ends up as only a two cent decrease to the consumer.

The thing that upsets farmers is that when beef prices go back to where farmers can make a profit, they will no doubt be the ones to get the blame for higher retail meat prices.

Food prices are expected to continue upward through 1976. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Buttz predicts they will go up as much as five percent.

Taking into account the continuing upward inflationary pressures on the entire economy, it's unlikely that food prices will ever decline significantly. Even if farm prices were to drop, the inflationary costs of supplies, utilities, insurance and labor would keep the retail prices at high levels. All of these "middlemen" costs make up approximately 60 cents of every dollar spent for food, and the farmer is left with only 40 cents.

In the never ending search for the culprit in high food prices, it's a good idea to keep in mind the way inflation manifests itself.

Victim Succumbs

A second victim succumbed to injuries received in a Jan. 10 automobile accident which killed one man and died March 31 at Moore Memorial Hospital.

Joe Walter Lowery, 27, of Rt. 1, Raeford died without regaining consciousness after the car in which he was riding went out of control and overturned on RPR 1203. His brother, Larry Lowery, 22, also of Rt. 1, was killed instantly.

The current GI Bill, the third such program since 1944, became effective June 1, 1966, according to the Veterans Administration.



APPOINTMENT—Robert Veasey of Aberdeen has been elected a vice-president of Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad. A graduate of Hoke High School, he attended Wake Forest College and was employed by the A&R in 1946. He was agent at Aberdeen, transferred to the auditing department, elected general freight agent in 1970 and was elected assistant vice-president for finance in 1974. He is married to the former Margaret Hilliard and has two daughters.



ELECTED—Charles Monroe of Pinebluff has been elected vice-president for engineering, construction, roadway and equipment for the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad. He began work with the A&R in 1963 as a shop assistant and in 1970 was elected master mechanic. He is married to the former Louise Phillips and has one son and one daughter.



VICE-PRESIDENT—William F. Hilliard of Fayetteville has been elected vice-president of traffic for the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad. He began with the A&R in 1970 after having worked for Norfolk Southern Railway and Durham & Southern Railroad. He is married to the former Pegge Ann Brown and has one son.



REUNION—The annual reunion of The Flora MacDonald College alumnae will be held on the former campus in Red Springs Saturday, April 10. The local alumnae will host a 10 A.M. coffee hour in the parlors. Alumnae are then free to visit and tour the campus. A picnic luncheon will be spread in the dining hall at 12:00. All Flora MacDonald alumnae and friends are urged to attend the reunion and to encourage others to be present.



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