



Kathy McMillan

Kathy McMillan Is Top Athlete Again

Kathy McMillan has been named the top female athlete in North Carolina for the second straight year and is the 1976 winner of the Lewis E. Teague Award.

Miss McMillan, the silver medal winner at the Summer Olympics for the long jump, was chosen by acclamation by the award selection committee composed of the American Athletic Union (AAU) officers, member clubs and the news media.

The 18 year-old college freshman is the first American woman to jump over 22 feet. She broke the American outdoor record in long jump (22 feet, three inches) and tied the American indoor record (21 feet, 4 1/4 inches) to be named the 1976 National AAU Senior Women Champion in long jump.

In her last year as a high school track star, she was state champion in the 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, the long jump and ran on the champion 880 relay team.

Selected as the outstanding high school female track participant by Track & Field News, she was the winner of the long jump at the Mason-Dixon Games in Louisville, Ky. At the Volunteer Track Classic held in Nashville, Tenn., she scored enough points individually to place second in team points and was named the outstanding track participant and field participant.

She is currently ranked seventh on the All-Time World List in women's long jump.

Her greatest triumph and the realization of a personal dream was her Olympic performance in Montreal. She jumped 21 feet, 10 1/4 inches to become the first American woman to capture a medal in the event since 1956 when Willie White won the silver.

Miss McMillan will be honored at the annual Teague and AAU Awards banquet Feb. 26 in Raleigh, along with the male winner, yet to be announced.

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Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The main topic of conversation this week is the weather. The newspapers, radios and televisions are all filled with news of weather conditions in this country. This is also the case here in Hoke County. Instead of getting better it seems to get worse each day.

The long range forecast is for many more days of cold weather. This is leading to many problems and it is something that no one can come up with a solution.

Elsewhere in the paper is an article about the situation in this county. Be sure to read it and then take a few minutes to think of how serious this situation could become. We don't have the sleet and snow that the shortage of gas and fuel oil could work a hardship on everyone.

The best way to whip this problem, as far as we are concerned here in Hoke County is conserve fuel. This will mean lowering the thermostats, but this will be better than no heat at all and from all reports it could come to this.

If this happens then we will be concerned with the people that are without fuel. Other counties in the state have been faced with the problem for many days and are aiding the ones that are less fortunate than others. So be thinking about what you could do to help, if this emergency should arrive.

This would have to be a community effort but if one life is saved it would be well worth that little it would cost each of us.

Let's hope it will not reach this, but if it should, be ready to share your load.

The following note was in a subscription envelope received this week:

"Please change my address. Also I didn't receive a paper for the week of the 13th would you mail me one. My regards to everyone in Raeford, we miss it terribly. Noticed in the paper you've had your cold weather. That's good compared to here - we've had as low as 9 degrees below and wind factor of 35 degrees below. The snow has been on the ground for over a month. If some one doesn't like Raeford they should try one of these midwestern towns in the winter and they would be glad to be back there. Hi to Ann Webb, Evelyn Manning."

Evelyn is in Carthage, Mo., so maybe we don't have it so bad.

The article in last week's paper about the new doctor should be welcomed by all the people of Hoke County. If you haven't been to the doctor's office recently, then you don't know how long you must wait before seeing the doctor.

We also think that a word of congratulations should be given to the committee that has worked so hard to bring this doctor to Hoke County. This group works for free and have taken time away from their work to make this project a success.

This committee is composed of Frank Baker, chairman, Wyatt Upchurch, vice chairman, Warren Pate, Bobby Gibson and Emma Mims. So if you run into any of these people, tell them that you appreciate the work they have done and this I believe will be part payment for their time.

The writer of the column says welcome to Dr. Zota and thanks for

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MAN OF THE YEAR -- Sam C. Morris is congratulated by Kiwanis President Julian King after he received his Man of the Year award from Harold Gillis Thursday night. He is the 28th person to receive the annual citizenship award.

Sam Morris Named Man Of The Year

Newspaperman Sam C. Morris was named Man of the Year for citizenship by the Raeford Kiwanis Club during its annual Ladies Night banquet Thursday night.

Morris, general manager of *The News-Journal* and a city council member since 1973, is the 28th person to receive the award started by the Kiwanians in 1949. The award is to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution over a period of years.

"I don't know of anyone who is more willing and more dedicated to serve this fine place in which we live," Harold Gillis said in presenting the cup.

Gillis praised Morris for his military service, both his years on active duty during World War II and his help in co-founding the Raeford National Guard unit after the war; his contribution to getting the United Fund organization going in its early days; his contribution to the business community as a director of the Raeford Savings and Loan Association for 14 years (now vice-president) and a director and past president of the Chamber of Commerce; his service on the Selective Service Board; his record as leader of the Hoke County Democratic Party for many years; and his many years of service to his church as a deacon.

"He serves as a member of our

city council which we all know is not an easy task. He has a difficult job of being a newspaperman, being responsible for the news that appears each week," Gillis said.

Morris was born in Raeford in 1918 and was graduated from old Raeford High School in 1935. He is married to the former Mary Alice Pernel, a schoolteacher, and they have two children, Sarah and John.

Duncan McFadyen received the Program of the Year award for presenting Col. Shrum who spoke on P.O.W.'s.

The awards banquet also honored many Kiwanians with perfect attendance records.

Those receiving the two year certificates were Gene Carter, Dale Teal and Julian King; three year, Vardell Hedgpath, Clarence Kinlaw and Younger Snead Jr.; four year, William Niven and William Poole; five year, Ernest Sutton; six year, Bill Lancaster; ten year, Jim Attaway, Joe Jenkins and Neill McDonald; eleven year, Frank Crumpler and Bill Moses; thirteen year, Avery Connell and Benny McLeod; and fourteen year, Harold Gillis.

Three Kiwanians received certificates for the longest records of perfect attendance: Jake Austin, 23 years; Julius Jordan, 24 years; and Marion Gatlin, 33 years.

Judge Blasts Jurors, Orders Names Off For Good

Calling them "vigilantes", Superior Court Judge A. Pilston Godwin Jr. berated eight men and four women jurors last week after they returned a verdict of not guilty and ordered that their names be permanently removed from jury lists.

Judge Godwin, who presided over the weeklong term of court here, called the jury together Thursday morning to voice his disapproval after they returned the not guilty verdict on Wednesday.

The jurors, Ester Barton of Rt. 1, Box 414, Red Springs, Irene V. Butler of Rt. 2, Box 123, Raeford, Britton Clark of Rt. 1, Box 616-E, Red Springs, Henry Cooper of P.O. Box 312, Wagram, David C. Davis of Rt. 1, Box 141-A, Lumber Bridge, Glenn Dixon of Rt. 1, Box 528, Raeford, Shelby Calloway of Rt. 3, Box 139, Raeford, William T. Howell of 121 S. Wright St.,

T.B. Lester Jr. of P.O. Box 267, Nancy R. McCall of Box 640, Red Springs, Rosa B. Purcell of Rt. 3, Box 313, Raeford and Leroy G. Murchison of Rt. 3, Box 228-A, Raeford, decided the case of James McCrimmon of Rt. 1, Raeford who had been charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering and a second count of malicious injury to real property.

McCrimmon, 18, was accused of entering a home owned by Wayne Byrd on March 5 and causing \$2,400 worth of damage. A statement made by McCrimmon to authorities in which he admitted the crimes was presented during his trial.

"After they began deliberations (on Wednesday) they sent a message through the sheriff that they were convinced he was guilty of both charges but they felt he was 'irresponsible'. They wanted to

Propane Shortage Threatening Area

Propane supplies may be coming to a crucial point in Hoke County, according to Raeford Oil Co. spokesman Randall Ashburn.

"The propane allocation for February is going to be about half of what we'll need," Ashburn said. "We must urge all our customers to conserve on their propane or we may just be out of luck."

Propane is federally controlled and allotments for this year are based on the period of April 1972 through March 1973. No allowances were made for the new homes and trailers constructed to heat with propane gas since that date, nor were allowances made for the unusually cold weather.

"I believe most people are conserving fuel by turning down thermostats," Ashburn said, "but they are still using more fuel since it is colder this year."

Ashburn noted that his supplies of kerosene and fuel oil are in good shape, but in all instances conservation must be observed.

"We have applied through State Energy for more gas. The state requires that three per cent of all the suppliers' fuel be set aside for use by industries or whoever needs it the most. During January, Exxon's set-aside supplies were exhausted. We did get 28,000 extra gallons on the Federal Energy Office Action application for exceptional hardship assistance. But, we were refused 9,000 extra gallons requested on the same type of application from Suburban Propane of New Jersey," he said.

Ashburn stated that Raeford Oil did meet the demand for the month of January. "However," he said, "we're out of propane. We ended the month with only a few gallons on a truck."

"We want to help the customers get through this next month," he added. "But, we need their help."

The supply of propane will arrive on a weekly basis and be rationed out. No one will be able to order a full tank. "For example," Ashburn said, "last Saturday we delivered 50 gallons to each customer and today, after a new delivery has arrived, we are pumping 100 gallons per customer."

Ashburn estimated the shortage will effect one third of his fuel customers. Between 600 and 700 of his customers in Hoke County use propane for cooking, and between 10 and 15 businesses depend on it for heat. A propane shortage may also be detrimental to the turkey and chicken houses which must maintain a steady warmth for young birds.

Schools Hit Hard

Manufactured from crude oil, propane also provides fuel for many kitchens in Hoke County schools. According to School Supt. G. Raz

Autry, Hoke schools will begin serving sandwich-type lunches three times a week to conserve on fuel and cut back on bills. Autry noted that the schools will also cut all thermostats back to 65 degrees, and they plan to rotate classes from a portable horticulture building heated by propane into other rooms in the main buildings. Parents are asked to dress their children more warmly and will be asked to attend the teacher-parent conference day appointments in certain confined areas like the library or lunchroom. The areas will be announced later for the conferences to be held Monday from noon to 7 p.m. One dressing room at the high school heated by propane will be left without heat.

Autry also said that the school has asked for help from Raleigh to repair faulty thermostats, make hot water heaters more efficient, and to equalize heating in all buildings.

Late Tuesday, Autry also announced that he is suspending all nighttime activities at all of the schools, including athletic events, to conserve heating fuel. The Tuesday night basketball game was the last until further notice.

Also affected by the action are Sandhills Community College night courses which meet at the high school and in other schools.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will still be allowed to use the gymnasiums but no heat will be furnished.

Eloise Teal of Teal Oil Co. in Raeford indicated that they had sufficient fuel oil, kerosene and gasoline to meet the need of their customers for the coming month and did not anticipate any hardships. She did note that the increased production of heating fuels might result in a gasoline shortage next summer.

Joe B. Clark, Jr., general manager of Peoples Oil Co., in Lumber Bridge, also a supplier of propane in Hoke County, said, "We don't have an oversupply of propane. We are able to meet the needs of our customers. We feel like we'll be able to keep them supplied. However, we can't take on any additional customers until the crisis is over. We highly recommend that everyone try to conserve the fuel." Clark also noted that all heating supplies could run out "easily."

Fuel Fund

Because of the weeks of bitter weather many low-income families here can barely afford the cost of fuel and some are in danger of going without any home heat.

Civil Preparedness Coordinator William T. Niven announced Tuesday that an emergency fuel fund has been set up and will be coordinated by the Department of Social Services.

Local fuel supplies in Raeford have agreed to (See SHORTAGE, Page 10)

know if they could return a verdict on a lesser charge. I instructed them the only verdict they may return is guilty or not guilty. They came back very shortly and announced their verdict was not guilty," Judge Godwin said.

"The next morning, after the other jury was out of the courtroom, I told them their names were to be removed from the list and they were never to serve as jurors again. They violated their oaths and disobeyed the court. They acted as vigilantes," Judge Godwin said.

"A jury is not permitted sympathy or prejudice. When you don't follow the law, injustice can always be counted on. They had no authority to consider punishment, they are sworn to return fair and impartial verdicts based upon the evidence," he continued. "This is very disturbing. A jury

that refuses to comply with its oath and the law creates a situation that is alarming. A jury that would do this is just as likely to convict on inadequate evidence," Judge Godwin declared.

T.B. Lester, the jury foreman, said Friday that the whole thing was really a misunderstanding and that the judge was incorrect in believing that they had unanimously agreed on McCrimmon's guilt.

"What I told the sheriff was, it seemed to be the consensus that the man was probably guilty. But we hadn't taken a vote so it wasn't official. I told the sheriff that it seemed to me the man was probably guilty and I was speaking for myself only. It wasn't what I meant for him to tell the judge," Lester said.

"We were just discussing it, just getting opinions and it got to the point where we wanted to get an

opinion from the judge. What we wanted to know was, could the verdict be guilty with clemency? The whole panel wanted to know. I was against asking the judge anything, but they insisted and I had no choice," he said.

Lester also denied that the jurors willfully violated their oaths. "We were searching to try and not make an error. I think the judge thought we were trying to take his prerogative away but nobody expressed such a thought. Nobody had any intention of acting as a vigilante. That part shocked me more than the rest. I don't think that crossed anybody's mind at all," he said.

Lester said there was a question of reasonable doubt when the jurors got down to deciding the case.

"It hinged on one thing as far as (See JURORS, Page 11)