

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was perfect for the past several days, but the forecast is for cold weather to come again. The energy crisis is still with us and the governor has made many things mandatory. I believe that we had better get used to working at about 62 degrees temperature and not having the house as warm at night.

So let's all cooperate and see if we can't lick the energy problem.

The emergency energy fund handled by the Department of Social Services is working fine but the way to keep it going is for each of us to contribute to this fund. So if you haven't sent in your contribution, do so today.

The long lines at the Chamber of Commerce office mean that the deadline is here for the 1977 license plates. Each year it seems that the lines get longer and people stand in line for hours to get their plates. Many people asked why they didn't get their plates in January. We can't answer this, but most of the people in line have a good reason, or they think so anyway.

According to chamber officials the lines have been swelled this year because two license offices in Cumberland County closed down and the people over there have been coming to Raeford to buy tags.

Instead of using this as an excuse maybe it could be used to promote business for the local merchants. If a family comes after their tags, then maybe some of them will take time to shop at local stores while the other member is in line.

It could also promote the name of Raeford as a city that provides service for its people. Most of us in business have been "eating too high on the hog" and forgetting that our first thought should be to our customers. It seems that working people have to take a day off to get any personal business attended to, because the only time places are open is when they are working too.

Think about this and maybe you will find a way to be of better service to your customers.

Mrs. Archie L. Walters, nee Venetia Fulk, called and asked that I put in this column that the class of 1952 would hold a reunion the Saturday before Easter, and she would like for members of that class to contact her for information.

So all you young folk of the class of 1952, get in touch with Venetia. She can be reached at the following address:

Mrs. Archie L. Walters  
Route 3, Box 132  
Raeford, N.C. 28376

The following letter is self-explanatory:

I think a word of thanks is in  
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## John B. Cameron Buried Wednesday

John B. Cameron, a lifelong Hoke County resident and former Clerk of Court, died Tuesday morning in Highsmith-Rainey Hospital. He was 82. Graveside services were conducted Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in Raeford Cemetery by the Rev. John Ropp. The family requests no flowers be sent.

Cameron was born in the northern section of Hoke County in what is now part of the reservation. He was the son of John A. and Annie B. Cameron and received his education at Raeford Institute and the Donaldson Military Academy in Fayetteville.

He farmed until 1942 when he was elected Clerk of Court. He was re-elected to the post three times without opposition and in December, 1956 he resigned due to poor health.

A leading political figure for many years, Cameron resigned his post as chairman of the county Democratic Executive Committee when he ran for office. As chair-

# Farm Income Shows Big Upturn

## Suspects In Rockfish Killing Bound Over To Grand Jury

Three men were ordered bound over to Superior Court for action by the grand jury on charges of the armed robbery and murder of a Rockfish storekeeper Dec. 23 following a two-day long probable cause hearing in District Court here last week.

The men, Allen Dwain Smith, 24, of Rt. 8, Strickland Bridge Rd., Fayetteville, Kenneth Leo Dockery, 24, of Rt. 1, Box 390, Raeford, and James Otis Havis Jr., 29, a serviceman stationed at Ft. Bragg, were returned to the Hoke County Jail where they have been held since their arrests.

Smith and Dockery were arrested in Raeford Dec. 31 and Havis was arrested at his home in Alton, Ill. last month. All are charged with the murder of Robert Leslie Brooks, the owner of Rockfish Grocery in Rockfish who was found slain on the floor of the store following a holdup on the evening of Dec. 23 last year.

The state called ten witnesses to the stand, including the victim's wife and Wanda Sue Stephens who were working in the store at the time of the robbery.

Mrs. Brooks testified that three black men entered the store between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. and that she was ordered to open the cash register and one of the men removed all of the bills and the rolled change. She said that another man began scuffling with her husband, who had gotten out of his seat near the register where he had been watching television. She testified that the third man, who wore a white mask over his face, went over to where her husband was standing and she heard two shots and her husband then fell to the floor.

Mrs. Brooks testified that the men were blacks, but she did not identify any of the three as the same in the store on the night of the robbery.

Miss Stephens also testified she



MURDER SUSPECTS -- The three men charged with the robbery-slaying of Rockfish storekeeper Robert Brooks are escorted back to jail following their preliminary hearing Friday. Next to the deputy (left to right) are Allen Smith, Kenneth Dockery and James Havis Jr. (Photo by Marty Vega)

saw three black men in the store and that one of them ordered her to lie down on the floor.

Young Wood Jr., operator of a grocery on the opposite side of the road from where the killing took place, testified he sold \$10 worth of gasoline to three black males in a 1972 brown Pontiac between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. on the night of the robbery. Wood testified he became suspicious and mentally made a note of the first three letters on the Pontiac's license plate.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington testified that a check was made with the Division of Motor Vehicles records

on the description of the Pontiac and the letters on the license and the car was found to be registered to Smith.

Barrington also read statements given by the men at the time of their arrests. The defendants claimed that they had stopped at a store in Rockfish to buy gas and in Robbins Heights. Neither of the three admitted any part in the robbery or killing at the Rockfish Grocery.

The grand jury will meet in Arpil during the spring term of Superior Court to consider indictments against the three suspects.



Rev. Billy C. Beaver

## New Pastor Slated

Rev. Billy C. Beaver, pastor of First Baptist Church in Maiden, will become the new pastor of the Raeford First Baptist Church April 18.

The announcement was made by Ashwell Harward, chairman of the pastor selection committee. The Rev. Beaver replaces the Rev. Jack Mansfield who resigned last year.

A native of Lancaster County, S.C., the Rev. Beaver attended North Greenville Junior College in Tigerville, S.C. and was graduated from Furman University in Greenville, S.C. with a B.A. in 1958. He attended Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, S.C. and was graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest with a bachelor of divinity degree in 1966. He received his master of divinity in 1973.

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Farm income for 1976 is up according to Hoke County agricultural agent Wendell Young. After the 1975 \$1.5 million slip over the previous year's income, the 1976 estimated \$19,043,484 income is good news.

Young noted that the increase is due partially to increase in prices and partially to increase in production. For example, flue-cured tobacco, the county's most productive crop, went up in price from \$1.00 to \$1.107 thus increasing the total dollar sales from \$4,913,501 to \$5,002,216 while the amount produced and sold actually fell 394,787 lbs.

While tobacco production fell, the corn harvest almost doubled. County farmers harvested an average of 90 bushels of corn per acre as compared to a normal yield for this area of 60. Young attributed the high yield to an increase in rain fall.

Soybeans, like tobacco, showed a decrease in crop production. Even price increase of \$2 per bushel put soybeans \$305,800 behind the previous year's sales.

Also a good producer in Hoke County, cotton sales totaled \$1,521,975. According to a data worksheet of cash farm income for the year, Hoke field crops sales totaled a significant \$11,018,875, an increase over 1975's \$9.5 million dollars.

In vegetable and berry production, county sales increased for all products except watermelons, peppers, southern peas, squash, snap peas, and okra.

"More people have indicated an interest in producing pickling cucumbers," Young said. Cucumbers sold 90,000 bushels valued at \$300,600, up from 1975's total of \$191,400.

Showing only a small increase over the 1975 figures, Young predicted that sweet potato production will increase this year. "Several people have talked to me about planting sweet potatoes," he said.

The 3,000 pecan trees that bore \$1,875 worth of nuts in 1975 produced a \$24,000 crop this past season, while peaches sold \$15,950 and apples, \$642.

Young emphasized a new entry into the agricultural statistics for the year. "We had a \$14,500 total for tomatoes and flowers harvested from greenhouses in the county. And, now other people are considering putting them in," he said. Young said that a total of 6,200 sq. ft. in five units was necessary to produce the crop.

Pulpwood, lumber and other forest products showed a \$622,500 increase.

Livestock production rose slightly, even with the drop of hogs from \$100 a head to \$88 a head. Total sales on beef were up around \$100 over the last year's prices. Income from dairy cattle fell from \$17,880

(See INCOME, Page 13)

## Rose's Office Visits Feb. 19

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Saturday, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the post office parking lot.

Administrative assistant Rip Collins will be on hand.

## Duke Cancer Center Director Visits Feb. 21

Dr. Diane McGrath, director of cancer information service at the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center, will be the speaker at a public meeting Feb. 21 at the Raeford Civic Center.

The meeting is sponsored by the Raeford Junior Woman's Club. Starting time is 7:45 p.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

Dr. McGrath will speak on the disease of cancer, how to be aware of the warning signals and answer questions on recommended ways to protect yourself against the dreaded disease.

Dr. McGrath has been the director of the Duke service since June of 1975. She was a visiting assistant professor in the UNC-Chapel Hill English Department.

She received her master's degree from Pennsylvania State University and was awarded her Ph.D. in communication from the same school in 1974. She specializes in communicative behavior and edu-



Dr. Diane McGrath

cational communication within the health care field. The meeting is free.



John B. Cameron

man, he managed many gubernatorial campaigns within the county.

He was a member of Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mattie Wilson Cameron; and two sisters, Mrs. Juanita Hewitt and Mrs. Lura Davis, both of Raeford.

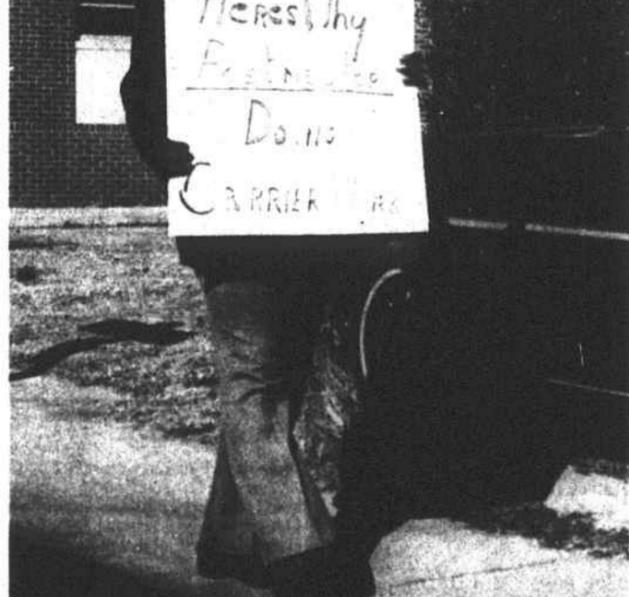
Raeford postal employee.

Canipe explained that the picketing was "informational" only and not a strike. Federal employees are barred from going on strike.

"We have documented that the postmaster has been casing letters (sorting) and going out on the routes delivering mail since December. This is craft work and a violation of the union contract,"

Canipe said. "He claims he has to do it because he doesn't have enough help, yet he refuses to hire help. He can detail men here from the sectional center."

Canipe also charged that the postmaster has harassed the carriers and accused them of not getting their work done on time. "He takes his private auto and



LABOR GRIEVANCE -- Fayetteville Sectional Center union members picketed the Raeford post office this week charging that the postmaster was violating the union contract by performing carrier work.