

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Just when you think that the cold weather is leaving, along comes another cold front. The past weekend was perfect for everyone and especially for the ones that use gas and fuel oil. I believe this is the first rest most heating equipment has had since December. This is also good for the pocketbook. I believe the oil companies were glad to see the warm weekend so that they could get a little rest.

But Monday the weather turned to winter again, but long range forecasts seem to predict warmer weather toward the end of the week.

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Last week I mentioned about Robert Gatlin telling a joke that didn't go over too well. It seems that the item in this column scored very heavy or for further details read Marty Vega's column on Page 2.

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How do you know when old age has finally arrived, or when do you say that your stage of life has reached the peak and you will soon be on the down slope of life?

Some folks look forward to old age or early retirement so they can do the things they have always wanted to do. No job or boss dictating what to do now or at a later time.

Now the government has set the time at 62 or 65, according to when you can draw Social Security. Most businesses have also set 65 as the retirement date.

The Bible says three score years and ten is the life span. (Does this mean death or retirement?)

Some folks will tell you that old age is just something that you get in your mind. That you are no older than you think or feel you are.

Now these are all good rule of thumb ways to tell about your age, but the best way to know that you are ripening, maturing or becoming a senior citizen, is to be around younger people. Now you will say, what is Morris writing about now?

This week in the office some of the staff were working on a headline for the article appearing in this week's paper about the new ingredient that Farm Chemical is about to put on the market. It all came about concerning the words, "Bessie" or "Bossie."

Sitting at my desk I didn't get into the conversation to begin with, but then I realized that my age must have something to do with what they were talking about.

Marty Vega, a Yankee from Detroit, Mich., was asking what the name of a cow should be. Would it be Bessie or Bossy? Some of the others in the office stated that they didn't know what she was talking about. This, of course, pointed out to me that I was not too far away from retirement age. Maybe you are asking why?

All my life the name of a cow was known as "Bossie," until a certain milk company came along and changed it. So now, maybe this new ingredient is going to give the old cow, before she goes to pasture, a new name.

So if you want to find out about your age, work in an office with a staff that are all in their twenties and then you will find out just how old you are.

Yes, Gatlin, chickens or cows will cause either of us to seem old and get a C-minus also.

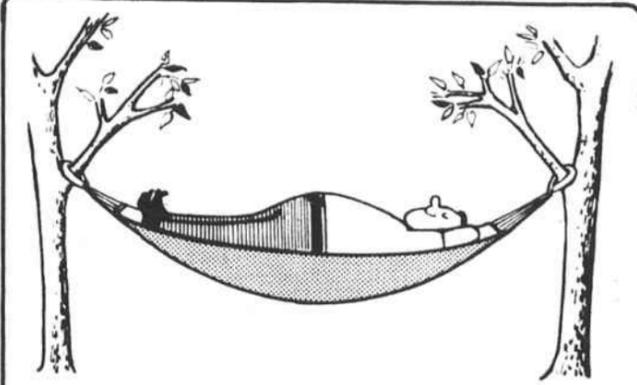
## Slaying Suspects Post Bail

Two of the three men charged with the robbery - slaying of store owner Robert L. Brooks last Dec. 23 have been released on bail.

A.D. Smith Jr., 24, was released last Thursday under \$40,300 bond. Kenneth Dockery, also 24, was released Monday under \$25,000 bond.

The third suspect, James O. Havis Jr., 29, was still in jail as of Tuesday.

No trial date has been set for the men. Last month, all three were ordered bound over to the grand jury for possible indictment in April for the slaying at the Rockfish Grocery.



## Listen, Flabbies!

Summer is just a few short months away and it will be time to get out that bathing suit. Are you going to be left out of the fun because of ugly, flabby fat?

Don't lie around surrounded by all that flab, do something now!

You can get into shape and have fun at the same time by joining the Parks and Recreation Department Slimnastics class.

Classes begin March 3 and continue through April 25 at the Raeford Elementary School gymnasium. Time is 7-9 p.m.

Slimnastics is co-sponsored by Sandhills Community College. Registration fee is only \$5 per person.

Remember, summer is coming!

## Man's Body Identified

The body of a man discovered Saturday in the Antioch community has been tentatively identified as a 44 year - old Lumberton man missing since Feb. 14.

Hoke County Sheriff D.M. Barrington said the man has been unofficially identified through personal effects found near the scene as Ray Franklin Hodges of 510 E. 14th St., Lumberton, a Lumberton city employee.

The sheriff said an unofficial identification will be made pending fingerprinting and a comparison with dental records.

Barrington said the cause of death as determined by the state medical examiner was apparently due to a blow on the head from a blunt instrument. An autopsy was

performed Monday.

The badly decomposed body was discovered about noon Saturday about 200 yards east of the residence of the Antioch Presbyterian Church pastor. A wallet and wrist watch were found about 15 feet away and were identified by Hodges' wife as his property, the sheriff said.

Barrington said Mrs. Hodges told him her husband left Lumberton Feb. 14 enroute to Mt. Airy. The sheriff said no motive has been established and theorized that the man's body was placed in the woods after he was killed elsewhere.

Hodges, a native of Mt. Airy, had lived in Lumberton for the past three years. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

## World Day Of Prayer

### To Be Celebrated Friday

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated by Church Women United in Raeford Friday, March 4 with two services at the First Baptist Church.

The special services, scheduled at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., are being sponsored by the women of the United Methodist, Raeford Presbyterian and First Baptist churches. The Methodist church women are in charge of the program.

World Day of Prayer is an annual international observance conducted under the direction of an

international committee which designates Church Women United as the official sponsor in the United States.

This year's worship service, prepared by the women in the German Democratic Republic, reflects the hope that women will strive together to find ways, familiar and new, for 'love in action'.

World Day of Prayer is the most widely observed ecumenical celebration sponsored by Church Women United.

All faiths are invited to join

# Look Out, Bossie, And Moo-ve Over!

By Suzanne Aplin

What sells for \$1.29 a gallon, comes in a plastic gallon bottle, is a white liquid, loved by babies and drunk by children and adults? Answer -- a bottle of milk? No, the price alone prohibits it from being "milk".

However, Alfred K. Leach is preparing to market just such a substance this month, which he says is entirely equivalent in look, taste and nutrition to milk. This imitation milk will be made from a blend of vegetable oils and will be low fat and pasteurized and homo-

# Ruling Clears City In School Suit

A negligence suit filed against the City of Raeford by a motocyclist who crashed into a school crossing gate which blocked Bethel Rd. in October of 1975 was dismissed from Civil Superior Court Tuesday by Judge D.B. Herring, Jr.

According to the judgment, the case was dismissed without going to the jury on the grounds that the plaintiff, Steven H. Wilburn, "has failed, as a matter of law, to show negligence on the part of the City of Raeford, defendant."

Wilburn and his guardian, Norma H. Wilburn, had maintained originally that the Board of Education and the city were negligent by not securing back the gates after school hours. Represented by attorney William L. Senter, they argued that the chain link gates were difficult to see at night.

Wilburn hit the gate while traveling north on Bethel Rd. Oct. 13, 1975, at approximately 10:30. According to a witness who saw Wilburn shortly after the accident, Wilburn was scratched up and apparently dazed following the collision, but was able to walk home unaided. Wilburn indicated that he was knocked unconscious

for a time. Approximately \$200 damage was sustained by the 1973 Kawasaki cycle.

The Board of Education was dropped from the suit after an earlier determination that the Board does not carry liability insurance to cover accidents like this one. By law, it is immune from civil actions if it does not carry such insurance.

The judgment concluded that the plaintiff would take nothing from the defendant. Wilburn had asked for no punitive damages, but sought only remuneration for medical expenses and damages to the cycle. A total of \$5,300 was asked.

The gates, which were authorized for construction by the city council June 3, 1974, have long been a subject of controversy. Area residents have voiced complaints about the road being blocked off to through traffic during school

hours, arguing that high school students should be old enough to cross Bethel Rd. in safety.

A committee from the State Department of Public Instruction recommended in 1974 that the road be closed either permanently or during school hours for maximum student safety.

The school board obtained permission from the city to close the road between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Two other schools, both elementary units, have gates erected during school hours to close off traffic. Fifth St. behind Raeford Elementary School is closed, along with Stewart St. next to McLaughlin Elementary School.

Following the Wilburn accident last year, school officials ordered reflective tape and bolt - type locks for the fences.

## School Leaders Back

School Supt. G. Raz Autry, J.D. McAllister, assistant superintendent, and three members of the board of education returned Tuesday night from the annual convention of the National Association of

School Administrators in Las Vegas, Nev.

Accompanying the administrators on the six-day trip were board members Bobby Gibson, Bill Howell and Mina Townsend. The other two board members, Riley Jordan and Ruth McNair, did not make the trip.

This is the first year that Autry and school board members attended the convention. School board members were permitted to attend by invitation.

Autry described the convention as "one of the best meetings I've ever been to". Speakers addressing the educators included columnist Jack Anderson, Rev. Oral Roberts, Rev. Jessie Jackson, Ernest L. Boyer, the nominee for U.S. Commissioner of Education, and the presidents of the National Parent-Teacher Association and the National School Board Association.

Sessions dealt with school attendance and parental responsibility, drug abuse, the decline in SAT college entrance exam scores, laws relating to school administration and television violence and its effect on schoolchildren.

Plane fare for the five totaled \$1,625. Each was allowed \$35 per diem expenses, the maximum allowed by state law, and the delegates paid any costs above the \$35 out of their own pockets, Autry said. The four wives and Mrs. Townsend's husband went along.

(See SCHOOL LEADERS, Page 13)

## Kathy Sets Record At AAU Contest

Kathy McMillan scored a double victory last week by setting a record at the National AAU Track and Field Championships in New York and then returning to North Carolina to accept the 1976 Teague Award at the winners' banquet in Raleigh.

This is the second straight year the Olympic medalist has received the Teague Award as the Outstanding Female Athlete in North Carolina.

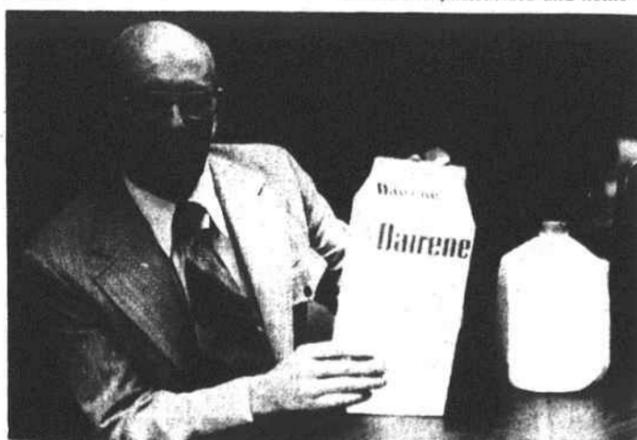
McMillan, a Tennessee State University coed, set a meet record at the Track and Field Championships in Madison Square Garden by winning the women's long jump with a 21 feet 4 1/4 inch effort. The leap exceeded the previous record of 21-2 set by California's Martha Watson in 1975. The world indoor record is held by Tatyana Schelkanova of Russia at 21-5 1/2.

The nineteen year-old McMillan, who has discarded her glasses for contact lenses, said her immediate goal is to break the world outdoor mark of 22-11 1/4 held by Siegrun Siegl of East Germany. She is aiming to go over 23 feet this year.

"She has that kind of potential," said Ed Temple, her coach at Tennessee State. "She's a hard worker, a tremendous competitor. She's a natural. The only thing a coach can do is guide her along and try to keep her healthy. Her best should be ahead of her."

The AAU competition was her last indoor meet of the year. She is skipping the United States-Soviet Union-Canada meet in Toronto March 4-5 because her schedule is too busy.

She returned to school this week for exams.



NON-DAIRY -- Alfred K. Leach displays a jug of imitation milk and an artist concept of its packaging. Farm Foods, Inc., hopes to clear all FDA and North Carolina Department of Agriculture regulations and have the new product on shelves in a 22-county test area by the end of this month. The "milk" is made from a blend of vegetable oils and will have a shelf life of 21 days. [Photo by S.H. Aplin]

genized just like the real thing.

Using, say, soybeans for milk is not really a new idea. Orientals have used it for centuries and Americans have used it as a formula substitute for allergic babies for many years. What is new, according to Leach, is the scientific breakthrough of taste control and production.

Test marketing has indicated that very few people can tell the difference in the two. Other than being economical, its advantages include a 21-day shelf life as opposed to 12 days for milk, the imitation product can be heated to a much higher heat without curdling, and it can be frozen without separating.

Farm Food, Inc., will tentatively begin offering the imitation milk product around the end of March, first of April. Farm Food, Inc. is owned by Farm Chemical, Inc., and about 35 local investors. Leach noted that production of their new product cannot begin until a number of legal and organizational problems have been worked out. And, he stressed, "no production will begin until we have been cleared by FDA and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. We are in the process of being cleared and certain portions have already passed." No name has been chosen for the product pending

investigation of use of trade names.

The imitation milk will first be offered in a 22 county test area from Asheville to Charlotte. If successful, sales will move mid-state and then to the coast. The Farm Foods goal is to market the product in five states by Jan. - Feb. of 1978.

Leach said that he does not believe that any such product is currently being offered anywhere in the U.S. Many people have formulas for a similar product, but Leach believes the Farm Food formula to be superior as a result of taste tests.

Leach noted that with special flavorings this low cost, highly nutritional drink may even find a world wide market. "Who knows," interjected Gordon Ragsdale, one of the company investors, "if people wanted it camel-flavored, we could probably do that." Leach indicated that chocolate, banana, or coconut might be more popular. "Since the product freezes uniformly, you could just put it in the freezer until it was milk shake consistency and pour," Leach said.

"We will, of course, distribute this through dairies, as they already have the necessary equipment to produce it. We will deliver the dried processed base product and the dairies will add water, homogenize, pasteurize, package and deliver. Eventually we hope to fran-

chise through three or four dairies in the state, although we are only working with one now, Arcadia Dairy in Asheville."

Leach indicated that they plan to put out 50,000 gallons during the month of March, but can gear up to 50,000 gallons per day should the demand require it. "We will probably take three to five percent of the market during the first year," he predicted.

"I think this product will replace milk during the next 20 years as the cow becomes obsolete," Leach added. He cited increased land costs for pasture and increased feed costs as responsible for the probable decline of the dairy industry.

The cost of the product is very inviting. The production of this imitation milk is much cheaper than the production of the real thing. As an example Leach said, "Take 100 pounds of soybeans to feed a cow, and, say, you get 100 gallons of milk in return. From the same amount of raw material we can produce three to four times that amount. And since we use a blend of vegetable oils, the ratio in the blend can be varied without changing the taste should we have a crop failure of one of the ingredients."

The Farm Chemical ultimate (See BOSSIE, Page 13)