

**Area Incidents**

**Gunmen Sought In Two Holdups**

Two armed robberies at outlying grocery stores were reported to sheriff's deputies in the past week. The Old Trail Grocery on U.S. 401 was held up Friday about 3:45 p.m. by a lone gunman who got approximately \$600 in cash and checks, authorities said. Sally Pate, a clerk, told deputies that a black man described as about six feet tall, approximately 175 pounds with a thin mustache and a scar under the left eye, pulled a pistol after purchasing ice cream and said, "Give me all your money". She opened the cash drawer and the robber removed the money and then demanded her pocketbook and took her money.

The gunman reportedly left the scene in a vehicle. No arrests have been made yet.

About 9:30 p.m. Friday, the Clear View Grocery on Rt. 1, Red Springs, was held up by three Indian males. Stafford Locklear, the proprietor, told deputies one of the men asked for a case of Budweiser beer and when he entered the cooler to get the beer, one of the men followed him and took a money bag kept in the cooler.

Locklear told deputies he thought two shots were fired before the trio left. Apparently the men left in a vehicle.

Authorities said approximately \$1,000 was taken in the holdup. No arrests have been made yet.

In other incidents, Lois Strother, Rt. 3, Box 229, Red Springs, notified deputies April 22 that her residence had been broken into. Listed as stolen are guns, jewelry, stereo equipment and other items worth \$1,239. Entry was gained by kicking in a back door, according to the report.

Peggy Locklear, Rt. 1, Box 48-E, Red Springs, notified deputies last Friday of the theft of a 1972 Harley Davidson motorcycle from Locklear's Grocery in Antioch. Owner of the bike, worth \$2,548, is listed as James E. Locklear, also of Rt. 1, Box 48-E, Red Springs.

William E. Willis, P.O. Box 800, reported the theft of 18 tomato plants worth \$10 from Willis Produce Market on Hwy. 211.

Lena Mae McMillian, Rt. 4, Box 283, Red Springs, reported the theft of a battery from a Ford truck parked in her yard. The battery was taken sometime during the night of April 23, according to the report. Its value is listed as \$37.22.

Alexander Cole, Rt. 2, 311 Scurlock St., complained to deputies a window in his garage was broken sometime Sunday, causing \$10 worth of damage. Investigating deputies located a three-year-old boy who admitted it, according to the report.

The Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad notified deputies that someone stole \$300 worth of railroad track in the Arabia section. The

track was taken sometime between April 4 and April 9.

Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co. reported the theft of a pay telephone at the burned-out 211 Truck Stop on Hwy. 211. The equipment, worth \$250, was discovered missing when workers came to remove it May 3.

In the city, police arrested Raymond H. Deberry, 46, of Rt. 1, Box 458, Raeford about 10 p.m. April 28 and charged him with public drunkenness, breaking into a motor vehicle and larceny. Officers J. Brown and J. Ward were called to the Raeford Oil Co. property on W. Prospect Ave. after a man was seen inside the fence. Deberry allegedly stole a battery and two tires. He was jailed to await a May 27 District Court appearance.

Police reported an undetermined amount of drugs was taken in a break-in at the office of Dr. Riley M. Jordan, 116 Campus Ave. Mrs. J.D. Soles notified police May 1. The break-in occurred sometime between 12:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, police said. Entry was apparently made by breaking the lock on a door on the west side of the building. An unknown quantity of drugs and syringes and two otoscopes are missing.

Randy Quick, P.O. Box 189, Raeford, reported the theft of his 1970 Ford Mustang. Quick told police he left the car parked with the keys in it on E. Donaldson Ave. early Sunday morning. The car, a silver two-door model bearing license number KVF 108, has not been recovered.

Betty McFadyen, 118 N. Stewart St., reported the larceny of a bicycle wheel from her residence April 26. The loss is listed at \$20.

Mrs. Judy Sheets, Rt. 1, Lot 46-C, Raeford, reported her Ford van was entered while it was parked in the Summerfield Industries lot between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. April 26. Stolen were a tape deck and tape, and spare tire and wheel, a motorcycle helmet and a bean bag chair with a total value of \$200. Police said the vehicle was left unlocked.

Gene Charlaire, 114 Birch Cir., reported to police someone entered his residence April 27 while it was left unlocked and stole \$25 from a fruit jar.

Herbert Gates, Rt. 1, Box 152, Raeford, reported the theft of two hubcaps from his vehicle which had been parked in the House of Raeford Farms lot April 29. The loss is listed at \$104.

David Baker, St. Pauls Dr., reported an apparent break-in at the Charlie Baker residence, 225 S. Main St., May 1. Apparently nothing was taken and police said juveniles are believed involved. Also on May 1, Mrs. Louise Nichols, 307 S. Main St., reported an apparent break-in at the residence of Allen Lundy, 307 S. Main St. Nothing was reported missing and police believe the same juveniles are involved.

Hugh Gardner reported someone used a key and entered a coin-operated vending machine at Hugh's Texaco Service on N. Main St. sometime over the weekend. Police said a small amount of money, if any, was stolen.

**Let Nature Tend Your Lawn - Grow A Neighborhood Prairie**

By Robert C. Radcliffe  
National Geographic News

Want to get out of doing battle with the lawn this summer?

Then ignore it, let it grow naturally, and call it a meadow, a prairie, or even a native American grassland.

The neighbors may be reluctant to share your bumper crop of dandelions and other weeds, plus the insects, birds, and even occasional rabbits and small animals likely to call it home.

But you'll be right in step with a serious trend spreading across the country, the National Geographic Society says. It is creating what might be called ecological nature preserves of basic grasslands.

Letting the grass grow naturally may be easier for big areas, such as parks and land beyond city limits, than for front yards where week ordinances more or less insist on uniform neighborly neatness.

Revising the land and saving it from erosion is the big idea behind the National Grasslands set aside by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

There are 19 grasslands covering 3.8 million acres, most in the Great Plains states where the prairie grass was largely eradicated by "the plow that tamed the West" and overgrazing by cattle and sheep. Thus these wide open spaces were made devastatingly susceptible to drought and wind erosion, the combination producing the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

Since then much of the region has become the world's richest breadbasket of wheat, corn, and soybeans, though drought again threatens the land.

The National Grasslands are remnants of the 250 million acres that stretched from Indiana to the Rockies, from Saskatoon in central Canada into Texas.

But throughout a number of states miniature prairie patches are being staked out by conservation groups, universities, even farmers.

They may be sodbusters' graveyards of a century or more ago, or stretches of railroad rights of way, or rocky slopes not worth plowing when waving grass beckoned all the way to the horizon.

Wherever they have been burned over fairly regularly, as railroaders did to keep down the weeds along

the tracks, the fire has killed or kept controlled such prairie immigrants as ragweed, bluegrass, Queen Anne's lace, and foxtail. With roots reaching down perhaps a dozen or more feet, the perennial grasses and wildflowers native to the plains have survived, like big bluestem, or turkey foot, and Indian Grass.

Tough times face fans of subdivision prairies, some even purposefully planted with still-hard-to-find prairie seeds.

Back to - nature homeowners

are trying to defend their yards -- with some success -- against firefighters claiming weeds are a fire hazard; health departments' belief that tall grass may breed mosquitoes, rats, or hay fever pollen; and city councils' arguments that overgrown yards attract trash dumpers.

Meanwhile, offended members of the neighborhood lawn mower brigade may find no comfort in the words of Fred Allen: "If the grass is greener in the other fellow's yard -- let him worry about cutting it."

Remember

Mother's Day  
May 8



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<b>FULL BARBECUE DINNER</b> \$1.79 FULL MEAL	<b>CHICKEN or BARBECUE</b> Try A Combination \$1.99 SMALL \$2.49 LARGE
<b>FILET OF FLOUNDER</b> ALL YOU CAN EAT \$1.99 FULL MEAL 5 TH 8:30 P.M. All Day Fri.	<b>8-PC. TUB OF GOLDEN FRIED CHICKEN</b> (with all the trimmings) \$4.49 feeds 4

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11:30 until 2:30

**HOURS: 11:00 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.**  
Mon. thru Sat.  
Catering Service Available For Any Occasion

**Police Charge Doctor**

Raeford physician Riley M. Jordan, who was charged by the N.C. Board of Medical Examiners last June with excessive use of alcohol, was arrested April 26 and

**Chamber Banquet May 16**

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce board of directors reminded members and guests of the upcoming annual meeting on May 16 in the Gibson cafeteria at the high school.

Dinner reservations must be called in to the Chamber office now at 875-2179.

Guest speaker will be Hector MacLean, chairman of the board of Southern National Bank. Entertainment will be furnished by the Hoke High Chorale.

Also, members are urged to return their ballots for new directors by 5 p.m. Friday, May 6 to the Chamber office.

**Two Held In Killing**

Two men were jailed on charges of manslaughter by Hoke County authorities following the shooting death of a Robbins Heights man Friday night.

Lavern Freeman, 18, was dead on arrival at Cape Fear Valley Hospital after he was felled by gunfire in a nightspot on U.S. 401 bypass near the Airport Road. Hoke Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

Barrington identified the suspects in custody as Willie E. Buie, 23, of Rt. 1, Raeford, and Howard Adams, 18, of 510 W. Sixth St., Raeford. Both were jailed under \$25,000 bonds.

Several other persons were booked as material witnesses and jailed under \$25,000 bonds over the weekend. They were later released, according to jail records.

Barrington indicated that Buie and Adams were apparently scuffling over a pistol when the weapon discharged.

**Man Killed**

A Hoke County man died Sunday in Robeson County from a shotgun blast to the head.

Robeson County Sheriff's Deputy D.A. Parnell reported that Earl Lee Locklear (alias Mantaree), of Hoke County was driving a pickup truck down a rural paved road leading from Hoke County into Robeson County when the tragedy occurred. The deputy indicated that the shotgun pellets had been fired from inside the cab of the truck.

David Earl Brewer, 16, an employee of Wilson Tree Co., was arrested shortly after the incident and charged with murder. He was apprehended at his home about a half mile from the scene of the shooting.

A preliminary hearing date has been set for May 17 in District Court in Red Springs.

charged with drunken driving by police here.

Police Chief V.L. Wiggins said he arrested Jordan about 7:55 p.m. while Jordan was driving on Campus Ave. near his office. Wiggins charged him with driving under the influence (second offense). According to records, Jordan was convicted of DUI Aug. 26, 1975 in Shalotte.

Jordan was released under personal recognizance and a May 27 District Court appearance was scheduled. However, a spokesman at his office said Jordan was out of town and would not return until June 1.

**Hospital Open House Set May 11**

The special "open house" at McCain Sanatorium will be held May 11 for the public to have a chance to view the hospital.

A tour of the facility will begin at 11 a.m. There will also be a short program presented on the hospital.

Lunch, at a cost of \$2 per person, will be available. Reservations are necessary and should be made through the hospital office at 875-4188.

Individuals and groups who do not wish to stay for the lunch may still take the tour.

For more information, contact the hospital or patients services committeewoman Mrs. Richard Neeley at 875-2523.

**Raeford Jaycees**  
proudly presents **KIDDIE CARNIVAL** of **RIDES**

**THRILLS! RIDES! FOR EVERYONE**  
For Mamas - For Papas  
For Children - For Toddlers  
And New Thrill Ride For Teenagers!

**LOCATED Next To Armory**  
**ALL NEXT WEEK 3:00 P.M.**  
**Saturday 1:00 P.M.**  
Participating Raeford Merchants Will Be Giving Free Discount Tickets!

**BRING THE FAMILY... JOIN THE FUN!**

**COUPON**  
This Coupon Good For 1 FREE RIDE on the Merry-Go-Round Mon. - Tues. - Wed. Courtesy of Raeford Merchants Don't Miss It!

**AN OPEN LETTER**

To the Hoke County Superintendent of Public Instruction and the members of the Hoke County Board of Education

from  
Citizens who support the concept that our school system is the single-most important institution in this county.

"We know that there are citizens of Hoke County who, regardless of their feelings about individuals involved, would like to know more about the 27 April decision to move Allen Edwards to Upchurch Junior High School and to move Earl Oxendine from Upchurch Junior High School to the High School for one year. We are, therefore, requesting responses to the following questions:

- Why is it necessary to disrupt the administration of two schools when it appears that the situation could have been dealt with at the high school?
- Was any analysis conducted to determine the additional cost of this action to the taxpayers and the means of raising the additional funds?
- Has a determination been made as to the impacts on the morale and well-being of over 2,000 students and over 100 teachers and what measures will be taken to minimize such impacts?
- What procedures are in fact used to evaluate all principals? Have these procedures been followed consistently over the past three years?
- How do you plan to counter the perception that Upchurch Junior High School is the ideal place to assign principals who "need time to mature and grow"?

If you would be so kind as to provide answers or comments to this letter through this same medium, this same space will be made available whenever needed in the next 4 weeks.

**Walter R. Coker**

A citizen in support of education in Hoke County

Paid for by Gerald Sappenfield, treasurer, citizen in support of education in Hoke County.