

**Area Incidents**

# Police Investigate Rape

Local police received a call at 4:15 a.m. Jan. 2 from a woman here who said she had been raped. According to reports, she told police that her home was broken into by an unknown intruder who molested her.

The woman was not otherwise injured by her attacker, police said. The incident is under investigation.

Police report that a complaint was received from Gary Mouney on Jan. 1 at 2:45 p.m. Mouney told police that someone had removed two bags of coal from Hoke Concrete Works on Wilmuth Ave. The value was estimated at \$9 and the matter is still under investigation.

Alberta Adams, 510 W. 6th Ave., Raeford, reported to police Dec. 28 that someone had removed a Midland C.B. radio from her locked car. She told police that the car was still locked when she discovered the theft. The value of the radio is unknown.

Deputies have investigated a number of thefts in the county in the last week.

Reginald Lydell McRae, 20, Rt. 1, Raeford, was charged with breaking and entering and larceny in connection with the Dec. 24 theft of an automobile transmission from a garage on Rt. 3, deputies said. The transmission belonged to Earnest Black of Red Springs and was in an old school bus that was used for storage. Deputies said the value of the transmission was estimated at \$145.

On Dec. 30, the theft of a black and white television, worth \$125, was reported at the Rt. 1, Raeford mobile home of Alan King. Deputies said the thieves gained entry into the home through a front window.

The theft of a \$6,000 automobile was reported to deputies on Jan. 1. Pegin Johnson of Elizabethtown told deputies that he was cutting pulpwood in the woods off Rural Paved Road 1003 at the time of the theft. He carried off a load of wood in another vehicle, and his car was missing when he returned, according to a report. He told deputies he

later saw the vehicle in Fayetteville. It was a 1975 Montecarlo with license plate JDA-888.

The Department of Transportation building on Rt. 3 here was again the target of thieves who broke the lock on the rear gate Dec. 30 and stole about \$13 in money and drink bottles from snack machines in the building, deputies said.

Items valued at \$860 were taken from a mobile home on Rt. 1, Raeford on Dec. 24. Deputies said the trailer belonged to Kay Martin, and among the items missing were: a dog house, two air-conditioners, a tape player and speakers, and a record player and speakers.

A .22 caliber automatic and a small amount of cash were taken from the mobile home of George Hollingsworth, Sr. on Dec. 31, deputies said. The home is located on U.S. 401 north. Thieves did \$5 damage to a screen when gaining entry to the home, deputies said.

Items stolen from Willis Produce Market on Highway 211 east were recovered on the night of Jan. 2 in the woods behind the market, deputies said. A deputy on patrol discovered the break-in not long after it had occurred, and the thieves apparently left the merchandise in the woods in their haste to escape. In all, about \$14 in beer, cigarettes and meat was involved, the report said.

## Fatalities Continue To Decline

Traffic fatalities for last year totaled four in the county and one in the city. This figure represents a decline of over 50 per cent since last year.

Eleven persons were killed on Hoke County highways during 1976, with three of those deaths occurring in the city and eight outside city limits. The 1977 total is the lowest number of traffic fatalities in a least ten years.

The following accidents claimed lives during 1977:

An accident that occurred Jan. 3, 1977 resulted in the death of Mamie Smith, 62, of Maxton. She died Jan. 23 from injuries sustained when the car in which she was a passenger went out of control on an icy bridge on the Scotland-Hoke County line on Highway 15-501.

William Rashaan McEachern, 6, Rt. 1, Box 656, Red Springs, died Apr. 13 on a rural road when he darted in front of an on-coming car.

Clester Oxendine, 62, Rt. 1, Box 60, Cameron, was killed instantly in an accident on Highway 211 Sept. 9 six miles west of Raeford. The pick-up truck he was driving skidded on a rain-slick highway and collided with a car driven by Brian C. Whitaker, 25, Greensboro. Catherine Blue, 72, of 214 W. Prospect Avenue, Raeford, was also seriously injured in the wreck.

A Raeford man was struck and killed while checking under the hood of his stalled vehicle Oct. 16 at 7:10 a.m. Jerry Gordon McRae, 23, Rt. 3 Box 519, Raeford, was killed when John Mac Sellars, 44, of College Park, Md., swerved to avoid an on-coming car in his lane.

The fifth fatality occurred when Linda Louise Culberth, 63, of 215 E. Burke St., Dunn, failed to stop for a stop sign and was hit by a Department of Transportation truck driven by Bryce Newton Owen, 56, Box 513, Robbins.

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**DESERTED** -- Downtown Raeford looked a bit like a ghost town Monday as many businesses and offices were closed for the New Year holiday.

## Farm Bureau Recommends Tobacco Allotment Option

The North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation has recommended that flue-cured tobacco growers be given the option in 1978 of planting up to 110 percent of their acreage allotment if they agree not to harvest the bottom four leaves.

"The other alternative," according to John Sledge, Farm Bureau president, "would be for growers to plant 100 percent of their allotment and harvest all leaves produced."

The Farm Bureau action, recommended by the organization's Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee, and approved by the board of directors meeting in Raleigh on last Thursday, came in response to the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Task Force recommendations modifying the price support eligibility provisions for flue-cured tobacco.

"While concurring with the need to make some positive changes to reduce the amount of lower stalk tobacco under loan and improve our export sales," Sledge said, "the tobacco committee and board of directors felt that 110 percent of acreage allotments would be adequate and would provide sufficient incentive to growers to participate in the program."

He indicated there was strong committee sentiment that strict enforcement and compliance would be necessary for such a program to be successful.

Sledge said it was the Farm Bureau's belief that USDA's proposal permitting the planting of 120 percent of allotment could result in overproduction and the possibility of marketing abuses.

Under the proposed USDA change, which will be published in the *Federal Register*, growers could plant up to 120 percent of the farm acreage allotment and receive price support if they agree not to harvest the four lower leaves of each stalk. Producers who do not agree must plant no more than 100 percent of their allotments to be eligible for price support.



Allen Dossenbach

## Jaycees Induct Five

The Raeford Jaycees held their fourth orientation of the Jaycee year, inducting five new members into the organization Monday.

Alan Dossenbach, district director for district "D", led the orientation ceremony and swore in the newest members of the Raeford Jaycees bringing the total member-

ship count to 51. On May first, 1977, the Raeford Jaycees had a total of 23 members on the roster.

The members inducted in the orientation ceremony were: John Nixon, Kenneth Weston, Charles Davis Jr., Larry Calloway, and John Blanchard.

## Social Security Promise Renewed

The thousands of people in the Fayetteville area who get social security benefits have a renewed promise from the Federal Government that those monthly checks will keep coming in the months and years ahead, Lawton Rogers, social security assistant district manager in Fayetteville, said in a special release.

New legislation will provide additional income to assure the financial stability of the social security system well into the next century. The added revenues will come from increases in both the

social security tax rate and the "wage base" -- the maximum earnings on which the social security taxes are collected in a year.

"Nobody likes to see taxes go up," said Rogers, "but the new revenues offer solid reassurance to the 34 million people in this country who are getting social security checks now. Their payments simply could not have continued beyond the next few years without additional income to the system."

On wages of \$10,000 a year, the social security tax bill will be \$605 in 1978 -- only \$20 more than the \$585 payable on the same income this year 1977. In 1979 and 1980, the social security tax on \$10,000 in earnings will be \$613.

The tax burden will be heavier on those in higher wage brackets because more of their income will be taxable for social security BUT their benefits will also be higher because they will be figured on a higher average. These increases also go to make up the deficits that have been incurred in the past few years where new benefit categories were added to the program, such as disabled widows ages 50 to 60, student's benefits ages 18 to 22, etc.

Other changes to the social security program will be covered in future articles in this newspaper.

In September 1977, the average daily patient census in VA hospitals was 74,435 persons, the Veterans Administration reported.

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