

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

There have been no tropical trade winds in Hoke County for the past week. It has been hot and it is almost too hot to play golf. The forecast is for rain and maybe this will cool things off.

The markings in the parking lot are helpful and if some people would get glasses so they could see the arrows on the pavement it would make it safer for all concerned.

According to Graham Clark, chairman of the Battery "F" reunion, letters have been mailed to most of the former members. In the letter it is requested that an answer be sent in by August 12th. This is important, so that reservations can be made by the committee that is going that weekend to Fort Moultrie, S.C.

So if you are planning to attend, please sign your letter and return it to Graham Clark.

While I was away on vacation a letter arrived at the office from Anne MacDonald, local student, who is attending Governor's School in Winston-Salem. She was thanking us for *The News Journal* which we usually send to the students from Hoke County that attend this school.

She says she enjoys the paper because she can read about Raeford "even if I can't be there." Glad you are enjoying school and hope you will always keep the paper as part of your reading life.

Sam Noble was by the office last week and invited me to attend his swearing in ceremony in Lumberton last Friday. I told him that a trip still had me too tired to go anywhere. Some from here did go and stated that Noble referred to his appointment as being from Hoke and Robeson Counties.

Let's just hope that Sam will not forget the Hoke votes when he gets to Raleigh.

Most of you readers thought that I wouldn't mention my trip to Hawaii in this week's column. Well this is what I told my wife coming back on the plane, but something happened that caused me to change my mind.

It occurred to me that I could save time and not have to write about my trip by taking a trip to the barber shop and killing two birds with one stone. After two weeks away from Raeford my hair needed cutting and while getting my hair cut the details of my trip could be relayed to Stanley Koonce and he would then tell it to others and it would be passed along this way.

But lo and behold this method of saving time didn't work. After about two sentences about my trip to Hawaii, Stanley started in and told me about his trip again. So maybe I should get a few things in writing about my trip before things get mixed up with his trip.

All kidding aside, Mary Alice and I had a wonderful time and would hope that everyone could at some time go to the 50th state. The people are friendly and of course the tourist is the number one business there.

As was stated here last week the trip over was nice and the trip back was the same and besides being tired everything worked for the best.

The island of Oahu where Honolulu and Waikiki are located is becoming more and more like the other states today. Everywhere you look, traffic is bumper to bumper and high-rise hotels and shopping centers cover most of the land. So let's hope that the rest of this island and the other islands are not destroyed by the money hungry people.

If you are planning a trip you can forget about coats and ties, because they don't use them over there. We did see one group that was dressed in long dresses and coats and ties, but they must have been in a convention group.

We were with a tour group and it may have cost a little more, but they had so many things arranged and transportation set up that we

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Prospects Good For Tobacco

Armed Robbery Nets \$600

by Cassie Wasko

An armed robbery netted slightly over \$600 in cash in a grocery store heist here Monday, but no one was injured.

A lone black male held up Caddell's Grocery and took about \$400 in Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) collections and close to \$200 in money from the grocery store cash register.

Just Another Monday

Proprietors George and Helen Caddell thought it was just another Monday morning as they attended to business and visited with customers from the railroad in their small store on Stewart Street. Around 11 a.m., as a railroad employee opened the side door of the store to leave, a lone black male entered.

Caddell said the other customers left the store shortly after the man came in. Caddell is a representative for EMC and was taking a payment at the cash register he uses for REA collections.

"I heard a noise, and when I looked up, a gun was pointing in my face," Caddell said.

Wasn't Kidding

It was a short revolver, he later told police. He was instructed to hand over the money.

"You're kidding," Caddell told the robber.

"No, I'm not," the man responded.

Caddell said he flung the money into the air, scattering it on the floor. The man then instructed him and his wife to lie on the floor while he picked up the cash. He went behind another counter and took money from the store cash register.

"He stepped right over us," said Caddell.

Money taken from the REA register was insured, although Caddell's money was not.

The man instructed Caddell and his wife to remain on the floor. "He said if we got up, it could be bad," Caddell said. He then fled.

About 10 Minutes

The whole incident happened



ROBBERY -- A robbery by a lone gunman at Caddell's Grocery Monday morning resulted in the loss of about \$600. No one was injured, and police investigations into the robbery are continuing.

within about 10 or 15 minutes. A customer leaving the store heard Caddell raise his voice when the trouble started, suspected that something was wrong, and called for police aid.

Major J.C. Barrington of the Raeford Police Department said they received the call at 11:10 a.m. Police investigation into the incident is continuing.

Miller To Succeed Williams At Bank

Gene Miller, assistant vice-president, has been promoted to city executive officer at the Raeford Southern National Bank to succeed Freddie Williams, who has resigned.

The change in personnel at the local bank was announced this week by Al Critchett, assistant vice-president and public relations officer at the bank's main office in Lumberton.

Critchett said Williams gave no reason for his resignation, which was submitted last week.

"This was a decision he decided to make," Critchett said.

Miller joined Southern National Bank in 1972 in the management training program in Lumberton. He became Lumberton branch collections manager in 1972 and

Sam Noble Sworn In As State Senator

Sam R. Noble, a 50-year-old Lumberton insurance man and chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, was sworn in last Friday by Gov. Jim Hunt to fill the unexpired term of state Sen. Luther Britt, Jr.

Britt died July 23 following a severe heart attack. He was seeking his fourth term as a senator representing Hoke and Robeson counties.

Noble was also appointed to have his name placed on the November ballot for the seat. He has no Republican opposition. A member of the county commission for 10 years, he served as its chairman for six. The ceremonies last Friday took place in Lumberton.

Jobless Rate Drops

Unemployment in Hoke County dropped one-tenth of one percent during the month of June, according to figures recently released by the Employment Security Commission.

Of the estimated 8,830 workers in Hoke County, approximately 870 were unemployed, leaving the Hoke unemployment rate at 9.9 percent, compared with a rate of 10 percent in June.

State-wide, unemployment climbed from 3.8 percent in May to 3.9 percent in June.

School Supervisor Maynor Withdraws Resignation

A supervisor with the Hoke County Schools whose resignation prompted a special session of the Hoke Board of Education last Thursday has withdrawn his resignation.

The board had delayed a decision on replacing Roy Maynor, supervisor of instruction, in the Thursday night session. Superintendent of Schools Raz G. Autry announced Monday morning that Maynor had elected to remain in the \$18,260 per year post.

He explained that Maynor decided Friday to alter his plans. "Roy and I sat down and talked it over Friday afternoon. He's committed to education in this county," Autry said.

He explained that he thought Maynor's decision to stay was influenced by numerous teachers and office personnel that had talked with him since his resignation was announced last week.

"The decision was a last-minute thing," Maynor said. "We worked on some things that were bothering me, and I decided to stay," he continued.

Autry had recommended that Gloria Williams, Hoke High guidance counselor, replace Maynor in the supervisory post.

Although the Thursday night session had been called to determine a replacement for Maynor, the board delayed its decision because of concern over the high school administrative staff if Mrs. Williams were not present at the high school next year.

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Tobacco, which brings \$5 million into Hoke County annually, could be headed for one of its best seasons on record, as far as prices are concerned.

A record high of \$155 per hundredweight was reported in Lumberton last week on the opening day of the Border Belt, and experts are saying prices should average about \$30 to \$40 higher than last year on the Eastern Belt, North Carolina's largest tobacco marketing area, which opened Tuesday.

"Hoke farmers seem to be generally impressed with the prices," said Agriculture Extension Chairman Wendell Young. "The ones who have sold on the Border Belt seem to be impressed with the quality and the price. Very little is going to Stabilization. Apparently many farmers have left the lower leaves in the field."

Despite record prices, farmers point out that the cost of production is eating up much of the profits from high sales.

"The cost of production is up 10 to 12 percent over last year," Young said. "Fertilizer is running about the same, but the chemicals are awfully high. The biggest cost is labor. With the increase in the minimum wage, the cost of labor is way up."

The extension chairman said some farmers are finding ways to cut down on the cost of production.

"I talked to a farmer who has about 100 acres of tobacco. He said he has been scouting his field, checking a little closer than usual for worms, and he has been able to miss one spraying--at a savings of \$1,200. Other growers are doing the same thing."

Between 2,500 and 2,600 acres of tobacco are growing in Hoke County, for an income of about \$5 million, Young said. He said local growers are selling their leaf in Aberdeen, Lumberton, Chadbourn, Whiteville, and a few are even going to South Carolina.

The Eastern Belt, which includes Aberdeen, Carthage, Sanford, and other area markets, opened Tuesday. Next week the Middle Belt will open, and the week after that, all the remaining markets in North Carolina and Virginia will be open. The Fayetteville Tobacco Market is set to open at 9 a.m. Thursday.

Young said that about one fourth of the Hoke County crop is in now.

"We're running a week to 10 days behind now. Four or five farmers in the county have harvested their fields twice, but most have harvested only once. The yield is running about average for the county--1,950 pounds per acre. That or a little better. Tobacco should bring in more than \$5 million this year. The season looks good so far. But a lot can happen--hail or other damaging weather. You really have to guess at it at this point."

John H. Cyrus, chief of the field crops section of the state Agriculture Department, said Eastern Belt prices should open "pretty much in line on a grade basis" with the Border Belt.

He said it appears that about half the farmers marketing on the Eastern Belt have left the bottom four leaves of the plant in the field, producing a cleaner crop.

"I know in the Border Belt most growers left the bottom four leaves and it made a difference. It looked like the second week of sales (opening day). It was brighter, cleaner leaf with no sand," Cyrus said.

The average price in the first two days on the Border Belt was \$38.79 per hundred pounds over the first two days of last year. South Carolina markets sold 7.48 million pounds of tobacco last Wednesday and Thursday at an average price of \$124.28 per hundred.

North Carolina produces 43 percent of all U.S. tobacco, and even in a poor year like 1977, when drought damaged much of the crop, tobacco was easily the leading money crop for the 270,000 North Carolinians engaged in its production. Another 28,000 Tar Heels are employed in the manufacture of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

North Carolina tobacco had its best year in history in 1976 when sales of flue-cured and burley tobacco totaled just under the billion-dollar mark. If expectations for this year's crop are met, tobacco sales could surpass that mark.

\$16,000 Raised Here For Boy Scout Camp

Over \$16,000 has been raised in Hoke County for the Boy Scout camp development campaign, according to Lewis Upchurch, local special gifts chairman.

Scouting officials said this week they plan to complete the \$1.07 million drive this month. A goal of \$20,000 has been set for Hoke County.

The campaign, being conducted under the slogan "What Happens to a Boy . . . Is Forever," will provide funds to purchase and develop a new 583-acre Scout Reservation in Bladen County.

The new camp will also be used for Order of the Arrow and Explorer programs, as well as overnight campsite and picnic facilities for Cubs and their families.

that position and make it sort of a package deal," Gibson said.

Autry told the board members that he needed a decision because Mrs. Williams knew the board would be voting on the matter Thursday night.

Board member Riley Jordan told the board he did not believe Mrs. Williams should have been told she was being considered for the post.

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Harold Wells, council president, praised campaign leaders throughout the area for their efforts.

"We waited a long time for just the right property for the new Scout Camp," he said. "We were a little apprehensive that the timing might not be just right, but the business, parents and friends of scouting have shown that any time is the right time when you've done your best and proven your services to our young people. We really appreciate the support we've gotten. Scouting will be able to do an even better job when the drive is successful."

To date, the campaign has commitments for \$925,000. That means the drive is short of its minimum goal by \$145,000. Those who would like to contribute are urged to contact Lewis Upchurch.