

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather has finally settled down and the real winter is with us. It has been cold for a week now and the forecast is for the same for the remainder of the week.

With the television and radio the weather doesn't surprise us as much as it did before these gadgets were invented. You go home at night and listen for what tomorrow's weather will be and then you can listen at the morning meal to see if the forecast was correct as what changes are in store for the day.

The other day a group of us were talking about snow and the big snows that we remembered. The snow of 1927 was the deepest I can recall being in Hoke County. It was over two feet deep and it stopped about everything in the community for a few days. We didn't have any weather reports to tell us to prepare for a two-foot snow.

Of course people didn't depend upon the super market for their food. The smokehouse was near and the cows and chickens provided milk and eggs for each family. Almost everyone had chickens in their backyards.

This was before the days of central heat and the fuel oil truck. In fact there were few trucks around at that time. I remember that the first movement in the Laurinburg highway was the wagon from Lester's Dairy delivering milk late in the afternoon.

We had cut walkways through the snow to the smokehouse and the woodpile. Then to the chicken house and later on to the hog pens. It snowed for about two days and things were at a standstill.

About every big snow that has occurred in my lifetime came unexpected. I would go to bed at night and wake up the next morning to find a few inches of snow on the ground.

So all you folks that listen to the weather reports, just wait until they forecast no snow and maybe you can wake up and find your snow the next morning. I did say YOUR snow, not mine.

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This is the first month in a long time that I haven't hit a golf ball. It seems that every weekend is too rough to play. The last time I was on the course was December 31.

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Congratulations to Dr. Marcus R. Smith on being named "Man of the Year" for 1978. Having been associated with Dr. Smith in church work for many years, it couldn't have happened to a more deserving person.

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Elsewhere in the paper is an article concerning employment in Hoke County. It was just a few months ago that Summerfield closed and the unemployment rate in Hoke County was one of the highest in the state. According to the latest figures, this has dropped and has been dropping for the past few months. Let's hope that the rate will continue in this path.

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The games of the Hoke High Bucks' basketball team is just like the games of the ACC when it comes to thrillers. They lost a close one to Lee County last week and of course you remember the seven overtime periods game in the tournament in Raleigh. This type of game is not good for people with heart trouble. So maybe the coaches should let them continue to shoot rather than slow the game down and wait for the last shot.

Now if this was true, I would be coaching, rather than sitting here trying to fill a column.

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Robert Gatlin was by the office the other day and we were talking about the Raeford Kiwanis Club and that this year marked the 55th year since its charter night in 1924. In recalling the charter members, from a program that Gatlin had, we found that the third generation was in the club in two different families.

J.C. Thomas, Crawford Thomas and Crawford Thomas, Jr. make up one and D.S. Poole, W.L. Poole and W.L. Poole, Jr. compose the other.

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## From January To December 1978

# Jobless Rate Dropped To 7.2 Percent



## Raeford Jaycees Present Awards

The Raeford Jaycees last week honored two organizations and two men and a woman judged as outstanding in their field in Hoke County.

The awards were announced and presented the night of January 24 at the Jaycees' Distinguished Services Awards banquet at the Little Whale restaurant.

Tom Pilkington, a state wildlife enforcement officer, was honored as the Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Officer.

Bobby Strother of Raeford received the award of Outstanding Young Farmer.

Teresa Mills was presented the award of Outstanding Young Educator.

The award of Jaycee of the Quarter went to Ricky Sandy.

The Hoke County Rescue Squad and *The News-Journal* were honored for their services. Johnny Nichols received the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the rescue squad, and reporter Bill Lindau, for the newspaper. The Americal Press Certificate of Appreciation was awarded *The News-Journal* for its service in communications.

The Distinguished Service Award was given to the Hoke County Rescue Squad as a whole, because the members of the squad felt it would be more appropriate than giving it to a member of the squad, and the Jaycees agreed with them. The members of the squad expressed their preference as a group after being asked by a Jaycees representative to select a member of the squad to be given the DSA honor.

Jaycees President Ken Koonce presented the award to Sandy. Mike Melton made the presentation to Nichols, David Allen gave the plaque to Lindau.

The law - enforcement officer plaque was presented by Jaycees Secretary Tommy Connell.

Mrs. Mills received her award from her husband, Jaycee Wayne Mills.

Larry Calloway made the presentation to Strother.

Sandy is a state director of the Jaycees and served as chairman for the local organization's 1978 Haunted House for Halloween.

He is in his third year with the Jaycees and also is active in church work.

He is married to the former Brenda Conoly of Raeford.

In business, he owns and operates a Raeford radiator shop.

The guest speaker was 1977-78 Raeford Jaycees President Burnett Coleman. He described leadership "winner" techniques.

He was accompanied to the dinner meeting by his wife, Mary. Coleman is on the staff of Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co. at Fair Bluff.

During his presidency, the Raeford Jaycees' first Miss Raeford Pageant was held, and the organization's membership rose to 65 from 23.

For service to the Jaycees while in Raeford, Coleman was awarded a Jaycees International Senatorship, the Faith in God Award, and a Life membership in the Raeford Jaycees.

Koonce presided over the meeting.

The annual awards banquet was one of the programs held by the local Jaycees in observance of national Jaycee Week.

## Dupree Trial Thursday; Burlington Judge Assigned

District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree of Raeford is scheduled to be tried in Raeford Thursday on a charge of driving under the influence.

District Court Judge Thomas D. Cooper of Burlington will preside by special appointment over the trial, which is scheduled to be heard in Hoke County District Court.

Chief District Judge D.S. Carter of Fayetteville reported as saying Monday that he planned to return Dupree to the bench for District Court criminal terms, regardless of the result of Thursday's trial, unless State Supreme Court Chief Justice Susie Sharp told him not to.

Cooper's appointment to the Hoke court session was made by Miss Sharp.

Miss Sharp suspended Dupree

January 15 from his court duty till his case was disposed of. Dupree was charged after the car he was driving hit the rear of a pickup on U.S. 401 about eight miles north of Raeford the night of January 11, the State Highway Patrol has reported. No one was injured, the report said.

Cooper's regular court duties are in a district outside the one which Dupree serves, the Cumberland - Hoke counties' 12th. Carter said after Dupree was charged that he would ask the assignment of a judge from outside the district to Dupree's trial.

Dupree has been serving as a District Court judge since 1966, the first year the new court system was established.

He is a retired state highway patrolman.

## Hoke County Man Of The Year

# Dr. Smith Given Kiwanis Award

Dr. Marcus Raynor Smith, a retired Raeford dentist, received the Raeford Kiwanis Club's 1978 Kiwanis Hoke County Citizenship Man of the Year Award Saturday night.

Dr. Smith was announced as the club's choice for the award and was presented with the cup symbolic of the honor by Harold Gillis during the club's annual Ladies' Night dinner, held in the Southern Pines Elks Lodge. The program also commemorated the club's 55th anniversary.

The club was presented its charter February 22, 1924, at a Charter Night dinner meeting, only nine years, a month and a day after Kiwanis International itself was founded. It is Hoke County's oldest civic organization and has 45 members.

During the program also Wilton Wood was presented by Gene Carter the award for having given the club the program judged as the best at the weekly dinner meetings

of the past year. The program was an address by Roy Parker Jr., editor of *The Fayetteville Times*.

The Kiwanians and their wives and other guests were informed that club President Frank Crumpler would run for the district's lieutenant - governor - elect, who will be chosen April 19 at a Governor's Visit meeting in Raleigh. This was reported by District Four Lt. Gov. Bob Womble of Buie's Creek.

Robert Gatlin told the audience that "at an appropriate time" he would present Mrs. Jeanette Jordan, an award for her husband, the late Dr. Julius F. Jordan, for 26 years of attendance at the club's meetings.

Dr. Jordan died the morning of January 22.

Gatlin praised Dr. Jordan and said he would be missed.

Other attendance awards were presented by Avery Connell.

Soon after Gillis presented the Citizenship Award to Dr. Smith.



RESCUE SQUAD HONORED -- The Raeford Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award was presented to the Hoke County Rescue Squad last week. Mike Melton (L) made the presentation for the Jaycees to Johnny Nichols (R), who accepted it for the Rescue Squad.

## Gas Poisoning Apparent Cause Of Two Deaths

Two people were found dead about 5:45 p.m. Saturday, apparently of carbon monoxide gas poisoning, in a car parked in woods off Philippi Church Road about six miles east of Raeford.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Department reported the victims were Marjorie Bryant, 23, of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge, and James Quincy Hardee, Jr., 18, of Rt. 2, Raeford.

Dr. Robert G. Townsend of Raeford, a Hoke County medical examiner, said death was caused apparently some time Friday night by carbon monoxide poisoning.

An autopsy performed later by the state medical examiner's staff in Chapel Hill "indicated death by carbon monoxide poisoning -- nothing else," Sheriff D.M. Barrington said this week after receiving by telephone a report of the findings of the autopsy.

The tragedy was discovered by Ms. Bryant's brother and James Hendrix, a farmer he works for, the sheriff's department reported. The woods in which the car was parked are near Hendrix's home.

Ms. Bryant and Hardee were employed by Tar Heel Hatchery and were last seen alive leaving work together shortly after 5 p.m. Friday, the Sheriff's Department reported.

The bodies were taken to Dr. Townsend's office for examination

to determine the cause of the deaths.

Ms. Bryant is survived by her father, Edger Bryant of Lumber Bridge; her sisters, Mrs. Polly Ann Jones, Mrs. Diane Jacobs and Mrs. Catherine Jacobs, all of Raeford; her brothers, James and Paul Bryant of Fayetteville, and Joseph, Reid, Amos and Ronald Bryant, all of Raeford; and her half brothers, Stephen, Timmy, Jeremiah, Jonah, John and Earl Bryant, all of the home.

The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Trinity House of Prayer by the Revs. Stafford Henderson, Doug Maynor and Herbert Chavis. Burial was in Galilee Church cemetery.

Mr. Hardee is survived by his father, James O. Hardee of Hope Mills; his mother, Mrs. Sauls Hardee of the home; his sisters, Mrs. Nadine Holland and Mrs. Patricia Shattock of Fayetteville, Mrs. Geraldine Furgame of La-Duente, Calif., and Mrs. Lou Leavitt of Downer, Calif.; and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Hardee of Hope Mills.

The funeral service was scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday in Hamilton-Porter Funeral Home in Hope Mills, and burial in Big Rockfish Presbyterian Church cemetery.

Unemployment has declined during 1978 from a high of 12.2 percent last January to a low of 7.2 in December, according to figures recently released from the State Employment Security Commission.

In 1977, the unemployment rate climbed from 7.5 percent in November to 11 percent in December. The 1978 figure for December represents an almost 4 percent decrease from the previous year.

Statewide, unemployment stands at 4.1 percent for December, the figures said. This is an increase over the November rate of 3.7 percent. Nationwide, the unadjusted rate is 5.6 percent.

Stephen W. Benkosky of the local Employment Security Commission, said he would attribute most of the decline in December's rate to ex-Summerfield employees finding new employment.

"As their period of eligibility (for unemployment payments) ran out, they gave up hope of being called back to work and found jobs outside of the county," he said.

Fewer people are signing up for unemployment now, Benkosky said. He also said he is expecting a continued decline in the rate, "barring any unusual circumstances."

Reviewing the 1978 figures, unemployment hit its highest mark in January while February showed a decline to 8.9 percent. Unemployment began to increase again in March with a rate of 11.1 percent.

For the next three months, employment here increased and a drop in the figures was noted. April's unemployment was at 11.3 percent, May was 10 percent and June 9.9 percent.

July recorded another increase in the rate with an 11.2 percentage figure and the last five months of the year showed a steady decline with 9.5 percent in August, 8.3 percent in September, 7.9 in October, 7.5 in November and 7.2 in December.

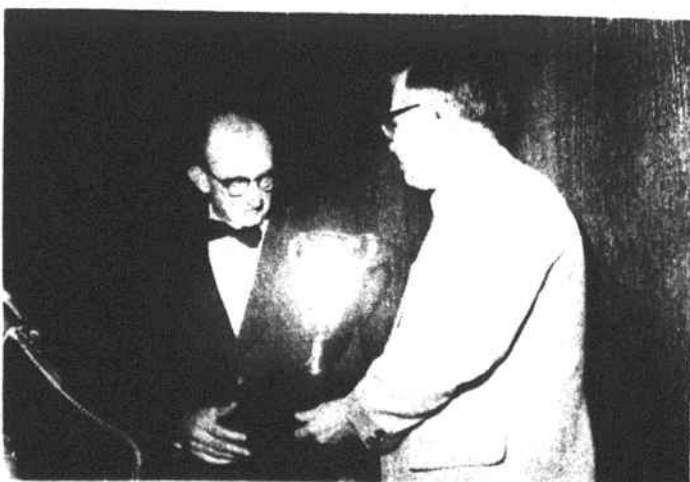
The report for December estimates the county's labor force that month totaled 8,180; the number employed, 7,590; and the number unemployed 590.

The unemployment rates in nine counties were higher than Hoke's and the rates of four were the same as Hoke's for December.

Montgomery County had the state's lowest rate in December -- 1.8 percent of a labor force totaling 10,290 people.

The highest was 13.4 percent in Tyrrell County. The total labor force was 1,640, and the unemployed totaled 220.

The other counties with double-digit unemployment for the month were Swain, 11.8 percent of a labor force of 4,160; and its neighbor, Graham, 11.2 percent of 3,300.



MAN OF THE YEAR -- Dr. Marcus Raynor Smith (L) receives the Raeford Kiwanis Club's 1978 Kiwanis Citizenship Man of the Year Award trophy Saturday night from Harold Gillis. The presentation was made during the club's annual Ladies' Night dinner program.

(See DR. SMITH, page 15)