

Around Town

by Cassie Wasko

Sam Morris, who usually fills this space in *The News-Journal*, has done two remarkably unusual things this week.

First of all, he has gone out of town - a real novelty - especially this early in the spring. Secondly, he is not writing his column before he leaves, something that has not happened before, as far as the staff can remember.

At any rate, his readers will surely miss him.

Allen Edwards, Upchurch Junior High principal, was talking the other day about experiences he had while working in another school district.

Allen said that he learned shortly after his arrival in the new town that he was not the only Allen Edwards. In fact, there were two others.

He explained that his secretary told him one morning he had a call from Allen Edwards. After discovering that it was not a joke, he answered his phone.

"Hello, Allen," he said.

The voice on the other end began the conversation by intimating that Allen might be of some relation to a female dog. He then proceeded to tell Allen that he should give bus drivers his phone number. As it turned out, a bus driver for the school had phoned the wrong Allen Edwards at 6 that morning to say she was sick and would not be driving the bus that day.

Allen said at least that solved the mystery of why that particular bus never arrived.

Then, while serving as a witness in a court case, Allen met his other namesake.

He said he was in the courtroom, waiting to testify, when the judge called the next case.

"Allen Edwards, how do you plead?" the judge asked.

Allen said he leaped to his feet, shouting, "Not guilty, Your Honor."

After a brief glance around the courtroom, he realized that the judge was not addressing him but was speaking to a man in the jailbox.

Bob Gentry reminded us of the American Legion Post #20 fish fry scheduled for this weekend.

The Legion members will be serving fish plates at the corner of Main Street and Harris Avenue from 11 a.m. until 6 or 7 p.m. Friday, Gentry said. The plates will sell for \$2.50 per person and tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

To buy advance tickets, see Bob Gentry, Graham Clark, or any other Legion member.

While visiting grandmother over the weekend, my son Carl found himself alone in the house with the telephone ringing. Eight-year-old Carl answered the phone and the operator on the other end told him his Aunt Dolly was calling.

"Will you pay for the call?" the operator asked.

"I can't do that," was Carl's response. "I'm just a little boy."

Dolly, who was calling to say she would be late coming in that evening, was thoroughly disgusted when she arrived home. But a neighbor said perhaps she would hesitate before making a collect call again.

The weather this week has been relatively violent with thunder storms and torrential showers of rain. It seems that the peaceful spring weather of last week has gone by the wayside, but perhaps the rains will help make the growing season a good one.

Umbrellas Found

Three umbrellas were left Monday night in Gibson Cafeteria at Hoke County High School by people who attended the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce dinner.

One is orange, another is blue, and another, green.

The owners can get them at the Chamber of Commerce office, 120 W. Edinborough St., Raeford.

\$155-\$160 Taken

2 Local Pantry Stores Robbed

An armed robbery at the Pantry on Harris Avenue Saturday night marked the second convenience-store robbery in a period of four days, V.L. Wiggins, police chief, said.

Ritha Gardner, the employee on duty at the Harris Avenue Pantry Saturday night, told police that the man that robbed her had been in the store for about an hour before he approached the sales counter and pointed a gun across it.

She told police that she pleaded with the man not to shoot her.

"OK, OK," he said, and she handed over the cash in the register.

Wiggins said that there were customers in the store at the time but no one was injured. The thief got away with about \$80 or \$85 in cash, he said. The robbery occurred at about 9:44 p.m., the

officer added.

Wednesday night at about 8:40, a lone male entered the Pantry on Central Avenue and told Burgie Johnston, the employee on duty, that he had a gun in his pocket.

He wanted to know whether the "same owner still owned the store", she said. He then said, "I want you to do what I say. I don't want to hurt you," Ms. Johnston added.

She opened the cash register, and he reached in and took the cash from the drawer.

About \$75 in cash was taken from the store, and the suspect left on foot headed toward Main Street, Ms. Johnston told the police.

Ms. Johnston said she never saw a gun but that the man kept his hand in his pocket throughout the robbery.

Pantry officials could not be reached for comment.

BOE Meets

Commissioners May Cut School Budget

Superintendent of Schools Raz Autry told the Hoke County Board of Education Thursday night that the 1979-80 school budget request may be cut by the county board of commissioners.

Autry said that County Manager James E. Martin told him a reduction may be necessary in the school's operating budget because other county agencies are showing an increase of \$500,000 this year.

Operating expenses in the school budget this year are up six percent, Autry told the board he would not recommend a cut of more than four percent.

If the budget has to be cut, the reductions would be made mostly in maintenance, clerical and office expense funds with \$3,000 being cut from library book purchases.

In other business, the board

voted to hire two new teachers for learning disabled children, a part of the exceptional children's program.

Autry explained that due to an increase in state funds for exceptional children services, the school could increase the number of instructors for learning disabled students to four.

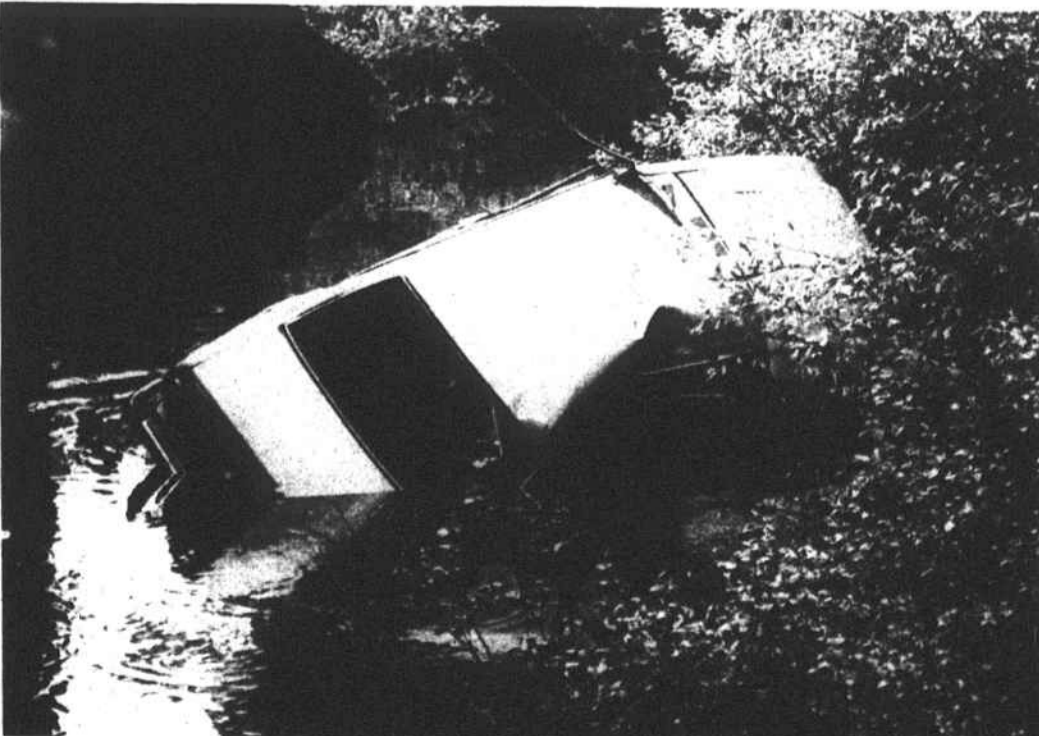
The board also deferred action on a request from a parent living near the Moore County line to allow her child to attend school in Moore County.

Riley M. Jordan, board chairman, instructed the superintendent to obtain more information about the family's circumstances.

The regular monthly meeting was changed from Monday night to Thursday night this month because of the Chamber of Commerce dinner scheduled for Monday.

Hoke's Fifth Traffic Death Of 1979

Car Plunges Into Creek; Driver Drowns



Car in which man drowned is drawn from creek

Jerry Jacobs, 27, of Rt. 2, Maxton, drowned early Thursday when the car he was driving plunged into Rockfish Creek at Twin Bridges about two miles northeast of Arabia.

State Trooper Joe Stanley, Hoke County Deputy Sheriff Craig Hart, Johnny Melton of the Hoke County Rescue Squad and Tommy Cassanova of the Hoke Ambulance Service plunged into the creek and pulled Jacobs from the car, under water to its top, but Jacobs was dead.

Speaking of the effort to rescue Jacobs from the car, Melton said later, Stanley and Hart did the main work and "I wish I had both of them in the Rescue Squad."

Stanley said later Jacobs was the fifth person he's pulled from the creek in the same location.

Stanley lives near Arabia and had another accident nearby just before when he was notified about 8 a.m. by a passing motorist that a car was in the creek.

He said Jacobs apparently lost control of the car, a Toyota, while he was traveling alone in a heavy rain. The car left the road and ran down a short embankment and into

scholarship for his wife.

Justice even took time to inform George Small a bit, about the Pittsburgh Steelers' coaches. "Tough," he said among other things. Small on May 5 signed a two-year contract with the Steelers after starring at North Carolina A & T in Greensboro. Small is a 1975 graduate of Hoke County High School. He and his date Miss Patricia McPhatter, were guests of the chamber at the dinner and were recognized formally by Earl Fowler, the chamber's manager who served as master of ceremonies and introduced Weiner and Justice.

Justice played a season as a pro with the Washington Redskins in the 1950s.

His stories for the chamber audience were drawn from his experiences with the football squad of the Naval Station at Bainbridge, Md., starting with his efforts to get a uniform when the team was getting started. He said he was pulled out of the line five times, and after the fifth time he found no one behind him. Then, he said, all that was left for him were a T-shirt and a pair of shorts. He said he reported for practice for the next

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the creek.

State Trooper Louis Rector said he got a radio report of the accident about 8 a.m. and Stanley was at the scene when he arrived.

Rector said only the top of the car was showing above the water at the time.

Jacobs apparently had been under water about an hour or more before the passing motorist saw the car.

Men using two wrecker trucks worked about two hours before they could get the car from the creek onto the west-side embankment.

Jacobs' body was taken to Locklear & Son Funeral Home in Pembroke.

The death of Jacobs was the fifth caused this year by a Hoke County traffic accident and the second since May 1. The latter happened in Dundarrach, about 2½ miles southwest of the scene of Thursday's tragedy.

In the accident that occurred earlier Thursday, a vehicle struck a utility pole, and the collision temporarily cut off power service in the Arabia area.



NEW, RETIRING -- Four of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce officers for 1979-80 are shown here with retiring chamber president Neill McFadyen Monday night shortly after the chamber's annual dinner ended. L-R: Bill Moses, a director; the Rev. Billy Beaver, first vice president; Julian Johnson, president; McFadyen; and Cecil Bond, a director. The other officers and directors for the new year are Edwin Hastey, second vice president; Duncan McFadyen, secretary-treasurer; and Tom Howell and L.S. Brock, directors.

At 32nd Annual Dinner

Chamber Guests Hear Ex-UNC Football Stars

Several hundred people were entertained by two All-American football stars and saw 1979-80 officers and directors of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce installed Monday night at the chamber's 32nd annual Dinner Meeting in Gibson Cafeteria of Hoke County High School.

University of North Carolina teammates of the 1945-49 teams, former tailback Charlie (Choo-Choo) Justice and former Art Weiner kept the audience in nearly continuous laughter with stories from their football experiences.

At the end of the program, Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. presented Justice and Weiner each with a plaque which says that each is an Honorary Citizen of Raeford.

The installation of chamber leaders for the new year was conducted by Dr. Riley Jordan. Retiring president Neill McFadyen turned the gavel over to incoming president Julian Johnson, and received from Johnson a glass-bottomed silver cup.

The other officers for 1979-80 are the Rev. Billy Beaver, first vice president; Edwin Hastey, second vice president; and Duncan McFadyen, secretary-treasurer; and Cecil Bond, Bill Moses, Tom

Howell and L.S. Brock directors.

Weiner, a former vice president of Burlington Industries now in the real estate business in Greensboro, told the audience in the course of his talk he blocked with the seat of his pants a last-second Duke try for a game-winning field goal when he sat on the ball as Mike Souchak swung his foot for a kick; and got hit in the forehead by a perfect pass from Justice that would have won the Sugar Bowl game with Oklahoma.

These experiences, he said, caused one Carolina fan to observe that Weiner was the only player he knew who lost a game by using his head, and won a game by using his fanny.

Justice, refuting the popular belief that he got a huge football scholarship and other benefits for going to Carolina in '45, said he didn't get a cent of scholarship money. He said he went to Carolina on money from the GI Bill of Rights.

"My wife got the football scholarship," he said. After the laughter subsided he explained that he promised his wife's mother that he'd see that his wife got a college education. He said that the agreement with Carolina provided a