

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather Monday was about as bad as anyone would ever see. The rain was slow and steady and with the temperatures in the 60s it was a miserable day.

The fall weather is expected to be with us for the entire week. We can expect some hot days ahead but they may be few and far between.

The item last week about Don Prince, a former teacher and coach, left some false impressions with a few of our readers. Don does not work or owns an Exxon station, but was at the station getting his car worked on at the time I stopped there.

From all reports he is in the insurance business and doing real well.

The grand opening of The Bank of Raeford's new main office brought forth a large crowd Sunday. Someone said that over 1000 people dropped in during the afternoon. The comments concerning the new building were all favorable and some people who hadn't been inside were talking about how the new building has helped the looks of South Main Street.

Now if the other merchants in the city will see what they can do to improve the looks of their buildings, may be the entire main street will receive a favorable report.

Of course everyone can't do what the bank has done, but every little bit will help.

The trip back from Chapel Hill last Saturday was a nicer ride than any we made last football season. Even though the traffic was heavy, we didn't seem to mind it.

The daily papers Monday morning were writing about the Carolina kicking game and how it had kept Pitt in the hole most of the afternoon. This is not the first time that a Pitt team has been kept in the hole all afternoon in North Carolina. Duke did the same thing to Pitt in the late 30s and went on to win a bid to the Rose Bowl.

Eric Tipton was kicking for Duke that afternoon and kicked out-of-bounds over ten tries inside the 20-yard line. Pitt and Duke were both undefeated when they played.

The Pitt backfield gained about 400 yards that afternoon but Duke could hold them when they came near the goal line and Tipton would then use his toe to get Duke out of trouble.

So maybe the secret of beating Pitt in North Carolina is to use the kicking game.

Cliff Blue in his column this week states that one of the members of congress who is a statesman should stand up and quote the famous lines of the late John F. Kennedy when all these "gimma" bills before them.

Now I agree with Cliff 100%, but when I start thinking it is hard to single out any member of congress that could be labeled a statesman in the way I was taught what a statesman stood for many years ago.

The Hoke High Bucks went over to Seventy-First last Friday night and came back with another victory under their belts. They won by a score of 13-6. This was the third straight win for the Bucks since the opening loss to Douglas Byrd.

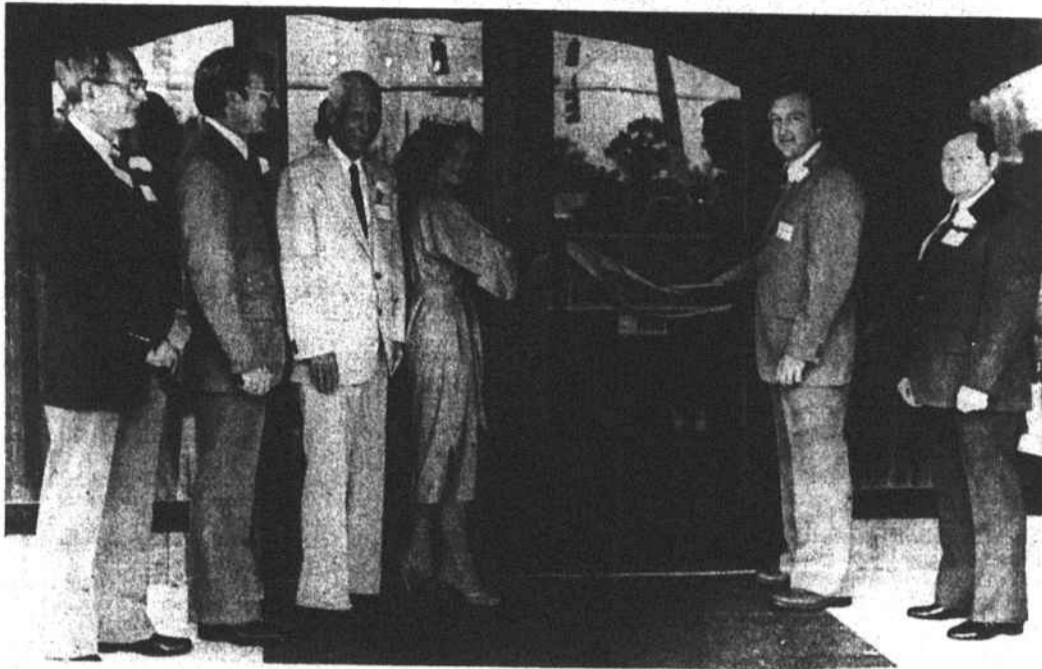
Sanford's Lee County Yellow Jackets come to the local stadium Friday night to face the Bucks. This is the first conference game for the local team and they need your support. So go out and be a Buck Booster.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Morris:
I attended the 27th North Carolina Register of Deeds Convention held at Fontana Dam, N.C. Sept. 15-19. It was very educational and entertaining.
The Register of Deeds were required to bring a door prize. I went around to some of the
(See AROUND TOWN, page 14)

Bank of Raeford's New Main Office

1,100 At Bank Building's Opening



FORMAL OPENING -- Miss Raeford -- Jane Sellars -- cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the front entrance of The Bank of Raeford's new building at 207 S. Main St., Raeford, Sunday afternoon, formally opening the bank's new main office. L-R flanking Miss Sellars are members of the bank's Building Committee for the new structure: William Moses, bank President W.E. Carter, J.L. McNeill, chairman of the bank's Board of Directors, Neill A. McDonald, III, and Robert L. Conoly. The other members of the committee -- T.F. McBryde and James B. McLeod -- were unable to attend the ceremony.



REFRESHMENTS FOR VISITORS -- Visitors at the grand opening of The Bank of Raeford's new building are served refreshments in the lobby during the tour of the offices Sunday afternoon.

The Bank of Raeford's new main office building at 207 S. Main St. was opened formally Sunday afternoon, and about 1,100 people toured it before it closed for the day at 6 p.m., after the ceremonial red ribbon across the front entrance was cut about 2 1/2 hours before.

The ribbon symbolizing the opening was cut by Miss Raeford, Miss Jane Sellars.

Participating in the ceremony were members of the bank's Building Committee -- bank Board Chairman J.L. McNeill; bank President W.E. Carter; R.L. Conoly, a vice president and a member of the board; and William Moses, and Neill McDonald, members of the board. The other members of the committee, T.F. McBryde and James B. McLeod, both members of the board also, were unable to attend.

Before the ribbon was cut, the spectators heard talks by Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., John Balfour, chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners, Tom Cameron, a vice president and a member of the board of the bank, and Carter, who presided over the program. The Rev. Kelly Wilson, pastor of Raeford United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

During the program also, Mrs. Joyce Monroe, the bank's cashier, presented to Miss Alma Ferguson a copy of the history of the bank, in honor of the memory of Miss Ferguson's sister, the late Miss Jessie Bright Ferguson, cashier and a vice president for many years till she retired.

The older offices at 138 N. Main St., which the new building replaces, will remain in use for teller services.

The new building actually opened Sept. 10 for its first day of business.

A total of 900 people, meanwhile, had registered up to early this week for "Be A Millionaire for a Day." The person chosen will receive one day's interest on \$1 million at the bank's interest rate of 5 1/4 percent.

The drawing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday in the lobby of the new building, and people are eligible to register up to the moment just before the drawing is held.

The Bank of Raeford was organized at a public meeting on May 12, 1903, and opened for business the following Oct. 6 in a building on a site on the approximate location of Howell Drug Co. on Main.

Employees of the bank served as hosts and hostesses for the visitors, who also were served refreshments in the lobby.

He Remains In Hospital

Tim McKenzie Found; Investigation Continuing

John Timothy McKenzie, 19, of Rt. 1, Shannon, remained in Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst early this week but apparently in good condition physically as the investigation into his reported kidnaping and armed robbery continued.

Meanwhile also, a member of his family said his memory was returning.

McKenzie appeared the afternoon of Sept. 19 in the emergency room of Betsy Johnson Memorial Hospital in Dunn after having been missing since the previous Sunday afternoon.

He was quoted by members of the emergency room staff as saying he could not recall anything that had happened to him between Sunday and then. The Hoke

County Sheriff's Department said McKenzie told Dunn police he had been robbed and kidnapped.

Another source said two men forced their way into the 1975 white Mustang McKenzie was driving as McKenzie had it stopped for a traffic light.

McKenzie was treated for what were described as minor head injuries at the Dunn hospital, then discharged but later was admitted to Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst at the request of his family, for further observation.

Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said last week McKenzie was last seen about 5:15 p.m. Sept. 16 driving toward Raeford on Gold Hill Road.

McKenzie, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, planned to pick up a friend, Ann MacDonald of Raeford, a UNC-Chapel Hill freshman, to give her a ride back to Chapel Hill Sept. 16.

A search by air and on the ground was started later that day when Miss MacDonald reported McKenzie had not met her. The Mustang he was driving to Rob McNeill, also a UNC-Chapel Hill student and son of Mrs. Mary Teague McNeill of Raeford, the

(See MCKENZIE, page 14)

Public Session On Raeford Business District

Downtown Revitalization Meeting Mon

A public meeting on the revitalization of downtown Raeford will be held at 8 p.m. Monday in the council chambers in Raeford City Hall.

The announcement was made in a letter written Friday to "Fellow Citizen" and signed by Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr.; Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce; and Raeford City Manager Ronald L. Matthews. It was written on City of Raeford stationery.

Though the meeting concerns downtown Raeford, the letter says, "The future of the downtown area of our City should be of vital concern to all citizens of Raeford and Hoke County."

"We need your support, ideas, comments, and suggestions as to the proper approach in revitalizing downtown Raeford."

"We encourage and solicit your participation in a meeting (the Monday meeting in City Hall)..."

The letter also says the following. All property owners, merchants and business people who have a vital interest in downtown Raeford have been invited.

The city, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Revitalization Committee have been working for several months on a plan to revitalize the Central Business District.

A study made by Peter Batchlor views Raeford as it is and as it could be in the future was completed

recently. Batchlor is on the staffs of Townscape, Inc., and North Carolina State University, both in Raleigh.

"Everyone who has been working on the Revitalization Plan is very

enthusiastic and eager to begin," the letter says in closing. "This meeting can be a big step in kicking off the Downtown Revitalization Effort."

The revitalization meeting will

Mental Health Center Serves More, Cuts Costs

The Sandhills Mental Health Center has continued to experience increased requests for services.

The center, according to Dr. Jere Dingfelder, area director, noted that all units of the center have seen more individuals during the past year than they had during the previous year.

Two thousand seven hundred fifty-six persons were helped. He noted that the trend toward more individuals becoming aware of benefits received from mental health center services can be attributed both to community support and the high quality of professionals providing the services in the center.

Philip Diehl of Raeford, area board chairman, noted that he and other board members are extremely pleased with the reduction in administrative costs. He noted that administrative costs have been cut in half. Three years ago the center's

administrative overhead was approximately 34%. It is now 17% of the total budget. Diehl also noted that in addition to more client services, more and varied types of services are being offered in each person's home county.

The center serves Anson, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, and Richmond counties.

A clinic is located in each county. Each clinic is staffed by professionals. Services are available during normal office hours and through the after-hours emergency network.

For treatment services or other assistance from the center, county residents should call 875-8156. George Barbour is the unit manager of Hoke County's local clinic. Barbour directs all clinical services in our county.

Additional information is available from Barbour or Dingfelder.

follow the regular meeting of the Raeford City Council for October, which will start at 7.

The public meeting was suggested by the mayor during the council's September session.

Sunday Night At Short Stop

Armed Robber Gets \$127 Here

A masked, armed man got \$127 Sunday night from the 76 Short Stop and fled in a large, late-model car. Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported this week.

He quoted Scott Bowers, 21, who was working in the store at the time, as saying a man wearing a paper bag over his head and carrying an old-model single-barrel 12- or 20-gauge shotgun entered the store at 8:25 o'clock and ordered Bowers to give him money. Bowers said he opened the cash register and handed the man all the bills in it.

Then, he said, the man ordered him to turn around, and when he did the gunman left the store. He said the man got into the car when it came into the driveway, then the car was driven toward Raeford.

Bowers was alone in the store at the time, and Sunday was just the third day he had been working there. The 76 Short Stop is on the U.S. 401 South bypass at the U.S. 401 Business intersection.

Bowers described the robber as being black, about 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing about 135 pounds.