

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was nice Saturday, but the rain came down Sunday, so we can say it was a 50% weekend. Robert Gatlin was by the office Monday afternoon and brought with him the rainfall for March. It was 8 inches, which includes the snow converted to water, for the month. This was above the normal rainfall by three or more inches.

The rainfall for March by years is as follows: 1976, 4.2 inches; 1977, 6.9 inches, 1978, 4.4 inches and 1979, 4.5 inches.

These figures are according to the Gatlin rain gauge and there may have been more inches in other parts of the county. I heard Sunday that someone said that 10 inches had fallen in his section of the county.

The fields are wet and according to forecasts, more rain is in sight.

Bill Lindau called Monday and said that he was at home and had been to see the doctor and the report was that he was doing fine, but it would be several weeks before he could get back to work. Joe Holt and Marty Morrison are still filling in and we don't know what we would do without them.

The publisher and his wife arrived in the county Saturday after an extended trip to Latin America and Mexico. He reported that gasoline was 43 cents per gallon in Mexico, but he had a rude awakening when he filled up on the way home.

From his reports they had a fine time, but they had rain on them all the way from Texas home. Now he will have to go to the beach to rest up from his trip, or this is what most of us have to do after a long trip.

Last week we reported in this column that Soupy Campbell was going to Mars Hill College as head football coach. This report came from one of our sources and the only part that was correct is that Campbell is leaving.

As an article elsewhere in the paper reports, he is going to Lees-McRae as an assistant coach. Sorry about this false information.

Be sure to attend the Easter Sunrise Services at the Hoke High Stadium at 5:45 a.m. Sunday morning.

Many stores will be closed Monday, along with the schools, banks, county, city and state offices. The News-Journal will be open for business as usual.

M.L. Jones was by the office this week and had a letter that he was proud of because it was offering congratulations on his marriage of 60 years.

The letter is as follows. "To Mr. and Mrs. Mallory Jones: Rosalynn and I take great pleasure in congratulating you on your 60th wedding anniversary. We hope you will enjoy special happiness throughout the year ahead. Jimmy Carter"

The letter was on White House note paper and was dated March 25, 1980. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Jones on their anniversary and also from getting a note from the President and his wife.

The note from the president is nice, but I hope that Mary Alice and I can celebrate the 60th anniversary with or without the president's good wishes.

The college basketball season is over, but it will take a month or two before the pros get through their elimination tournament. It seems now that the season overlays by a month or so these days.

The political season is here, again. About every hour of the day

(See AROUND TOWN, page 14)

Starts at 5:45 A.M.

Easter Sunrise Service At Hoke High Stadium

The Raeford Ministers' Association is sponsoring the annual Easter Sunrise Service again this year at the Hoke High Stadium. The service will begin at 5:45 a.m. (if inclement weather it will be held in the gymnasium).

Sponsoring the inter-denominational traditional service for the second time is the Raeford Ministers Association, a group of 12 representing area churches. The Rev. George McKeithan, pastor of 2nd Baptist Church, is association president.

The singing will be by "The

Pioneers" and the "Hoke County Civic League."

Due to the illness of the Rev. W.K. Mitchell, the speaker for the service will be the Rev. Tex Deaton, Pastor of the Evangelical Methodist Church.

The Rev. Paul Strassle said, "We hope everyone of whatever persuasion will make every effort to attend this annual outdoor Easter service. We will be inspired greatly by the many gospel songs by 'The Pioneers' and hymns by the 'Hoke County Civic League.' May the Risen Christ bless the hearts of each and every one of you."

Census Forms Mailing Goes Smooth In Hoke

The mass mailing of 1980 federal census forms to Hoke County households last week went smoothly, according to post office officials.

Postmaster Joseph Carver said he did not have an exact count on the number of forms sent out but one went to every street address and known box number. A few households were missed because more than one family is sometimes served by a single box number, but anyone who needs a census form and failed to get one can contact the post office to arrange delivery, he said.

The only problem Carver noted was that many people did not follow the instructions on the form

and mailed theirs back early.

Between 300 and 500 of the completed forms were back at the post office Monday morning, although they were not supposed to be mailed until Tuesday.

Anyone who needs help in filling out the form can call the toll-free number listed with the packet to get instructions. People should not call the post office, unless it is to request a form.

Households who do not mail the census form back with complete information will be visited by a census worker, so officials advise mailing that form right away if you hadn't done so April 1.

Detective Peterkin Ailing

James Peterkin, detective with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, has returned home after hospitalization but is still ailing an undable to return to work, Sheriff Dave Barrington said Monday.

Peterkin, 38, was stricken with tendonitis, a painful inflammation, in February, and has been on official sick leave for the entire month of February and "part of March" Barrington said.

However, Barrington refused to discuss Peterkin's status with the department for the past week, saying he had no comment on reports the detective had been suspended indefinitely.

An informed source who asked not to be named said that Peterkin was under investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation in connection with an alleged theft

ring operating in several counties. More than a dozen persons, mostly local residents, have been rounded up and charged with various offenses in the past two weeks involving large quantities of stolen aluminum.

The source said one of the men arrested, Charles Blackshear, 50, of Burgaw, told investigators after his arrest that Peterkin had allegedly aided in the thefts.

However the source said that Blackshear's brother Jesse Blackshear, was arrested by Peterkin two years ago for the same offense and is currently serving a long prison term.

Since the allegation was made, Barrington had "no alternative" but to suspend Peterkin and let the SBI take charge, the source said.

Peterkin, contacted at his home, declined comment.

To Lees-McRae

Hoke To Lose Coach Campbell

"Disappointed" was the word from Hoke Schools Superintendent G. Raz Autry when asked Friday about his feelings on head football coach Clyde "Soupy" Campbell's recent decision to go to Lees-McRae at the end of the school year.

"But," he added, "I'm just as proud of him as I can be."

"It's sadness all around for us when we lose an athletic leader of Campbell's caliber," Autry said. "We lose a good man and Lees-McRae gains a winner."

Campbell announced last week that he has accepted an assistant football coach - head track coach - physical education teacher position with the junior college at Banner Elk as of the fall term 1980.

"I hate to leave Hoke," Campbell told *The News-Journal*. "but the economics of my family's future really leave me no choice."

"No matter how much we may enjoy what we're doing at a given time," he said, "as everyone knows, collegiate coaching offers greater benefits and can't be disregarded when opportunities arise."

It appears that in its search for quality coaching, Lees-McRae meant business about adding Campbell to its staff. From some 70 applicants for the second slot there, they narrowed the field to three finalists, two of whom were already doing college coaching and the other being Hoke High's Campbell. As can be seen, in the playoffs the

high school coach won.

"Now, to be selected from a pot like that," Campbell said, "is a real honor for me, and it speaks well, too, of this high school's history and standing in athletic prowess as it's kept track of by interested people around the country."

"But I want the people of Raeford and Hoke County to know that taking this (Lees-McRae) job was the toughest decision I have ever had to make," Campbell said.

"Dianna and I both really love Raeford and this school. The people in town, our church friends, our colleagues at work, the school administration, all the people we have worked with, worshipped with, and been with have really been the very best."

"And economics notwithstanding, it's not easy to leave a situation like this."

Campbell came to Hoke in 1977 from a head football coach position in Bennettsville, S.C. At first, he worked with Coach John Lacy Harris, then when Harris went to Marshall, Campbell assumed the lead slot here.

Campbell's work at Hoke was consistently good, according to Autry, as exemplified by the Bucks' 6-4 record on the field this past season.

"And the games Soupy lost," said Autry, "were lost with respectable scores like 14-7, 15-9, etc."

"He's not only an excellent coach," Autry said, "but is also a fine moral young man, excellent to



Trailer where infant lost life last Thursday. [Photo by Henry Blue]

Last Thursday

Infant Girl Loses Life In Mobile Home Fire

A six-month old infant perished in a fire which swept a mobile home March 27 in the West Hoke community.

Kristy Marie Miller, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Miller, died in an early-morning blaze which leveled the family's home located at Tar Heel Hatchery's No. 2 farm. The victim's parents were em-

ployees of the hatchery.

The couple's other three children, Walter, 5, Eric, 4, and James, 2, were rescued. The youngest received second-degree burns on his feet and was treated for smoke inhalation, according to Dr. Ramnik Zota.

Mrs. Miller said the fire started while she was warming up her car to take the four children to a babysitter.

She said she heard a popping sound and moments later looked back and saw flames and smoke pouring from the trailer.

Miller, who was working in a hatchery building nearby, heard the screams of his wife and ran back to the home. The fire, which appeared to have begun in the kitchen, prevented the

parents from getting to the other end of the trailer where the baby's crib was.

H.B. Nixon, of the West Hoke Fire Department, said that the alarm was received at 7:15 a.m. and two pumper trucks were on the scene in five minutes.

The trailer was already engulfed, blazing from end to end, however.

All of his family's belongings were destroyed. The community began taking up donations of food and clothing for the Millers who moved in with relatives temporarily.

Funeral services for Kristy were held Friday at Red Springs Funeral Home.

Thompson Picks State

Harold Thompson, star Hoke County High School basketball player, Tuesday announced that he would attend N.C. State University in Raleigh. New Head Coach Jim Valvano signed Thompson to the letter of intent in Raeford Monday night.

Prisoner Brought Back To County

Sheriff Dave Barrington was scheduled to leave Tuesday enroute to Nashville, Tenn., to return a Tennessee State Prison inmate to Hoke County for trial.

Kenneth Graham, the inmate, is slated to go on trial here in superior court April 8 on charges of obtaining goods by false pretense in connection with a 1979 incident at Hoke Auto Co.

According to court records, Graham purchased a vehicle from the Chevrolet dealership, using a phony cashier's check for \$6,500. The ploy was so successful that Graham even persuaded the dealer to give him several hundred dollars in "change" for his check before driving off.

Barrington said Graham has already been tried and convicted in Orangeburg, S.C. and Kolb County.

Tuesday Deadline To Register

Anyone who is not registered to vote in the May primary election must do so by next Tuesday, April 8, the deadline for closing registration books.

Also, anyone who has moved into a new voting precinct since the last election should call or stop by the county board of elections office by 5 p.m. Tuesday to get listed in the proper polling place.

The elections office, located in the new county office building on Magnolia Street, will be closed Monday for the Easter holiday, but will remain open all day Tuesday.

Regular hours for the office are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

By law, registration must close 30 days prior to an election or primary election. Anyone who is not properly registered to vote will be turned away from the polls.

ty, Ga. for like offenses. He allegedly carried a check writing machine with him.

Barrington, accompanied by a State Bureau of Investigation agent, expected to return Friday.

11 More Charged In Alleged Ring

Eleven more men have been arrested by authorities here and two more are still sought in connection with an alleged aluminum theft ring operating in several counties.

Sheriff Dave Barrington released the names of the latest suspects taken into custody in the past week, except for a 15-year-old juvenile. Complete addresses were not available.

They are: James E. "Bob" Walker, 36; James Edward Singletary, 35; Thomas Shaw, 34; Carry Goodman, 20; Robert McLean, 27; Hervis E. Hasty, 22; Willie Graham, 22; Earl McLean, 25; Matt McLaughlin, 25; and John Hines, 44.

Most of these gave Hoke County addresses, Barrington said. All were initially held under bonds ranging from \$36,000 to \$6,000 on various charges of larceny filed by authorities in Hoke and Robeson counties. Scotland County authorities are also preparing charges.

The charges stem from a four-month long investigation by local authorities and the State Bureau of Investigation of the disappearances of aluminum materials from Croft Metals in Lumber Bridge, Housier Engineering and a Carolina Power and Light substation in Dundarach.

Estimated value of the stolen goods is upwards of \$5,000.

Arrested earlier were George Thomas Walker, 48, and Charles Lewis Blackshear, 50.



Campbell, Hoke High School coach.

have on the staff as a good example for our youngsters to follow. I deeply regret losing him."

Hoke High Principal Lenwood Simpson characterized Campbell as being "one of the most cooperative, dedicated, and effective people I have had the pleasure to work with in my years of teaching and administration."

"Soupy will be missed," he said. Rather poetically, Campbell will work in athletics and teaching at his first alma mater -- he earned his first degree, an associate in science, at Lees-McRae in 1969.

From there he went to Mars Hill for his bachelors in physical

(See COACH, page 14)