

One Plane Destroyed, 4 Others Damaged

High Winds Hit Airport; Damage Planes

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is the same as it was six weeks ago: HOT. We have been having a few afternoon thunder-showers that help somewhat.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam:
As a private citizen I strongly object to our Hoke Co. Board of Commissioners loaning money to anyone with or without interest. I thought we had better businessmen serving on the Board and I was surprised at the action taken to loan \$4000 to The Ambulance Service. This money could have been earning some interest and is another case of just a little more waste. Some way should be found to at least NOT raise property taxes in Hoke County and yet I expect we will all be paying more in 1981. Please remember Commissioner Neill McPhatter and Commissioner Danny DeVane that I do not approve this action of loaning money without interest and really question the legality of the Board's action. What is to keep anyone serving the county from requesting an interest free loan and expecting the same treatment?

Agnes Mae J. Campbell

Eugene P. Smith, mayor of Havelock and publisher of *The Havelock Progress* once worked at this newspaper office. Over the years we have wondered if Smith earned anything about the paper business or did Dickson and myself teach him anything. This week my wondering was ended when I read his answer to a letter from an irate citizen.

It seemed the letterwriter was a lady and she was mad because a picture of her daughter and son - in-law could not be published under the wedding heads. *The Progress* has a policy that only the bride's picture will be published.

The following came from the newspaper:
"Publisher's Note: Mrs. _____ does a highly effective job running the Station Administration building, her own civil service department, Havelock City Hall, the Havelock Fire Department, the Havelock Rescue Squad, the Havelock Recreation center, the Havelock Little League, the Havelock Democratic party and her residence on Bryan street.

"However, neither she nor the Editor set the policy rules for the *Havelock Progress*. Right or wrong, that is the publisher's opinion.

"The rule remain as it has been: engagement and wedding photographs will be of the bride -- (See AROUND TOWN, page 15)

Alexander McQueen Is 110

Antioch Man Recalls Days Before Electricity

"I remember when we had to get a pass from the head woman to leave the house," said Alexander McQueen in an excited voice. "If you went off without her knowing and she found out, you'd get the switch."

The white-haired black man is 110 years old, according to his daughter, McQueen lives with her



L-R. with wind-topped plane -- Scotsman Doug Young, Australian Lee Ivanins, Scotsman Deak Wright. (Staff photo by Bill Lindau.)

Man Sentenced In Tax Case

In U.S. District Court in Greensboro last week, North Carolina men were given prison sentences on charges of subscribing to and conspiring to subscribe to filing false Federal income tax returns to obtain refunds.

U.S. District Court Judge Hiram Ward sentenced William Dallas Fletcher, a Central Prison inmate, to seven years in prison, to run concurrently with the term he is presently serving.

Fletcher was charged with conspiring with Theodore Wayne Edwards of Raeford to file false tax returns to claim refunds for 1979 in the amount of \$11,064. Edwards was also charged with actually filing five false returns and was sentenced to four years in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Cannon said that the two men got the idea of filing false returns from a "60 Minutes" segment on television while serving prison sentences together about two years ago.

The IRS said that Edwards filed the returns, each claiming a refund

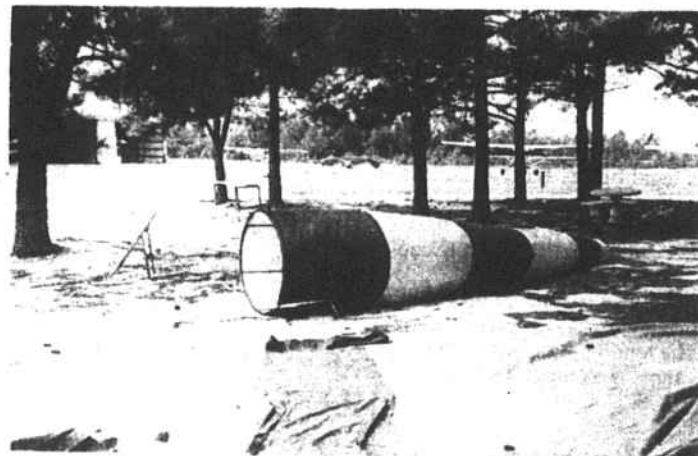
of income tax allegedly withheld from the wages of inmates of Central Prison, whose names and social security numbers were furnished by Fletcher. The inmates had no knowledge of the conspiracy and none gave permission to use their names and social security numbers, Cannon said.

The IRS said that Edwards rented a house trailer with a rural address to receive the checks, which he planned to divide with Fletcher. He was arrested May 27, by IRS agents, as he was checking his mailbox at the trailer.

Hit-run Accident Kills Man

Elbert Flowers, 58, of Rt. 1, Raeford, was killed about 10:15 p.m. Friday when he was struck by a car on Vass Road north of Raeford, the State Highway Patrol reported. The car was not at the scene when the investigating officer arrived, the report says.

Anyone having information about the accident is asked to call



Golden Knights' windsock lies where it stopped after being driven from its pole by Saturday's high winds. (Staff photo by Bill Lindau.)

the State Highway Patrol. The accident occurred about 100 yards from Flowers's home, the patrol said.

Flowers, like the three other pedestrians injured in traffic accidents this year, was wearing dark clothes and on an unlighted road. The others were not hurt fatally.

Flowers was one of three pedestrians killed last weekend in North Carolina traffic accidents. The others were Edward Reynolds, 60, of Supply, struck on N.C. 130 near Shalotte, on the southeastern coast below Wilmington; and Edgar Clark, 54, of Canton, struck on U.S. 19 near Asheville, which is about 20 miles east of Canton.

up just right. Every once in a while, it goes out on him and he just falls down. He'll curl up both legs and say something about 'the old man fell down again.' Then he gets up and goes about his business."

Jerry Locklear, collector for Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, ran across McQueen and his family in his duties recently. Through LREMC's Member Services Office, he found out more about their situation.

McQueen, Rosa Lee, her husband and their three sons were burned out of a home about 4 years ago. Since then, they have lived in a small house owned by Walter (See MCQUEEN, page 15)

Correction

Last week's front page weather story was wrong in saying the Weather Bureau is in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

There's been no Weather Bureau for many years, and it was taken out of USDA about 1935 or '36. The equivalent of the Weather

Winds estimated at up to 70 miles per hour and driving heavy rain struck Raeford Airport late Saturday after causing about \$9,000 to four planes.

The storm, though less violent elsewhere, brought lightning damage in places, disrupting cable television for several families in at least one area of Raeford. A fifth plane was damaged when it was hit by a windsock blown off its pole and driven about 1,000 feet across the field.

The damage would have been far higher if nine British and Australian skydivers hadn't pitched in and helped grab planes torn loose from their moorings and retrieve them. Gene Paul Thacker, a fixed-base operator at the airport, said Monday.

Eight of the skydivers are members of the British national team, and the other is on the Australian national women's team. All have been practicing at the Raeford airport for the 10-day international skydiving meet which will be held in Bulgaria, near Sophia, the national capital, starting Thursday.

One of the planes they saved, Thacker said, was a six-passenger craft valued at about \$70,000.

Most of the damage to the planes at the airport, was to a single aircraft, a small, single-engine craft owned by Phil Roggi, who lives at the edge of the airport. The plane was flipped over on its back by the powerful wind.

Thacker who provided the information about the damage, said the plane cost about \$5,000 and was a total loss.

Thacker made the estimate of the wind velocity. He called it the worst storm he's seen in 10 years. Thacker said the windsock looked as though it were going 50 miles an hour after it was blown off the pole.

Besides the total destruction of Roggi's plane, the wind did flap damage to one and wing damage to two others, Thacker said. The damages to these amounted to about \$4,000, he said. The damage to the plane hit by the windsock amounted to less than \$100, he estimated. The craft was parked on a ramp at the time. The windsock is owned by the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army Parachute Team, based at Ft. Bragg. It was fixed to the top of a pole as a wind-direction indicator for descending skydivers.

The six-passenger plane had been secured by chains and strong nylon rope but the wind was so strong it tore the craft loose from these moorings. Thacker and the others managed to grab it as it was heading for destruction and rescued it.

They also restored damaged moorings to other places threatened by the wind.

The wind also damaged Thacker's property at home nearby. He said a shed was damaged and two trees were lost.

He said high wind came to the airport first from the southwest, jerked some planes around, but then died down. Shortly afterward, about 5:30 p.m., he said the much stronger wind struck, and the wind-driven rain storm lasted about an hour.

The Australian woman who helped is Mrs. Lee Ivanins of Sidney. The members of the British team are Doug Young of Glasgow, Scotland, a soldier; Paul Slaughter, a London policeman; Bob King, the team leader, civilian who is English; Scotty Milne of Elgin, Scotland, a soldier; Deak Wright of Ayr, Scotland, a soldier; Jim Coffey and Paddy Byrne, both of Ireland; and Dave Tylecoat, a civilian and chief instructor at the Parachute Center at Headcorn in the south of England.

Milne is British national all-around and accuracy champion, and runnerup for the style championship. Young is national style champion, and Coffey holds third place in accuracy.

Mrs. Ivanins is New South Wales (state), women's champion.



Alexander McQueen with daughter and grandsons