

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

A call came into the office last week and Pam Frederick informed me that the caller asks that I not seek rain when the weather is mentioned. It seems that many farmers are still harvesting soybeans and as is the same for all grain, etc. rain will rot the crop in the fields. Now I like the faith the lady that called has in my forecast of the weather, but I certainly don't claim to have any control over it. As Will Rogers or Mark Twain wrote long ago, "We all talk about the weather, but we can't do anything about it."

Yes and this is as it should be, because we don't all want the same kind of weather.

Anyway, the weather has been perfect for the farmers and the soybeans and also for the golfers.

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Ken McNeill, county chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, came by the office last week and stated that a mistake must have been made in a couple of races that were listed in the unofficial returns in the paper last week. He said there was a difference of over 100 votes in two races in McCain precinct compared to all the other races.

Thursday afternoon Rose Sturgeon, clerk for the Board of Elections was by the office and I asked her for the official returns.

The unofficial returns showed that Carter received 201 votes and Reagan 202 votes in the McCain precinct. The official returns showed that Carter had 201 votes and Reagan 102 votes. The county total for Carter 3376 and Reagan 1168. Carter took every precinct in the county.

The vote for Sen. Robert Morgan should have been 188 and John East 100 in McCain. The county total was Morgan 3217 and East 1166.

We regret the error but in the rush and lateness of getting the votes in, we can not be perfect.

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Most of you have read in the daily papers and seen and heard on TV and radio about the fuss of politicians on the west coast about the results of the election being broadcast three hours before the polls closed out there. Some of the candidates went so far as to say this caused their defeat. Of course this is hard to say.

We do think that this is wrong and some steps should be made to correct it before the next election.

Some of the pollholders here in Hoke County said they didn't feel too good about tabulating votes after the candidate for president had already said he had lost.

I know how they felt, because here at the office the race for president was over before we had posted the first precinct, maybe in the future we will not have a landslide like this one.

Anyway, something should be worked out so this will not happen again.

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The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam,  
On behalf of the Hoke County Music Booster Club, I sincerely thank you and your staff for your continued support for our Band and Chorus and Chorale.

Thanks to the fine people of Hoke County, our Chicken dinner was a great success and as you know, all the proceeds will help finance the music programs for these students.

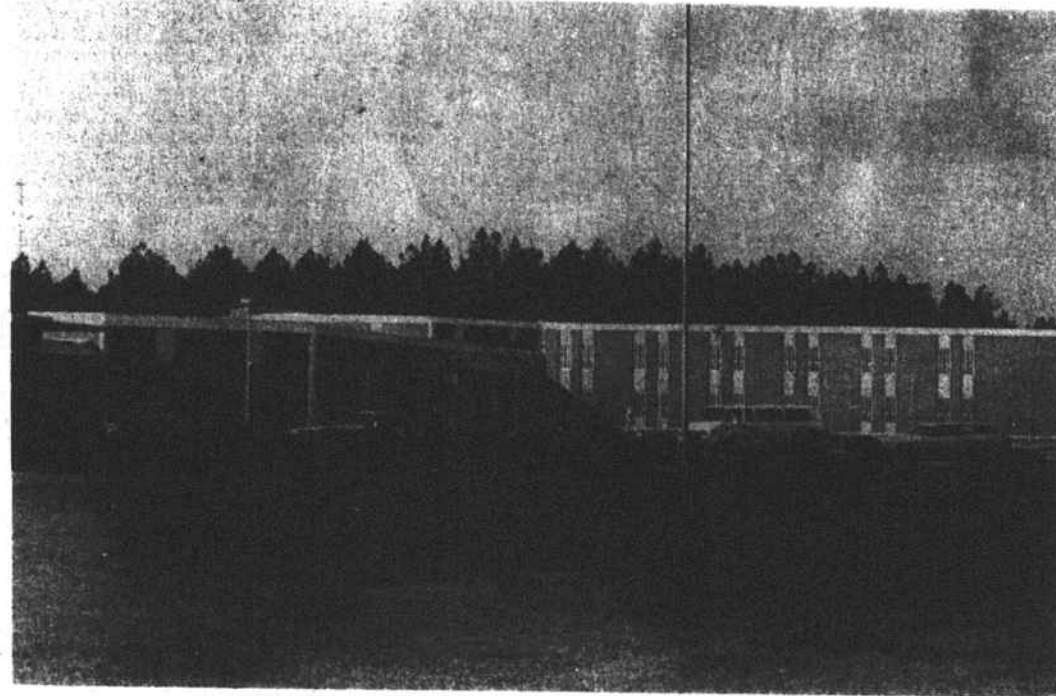
We are most fortunate to have such dedicated instructors working with our young people as Jimmy James, Mary Archie McNeill, Linda Huff, and Ann Freeze. It is through their encouragement that our students strive to do their very best.

I cannot think of a better investment for one to make, whether time or money, than the youth of our county; they are our greatest natural resource. They are the future of our country and they will be as great as we mold them to be.

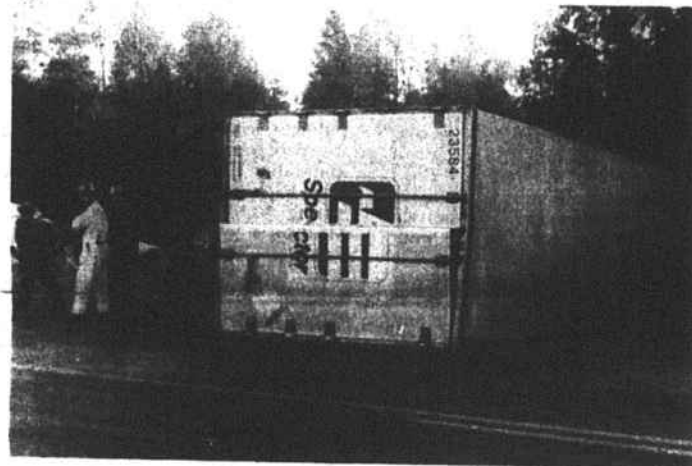
Most Sincerely,  
Mary Stanley

## At McCain Correctional Center

# New Addition Lacks Oldtime Prison 'Look'



McCain Correctional Center's new addition.



Tractor-trailer after colliding with a car at a Bethel Road intersection Friday. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].



Car shows effects of the collision Friday afternoon. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].

### Photos and text by Bill Lindau

The private citizen who's gotten his ideas of prisons from movies like "The Big House," or "Birdman of Alcatraz," or even tours of Raleigh's Central Prison or the old conventional prison camps has to forget them when he visits the new addition to the McCain Correctional Center of the State Department of Corrections.

Visitors were taken on guided tours of the new facility Saturday afternoon during the 2-to-4 o'clock open house held for the general public.

Once inside the building, the visitor sees few signs of the conventional prison. Institutions like McCain's aren't even called prisons anymore -- they're "correctional centers." Guards are called correctional officers, and the men serving sentences are "inmates," not "prisoners" or "convicts."

These name changes were made years ago, but the design of the McCain center is "now."

Inside the building, the visitor sees no signs, other than the uniforms of correctional officers, of old-style prison. The dining rooms and kitchen look like similar places which serve unconfined people and so does the visitors' rooms.

For security reasons, the doors and gates are operated by remote control from a center with windows on all sides. The officer who mans the center enters and leaves by way of a tunnel. The control center has no door opening directly to the area outside. The room also contains an overhead hatch leading to the roof of the building.

Outside, the gates in the high chain-link fences are opened and shut the same way, from within the guard towers. Inmates arriving at McCain have to pass through these gates at the rear of the new building before they are taken into the building.

The addition contains 144 cells, for one man each, guaranteeing privacy. McCain's superintendent, Harold Griffin, who helped greet the visitors Sunday, explained to the reporter earlier last week that about all the inmate uses the cell for is for sleeping. It contains a single bed with drawers at its bottom; a commode, a small table; and a sink.

Griffin explained that the inmates spend most of their time in recreation, therapy or training. Part of this time is spent in the long room that runs between the groups of cells.

The living quarters in the older building are "dormitory" style, with up to a dozen inmates sleeping in a single area.

The new addition also contains the administration offices, a nurse's station, a barber shop, and a divided room for visiting between inmates and their relatives, friends, and people having legitimate business to discuss.

Griffin said the two-story building and its furnishings and equipment cost about \$2,286,000. The construction was started in February 1978 and the building is ready for use except for making of minor corrections to equipment.

McCain is a medium-security institution containing 300 to 350 inmates serving sentences for violations ranging from misdemeanors to murder and other serious felonies. The inmates range from age 21 to 87 (one is that age), though a few, sent to McCain for special reasons, are about 18.

Inmates do all the preparation of food for the center's cafeteria-style meals and handle the cleaning of the yards, all under the supervision of members of the center's staff.

Griffin said the long-termers come to McCain after having demonstrated at a "tighter" unit they have made a change for the better.

The 87-year-old isn't the oldest inmate McCain has had. Another man was 100. He was paroled earlier this year.

The older facility, about 23 years old, will continue serving as the center's hospital, for recuperating and aged inmates, Griffin said.

The new addition is the third major construction the McCain institution has had. The construction of the first building was authorized by the 1923 General Assembly. It was erected about 200 yards north of McCain hospital and was designed to house tubercular inmates. The hospital was established in 1908, as the state's first to treat people with tuberculosis.

The original prison building, three stories high, contained 125 inmates, Griffin said.

That number is 27 fewer than the number now on the present staff of the modern McCain center.

The original building still is being used, but for storage, instead of people.

Saturday's visitors from "outside" found the new addition attractive.

"It's a nice place to visit," one told Griffin, then added, "but I wouldn't want to live here."

## Drivers Suffer Minor Injuries

# Wreck Causes \$50,000 Damages

A car and a tractor-trailer collided about 4:15 p.m. Friday at the intersection of Bethel Road and SR 1149 about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Raeford, injuring both drivers and causing about \$50,000 in damages, the State Highway Patrol reported.

State Trooper Joe Stanley, the investigating officer, said the drivers were treated at the scene for their injuries, which were not serious enough to require hospital treatment.

He said the driver of the car, Debra Donnella Kershaw McNeill

of Tylertown, was charged with failing to stop for a stop sign.

The Plymouth she was driving southeast on Bethel collided with a GMC truck being driven west toward U.S. 401 from the Faberge, Inc., Raeford plant on N.C. 211, the officer said. The trailer was carrying a cargo of Faberge pro-

ducts and was being driven by James Bert Hancock of Fayetteville, Stanley reported. He said the truck was owned by Spector Freight System.

The truck left the road and turned over on its right side after the collision occurred.

## County Taxes Paid In Pennies

A Hoke County citizen paid \$115.58 in personal property taxes in full Friday morning -- all in pennies.

Barry Nixon of 803 McLean St., Raeford, brought them in packaged, in a small cart, Mrs. Elizabeth Livingston, the county tax collector said.

Mrs. Livingston commented, "Just so people pay, we don't mind how they bring it." She said she and her staff had a good laugh over the manner of payment. Mrs. Livingston said it was a prank.

She said the pennies paid Nixon's personal property taxes for 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Mrs. Livingston said she and the

members of her staff didn't have to count the pennies one by one. Since the packages had come from The Bank of Raeford, all that was necessary, she said, was counting the packages.

At The Bank of Raeford, Mrs. Sue Davis, assistant cashier, said the pennies didn't have to be counted out, either; they were already packaged. She said Nixon took them away in a wheelbarrow.

Mrs. Livingston had the pennies returned to the bank for deposit in the county's account. The bank didn't have to count the money, since it was returned in the same packages, unopened, it had been sent in.



L-R, with 11,558 pennies: Tax Collector Elizabeth Livingston (center) with members of her staff, Magdalene McKenzie (left) and Judy Pitman. Mrs. Livingston is holding the tax bill that the pennies paid.

## At First Baptist Church

# Community Thanksgiving Service Set

The 1980 Community Thanksgiving Service will be held November 26 at First Baptist Church of Raeford. Father Paul Strassle, publicity chairman, announced Monday.

It will start at 7:30 p.m. Father Strassle said, "We welcome every person attending this service of worship. This unique opportunity to gather together is a delightful and heartwarming custom. Let us be in much prayer

before God our Father as we share in offering Him praise and adoration and Thanksgiving."

The sermon will be given by the Rev. Fred Sharrai, pastor of Four Square Gospel Church.

The service is under the auspices of the Raeford Ministers' Association.

The ministers of the area have for many years found it agreeable to unite in such an association. Their regular monthly meeting is

usually held on the second Tuesday.

The association regularly sponsors both the Community Thanksgiving Service and the annual Easter Sunrise Service.

"The offering to be received assists in giving the association some ability to meet requests which may from time to time be made upon it. Thank you for your

generosity. Let us share a portion of our bounty with those who have less," said Father Strassle.

The officers of the association for 1980-81 are: President, the Rev. George D. McKeithan, Second Baptist Church; vice-president, Father Strassle, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church; and Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Thomas Hoogeland, Sandy Grove-Parker Methodist Church. The other members of

the Association are: Rev. Kelly Wilson, Methodist Church; Rev. Billy C. Beaver, First Baptist Church; Rev. Tex Deaton, Evangelical Methodist; Rev. Fred Sharrai, Four Square Gospel Church; Rev. Mac Musselwhite, Pittman Grove Baptist Church; Rev. Tino Ballesterio, Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Kemper Finch, Shiloh Bethel Presbyterian Church; and Ephesus Baptist Church, Arabia.