

190 More People Employed

Hoke's Unemployment Rate 9.2% In May; Improved 2.4%

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the weekend was fine for all outdoor activities with the temperature being in the 80s Saturday and Sunday. The nights have been cool and this keeps the air conditioners from running.

The hot weather has been very bad for crops and along with the dry weather things are about at the stage of no return. Corn went down as fast last week as I ever remember.

The forecast is for more hot weather, but we need rain which seems to have left us all together.

The annual July 4th celebration at Aberdeen this year will be a double-barrel affair. The people of that city will not only celebrate Independence Day, but the day will honor Cliff Blue who started the annual event many years ago.

Cliff is a native of Hoke County and is well known to many people of this county and we feel that he is deserving of the honor.

We have been invited to participate in honoring Cliff and we feel honored to do so.

July Fourth falls this year on Saturday. Now this has really upset many people because they don't know whether to celebrate the fourth on the third or on the sixth of July.

Many places will be closed on Friday, July 3rd and others will close Monday, July 6th. Most places of business in the city will be open on July 4th. The post office will be closed July 4th.

A short note from our good friend Mrs. Rena Smith who is in a Nursing Home in Pinehurst.

The note is as follows:
Sam,
If you have room, put this in the paper. He is a good respected man. I want to come home for a few days and if I do bring Bill by to see me. I like his column. Be good. I love you and Paul, why, I don't know!

Thanks Rena for the swell note and glad to know that Paul and the writer are back in your good graces again. Just call and Bill and I will be by to see you.

The article Rena wanted in the paper is as follows: Epriam Mack of Hoke County (McCain) was nominated "Employee of the Month" by the staff of Manor Care Nursing Center in Pinehurst. He works full time at McCain as an orderly and four days a week at Manor Care.

Mack came to Hoke County from Scotland County 43 years ago. He and his wife have been employed at McCain Hospital for many years. They have raised a large family and have been a respected and well liked family in the McCain Community.

I don't know what district Hoke County will finally end up in after the legislature adjourns. We have been placed in the third, seventh and eighth district so far. They seem to use Hoke anywhere, even if they have to split counties when they need about 20,000 live bodies. It could be that the courts will have to make the final decision.

From the last report out of Raleigh the Hoke-Scotland district for state representative was still going strong. But you can never tell what will happen until the "boys come home."

Bill Womble, Carolina Telephone representative for Raeford, was by the office Tuesday morning and said he had something to show me. He took from a bag a large red tomato. The tomato weighed two pounds and one and one-half ounces according to the grower. Now who is going to top this one?

Including Over-all Show Trophy

Hoke People Win Food Service Honors

Four managers of Hoke County school lunchrooms came back from the 32nd annual meeting of the North Carolina School Food Service Association held June 18 - 20 in Charlotte with the top trophy from the Culinary Art Show and two first - place and two third - place awards.

Juanita Clark of Upchurch Junior High School won the Ralph W. Eaton trophy, the top all-around award, for her entry in the Culinary Art Show. She also won a trophy for placing first in the Type A Breakfast category.

Isabelle Smith of South Hoke won the first - place trophy in the Type A Sandwich Plate category.

Margaret Quick of West Hoke won the award for third place in the Sandwich Plate class, and Mrs. Gayle Ellis of Hoke County High School, the award for third in the Salad category.

A total of 341 entries competed for the honors.

The other Hoke County school food service people who attended the Charlotte meeting were Clara Pope, county school food service supervisor; and Clarise Jacobs, Beverly McRae, Anteria Osling, Virginia Johnson, Beatrice Graham, Dorothy Jackson, Dorothy Walker, Estella Thomas, Mary Elizabeth McNeill, Jean McPhatter, Helen McNeill, and Maude Crowder.

They were among about 1,000 school food service workers from throughout the state who attended



L-R -- Margaret Quick, Juanita Clark, and Isabelle Smith with awards; and Clara Pope. Gayle Ellis was a third-place award winner. [Staff photo.]

the meeting. Speakers included Dr. A. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of Public Instruction; Gene P. Dickey, regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, at Dallas, Tex.; John Mosely, executive director of the American School Food Service Association; and Marshall Metz, legal counsel for the American association.

One Suspect, Victim Were Due For Trial Here

2 Charged In Theft Witness's Death

One man due for Hoke County Superior Court trial in connection with stolen goods is one of two charged with murdering another who also was due to be tried in the same case.

Anson Avery Maynard, 20, of Rt. 4, Dunn, is the man scheduled for the Hoke court appearance. He and Garry Allen Bullard, 29, of Fayetteville, are charged with murder in the death of Steven Gary Henry, 20 of Rt. 8, Fayetteville. Henry was scheduled for Hoke

court appearance with Maynard. The next criminal session of Hoke Superior Court is scheduled to open July 13.

Henry's body bearing two bullet wounds in the head was found, weighted with three cinder blocks, in the Cape Fear River June 15, under a bridge on N.C. 217 and about a mile south of Erwin. He had disappeared from his home June 13, and officers quoted Jeanne Stephen, his fiancée, as saying he

had been threatened before he disappeared.

Henry was scheduled to appear as a prosecution witness in a felonious-larceny trial in Cumberland County. He had been arrested in early March on five charges of breaking and entering and one of felonious larceny. Property allegedly stolen in the break-ins was found in Hoke County. Hoke and Cumberland County officers said last week Henry agreed to testify for the state in the thefts.

Preliminary hearings of the murder charges are scheduled for Tuesday in Harnett County District Court at Lillington.

Harnett County Sheriff's Department detectives arrested and charged Maynard and Bullard June 24 with Henry's killing. Harnett Detectives Lemuel Gregory and Donny McLamb have been credited with gathering the evidence on which the murder charges are based.

Wendell Young Given Reception

Farm Agent Honored On Retirement

Wendell S. Young, Hoke County's chief farm agent for the past 18 years, was honored Friday afternoon on his pending retirement with a reception in the county Agricultural Extension Service conference room in the Lester Building.

His staff arranged the event, and Hoke County and Raeford city government officials, Agricultural Extension Service colleagues from other counties and the state office, members of other agricultural agencies, the county school system, and private business as well as personal friends stopped by to pay their respects.

Members of Young's family were

with Young through the reception -- his wife, Sally, health occupations teacher at Hoke County High School; their sons, Wendell S. (Sam), Jr., of Fayetteville, and Timothy Alan, of Lumberton; and the older Young's father, Chester Young.

Among the people from outside the county who came to the reception were Talmadge Baker, a Hoke assistant agent under Young from 1965 to 1970, and now Randolph County Agricultural Extension chairman; Ralph Sasser, the Southeastern District chairman for the Extension Service, who graduated from North Carolina State University with Young in



Ellen Willis is about to present gift to retiring Hoke Extension chairman [Staff photo.]

1949; Paul Dew, the state Extension Service's assistant director of county operations; and Anna Peele, a former Hoke County Extension agent in charge of 4-H work now a Sampson County Extension home agent.

Among the local people there were Miss Josephine Hall, who served as a home economics agent for 30 years before retiring February 28, 1969, and later became county senior citizens' programs coordinator, retiring from that position this year; and Mrs. Alice McDiarmid, who served as Hoke Extension secretary for 23 years, retiring three years ago.

Young was presented with gifts on the occasion, including a plaque by Sasser, from the state; one from Mrs. Ellen Willis, a Hoke eco-

nomics agent, on behalf of his colleagues, to help him attend the national conference of Extension agents scheduled for Cornell University, at Ithaca, N.Y.; one from Baker; and a painting from Mrs. McDiarmid, which she had done herself. Baker moved to Moore County from Hoke to serve as Extension agent, and went to the Randolph position from Moore.

Young retired officially at the end of the regular working day Tuesday.

Before becoming Hoke's Extension chairman in April 1963, he had served as an assistant agent for the Sampson County Extension Service for 10 years.

Young, 58, said he plans to work parttime after retiring. He will continue living in Raeford.

Hoke County's unemployment in May amounted to 9.2 percent of the Hoke working force of 7,610.

But it was a 2.4 percent drop from the April rate.

The figures for May were reported this week by the State Employment Security Commission.

In May, 700 Hoke workers were unemployed, compared with 890 the previous month.

The state rate for May was 5.8 percent, down two-tenths from the April figure.

The national rate for May was 7.1 percent. It was 7 percent in April.

Most changes in unemployment rates were small. Floyd Outland of ESC's Bureau of Employment Security Research said, "We seem to be floating along in the same stagnant situation that we have had for many months. Except for season variations, I don't foresee the rates doing anything dramatic before the end of the year."

The number of counties with unemployment rates at or below 4 percent in May climbed from seven to nine to include: Alleghany at 3.3, Cabarrus at 3.9, Chatham at 3.9 Henderson at 4, Orange at 3.6, Polk at 3.7, Union at 3.3, Wale at 3.9 percent, and Wilkes at 4.

Graham County experienced the highest rate of unemployment in the state in May with 14.8 percent unemployment. In April, Graham's rate of unemployment was 12.2 percent.

Only five other counties experienced unemployment rates at or above 10 percent in May. They were: Robeson County at 10.0 percent, Rockingham at 10.6 percent, Swain at 13.9 percent, Wilson at 10.3 percent and Yancey at 10.2 percent.

Among the standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs), unemployment increased in one area, remained the same in one area and decreased in five areas. Unemployment in the Raleigh-Durham area increased from 4 percent to 4.3 percent in May.

In the Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point metropolitan area, the unemployment rate remained at 5.1 percent. Unemployment decreased in May in Asheville from 7.1 percent to 6.4 percent and in Charlotte-Gastonia from 4.5 percent to 4.4 percent.

In Fayetteville, the rate dropped from 9.3 percent to 8.9 percent. In Burlington, unemployment declined from April's 6.3 percent to 5.5 percent. Wilmington's rate fell from 7.2 percent to 6.8 percent in May.

Government Offices Plan Holiday Closings

Hoke County, Raeford city and state government offices in Hoke County will be closed July 6 for the Fourth of July holiday.

Federal offices will be closed Friday.

The Raeford Post Office will be closed all day Saturday, with only special delivery service offered, as is the custom on holidays. It will be open Friday and Monday for business as usual.

The Hoke County commissioners will hold their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, starting at 9 a.m. in the Courtroom Annex, instead of on the customary first Monday of the month, because of the holiday. The Hoke County Board of Education, however, will hold its monthly meeting Monday, July 6, starting at 7:30 p.m., instead of on the first Tuesday of the month.

The Raeford City Council will meet July 13, starting at 7 p.m. The council's regular meeting is held normally on the first Monday of each month.

No Court Sessions

The Hoke County District Court's sessions were not held last week because Judge Joseph E. Dupree was attending the annual conference of judges.