

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Maybe it is because of living most of the time now in an air-conditioned office or home, but the heat, when I get outside, seems to get to me more than it used to a few years ago. I played golf over the weekend, and even though I was using a golf cart, I was whipped after about 15 holes.

A few years ago I walked 18 holes in the middle of the summer and got along real well. Now don't go and say "old age," because I am not that old.

The weather forecast is for the same type of weather for the upcoming weekend.

J. Elvin Jackson, district administrator for Congressman Bill Hefner, was by the office last week. He was touching base with some of the Hoke County people because we will be in Hefner's district after the next election.

Elvin was chairman of the Moore County Democratic Executive Committee several years ago when I held the same job in Hoke County.

He stated that they were glad to get Hoke County in the Eighth District and would enjoy working with the people. Elvin said that the Congressman would be down to see us before the primary next year.

A short note from the press secretary of Bill Hefner is as follows:

Mr. Morris: I am a friend of the sons of the Rev. Wheeler who lived in Raeford when their father was at the Methodist Church. Charlie is my age and he remembers you very well and very fondly.

Hope I have a chance to meet you soon.

Jim Lervis Press Secretary

Many of the people of the county remember the Rev. Kermit Wheeler when he was pastor of the Raeford Methodist Church. Charles was the oldest boy and I remember him as a good high school football player. He finished high school here and later attended Duke University.

Nice to hear from people you haven't seen in many years.

Another man that lived in Raeford before the beginning of World War II wrote me the following letter. He will be remembered by many here.

Dear Sam:

Please tell your bookkeeper that I am a very senior citizen so that she will bill me correctly next year. I am enclosing my check for \$6.50 same as last year. If I owe more, let me know. I enjoy the paper, but so many strange names!

I see that Raeford is having hot weather. Don't feel bad. We have had it most of June and July and the humidity is terrific. You can cut it with a Saturday Blade (remember that newspaper).

My bride and I are looking forward to the Battery "F" reunion. We have obtained copies of the titles to many old songs, so tell the "guys and dolls" to get tuned up. I also have some pictures of last year's reunion I will bring along. Some are good and some so so, but I couldn't catch everyone in a good pose.

Please give my regards and best wishes to my old friends.

Sincerely, Jamie

The writer is Jamie Stone who now lives in Columbia, S.C.

The following letter is self-explanatory.

Dear Sam,

Thank you for speaking of Jim Taylor in your News-Journal column. I have wanted to hear something from him for a long time. Didn't know if he was still in Washington. I'm glad to know he is still enjoying the busy life there. One thing I know about Jim is that he is 12 years older than when I last saw him - but then aren't we all!

Give my regards to my friends, especially those I left at The News-Journal. Hopefully everyone has been enjoying good health. Thankfully, I have.

Yours sincerely, Lucy Gray Peebles

P.S. Would love to see all the Raeford people I know.

First 2 Days' Average Up \$43 Over '80

'81 Tobacco Bringing Higher Prices

Leslie's In Downtown Raeford

Fire Damages Garage But Life Saved



Leslie Irion, Jr., with truck at which fire started. [Staff photo.]

Duke Thanks Hoke People For Welcome

The following was written by Leader Dog Duke to express his gratitude to his neighbors and other friends for making him feel welcome in Hoke County. He moved here with his "family" from Michigan three years ago.

Dear Hoke County folks:

Having been a member of the Archie McDiarmid family for three years now, maybe I need to say something.

I am still trying to get used to southern heat and after several visits to the doctor I've finally found something to help ease my rash and itch from walking in grass and weeds.

As for all those guns and bombs going off over at Fort Bragg, they drive me crazy. How am I to know they won't harm me? I can't find a place to hide to get away from the noise, and I'm driving my master crazy following him all over the house to see that he doesn't get hit by on of them.

Also, when the good Lord sends all the thundering and lightning, I'm about ready to climb into anybody's bed, or under it if I were not so big. Course, I guess it's something you have to take along with everything else in life. And, that's another thing: here I am trying to be like everyone else, and when I look around and see only two legs on people and I have four legs, sleep on the floor, eat from a pan on the floor, go outside to walk instead of a convenient little room where folks go, how come I'm expected to act like a people? I surely don't look like a people.

That pooch in the yard gets pretty nice treatment but doesn't get to stay in the house and ride in the car like I do. We only get to speak in passing. At least I don't get scolded for digging in the shrubbery.

It's not that I don't love my people; my people don't always want to do as I feel they should do but they give me a good warm, dry, and cool home; and even if I do only get one meal a day, I don't have to work too hard for that. And those of you who know me can tell I haven't exactly wasted away.

Gee! My folks also must think my hair is messy or else why would

For Secondary Roads

Hoke Getting \$61,489

The State Board of Transportation Friday approved funds for secondary road construction improvements for the counties for 1981-82, including \$61,489 for Hoke County.

The statewide total is \$30.7 million.

The amount for each county was based on a formula which included miles of unpaved secondary roads in relation to the total mileage of

I have to go through all that brushing and combing twice a day. You'd think I'd be bald bodied. I love it though. It feels so good, I just plop down and take a nap afterward unless we are going somewhere.

I like to ride but, without air conditioning on in the car, the heat really gets to me, especially on some of these hot humid days. 'Skeeters get to me and me not being an outside fellow it bothers me worse than an average dog. It sure is hard trying not to scratch when I itch.

And I can't understand why my folks won't let me shake when they get through eating in a restaurant. Goodness, they enjoy all that good smelling food and then won't let me enjoy a good shake when they are through. Gee! Just 'cause humans don't shake after a meal I can't either. But, I can shake and run and sash around when I get outside when I'm let loose for a few minutes in the yard at home.

Sure have met a lot of nice friends and some little people who would stand and rub me bald-headed if my folks would let them. There also a few people (very few) I don't like. I don't know why, they seem friendly enough, but they just get on my nerves I guess. My folks won't let me bite anyone though; and if I make enough fuss I don't have to stay in the same room with them. Don't much like being shut away but I just lie down and sometimes doze off to sleep until they leave. I wouldn't want to makes my folks too upset by being ugly to their guests.

In these three years I have maintained my canine instincts. My co-workers and family would be proud to know I hate cats and would chase them if allowed to.

We go to church almost every Sunday unless it rains. I enjoy a nap in the cool and don't listen much to the singing and the preacher, but when the service is over I can't wait to get outside; that old Presbyterian cat may be on the porch and I'm hoping some day to really get a chance to chase her. I think she started coming just 'cause I did. If she could get inside she wouldn't know what a

(See DUKE THANKS, page 15)

A fire believed started by a truck's fuel leak and ignition short circuit damaged the interior of Leslie's Garage building and the garage's tools and other equipment, destroyed two vehicles and damaged three others early Thursday.

Leslie Irion, Jr., the owner of the business, said Friday morning, however, it could have been worse: if it weren't for a Raeford fireman, he said, he would have lost his life.

"I wish I knew who the fireman was," he said.

Irion said he had been in the office, which has one door opening to the exterior of the building and the other to the interior of the garage, which occupies most of the building. Despite the heat, which reached 200 degrees, and smoke in the office, he had been working to save records and other papers and had moved a steel filing cabinet out of the building.

He said the firemen were in the office at the time, he said, and then he thought about the vehicles in the garage. A fireman warned him not to go into the garage, but he started to open the door to leave the office to go into the garage to open the large verticle doors at the front of the building so the vehicles could be removed and the firemen could get in.

When he reached the door, however, the unidentified fireman grabbed him in a "bear hug" and wrestled him away.

Irion said a fireman told him later that if he had gone into the garage he would have died as soon as he had taken his first breath. The nearest fire was in the 1969 Ford pickup truck where the blaze had started, and it was about 30 feet from the office, Irion said, so he thought he'd be safe, since the vertical doors opening on the front of the building were next to the office.

His informant told him, however, that as soon as he had inhaled the first time, his lungs would have blown up, because, though the fire itself was not close to the office, it had built the temperature in the building to 900 to 1,000 degrees.

Experienced firemen say most deaths in fires are caused by breathing superheated air.

Irion quoted Raeford Fire Chief Robert (Buster) Jackson as blaming the cause of the fire on igniting of gasoline leaking from the pickup truck. Irion believes the gasoline was ignited by a short circuit occurring in the truck's ignition system.

Irion estimated the damages to the building and its contents at

School Registration

Registration for all new students and all others who have not registered for Hoke County's 1981-82 school year is being held this week through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

All schools are open for the registration.

about \$50,000. The building, which lies between East Central Avenue and South Stewart Street, is owned by Fleeta Maxwell.

Most of the damage was caused by the fire's heat rather than by direct contact with the flames, Irion said. Most of the tools in a tool chest were rendered unusable by the heat, he added.

Irion said insurance covered part of the damage to his equipment and the building.

The damages in terms of money, he said, included an \$11,000 engine analyzer but he has a separate insurance policy on that machine. Irion said Ray Duffy, employed by the supplier, replaced his damaged analyzer with a good one within 10 hours after the fire.

The damage to the building was done principally to the interior side of the roof. The office appeared undamaged though, Irion said, a fireman told him the heat from the garage raised the temperature of the interior door, made of plywood, to about 250 degrees, too hot even to touch.

Hoke County Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technicians gave Irion oxygen for treatment for smoke inhalation and offered to run errands, Irion's wife said.

Irion expressed gratitude to the Ambulance Service, the Raeford firemen and the garage's loyal customers for their support in the emergency.

He said the garage would continue serving customers, though on a "very limited basis." "I can't afford to close," he added and said he would be operating in the yard if that had been necessary.

The fire broke out about 1 a.m. Thursday, he said, and the firemen had it out about 10 minutes after they arrived shortly after the alarm sounded.

Besides the 1969 pickup truck, a 1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass was destroyed, a 1976 Chevrolet pickup truck was damaged, and a 1968 El Camino and a 1971 Cadillac were damaged slightly by smoke, Irion said.

He said the five vehicles belonged to customers.

Irion said he moved to the garage in April 1979 after operating a Raeford service station for the previous five years.

On Friday morning, except for the odor of smoke, the office and its adjoining storage area appeared as though nothing had happened. "My wife worked all day Thursday cleaning it up," Irion explained.

Kathy McMillan Wins In Meet

Kathy McMillan Ray, the Raeford native who won a silver medal in the 1976 Olympics, won her event -- the long jump -- Monday in the National Sports Festival at Syracuse, N.Y.

Mrs. Ray covered 21 3/4 feet, an inch and a quarter better than her closest rival, Jodi Anderson of Northridge, Calif., who holds the American women's long-jump record.

Mrs. Ray and Miss Anderson were members of the West team. Mrs. Ray's address was listed as Clarksville, Tenn.

Mrs. Ray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McMillan of Raeford, graduated from Tennessee State University at Nashville in the spring of 1980 and was married the following December 27 to Terrel Len Ray of Los Angeles, Calif.

She competed earlier this month in Leningrad, Russia, as a member of the U.S. track and field team in

Hoke County tobacco farmers on the whole are doing much better on this summer's markets than they did last year.

The U.S. State Department of Agriculture reports the average price North Carolina producers received Thursday and Friday was \$160.93 per hundred pounds, about \$43 per hundred higher than the corresponding market days of last year.

Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service agent Bill Northern Tuesday afternoon said this was the average on the S.C.-N.C. markets, which opened July 20. Many Hoke producers sell on the Aberdeen market of the middle belt, though some put their tobacco up for sale at the Fairmont market of the Border Belt, first involving North Carolina markets to open following the Georgia-Florida Belt each year.

He said Hoke tobacco averaged about \$160 and "looked good."

Quoting the agriculture department reports, he said Hoke the first two days averaged \$177 per 100 pounds, \$19 to \$28 per hundred higher than last year's average for the grade, and primings averaged \$147 per hundred, \$37 to \$45 per hundred higher than last year's figures for the first two days on the market.

Northern said most tobacco from Hoke was priming the lug grade, and 20 to 30 per cent of the 1981 crop produced in the county has been sold so far.

The gross volume of tobacco from all counties selling on the Border Belt markets totaled 10,315,554 pounds. Compared with last year's, quality was reported greatly improved. Volume was reported heavy.

Of this, 59 per cent was priming grade, 33 per cent lug, three per cent cutter, and five per cent nondescript, the lowest grade.

The federal Tobacco Stabilization Corp. received only 1.2 per cent of the tobacco offered at the markets the first two days, compared with 17.4 per cent the first two days last year. The Stabilization receives tobacco under the price support system.

Northern said Hoke's tobacco yield is higher this year than the county's average, which is about 2,000 pounds per acre.

Last year's income from tobacco totaled about \$5.2 million, but production costs were 12 to 15 per cent above the 1979 figures.

This year's income from the markets appear heading for a substantial increase over the 1980 gross, in view of the county's tobacco quality.

The real income the producer receives will depend largely on what his 1981 production costs were and the over-all quality and volume of his crop.

The 1980 gross was about \$700,000 above the 1979 figure, but about \$592,000 under the 1978 total.

a meet with the Soviet Union team. Mrs. Ray won her second-place Olympic medal in Montreal July 22, 1976, with a jump of 21 feet 10 1/4 inches, but her best was 22 feet 3 inches in the 1976 Olympic trials June 19.

She also won a place on the 1980 Olympic team, but the team didn't compete because of the U.S. boycott of the games, which were held in Moscow. The boycott was held to protest the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

Another North Carolina woman -- Mary Shea of Raleigh, a North Carolina State University junior, finished third in the 3,000-meter run, covering the distance in 9:22.11. The winner was Kim Gallagher, a rising high school senior from Ft. Washington, Pa. Miss Gallagher's time was 9:19.67. The runnerup was Debbie Eide of the Oregon Track Club, in 9:20.08. Miss Shea has run the distance in 9:06.32.