

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

For another week the weather has been what I would call perfect. Cool nights and warm days and enough rain for crops. But don't cut off the air conditioners because we can have hot weather in September.

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The old picture on the front page of last week's paper brought forth many comments. Some were about the old cars, no paved streets, and of course about the lady in the middle of the picture.

The first clue came from John McKeithan, when he said it was one of the Rackley girls, and this was followed by Jesse Gullledge, who said the same thing. Others agreed that it was either Ava or Ethel Rackley, who lived on South Stewart Street, then called 'Red Bone.'

Last Friday afternoon, I had a call from Mrs. Mamie Livingston Spears who lives on the Hoke County line before you get to Lumber Bridge. She didn't know if the picture was of Ava or Ethel, but stated that her mother was a half-sister to the Rackley girls, and that her name was Lida Rackley. Lida married W.F. Livingston of the Stonewall section of Hoke County.

Mrs. Spears said that her grandfather owned a large farm below where the Arabia Golf Course is now located, and had a grist mill and cotton gin on the farm. After the death of Mamie's grandmother, he married again and Ava and Ethel were children of the second wife. After the death of her grandfather, she said that the second Mrs. Rackley sold the farm and bought a house in Raeford.

She stated that Ethel was dead, but that Ava now Mrs. J. Pat Jackson lived in Kingsport, Tenn. Mamie said she would give her a call and try to find out which of the ladies worked at Townsend Drug Store.

The surprise came when Mamie called back and said that Mrs. Jackson (Ava) said that neither of them worked at the drug store. Mrs. Jackson stated that she worked at Hatcher's Jewelry Store and went to Fayetteville to work when Mr. Hatcher moved his store. She said the girl in the picture must be Virginia Canoy, who boarded at the Rackley home.

A paper has been sent to Mrs. Jackson and maybe we can get further information after she takes a look at the picture.

Anyway it is nice to talk to people and bring back memories of the "good old days."

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Robert Ward Whitley of Philadelphia, Pa. was by the office last week. He was visiting his sister and brother, Mary Hazel and Ed here for a few days. Robert and I were schoolmates at Raeford High School. He finished in 1936 and I finished in 1935.

It was good to talk over old times with him and we hope he will come more often after his retirement, which he says will be next year.

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A note in a subscription renewal is as follows:

"Always enjoy each issue of *The News-Journal*. No matter how far away I go, family ties keep pulling me back to Raeford.

"I will be coming home for the Walters Family Reunion on Sept. 6 at Aberdeen Lake. During my two weeks in the area, I plan to see as many relatives and friends as possible; and hopefully do some genealogical research on my McDiarmid Family and its allied branches.

As ever
Betty Whaston

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While getting a hair cut last week Stanley Koonce made mention of the Baptist Measure. He said that the late Mr. Cary Stephens said that the measures were as follows: a Methodist Measure was when the bushel basket was heaped on top; the Baptist Measure was when the basket was filled to the rim and then smoothed over, and the Presbyterian Measure was when the basket was filled with the elbow of the Presbyterian still in the basket.

Since I know that Mr. Cary was a Methodist, I won't put much faith in these measures.

In Hoke County Schools

Classes Start Thursday For New Year



Maj. Barrington [left] and Ptl. Baker with poster they put up Tuesday morning on Bethel Road near Hoke High. [Staff photo.]

Put Up By Raeford PD

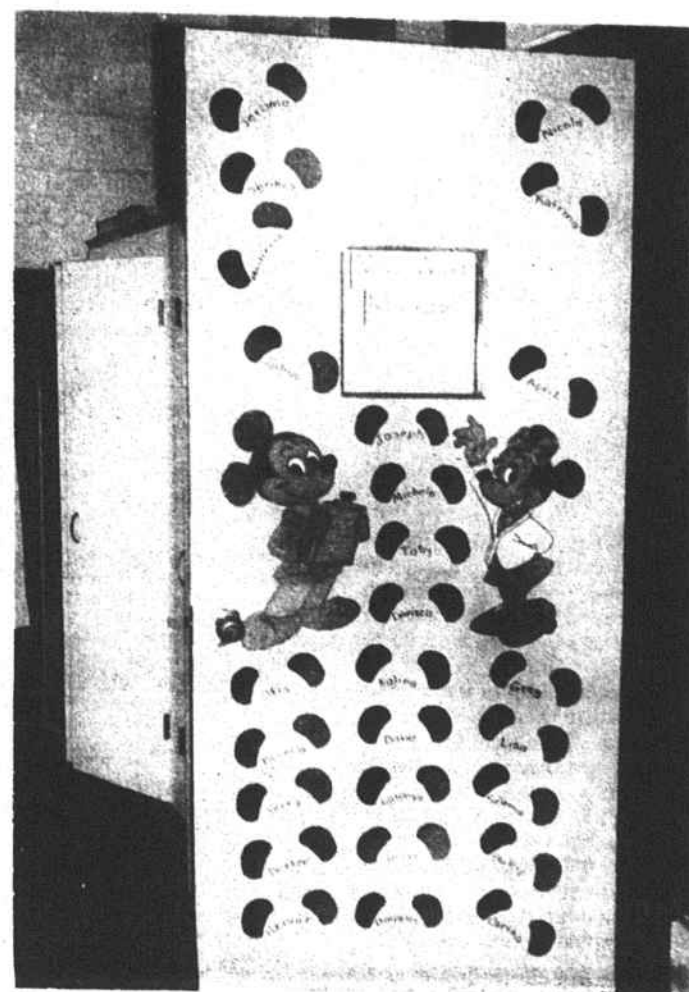
Posters For School Opening Caution Drivers

The Raeford Police Department this week put up posters saying "School's Open -- Drive Carefully" this week throughout the city in preparation for the opening of school Thursday morning for the 1981 fall term. Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported.

Maj. J.C. Barrington, assisted by

Ptl. George Baker, finished the work Tuesday morning.

Wiggins said that this year's poster program is part of a yearly undertaking conducted jointly with the Carolina Motor Club. He added that it is designed to remind motorists that school has started again and to be especially careful



The door of the first-grade classroom of Miss Martha Ann Wood at West Hoke School has been fixed up like this in preparation for the coming of the students Thursday morning for their first day of the 1981-82 school year. [Staff photo.]

while driving through school zones.

T. Ed Pickard, president of the motor club said, "This is a particularly difficult time for all concerned. During the summer months drivers have gotten out of the habit of slowing down in school zones...and many students have forgotten to watch out for cars."

He added, "The daily school journey is a serious matter for millions of youngsters each year. Although the 35 million students in the United States between the ages of 5 and 14 represent about 16 percent of our total population, they are involved in nearly 32 percent of our annual pedestrian accidents."

At Association Dinner Meeting

Lee Croft Voted Hoke Officer Of Year

A state correctional officer at McCain and retired Navy veteran was named Hoke County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year August 25.

Sgt. Lee Croft, on the staff of the McCain State Correctional Unit for men for the past 12 years, was chosen for the honor for 1980-81 by the majority of the members of the Hoke County Law Enforcement Officers Association attending the association's annual dinner meeting at Woodmen of the World Hall. The members voted on the nominees in a secret ballot.

The association also during the meeting gave the Hoke County Rescue Squad \$100 as a gift in appreciation of the help the squad has been giving law enforcement officers. The gift was accepted by Jim and Ginny Wade for the squad. Jim Wade is a charter and active member of the squad, which was founded about 20 years ago.

After the business meeting, the association members and their guests watched outdoor demonstrations given by dogs in tracking, drug detecting and attacking and subduing felony suspects. The dogs performed under the supervision of Gerry Lapham. He was assisted by several experienced dog-handlers, including Lisa Madden of Raeford, a Hoke County High School student and daughter of Hoke Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. James Madden.

Members of the association also participated in the demonstrations as "targets" for the dogs and people in a "crowd" through which the dogs had to pursue a fugitive but without biting any of the bystanders despite their yelling and

simulated striking at them.

Croft, a native of Bedford, Va., joined the state correctional unit at McCain after leaving the Navy following 23 years of service.

He came to Hoke County because he'd married a Hoke County girl -- Christine Sides of Ashley Heights. She also was a classmate of David Barrington, now Hoke sheriff, at what was then Raeford High School, graduating in 1951.

The Crofts have three children: Susan, 24, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Linda, 23, a UNC-Charlotte graduate, and Billy 18, who graduated last spring from Hoke County High School and is now in the Navy. Susan works in the accounting office of Pinehurst, Inc., and Linda in the restaurant of Pinehurst Country Club. Their mother works in an Aberdeen pharmacy.

Among the association members who volunteered to be a target was District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree. Wearing the protective

heavily padded sleeve used in training attack dogs, he and Doby, a large and vigorous Doberman Pinscher, gave each other a strenuous workout for several minutes.

Among the other dogs showing their skills for the audience were Joey, a German Shepherd, and Duchess, a Rottweiler, also a German breed. Joey and Duchess the previous weekend, with Lapham handling them, helped Hoke sheriff's deputies find marijuana at places the officers searched for drugs.

In another exhibition, Duchess and Miss Madden demonstrated as attacker and attackee, but Lapham indicated to the audience they were about evenly matched. He said Duchess weighs about 100 pounds, which is about what Miss Madden weighs.

Doby, directed by Roger Johnson, also gave an exhibition in agility, jumping over hurdles, and climbing over a nearly vertical wooden wall about 10 feet high. He also demonstrated obedience to



Lee Croft [right] is congratulated by Sam Motley, president of the Hoke County Law Enforcement Officers Association, on being elected Hoke County Officer of the Year. [Staff photo.]

Johnson's hand and voice directions, including crawling on his stomach.

Deputy Sheriff Sam Motley, president of the association, president (See CROFT, page 10)

Guilford Murder Suspect Arrested In Hoke

A man wanted on a murder charge in Guilford County was arrested Monday night at his mother's home in South Hoke.

Detective C.E. Harris of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, one of the officers who participated in the arrest, reported the suspect is Thurman Lee Locklear, 37, an Indian, of Greensboro, a native of South Hoke.

Harris said Guilford officers

were on their way to Raeford Tuesday morning to return Locklear to Guilford County. Locklear was being held in Hoke County Jail without bond after he was arrested, Harris reported.

Guilford County Detective Steve Shaver informed Harris that the murder was committed Saturday. Harris did not know who the victim was but said he understood it was a white male.

The Hoke department had been advised when it was informed Locklear was in Hoke County that Locklear was to be "considered armed and dangerous," but Harris said Locklear was unarmed and did not resist when he was arrested.

He said the other officers participating in the arrest were Hoke Detective J.R. Riley, SBI Agent T. Wade Anders, who had informed Harris that Locklear was believed

to be in Hoke County, and Robeson County Deputies H. Bell and H. Smith.

Harris's report filed at the sheriff's department after Locklear was arrested says that after Anders contacted him, he and Riley went with Anders and the two Robeson officers met in South Hoke at 7 p.m. Monday, then went to the home and found Locklear there.

The new school year will start at 8 a.m. Thursday for Hoke County's public school students, and it will be a full day.

School buses will be running on their regular schedules, and school dining rooms will be serving lunch to students, teachers, and supervisors.

At West Hoke, everybody was "all excited and ready to go." West Hoke Principal Milton Williams said last Thursday, and the same could be said for the county's other schools. Williams is starting his first year as West Hoke principal after serving as an assistant principal of Hoke County High School. His predecessor at West Hoke, Woodrow Westall, is going into his first year as South Hoke School's principal.

West Hoke is expecting 420 students in its grades kindergarten through fourth, and has 22 teachers for them.

About 4,900 boys and girls are expected during the first days of the 1981 fall term, in kindergarten through Hoke County High School senior class.

The first week of classes will be followed by the annual Labor Day holiday weekend, with Monday the traditional holiday. Classes will be open again Tuesday morning.

The teachers went to work August 19, and wound up preparations last week and Monday for the opening of the new year by participating in staff development sessions, which opened August 24 and continued through Monday.

The next holiday for the students is October 30 when the North Carolina Association of Educators will meet. Teachers and supervisors will be attending.

The other holiday before Thanksgiving is November 11, Veterans Day, but parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for that day, a Wednesday.

The Thanksgiving holiday will be November 26-27, with classes being resumed the following Monday morning.