

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rainfall over the weekend was approximately three inches and this should bring the water table about up to normal. As you ride around the county, there is water in almost every field you pass. I haven't heard any farmers complaining so far, but if the rains continue it will keep them from getting into their fields with tractors.

The bolt of lightning that came last Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour hit a tree in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Culbreth on Harris Avenue. It sounded as if a bomb had been dropped on Raeford. As far as I can find out there wasn't any damage from the lightning, except the tree.

The forecast is for warmer weather the remainder of the week.

The rainy weather the past weekend made it just right for the viewing of the ACC basketball tournament. It was impossible to do anything else, so you could sit around and enjoy the tournament. Of course if your team won, it was more enjoyable.

Most of the games were close and the only comments came from those who don't like the slowdown game that most coaches are now using these days. Mostly it comes down to the final thing of, if your team wins or loses. If your team wins with the slowdown, then you think it is fine. If not, you then have something to blame the loss on.

During the next two or three weeks we will see if the run and shoot, or the slowdown, will win the championship. There are both kinds of teams in the final 48.

Don't forget to attend your precinct meetings Thursday night (tonight) if you are a registered Democrat. The meetings will be held at the polling places at 8:00 o'clock.

There must be as many as 10 voters attending to make it a valid meeting.

The books are still open and will be until 30 days before the primary for anyone that hasn't registered. Also if you have moved from one precinct to another since the last election, you must go by the clerk's office and change your voting place. It will be too late after the books have closed.

Of course the reason for anyone to register is to make them eligible to vote. In Hoke County, many times we have less than 50% of the registered voters to vote.

So remember outside of paying taxes and dying, this is about the only privilege you have left, so be sure to exercise this right.

Every month or so a group in Hoke County gets together and enjoys a fish fry. The food is usually prepared by Joe Upchurch and he has help from various people. It is held at Jim Williamson's farm machinery building in the winter and at Robert Gatlin's pond during the summer months.

Monday night the group met at Williamson's and were pleased to have as their guests, Lt. Gen. Jack V. Mackmull, commanding officer at Ft. Bragg, who was accompanied by his aide, Capt. George Oliver and Sgt. Johnny Honeycutt and Sgt. Vince Felke. Clyde Upchurch was the force behind the general being at the fish fry.

The general talked to different ones about many subjects and it helps to have good relations at Fort Bragg with the reservation being in Hoke County.

This was not the first fish fry for Gen. Mackmull but it was the first he had attended since becoming commander at Fort Bragg.

I think that relations will be tops with the army as long as you can sit down and talk with the brass.

In Fight With Deputies

Brothers Ordered To Make Restitution

Two Hoke County brothers involved in a fight with Hoke County sheriff's deputies the night of January 23 in the Scurlock community pleaded guilty Friday in Hoke County District Court to charges arising from the incident.

The fight, which started when Maj. J.R. Riley of the Sheriff's Department attempted to make an arrest for alleged driving under the influence, drew an undetermined number of blacks. The brothers are black, and the officers who were involved are white.

Judge A. Elizabeth Keever of Fayetteville sentenced the brothers, Benjamin Franklin Green, Jr., 30, and Joseph Allen Green, 29, both

of Rt. 2, Raeford, but suspended the terms on conditions the defendants pay restitutions and court costs.

Benjamin Green pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and to assault on an officer, Riley. He was sentenced on the DUI charge to six months suspended for two years on conditions he pay a \$100 fine and also court costs, and not drive for a year or till properly licensed, and attend the Drug and Alcohol Abuse School.

The judge provided that the condition regarding driving be left open for granting Green a limited-driving privilege. Green also was

placed on probation for two years.

For the assault on Riley, the judge sentenced Benjamin Green to six to 12 months suspended for two years, and placed him on probation for two years. The conditions are that he make \$500 restitution to Riley, and pay any nonpaid medical bills for injuries to the officer.

Green had been accused of biting and kicking Riley.

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell took voluntary dismissals of charges of two counts of assault on an officer and one of resisting an officer, after Benjamin Green agreed to plead guilty to DUI and the count of assaulting Riley.

Benjamin Green originally had been charged also with assaulting Sheriff's Deputies John W. Wood and J.L. Madden.

The defendant also consented specifically to be responsible for his own medical bills arising out of the incident.

Joseph Green was sentenced to six to 12 months, suspended, for two years after he pleaded guilty to three counts of assault on an officer. The conditions of the suspension were that he pay a \$100 fine, and court costs, and \$113 restitution to Wood and \$22.50 restitution to Wood was ordered to reimburse Wood for the expense of

having to replace his eyeglasses, which were broken in the fight; and to the county to replace Deputy A.R. Odom's uniform shirt, torn in a scuffle at the jail.

The prosecutor took voluntary dismissals of charges of injury to personal property, and interfering with, obstructing, and delaying an officer, and assault on an officer when Joseph Green agreed to plead guilty to the three counts of assault on an officer.

The Sheriff's Department reported shortly after the fight that Benjamin Green suffered a laceration on an eyebrow and was treated at a local doctor's office, then brought to the county jail; but then he started vomiting and inhaling the vomit, so he was taken to Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst after an emergency visit to the Raeford physician who had treated him for the laceration.

The department report attributed his vomiting to earlier drinking.

Dr. Robert S. Jacques, chairman of the hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine, says in a written statement dated March 1 and addressed "To Whom It May Concern" that about 2 a.m. January 24 he examined, diagnosed and treated Benjamin Green at the request of the deputies of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

He writes that "while he (Green) was in jail he vomited and apparently aspirated his vomitus which resulted in severe respiratory distress for which he was seen at Moore Memorial Hospital."

The statement continues: "Mr. Green was a well developed, well nourished black 30 year old male who was previously sutured for a 1/2 inch laceration over the right eye and treated for superficial abrasions of the forehead. Remainder of the physical exam was essentially negative wounds He was having respiratory distress. He was uncommunicative. He had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath.

"Under my supervision a blood alcohol sample was drawn The level of alcohol was ascertained in the laboratory at Moore Memorial Hospital. The results were 145mg%."

"Because Mr. Green's respiratory problem began to deteriorate he was admitted to the inpatient service of Dr. Farrell Collins, a specialist in respiratory medicine."

Collins, in a statement addressed "To Whom It May Concern" and dated February 26, says he examined Benjamin Green the morning of January 24 when he was admitted to the hospital.

"I was called in to assist with his care because he had developed respiratory failure," Collins adds. "I am an internist with a subspecialty in pulmonary disease."

His statement continues: "He indeed, was quite ill when I first saw him. My feeling is that he was suffering from respiratory distress syndrome related to aspiration pneumonia and in addition to that was suffering from shock probably from the hypoxemia secondary to the aspiration pneumonia. He had a profound hypoxia that was corrected. His tissue oxygenation was improved with the ventilator. He also had renal insufficiency and this appeared to improve during his hospital stay.

"I am not a specialist in trauma but it did appear to me that he did not have any evidence of trauma at the time of his exam. I feel that he was suffering from the effects of alcohol and aspiration. There was a small cut on his forehead. I would not be able to say whether or not this was from another person or from any other cause.

"I did not examine him at the jail and did not see him earlier."

The letters and other material gathered by the prosecutor were not introduced as evidence because the Greens pleaded guilty.

After the brothers were brought to Raeford from the scene of the fight, crowds gathered outside the doctor's office and the county jail, and some in the crowd shouted "police brutality" and obscenities, the Sheriff's Department reported.

The three officers involved in the fight on the highway and the Greens suffered lacerations. The three officers in addition to the Greens suffered injuries in the fight but none required hospitalization. Riley was the most seriously hurt. Flesh was bitten from his lower left cheek.

Also Elects 1982 Officers

Hoke Rescue Squad Picks 'Outstanding'

The Hoke County Rescue Squad's officers for 1982 were elected recently.

They are Weaver Patterson, commander; Howard Barkley, executive vice commander; Mark Gentry, vice commander; Lawrence Conoly, secretary; and Frances Patterson, treasurer.

The duty of the commander is to oversee completely the squad and its workings; the executive commander's duties -- public relations, obtaining funds and, in the absence of the commander, to be in charge; the vice commander's -- in charge of all equipment and its workings.

The secretary is in charge of taking the minutes at the meetings, and keeping up with members present and their training time.

With the election of new officers, the squad gave special thanks for a job well done, to the retiring officers -- John Melton, commander; Bobby Conoly, executive vice commander; Jim Wade, vice commander; Weaver Patterson, secretary; and Jean Wade, treasurer.

The squad members also voted on the Outstanding Team and Outstanding Squadman of 1981.

Chosen the Outstanding Team because the members gave up their spare time to serve the squad was the one composed of Raymond Beaudoin, Melton, Gentry and Mark Posey.

Named Outstanding Squadman was Johnny Melton for his service to the squad.



OUTSTANDING TEAM -- L-R. John Melton, Mark Posey, Ray Beaudoin, and Mark Gentry.

United Way of Hoke County

Fair Share Giving Encouraged In Drive

The United Way of Hoke County is encouraging Fair Share giving in the 1982 campaign.

Fair Share is a term used to signify some comparative standard of giving. Fair Share in Hoke County will mean that an individual has contributed a day's wages.

Those individuals that participate in Fair Share giving will be presented an attractive lapel pin to indicate their support of the United Way supported agencies.

Ken Witherspoon, campaign chairman, re-emphasized today that he is anxious to improve participation in this year's campaign. Voluntary agencies are important today but they will become an even more vital resource in the future, he said. "By giving to the United Way you not only insure the present but also invest in the future," he added.

This year's campaign goal of \$20,281, will be divided as follows:

Rescue Squad, \$1,200; Senior Citizens, 300; Boy Scouts, 4,000; American Red Cross, 4,444; Lion's Club (White Cane), 900; Home Health, 1,000; 4-H Council, 1,880; Children's Center, 1,200; Girl Scouts, 3,000; Arthritis Foundation, 399; N.C. United Way, 349; Children's Home Society, 648; American Social Health Association, 48; Epilepsy Assoc. of N.C., 165; International Soc. Ser., 9; Florence Crittenton Home, 344; National Council on Aging, 42; United Health Services, 143; Research Fund of N.C. United, 210.

Representatives of all of these organizations have appeared before either the United Way of Hoke

County, North Carolina United Way, or the United Way of America. Based on a review by

these various volunteers, the requests have been determined appropriate.

"Your individual support is vital to the success of this year's campaign," Witherspoon said.

January Jobless Rate 11.6%

Hoke County's rate of unemployment hit 13.4 percent in January, the first month it went into double figures since April 1981 when the rate was 11.6 percent.

The rate for January 1981 was 11.4 percent.

The State Employment Security Commission report shows Hoke was among 54 counties which had double-digit unemployment rates in January 1982.

Dare County had the highest -- 22.1 percent, followed by Swain -- 22 percent.

The commission reported unemployment rose in 95 of the state's 100 counties in January and declined in the other five, from the previous month's rate.

A total of 1,060 of Hoke's labor force of 7,900 was unemployed in January.

N.C. 2000 Questionnaires Here

Hoke County residents will have a chance to say what they want the state to be like in the year 2000, through a questionnaire being distributed in Hoke County and throughout the state during March.

The questionnaire is part of North Carolina 2000, a long-range planning project now underway in Hoke County and across the state. According to Betsy Ann McNeill, chairman of the Hoke County NC 2000 Committee, citizens are being asked to identify what they value most about the state now and want to preserve for the future and what they think needs most improvement.

Throughout the month of March, the NC 2000 Committee will be placing the questionnaire in public places such as libraries, banks and offices and distributing

it through community organizations.

"We see this as a way to get more people thinking about the problems and opportunities of a new century," said McNeill. "We want them to bring their own goals and values to bear on decisions made by leaders at all levels -- decisions that can mean a better life for our children and our communities in the years ahead."

Hoke's committee is part of a network of county committees responsible for making sure local

citizens and leaders have a voice in the statewide planning effort.

The committees are feeding information into a state-level Commission on the Future of North Carolina, appointed by Governor Jim Hunt and chaired by University of North Carolina President William C. Friday.

The Commission is exploring alternate courses of action and will submit a report of recommended actions to Gov. Hunt in December of this year.



WINNER -- John Howard, president of the Hoke County Semi-Pro Baseball Association, is shown presenting Linda Stanton with the \$25 U.S. Savings Bond and the season pass she won for entering the winning name for the team -- The Hoke County Blazers. The Blazers are getting ready for their season with an exhibition game with Ft. Bragg March 13 at Ft. Bragg and March 14 on the Hoke High baseball field. The public is invited. L-R -- Jimmie Neill Conoly, general manager; Linda Stanton; Howard; Helen Hultman, secretary-treasurer; and Joann Crawford, fund-raising chairman; and, kneeling, modeling the new Blazers' uniform, Mark Madden. [Staff photo by Pam Frederick.]

Hoke Democrats Caucus Thursday

Democrats from Hoke County will caucus at their precinct polling places on Thursday, March 11, at 8 p.m., Harold L. Gillis, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Party announced today. Any registered Democrat is eligible to attend.

"These precinct meetings represent grass-roots democracy in action," Gillis said. "Democrats all over North Carolina will be gathering to elect delegates to their county Democratic convention and to

discuss and pass resolutions on issues that concern them."

Gillis stressed that the Democratic Party is seeking broad participation in its meetings at both the precinct and county level.

"It is our goal to hold meetings in every precinct in the county and to continue to build on this strength at the county convention. We urge all Democrats to attend these meetings and to show their interests in good government."