

Area Incidents

Fires Damage Mobile Home, Van

The following have been reported to the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Paul Troy Kokodura of Rt. 2, Raeford, reported Sunday someone stole \$93 and a \$45 Bowie knife from his home.

Someone let air out of the tires on the passenger side of a truck owned by Johnny Rogers, Rt. 2, Red Springs. Rogers reported it happened Saturday or Sunday. He reported his mail box, valued at \$20, also is missing.

George Graham of Fayetteville reported \$950 damage to his house on Rt. 2, Raeford, and a \$125 lawn mower and a \$700 microwave oven stolen from the house between

August 16 and 19. He reported also that a door of his mobile home near the house was damaged. In the house, windows were broken and holes were put in the walls.

Someone shot out a door glass and vent glass of Paul Sutton's truck and four front windows of his house and damaged a wall of the house, Sutton, of Rt. 2, Raeford, reported August 26. He said he discovered the damage on returning home after being away since August 18. The damage was estimated at a total of \$325 to the truck and house.

A fire damaged the bottom of the mobile home of Mr. and Mrs.

Alexander McArn on N.C. 211 west Friday. North Raeford Fire Chief Johnny Baker said there was no reason for the fire. The investigating officer said the odor of fuel was detected. McArn told the officer he was awakened by his wife who said before the fire was discovered someone was outside the trailer. The investigation is continuing.

Jaye McNeill reported she found on returning to her home August 24 on Vass Road after being gone since June 4, 1981 that the padlock on the front door had been cut off, the front door open, the padlock on a table, and the telephone removed.

Walter Frank Campbell, Rt. 1, Raeford, reported August 25 that when he returned from playing a music engagement at a club August 22 his van, which he kept locked, was damaged by fire, its right front door was open and a window had been rolled down. He said he kept disco equipment in it. The investigating officer reported he believed the fire was started by an electrical shortage under the hood and that the fire had been concentrated under the hood and dash. He said disco equipment had been damaged by the fire's heat.

Charles Dale Allen, Rt. 1, Raeford, reported a \$175 cassette tape player and a \$120 booster were stolen from his car by someone who broke into it.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported the following received by his department.

Radio station WSHB reported Tuesday someone stole 36 of the letters from its marquee on U.S. 401 north. The letters are valued at \$15.

Heilig-Meyers Furniture Co. reported Monday about \$500 damage was done deliberately to one of its trucks while it was parked in Edinborough Shopping Center.

Henry Everette Bowen reported that someone stole the molding from the right side of his car Friday while the car was parked in a parking lot at Faberge, Inc. The molding is valued at \$27.77.

James R. McNeill reported Friday two tires on his vehicle were cut while the vehicle was parked in Edinborough Shopping Center. The damage was about \$200.

Someone stole a battery from a school bus at the Hoke County school bus garage on South Magnolia Street, it was reported Thursday. The battery is valued at \$75.



WRIGHT COMPLETES 30 YEARS -- E.J. Wright recently completed 30 years of continuous service with the Raeford Plant of Burlington Industries. Mr. Wright has worked in the Weave Department as a Cleaner, in the Cloth Room as a Packer and again in Weave as a Sweeper, Shuttle fixer, Weaver, Warp Hanger and Weave Technician, which he has performed since 1965. He is pictured displaying his service certificate. He also received a Cross Pen and Pencil set and a gold/diamond 30-year tie tac pin.

Women's Club To Man Phones During Telethon

Members of the Woman's Club of Raeford will be manning posts Sunday and Monday to receive pledges for the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

Radio Station WSHB's studios will be used as the pledge center for the Hoke County area, and those interested in making a donation should call 875-2149.

The Telethon begins at 9 p.m. Sunday and will continue until 6:30 p.m. Monday. The Raeford Center will close between 1 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday.

Funds raised during the Telethon will go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the amounts pledged in Raeford will be broadcast during the coverage of the event on WTVD-TV 11.



SMITH IS 30 YEARS -- Pat Smith has just completed 30 years service with the Burlington Menswear Raeford Plant. Mr. Smith began his employment with the local plant as a Weaver in the Weave Department and has held the positions of Warp Hanger, Overhauler, and Weave Technician, which he has performed since 1971. Mr. Smith is pictured [right] with his supervisor, Bobby Baker, while displaying his service certificate. He also received a Cross Pen and Pencil set and a gold/diamond 30 year tie tac pin.

Phone Rate Hike Asked

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company on August 30 filed a request with the North Carolina Utilities Commission for a rate increase of about \$3.11 a month for the average residential customer.

T.P. Williamson, Carolina Telephone's vice president - administration, said, "The company regrets the necessity to file for increased rates so soon after our last general rate increase but it has no choice if it is to continue providing the quality telephone service our customers expect and deserve."

Despite our most stringent efforts to control and reduce the cost of providing telephone service, the additional revenues granted to the company in April of this year simply have not materialized.

This is due in part to the Commission's overestimating the revenues which it anticipated that the company would receive from a statewide increase in long distance rates, coupled with the drastic changes imposed upon the entire telephone industry through federal deregulation, and the difficult state of the economy in general.

As a result, the company has no opportunity to earn the return found fair by the Commission in our last general rate case and continue to meet its service obligation."

The company is seeking a \$37.7 million increase in its annual revenues. Of this, \$4.8 million would be for increased Extended Area Service (EAS) rates; \$3.3 million would be for increased service connection, move and change charges; \$28.5 million would be for increased basic local exchange service rates; and \$1.1 million would be for increased charges for supplemental services and equipment. According to Williamson over half of the increased revenues would go to pay federal, state and local taxes.

Williamson said, "Competition is a key factor in today's telephone environment. As in any industry, competition drives prices toward costs, and in our case where local residential service has been subsidized by other services, the price is being driven up rather than down."

National trends by the courts, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to deregulate the telephone industry will reduce or remove many of the lucrative sources of income that have helped underwrite local telephone service. Because of the trends, revenue sources such as equipment and long distance charges and yellow pages advertis-



T.P. Williamson

ing will be reduced or eliminated and local telephone companies will have to make up the shortfall by increasing rates to customers.

"Deregulation and competition are making it impossible to continue a pricing system that spreads our costs over everyone," Williamson said. "Local service historically has been significantly underpriced. In the last 25 years, the cost of living in general, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, has increased more than ten times as much as our rates for local telephone service."

If the requested increase is granted, the average residential customer in Carolina Telephone's smallest exchanges will pay \$2.50 more per month for basic service; in the company's largest exchanges the basic service increase will be \$3.70 per month. Rates differ from town to town depending on the number of telephones a customer can dial within his local calling area.

"By any objective comparison, telephone service continues to be a bargain," Williamson said. "For instance, local telephone service today accounts for just 2.3 percent of the average retired worker's social security check as compared to 3.3 percent in 1975. The time it takes an average worker to earn the cost of his monthly telephone bill has decreased from 2 hours and 13 minutes in 1975 to one hour and 50 minutes today."

The Utilities Commission is expected to hold hearings in early 1983 before ruling on the company's request, and rates are not expected to change before next year.

Carolina Telephone serves some 575,000 customers in 50 of the state's 100 counties and has 5,350 employees with an annual payroll of \$104 million.

Fuel Adjustment Charge Less

The fuel adjustment charge on Lumbee River EMC members' bills will be a little lower in September, according to spokesman Jim Autry.

"The fuel charge on our billing will be down to \$5.10 per thousand kilowatt hours beginning Sept. 1," said Autry. "In August, the charge on the same number of kilowatt hours was \$7.73 after a summer high of \$10.56 per thousand in July."

The fuel adjustment charge is set by Carolina Power and Light monthly for its wholesale customers and is passed along by Lumbee River EMC, adjusted for line loss.

"With three nuclear plants not working, Carolina Power and Light may raise the fuel charge again in October," said Autry. "With increased usage and the possibility of another wholesale rate increase, things could be mighty tough for our customers this fall."

On April 12, 1776, North Carolina became the first colony to instruct its delegates to vote for independence in the Continental Congress.

A.A. Meetings
Wed. 8 p.m.
Nursing Home
Dining Room

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH
401 BUSINESS NORTH

The Teaching Ministry Begins at 9:45 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.
EVENING 7:30 p.m.
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.
CHOIR ... Youth 6:30 p.m.; Adult ... 7:30 p.m. Monday

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