

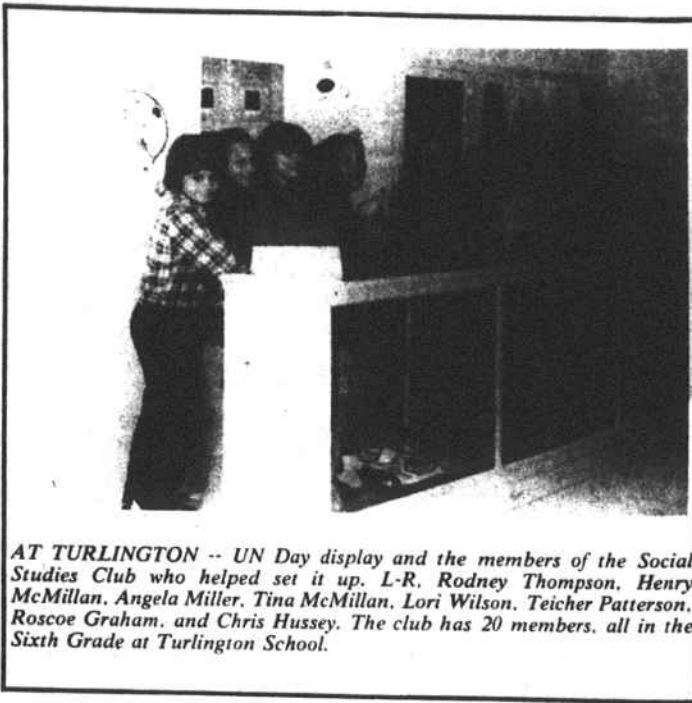
Around Town

(Continued from page 1)

folks from Hoke and Scotland counties. The rain came a little after noon, but everyone got good food and plenty of fellowship.

I arrived before the rain and enjoyed the outside eating this year. As always we saw many people we hadn't seen since last year. It was good to see the Rev. and Mrs. George Cheney from Laurinburg, former pastor at the Bethel and Shiloh churches. Mrs. Cheney stated she always likes getting *The News-Journal* and that she compared the weather of Scotland County with Hoke County after reading my column.

One person stated that he didn't get as many handshakes at Bethel as he did at Antioch. When asked why? He said that all the candidates were at Antioch and that they were around greeting everyone, but they had forgotten that part of their role and were just eating at Bethel. Just hang around for a couple of years and most of them, with many new ones, will be handshaking again at Antioch.



AT TURLINGTON -- UN Day display and the members of the Social Studies Club who helped set it up. L-R, Rodney Thompson, Henry McMillan, Angela Miller, Tina McMillan, Lori Wilson, Teicher Patterson, Roscoe Graham, and Chris Hussey. The club has 20 members, all in the Sixth Grade at Turlington School.

Airport Problems Studied

(Continued from page 1)

the facility at a loss to taxpayers, and many municipal and county officials feel the facility could be a greater asset to the community.

"I see it as one of the key factors for attracting industry here," Chamber Executive Director Earl Fowler said.

Fowler noted that one of the main criteria used by industries in evaluating new locations is whether those sites have an airport capable of handling corporate jets, Fowler said.

The Raeford Airport has the runway length to handle jets, but is lacking in other facilities.

Although there is approximately \$1.5 million in improvements at the site, the airport is lacking other facilities:

- There are no public restrooms or waiting areas.
- No fulltime or parttime radio is manned and no gasoline is avail-

able to the public using the facility.

• Present jump operations at the airport at times hamper flying and are a potential hazard to any increases in air traffic.

The committee hopes to make recommendations to the Raeford City Council, and is also studying the potential for additional aircraft to be based at the city airport.

During the past 11 years, the airport has cost approximately \$100,000 in local, federal and state taxes.

In that period, the city has received just over \$15,000 in revenue from the airport's lease operations.

Because the land is owned by the city, no municipal taxes are paid by the two leasees, Gene Thacker, who runs the jump school, or A.J. Furches, who has a maintenance operation there.

County taxes are paid on the operations and since the first construction of the facility, only \$10,000 in county tax funds have been used at the airport.

The local committee was established after a state Blue Ribbon Commission pointed out the need for improvements in the Raeford Airport, and noted that the facility served not only Hoke County, but also the Fayetteville area.

During the 1980's runways at the airport may not have the capacity to handle the traffic, the commission report said.

"It is recommended that full and thorough consideration be given to reorienting or relocating this airport in the future in order to optimize its operational capacity and its ability to function as a general aviation reliever of Fayetteville Municipal Airport," the report says.

Emergency Services Get Workout After Crash

Hoke County's emergency services got a workout October 27 about 6 p.m. on Raeford-Vass Road with a simulated "disaster."

A "plane crashed" on Mrs. June Johnson's property, leaving 55 "casualties" and causing a fire. The fire was real though set by people with the Hoke County Office of Emergency Management to give the firemen practice.

The OEM, a federal agency, conducted the exercise, and the 55 "casualties" were Hoke County High School students.

Responding to the call were the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad, the North Raeford, Hillcrest, West Hoke, Raeford, and Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Departments, and Womack Army Hos-

pital Ambulance Service.

North Raeford had called on the others for assistance.

Hoke Ambulance called Womack and Cumberland Ambulance Services for assistance but an error in communication prevented Cumberland from responding, Bill Niven, Hoke OEM director, said.

He said, however, that the purpose of such an exercise was

to reveal any weaknesses in the functioning of the organization. He added, however, that the overall work was "very good."

Members of the National Guard unit based in Raeford borrowed plane seats from Charlotte Aviation at Maxton Airport and scattered them around the site to contribute to the realism.

Students of Teresa Marion's art

class at Hoke County High School, and Mrs. Joye McNeill, Hoke OEM office secretary, helped put the makeup on. The "victims" included Sally Young's Hoke High health class students, some of the art students, and students in Dwight Jackson's Hoke High Extended Day classes.

Johnson Farms helped prepare the site for the "disaster" exercise.

We always check the final returns to see who receives the most votes in an election in the county. According to our figures Congressman Bill Hefner led the ticket with 3561 votes. Danny DeVane, running for the State House of Representatives, received 3546 to come in second, Danny also received 554 votes in Raeford Precinct #1 to be the leader for a precinct.

Others that didn't have any opposition were just a few votes behind.

The large vote that took place in Hoke County last week should make our Congressman take notice. In the 12-county district the margin in Hoke County was third highest.

The largest margin was in Richmond County where Hefner received 8093 votes to Blake's 2378 a difference of 5715, Union County gave Hefner a margin of 2976 votes. The vote difference in Hoke County was 2913.

The other counties and their margin were Anson, 2588; Cabarrus, 1083; Montgomery, 1644; Rowan, 667; Scotland, 2041; and Stanly, 1779.

Hefner lost Davie, Moore and Yadkin counties. The total vote was Hefner 71,375 and Blake 51,245, a difference of 20,130.

The high school and college football seasons are winding down to the end of the season. Of course we may have football all next year if the professionals come to terms with the owners. All we can do is wait and see.

Just get ready for basketball. It will be on for the next five months.

Symphony Concert Set For Thurs.

The North Carolina Symphony will give a concert Thursday at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Upchurch Junior High School, with Associate Conductor James Ogle conducting.

The selections will include classical, such as Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," and Strauss's "Thunder and Lightning Polk," to musical comedy pieces from "My Fair Lady" and a medley of Gershwin and Hayman.

Man Freed

(Continued from page 1)

time the rape occurred. Miss Powell was informed by Middleton's counsel during the court term of the findings of the defense investigation. Then she asked the Hoke County Sheriff's Department to look into it.

On Miss Powell's request, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department checked the reliability of Middleton's story.

Officers found it took them 35 minutes to drive from the Davis Bridge area to the VA Hospital.

Miss Powell after getting the officers' investigation report decided it would have been impossible for Middleton to have committed the crime.

Sheriff David Barrington, referring to the dismissal of the charge against Middleton, said the investigation of the offense is continuing, indicating the search for the real rapist is being pushed by his department.

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