

'Goofer Dust' Anoints Court

Who spread the goofer dust around the judge's bench?
And why?

These questions apparently can't be answered unless the spreader or an eye witness comes forth with the answers.

The goofer dust was reported found spread the morning of November 17 not only around the judge's bench but also around the prosecutor's table and the jury box.

It was cleaned up promptly and court proceeded without much delay.

The dust was described by a member of the Hoke County Superior Court clerk's staff as dirt from a grave.

On the other hand, Sheriff David Barrington told an inquiring reporter Monday morning that goofer dust also can be formed of ground-up spiders or other bugs or materials.

After it is prepared, he said, a witch goes to work on it, then it is spread.

He said the purpose of the hex (or whatever) depends on what the witch intends. It may be to alter someone's behavior or determine a course of action.

In last week's case, he said, he didn't know what the spreader of the dust intended.

The spreading was done during the night or another time between the time the court was closed the day before and when it was reopened.

(See COURT, page 11)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

This has been a perfect weekend in Hoke County for outdoor activities. It might have been a little warm for the opening of bird season, but otherwise it was perfect.

The forecast is for rain to come about Thanksgiving Day. The weather folks have been wrong right much lately, so maybe they will continue, and we will have a sunny Thanksgiving Day.

Football appeared once again Sunday afternoon as the NFL resumed play for the season. A game is scheduled for Monday night, Nov. 29 and should be played by the time you read this column.

The players are to vote Tuesday on whether to accept the contract or not. If they don't accept it, then the season will once again come to a standstill. More than likely the remaining games will be cancelled.

It is hard for us on the outside to understand why people would strike when the minimum pay for a player is \$30,000 a year and many fringe benefits.

Anyway the sport is gone from the game and it should be classified as entertainment not a sport.

The other night a commentator on TV was talking about a strike in the National Basketball Association. Of course, this didn't surprise me until he said that the lowest pay for a player in the NBA was \$200,000 a year. Now this raised my eyebrows and I wondered what they would strike for with salaries like that.

Then, being of the retired age, I guess my thinking is not like the present generation.

Woody Durham, the popular announcer for the Tar Heel network had the misfortune of having to miss his first basketball game of the Tar Heels last Saturday since he has been broadcasting the Carolina sports.

The football team was playing Duke and he had to broadcast that game and it made it impossible to get to the basketball game because they were played at the same time.

I don't believe Woody could have helped the basketball team because he couldn't pull the football teams through.

(See AROUND TOWN, page 7)



This is the turkey who was elected to be a Thanksgiving gift for President Ronald Reagan.

Local Turkey Sent To White House

A live tom turkey weighing over 50 pounds, born and reared at Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery Farms in Hoke County, was given to President Ronald Reagan Tuesday for Thanksgiving.

The tom, a Nicholas breed about one year and about one month old, was presented by Bill Prestage of

Clinton, N.C., partner of Tar Heel Hatchery's President, Wyatt Upchurch.

Prestage is president of the National Turkey Federation and was following an annual Thanksgiving tradition. Each year, the President is presented a turkey by the federation.

The turkey, however, was a gift from Prestage's family.

Prestage is president of Carroll's Foods in Clinton. The turkey was picked from a flock at one of Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery farms by Dennis Murphy, Carroll's nutritionist, and was taken by plane Monday to Washington.

Rural Housing Suffers Blow

Low income housing for the elderly in the unincorporated areas of Hoke County has received a setback following a recent federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) opinion.

HUD officials have rejected an attempt to locate 25 units of housing for the elderly proposed for the Rockfish area and 25 units proposed for South Hoke, the project's developer said Friday.

Members of the Lumbee River Development Association were attempting to locate the housing in communities where the proposed residents are now living, however, HUD did not concur, Association Director Murphy Woods said.

The Association is being encouraged by HUD to locate the housing in the Raeford area, so residents

will be closer to doctors and shopping, Woods said.

Other funding possibilities are being looked into for the \$1.6 million project in order to keep it in the rural areas, Woods said.

The 25 units proposed for the Rockfish area would have served not only that community, but the Stonewall area also.

The South Hoke project would have also served Antioch, Blue Springs and Allendale.

Developers and members of the Raeford Housing Authority, who would have managed the projects, feel that it would have been better for the residents to remain in their own communities rather than being placed in unfamiliar surroundings.

HUD will back the units, if the Association finds a site near Raeford, Woods said.

Upchurch Sees Closer Ties Between County And City

by Bill Lindau
New Hoke County Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch "would like to see our local governments working closely together, and both bodies of



Wyatt Upchurch

government working closer with industry" to improve the county's economy.

This is one of the statements he made Thursday in an interview three days after he was appointed to serve the remaining two years of the unexpired term of Danny DeVane.

DeVane resigned effective November 4, two days after he was elected to the State House of Representatives. DeVane won one of the three seats allocated to the district composed of Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. He will take office the first of the new year and had to resign his other public elective office before he could be sworn in.

Upchurch was speaking of the Raeford City Council and city administration and the Hoke County commissioners and administration of the county when he referred to "our local governments."

Upchurch said, "Our industry is a very big part of the backbone of

our economy. I'm proud of our industry." He pointed out that, for one thing, Hoke industries have not had any large layoffs.

"We also have to keep our school system up," he added.

"If there is something we can invest in that's justifiable," he added, "I'm for it."

Upchurch added, "I'm proud of our school system and of the progress that has been made in it, and I'd like to see more progress made."

He said his main objective as a county commissioner is to be sure the Hoke County taxpayers get a good return on their tax dollar. "I realize," he said, "we have young people, middle-aged people, and old people."

Upchurch said he was looking forward to serving the people "to the best of my ability, because the people of Hoke County have been very good to my family and me, especially in time of need."

(See UPCHURCH, page 12)

Man Gets Life For May Killing

by Bill Lindau

After almost a week of testimony, a 25-year-old Pembroke man was found guilty of a May slaying and sentenced to life in prison during last week's term of Hoke County Superior Court.

The jury returned the guilty verdict after deliberating only 37 minutes Friday, ending the week-long trial of Perry Wayne Lowery.

Judge Albert Brannon of Bahama, Durham County, imposed the sentence. Earlier, he had instructed the jury not to refer to a sentence if the verdict was guilty. The sentence was life because no aggravating circumstances were found by the judge in the trial. If there had been, the sentence could have been death.

Lowery was accused and found guilty of shooting Terry Wayne Locklear, 25, of Pembroke in the back in Brady's, a club on N.C. 211 in Hoke County at the Robeson County line, May 9 shortly after midnight.

The defendant pleaded not guilty. He didn't deny shooting Locklear but said he didn't remember anything that he did or what happened between about 10:30 p.m. May 8 in Red Springs and May 9 when he awoke in the Hoke County Jail.

The court was told Lowery had been drinking and also, after going to the club, had taken a pill.

The judge after sentencing Lowery pointed out to the defendant's attorney, John Campbell

of Lumberton, that he had 10 days from the date of sentencing to file notice of appeal. This would go to the State Court of Appeals.

After the jury returned the verdict, the defense attorney made separate motions: that the verdict be set aside; and that the defendant be granted a new trial.

The judge denied the motions.

The jury was composed of eight women and four men, and the 12 were divided evenly racially between white and nonwhite.

The selection of the jury was started November 15 and was completed the following day.

The state's first Mrs. Elizabeth Brice, was called to the stand then and testified through most of Tuesday, stating she was six to seven feet from Lowery and saw him raise his arm and fire at Locklear after Locklear, who was walking away, stopped when Lowery called, "Hey, Terry."

She said Locklear was 20 to 25 feet away at the time and that Locklear had not spoken to Lowery when he passed between Lowery and Mrs. Brice.

Another witness's testimony indicated the shooting resulted from a fight in May 1980 between Lowery and Locklear in which Lowery was cut.

The prosecution, which consisted of Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell and a privately employed attorney, Evander Britt of Lumberton, attempted to show this was

(See PEMBROKE, page 11)

Airport Committee Seeking Conference FAA, State Agencies

Members of an airport study committee are attempting to set up a conference with federal and state officials during the next few weeks to determine requirements for expanding the Raeford Airport.

Both federal and state officials have said the city needs to "get a handle on managing" the facility and to move a currently operating parachute landing zone away from the airport runway area.

Committee members hope that Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) and state Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division officials will clarify their positions by determining:

- How far the jump landing site has to be moved away from the airport.

- If an alternative takeoff and landing pattern will ease or eliminate the hazard caused by the landing parachutists.

Both state and local officials believe that a well run small airport with good facilities is essential in order to attract industry here.

"This thing is no longer a luxury item," Hoke County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Earl

Fowler said.

One of the first requirements an industry has for locating in a community is a good airport facility where company planes can takeoff and land, Fowler said.

Although committee members said during a meeting Thursday night they recognized that the jump school, which is owned by Gene Paul Thacker, had played a major role in building the present airport, they, along with the federal and state officials, also feel that if the committee carries out its task and expands the facility, the jump school could no longer be compatible.

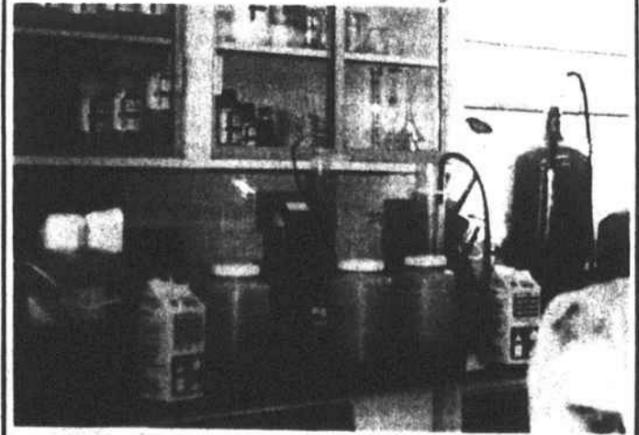
The increased air traffic could make a collision with a dropping parachutist more likely, officials have said.

"We're going to have to address this parachute operation, or we're not going to get federal or state money," committee member Bill Moses said.

The landing site for the jumpers should be moved to a place away from the field that is safe for the parachutists and causes no hazard

(See COMMITTEE, page 12)

Inside Today



The Raeford Sewage Treatment Plant has been under fire recently for dumping polluted effluent into Rockfish Creek. News-Journal Associate Editor Bill Lindau takes a look at the plant after \$1 million in improvements have been made. Please turn to Page 1 of Section II.