



Charred remains
The remains of Mrs. Annie Perry's North Raeford home gutted by fire Monday morning.

Family Loses Everything In Blaze

The home of Mrs. Annie Perry was gutted by fire Monday morning.
No one was injured in the blaze that apparently destroyed all the Perry's belongings, North Raeford Fire Chief Johnny Baker said.
According to Baker, they received the call a round 8:20 a.m.
"Before we could get set up, the fire had gone through the roof," Baker said.
Baker also said the fire was already running rampant through the inside of the house when the fire department arrived.
"By the time we got there, the house was completely enveloped with fire," Baker said.
The origin of the fire has not been determined, Baker said.

According to Baker, there was a delay in calling the fire department.
Sources told Baker that the fire actually broke out around 8 a.m., but Mrs. Perry attempted to put out the blaze herself.
Two other fire departments, West Hoke and Hillcrest, had to assist with the fire, Baker said.
The ladies auxiliary, which was formed to aid fire victims, gave Mrs. Perry a check to help buy a few articles of clothing, Baker said.
Friends of the Perry's have also asked that anybody wishing to donate clothes or other items to the victims to send their donations to the washerette at the Grocery Mart on West Prospect Avenue.

...Around Town

(Continued from page 1A)
know you will do a good job as head man.

At church Sunday, Dr. John Ropp announced the death in Norfolk, Va. of Mildred McDuffie Young. She was a native of Raeford and her parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. John M. McDuffie. Her brother, Edwin, lives here now. This should be of interest to people who finished high school here in the late 20s and early 30s.

Robert Gatlin brought me a letter recently that he had received from Mrs. Albert (Linda) Dow who was mentioned in this column several weeks ago. She said that a mistake was made and I would like to quote from the letter in part.
"I did not come from Greece. I was born and reared in Lebanon, the beautiful country which has been almost destroyed by the war between the P.L.O. and the Israelies. My heart bleeds for the country of my origin. Although America is my country now and I will always be proud to be an American, I can never forget my birthplace and my happy childhood there."
Mrs. Dow goes on to tell how Robert's mother and another lady came to see her and all the English she knew was yes or no and they were asking her things and she kept saying yes. When her husband, Albert, came home he told her she had joined the American Legion Auxiliary.
She continues in her letter as follows, "For the past 58 years, I have been a member of the most wonderful organization of women

in the world and have served my unit in every capacity."

She made a speech to the South Carolina American Legion Auxiliary Convention many years ago and her subject was "Americanism". The speech was enclosed with the letter and it makes one feel good to read the praise for our wonderful country, especially after reading and hearing every day

about people who wouldn't lift a finger to protect this land. Maybe you could get Gatlin to let you read the speech.

In this letter Mrs. Dow mentions many people in Raeford and it would seem that her heart is still here some of the time.
Thanks Robert, and Mrs. Dow for the opportunity to read the letter and the speech.

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...Suit Dropped

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stemming from directors expenditures.
At last Tuesday's press conference, this petition, too, was denied.

Reasons for not allowing the second petitioned for meeting dealt with the charges listed on that petition.

According to coop attorney Benholz, none of the charges listed were clear enough to show just

cause within the meaning defined by the LREMC by-laws.

Another reason the meeting was denied dealt with the petitions themselves.

After sampling signatures and making random phone calls, it was apparently decided that some of the petitions were not valid.

According to interim general manager Ronnie Hunt, the signatures that proved invalid were removed from the petition.

Even with those names removed, the petition still had more than

10% of the membership's signatures.

Both refusals by the board sparked more fire in Branch, who appears destined to continue the fight.

According to Branch, he has been in touch with people in Raleigh and Washington on this matter.

"I don't intend to let this thing just die," Branch said.

"If I have to, I will fight this thing alone," Branch added.

Man Charged In Drug Bust

Following a tip from informants, deputies arrested a county man on April 15 and charged him with possession of more than three ounces of marijuana, a report from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department shows.

Steve Orom of Rt. 4, Raeford was arrested after an informant claimed that Orom had marijuana in his possession.

Detective Edward Harris stopped Orom's car around 9:30 a.m. and searched the vehicle.

During the search, Harris allegedly found a brown bag containing four plastic containers, each apparently holding the suspected marijuana, the sheriff's report shows.

After the search, Orom was arrested.

In an unrelated matter, a county

resident reported that his car was apparently sabotaged last week.

James M. McNeil of Rt. 4, Raeford, reported that someone had put metal fragments in the transmission of his 545H Fiat Allis.

An undisclosed amount of damaged was done to the vehicle.

The probe of the incident was turned over to the detective's division for further investigation.

In other matters, these reports were made to the sheriff's department and the Raeford Police Department:

--Janet Patterson of Laurinburg reported that someone broke into her car while she was at the Renaissance Club on rural paved road 1113 in Hoke County Saturday night.

According to the sheriff's report, a person or persons broke into the vehicle by unlocking the door with a coat hanger.

Undisclosed amount of items were stolen from the vehicle.

--James Edward Smith of Rt. 1, Raeford, reported that someone had stolen a propane tank by apparently removing the copper line from the tank.

Investigations into these cases are continuing, reports show.

In city action, the Grocery Mart on West Prospect reported a juvenile shoplifter to the police department.

A 12-year-old was charged with stealing a 49 cent bar of candy from the Grocery Mart, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

The case was turned over to the juvenile authorities for disposition, Chief Wiggins said.

In another matter, John D. Pickler, Jr. of 112 East Prospect reported that someone had stolen a hubcap from his vehicle.

...Fund Race On

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will be successful in their application attempt.

If funded, the county grant monies would go toward the construction of an elevated water tank, which would be part of a proposed county water system.

The county submitted an application for \$541,250 which, if approved, will provide 150 homes in the Tylertown area with a water system.

These water improvements would include a 200,000 gallon

elevated tank, water distribution lines and a booster tank which would serve a community that is presently relying on water wells, County Manager James Martin said.

Of the \$541,250 applied for, \$83,000 is expected to go towards improving the Rockfish area park and the Burlington Park in Raeford.

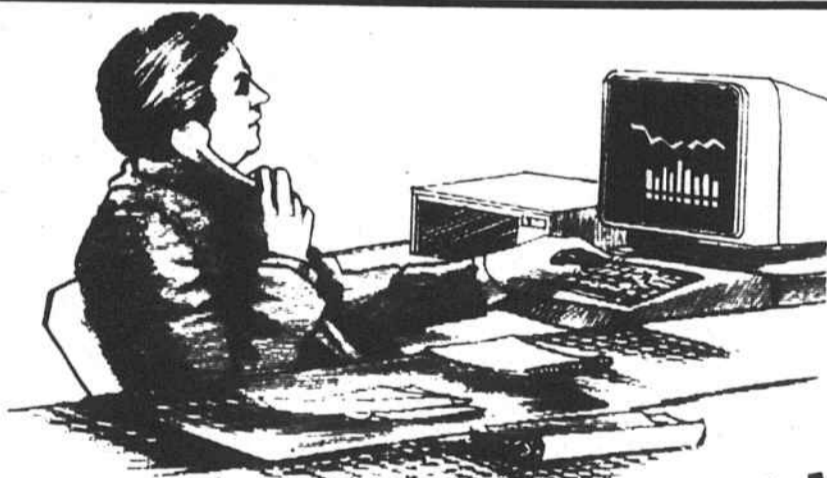
According to Martin, the county is hoping to put in "ball fields" at both parks.

"I'm not sure how far the funds will go, but we hope to develop both areas," Martin said.

Both the city and the county will have to wait until September or October to see if they have been funded, but both are keeping their fingers crossed.

"I think the county stands an improved chance of getting funded this year," Martin said.

"I think we (the city) have a chance, but it really depends on how we stack up against the other applicants," Matthews said.



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