



Stacked for storage

State and local officials are sampling soils at this Ashley Heights storage area for spent transformer casings. Low to mid level PCB readings have been found in early specimens taken from this site.

State Probes Hoke Dump Sites

By Warren Johnston

State and local health officials are probing three Hoke County sites as suspected dumping grounds for toxic and cancer causing substances.

Samples taken from the sites, which are located in the Ashley Heights and McCain areas, thus far have shown low to mid level readings of toxic Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's), and "suspected" concentrations of lead, *The News-Journal* has learned.

According to state law, low to mid levels of PCB's and lead must be disposed of in an approved dump site, Hoke County Health Department Director Lloyd Horne said.

No approved dumps are open for low level toxic waste in North Carolina. The closest disposal areas are in Alabama, Horne said.

Recent dumping of PCB laced soil in Warren County, led to numerous protests from local residents. That landfill is now closed.

Two of the sites being in-

vestigated are located near a mobile home park in Ashley Heights and the other within a half mile of McCain Hospital.

The McCain site and one of the other locations have apparently been used for late night burning of what Health officials believe are electrical transformer parts and oil from the electrical units.

Witnesses say that the fires burned above the trees, gave off black sooty smoke and were ignited around midnight.

Transformer salvage business owner Woody Wilson Jr. of Goldsboro said Tuesday that he has used both sites only for storage of the unit casings.

Although Wilson first said that he had not burned "anything" at the sites, he later admitted burning wooden pallets at the Ashley Heights location.

Both locations show evidence of melted metal and heat damage to the surroundings.

Wilson's aunt, Della Wilson, said Tuesday that she asked her nephew to abandon one site behind

her home because "the fires were keeping her up at night."

"It was a great big fire. They would set the fire about 11 at night," Della Wilson said.

"My house has been ruined on the inside from the smoke. On two or three nights the smoke got so strong I couldn't breathe," Della Wilson said.

Wilson was asked to vacate the property on April 4. The last fire on the site was the night of April 1, Della Wilson said, noting that she believed her tobacco barn had been set ablaze that night because the flames were over the top of the structure.

Recently witnesses have noted that large fires have been burned on the McCain site regularly for the last several weeks.

Evidence has been obtained from the sites which indicates that materials other than wood were burned, Horne said.

Hoke Health officials are assisting investigators from the state Department of Natural Resources and Community

Development (NRCD) and the state Department of Human Resources (DHR).

State officials confirmed that both NRCD and DHR were investigating, but declined to comment on the matter further.

In addition to the transformer storage sites, health officials are looking into an Ashley Heights battery burial site.

That site is approximately 60 yards from a well which until recently was used to serve a nearby mobile home park.

Wilson said he buried "just battery casings" at the site and under the direction of Hoke Health Officer Mike Wood.

Horne said Tuesday that he was unaware that Wood had advised Wilson to dispose of the battery casings by burying them.

Health officials suspect that samples recently taken from the battery site would contain lead, Horne said.

Although all of the tests on the

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Johnston Named As N-J Editor

Publisher Louis Fogleman announced this week that Warren Johnston has been promoted to editor of *The News-Journal*.

Johnston is a graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens and worked for the *Georgetown Times* in Georgetown, South Carolina, and the *Marlboro Herald-Advocate* in Bennettsville, South Carolina, before joining *The News-Journal* staff as news editor last September.

Johnston is married to the former Sandra Gaines of Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is a native of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Johnstons live on North Main Street in Raeford, and Mr. Johnston is active in the Raeford Kiwanis Club.

News-Journal editors prior to Johnston have included D. Scott Poole, Paul Dickson, Mrs. Paul Dickson Sr., Dougald Coxe, Peter B. Young, James C. Taylor and Paul Dickson Jr.

The News-Journal is published by Dickson Press Inc. of which Paul Dickson Jr. is president and major stockholder. Dickson retired two years ago at age 65 and is not active in the company.

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Faberge Expands, More Jobs On Tap

By Sherry Matthews

The Raeford Faberge Incorporated plant plans a \$2 million expansion during this year which will create new jobs for the area, North Carolina State Secretary of Commerce D.M. "Lauch" Faircloth announced during the annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce banquet Tuesday night.

Corporate vice-president of Faberge, August A. Zitzman said that the expansion would create between 50-100 new jobs.

Zitzman also said that the expansion would mean more warehouse space and increased "in-house" manufacturing.

Faberge, which came to Raeford in 1978, has already spent \$5 to \$6 million on expansion since their arrival five years ago.

According to Faircloth, who was addressing guests and members at the annual Chamber dinner, Faberge has "made a commitment and stuck by it."

"Because of industries like Faberge, we are seeing more and more commitments being made in North Carolina," Faircloth said.

Faberge stretches over approximately 500,000 square feet and employs about 500 people, 85% of whom are Hoke County residents.

Faircloth also said that Faberge was here because the Chamber of Commerce "developed an attitude of cooperation between industry and government that worked."

"The products manufactured here are sold throughout the world," Faircloth said, adding that Faberge was an industry that Hoke County should be proud of.

Faircloth also gave Zitzman credit for getting Max Factor into Person County.

"They came to Person County with Gus' encouragement," Faircloth said.

Zitzman attended the annual Chamber dinner Tuesday night.

In his speech to the nearly 100 guests, Faircloth called for "cooperation" that would allow for more industry to come into the area.

"All three industries in the area must cooperate so that other potential industry will settle in Hoke County," Faircloth said.

Faircloth, who admits he is eyeing the governor's office, also talked about "all the money" the state has.

According to Faircloth, state revenue has increased at a rate of nearly \$200 million a year.

"We have got enough money, but we spend it all creating new programs," Faircloth said.

"All these new programs have used up all the money we made," he said, noting that people who are intended to benefit from this money rarely see it.

"The administration chews it up, and eventually those who were supposed to be beneficiaries are denied the income the taxes were supposed to provide," Faircloth said.

According to Faircloth, "industrial recruitment" is the biggest sport in North Carolina, "next to basketball."

Man Gets 25 Years For Armed Robbery

By Sherry Matthews

In an emotional outburst, a Hoke County man found guilty of armed robbery, pledged that he would "not waste the taxpayers money" by going to jail.

Sherwood "Popeye" McLean of Rt. 1, Shannon tossed a handful of pills onto the defendant's table after Superior Court Judge Robert Farmer sentenced him to 25 years in prison for the armed robbery of Jack Tucker on March 2.

"I won't take my seizure medicine and that way I won't waste the taxpayer's money," McLean said, as he tossed the capsules on the table.

Earlier during the three-day trial, witnesses testified that McLean was taking medicine to help alleviate the occurrence of seizures.

After sheriff's deputies removed the defendant from the courtroom, another officer collected McLean's medication and apparently returned it to the jail.

McLean complained bitterly that his case had become a miscarriage of justice.

"I don't think I got a fair trial," McLean told Judge Farmer after the verdict was read.

McLean, who maintained his innocence throughout the trial, claimed that some of the evidence presented and some that was not allowed to be presented "hurt his case."

McLean was also upset by the testimony of a former girlfriend Linda Jacobs.

Jacobs, a witness for the state, told the jurors that McLean, along with Dannie McArn and Alexander McArn, came to her house carrying the money bag and guns stolen during the robbery.

Jacobs also told the jurors that McLean got a "cut" of the money, and the .38 caliber pistol that she later found belonged to Jack Tucker.

McLean tried unsuccessfully to discredit Jacobs by making disparaging remarks about her character.

McLean made the remarks without the presence of the jury.

McLean also requested that his

lawyer, Raeford attorney Philip Diehl, be dismissed as his counsel, so that he could testify in the defendant's behalf.

Under North Carolina law an attorney cannot testify for his client. Judge Farmer refused the request.

In a further, "unadvised move," the defendant asked that state's witness Alexander McArn testify for the defense.

Diehl informed the judge that he had advised McLean against McArn's testimony, but his client had insisted.

On the stand, Alexander McArn apparently hurt McLean's case by telling the jury that "Popeye" did participate in the robbery.

That testimony coincided with the state's witness Dannie McArn, who told the jury that McLean was

(See ARMED, page 12A)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

Summer weather has finally arrived in Hoke County. The temperatures have been in the 80s both Sunday and Monday. It does cool off at night and this makes for good sleeping.

We still need rain in the county. It has been raining both north and south of us, so maybe it will come our way before too long.

Last week in this column an item appeared about the Fred Culbreths, who now live in Durham. Last Wednesday morning when I went to the Savings and Loan to attend an Advisory Board meeting, lo and behold, who showed up for the meeting but Fred Culbreth.

He was in good spirits and seemed to enjoy being again with the group from Hoke County.

Last Friday Dr. John Ropp and I went up to Pinehurst to watch the Senior golfers play in their tournament. The forecast was for rain, so we both took our umbrellas with (See AROUND, page 11A)



Helping hand

Members of the Hoke County Employment Security office wheeled their van into the parking lot of Hoke High School last Wednesday in an effort to sign up as many youths as possible in the new Summer Youth Job Placement Program. For the two hours that the employment van was at the high school some 80 students showed up to fill out applications. Peggy Owens, (seated) director of the program, said that students who did not catch the van showed up at the employment office to fill out applications. On Tuesday officials expected at least 200 applications to be filed by students.



Inside Today

Over 100

Some changes have occurred over the past hundred years, but Dundarrach still has that down home flavor that keeps people coming back. We take a look at the little town of Dundarrach, past and present, in this week's B-section of *The News-Journal*.