



A second shot
Hoke County School Superintendent Robert Nelson, (standing) and members of the Hoke School Board appeared Monday night before the County Commission in an effort to get a \$20,000 increase in the school budget approved to fund ROTC. The bid was unsuccessful.

ROTC Program Dead

By Sherry Matthews
The hope of having junior Reserve Officers Training (ROTC) at Hoke High School for the coming year was dashed Monday night, as a proposal to fund the program was rejected by members of the Hoke County Commission. Members of Hoke County Board of Education had sought to obtain a \$20,000 increase in allocated funds to cover the expense of starting the ROTC program, however that bid was rejected Monday in a joint meeting with the commission. During the meeting, the commissioners apparently wanted to "horse-trade" the ROTC program for two items listed under the revenue sharing portion of the school budget, which was approved prior to July 1. The items totaled \$21,000. The two items were \$13,000 for the paving of West Hoke School and \$8,000 to replace a school nurse's 12-year old car. "If you can do without those things, then I'm ready to make a compromise," Commissioner James Albert Hunt said. "We don't want to damage or jeopardize any existing programs to fund a new project," school Superintendent Robert Nelson said. "The board of education could cut out more if absolutely necessary, but we would like to continue operating the existing programs at the same level or slightly better than we have in the past," Nelson said.

"I believe we have reached the bottom level. Reducing any further is not wise," Nelson added. During Monday night's joint session, school board members requested a special meeting among themselves. "I hate to make a trade. I'm not for swapping revenue sharing monies to institute a new program," Nelson said after adjourning with board members to another conference room. "If we start trading now, we will probably have to come back again every year," Cameron said. According to Nelson, trading away money for a new program would be a "dangerous" process. "That is money we may never recover," Nelson said. "We have to hold our own and

not make a compromise. We must be a strong board and not a rubber stamp board," Cameron said. "We shouldn't have to wheel and deal for our request if they (the commissioners) don't want to deal with it," Cameron added. According to Cameron and Nelson, taking away maintenance repairs would not be a wise move. "Those repairs are needed," Cameron said. "I think we should take care of what we already have first," School Board Vice-Chairman Mina Townsend said. Board members agreed that it was a "shame" that the program could not be funded, but felt they had done their share. "We have done our part to save the program. It is on the County

Commissioners' backs now," Cameron said. "I don't think we should compromise. We should stick by our original request for a 2.3% increase and leave it at that," Cameron added. After rejoining the commissioners, Nelson informed the county board that no more cuts could be made. "We do not feel we can cut anymore, so we will stand by our original request," Nelson said. Commissioner Hunt immediately requested that the board deny the increase. "I ain't trying to tell them where to cut, but if paying is more important than the program we should deny the increase," Hunt said. (See ROTC, page 2A)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

THE TRIP WEST:
Last week we left you in El Paso, Texas after touring Mexico. On Thursday morning we left Texas and passed through New Mexico. Our stop for the night was in Arizona about 50 miles south of Phoenix.

This part of the country is just like western Texas; nothing but sagebrush and mesas. The temperature for the day was 107 degrees, and I thought this would be the top for the trip.

The next day we were on to Los Angeles and trying to find our way to Anaheim, but we ended up in Buena Park on Friday afternoon, July 1st. With the Fourth of July being on Monday, we decided to remain in this place for three days before leaving for Las Vegas, Nevada.

The temperature was cooler in California and of course many tours were offered. The ladies went on a tour of Universal Studios on Saturday and from all reports, it was well worth the price of the tour. Yours truly stayed home and rested and was going to look at the golf match, but it was rained out.

Sunday, July 3, a trip was made to Long Beach, and we toured the "Spruce Goose" and the ocean liner, "Queen Mary." The Spruce Goose is the large flying plane that Howard Hughes manufactured for use in World War II, but it was never used. Hughes did fly the plane, and then put it in storage in an air conditioned building at the cost of one million dollars a year. It stayed there for approximately 30 or more years, at his expense, and after his death it was put on display at Long Beach. It was made of wood, and it is hard to imagine the size and the cargo space on the plane.

The tour of the Queen Mary was very interesting, and it was good to see how the wealthy traveled on the ocean a few years ago. The ship is now on display and also is operated as a hotel with rooms available for the night. Also a lounge is available for weddings and many were performed the day of our visit. Maybe it will make the honeymoon sweeter to be married on the Queen Mary.

On Monday, July 4th, our next stop was Las Vegas. It was good we waited, because the traffic coming from Las Vegas to California was almost bumper to bumper. There were plenty of accommodations when we arrived on Monday afternoon. We stayed two days in Las Vegas before taking off for the Grand Canyon.

Of course besides the many devices available to take your money, it is also the entertainment center of the world. All the large hotels have big name stars to entertain you. We attended three shows. One was at the Riviera, another at the Hacienda and then at the Tropicana. The shows were well produced and played to full houses. Of course the price is not for retired newspaper men.

I did play the "Slots", and hate to report that my losses came to \$2.00. The temperature in Las Vegas was 107 degrees. (See AROUND, page 10A)



Beer bust
Hundreds of cans of beer were rolling all over the Hardees parking lot Tuesday morning after they were spewed from the back of the truck they were being hauled. According to the driver of the spilled brew, the truck doors were left open, and when he rounded the curve at Hardees, the beer "just came tumbling out." Most of the beer was recovered, but some left their scent on the parking lot and on those who offered to help clean it up.

Man Jailed For Officer's Assault

By Sherry Matthews
A Hoke County man, who was charged with two counts of assault which left a local law enforcement officer disabled, was found guilty in District Court last week. Jeffrey Owen Purcell, 28, of Rt. 1, Raeford, who plead "not guilty" to the charges, was ordered by District Court Judge Joseph Dupree to be confined to the Department of Correction for no less than 18 months and no more than three years. Along with the assault charges, Purcell was also convicted of speeding (71-55) and driving under the influence (DUI). Following the hearing, the defendant gave notice of appeal.

The speeding charge apparently preceded the list of other offenses, according to testimony by Highway Patrolman B.A. Bowden, who was the arresting officer in the case.

Purcell was driving at a speed "greater than 55" when the trooper spotted him, Bowden said. A chase proceeded, first in the car and later on foot, Bowden said.

"I chased Purcell through the woods with my pistol drawn," Bowden testified, adding that he thought the defendant had "his hands in his pockets" during the chase and could have had a weapon.

According to testimony, the two men scuffled and Bowden finally subdued the suspect, holding Purcell at gunpoint on the ground. "I told him I didn't want to have to shoot him over a speeding violation," Bowden said.

Further testimony shows that the defendant again assaulted Bowden and Highway Patrol Sergeant D.L. Minshew at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

"I came to the sheriff's department to administer a breathalyzer at the request of Trooper Bowden," Minshew said. According to Minshew, Purcell (See ASSAULT, page 2A)

Raeford Store Robbed At Gun Point

A Raeford convenience store was held up at gunpoint early Tuesday morning, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

The Pantry, located on East Central Avenue, was robbed around 1:55 a.m. Tuesday morning by two black men brandishing a pistol and wearing toboggans over their faces, Wiggins said.

According to the chief, the two men entered the store and forced the clerk to lie on the floor at gunpoint.

The men, who were apparently carrying a small caliber pistol, tried to open the cash register, but were scared off by a customer that

had pulled up outside the store, Wiggins said.

All that was taken was the clerk's pocketbook, Wiggins added.

No suspects have been identified in the robbery, but Wiggins said that the case was under investigation.

In an unrelated incident, a Raeford man, charged with a July 3 armed robbery, was released from the Hoke County Jail Friday under a \$10,000 secured bond.

According to the sheriff's reports, Benji Stephens, 26, of 520 East Sixth Avenue was arrested July 3 by deputies after he had robbed

James Henegan and threatened violence with a knife.

Statements suggest that Stephens entered the victim's bedroom and pulled a knife.

During the robbery, Stephens apparently took a large amount of cash and food stamps.

According to the report Raeford Police officer J.R. McNeill attempted to take Stephens into custody and was assaulted by the suspect.

In an unrelated incident, G.W. Ray of Rt. 1, Raeford reported that someone had broken into his home, moved household articles (See ARMED, page 10A)

Commissioner On Probation

Psychiatric Help Ordered For Hunt

By Sherry Matthews
Ordering "psychiatric" treatment as a condition of probation, District Court Judge Joseph Dupree refrained from sentencing Hoke County Commissioner James Albert Hunt to jail on worthless check charges.

"Something has happened to you over the last few months," Dupree told Hunt.

"You either need to spend some time in jail or time with a psychiatrist," Judge Dupree said.

Hunt, who plead guilty to issuing a \$1,000 worthless check, appeared subdued during Friday's sentencing.

"You need someone to help you get your thinking straight," Dupree said.

Dupree, who told Hunt before the sentencing that he had "thought seriously" about letting another Judge hear the commissioner's case, issued a six-month suspended sentence with two years of supervised probation for the nine-year board member.

Under the conditions of the probation, Hunt is to "secure" a psychiatric appointment with the Sandhills Mental Health Center or a psychiatrist of his own choosing.

"If they indicate that treatment is necessary, I want you to cooperate fully," Dupree said.

Hunt advised Judge Dupree that he already had a psychiatrist. The commissioner was arrested

June 24 by Hoke Sheriff's deputies for failing to appear in court on the same worthless check charge. Friday was Hunt's second chance to appear on the matter.

Judge Dupree had already ordered a second arrest warrant allowing "no bond" for the commissioner when Hunt appeared late.

Troubles have continued to mount for Hunt, resulting in three arrests and two stints in jail.

Hunt was arrested and jailed in Scotland County for failing to appear in Scotland District Court on six counts of worthless check charges.

Nearly a week later, Hunt was issued a third arrest warrant for failing to appear in Robeson County District Court on further worthless check charges.

Hunt secured his own bond through his bonding service and was not jailed in Robeson County.

In addition to the three arrest warrants, Hunt is facing at least \$2,500 in worthless check charges that were issued in Harnett and Robeson counties and some \$500 in bad checks in Scotland and Lee counties.

At present Hunt has received nine suspended sentences for worthless check charges; eight in Scotland County and one in Hoke.

Hunt is also awaiting trials in Robeson and Harnett counties on further charges.

Slaying Case Scheduled For Superior Court

A Fort Bragg women charged with second degree murder is scheduled to appear in Hoke County Superior Court next week.

Victoria S. Burnette, who has been released under an \$8,000 cash bond and a \$32,000 unsecured bond from the Cumberland County Jail, is charged with the February stabbing death of her step-father, Roger Keith Shannon. Shannon's body was found by hunters February 8 in a wooded area between Rockfish and Arabia.

Burnette was arrested and charged in connection with the stabbing some two weeks later by Hoke Sheriff's deputies.

The defendant is slated to appear before the court Monday.

A second Cumberland County resident is also scheduled to appear before a jury during next week's session of Superior Court on first degree rape charges.

Fort Bragg soldier Gary Joseph (See MURDER, page 2A)



Inside Today

Hoke students are getting geared up for the Summer Showcase theatre being produced by George Cohen. We take a look at Cohen, the students and the long hours of practice that goes into a full showcase production in this week's B-Section of The News-Journal.