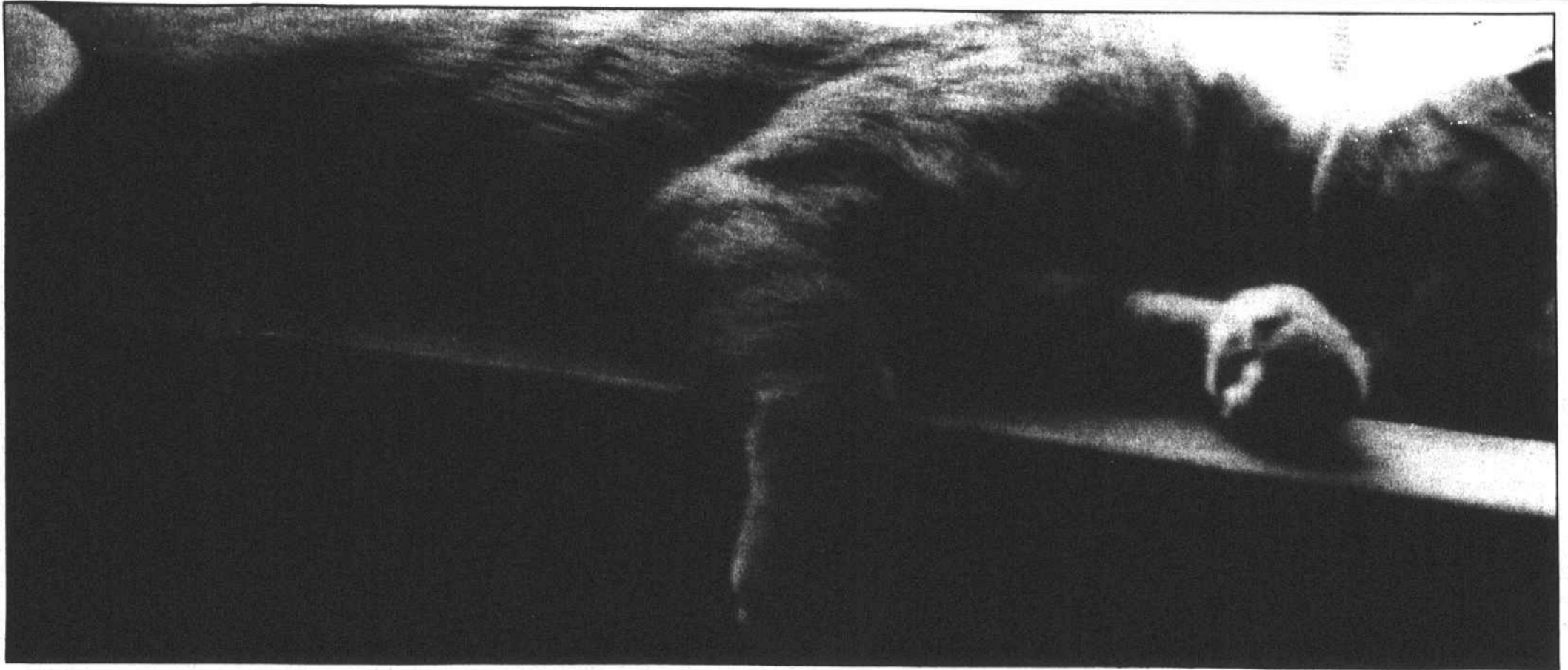


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Summertime

When It's 106, The Living Ain't Easy

With temperatures soaring above 100° in Hoke County over the past couple of weeks, humans and animals alike are beginning to seek shelter from the sweltering heat.

Some apparently have found relief from the menacing sun by hiding behind the closed doors of their refrigerated homes while others prefer cooling it pool-side.

These leisurely activities during the hot, sticky summer months are great ways to have a good time and keep cool, but for some it is not that easy.

People working outdoors, either mowing lawns, plowing fields or grinding pavement must put up with the almost unbearable temperatures that leave their skin scorched and wet.

Relief from the unbearable heat is sought by all.

Cats, like the one above, enjoy leisurely afternoons stretched out in an open window or under the nearest shady spot in the yard.

Humans seek the comforts of their air-conditioned cars, skipping a walk across town for the coolness of the drive.

Sports fanatics tend to wait until the sun is hidden by the on-coming night before cruising out for a game of tennis or softball.

Youngsters appear to fare the best when the temperatures start to rise.

Playing ball, riding bikes, swimming, and listening to music in the stuffy confines of school gyms, seem to be their way of forgetting the heat.

Others try to avoid the humid weather by packing their cars and heading for cooler areas.

Vacationers, who are tired of sweating, retreat to cooler parts of the country, where they will hide for as long as they can.

No one apparently likes smoldering heat and everyone has their own way of dealing with it.

Even with all the moans, groans and complaints that have been heard over the last month, most are not eager for another April snow. They probably would rather sweat through another day than slosh through the rain, snow and sleet that is not too far in the past.



Dreaming of cooler days

Hot summer days are as good a time as any to stand in the shade and dream of cooler weather, perhaps a fall football game on a crisp evening.



Working as usual

For some, the hot weather does not alter the day's routine. It just makes it harder. This fellow mowing his lawn (above) tries to stay in the shade, but with little success, while there are few hot-day benefits, except for a sun tan, for these workers installing gasoline lines a newly remodeled Raeford service station.



Seeking relief

The shade of an umbrella or a dip in the pool help ease the heat for these youths (above), and a long sip from a soft drink helps this lad stay cool while riding his bicycle (below).