

Hoke Residents Tied To Fed Probe

By Sherry Matthews

Additional charges are expected to be handed down in connection with a probe into the mismanagement of funds in a Robeson County federal jobs training program, a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman said Tuesday.

Indictments already handed down by a federal grand jury on Monday incriminated two Hoke County residents in the Robeson County fraud investigation.

North Carolina FBI Agent In Charge Robert L. Pence said in a telephone interview with *The News-Journal* Tuesday that the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) investigation was "far from over."

The possibility that more Hoke County residents were involved could not be ruled out, Pence said.

"There are certainly a number of individuals we are looking at

very closely, but I can't say what county they are from," Pence said.

"There may be some Hoke County people involved," Pence added.

Eleven people, including the Robeson County manager, county attorney and former county commission chairman, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in the FBI's seven month investigation of Robeson's CETA program. Two of those are Hoke residents.

Pence indicated that the Hoke people were involved because of misinformation they supplied to the CETA program.

Alton R. White, of Raeford, 44, was indicted and charged with one count of making a false statement to a government agency and one count of obtaining CETA money by fraud.

The indictment claims that White lied about his Hoke County address when he applied for the jobs training program in Robeson

County and received \$1,467.45 in CETA funds. If convicted, White could receive up to seven years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Senna Dora Locklear of Rt. 1, Red Springs was also indicted Monday by the federal grand jury.

Locklear's indictment indicates that she was charged with one count of making a false statement to a government agency and one count of obtaining CETA funds by fraud. The indictment indicates that Locklear lied about her Hoke County address to apply for the Robeson program and received \$7,271.51 in CETA monies. If convicted, she could receive up to seven years in prison and be fined \$20,000.

"There are a number of people still being interviewed that might be involved with this investigation," Pence said.

"I expect more charges to be handed down but that will be up to the grand jury," Pence added.

"Our investigation is still very active. We are not through with this thing yet," Pence said.

Around Town

by Sam Morris

The weather has finally broken and the temperatures were in the 80's Monday. We have had some rain, but we still need more. Maybe it will come later on in the week. There was some hail last Friday afternoon, but haven't heard of any damage to crops.

The thermometer was over 100 degrees for several days in July. Robert Gatlin should give us a full report for July the first week in August.

According to the forecast, the temperature will be in the 80s for the remainder of the week.

On March 29, 1973, I reported in this column about a baseball player for the Raeford Professional team of 1922. His name was Miles Powell and he was enroute to his home in New Jersey after a trip to Florida.

While I was on vacation the following letter arrived from the same Miles Powell. Of course "Hootch" McLean and Allen McGee are both dead now and maybe all the players are that Miles played with at that time.

Anyway I thought the letter would be of interest to sports fans of Hoke County.

The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Morris:

It has been too wet to play golf for the past two days. So I started to look through some of my old scrap books. And I came across the story about me ten years ago.

It was loose in my book, so I decided to make a copy and send it to you, just for the fun of it.

I got a kick about what "Hootch" McLean had to say about my fast ball, because he was about right.

Allen McGee, who was a real nice guy, was the catcher on the Raeford team. He wanted practically all my pitches low and on the outside corner. Then since I had good control as "Hootch" said, I was a winning pitcher.

My record was four straight wins and then I lost my fifth game 3-2 in twelve innings.

The New Bern manager read about me and offered me \$185.00 a month to come with them. Since Raeford could only pay me \$125.00 per month, I made the mistake of leaving.

I did not do so good at New Bern and they had some financial difficulties. So I left there and wound up my professional baseball career in the Eastern Shore league.

I wound up in a blaze of glory though, as I pitched a twelve inning game for Crisfield against Cambridge and won 6-5. I knew by that time, I did not have the stuff to make the big leagues, so I quit and went to work.

If you see any of players mentioned in your story, tell them I am still around and have a contract to throw out the first ball for the Phillies when I hit a hundred - and I hope they can be on hand for my performance.

Sincerely,
Miles Powell

The following letter is from a former Battery "F" member and how he got Col. Morris is beyond (See AROUND, page 2A)



Construction underway

Road crews began work this week in an attempt to widen U.S. Highway 401 in front of the Raeford-Hoke Village. City Councilmen and Rep. Daniel H. DeVane have been urging the Department of Transportation to do something to help clear up traffic problems that could occur. Crew members were pouring asphalt, scraping and rolling the road Tuesday in an effort to complete the work.

Country Store Hit By Armed Robber

In less than two weeks, a second county convenience store has been robbed at gunpoint, Hoke County Sheriff's Department reports show.

The owner of Huffman's Grocery, located at Rt. 3, Raeford, was apparently robbed at gunpoint last Wednesday by a man wearing a toboggan over his face, the report shows.

According to the report, a man armed with a pistol entered the store and demanded money from the owner.

Between \$40 and \$50 was taken from the store.

The investigation is continuing, the report shows.

There is apparently no link between last week's robbery and an armed robbery of a Raeford convenience store which occurred July 12, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said Monday.

The Pantry, located on East Central Avenue was robbed July 12 by two black men carrying a

pistol and wearing toboggans over their faces.

According to earlier police reports, the two men, who were apparently carrying a small caliber pistol tried to open the cash register but were scared off by a customer who arrived at the store.

According to Wiggins, the matter is still under investigation, but no suspects have been named.

In another matter, a Raeford man was arrested Sunday and charged with first degree burglary after he apparently broke into a Raeford residence, Wiggins said.

Arthur Lee Thomas of Raeford was arrested Sunday afternoon after he apparently broke into the home of Neill McFadyen Sr., the chief said.

The McFadyens were home at the time of the incident.

In an unrelated incident, a 13-year-old was apprehended after apparently taking bicycle parts from the Sky City department store.

According to Chief Wiggins, the merchandise was recovered and the boy was turned over to the juvenile authorities.

A day earlier, July 18, Sky City also reported the larceny of a gun to the police department. The merchandise was found by the manager. It had apparently been hidden behind the store, Wiggins said.

An apparent coffee fancier entered the Community Baptist Church of Rt. 3, Raeford, by breaking out a glass in the side window. The fellowship hall was entered and a coffee pot was removed, sheriff's reports show.

Reports indicate that no other items were found missing. The case is still under investigation.

In further unrelated matters, Willie Davis reported to the Hoke Sheriff's department that someone had attempted to pry a door open at his home.

(See BURGLARY, page 2A)

More Probation

Hunt Spends Morning In Jail

By Sherry Matthews

A sixth arrest warrant was issued against Hoke County Commissioner James Albert Hunt Friday for failing to appear in Lee County District Court on worthless check charges.

The nine-year veteran commissioner was arrested by Hoke Sheriff's deputies on Monday but was not jailed.

However, Hunt was picked up Thursday at 12:15 a.m. by county deputies and jailed on warrants from Robeson and Harnett counties. He was released at 9:05 a.m. after posting almost \$3,000 in bonds, records show.

The Lee County warrant, which was served Monday, was issued after Hunt failed to show in

District Court to face a \$178.32 worthless check charge.

A \$400 secured bond was posted for Hunt, keeping the commissioner from spending another stint in jail.

Hunt has been jailed two other times within a month for failing to appear in court.

In addition to the newest arrest, Hunt was given 22 separate sentences in Scotland County District Court on Thursday for 22 worthless checks totaling over \$5,000 had been written in that county.

District Court Judge Herbert L. Richardson gave the commissioner 22 six-month suspended sentences with one year's probation in each case.

Along with the sentence, Hunt was ordered to pay \$2,000 of the total owed by July 22, and \$1,000 each week until the balance of the action and restitution in each case was "paid in full."

With the newest arrest warrant served, the commissioner now has been arrested six times within a month and jailed twice.

In less than two months, Hunt has accumulated 30 suspended sentences; 20 in Scotland County and one in Hoke and has cases pending in several other counties.

Hunt still must appear in Hoke, Robeson, Lee, Scotland, Columbus and Harnett counties on other

(See HUNT, page 2A)

Zoning On Tap For Commission

By Sherry Matthews

Hoke County Commissioners may soon have to re-open a zoning issue that has been brewing for over three years, commission Chairman John Balfour said Monday.

"I think we need some sort of zoning in this county," Balfour said.

"We (the commissioners) need to discuss this issue again in the near future," Balfour added.

The zoning issue, which has caused heated debates, was brought to the attention of the county commissioners in mid-September 1982 when 27 residents from a county sub-division asked for county assistance in stopping objectionable development in their neighborhood.

Planners from the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) were called in to study ordinances

and discussed county zoning with the commission in a special meeting, but all attempts to control development proved futile.

Public, but not vocal, opposition apparently put the issue on the back burner in November, and has not been discussed since.

"Personally, I think we need zoning in the county, but most people don't want to be told what to do with their property," Balfour said.

"It is an issue that we (county commissioners) need to address again in the near future," Balfour added.

Jim Perry, COG Planning Director, who aided the county in September with zoning plans, feels that Hoke needs some level of control.

"Hoke, and all counties, need

(See ZONING, page 2A)

'Pork Barrel' Funds Pegged For Mill Prong

By Sherry Matthews

Efforts to restore Mill Prong House, a 181-year-old Hoke County landmark, received a \$25,000 boost last Friday from Cape Fear Region Legislators.

However, an \$80,000 grant application for the restoration of the Hoke County Courthouse was not funded during the regular session.

Local delegation members hope that the courthouse application will be brought before the short legislative session later this year.

The \$25,000 was part of a \$1.5 million "pork barrel" package that funds special projects for North Carolina counties.

A grant applications was made by Mill Prong Preservation President Charles Hostetler for some of the allocated monies.

According to Hostetler, Mill Prong received the entire amount that was applied for.

"I don't know that anyone else in Hoke applied for the grant," Hostetler said.

The \$25,000 allocation to the Mill Prong restoration project comes in the form of matching funds, Hostetler said.

To get the grant money the Mill Prong Preservation Corporation will have to raise an additional \$25,000.

"I think it will be less difficult to raise money for this project now that people can see things are going on out there," Hostetler said.

Hostetler and other members of Mill Prong Preservation, Inc., have been working to get the historic landmark preserved for over five years.

In 1978, the non-profit organization was chartered and later in the year secured a 50-year lease on the Mill Prong house.

Since that time the house has been nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Grant monies were awarded to the Mill Prong Corporation in May 1982 by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to be used for the preservation of the house.

With a present budget of

\$30,000; \$8,000 of which was raised "nickel and dime" by members, restoration has begun.

According to Hostetler, repairs are being made to the chimney and workers are now "underpinning" the house and foundation.

With the "new" money allotted through the pork barrel project, Hostetler said work could be started on a new roof.

"We are making some progress now," Hostetler said.

The Mill Prong House, located on rural paved road 1120 about nine miles southwest of Raeford, is thought to have been originally built by John Gilchrist, a Scottish Highlander who immigrated to the Cape Fear Region.



Inside Today

Learning

Students at Hoke High are spending the summer learning skills which will help them find jobs after graduation. We take a look at the summer computer and vocational programs on page one of Section B in today's News-Journal.