

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXV Number 16

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR 25 CENTS

Thursday, August 11, 1983

J.A. Hunt Scenario Continues

By Sherry Matthews

Financial and legal problems continued to plague Hoke County Commissioner James A. Hunt last week, as four new arrest warrants surfaced against him.

Arrest warrants were served on the commission vice chairman for failing to appear in Robeson County District Court on four worthless check charges.

In addition to the warrants already served, two more arrest orders are being processed against Hunt in Harnett County on failure to appear and failure to comply charges, court officials said.

According to Hoke sheriff's records, four arrest warrants were issued to Hunt last Tuesday for failing to appear in Robeson District Court on July 20 and 26.

Hunt was to appear on four worthless check charges that totaled \$1,185.07.

After Hunt failed to appear, the arrest orders were issued.

Hunt posted the \$2,200 bond last Tuesday to avoid any further stints in jail.

The commissioner's trial dates have been re-scheduled for August 9 and 10 in Robeson District Court on those four bad check charges.

In addition to the warrants already served, Harnett County records indicate that two further arrests orders will be issued against the nine-year veteran commissioner.

Arrest orders will be issued against Hunt for failing to appear on one worthless check charge and for failing to pay off three others.

According to the Harnett County Clerk of Court's office, Hunt appeared in District Court July 28 (See HUNT, page 13A)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

The weather has turned hot again, but this afternoon and evening thundershowers have provided some needed rain. The humidity is high and it makes the 90 degree weather seem hotter than the thermometer registers.

The tobacco hasn't been hurt by the dry weather as much as the other crops, such as corn and soybeans. Cotton is a hot weather crop and should be fine.

There were several days in July that the thermometer was over 100 degrees, but I haven't been able to get the exact figures from Robert Gatlin. The weatherman seems to have too many irons in the fire at this time to get the figures for me. I did ask him the other day if he had any corn for sale and his reply was: "Get it out of the freezer, for all the corn is gone." So that is what my wife did the next day.

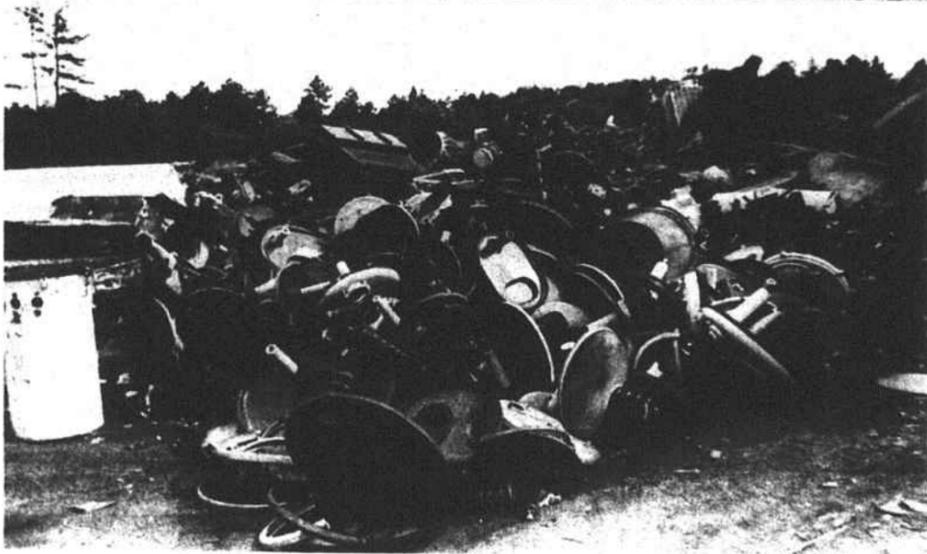
Anyway we can think of this hot weather next winter when the snow is on the ground.

Don't you members of the Class of 1946 forget to get in touch with Jimmy Plummer if you are interested in having a class reunion. He said that some of the members of the class would like to have the reunion in September if enough would write in to him or Bill Clark. Their addresses were in this column last week, along with Plummer's phone number.

So get in touch if you would like to have a fine time. I haven't heard of a class reunion where the ones that were present didn't have the time of their lives.

I was glad to see in last week's paper where the Board of Education might have found the money for the ROTC program at Hoke High School. Of course since I was an old National Guardsman for many years, both before and after World War II, I am strongly in favor of this program for high school students.

In this day of high unemployment (See AROUND, page 12A)



Complying with state mandate
State health officer Terry Dover (above right) and Goldsboro businessman Woody Wilson (above left) inspect a dumping site in Ashley Heights Tuesday where toxic levels of lead and PCB were found earlier this year. Prior to the cleanup, which was ordered by the state, the site was covered with transformer casings (below) and other material from Wilson's salvage business.

PCB Cleanup On Schedule

By Sherry Matthews

A Goldsboro businessman has apparently met a state ordered cleanup deadline and tests are being conducted to determine if hazardous residue remains in three Ashley Heights dump sites, state officials said Tuesday.

Officials from the North Carolina Department of Human Resources (DHR) Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch were overseeing soil testing Tuesday which is being conducted by a private laboratory.

Personnel from Grainger Labs of Raleigh were conducting the sampling from sites where toxic levels of lead and medium range Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) were found earlier, Hoke Health Director Lloyd Horne said.

Woody Wilson Jr. of Goldsboro is paying for the testing as part of an agreement with state officials after an investigation uncovered the toxic dump sites.

Wilson, who conducted a transformer and battery dismantling operation on the sites, agreed to clean up the sites and hire a private lab to take further soil samples to determine whether lead had "leached" into the soil.

The clean-up deadline was Tuesday. Both state and local officials seem satisfied that Wilson upheld his agreement.

"The battery casings were removed yesterday and the sites have been cleaned up," Eastern Area Supervisor for the North Carolina Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch Terry Dover said.

"Wilson has been very cooperative," Waste Management Specialist Richard Gay said.

"He (Wilson) has worked with us through this whole thing. We are very pleased," Gay added.

"He has done everything we have asked him to do. We are satisfied with everything so far," Dover added.

Wilson has apparently been "cleaning up" for nearly two months.

According to Horne, Wilson used a crane to aid in the pick-up of the heavy solid metals that were located on one of the sites.

Wilson has also agreed to remove any soil that may still be contaminated.

The dumping areas, now being tested, are located on property owned by Wilson's aunt Della Wilson, who has threatened legal action against her nephew if the hazardous material was not removed.

Wilson also conducted a transformer dismantling business on state Highway 211 near McCain.

If the new samples show high levels of lead then some of the soil will have to be removed, Horne said.

According to Horne, Wilson would have to transport the toxic soil to Alabama, the closest hazardous waste dumping area.

"Everything looks really good so far, but the results of the new samples will determine the next steps," Horne said.

"Future samplings will depend on the results of today's testing," he added.

Test results from the Grainger samples should be completed within the next two weeks, Dover said.

The state and local probe, which has been going on since May indicated that at least three Hoke County sites had become dumping grounds for toxic and cancer causing materials.

Soil samples were taken in May and June from all three sites, located in the Ashley Heights and McCain areas.

The results showed low to mid-levels of PCB's and high concentrations of lead.

(See CLEANUP, page 2A)

Politics Cost Hoke Courthouse Funding Bill

By Sherry Matthews

Attempts to get state funding for the preservation of the Hoke County Courthouse have been placed on the back burner by North Carolina law makers until next June's short legislative session.

The \$82,500 grant application, which was introduced by District 30 Senator David Parnell, lost out to another Hoke County project that was apparently introduced late into the session.

The restoration of Mill Prong House, a 181-year-old Hoke County landmark, received a \$25,000 boost out of the \$1.5 million "pork barrel" package that funds special projects for North Carolina counties.

The Mill Prong bill was also introduced by Senator Parnell.

The Mill Prong House, The Robeson County Pre-Release Funds and the Tribal Economic

Training Fund were allocated \$25,000 each at Parnell's request.

The Hoke Courthouse preservation project received no monies during the regular session.

"Each Senator was given \$75,000," Parnell said.

"It would have taken more money to fund the courthouse project than was allocated to us," Parnell added.

According to the Senator, he divided the money between three projects.

"I felt like the courthouse project would receive more money during the short session," Parnell said.

Parnell also said that the courthouse application may not be "entirely granted."

"We may still wind up with less than was requested," Parnell said.

Parnell also alluded to courthouse projects being less than "top priority" in the legislative session.

"Those projects were primarily

looked upon as county business," Parnell said.

Although Parnell said "few" courthouse projects were considered and funded by the legislators, 11 appropriations bills that totaled \$368,000 were devoted to county courthouse projects, a check of legislative records showed.

"The courthouse bill is still very much alive," Parnell said, adding that he had "high hopes" of getting the bill funded in the short legislative session.

The \$25,000 funded for the Mill Prong House was the only grant monies Hoke County received out of the "pork barrel" package.

District 16 House Representatives Daniel DeVane, Sidney Locks and Pete Hasty apparently divided their allocated monies between Robeson and Scotland Counties with Robeson getting the bulk of the funding.

"We met with Senator Parnell

and divided up the bills," DeVane said.

Senator Parnell agreed to introduce the Courthouse bill, DeVane added.

"I felt with his seniority, the bill would be more likely to get funded through his persuasion," DeVane said.

"We (the representatives) took the remaining bills and divided them between us," DeVane added.

"We were the prime sponsors of each individual bill," DeVane emphasized.

According to DeVane, each House member received \$50,000.

"We took all the projects and spread the money as far as it would go," DeVane said.

Of the \$150,000 allocated to the three House members, \$120,000 went to Robeson County projects; the remainder of the monies was allocated to Scotland County.

"The House did not have anything designated for Hoke

County because we knew that Senator Parnell was supposed to be supporting the courthouse project," DeVane added.

According to DeVane, he or the other two representatives did not know about the three other bills until Parnell introduced them.

"If we had known about those other projects, we might have been able to get some money for the courthouse," DeVane said.

Hoke County Manager James Martin, who applied for the grant monies, said he was "disappointed" that "some" money was not appropriated.

"It is a real shame," Martin said, adding that he only hoped the project would receive some funding during next June's short legislative session.

According to Martin, a second application was made through a

(See POLITICS, page 12A)

Landfill Site Backed For Animal Shelter

By Sherry Matthews

Members of the Hoke-Raeford Humane Society agreed Monday night to "endorse" the city landfill site as the location for the new animal shelter.

"We will endorse the landfill site, if and only if, the animal shelter is finished and the animals are moved in before winter," Humane Society Director Jack McGinnis said.

McGinnis and the other members had favored accepting a 2.5 acre tract at the end of North Main Street, donated by Ray Calloway of Elizabethtown, for the location of the new shelter.

"That property is convenient to

the public, has access to city water and sewage and was given to the county free," McGinnis said.

Although both the city and county governments seem to favor the landfill site, an animal shelter committee, appointed by the county commissioners in March, and the Humane Society have previously been opposed to the site.

"People may be reluctant to go to the landfill and animals may not have as good a chance of getting adopted," McGinnis said.

Although McGinnis has repeatedly opposed the landfill site, he agreed that "compromis-

(See SHELTER, page 13A)

Prime+
Inside Today
Walking tour
Many people enjoy taking tours during the summer months through museums, old homes and historic places but local farmers enjoy a walking tour through other farmers' crops. We take a look at a recent tobacco tour on page one, Section B of today's News-Journal.

Hefner Airs Concern For Family Farmers

Small farmers may have a "tough fight" on their hands in the near future, Eighth District Congressman Bill Hefner said here Tuesday night. Hefner, who was in Raeford for one of several "town meetings" across his district, answered questions and voiced opinions before a small group of Hoke County residents.

"Our small farmers are in real tough shape, all over the nation," Hefner said.

According to Hefner, there are large farms in the west that could "probably" supply food for the entire nation.

"Some large farmers would love to see a farming cartel," Hefner said.

"There are some people who would not care if the small farmer went the way of the dinosaur," Hefner added.

According to the congressman, small farmers are not the only ones in for a struggle.

"It has been a tough struggle to keep the tobacco program, and I think it will continue to be," Hefner said.

(See HEFNER, page 13A)