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Retiring
Judge Joseph E. Dupree



Seeking job
Attorney Warren L. Pate

Judge Dupree Calls It Quits

By Warren Johnston
Hoke County District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree will retire from the bench December 1, *The News-Journal* has learned.

A letter has been mailed to North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt and to other court officials outlining the resignation, the judge said Wednesday.

"I am resigning for purely personal reasons," the 63-year-old Dupree said, noting that he is looking forward to retirement.

Dupree has been Hoke County's only representative on the bench in the 12th Judicial District, which is made up of Hoke and Cumberland

counties, since the District Court was formed in 1966.

Dupree's retirement will leave his seat up for grabs by a qualified candidate from either Hoke or Cumberland.

Raeford attorney Warren L. Pate said this week that he is actively seeking appointment from Gov. Hunt to fill the remainder of Dupree's unexpired term.

Pate, who serves as president of the 12th Judicial Bar Association, was unanimously endorsed for the job this week by members of the Hoke County Bar Association.

"I believe that Hoke County needs and deserves to have a

District Court judge, and I would like to be that judge," Pate said.

Presently four of the five seats in the 12th District are held by Fayetteville residents. There are no requirements that a Hoke County resident be on the court.

Since starting in practice in Raeford in 1974, the 38-year-old Pate has had a broad base of legal experience which he believes would qualify him for the judgeship.

In order to be named by the Governor to fill the three-year unexpired term, Pate must first be one of two candidates nominated by members of the 12th Judicial Bar Association.

Although he has the backing of the Hoke County members, Pate is not assured of support from the majority of the membership who reside in Cumberland County.

The combined bar association will meet before Dupree's retirement takes effect on December 1, Pate said.

Prior to serving in his present position, Dupree was the judge of the Hoke County Recorder's Court for two years, taking office after the death of Judge Harry Green.

Hoke and Cumberland were
(See DUPREE, page 13)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

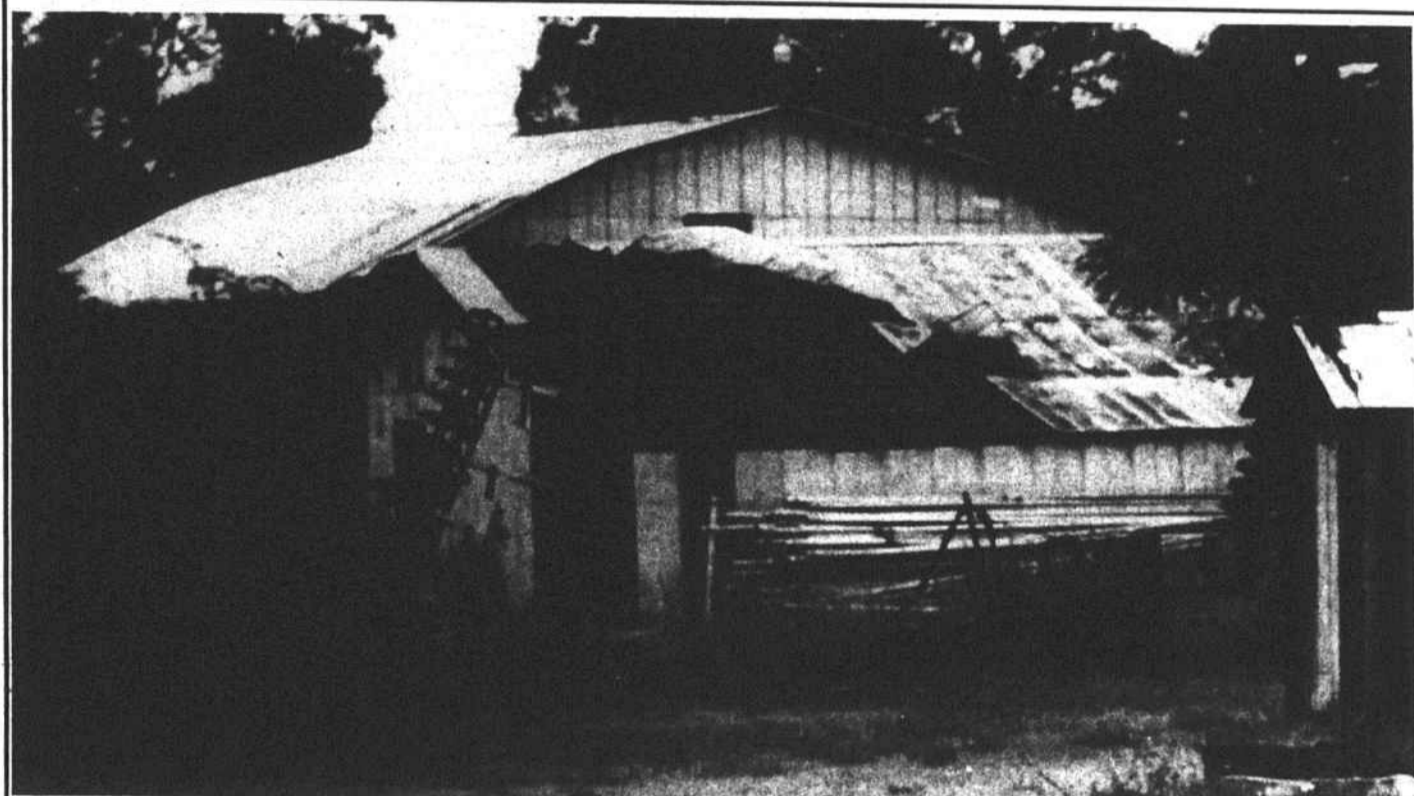
The weather has become almost normal for this time of year and it suits me fine. The hot days seem to take something out of you and staying in the house in air conditioning feels good, but I don't believe it is good for anyone.

The rains came last week (Tuesday night) and it was welcomed by everyone. We had over two inches in Raeford and I believe most of the state had some rain. It rained Saturday afternoon in the Wayside Community and they had rain at Arabia on Sunday afternoon.

I was looking at television Saturday afternoon and the weather reports stated that the only rain on the map was in Hoke County. It wasn't in Raeford, but you could hear the thunder as the cloud went toward Fayetteville.

The forecast is for normal temperatures for the remainder of the week.

Don't forget that the school buses will be running today (Thursday) and some of the children will be on the highways before it is good light. So be careful and watch for them from now until next summer.



Storm damage in Dundarrach

Last Tuesday's relief from the humid temperatures brought heavy winds to the Dundarrach area. Some believe a tornado touched down in

different areas of the community leaving trees down and roofs ripped apart. This shelter, owned by the Dundarrach Trading Company, received some roof damage during the storm.

Jobless Rate On Increase

With 30 more jobless residents and an increased labor force, Hoke County's unemployment rate rose by .3% during July, making it the second highest toll for the year.

During July, 1,010 people were without jobs in the Hoke area with a jobless rate of 12.0%.

The highest rate for the year came in January when the tally rose to 15.4% with 1,260 unemployed residents.

January showed fewer residents in the labor force and fewer jobs while July figures, released this week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, show that more people are in the work force and fewer people are without jobs.

July's figures were .3% higher than June's estimate of 11.7% with 30 more unemployed residents and 60 more people within the labor force.

"I really don't know what has caused the increase," Hoke's Employment Security Commission Manager Donnie Mann said.

"There have been no great layoffs at any of the industries," Mann added.

Although Mann was unsure why
(See UNEMPLOYMENT, page 12)

School Opens For Year Thursday

By Sherry Matthews

Although temperatures are still hovering around the 90° mark, summer is almost over, at least for those who must load up their pencils and notebooks and head back to school.

The Hoke County Schools are no exception, opening their doors to the eager and not so eager students September 1.

Although school does not officially open until that date, teachers have been on the job since mid-August preparing for the coming year's activities.

Since August 9, teachers and administrators have been attending

workshops and county-wide meetings geared to help the adults provide a better learning atmosphere for the students.

With school beginning this week, buses will be traveling the highways again and safety has been emphasized by the administrative office.

Last year there was only one school bus related accident in Hoke County, and school officials are hoping that even that error will not be repeated.

The public should be aware that buses are back on the road again, Hoke County school spokesman Woodrow Westall said.

"We would like to see an accident-free year," Westall said.

The children's safety is our main concern, Westall added.

Although the schools' doors will officially open Thursday, students can look forward to a Labor Day vacation on Monday, September 5.

The calendar for the 1983-84 school year also shows other vacation days coming up for students who are not quite ready to study.

Here is this year's calendar:

--September 5--Labor Day holiday.

--October 13--end of first six weeks.

--October 20--report cards go out.

--October 25--NCAE Meeting; Vacation day in lieu of Veteran's Day.

--November 11--Parent-Teacher conferences 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (no school).

--November 24-25--Thanksgiving Holiday.

--November 30--end of second six weeks.

--December 7--report cards go out.

--December 19-January 1--Christmas-New Year vacation.

--January 25--end of third six weeks.

--January 27--workday (no school)

--February 2--report cards go out.

--March 9--end of fourth six weeks.

--March 15--report cards go out.

--March 26--parent-teacher conference (no school).

--April 20--end of fifth six weeks.

--April 23-27--spring vacation and holiday.

--May 4--report cards go out.

--June 8--last day for students and end of sixth six weeks.

--June 11-15--teacher workdays.

Low Interest Loans Are Key To Downtown Revitalization

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a three part series.

By Sherry Matthews

The cost of revitalizing the downtown area of Raeford is a major concern of both merchants and property owners on the city's Main Street, and now stands as a roadblock in the way of the project.

"I am interested in doing all we can to dress up the appearance of our stores, but the prices are unreasonable," Howell Drug owner Tom Howell said.

"The element of expense involved is probably too great for most people downtown," Howell added.

Other downtown property owners agree with Howell.

"We need to revitalize all the downtown property, but most don't have the finances it will

take," J.H. Wright, who is part owner of the Page Building, said.

"It's not that people don't want to clean up downtown it's just that we are talking about big dollars," Jimmy Wood, part owner of Western Auto, said.

"I think some type of low interest money would spark interest and get some things underway," Wood added.

Most merchants and property owners seem to agree that low interest loans, which could be provided by local banks in coordination with the city and county governments, would help get things underway in the downtown area.

Low interest loans will help "cut the cost" of revitalizing a downtown area, Clinton City Manager Pete Connet said.

Clinton, Sampson County's largest city, has been in the process

of "cleaning up" its downtown for the last five years.

According to Connet, merchants and property owners "jointly" petitioned the city council for a special tax district that would bring in extra dollars.

That money, some \$25,000 a year, has been helpful, Connet said.

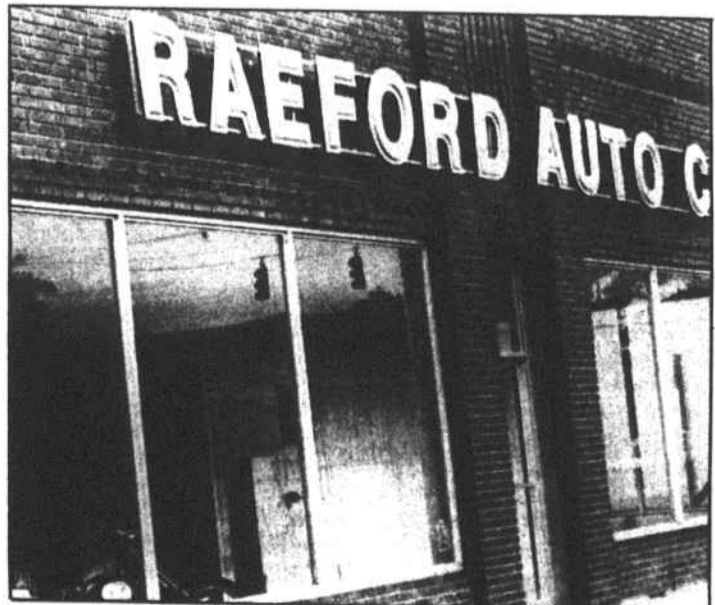
"We are also trying to establish low interest loans for merchants," Connet said.

Getting banks to "pool" their money and lend it to merchants at lower interest rates is a good idea, Connet said.

"I think banks in the Clinton area will be willing to do this," Connet added.

"It will help the merchants which in turn will eventually benefit everyone," Connet said.

"I think low interest money
(See LOW, page 13)



No sign of life

On both ends of Main Street there are empty buildings waiting to be filled. The Raeford Auto Company, which closed in January, still has not been filled. "We have got to get people in these empty stores," Hoke Merchant Association President Ed Hasty said.

Monday will be Labor Day. It is a day set aside to commemorate workers on the jobs they have done during the past year. We think the day is a good one, even if personal.
(See AROUND, page 11)