



A minute of relief

One of the many Hillcrest firemen on the scene during last Thursday's fire that blazed out of control twice in less than 24 hours takes a breather from the increasing heat of the flames. While he takes a

breather, Raeford dispatcher Johnny Riley, (right), keeps an eye on the fire being fought by other Hillcrest and Puppy Creek firemen.

... Commission Requires Residency

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custody of local horses, which are apparently being mistreated. "The problem has gone on for years," McGinnis said. "Those horses are diseased," McGinnis added. "I think we need to do something about this situation," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said. "Horse-raising in this area is increasing, and we need some way of supervising for their own protection," Upchurch added. Also during the Monday night

meeting, the commissioners voted to hire architect Sam Snowden with the Laurinburg firm Jordan, Snowden, and McVicar, and to authorize him to prepare construction specifications for the new animal shelter-landfill equipment building. A beginning construction date and initial cost of the shelter have not been determined yet, according to Martin. "It is really too early to know," Martin said. In other board action, the commissioners appointed Dr. Riley Jordan, Mary Arno, Marshal

Parks, Cleo Bratcher and Barbra Buie to serve on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board. The county board also unanimously approved EMS By-laws of the new advisory board. According to the new regulations, EMS board members will review local applications for future EMS programs, study and analyze ways to improve the present county EMS, and recommend EMS policies and priorities to the county board. In unrelated board action, the

commissioners appointed Della Maynor, Les Simpson, Jessie Neeley, Bernice McPhatter, Rita Williamson, Ken Witherspoon, Lloyd Horne, Kay Thomas and Ellen McNeill to head the county's Council on the Status of Women. The commissioners also requested that Thomas be named "temporary" chairman of the council to help organize the newly appointed members. In still further action, Balfour joined with Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill in declaring October 24 through 28, Textile Week in Raeford and Hoke County.

12-Year-Old Rescued From Snake

A 12-year-old Raeford girl was rescued last week, after being cornered by a "large snake." The rescue apparently occurred after newly hired city dog warden Sharon Reese heard screams that coming from the Raeford Cemetery grounds, city Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said. Upon investigation, Reese found a 12-year-old girl trapped by a "fairly large" snake. According to Wiggins, the snake was striking at the girl, but never bit her. Although the snake attempted to strike at Reese, she was able to pull the girl to safety and carry her home. The snake was not killed.

Two men, apparently thirsting for some alcoholic beverages, walked away with \$14.20 in "spirits" belonging to The Pantry on Central Avenue. The men apparently went into the Pantry last Wednesday and relieved the convenience store of two six packs of beer and two bottles of Wild Irish wine, Wiggins said. No suspects have been identified, but the case is still under investigation, the chief said. In an unrelated incident, Wiggins said that an "unidentified" person had tampered with the county gas tanks across from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Wiggins said that county employee Jack Ellis reported the incident, which apparently happened over the weekend. According to Wiggins, someone had "removed" the gas tank's cap. Wiggins said he was not sure whether anything was put inside the tank. Samples will be sent to Raleigh to determine if the fuel in the tank can be used, Wiggins said. The case remains open for investigation, according to the chief. In other action, Vernon D. Hubbard of West Elwood Avenue

reported that someone had taken four hubcaps off his vehicle while it was parked in a church parking lot Sunday. The \$400 hubcaps were apparently taken during church hours Sunday, the chief said. During the Fireman's exhibition last Saturday, two pocket scanners were taken from the Rockfish Fire Department vehicles, Wiggins said. The scanners, valued at \$200, have not been recovered. The case remains open for investigation, the chief indicated.

... Food Stamp Rules Stayed

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"We have helped train them how to fill out the monthly report forms, and then we tell them that they don't have to turn them in," Jones added. "It has got to cause them a great deal of confusion," Jones noted. Even with the confusion and lack of continuity that the monthly reporting program has caused, both state and local DSS ad-

ministrators feel the suspension is a "good sign." "There are 33 states that have gone on record opposing the mandatory monthly reporting system," Jones said. "It may be possible that Congress will make the program optional at some point. I sure hope they will," he added. "Generally, we are glad to have the three-month suspension," Witherspoon added.

... Hunt Pays Debts

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purchased the plane from Teague December 27, 1982 for \$14,000. After the first check was returned to Teague, Hunt paid \$6,000 on the debt in January, the clerk said. Since that time, Hunt has apparently failed to pay the remainder of the debt, the clerk said. According to the judgement, Hunt owes \$8,682.50 to Teague for the plane and attorney's fees. The plane will be sold to the highest bidder November 9 during a public auction at Furches Aircraft Service. Hunt noted this week that he was attempting to get his financial troubles behind him. "This has not been a good year for me, but I am finally getting everybody paid off," Hunt said. Court clerks in Robeson, Scotland and Harnett counties confirmed that Hunt is meeting payment requirements on over \$10,000 in worthless checks. In Scotland County, where the nine-year veteran commissioner was convicted on 22 worthless check charges totaling over \$4,000

and was facing a three-year jail term, payment deadlines have been met. Harnett County officials also indicated that Hunt had met all his payment deadlines. Hunt still owes \$1,214.67 in Harnett County for a worthless check charge he was convicted of September 27, the clerk said. The clerk indicated that Hunt had until October 27 to pay off the bad check. According to Hunt, he is getting ready to pay all of his debts. "I still owe some people money, but I am paying them all back gradually. I'm not going back to jail," Hunt said. "I have had some problems this year, but I still have got a lot to be thankful for," Hunt said. The commissioner is scheduled to appear in Hoke Superior Court next week on four separate worthless check charges. Hoke District Court Judge Joseph Dupree gave Hunt a 90-day active sentence on those charges, but Hunt appealed the case to the higher court.

... Around Town

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the Litchfield Inn at Litchfield Beach, S.C. This is about 15 miles south of Myrtle Beach on US 17. If you were a member of old Btry "F" everyone will be glad to have you attend. Contact me if you so desire. Robert Currie of Broadway was by the office last week. He had an old picture and was trying to get the people identified. It was of the Headquarters Battery of Raeford during the strike at Gastonia. I could name some of the people, but not many.

Another visitor to the office Monday afternoon was Raz Autry. It seems wood chopping is about all the work Raz is doing at the present time, so we were trying to work out a golf schedule. We did talk about people still calling us up about things at the paper and at the schools. This is hard to believe, but Raz said a reporter from a daily paper called him about something, and he told her he didn't care one way or the other. Then he told her he was retired. Yes, he is retired if he doesn't give an answer.



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