

# Hoke Investigators Checking Out-Of-Town Drug Suspects

**By Sherry Matthews**  
 Local law enforcement officers are beginning an "out of state" probe into the ownership of the twin engine plane, loaded with an \$800,000 marijuana cargo, that touched down at the Raeford Airport two weeks ago, Hoke Sheriff Dave Barrington said Tuesday.

"We are continuing to follow up all leads," Barrington said.

According to Barrington, local and state officials are waiting for a fingerprint analysis and "other tests" that might lead to the pilot of the abandoned aircraft.

"Officers are out of town right now looking into this investigation," Barrington said.

Fayetteville Division State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) senior agent Frank Johnson also agreed that the investigation was "very much continuing."

"We have some leads, but nothing that we can talk about at this point," Johnson said.

Although both local and state officials remain mum as to who the \$100,000 Piper-Aztec plane belongs to, sources say that the aircraft is owned by a North Carolina resident.

Aboard the plane, which touched down at the Raeford Airport two weeks, were 982 pounds of marijuana, compressed into 26 bales and estimated to be worth nearly \$800,000.

The plane had been spotted in the Raeford area before the November 26 seizure, Barrington said.

Barrington said in an earlier interview that the plane had been spotted in the Raeford area three months ago and was picked up again in the Laurinburg area just

three days before it landed in Raeford.

County law enforcement officers reported the apparently suspicious plane to U.S. Customs Service Investigators who were also tracking the plane.

Customs, who tailed the plane from the coast of Florida, radioed sheriff's deputies after they were forced to land their aircrafts for refueling.

When Hoke officers arrived, the pilot had fled the aircraft and could not be picked up.

Customs agents are still involved with the investigation, Johnson said.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is also providing assistance "if needed," Johnson added.

"They are all helping us in any way they can," Johnson said.

# ... Snow Policy Settled

(Continued from page 1A)  
 auspices of the board.

Nelson will study the present plan and come up with a recommended system of pay.

First and second grade students will begin working on learning "objectives and skills" in order to prepare for this year's battery of California Achievement Tests, Associate Superintendent Ginny Hayes told the board.

This will be the first year that the first and second graders have taken the tests, and as a result, school personnel believe that scores may drop, Hayes said.

Once new study procedures are implemented, scores should improve, she added.

In January, sixth and ninth graders will be tested on writing skills.

The tests are part of a statewide program and are designed to determine a student's overall writing ability, Hayes said.

Sixth grade students will be tested either on their ability to write a "descriptive" or a "clarification" composition, the associate superintendent said.

Ninth graders will be asked to write either a "point-of-view" or a "persuasive" piece.

Hoke County's roving science demonstration teacher is working with students at all of the county's schools to establish science fairs this year, Hayes said.

The effort will be made to set up inter-school fairs, which could eventually lead to a districtwide science fair, she added.

On another matter, board

members were told that all but one of the schools' food service systems are making improvements to curb food costs.

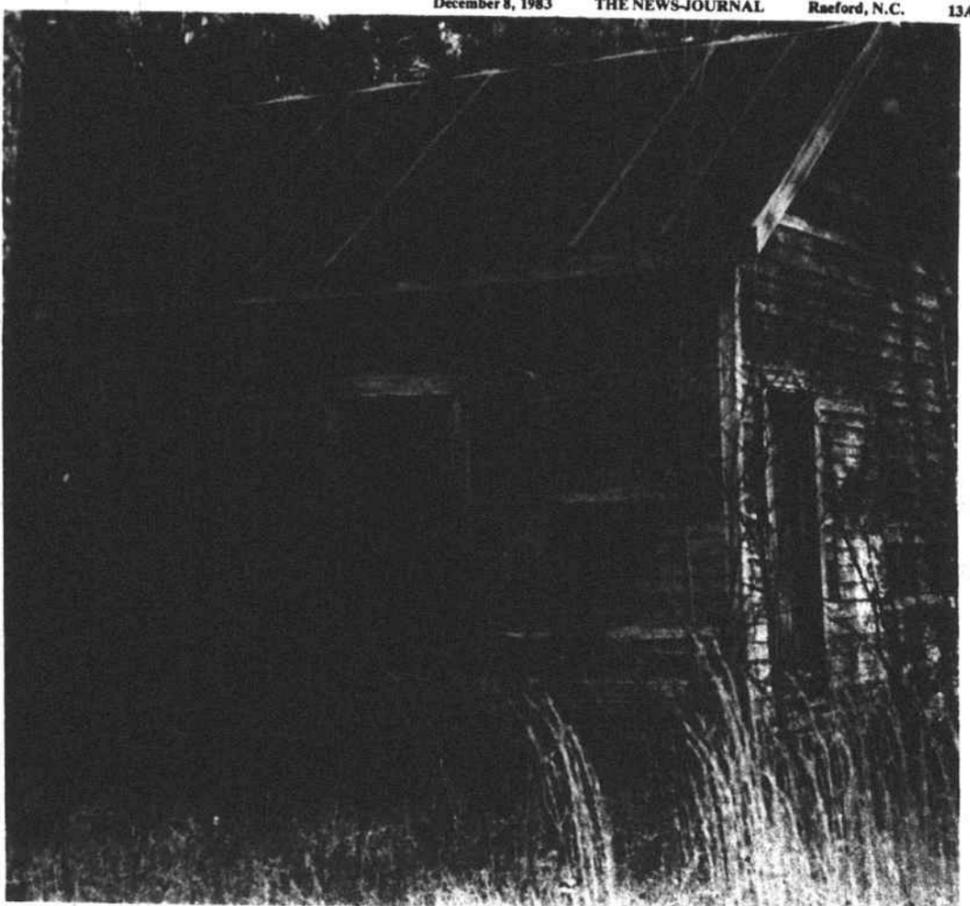
Upchurch School was the only facility to show an increase in food costs during the last fiscal year, school auditor Frank Baker said.

During the year, which ended June 30, the school system improved its accounting procedure and got a handle on accounting for school activity funds, Baker said a recent audit showed.

"The only thing that gave us a small problem was tracing candy sales," he said.

This was the first year the schools have sold candy, and future controls should improve, Baker said.

Board member Mina Townsend did not attend the meeting.



### Post office or jail?

This old building, standing just off Highway 211 in Timberland could be the old post office or possibly an old jail. Although no one seems certain of its origin, speculation is that it is the old post office that at one time was joined to a general store that was across the road. Sources say, the old building was disconnected from the store and moved across

the road some years ago. If this is the old Timberland post office, in the late 1930's or early 1940's, the U.S. Post Master General stopped by for a visit, sources say. Although no one is really sure what the building really used to be, one thing is for sure, it is still standing and in fairly good condition.

## Deaths & Funerals

### Alma Strickland

Mrs. Alma Strickland died Saturday evening at her home on Route 2, Raeford.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Raeford First Baptist Church by Rev. Billy Beaver.

Burial was in Cross Creek Cemetery, Fayetteville.

Survivors are three sons: Rev. Carl Strickland of Rockingham, Ronald Strickland of Raeford and Charles Thomas Strickland of Kokomo, Indiana; one daughter: Mrs. Margaret J. Jarman of Jacksonville; two sisters: Mrs. Helen Carroll of Okeechobee, Florida and Mrs. Virginia Norris of Cooper City, Florida; 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

### Crumpler Funeral Home

assisted the family.

### Mary Stewart McLean

Mary Stewart McLean, 70, of Rt. 1, Raeford died Monday.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 9 at 4 p.m. in the Silver Grove Baptist Church. The Rev. W.K. Mitchell will officiate the service.

Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Surviving are: one sister, Mrs. Daisy L. Stewart of the home; one aunt, Mrs. Nettie McMillan of Raeford; four nieces, Miss Willie Mae Jones of Raeford, Mrs. May Helen Jones Oliver of Bennettsville, SC, Mrs. Parthenia J. Aldrich of Connecticut and Mrs. Pansy M. Stewart of New Jersey.

The family will be receiving friends Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. at Buie Funeral Home.

### Charles M. Milbrodt

Charles Michael Milbrodt, 10 weeks, died Saturday in Hoke County.

Funeral services were at 3 p.m. Monday at the Crumpler Funeral Home Chapel.

Burial was to be in Akron City, Iowa.

Survivors are his parents: SFC & Mrs. Michael Wayne Milbrodt of 5141 Highview Drive, Fayetteville; his grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Bowers of Buffalo, N.Y., Wayne Milbrodt of Sioux City, Iowa and Mrs. Lila Phillips of Indianapolis, Indiana.

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