

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

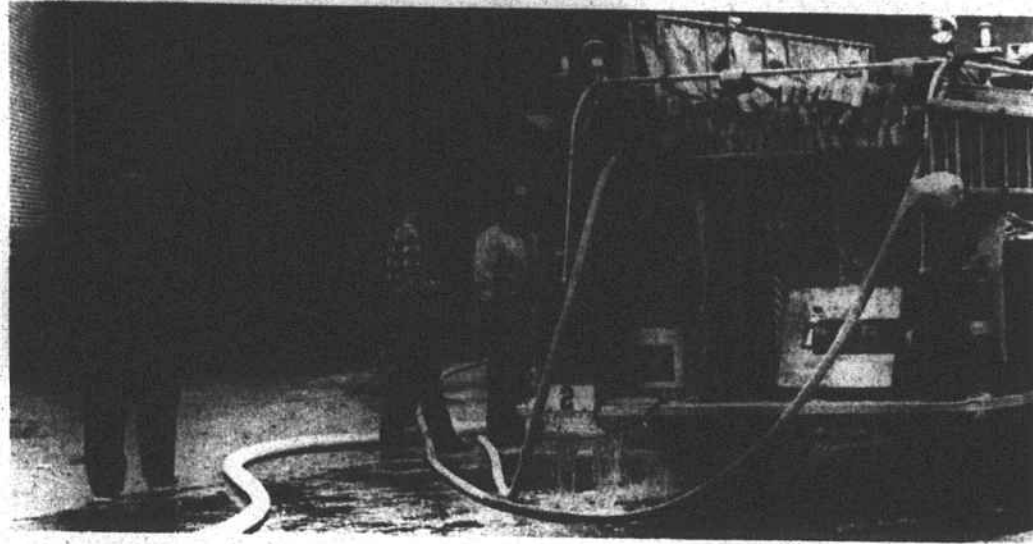
Volume LXXVI Number 39

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, January 17, 1985



Filled to brim

Raeford volunteer firemen fought a smoldering fire in the House of Raeford blast freezer for about five hours Monday. The blaze was apparently started by a welder doing work in the freezer. The firefighters were hampered by -10° to -20° temperatures in the

freezer. Here firemen Jimmy Conoly (right) and Wayne Mills (center) keep an eye on an overflowing pumper truck as Frank Crumpler (left) heads for a first hand inspection of the plant.

'Cold' fire battled at House of Raeford

By Ed Miller

Members of the Raeford Fire Department battled a blaze and temperatures of 10° to 15° below zero Monday while extinguishing a fire in the "blast freezer" of the House of Raeford.

The afternoon fire destroyed an undetermined amount of property and produce at the plant, a fire department spokesman said.

According to House of Raeford Plant Manager Ed Manning, about 200 boxes of produce were lost in the flames.

The Raeford Fire Department responded to the blaze at about 1:20 p.m. and the last truck left the plant around 6:30, Raeford Fire

Marshall Terry Tapp said Tuesday.

According to Tapp, the fire department stayed during the clean up of the burned boxes of turkeys.

The cause of the fire has been tentatively attributed to a cutting torch that was used too close to the boxes of stored, frozen birds, Tapp said.

According to Tapp and Manning, the fire was out in a matter of a few minutes.

"We had the flames knocked down in about five or six minutes," Tapp said.

"Our efficient Raeford Fire Department came and put the fire right out," Manning said.

"There was really more smoke than there was fire," said the manager.

A cutting torch was being used in the freezer because the pallets that the House of Raeford's birds are shipped on have changed in size, said Tapp.

Braces inside the blast freezer had to be moved to accommodate the larger pallets, he said.

One of the 12 firemen that responded to the fire, there were no injuries, said Tapp. There was also no damage done to any fire equipment.

There was very little structural damage done to the plant, said Tapp.

Woman given 5 years for pot hassle shooting

By Ed Miller

A Raeford woman has been sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty in Superior Court of shooting another woman over the price of a marijuana cigarette.

After two hours of deliberation, a Hoke County jury found Marilyn Cribb Clark guilty of shooting Sherry Simmons in July after an argument erupted over the price of the drug.

Superior Court Judge E. Lynn Johnson sentenced Clark and then ordered a "show cause" hearing for the victim, Simmons, for contempt of court.

According to defense attorney Paul Herzog, Simmons spent Tuesday night in the Cumberland County Jail pending a charge from Johnson.

Simmons was incarcerated for allegedly disturbing the court on several occasions Tuesday during testimony and closing arguments.

The hearing was set for Wednesday.

Clark, also known as "Country", was charged with shooting Simmons in the arm on July 17 after an argument over the price of a marijuana cigarette and the fact that Clark was allegedly

selling "slack bags of reefer," or bags that were not worth what was paid for them, according to witnesses in trial.

According to testimony, Simmons refused to pay \$3 for the marijuana cigarette.

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell called three witnesses in the case.

Both Hoke County Deputy Ed Harris and Deputy Ronnie Odom testified that Simmons was brought to the Raeford Police Department with what appeared to be gunpowder burns on her temple and a bullet hole all the way through the bottom of her upper arm.

When Simmons was on the stand, she displayed scars for the jury.

According to Odom, Simmons had "a black powdery substance" on her blouse also.

"In my opinion, it was gunpowder," Harris said.

Simmons had been picked up from work by two friends and had gone to another friend's house to play cards, she said on the stand.

After about two hours, Simmons left, with her friends, identified in court as Bobby Bowles and Chris Williams, and proceeded

to "ride around" before deciding to go to Clark's residence in search of Simmons' boyfriend, she said.

After arriving at Clark's trailer, located in Dundee Park, the argument arose over marijuana prices, she said.

There was some question about the number of shots fired during the assault.

Simmons testified that two shots were fired, but witnesses for the defense said there was only one shot fired.

Deputies Harris and Odom testified that Simmons was extremely upset after the ordeal.

Witnesses for the defense, Williams and Bowles said that Simmons was asked to leave before Clark pulled the handgun from under a cushion of a couch in the living room of the trailer.

Both men refused to give statements to the sheriff's deputies, Harris and Odom said.

Simmons was asked to leave only once, said Bowles, while Williams said the girl was asked to leave twice before the gun was produced.

Both witnesses said that Clark never pointed the gun at Simmons.

"She (Clark) hit Sherry up (See WOMAN, page 10)

Feb. 15 set as recruiter deadline

By Ed Miller

The Raeford-Hoke Industrial Development Commission has set February 15 as the deadline for accepting applications for a county economic development director.

However, Commission Chairman Tom Howell said he hopes the selection can be made within the application period.

In addition to setting the deadline, the group also changed

the title of the position from industrial recruiter to economic development director in order to broaden the scope of the job.

According to Howell, the title "industrial recruiter" places more emphasis on recruiting new industry into the area while "economic developer" puts more importance on existing with current businesses while recruiting new industry at the same time.

A committee met Saturday to decide on the salary range of the new director and to write a description for the job.

In other business during a called meeting last week, members of the commission passed a motion adopting a budget for the fiscal year to start in July.

(See DEADLINE, page 10)

County woman unknowingly interrupts break-in of home

Thieves were apparently hiding in a Hoke County residence when the owner returned home, suspected something was wrong, and left to call authorities.

Before Patsy Jordan could return with sheriff's deputies, the apparently interrupted theft was completed, and the suspects escaped.

According to sheriff's reports, Mrs. Jordan found some articles disturbed in her kitchen, and left to call the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff's Deputy Eddie Allen and Mrs. Jordan returned to the

residence and found it completely ransacked.

Jordan had come home and found a drawer in the kitchen open, and the door to the home's laundry room door ajar, reports say.

Upon her return with the deputy, all the drawers and cabinets were open and a gun, some ammunition and a hunting knife were missing from the house, reports say.

Jordan did not notice the glass broken out of the rear door of the residence for some time after she arrived home, reports say.

The stolen items are listed on the report as being valued at \$482.

On the same day, last week, another Hoke County woman was at home recovering from surgery when her home was broken into, sheriff's reports say.

Betty Wilson was in bed when her doorbell rang.

Instead of answering the door, she looked out the window to see a small yellow or gold car apparently leaving her residence on rural road 1435 and heading for Rockfish Road, reports say.

About 10 minutes later, the bell rang again.

This time she grabbed her gun about the time she heard the glass on the home's rear door break, according to reports.

Wilson ran from her house to a neighbor's where she called the Sheriff's Department.

While she was waiting for deputies to arrive, the woman saw a van, bearing the logo of a Fayetteville moving company on the side, driving slowly near her house, reports say.

According to reports, the burglar alarm system in the house did not go off when the glass door was broken.

There was nothing taken from the residence, reports say, adding that intruders must have seen the front door standing open and left the house.

In other area incidents reported, a local man has been charged with breaking into a woman's home and allegedly taking a pair of underwear.

On Friday, January 4, Hazel Lee McNeill reported that Leroy McLaughlin had allegedly broken into her home and taken the underwear.

A spokesperson for the Sheriff's Department said McLaughlin has been charged.

Bob Pryor reported that Camp Rockfish had been broken into and that \$545 worth of tools, t-shirts and fire extinguishers were taken.

According to reports, the camp had been broken into earlier, before Christmas, but that incident was unreported.

Janice Shaw reported her house apparently broken into and some cash stolen, reports say.

The loss was listed at \$125, according to reports.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

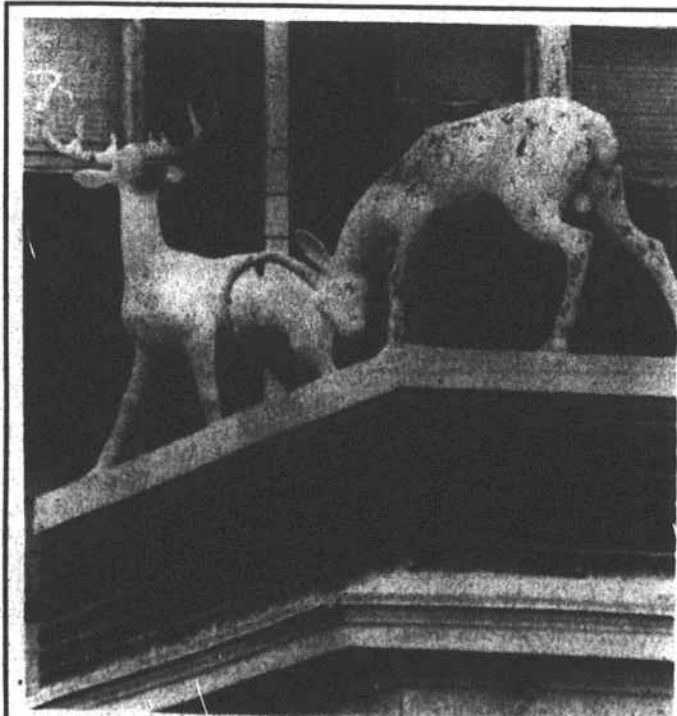
Winter weather has been in Hoke County for the past week. The wind chill factor makes it colder than the thermometer registers. Of course we don't have the snow like Texas is having, but it still feels like wintertime.

The forecast is for continued cold weather and a chance of snow Thursday.

The building on South Main Street that has been the scene of two long time businesses in Raeford is being renovated by the new owner. It has housed Graham's Service Station and the Southern Restaurant, formerly Elk Restaurant, for many years. It was built in the late 20s or early 30s by T.B. Upchurch. The new owner according to my information is Senator David Parnell of Parkton.

I don't know for sure what businesses will be in the building or if anyone has leased the buildings. This is not what this item is concerned with at this time.

I understand that the two deer on top of the service station will be taken down and moved elsewhere. Now this is fine as long as the deer (See AROUND, page 10)



Coming down

The deer on the old Graham's Gulf Station and the Elk Restaurant on Main Street in Raeford are destined for the fields of Hoke High School. The station has recently been purchased by State Sen. David Parnell and will be remodeled as a convenience store and restaurant. The deer, which were sculpted by W.T. Covington, stood atop the building for more than 50 years.

Regs set to correct airport damage

By Ed Miller

Persons responsible for damage at the Raeford-Hoke Airport will have to pay the costs of repair, according to a proposed amendment to existing bylaws passed Thursday night by the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission.

The proposed amendment will have to be approved by the Hoke County Commissioners and the Raeford City Council, Airport Commission Chairman Frank Baker said.

Airport property is apparently being regularly damaged by a pilot who is learning how to fly.

According to reports from Commissioner Wayne Byrd, the pilot is "attracting crowds" as he hits runway lights.

Apparently, the pilot is not always in full control of the plane upon landing, Byrd said.

There have been a number of lights on the runway knocked off and broken, said the commissioner, adding that the unnamed pilot may be the cause.

Apparently, there have been lights knocked out several times recently.

"If you're learning to drive, learning to fly, learning to do anything, you have to pay for your

mistakes. Especially continuous mistakes," Byrd said.

The airport operation has also been bothered by youths as well as adults, riding motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles on the runway and taxiway.

"I'm not saying they're knocking the lights down, but they could be," said Byrd.

There is already a law on the books prohibiting any vehicles from the runway except airplanes, Baker said.

"It's dangerous," Baker said, referring to the recreational jaunts at the airport.

In other business during the meeting, a motion was passed allowing Chairman Baker to write and send a letter to Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington asking that the airport be regularly patrolled.

Persons caught breaking the rules and regulations set up for the facility should be cited, according to the commissioners.

In other discussion, commission members were informed that the airport is attracting customers from much of the surrounding area seeking fuel for their planes.

Raeford has one of the city facilities around that carries

autogas for airplanes, according to Byrd.

The price of the fuel may be cut another \$.5 per gallon if it will not interfere with profit percentages collected from fuel sales, Byrd said.

Byrd also informed the other commissioners that some small problems have been corrected at the facility.

According to reports from last month's meeting, the beacon light at the airport was burned out. It has been replaced, Byrd said.

The beacon is equipped with a primary bulb and a back-up bulb that turns on automatically upon the loss of the primary bulb, said the commissioner.

Until last month, both bulbs were burned out and no one could be found to replace them, Byrd said.

Also, the Raeford-Hoke Airport now has an officially listed radio frequency in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), said Byrd.

It was also decided during the meeting that a sign should be put near the facility's public telephone listing the numbers of law enforcement agencies and fire departments in the area.

Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin was asked to design the sign.