

## District attorney closes shooting case; no charges filed

The state will not file any criminal charges in the shooting of a Jones Hill man by a Hoke County Sheriff's detective.

That's the word from District Attorney Jean Powell, who says the evidence, compiled by the State Bureau of Investigation in a 300-page report, does not warrant the arrest of either Louis

"L. C." Cunningham, a 69-year old black man shot four times in the incident, or Detective Jim Curtis, the man who allegedly shot Cunningham.

Hoke County Sheriff's officials have already gotten convictions against Darryl McRae and Grady Cunningham, nephews of Cunningham who were involved in incidents surrounding the

shooting. Those cases are not affected by Powell's decision.

Powell said Curtis was legitimately acting in self-defense when he shot Cunningham and that Cunningham probably did not realize Curtis was a law enforcement officer when he allegedly discharged a shotgun over his head.

Powell said the whole incident began around 1 a.m. July 7 when Detective Curtis and Deputy Lowery went to the Unique Lounge in Jones Hill to serve a warrant on Darryl McRae, who worked there as a bouncer.

McRae allegedly fired a gun outside the (See RIOT, page 10)

## School Board adopts budget

### Schedules talks on Upchurch

With a 4-1 vote last night, the School Board adopted its 1990-91 budget proposed by Superintendent Bob Nelson. On the chopping block were 14 wish list items: five new teaching positions cut—\$100,010; computer lab at South Hoke cut—\$32,000; new science equipment cut—\$8,000; community schools director position cut—\$10,757; maintenance reduced—\$39,861; library books reduced—\$10,000; janitorial supplies reduced—\$9,106; vocational education reduced—\$6,050; contingency fund reduced—\$3,000; cultural arts reduced—\$3,526; instructional supplies reduced—\$2,000; attorney fees reduced—\$2,000; substitute teachers reduced—\$1,500; exceptional children reduced—\$700. That makes a \$228,510 cut in what had been proposed.

What remains in the \$1,311,531 budget includes increases in elementary principals' supplements.

Elementary principals' supplements will rise from \$600 to \$1,200 annually.

The budget puts \$45,252 into energy; that's the amount Hoke county commissioners raised local funds to schools over last year. Finance Officer Don Steed said commissioners requested the additional money be used to pay energy costs.

Certified employees—teachers and administrators—will get a six percent raise, while non-certified employees, such as secretaries, get a four percent increase.

### Upchurch School: Auditorium raises questions

The School Board will rebuild Upchurch Auditorium with insurance money from the fire which destroyed the building last year.

"I still have to say it again, that we're cutting a lot of things for the kids," lone dissenter Shirley Gibson said.

"We are increasing some adults' pay, we are building the auditorium, we need to keep an eye on those children," she said.

"We also need to remember that those adults are there for the benefit of the children," Nelson replied.

Board Chairman Bobby Wright agreed, refuting Gibson's claim that insurance money from the Upchurch Auditorium fire should be diverted into salaries or instructional materials.

"I think it would be foolish to fund salaries with one-time money," he said.

The board has about \$285,000 in insurance money from the auditorium now; if it rebuilds the auditorium, it will receive an additional \$101,000. The \$285,000 could be used for other purposes if the board is willing to forgo the \$101,000.

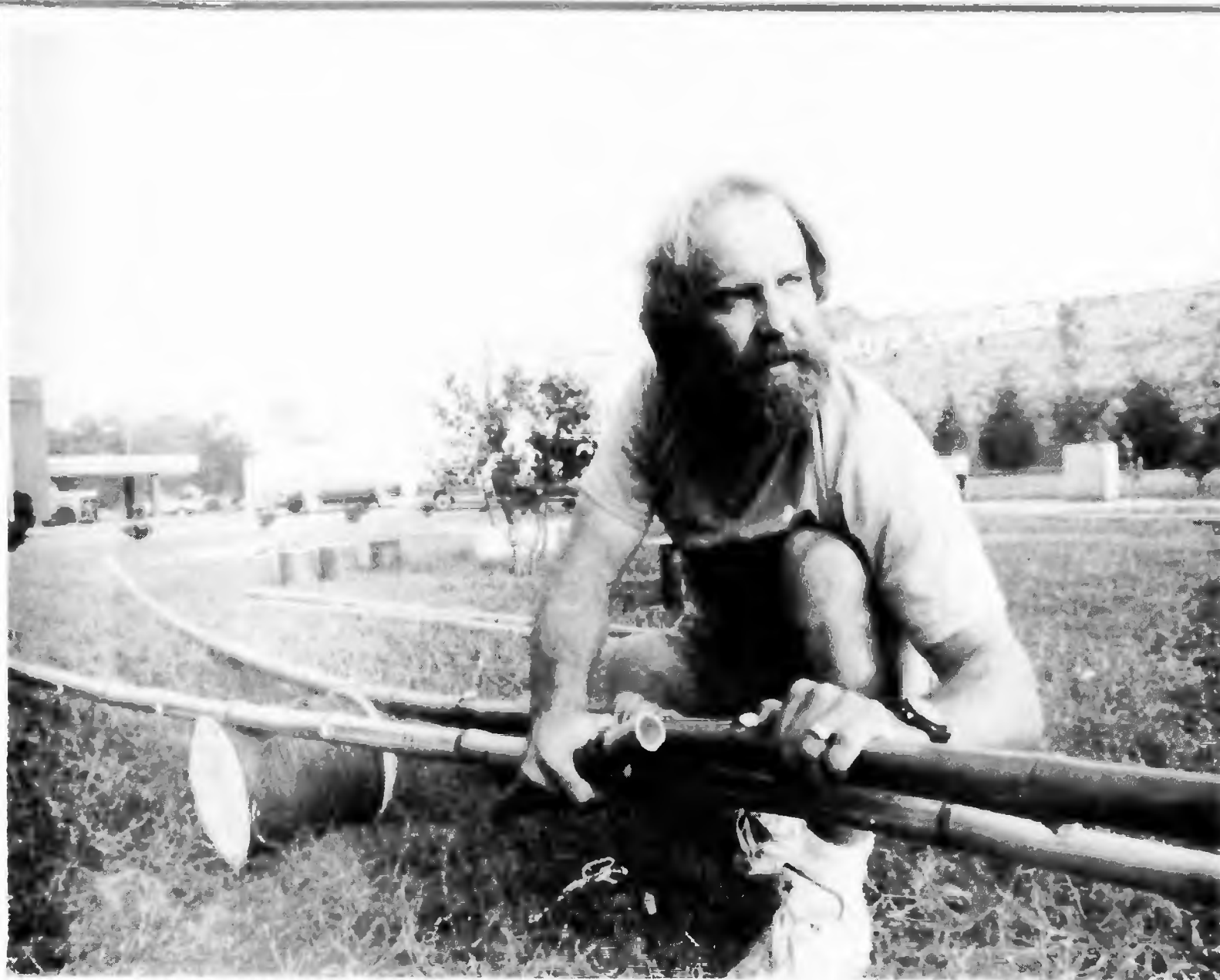
Gibson's referral to Upchurch Auditorium, an issue she has brought up every time the board discusses its budget, sparked concern in fellow-member Bill Cameron.

He said he thought the future of Upchurch Middle School's campus should be discussed before construction begins on the replacement auditorium.

Upchurch Middle School, along with Turlington Middle School, will cease functioning as a middle schools when the East and West Hoke Middle Schools are completed. The board has not determined the future of the old middle schools.

"I heard something last night that I never heard before," Cameron said, "that was an alternative school."

(See SCHOOLS, page 10)



Artist on the job

Tom Grubb begins work on a bamboo sculpture in the lot in front of McLaughlin Hardware last week. He and school children erected the piece last week for the N.C. Turkey Festival. It immediately began attracting attention, and will remain in place until the bamboo yellows.

## Flock of 45,000 expected

### People, that is, for the N.C. Turkey Festival

This is it. The week more than 45,000 people are expected to flock to Raeford for the Sixth N.C. Turkey Festival. Will Raeford be ready? Is there sand in Saudi Arabia?

Yes, Raeford will be ready if the current level of activity is any indication.

A stage built at Armory Park for the event needs only touch-up work; Tom Grubb's sculpture is in place (and attracting attention); the City is cleaning roads and trimming grass; the weather looks good; and even the financial contributions are in place.

The scheduled military displays will be held despite the situation in the Middle East.

Billboards are up in surrounding communi-

ties and the N.C. Poultry Federation and the National Turkey Federation are spreading the word to their members.

The five finalists in the NC Turkey Cooking Contest have been chosen. They are Ruby Ingram of Kernersville, Blanche Poole of Sparta, Mary W. Shore of Walnut Cove, Deborah Simmons of Laurel Hill and Judy Warren of Charlotte. They will compete Thursday for \$1,050.

Complete schedules of the Festival are available at the Chamber of Commerce in the Depot on Main Street.

While there, Festival goers can purchase T-shirts and other turkey memorabilia.



Added attraction

It's not an antique, but this unusual 108 hp, 69 m.p.g. 2 cylinder engine built by a Stedman man will join hit and miss engines downtown Saturday.

## Total surpasses half mark

An iron and aluminum clock honoring former Mayor John K. McNeill will be erected in the next couple of weeks, and so far, citizens and businesses have contributed more than half the \$17,500 needed.

Raeford City Council had hoped to have the clock erected in time for the N.C. Turkey Festival, but that's not going to happen.

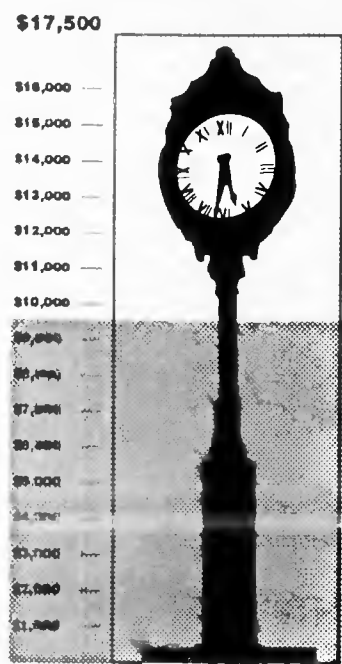
While, Council had hoped to have the needed money donated by now, it will continue to accept donations even after the clock is up (and *The News-Journal* will continue to print lists of contributors as needed).

Here are those who donated \$25 or more last week. Those who wish to donate should contact Raeford City Hall at 875-8161.

- Mrs. Sarah H. McDonald .....\$25
- Anonymous .....\$25
- Anonymous .....\$25
- Cape Fear Heating and Air Conditioning Co. ....\$25
- M. H. McLean Wholesale Grocery Inc. ....\$25

- Johnny and Barbara Meadows .....\$25
- Cantoo .....\$25

(Continues on Page 3)



## She won't be allowed to protest Olympics

As the Turkey Festival approaches, there are a few voices speaking out against one event.

But few will hear the dissent if a local animal rights activist can't get city approval for a protest permit.

Catharin Shepard was denied a permit to protest the Turkey Olympics, an event to be held 10 a.m. Saturday behind the Public Library, which features racing turkeys. But she wasn't surprised by the denial.

"It's come down exactly as I expected it would," she said.

Her request was denied by acting Raeford Police Chief James Murdock, who says he doesn't have enough officers to cover the festival and a protest at the same time.

"I just can't see me putting two opposing forces together and not having the manpower to handle it," he said.

Shepard said Tuesday she intended to appeal Murdock's decision to Raeford City Council members who have

the authority to permit the demonstration.

Shepard says she at least expects to attend the races anyway, as an observer if not a protester.

"Hopefully, I will be there Saturday taking pictures," she said. She will use

*"Beating turkeys with brooms, feather dusters and other things is cruelty."* —Shepard

the photos to substantiate claims of cruelty to animals, she said.

Shepard claims the races, which in the past have included contestants using brooms to motivate their turkeys, are cruel to the birds.

"Beating turkeys with brooms, feather dusters and other things is cruelty," she said.

In a letter to Turkey Festival President (See PERMIT, page 10)

## Around Town

by Sam C. Morris

The weather is hot, humid and hazy again. After a few days of 80-degree temperatures, it turned hot again last Friday and the thermometer almost reached 100. We did have some thunder and lightning Sunday night, but we had very little rain. We need rain badly.

The forecast for this week doesn't show much hope for cooler weather. The temperatures will be around 90 during the day for the remainder of the week with the low around 70 each night. I hate to mention the chance of rain, because the forecasters are calling for rain on Saturday. We need the rain, but maybe it can hold off until after the Turkey Festival events on Saturday.

The Turkey Festival gets underway

Thursday with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. The stage will again be next to the Hoke County Library. Let's all turn out for the opening and get the event off to a good start.

Pick up a schedule and make plans to attend most of the events for the remainder of the week.

Rhenda Cameron was by the office last week and was telling me about a trip that she and her husband, Bill, made to Tennessee recently. They went to attend the 25th Reunion of the Vols Lettermen. This is a group that participated in sports at the University of Tennessee and received letters.

Bill played football at the school and (See AROUND, page 4)