

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, August 21, 1991

Six escape from jail; five recaptured

Five inmates who escaped from the Hoke County Jail over the weekend are back in custody; a sixth man is still on the loose.

Three of the escapees—charged with the early April murder of Southern Pines policeman Ed Harris—were arrested at a motel in Bennettsville, South Carolina about 5 p.m. Monday.

Bernice Hugh McDougald, 21, Terry Lee Evans, 21, and Benjamin Jones, 23, (three of nine men in Hoke Jail charged with Harris' murder) were arrested at the Bennettsville motel after investigators followed their trail from Raeford through Aberdeen and Rockingham, interim Sheriff Frank Crumpler said.

One escapee, Clyde Strickland, turned himself

in Monday and deputies and Fayetteville S.W.A.T. team members arrested Kenton Lawson, 17, of Raeford, near the corner of Main Street and Vass Road around 8:15 p.m. Monday.

Bruce Harris, whom detectives say was with Lawson, ran from the arrest and they have not caught up with him yet.

Glenda Blue, the jailer on duty during the jailbreak resigned 9 a.m. Monday.

"The jailbreak was due to negligence," said interim Sheriff Frank Crumpler.

He said he hoped Blue's resignation would take care of any security problems at the jail.

"We're doing extra security over there now," he said.

Crumpler had Blue in his office several times in the two weeks prior to the escape to due to reports of negligence.

"We had been getting reports in and etcetera from different people," he said.

The jailbreak

The escapees probably planned the jailbreak by

using a phone in the cell block to call friends outside, Crumpler said. Only collect calls may be made on the phone.

Inmates in one of the jail's cell blocks apparently stopped up and overflowed a sink and toilet in the block's shower stall about 1:30 Sunday morning, said interim Sheriff Frank Crumpler.

(See ESCAPE, page 3)



Terry Evans

Bernice McDougald

Benjamin Jones

Kenton Lawson

County adopts zoning

Mobile homes still citizens' chief concern

County commissioners voted Monday night to adopt a zoning law which will define what uses are and are not legal for different tracts of land in Hoke County.

The vote followed a public hearing in which citizens asked—as they did in the three public meetings on zoning—about how much the law will restrict owners of mobile homes.

"We're not trying to restrict, we're trying to protect," Commissioner Tom Howell said shortly before he moved to adopt the law, effective October 1.

Howell was joined by Chairman Wyatt Upchurch in voting for the law; Commissioner Neill McPhatter was present, but did not vote.

Under state law, a failure to vote is taken as a vote in favor.

Commissioners Cleo Bratcher and L. E. McLaughlin voted against the law.

"I think there was some question in some people's minds that needed to be answered," Bratcher said, who said he supports zoning.

"But I think we need time," he said.

"When you've got a group of people that's still questioning fact, I think you need to find out what the questions and what the problems are," he said.

McLaughlin also said he supports zoning but was not ready to vote for the proposed law.

"I like to be precise with what I'm doing," he said.

Upchurch said commissioners have had since April to look at the proposed zoning law; it changed little since then in the hands of Planning and Development Commissioners who were drafting it.

The PDC did add provisions to protect people who already own single-wide mobile homes.

"Zoning certainly is controversial in its best times," Howell said. But he said zoning is needed "to have some kind of control over the growth of Hoke County."

"Hoke County is going to be one of the eight fastest growing counties in the state," he said.

Citizens question board's role in sheriff's ouster

A crowd of about 30 waited until the end of the commissioners' meeting when a Bowmore woman was scheduled "to be heard concerning Sheriff's Department matters."

Donna McLaughlin, a cousin of commissioner L. E. McLaughlin, questioned board members on (See COUNTY, page 4)



Members of a S.W.A.T. team from Cumberland County fringed of Robbins Heights late Monday to search for prepare to depart from Tucker's Store for a house on the escapee Bruce Harris.

Three more apply for sheriff

Three more men have applied for the job of sheriff of Hoke County.

Jim Knott, William Gary Lowe and David A. Stewart have put in their applications for the job.

"I have a lot of management skills," Jim Knott, a retired Army sergeant major said.

"To my way of thinking, it's not that you have to know so much about law enforcement, you've got to manage," he said.

"I could just kick back and stay retired, but I think Hoke County needs someone who can run the department," he said.

"It needs to be run a little tighter than it's been run," he said. "From what I can

see, they have no standard ways of doing things. I don't think the senior detective is used the way he's supposed to be."

"Their investigative techniques stink. I know that from personal experience," he said.

Knott said he wouldn't put up with sloppy appearances.

"You see some sloppy bum, you say, this guy's going to arrest me?"

Knott, who also applied for the job in 1988 after Dave Barrington announced he would retire, said he wasn't sure if commissioners would take all the applications seriously.

"I put in for it last time and it was a real farce," he said.

"One of the questions they had was is

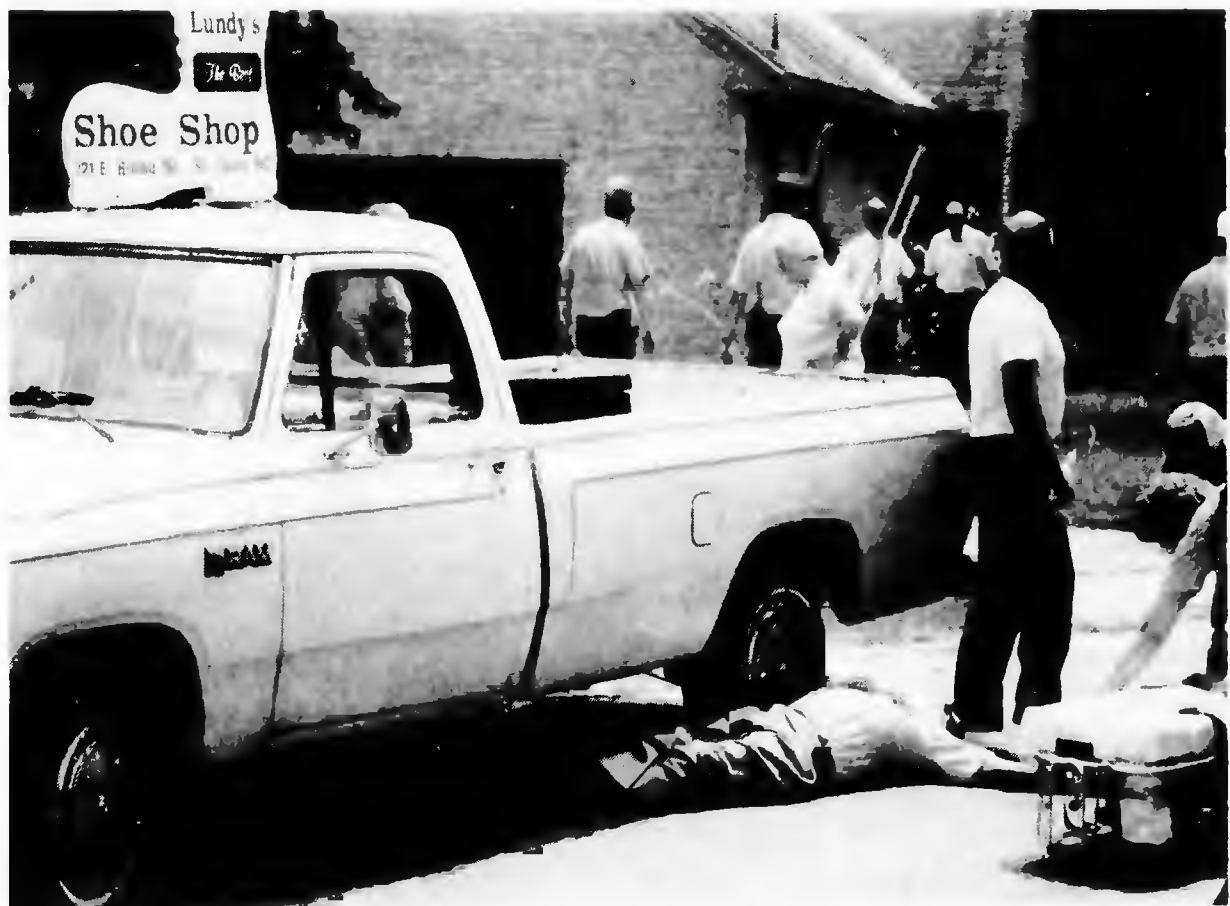
there anything in your past that would be an embarrassment to the county?"

"Alex Norton was reprimanded the day before he took the office. Now, if that's not an embarrassment to the county, what is?"

An investigation in 1988 revealed Norton failed to serve papers and orders for arrest "in a timely manner" on courthouse employee Becky Cox, who was then charged with writing bad checks.

The district attorney recommended the incident be handled by Sheriff Dave Barrington, and Norton was named by commissioners November 28, 1988, to succeed Barrington.

Another candidate for the job, John (See SHERIFF, page 8)



Hits house

A.J. Lundy awaits transport to a hospital after his truck crashed into the home (background) of Mary Hill on Reaves St Monday Lundy was charged with driving

while impaired, careless and reckless driving and transporting open liquor. Story, page 4.

Volunteers put Festival together

Organizers are pulling into the final stretch of preparations for over 50,000 people to bring them the best N.C. Turkey Festival yet.

The festival board of directors—and lots of volunteers—are finishing plans and fine-tuning preparations to ensure a smooth-running event September 19-21.

Much of Raeford's participation in the festival comes before it begins.

Board members, who plan each festival, have met each month since January. They have arranged magicians and musicians, sites, food and drink and all the artists and craftsmen who will grace this (See FESTIVAL, page 8)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Hurricane Bob came up the coast of North Carolina, but it didn't do the damage that many expected. The eye of the hurricane stayed out over the ocean, so the winds were not as strong on the coastline. The warning was in plenty of time for people to seek shelter from the storm. It seems that the New England states took the brunt of the storm.

We didn't get any of the hurricane in Hoke County and that was good because we didn't need the rain.

The weather has been nice here for the past week except for the rain. Many farmers still can't get into their fields.

The forecast calls for the temperatures to be in the high 80s and low 90s for the remainder of the week during the day and in the high 60s and low 70s at night. There could be some thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday.

John Roper pitched last Saturday

night in Fayetteville in a game between the Generals and the Charleston, W. Va. Reds. He was the winning pitcher even though he got off to a shaky start. I believe his record for the year is 12 wins and 6 defeats.

Have you purchased your ad for the Turkey Festival tabloid that will run in *The News-Journal* on Wednesday, Sept. 11. If you haven't been contacted, then call Tammie Ellis at 875-2121 and she will be glad to assist you with an ad.

The deadline is this week and it will be too late after the tabloid goes into production. Besides being in the newspaper, 6,000 additional copies will be printed and they will be furnished to the N.C. Turkey Festival Committee for distribution.

I found a folder on my desk last week and inside the folder was a picture of the (See AROUND, page 10)