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DON'T CALL THEM 'CITY SLICKERS'

Citizens Say Town Board 'Picked A Plum'

BY JIM TAYLOR

Property owners along East Prospect Avenue Extension charged this week that the town board of Raeford "picked a plum" when it annexed the area two weeks ago.

"This used to be a quiet neighborhood, like the newspaper said," one housewife commented, "but it isn't quiet anymore." She referred to the unrest brought about by the annexation action. Most of the 12 families affected by the action have been up in arms since the vote was taken.

Tuesday night, a dozen of them met with a newsman to voice their objections.

In a nutshell, they feel they were made "goats" for the owners of undeveloped property on West Donaldson Avenue Extension, which is immediately south of the Prospect Avenue neighborhood and included in the annexed area.

"It seems obvious that they are trying to sell the property behind us," said one homeowner. "I understand no money can be borrowed on the property unless it is inside the town limits."

They referred to Harold Gillis, Raeford realtor, as beneficiary of the board's action. Gillis, contacted later Tuesday night,

said he owns no property in the annexed area.

"I know it is the law," one woman complained, "but I don't think any law is right which permits five people to impose their will on a dozen unwilling property owners."

"And we aren't even eligible to vote on the five," another said.

The annexation action was taken at the town board's April meeting, held April 5 at 6 p.m., an hour earlier than the customary meeting time. The early meeting hour was set, the board said, in order that the meeting could be concluded before revival services began at the Presbyterian church at 7:30.

The vote on the annexation proposal was three to none, with Commissioners J. D. McMillan and C. F. Kinlaw abstaining. "We are not impressed by their abstention," one property owner declared. "They did so, we believe, because they own businesses in Raeford and the other three do not. They obviously knew the outcome before they abstained, so their action didn't alter the outcome. And they didn't vote against it."

Some two weeks before the board's vote to annex property a public meeting was held. The 12 property owners were polled as to their willingness to be annexed. Nine voted against the proposal, two for it, and one abstained.

"Why were we invited to the meeting to begin with," one citizen wanted to know. "We were informed that we wouldn't be taken in unless at least 51 per cent favored the move."

"They told us the annexation was being considered because so many people had requested it," another said. "We haven't been able to find them."

"If you want to know the real reason for the annexation, just watch the property behind us (on Donaldson) develop," another homeowner said.

It is the principle, and not the action, which seems to have angered the property owners most.

"We were sort of on the fence about the whole thing until the town board rushed right into the move without giving us the opportunity to be heard further, or without trying to sell us on the idea. It seems that they took action out of spite because of our attitude at the public hearing," one woman said.

"We'll never get over the sneaky way they went about it," another declared.

As for the benefits the town offers, the town board can forget it, the new citizens said.

They have town water. They built their own water system and hooked on to town mains and pay 50 per cent more than the

town rate.

Four are connected to town sewers. The remainder don't want to be.

"While they're adding up all they have gained by dragging us in, they can subtract \$150 times several. We won't tap onto town sewers unless we have to."

"If they are so anxious to extend their water and sewer lines, why don't they run them to areas in town which don't have them?" one man asked. "There are unfilled promises in Raeford that go back 50 years."

Most, is not all, the residents lived in Raeford before they built in the quiet neighborhood about 10 years ago.

We moved out here because we wanted to get out of town," several of them said. "Now we are back in again."

Several are thinking of offering their homes for sale, now that they are again technically city dwellers.

"I'd do it in a minute if I could find a nice place 12 or 15 miles out of town," one man said.

"We may be glad someday that we are in the town," one woman sighed. "But right now we feel nothing but resentment about the way we were treated."

See CITIZENS, Page 11

School Board Studies Plans To Desegregate

Nothing Less Will Satisfy U.S. Officials

Hoke County commissioners were told Tuesday night they can expect total desegregation of the county's public schools within the next two or three years.

The commissioners were on hand for a board of education meeting in which the board reviewed and tentatively approved its plans for compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The plans will be reviewed again tomorrow morning and will be sent immediately to Raleigh, thence to Washington for federal approval.

Basically, the Hoke County plan is to let students attend the school of their choice next season. If the plan is approved, it will be advertised in the newspaper and each parent will receive a notification that his child may attend the school of his choice.

"This is merely a stopgap measure that the federal government will put up with for two or three years at most," said W. T. Gibson, superintendent of schools. "It will be satisfied, eventually, with nothing short of total desegregation."

Actually, the county had but two choices in setting up its program. It could assign pupils by geographic districts, or employ the freedom of choice rule.

Two weeks ago, the board of education voted to abolish all school districts in the county, placing all schools under the direct supervision of the board of education.

Gibson explained that under the freedom of choice policy, a student may attend the school of his choice so long as there is room for him at that school. If there is no room, then all students who have applied for admission to the school must be assigned to the school nearest to them.

Gibson told the commissioners he expects no appreciable change in the present distribution of students under the new ruling.

"According to the principals See SCHOOL, Page 11



GUESTS--Hoke County Home Demonstration Club women were Tuesday luncheon guests of J. L. McNeill at the North Carolina Sanatorium at McCain. They are shown here with Mrs. Mildred Furmage, director of nurses. In the group are Miss Josephine Hall, Mrs. Marshall Newton, Mrs. Joe Lovett, Mrs. Paul Heath, Mrs. Julian Barnes, Mrs. Stanley

Crawley, Mrs. Harry Daniels, Mrs. James McBryde, Mrs. Tom Jones, Mrs. Delia Raynor, Mrs. W. B. Gilson, Mrs. J. M. Andrews, Mrs. D. J. Dalton, Mrs. Vance Baucum, Miss Isabel McFadyen, Mrs. Earl Floyd, Mrs. N. F. Sinclair, Miss Joye Wall, Mrs. J. L. McNeill.

Lad Admits Burglaries

The arrest and conviction of a 14-year-old Indian boy has cleared up a series of break-ins at Mrs. Maude Calloway's store at Five Points, Sheriff Dave Barrington said today.

Juvenile Judge E. E. Smith last week sent the youngster to training school for one year after he admitted entering the store three times since March 6, the sheriff said.

A good portion of the missing merchandise -- cigarettes, clothing, a small amount of money and other items -- was

See BURGLARIES, Page 11

Patrolmen Have Another Chase

Local officers have reported another high-speed chase in which the driver was charged with speeding 100 miles per hour. It was the eighth such charge during the past month.

Highway Patrolman E. W. Coen said he chased James McNeill about 10 miles Saturday night before the Hoke Negro pulled onto a dead-end dirt road and fled on foot.

Coen said the chase began at Calloway's Station at Five Points, continued north to Highway 211, then three miles toward Raeford, then left along a rural paved road until the driver turned off onto a field road in an apparent effort to elude his pursuers.

By this time, Coen had been joined in the chase by Patrolman Joe Stanley.

Coen said McNeill crashed into a truck belonging to Jimmy Bullard on the dirt road. McNeill escaped on foot, but

HE SURVIVES

Knife Plunged In Negro's Eye

A Hoke County Negro who said he became "provoked" when his girl friend got after him with a razor in a local night spot Friday night allegedly plunged a butcher knife to the hilt into the eye of an innocent bystander.

The victim, Clyde McMillan of Raeford Rt. 1, reportedly has lost the sight of both eyes as a result of the stabbing. He is in N. C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Joe "June Bug" McLean was charged with felonious assault, officers said, after he admitted the stabbing, which occurred about midnight Friday at George Hollingsworth's club on "The Hill" north of Raeford town limits.

Deputy Sheriff Jesse R. Lee said McMillan, who made the trip to Chapel Hill with the knife still imbedded in his head, identified McLean as his assailant.

"June Bug told us his girl friend got after him with a razor. He said 'they' kept picking on him and he became upset, grabbed the butcher knife, and struck out blindly," Lee said.

McMillan apparently was not intended as a victim, Lee said. McLean told him there was no trouble between them, he said. Lee said the knife entered the See SURVIVES, Page 11

was traced through the license plate on his car and arrested later at his home.

Coen said McNeill drove at up to 100 miles per hour with his lights off during a part of the chase.

Meanwhile, two out-of-county teenagers were fined \$125 and costs apiece Monday after being convicted in Recorder's Court of speeding 90 miles per hour on Highway 401 between Raeford and Fayetteville.

Lewis Devette Mintz, 18, of Laurinburg, and Henry Woodward Denby, 18, of Fort Bragg, also were charged with pre-arranged racing following their arrest March 13.

Patrolman Joe Stanley testified that he clocked the two cars, traveling bumper-to-bumper, at 90 miles per hour between Big Star Truck Stop and the Cumberland County line.

See CHASE, Page 11

Two Stills Destroyed

Officers kept a nine-hour vigil at a small liquor still near the Hoke-Robeson line last week, but no one showed up to operate the still.

The officers took their stations in the bushes at 3 a. m. At noon, they came out of the woods for a bite to eat.

When they returned an hour See STILLS, Page 11

Hoke Club Women Tour Sanatorium

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

Hoke County has a million dollar payroll which it takes for granted. The industry employing these people is the North Carolina Sanatorium.

J. L. McNeill, a member of the board of directors of the

Youth Dies In Crash

A Georgia truck driver has been charged with manslaughter in the death of a 15-year-old McCain youngster killed in an accident Wednesday night on Highway 401 bypass.

John D. Livingston, 15, was fatally injured when a truck driven by Robert Stallings of Atlanta rammed into the rear of the car in which Livingston, a Negro, was riding.

Highway Patrolman E. W. Coen said the car, driven by Mrs. Janie Harrington, 46, of Wagram, had stopped to make a left turn when the truck rammed it from the rear.

Mrs. Harrington and Livingston's mother, Mrs. Ruby Livingston, were taken to a Fayetteville hospital, where they later were listed as in good condition. Other passengers in the car were not seriously hurt.

Coen said the truck driver was charged with failure to decrease speed in time to avoid an accident. An inquest on the manslaughter charge has been scheduled for Monday by Coroner Frank Crumpler.

Stallings was placed under \$1,500 bond to insure his appearance in court here.

See SANITORIUM, Page 11

TERM BEGINS APRIL 26

Murder Case Tops Court Docket

Robert Arthur Billinger will go on trial in Hoke Superior Court April 26 on charges of slaying William Kesler McLean during a night club brawl November 26.

A charge of murder has been lodged against Billinger, former truck stop employee who allegedly fired into a crowd at George Hollingsworth's club.

McLean was struck by a bullet from a .25 caliber pistol and died en route to a local doctor's office. A similar weapon was found in Billinger's car

at the time of his arrest.

The case will go to the grand jury at the beginning of the court term, at which Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood will preside.

First degree burglary charges against two Hoke County Negroes also will be heard by the grand jury.

John Willie Harris is accused of breaking into Julian Barnes' home at Rockfish while his family was asleep on the night of January 23.

Harris allegedly was discov-

ered by Barnes in a hallway of the home and held at gunpoint until officers arrived.

Lewis McArthur is charged with trying to batter down the door at Luther Jackson's home at Arabia several weeks ago while Jackson, locked inside the house, pleaded for McArthur to go away.

Jackson testified at a preliminary hearing that his brother finally arrived at his home with a gun and they held McArthur at gunpoint until officers approached. McArthur then al-

legedly ran, but was arrested later.

Sixty-three jurors have been drawn for duty during the one-week term. They are:

Carson Davis Sr., Raeford; M. V. Hedgepeth, Raeford; Clyde Graham, Blue Springs; A. S. Baldwin, Antioch; Dennis W. Smith, Raeford; Hubert Ellis Freeman, Raeford; Miss Ellen Currie, Raeford; Woodrow Hayes, Stonefall; Wilson Earl Prince, Raeford; Mrs. Ce-

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