

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

I haven't talked to Bill Bailey but from all indications the snow must have been around five inches deep Monday. The roads were not as bad as some would have expected. The schools were closed for the day but about everything else operated as usual.

Tuesday morning the thermometer dropped to around 11 degrees and what snow remained was frozen hard.

I went out to my car about seven o'clock Tuesday morning and the lock on both doors were frozen. I hope they will be thawed out by lunch time. This is the first time I couldn't get in my car with the key.

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Mrs. Reid Childress was by the office Monday and handed me a clipping that stated that North Carolina was the first state in the nation to achieve its 1974 membership quota for the N. C. Farm Bureau Federation. The article further stated that: "Farm Bureau members and leaders all over the country are joining in congratulating North Carolina FBF and Nevada FBF for their splendid membership achievement and pacesetter role." Nevada was second to achieve its quota.

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As I write this column it is hard to believe that next Tuesday will be Christmas Day. It seems that the older you become that the years go by faster. I know that it is the same as when you were younger but anyway it seems to go faster.

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I have had a few calls about the Christmas lights not being turned on in Raeford this year. Being a member of the City Council I voted to not put up the lights because of the energy shortage. All of us must remember that the Christmas lights are only decorations and that the true spirit of Christmas is not in decorations but in the Light that gives eternal life. So try to get the true meaning between now and next Tuesday.

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To all the readers of this column I wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas. To all former employees I hope that Christmas for you will be the greatest you have ever had.

So to Lucy Gray, Lib, Geri, Venetia, Carol, Margaret Ann, Laura, Elaine, just to name a few, and to all employees working now the best to all of you at Christmas time.

## Judge Drops U.S. Charges

Friday in U.S. District Court in Wilmington Senior Judge Arthur J. Stanley Jr. dismissed interfering with federal officers charges against the Rev. Elias Locklear of Antioch.

The charges were dismissed after the government finished presenting evidence and Stanley ruled there was insufficient grounds to try Rogers.

Rogers, along with four other Indians was being tried in connection with tons of documents allegedly taken from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C. and found in Robeson County.

Still on trial are Kever Locklear, Dock Locklear Jr., both of Robeson County, and William Sargeant of Minnesota. The case was expected to go to the jury Wednesday afternoon or Thursday.

Raeford attorney Philip A. Diehl represented Rogers and is representing the Locklears.

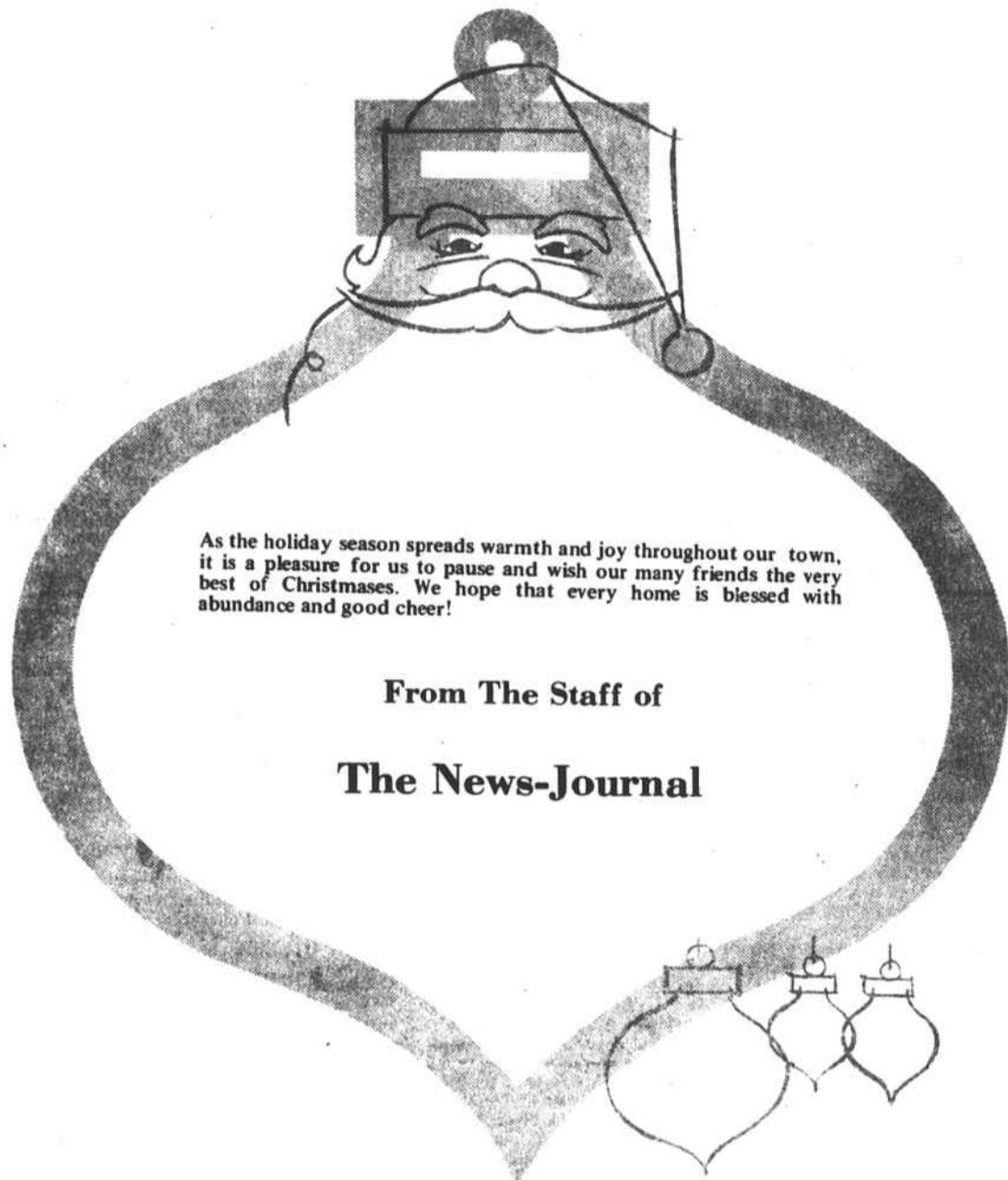
## Kiwanis Supper Clears \$1,000

Members of the Raeford Kiwanis Club served pancake suppers to 670 people December 6 and announced this week they will present the \$1,000 proceeds to R.B. Lewis for the Hoke County Bicentennial Library Fund.

## Closings Set

City, county and state offices in Hoke County will all observe the same holiday hours. They will close December 24, 25 and 26, to observe Christmas and January 1, to observe New Year's Day.

Hoke County schools closed Wednesday at 1 p.m. and will reopen for See CLOSING, Page 11



## "Let There Be Light!" Some Raeford Shoppers Say

By Jama Chesser

Thirteen people were in favor of the city's action to conserve energy, but only eight of the thirteen said they would not use lights at their homes this year.

"I will not use lights this year, but I will miss them," one lady said. "I think lights help give people the spirit of Christmas," said another. "And Raeford sure could use a little Christmas Spirit." Twenty-five people said they would use lights in their homes for decoration.

Many of those who thought Raeford should use Christmas lights this year were in favor of not using lights as much as in previous years. "If we could just use them a couple of days before, or even just on Christmas eve," said a shopper, "I would like it a lot better."

However, seven people thought Raeford should use Christmas lights freely. "I have visions of Main Street just drying up and blowing away," said one downtown employee. "Christmas should be a carefree time. People shouldn't have to worry about anything for a little while each year," frowned one shopper with a box of Christmas tree lights in her hand.

## Activities Set For Holidays

**Piney Grove Baptist Church**  
The Sandhills Choral Society under direction of J. Russell McAllister, will sing "The Messiah" at Piney Grove Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The event is open to the public.

Soloists for the presentation are Gloria I. McLaughlin, soprano; Helen P. McLaurin, alto; William Dockery, tenor; and Vincent B. McAllister, bass. Accompanist is Walter L. Green, Jr.

**Raeford Presbyterian Church**  
A service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The form of service known as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is modeled after a service held in ancient times. It has been sung in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, for about 50 years.

On Sunday choirs of children and adults will sing the service. Readers for the nine lessons will be chosen from various groups within the church. Organist and choir director is Josef Privette.

Sunday's service will be conducted as near as possible to the traditional one

described by English authorities.

**Dundarrach Presbyterian Church**

Sunday at Dundarrach Presbyterian Church's special 3 p.m. Christmas service, the first officers of the church since reorganization in 1963 will be installed.

Martin Jones will be installed as ruling elder. Ricky McInnis and Kenny McInnis will be ordained and installed as deacons. Glenn McInnis, Wilson McBryde and Eugene Maxwell will be installed as trustees.

**Antioch Presbyterian Church**  
A special candlelighting Christmas carol service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Antioch Presbyterian Church.

**Community United Methodist Church**  
Community United Methodist Church at Five Points will hold annual Christmas program "The Real Christmas Story" 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve.

The Young Inspirationalists who will present several Christmas songs are

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## McCain Hospital Gains Positions

### Pair Held In Assault Case

A Mississippi native is being held in Hoke County jail in lieu of \$20,000 bond on charges of secret assault and a Hoke County woman is being held as a material witness in the case.

Lester L. Lewis, 25, who recently lived in New York City, was booked on the assault charges Friday. Maggie Purcell, 30, who also recently lived in New York City, is being held on \$10,000 bond.

The pair is scheduled to appear in district court Friday for Lewis' preliminary hearing in connection with a December 11 shooting of Mrs. Purcell's husband, Melvin Purcell, 30, Rt. 3 Box 215.

Purcell was shot in the legs with a shotgun as he was leaving his brother James Graham's house Rt. 3 Box 254. He was treated and released at Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

This is the second time in a little over a month that Purcell has been shot. On November 17 Purcell was shot in the left arm, both legs and back as he left his Elizabeth Road home to go to work. Both shootings occurred at night.

### Snow Stops School Day

Snow Monday morning closed Hoke County Schools and caused many workers to be late reporting on jobs. Five inches of the white stuff had accumulated by noon. This amount is equal to about .9 inches of rain.

All schools remained closed all day Monday, reopened on regular schedule Tuesday and held classes until 1 p.m. Wednesday. Originally Tuesday had been scheduled as the last day of classes before Christmas vacation, but D. D. Abernethy, Hoke school superintendent, ordered class sessions Wednesday to preclude need for makeup day later in the academic year.

According to law, if classes are in session through lunch hour it is counted as a full school day.

There was some rain or snow four days of the past week. December 13 rainfall measured one inch; Saturday, .7 inches; Sunday, 1.5 inches and Monday's snow. Tuesday temperatures plummeted to a bone-chilling 18 degrees at 6 a.m.

This 4.1 inches of precipitation for one week compares with several rather dry months. November had .25 inches, October, .35 and September, 2.

### Need Items Early

News items and advertising for the next edition of the News-Journal should reach the N-J office as soon as possible.

Early submission of items is requested because of holiday schedules. The N-J will close Monday and Tuesday in observance of Christmas and will print the next edition December 27.

## Man Jailed For Robbery

A Fayetteville man is being held in lieu of \$20,000 bond in connection with the December 7 armed robbery of Wideside Grocery on U. S. 401 north of Raeford.

The suspect Waverly Clyde Williams, III, 21, was arrested Saturday just across the Cumberland County line by Hoke Deputy Sheriff James Lamont.

Lamont spotted a vehicle on U. S. 401 north which matched description of one involved in the armed robbery. He turned on blue light and siren and the suspect vehicle stopped at side of road in Cumberland County. Williams was arrested but another occupant in the vehicle ran from the scene.

Two masked men reportedly pulled off the robbery at the grocery store and left with \$700 in cash and other items after handcuffing owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Young to a metal rack.

Authorities are still seeking another suspect in connection with the robbery.

About 28 new positions will open on McCain Hospital's staff after the first of the year. Included will be positions for a full-time pharmacist, general administrator and personnel manager, social worker, x-ray technician and medical data analyst, plus nursing and technical positions, reports J. S. Lennon, N. C. Specialty Hospitals administrator in Chapel Hill.

The decision to create the new positions is based on studies of nursing, dietary and housekeeping staffs at McCain, Western N. C. Hospital at Black Mountain, Eastern Hospital at Wilson and Gravelly Hospital at Chapel Hill.

Studies revealed a need to increase the staffs at McCain and Western on the basis of number of patients served and job class classification, said Lennon.

Under a master plan for staffing all four hospitals will have a social worker with a masters degree. This position will pay \$9,000 to \$11,916 a year.

In addition to the social worker, McCain will need a professional general administrator and personnel manager. This employee will be in charge of recruiting, job classification, in-service education and orientation of new personnel. The salary will range from \$11,000 to \$14,000 annually.

McCain will add a full-time pharmacist at \$13,000 to \$16,000 a year. Raeford pharmacist Walter Coley has been serving at McCain part time. Lennon pointed out filling the new position will bring McCain's drug room under full control of a registered pharmacist to comply with state law.

One x-ray technician will be added at McCain bringing the total to four. A medical data analyst will be added to review professional work of doctors. This position will also help the hospital to "better utilize medical resources," reports Lennon.

Also to be added to the McCain staff are an inhalation therapy technician, four graduate nurses, four practical nurses, two surgical technicians and 11 nursing assistants (nurses aides). McCain's housekeeping staff will be reduced by four people.

In the reorganization some positions are being eliminated at Eastern Hospital and funds from Eastern's budget will be transferred to McCain's budget.

Lennon said he expects most job descriptions to be established by January 7 and recruiting to begin immediately.

## P.D. Returns Missing Car

An automobile worth \$4,000 stolen from Hoke Auto Company, 217 N. Main St., Saturday night or Sunday morning was recovered by the Raeford Police Department late Monday morning.

Thieves entered the building by breaking a garage door with a brick, police say.

The vehicle, in good condition, was found about a mile and a half southeast of Raeford in a wooded area near Highland Biblical Gardens. A passing motorist saw the car and reported the location to police, says Police Chief Leonard Wiggins.



WINTER WONDERLAND-White blanket of snow contrasted with dark bark on logs in small yard on Harmony Heights Road Monday morning. Five inches of snow fell in Raeford closing schools for the day. Snowfall was followed by cold weather, with temperatures plummeting to 18 degrees at 6 a.m. Tuesday. (N-J Photo)