

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The change to Daylight Saving Time has caused right much comment, but things seem to be working out about as smooth as one would expect. I come to work in the dark now but go home in the light. I believe this suits me better, so the time change is fine with me.

Leonard Frahm, manager of Raeford Turkey Farms, was in the office last week and we were discussing the gasoline shortage. Leonard stated that he had been out in the mid-west visiting relatives and that the people there didn't know anything about the gas shortage.

He said that this got him to thinking about the difference of Hoke County and his old home town. There has been very little growth in the mid-west town so they are still using the same amount of gas this year as they used for the past several years according to Frahm.

He states that this is not true of Hoke County. With all industrial plants going at full blast this has caused the people of this county to use more gas but the gas stations are still getting the same amount they received the past couple of years. Leonard goes on to say that this has caused the tremendous shortage in this county.

Others commented that almost everyone now keeps a full tank of gas instead of trying to ride on air. Stations are selling about the same amount of gas but the demand is too high for the supply.

Graham Clark of Clark's Gulf said that he could sell 30% more gas if he had it.

If most people will observe Main Street and the shopping center parking they can see what Leonard Frahm is talking about. It is hard to believe that the growth of the city has increased this much.

Bob Averitte was telling me last Sunday at church that someone who had been up to the New England states said that the gas shortage was hitting there also.

The weather was certainly bad over the past weekend. Fog, mist and rain along with cold temperatures kept most people in doors. As I write this Tuesday morning the sun is shining but it is still cold outside.



LARRY INGRAM

## Probation Officer Named

The State Department of Social Rehabilitation and Control appointed an additional probation officer to serve Hoke County.

Larry Ingram, a 26 year old sociology graduate of Pembroke State University, will work with W.T. Lester, county probation officer, on the approximately 180 cases now assigned the office.

When Lester came to Hoke County, eight years ago, he had approximately 67 cases. Ingram, hired as a trainee, will handle approximately half the current cases according to Lester.

Ingram and his wife Wanda are Laurinburg natives. She is presently teaching at Hoke County High School.

## Club To Meet

The second meeting of the Raeford Senior Citizens Club will be January 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Miss Isabel McFadyen. Senior citizens doing various types of needlework will be welcome.



LIBRARY FUND DONATION - William Niven, left, presents \$1,070.79 check to R.B. Lewis Hoke County Bicentennial Library Fund chairman, at the January 3 Kiwanis Club meeting. The money was raised at the December 6 Kiwanis pancake supper. Niven earned the honor of presenting the check by selling the most tickets, 86. Each Kiwanian was asked to sell 20 tickets. (Gillis Photo)

## Association Requests Fire Truck Money

Members of the Hoke County Firemen's Association asked the county commissioners Monday to allocate revenue sharing funds to help purchase fire trucks for each county fire department.

Grady Peeler, association chairman, requested \$5,000 for each of the eight departments. He reported the 1947 Hillcrest Fire Department truck will soon be out of commission.

Julian Barnes, Rockfish Fire chief, told the county fathers, "I feel the commissioners are overlooking an important safety factor -- lack of equipment could cost lives as well as property. Rockfish needs a new pumper which will cost about \$10,000. We have \$25 in the bank and will have to borrow the money."

Commissioner John Balfour advised the firemen that revenue sharing funds had already been budgeted but offered to place the request on a waiting list.

County manager T.B. Lester said funds for the current fiscal year and part of the next one were already budgeted.

T.C. Jones, chairman, said "This is not the time to allocate. We do not know what will happen to the revenue sharing program in the future."

Paul Frederick Johnson, representing Puppy Creek Fire Department, asked, "When is the proper time to request these funds? We don't want to come back again and be told the money is already allocated for others."

Lester advised them to submit a detailed written request in April.

In other fire department action the

commissioners approved advertising and convening a public hearing to consider extending the North Raeford Fire Department tax district from three to four miles.

Jones recommended and commissioners approved appointing Mrs. Dick Neeley and Mrs. Alfred K. Leach to the Hoke County Health Board. (see editorial)

Commissioners appointed members to the Local Petroleum Allocation Board. They are Randall Ashburn, Clyde Teal, Paul Frederick Johnson and John Balfour. William Niven had been appointed coordinator earlier.

Commissioners approved promotion of Mary Frances Conolly, Department of Social Services eligibility specialist, from grade 1 to grade 2.

Commissioners granted Burlington Mills a tax listing extension until March 31.

Commissioners opened the only bid received on an accounting machine which will be purchased from National Cash Register Co. for \$21,646.21. Commissioners had voted to spend \$20,000 of revenue sharing funds for the machine. Monday they approved an additional \$1,646.21 in revenue sharing money to pay for the machine.

The tax collector's report indicated 78.89 percent of taxes collected. They have been placed on certificate of deposit drawing 9.125 percent interest, it was reported.

Reports were received from the county agricultural agent and the home agent.

## Hoke Forum Plans Set

Hoke Countians may have seen signs around Raeford reading "A Forum, what's that?" According to Mrs. R.G. Townsend, Raeford Woman's Club president, the organization sponsoring the Hoke Community Forum project, a forum is many things.

"A forum is people of the community thinking together, it is self study, it is questions and answers, it is meant to shed light, not heat, on different aspects of community life," Mrs. Townsend explained.

The first of seven scheduled forum sessions will be January 17, at Gibson Cafeteria beginning at 7:30 p.m. The topic will be "Quest for Quality in Life". The guest speaker will be Dr. Maynard Adams, Kenan professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There is no admission to forum sessions and all residents of Hoke County will be welcome.

The first forum session is meant to set the stage for following sessions by opening the door for the examination of specific areas of community life. The forum will deal with the areas of race relations, family in the contemporary society, recreation, community growth, land use, and local government in succeeding sessions.

"We have no preconceived plans for the sessions," said Mrs. Townsend. "We are simply trying to stir men's minds. We hope people will plan to be at every one of the sessions."

In support of the forum, Mrs. Townsend reported that local churches were planning church activities around forum sessions and that a sports event at Hoke High School had been rescheduled so that students and teachers could attend both.

The Forum is financed by a \$3,000 federal grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the North Carolina Committee for Continuing Education in the Humanities headquartered on the UNC campus at Greensboro.

Plans for the forum were made by a

special forum committee made up of representatives from different aspects of community life.

This nucleus committee consisting of Mrs. Townsend, Miss Josephine Hall, senior citizens coordinator; Jack Mansfield, First Baptist Church pastor; J.D. McAllister, assistant superintendent of public instruction for Hoke County Schools; Wendell Young, county extension chairman; Benny McLeod, city - county recreation chairman; Harold Gillis, Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce director; J.K. McNeill Jr., Raeford mayor; and Fred Williams, Southern National Bank vice - president.

Committee members were responsible for talking with people in the community to find out what questions and problems exist in dealing with everyday life in Hoke County.

From this grassroots information input, the committee selected speakers noted in areas the people of Hoke County want to know about. Speaker selection and plans for the forum were made with the help of Dr. James Noel, executive director of the N.C. Committee for Continuing Education in the Humanities, who served as consultant.

"The idea for the forum came when the RWC started looking at what we as a club, could do for the community," said

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## Officials Give Voters Chance To Speak Out

State Representatives Joy J. Johnson and Henry Ward Oxendine will be at the Hoke County Courthouse Saturday at 12:30 p.m. to discuss upcoming legislation and answer questions for Hoke County residents.

Oxendine said he hopes to visit Hoke County about every two weeks during the legislative session in order to keep in close touch with the average citizens.

# Turkey Farm Announces Plant Expansion Program

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## Stations Get IRS Check

Karl Kristofferson, IRS public information officer in Greensboro, reports investigators checked some Hoke County service stations for price and posting violations last week. He said incomplete reports indicate only violation was a price sticker which had fallen off of a gas pump.

He said investigators would be back in Hoke County again this week to continue price and posting checks. Kristofferson said agents are finding about 20 to 30 percent of stations in North Carolina in violation but attributes most violations to confusion over most recent regulation permitting a cent and a half increase and pass through increases.

Prices in most Hoke County stations increased after the first of the year. At least one station went as high as 58.9 for high test gasoline but did not have any gas to sell, even at that price.

Numerous stations were out of gas at various times this past week and many who had fuel were limiting sales.

## C Of C Meeting Held Tuesday

The Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday.

The Christmas activities were reported to be successful considering the weather conditions. The Santa house has been stored and will be used again next year. Lights and decorations have been taken down and stored for another year. Cost of each activity was up but this was expected.

The section on Industrial and Commercial Development of the Hoke County Forum will be held February 12, at the Raeford Elementary School from 7:30 to 9:30. Dr. Lee Hammond from N.C. State University will be main speaker and a panel will follow his address.

It was reported that license plate sales had gotten off to a fast pace. Miss Wanda Costin and Miss Sheryl Dees have been employed on a part - time basis during the license plate period.

Director Leonard Frahm reported on the expansion in facilities and management of Raeford Turkey Farms. He stated the expansion would be approximately 35,000 square feet of building and would be located on the parking lot west of the present plant. In addition all parking would be located across the street and this area would be paved and landscaped. Raeford Turkey Farms now owns all the property next to the Hoke Co. Health Dept. except the service station.

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## Judge Appoints Attorneys To Defend Youth Suspects

Friday District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree postponed preliminary hearings for seven youths, three of them juveniles, charged in connection with the Dec. 21, 1973 kidnap - assault on two 14 year old girls.

Dupree postponed the hearings until this Friday and appointed private attorneys to represent the youths to avoid possible conflict of interest for the public defender's office.

Recently appointed Chief Public Defender James Little was an assistant district attorney prior to accepting his present position.

Pending a ruling by the N.C. Bar Association Ethics Committee, Little will not handle any cases which occurred while he was in the district attorney's office.

Friday Dupree appointed R. Palmer Wilcox to defend Ronnie and James H. Bordeaux; and Phillip A. Diehl to defend Bobby McCrowie and one of the juveniles.

Lewis R. Ray, a Winston - Salem attorney, was hired to defend Robert L. McMillian and one of the juveniles. Dupree appointed him to defend a second juvenile if there is no conflict in representing all three of the youths. Dupree also appointed Robert McNeill as a standby defender in case Ray decides there is a conflict.



BEN NIBLOCK

## Ben Niblock Begins Job

Ben Niblock, an Iredell County native, began work this week as Department of Social Services director. He began his career in Social Services working with aid to families with dependent children in Forsyth County in 1962. During this period he completed graduate work at the Richmond Professional Institute.

In 1965 he moved to Caswell County where he was child welfare worker. There he also worked with juvenile probation and adoption programs.

In 1967 he was transferred to Rowan County where he spent three years with programs covering adoptions, foster child care and some juvenile court work. In January 1971 he was promoted to supervisor of adult services.

Niblock attended public schools through tenth grade. He completed the next two years at Dasher Bible School, Valdosta, Ga. He served almost four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, part of it during the Korean War, and was discharged in August 1952.

He spent two years at Freed Hardeman College, Henderson, Tenn., before transferring to Harding College in Searcy, Ark., where he earned his B.A. in history and political science. He spent five years as a professional baseball business manager.

The new director has been active in Lions Club, a member of North Carolina Consumers Council, chairman of the North Piedmont District of N.C. Social Services Association and was also a member of the associations legislative committee. He is a member of the Church of Christ.

He and his wife Jean reside on Green Street. Niblock replaces Miss Mabel McDonald who recently retired upon completion of 36 years service.

A major plant expansion, increased volume and additional top management leadership, were announced Monday by Leonard G. Frahm, Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc. vice president and general manager.

"To lead us in our new period of growth, we have Earl A. Budd, who will join the firm about February 1, as president and chief executive officer," stated Frahm.

"Budd, a University of Kansas graduate, comes to our organization from Rockingham Poultry Marketing Cooperative, Inc. of Broadway Va., where for 20 years he served in an executive capacity covering nearly every phase of poultry production and marketing operations."

For personal health reasons Frahm will relinquish some of his general management duties, while remaining with the company to handle important responsibilities in procurement and grower relations, long-range planning and organizational development.

"We are going to double our plant capacity in order to do a more effective job of marketing the increased volume of turkeys being produced by growers in our part of the country," said Frahm.

The expansion program will add approximately 35,000 square feet to the facility. The construction will include a temporary addition and over the long run replacement of oldest portions of existing facilities. The new structure will be located in the parking lot west of the present plant. All parking areas will be relocated on the north side of Central Avenue and will be paved and landscaped.

The project could result in doubled production over a two or three year period with decrease in water and sewage needs.

According to Frahm the expansion and attendant changes will increase the need for technically trained employees.

Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc. was started in 1961 by a group of North Carolina turkey producers who worked closely with an industrial development corporation in Hoke County to build a modern turkey processing and cold storage facility.

The company is one of the major employers in Hoke County. Employment has grown from 120 people at its beginning to over 600 at the present time.

Its board of directors include, in addition to Frahm, Marvin Johnson, chairman, and Nash Johnson of Rose Hill, Linwood Stone and J.A. Stone of Lumerton, and Hurley Evans Jr. and McNair Evans of Laurinburg -- all North Carolina turkey growers.

## City Approves Rate Increase

The Raeford city council met Monday and approved a rate schedule increase for the proposed cable television franchise. The increase will hike cable installation rates for second televisions, FM stereo rates, customer move rates and monthly service charges.

City fathers agreed to advertise for public hearings leading to the annexation of properties to the city on request of the property owners.

Property to be advertised includes Mac Sessoms' property off East Prospect Ave. Younger Sneed property off East Prospect Avenue and the residence of Bobby McNeill off Lewis Street.

The city also agreed to accept 30 feet easement from Bobby Carter for access road to the proposed site of the proposed new city garage and to advertise for bids to build the 50 feet by 75 feet city garage on city property adjacent to Knit-A-Way Inc.

City fathers reached agreement to advertise for a bid to build a 50 feet by 60 feet hanger-maintenance building at the city airport.

Payments from revenue sharing funds were approved at \$336 to Bedo Corporation for extra materials and labor not listed in the original contract for repair work on the playground equipment at the City Park at Donaldson Avenue and Stewart Street, and at \$590 to Holland Chain Link Fence & Landscaping Co. for work on the playground area. Both payments were approved on the recommendation of the City-County Recreation Commission.

Gene Thacker, acting Raeford Airport Manager, reported on the airport operation to the council.

## School Board Met Monday

The Hoke County board of education met in regular session Monday with all members present.

Mrs. Mabel Riley appeared before the board to express concern for the safety of children on the school grounds and the need for precautions to be taken to prevent unauthorized persons from picking up children at school.

Teachers elected were Elizabeth McFadyen at West Hoke, Eleanor Gentry and Marion Burton at Upchurch.

Bobby Bostic was elected chief mechanic at the Hoke County school bus garage replacing Leon Luck who retired.

The board denied the request of Mrs. Virginia Baxley for assignment of her children to Moore County Schools.