

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather in Hoke County on Tuesday, October 11 is in the 50s, and according to the reports, it will not reach 70 today. The rain which came over the weekend has stopped, but the forecast is for more rain on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to Robert Gatlin, local records keeper for rainfall, the average for the year is about as it should be for Hoke County. He said that we had heavy rains at times and that would even up with the extreme dry weather that has occurred.

Many places in the state are still conserving water, and state that if the rainfall doesn't pick up, they will be in trouble in a couple of months.

If we continue to hardtop and clear away the trees and growth on all the land that helps to conserve water, we can't help but have problems.

My father used to tell me that the older you get, the faster it seemed time would go by. I never thought anything about it at the time because as most young men feel about their father, what he says is useless. That is, it takes a young man or lady a long time to realize that their parents know what they are talking about.

Anyway, the older I get the more this saying seems to be true. Monday night a knock came at the door, and when I opened the door a member of the Lions Club was selling Halloween candy. Now it seems like only last month that Mary Alice and I were answering the door to "trick or treat." So if you have a knock, be prepared to fork over some money for candy. It will be for a good cause and may help you on Halloween night.

Have you purchased a membership in the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony? If not you can still get in on the ground floor if you purchase one by Tuesday, October 18. This will assure you a ticket to the performance here at Hoke High on November 1.

Any director has a receipt book, or you can purchase one at *The News-Journal* office.

The Hoke High Bucks had a hard time at Lumberton last Friday night, but they were still on the field when the game ended. They will be at home Friday night and will host the Pinecrest Patriots from Moore County.

This should be a good game and the weather should be perfect for football. So make plans now to have a night out at the stadium.

The Hoke High Band, under the direction of Jimmy James, will also perform.

If you haven't made up your mind about how to vote November 8th on the bond issue and the constitutional amendments, it would pay you to go by the Hoke County Courthouse on Saturday, October 15 at 10 a.m. There will be a group of informed people from other parts of the state sent out by State Democratic headquarters to present these issues.

There will be a panel discussion and I think you will be allowed to ask questions. So go by and be better informed before you vote.

Each day as I sit at my desk and look out the front window I realize that before too long the block across the street will soon be completely changed from what it was when I was a small boy. The Sinclair house is gone and the old barn behind it was removed when the Post office was built. Before SNB was on the corner a taxi stand and hot dog stand were located on the block.

Of course most of the readers of this column remember the theatre being in the block. Do you recall when the REA office and the newspaper office were side by side on Main street next to Hoke Auto Company?

Now to really go back a year or so, think about the old Gillis house (See AROUND TOWN, Page 15)

Field Swells To 9 For Council



Gilbert (Gib) Bernhardt



Harry E. Carter



Robert Weaver

As of noon Monday, the field of candidates for city council swelled to nine, after some last-minute confusion over the legal deadline for filing and the disclosure of a larceny record on one candidate.

Joining the four candidates who announced last week were incumbents Benny McLeod and Sam C. Morris and newcomers Harry E. Carter and Gilbert (Gib) Bernhardt. Ex-councilman Robert Weaver also filed to run.

Carter, Bernhardt, Morris and Weaver all would have been shut out of the race, however, the legal deadline was extended to noon Monday by the State Board of Elections.

Rose Sturgeon, executive secretary of the Hoke Board of Elections, discovered Friday that an error had been made in the official notices of the deadline.

Mrs. Sturgeon said she mixed up the closing date for filing (Oct. 7) with the closing date for voter registration (Oct. 10). A ruling from the local board of elections and Alex Brock, chairman of the State Board of Elections, allowed the filing of the other candidates.

Carter filed late Friday afternoon. Morris, Bernhardt and Weaver filed Monday morning.

Morris, who is finishing out his second term on the council, surprised observers. He had announced three weeks ago he would not run again.

Morris said Monday that he felt he had to run again because of "urging" from constituents. He added that he had been concerned about the lack of candidates as of late last week.

Carter, 27, making his first try for elective office said he "wants to try to serve the people of Hoke County."

A licensed funeral director with Crumpler's Funeral Home on Harris Ave., Carter came to Raeford three years ago. He is a graduate of Seventy-First High School and is now attending Fayetteville Technical Institute where he hopes to earn an associate degree in mortuary science. He is currently studying funeral service education.

A member of the Raeford Jaycees and Galatia Presbyterian Church, Carter's main interest in serving on the council, he says, is to see Raeford grow.

Bernhardt, 35, is plant manager of the Burlington Dye Plant. A Rowan County native, he spent five years in the Air Force, stationed mostly in Omaha, Neb., and entered college following his discharge in 1965. He received a B.S. degree in industrial technology from East Carolina University.

Bernhardt came to Raeford in 1968 when he joined Burlington as a management trainee. He was named plant manager in November 1974.

He is a director and a past president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce. He is a past member of the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club and Raeford Jaycees, and presently serves as a captain in the Raeford Fire Department.

He and his wife, Donna, reside on Pinewood Circle with their sons, Van, seven, and Britt, five. They attend Raeford United Methodist Church where Bernhardt is a member of the administrative board and Mrs. Bernhardt is secretary and choir director.

Bernhardt said his chief reason in running was his interest in economic growth for the city.

"We've lived here for nine years, going on ten, and it's a nice little town, we like it here. It has a great opportunity for economic development, but unless people take an active part, economic development will not take place," he said.

He said that he hoped to provide "leadership" in bringing development to the city.

Bernhardt said the reason he filed so late was because he was out of town last week. He made his decision last week.

Weaver, 59, was first elected to the city council in 1973. He was defeated in 1975 by David Lovette.

Weaver is a textile manufacturing engineer. He worked for the city years ago as clerk and treasurer when the city operated under the old mayor-council form of government.

Weaver, who resides with his wife on Prospect Ave., could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, Lonnie Baldwin, the only black in the race, said Friday that disclosure of his larceny conviction shouldn't have any bearing on his candidacy.

Baldwin pleaded guilty on Feb. 6, 1976, to shoplifting \$7 worth of goods from Knit-Away, according to files in the courthouse. He was given a six-month term suspended for five years and fined \$25.

In 1970, Baldwin, then 18, was arrested for larceny and subsequently found not guilty in District Court.

"It was insufficient evidence they had," Baldwin said, referring to the 1976 conviction. "My attorney suggested the best plea would be guilty. I didn't have any involvement, the girl they caught the goods on, she gave them my name."

Baldwin said the incident happened after he left his job in the shipping department. He had worked for Knit-Away on a part-time basis for about 18 months.

"It doesn't bother me. If I felt it would have any bearing, I wouldn't have filed. But I'll tell you this, I was going to go get an affidavit before all this to show that I was expecting this. By being black, I was expecting some harassment. But I don't look for color. I believe in God and he don't accept one color. I believe God will see me through," he said.

"If I'm elected, I'm going to do the job outlined for me to do -- with dignity."

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United Way Drive To Begin

The 1978 United Way campaign will be officially kicked off next Monday, Oct. 17.

This year's goal is \$24,374, an increase of \$1,500 over last year's. The campaign drive is scheduled to run through Nov. 30.

Co-chairman of this year's drive are Dale Teal and Ralph Huff. Serving on the United Fund executive board are Younger Snead Jr., president, and Eugene Carter, vice-president. Mrs. Louise Wright is secretary and treasurer.

Canvassing division chairmen have been named. They are: Ashwell Harward (Industries), Warren Pate (Professionals), G. Raz Autry (Schoolteachers), Zeke Wiggins (Law Enforcement Personnel), Mary Matherly and Betty McFadyen (County Employees), Jane Ivey (McCain Hospital), Jane Morgan (McCain Prison), Ellen Willis (Home Extension Clubs).

In the city, Roger Dixon is canvassing chairman for the northeast division and Betty Smith is northwest chairman. Danny DeVane will have the southeast area and Tom Howell and Ann Howell will have the southwest area.

Heading up the county division for all rural areas are Bobby L. Gibson, D.R. Huff, Jr., Etta Barnes and Edith Newton.

The 1978 fund breakdown is as follows:

Girl Scouts \$5,100, Boy Scouts \$6,376, Red Cross \$4,605, White Cane \$900, 4-H Clubs \$1,495, Hoke County Rescue Squad \$1,500, Senior Citizens \$200, Hoke County Developmentally Disabled Association \$2,000.

Powell Bill Award \$45,000 For City

Raeford will receive \$45,310 as its share of the annual allocation of State Street Aid (Powell Bill) funds, it was announced last week by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The Powell Bill returns to qualified municipalities one cent of the North Carolina state motor fuel tax and requires that these funds be disbursed no later than Oct. 1.

The local amount is based on the

balance has been earmarked among the Carolina United agencies, the state arm for national organizations affiliated with the United Way.

Amounts approved for Carolina Way are as follows:

Children's Home Society of N.C. \$576, Florence Crittenton Services of N.C. \$274, Carolina Mental Health Assoc. \$270, United Health Services of N.C. \$144, Epilepsy Assoc. of N.C. \$124, Research Fund of N.C. United \$192, North Carolina United Way \$381, American Social Health Assoc. \$44, National Council on Aging \$38, United Service Organization (USO) \$151.

Amounts going to three of the local organizations, Boy Scouts, White Cane and 4-H Clubs, have been increased this year, as well as the total going to the Carolina United funds.

Bloodmobile Turnout Low

The workers outnumbered the donors 2-1 at last week's visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

County Chairman Clyde Upchurch, Jr. reported that only 21 pints were collected, far less than what was needed. No donors from either Burlington Industries or Summerfield, which usually have good turnouts, appeared, he said.

Friday's visit of the Bloodmobile was an "extra" collection. Beginning with the new fiscal year, the Bloodmobile will make five appearances in the county instead of the usual four.

allocation formula which takes into consideration the population of the community and its local street mileage. Raeford's 1976 estimated population was 3,200 and the number of certified non-system miles was 21.4.

A record number of 452 North Carolina municipalities will receive a total of more than \$32 million from this year's award. The largest single award will go to the city of Charlotte, \$3.51 million.

County Board Holds Zoning, Mobile Home Ordinance Review

County commissioner met Thursday night for a two and one-half hour session to review the proposed county-wide zoning ordinance and mobile home park ordinance.

The four members present (Ralph Barnhart was absent) held a joint session with the County Planning Board to go over the draft. Representing the planning board were Charlie Morrison, Mrs. Marilyn Fowler, Larry Ingram and John M. McPhatter.

Bill Altman was appointed temporary clerk to replace the ailing T.B. Lester.

The two proposed ordinances were prepared by the planning

board and the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. According to Altman, about 73 out of the state's 100 counties have adopted similar zoning ordinances.

The draft divides Hoke County into five distinct zoning categories -- transitional (T), rural (R), conservation (CN), community (C), industrial (I) and commercial - business (B).

The transitional sections plotted on the map are largely in the rapidly growing eastern end of the county, including Rockfish and the neighborhoods just east of the city limits. The purpose of such zoning is to identify land where moderate

to high density development is to be encouraged.

The community sections take in already established settlements, such as South Hoke, West Hoke, and Five Points.

The majority of the county has been plotted in R and CN zones for the protection of low density rural areas, including farmland, and preservation of natural resources.

On the proposed mobile home parks regulations, an issue was raised by Commissioner Danny DeVane. The proposed regulations require that all mobile home parks existing prior to the adoption of the

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Flu Shots Available

The Hoke County Health Center is giving flu shots to anyone 16 years of age or older on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8-11:30 a.m. Cost of the shot is \$1.

Schools Receive Accreditation

The Hoke County School System received Level I accreditation Sept. 29 at a State Board of Education meeting.

The accreditation was given in recognition of the development and implementation of a comprehensive education plan resulting in improved learning for students.

Supt. G. Raz Autry accepted the certificate on behalf of the school system.

High School Principal Earl Oxendine, a member of the state board, was also recognized for the accomplishments of his home school system.

Also attending the meeting with Autry were J.D. McAllister, Roy Maynor and Mrs. Florence Cohen.

More than 60 people, including school personnel, parents and a board member, were involved in developing the education plan. The central office and each school in the system will receive a certificate for display.

City Worker Found Dead

Responding to a call from the Sheriff's Department Monday morning city police found the body of a 63-year-old cemetery employee lying next to the curb on Crawford St.

According to Chief V.L. Wiggins, the man was identified as David Lathan, Rt. 2, Box 22, Raeford. He was pronounced dead by Dr. R.G. Townsend. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.

YDC Forming

A Hoke County Young Democrats Club (YDC) is now organizing, Ernest Sutton Jr. announced.

All Democrats aged 18-35 interested in membership should attend a meeting Thursday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. in the courthouse.

For further information, contact Sutton at 875-4358 after 5 p.m.

August Joblessness Highest In N. C.

The latest report released by the N.C. Employment Security Commission shows Hoke County to have the highest unemployment rate in the state for August.

The county's jobless rate for the month of August was estimated at 9.90 persons or 10.8 per cent of the work force. Among the state's 100 counties, Hoke was the highest with Franklin County second at 9.5 per cent.

S.J. Benkosky, director of the Raeford ESC Office, attributed the August jump to 65 layoffs at the Burlington plant, coupled with the

usual rise in the summer due to youths out of school and seeking work.

With a total labor force estimated at only 9,170 persons, in comparison with larger counties and greater populations, the 65 layoffs appreciably affected the month's rate, Benkosky said.

According to Benkosky, the unemployment rate for the first eight months of 1977 has averaged 9.07 per cent. During 1976, the highest monthly level was in January, 10.3 per cent. The average for the entire 12 month period in 1976 was only 7.9 per cent.