

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is typical Spring. The weekend was perfect for the outdoors and on Monday we had some rain. I don't know how much but every little bit helps. The forecast is for the temperatures to be in the 70s for the remainder of the week. This will be nice for the GGO at Greensboro.

Last week I mentioned in this column that Jake Austin wouldn't say whether he had a ticket to the NCAA basketball tournament in Philadelphia. Well, he had more than one ticket because Jake, Doris and son, Tony, all attended the event.

After the paper hit the streets, I had a call from Earl Oxendine, one of the big shot educators of the school system, who said that he was going to attend the tournament. Earl didn't purchase a ticket, but had been invited to attend a family reunion in Philadelphia and they were also going to attend the tournament.

He said that his brother, Joe Oxendine a professor at Temple University, had purchased 20 tickets and that seven of the eight Oxendine brothers and other members of the family were all going to attend. Temple University is the host college for the NCAA tournament, so the professor had a chance for some prize tickets.

We are sure that Earl had a big time and enjoyed getting together with other family members. Now this is what I would call a "Family Reunion."

D.R. Huff was by the office Monday and said that he had been in Washington last week attending the National Convention of the Soil and Water Conservation Association. Huff is president of the North Carolina organization and represented the state at the meeting.

He said that the most enjoyable experience during the week was a breakfast with Don Abernethy and Jim Taylor. Of course most of you readers know the two gentlemen. Don was superintendent of schools here for several years and Jim was editor of *The News-Journal* during the early 1960's. Huff said they said to give their regards to all the folks in Hoke County.

Thanks Junior for delivering the message and we wish the successful political pair would come to Hoke for a visit.

The publisher and his wife returned to the city Monday and reported in after lunch. I told him that Buddy Blue had told me at lunch that he had seen him and Margaret in Lumberton a few minutes before he called.

Dickson said that it didn't make any difference where you went, that someone would see you and let someone in Raeford know about it. Welcome home Dicksons, even though we know that your feet will soon become itchy again and you will soon be gone.

The end of the road came for all Tar Heel fans, including myself, Monday night at Philadelphia. The

(See AROUND TOWN, Page 12)

Board Recommends Denial Of Variance Request

The Raeford City Planning Board Tuesday night recommended by unanimous vote that a request by J.H. Wright for a variance in the zoning ordinance to permit establishment of multifamily apartments in a residential district, the College Drive-Teal Drive area, be denied. The recommendation will come before the City Council Monday night for action.

The board meeting was attended by many residents of the area who protested the request.

Seven members of the Planning Board participated in the public hearing.

Pre-Application Sought \$500,000

Downtown Revitalization Grant Denied

Officials Requested To Cancel Transfer

Petition Wants Caldwell At Scurlock

A petition to keep Floyd Caldwell as principal of Scurlock School is being circulated in the school community.

The petition requests the Hoke County Board of Education and County Schools Supt. Raz Autry "to consider the recent change of Floyd W. Caldwell, Jr. and allow him to remain as principal..."

The petition gives these reasons for the requests.

Over the years Mr. Caldwell has earned the respect of the parents, teachers and residents of the area which Scurlock School serves. His personal knowledge of the people and the area cannot be replaced.

His rapport with all of the people in the area will take years to attain by a new principal.

"For these reason we feel Scurlock School would function in a more efficient manner if Mr. Caldwell were permitted to remain."

"We request you consider and yes we implore and even beg of you to permit Mr. Caldwell to remain at Scurlock School."

The petition bearing the signatures of people supporting it will be submitted to the school board at its regular monthly meeting April 7. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and will be held in the conference

room of the Board of Education building on Wooley Street, Raeford.

Caldwell was one of the principals transferred effective next school year by the school board March 3 in accepting recommendations made by Autry. Caldwell was assigned to McLaughlin Elementary School, Woodrow Westall, from West Hoke to South Hoke, George Wood from South Hoke to Scurlock, and Assistant Hoke High Principal Milton Williams to West Hoke as principals, and James Bowles, McLaughlin principal to director of remedial programs at Hoke High.

In giving reasons his recommendations to transfer the administrators, Autry said of Caldwell that he felt Caldwell, because of his experience at Scurlock, could give McLaughlin a different direction and that he has the ability to work very closely with the faculty.

Caldwell's state salary for the McLaughlin position is \$84 per month less than his pay at Scurlock is, but the difference will have to be made up, under state law, for at least a year, by the county school board. The McLaughlin pay is less because McLaughlin has fewer teachers than Scurlock. Caldwell's pay at Scurlock is \$24,684 per year.

Raeford's pre-application for a federal \$500,000 grant to help finance improvements to the city's downtown business district has been turned down by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., was informed this week.

The notice was contained in a letter written March 27 by Betsy H. Stafford, area manager of the HUD Greensboro Area Office.

The grant was sought to help finance revitalization of the downtown section, but city officials and other community leaders indicated before the pre-application was filed in January that the revitalization would be done whether the city got the federal money or not.

The area manager's letter to McNeill says, at one point, "We regret that, due to the highly competitive nature of this program, your proposal did not rank high enough to be considered for funding."

An attachment accompanying the letter shows the city's score was 537 on the economic development activity, and the lowest rated pre-application funded carried a score of 573.

The pre-application had been for funding under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program of the federal agency.

The area manager's letter also says: "... Your request strongly reflected the concern and needs of your community. We regret that, due to the highly competitive nature of this program, your proposal did not rank high enough to be considered for funding."

Of the \$500,000 in federal money sought, \$128,000 would have paid the estimated cost of providing a parking lot; \$114,766 for walkways; \$104,150 for store facades; and \$50,000 for burying utilities lines.

Legislator Allowed Time to Pay Off Check

State Rep. Horace Locklear of Lumberton has been given till Friday to raise the money to make restitution for a \$2,000 worthless check.

Locklear's case was scheduled for trial last Friday in Scotland County District Court but was continued till Friday to give him time to raise the money to make the check good.

Assistant District Attorney John Carter said Friday the case was rescheduled for April 3 after the prosecuting witness, Lacy Collings of Rt. 3, Maxton, agreed to allow Locklear time to raise the money.

Locklear told news people Friday the check charge resulted from a personal check he had written late last year as part of his part ownership of First American tobacco warehouse. He said he wrote the check because a \$40,000 mortgage on the warehouse was due early this year and that the warehouse's money was wanted to meet the mortgage payment.

Locklear was named in a civil suit filed by Southern National Bank of Lumberton March 11 in Robeson Superior Court for alleged default on three loans. The suit asks foreclosure on a 1968 Porsche

and business equipment put up as security for two bank loans totaling \$9,677.76 and also wants payment of a \$500 loan which the bank alleges Locklear hasn't repaid.

The bank says Locklear is in default of \$4,500 of a \$10,000 loan he obtained between 1978 and 1980.

Last December, Locklear announced he planned to resign from the State House, because of business and family reasons, but shortly after January 1 he announced he had decided to stay in the House. At the time, he said, "Since my announcement, the influx of 'do

not resign' support has been overwhelming, thus resulting in numerous conferences and meetings with supporters from the 21st District (Hoke, Scotland, and Robeson counties)."

"As a result of the overwhelming support I am today announcing my decision to retain my elected position..."

Locklear, an attorney, was re-elected unopposed to his House seat, in the November 1980 General Election. He is serving his third two-year term. David Parnell and William C. Gay are the district's other members of the State House.

Chamber Executive Writes

Hunt Asked To Intervene On McCain

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has been urged to intervene and stop action to close McCain Hospital and insist that the true facts be made available before any final decision is made.

Earl Fowler, executive director of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, made the plea in a letter written to the governor Monday morning.

Fowler's letter points out that a member of the State Human Resources Department staff admitted information he obtained on the number of patients at the hospital was incorrect. Fowler also pointed out that the staff member (Jim Woodall) has not explained why he did not correct it.

The closing of the hospital, the state's only such institution treating lung diseases has been recommended by a state budget subcommittee as an option for cutting state expenses.

Fowler's letter also referred to final meeting of the Specialty Hospital Task Force held February 16, 1978. At this session, Fowler says, quoting the written record, the final vote showed 14 in favor of keeping McCain and the two other lung-disease state hospitals open, and six for closing them. Fowler's letter adds that after the meeting was closed formally, the chairman of the Task Force, Glenn Wilson, informed the group that minority reports should be submitted to Dr. Sarah Morrow, the secretary of the

Human Resources Department, as part of the Task Forces report.

Fowler notes that Wilson and seven doctors, members of the Task Force, signed the minority report, though one, Dr. Ernest W. Staub of Pinehurst, wrote a qualifying statement. Staub's statement says he feels the patients cared for through the specialty hospitals system must continue to receive care, and that arrangements for this must be made prior to the closing of the specialty hospitals. Staub's statements adds that he also feels that if a single hospital is maintained, it should be McCain "Because it appears to be in the best physical condition."

"It has an ongoing and long-standing surgical-teaching affiliation with the Department of Surgery of Duke University Medical Center."

The statement, in reference to making of arrangements for patients before closing the hospitals, says: "According to testimony and personal experience, this group of patients has particularly difficult socio-economic problems which are not always dealt with satisfactorily in the private sector. Many hospitals which take care of this type of patient have experienced undue financial burdens, and this needs to be rectified."

Morrow accepted, however, the minority report, explaining at a March 23 meeting with Fowler and other Hoke County representatives

that her reason was she felt that the members of the Task Force voting for the majority report "had become too emotionally involved" to make a rational decision.

Subsequently, the specialty lung hospitals at Wilson and Black Mountain were closed.

Signing the minority report with Wilson and Staub were Dr. E. Harvey Estes, Jr., professor and chairman, Duke University Department of Community Health Sciences; Dr. Manson Meads, vice chancellor for health affairs, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem; Dr. William B. Wood, associate professor of medicine, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Dr. T. Reginald Harris of Shelby; Dr. Daniel Gottovix of Wilmington; and Dr. Roy V. Berry, head, Tuberculosis Control Branch, Division of Health Services, State Department of Human Resources.

Wilson is professor and chairman of the UNC medical school Department of Community Medicine and Hospital Administration.

Fowler explained Monday that the vote of February 16, 1978, totaled 20, but that the names on the minority report total eight because two members who did not attend the February 16 meeting signed the minority report late.

Before the February 16 Task Force meeting, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors adopted a formal resolution

endorsing "the continued funding, operation, and livelihood of the three pulmonary specialty hospitals as an integral part of our total health care system in the State..."

(See McCAIN, Page 12)

2.1 Inches Of Rain In March

March got 2.1 inches of rain, less than half the amount of the next driest March in the past five years, records kept by Robert Gatlin, Hoke County observer for the National Weather Service show.

The rainfall for the same month in the other years amounted to 6.9 inches in 1977, a total of 4.4 in 1978, 4.5 inches in 1979, and 7.5 inches in 1980.



SPRING IN RAEFORD--This cherry tree was in bloom Friday when this picture was taken, looking west on West Prospect Avenue. [Staff photo.]

Hoke Reactions To Shooting: Shock, Anger

Hoke County people reacted Monday afternoon with shock and anger over the attempted assassination of President Reagan, wounded with three other men, in the shooting in Washington.

The president was reported in good condition following his operation for treatment of his chest wound and its effects and removal of the bullet the gunman fired. The condition of his press secretary, James S. Brady, shot in the head, was "serious but improving" Tuesday, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Secret Service Agent Timothy McCarthy and Washington, D.C.,

Policeman Thomas K. Delahanty, also wounded by the gunman, were listed in stable condition Tuesday.

Being held on charges of attempting to assassinate the president and the wounding of the policeman was John Warnock Hinckley, Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Colo. An FBI spokesman said he knew of no motive for the attack.

A Raeford woman called the shooting "terrible," and another, expressing outrage over violence which occurs regularly, suggested "bodies" be left around, to make people think twice when they plan to shoot someone. She was reter-

ring to the fatal shooting of alleged bank robber at Cross Creek Mall in Fayetteville recently by a policeman.

Following the heavy coverage on television newscasts Monday night, little talk about the shooting was heard in public in Raeford Tuesday.

One woman, however, expressed indignation over scarcity of news about the condition of the wounded policeman, other than that his condition was serious. Delahanty was admitted to Washington Hospital Center, and the president, McCarthy and Brady to George Washington University Hospital.

Board Recommends Denial Of Variance Request

The Raeford City Planning Board Tuesday night recommended by unanimous vote that a request by J.H. Wright for a variance in the zoning ordinance to permit establishment of multifamily apartments in a residential district, the College Drive-Teal Drive area, be denied. The recommendation will come before the City Council Monday night for action.

The board meeting was attended by many residents of the area who protested the request.

Seven members of the Planning Board participated in the public hearing.