### On Advisory Board Recommendation

# Dog Warden Decision Due Next Week

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather over Christmas was not for outdoor activities. Maybe folks got to talk more about the kinfolks than in many recent Christmases. If it wasn't raining, then the mist was so heavy that it would wet you. We closed for Christmas Eve

here at the office and I was able to get in a round of golf that day. This was the only round that I have played or will play in December. This makes for high green fees.

Brown Hendrix told me Thursday at Archivet the terms of the played or will be a provided by the terms of the terms of

day at Arabia that he would call me the next time the pond froze over at-hole two and then I could skid the ball across. It would be my luck to hit a weak place in the ice and lose the ball anyway.

We needed the rain and can use

many more inches to catch up.

We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and that Santa Claus was good to all. We went by the post office the day after Christmas and received a present from Uncle Sam. The 1040 form for filing 1981 income taxes was in the hox and as always stated on the the box and as always stated on the form "that it is simple to fill out."
What a nice present!

I had never thought much about retirement until they started talking about raising the age limit to draw Social Security. Now when you start thinking, many things roll through your mind on whatever subject you have in mind. One thing that came to mind was what Paul Dickson wrote in an article in the Bicentennial paper of 1976. He stated that "he did the thinking and I did the work at Dickson Press." Now Dickson has retired so Now Dickson has retired so with his thinking gone, I reckon my work should kinda slow down.

It was in August of 1935 that I went to work with *The News-Journal*. The editor and publisher was Paul Dickson, the present present Paul's father. He did not hire me as this was left up to J. Minor Davis who ran the printing plant. There were two other regular employees in the shop at that time, Cecil McKenzie and Russell Lassiter. C.H. Giles, Jr. came in after

Mr. Dickson died in November of that year and his wife, Mrs. Annie B. Dickson, became the boss. I will never forget the years working for Mrs. Dickson. She taught me many things that have helped me in my newspaper work over the years. She was a teacher by profession and didn't mind telling

you when you were right or wrong. Of course, World War II came along and I left for five and a half years with Uncle Sam. This was in September, 1940 when the National was inducted January, 1946.

From 1946 to the present day I have been associated with the present Paul Dickson. We have had good times and bad times together. but we have always settled our differences because we were working for the same thing. That is, to make The News-Journal a good weekly newspaper and to uphold

the principles of good journalism.

The life of a newspaperman in a small town is not always rosy. You don't always make friends with what you print and sometimes this includes your kinfolks. I will say that after 46 years I can't recall at any time that the thinking of Paul Dickson, as an editor, was wrong.

He told the truth and he was fair. There have been so many people that I have worked with in my job over the years that it would be

impossible to name them all.

The people that are now working at Dickson Press have been here for many years. Some have never worked anywhere else. They are

loyal and dedicated people.

This is why I hadn't thought about retirement. But as of this issue I will give up many of my duties with the Dickson Press and The News-Journal. I will continue for awhile to write this column.

So keep sending in your letters and comments. I will write more

about retirement next week. Happy New Year to everyone

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Retires Today

Named Publisher



Sam C. Morris



Louis H. Fogleman, Jr.

## **Year-end Changes At News-Journal**

#### Sam C. Morris To Retire On 31st

As he winds up 36 years with The News-Journal since World War II. Sam C. Morris officially retires from the paper and from Dickson Press, Inc. on today, December 31, 1981.

Sam's service with the paper actually started with my father, before his death in 1935, and until the war while my mother was publisher. He entered Federal service with the National Guard in 1940 and served over five years in this country, the Dutch West Indies and the Philippine Islands. He was separated as a first lieutenant and was later a captain in the National

He is a native of Raeford, oldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Morris, and grandson of Sam Cameron, a member of Hoke County's first board of commissioners. He returned to *The News-*Journal in 1946 and has partici-pated one way or another in almost all issues of the paper since. In that time he has performed about every job in newspaper and printing production, and has served for the past several years as general manager of The News-Journal and of the other activities of Dickson Press. Inc.

Morris has contributed to the growth and welfare of the com-He has served the Presbyterian church as deacon, elder and Sunday School teacher, and as president of the Men of the Church. He has served as director and president of the now ailing Hoke County United Fund and for many years kept it going as treasurer. Also, he served as director and president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, served several terms on the Raeford City Council, and was for many years chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Executive Committee. A longtime direc-tor of Raeford Savings & Loan Association, Morris now serves as chairman of the board of directors.

He received the Raeford Kiwanis Club's "Man of the Year" award in

Sam is married to the former Mary Alice Pernell of Franklin County and they have a daughter. Sarah. of Virginia Beach and a son. John, of Greenville, S.C.

Sam says he expects to continue to be associated with The News-Journal as a contributing editor and with Dickson Press as a consultant in production. He says he plans to continue to help with the things that are fun around the business, but to walk off on all responsibility and worry. That sounds like a nice retirement plan, doesn't it? He deserves it.

#### Fogleman To Be New Publisher

Effective January 1, 1982, Louis H. Fogleman, Jr., becomes publisher of *The News-Journal*. Louis is vice-president of Dickson Press. Inc. and lives in Fayetteville, where much of the company's business has been done for some years through *The Paraglide*. Fort Bragg's post newspaper which we have published since 1960; through The Image Men, a printing com-pany started by Paul Dickson III in 1970 and managed by Robert A. Dickson since 1978; and through The Spring Lake News, a weekly newspaper we have published since 1979.

Louis Fogleman, whose wife is our daughter, the former Anne Dickson, is a native of Wadesboro and a graduate of Davidson College. He is also a graduate of the Law School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is a licensed attorney. He worked for First Union National Bank for several years, and served as re-gional trust officer in Greensboro before moving to Fayetteville to join Dickson Press. Inc. n 1979. He and Anne have two sons. Hal and Dickson.

Our son, Robert Dickson, graduated from UNC in Chape! fill and received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from N.C. State University. He worked with Sweetheart Cup Co. in Chicago for about a year before coming to Fayetteville. and is involved in all production in Dickson Press. He is married to the former Victoria Green of Chapel Hill, and they have a daughter.

Alvis B. Dickson, Jr., our Raeford, also graduated from UNC. Chapel Hill, and worked at The News-Journal and Dickson Press from the time he was a youth until moving to Fayetteville several years ago, except while away in school. He now supervises sales of both advertising and printing, "Skip" is a captain in the N.C. National Guard, and is commander of Hq. Btry., 2nd Bn. 252d Armor, here in Raeford.

As most of our friends and associates already know, my wife Margaret and I have been quietly stealing away more and more for several years, and as Sam Morris steps out, the time has come to make it official that another gener-See you around.

#### Sales Tax

Collections of Hoke County's one percent sales tax amounted to \$21.557.80 in November, the State Revenue Department reported last

The collections in the previous month totaled \$50,672.82. The November 1980 collections totaled \$28,300.34.

Hoke County Manager James Martin said Monday he pro-bably would act "the first of next week" on a recom-mendation regarding the firing of William Hales as county dog warden.

Martin was expected to receive the recommendation from the County Advisory Personnel Board this week and would have three working days in which to make his decision.

The board under the county's grievance policy for county employees met on Hales's appeal from his November 23 firing in three sessions, the last of which was held December 23, but no witnesses were heard at the final meeting.

The reasons for Hales's firing have not been revealed by officials. A report published Thursday in the Fayetteville Times said Hales lost his job when he said he accepted small amounts of money given by people when they adopted dogs from the dog pound. State and county officials, unidentified by name, are quoted by the report as confirming December 23 this was the reason for the firing, explaining that state and county, policy requires the warden to report money received.

The newspaper report quotes a source as saying the donations which Hales said he accepted amounted to \$1 and \$2 usually. The news story says Hales, as did the late Archie Clark, his uncle and dog catcher whom he succeeded, used the extra money to supplement regular county funds for buying dog food.

Martin, asked about the information contained in the article Monday, declined to confirm or deny it.

The county policy requires

him to decide within three working days after receiving in writing the recommendation and record of the hearing's proceedings and whether to uphold or nullify the firing of a county employee. Martin also must state the reason or reasons for his decision.

He said Monday, however, he will not be able to make public the recommendation after he receives it and will be able to say only that he received it.

The rest of the Times article

contains the following.

State and county officials agreed that Hales did not gain personally from the transacttions, that he even added from his \$9,921 annual salary money to buy additional dog food for the animals in the pound and to bait traps to catch dogs gone wild.

In a matter independent of the advisory board hearings, Hales was investigated by the State Bureau of Investigation for allegedly falsifying records -reportedly stating he was buying cat food, when he was feeding dog food to cats in the pound because dog food is cheaper than cat food. State officials have said no criminal prosecution is expected.

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell, who requested the SBI probe, told *The News-Journal* Monday afternoon she expects to receive the report of the investment. the investigation some time in

January.
The *Times* report also contains the following.
Cats often were fed dog food

at the pound as a money-saving measure that also had dogs eating hog food mixed with dog food. During the hearings, witnesses told the advisory board Hales was using practices introduced by the former warden. They also corraborated the argument made by Phil Diehl, Hales's attorney, that no administrative dog policy or written regulation for the county

dog warden to follow.
Officials said they had few dealings with the county's dog operation and weren't aware of problems in Hales's record keeping until they received a complaint in November. Then the investigation which resulted in Hales's firing was started.

On New Year's Day

#### Government Offices Closed

Hoke County and Raeford government employees have another short week this week, off Friday for the New Year's Day holiday.

January 1 also is a legal holiday

for banks and savings and loan institutions.

Most downtown stores will be open for business, though some will have a "short" day, opening later than usual. The News-Journal will be closed all day Friday.

The Raeford Post Office will be on its holiday schedule Friday,

closed for business, but will be open Saturday.

Next week, the county and city official boards will hold their regular meetings on the standing dates -- the county commissioners Monday at 9 a.m.; the Raeford City Council Monday at 7 p.m.; and the County Board of Education Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The county schools will reopen Monday morning for business on their standard schedules.





May each man and woman find peace in his or her heart at this holiday season. . . and may that peace extend throughout the world.