



Framed -- This alley behind some Raeford businesses seems to frame the Edinborough Street side of the Hoke County Courthouse.

# Turkey Plant Begins Work

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 April 1 and will raise the monthly rate to \$8.60.

•OK'd a three-year contract with the firm of Pittard and Perry Inc. to audit the city's finances.

•Awarded a construction contract for sewer line extensions in the North Fulton Street area to the Winston-Salem firm of J.D. Kay Construction. The construction will cost \$19,830 and \$25,000 had been budgeted for the job, Matthews said.

•Voted unanimously to sign an

agreement with the Lumberton consulting firm of Koonce, Noble and Associates Inc. to do engineering work on proposed improvements to sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The city is only committed to the firm, if the work outlined in a three-year capital improvement plan is done.

•Approved an Eagle Scout project proposed by James Michael Baker to put street numbers on all residences in the city which do not now have the identification.

# County Approves Ambulance Pact

(Continued from page 1A)  
 new one starting January 1, instead of next June 1. This has the contract running on the calendar, instead of the fiscal year.

Henley after the motion was adopted, said he wanted to go on record thanking the Ambulance Committee appointed to study the Service's financial situation; and the Hoke County Rescue Squad for trying to come up with a system to keep costs down.

The Ambulance Committee, with Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch as chairman, held three meetings on the situation, then made recommendations to the commissioners.

Among them were that the Ambulance Service be retained to fill this health care need; that it best operated as a private enterprise; and that the Service be operated at its present level -- neither higher (developed to para-

medic) or lower (to basic Emergency Medical Technician) than its present Intermediate EMT.

The motion to grant the contract with the provisions regarding county funds and the inquiry for possible county operation of the Service to be made during the new contract year was made by Commissioner Cleo Bratcher, Jr., and seconded by Upchurch.

Henley's wife, Linda, co-owner and assistant director of the Service, attended the special meeting.

The Henleys participated in the first 15 minutes of the closed session and a brief period before the session ended.

The meeting, originally scheduled to start at 9 a.m., didn't begin until about a half hour later because the Henleys were out of town on business and the commissioners needed a confirmation of part of the financial information in the proposed budget.

# Coop Petition Names Verified For Recall

Two thousand names have been verified on a petition calling for a special meeting of members of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation to consider the recall of 12 members of the LREMC Board of Directors.

As of the close of business last Friday, the 2,000 names, which

exceed the 10% requirement of the rural electric cooperative's Bylaws, have been checked to determine if the person signing is a member of the cooperative.

The petition calls for a special meeting of members to be held on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the

Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium in Fayetteville for the purpose of a recall election.

With the advice of its legal counsel, the Board will now decide if the petition meets the Bylaw requirement of showing cause for the removal of the directors and

therefore; if a special meeting will be called.

The Board will meet next on Thursday at 5 p.m.

# Retail Sales Up During December

By Sherry Matthews  
 Hoke County's gross retail sales were up during the month of December according to a recent report by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

During December retail sales increased more than \$350,000 over November figures and were up almost \$400,000 over the same period in 1981.

December figures showed that sales were \$3.7 million with tax collections of more than \$80,000.

Sales in December were the fourth highest for the year, falling short of the other three by approximately \$150,000.

# Armed Robbery Probed

Raeford Police officers were investigating Tuesday the armed robbery of a Burlington Mills employee, who was forced to surrender \$60 at the plant's commissary last week.

Charles Hugh Godbold told investigating officers that he was approached by a man with a pistol last Thursday around 4 a.m. and forced to turn over approximately \$60, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

The incident apparently occurred while Godbold was taking a break from work in the commissary, which is located near the loading dock of the plant, Wiggins said.

In an unrelated incident, officers were also investigating Tuesday the theft of a truck from the rear of the U.S. Post Office on Elwood Avenue.

William Steven Thomas of Raeford told officers that he had left the truck parked behind the Post Office last Thursday around 9:40 a.m. while he went into the building to get his mail, Wiggins said, noting that when Thomas returned, the 1980 Chevrolet pickup was missing.

The keys had been left in the vehicle, the chief said.

The truck was recovered on the south end of Stewart Street on Friday. No damage had been done to the vehicle, Wiggins said.

Officers are also investigating an apparent Friday night break-in at a

Raeford residence, Wiggins said.

Marcell Levern McNeill of Johnson Street reported that his house had been broken into and a leather jacket with a pistol in the pocket had been stolen, Wiggins said.

No arrests have been made, and the matter is still under investigation, the chief said.

In still a further unrelated incident, four persons were arrested in two separate incidents of shoplifting Monday at Mack's Department Store on Main Street, the chief said.

A 67-year-old Laurinburg woman was charged with shoplifting after she was discovered allegedly concealing \$13.50 worth of cosmetics in the store, Wiggins said.

Gertie McNair of Rt. 2, Box 219, Laurinburg was released on a promise to appear in court after she was arrested around 1:40 p.m., the chief said.

In an apparent unrelated second incident, three persons were charged with shoplifting two eight-track tape recordings around 3:40 p.m. at Mack's, Wiggins said.

Harrietta Crouch Simmons, 36, of Jackson Springs, Theodore McGreggor, 27, of 105 Scott Street, Aberdeen, and Otis Carter, 25 of 106 Delman Street, Aberdeen, were charged after store personnel allegedly saw the tapes being concealed, Wiggins said.

All three were confined in the Hoke County Jail pending the posting of a \$100 bond, Wiggins said.


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