

# ... Sandhills Probe

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management in dealing with employee problems.

The audit shows that:  
--The Center hired a EAP consultant in November 1980.

--Sandhills Center entered an agreement with Opportunities, Inc. which provided for the transfer to Growth Institute of "all existing EAP contracts and related funding."

--The Sandhills board chairperson and area director signed this agreement on behalf of the Center with the Sandhills' EAP consultant signing on behalf of Growth Institute.

--The agreement "was not" approved by the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

The audit indicates that further "conflict of interest" violations arose from this agreement.

"The EAP consultant, acting as executive director and shareholder of an outside for-profit corporation, was at the same time employed as a full-time Center employee," the audit says.

Audit records further state that "the Center area director was also president of Growth Institute."

These audit exceptions were also requested to be "investigated by other governmental agencies."

"Other government agencies should review these findings to determine what further action may be appropriated under the circumstances," the audit says.

The audit report also shows that the Sandhills Center "overpaid" the Sandhills Mental Health Development Foundation \$14,652 over a three-year period for annual rentals.

The center, authorized by the

director, paid \$24,000 rather than the specified \$19,116 for the area office building in West End.

The center overpaid the Foundation \$4,884 for three years.

The audit also disclosed that the Center's area director was also president and executive director of the Foundation.

Over \$30,000 in rental revenues were also discovered to be "excessive" compared to the costs incurred by the Foundation, a non-profit corporation, according to the audit.

According to the audit, the Sandhills Center:

--Paid \$24,000 for the area office per year while the Foundation's cost was only \$11,287,

--Spent \$7,500 on the Hoke County unit at a cost of only \$5,300 to the Foundation, and

--Rented the Anson Group Home, with alleged state funds, for \$7,200 at a cost of \$6,000 to the Foundation.

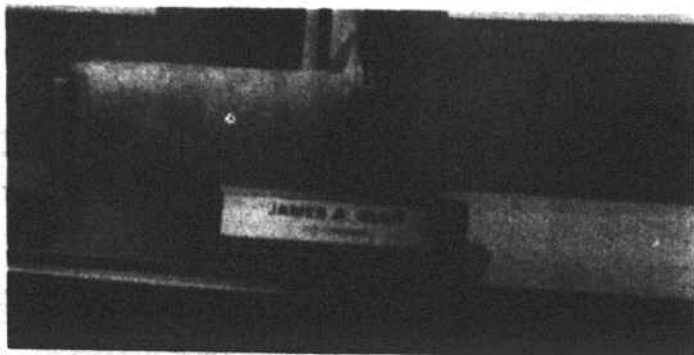
The audit also shows that no contracts between the Center and the Foundation were submitted or approved by the Division of Mental Health for the Hoke and Anson Group Home.

Audit findings also indicate that "further investigation" should be initiated into the Foundation and its relationship with the Sandhills Center.

"We are through with our investigation," Haskins said.

"Anything else that may be done will come from some other office," he added.

Both state and federal investigators have indicated that "no investigation" into the Sandhills Center is pending.



**Where is Commissioner Hunt**  
Vice Chairman James A. Hunt was noticeably absent at a July meeting of the Hoke County Commission. Hunt holds the second worst attendance record for 1983, missing eight of 32 meetings and slipping in late to at least three summer sessions.

# ... Officials Absent

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for the year, both making 86.6% of their total meetings.

McLeod and Graham were both present at 13 of the city's 15 meetings.

County Commissioner Cleo Bratcher was a close fifth place, making an average of 87.5% of the county's 32 meetings.

Bratcher missed four meetings. School board member Walter Coley missed two meetings for a 90% record and finished just ahead of city Councilmen Bob Gentry and Vardell Hedgpeth who were absent at one of 15 city meetings for an average of 93.3%.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch held nearly perfect attendance, making 96.8%, missing only one of the county board meetings.

Of the three elected boards, the city council held the best attendance record, with no one missing more than two meetings during the year.

However, that board also held the fewest number of meetings of the three.

The boards appointed by city and county officials held much lower attendance records than their elected counterparts.

The Raeford Planning Board had the worst overall attendance record for the year, while the Hoke County Health Board and The Hoke Department of Social Services (DSS) Board tied for the best attendance records.

Planning Board member J.B. McLeod had the worst attendance record, attending none of the eight called meetings.

Younger Snead ran a close second with McLeod, attending only 12.5% or one of eight meetings during the year.

J.H. Austin, L.S. Brock and Jim Williamson were close behind Snead, making only 37.5% of the total planning board meetings during the year.

Austin, Brock and Williamson made five of the eight meetings.

Stanley Koonce had the fourth lowest attendance record of the 10 planning board members, attending only 40% of the total meetings.

Koonce missed three of five meetings before he was replaced on the board.

Walter McAllister and Norma Connell had the second highest attendance rating for the year, making 75% of their meetings or missing two of eight.

Ken McNeil was the only member to have a perfect attendance during the year. He was present at all eight meetings.

The Raeford Housing Authority apparently had attendance problems of its own with only one of

nine members being present at all meetings.

Robert Taylor was the worst attendee for the Authority, missing five of six meetings.

His attendance for the year was only 6.6%.

Taylor was replaced by Anthony Oxendine, who failed to show for his first meeting last month.

Prince Black finished second on the lowest attendance poll, making only 28.5% of the meetings, missing five of seven meetings during the year.

Leonard Miller was present at 42% of the housing authorities total meetings, missing four of seven sessions.

Betty Morgan, who resigned her position, made 66% of her meetings. She was present at four of six meetings.

Morgan was replaced in November by Kay Thomas, who holds a 100% attendance record after one meeting.

Harless Wright holds the third highest attendance record for the year, making 71.4% or five of seven meetings.

John McAllister, James Ataway and Harold Stone had the second highest attendance record, being present at 85.7% of their total meetings.

All three men missed only one meeting during the year.

Chairman Buddy Blue was the only Housing Authority member to hold a perfect record during the year, attending all seven meetings.

No members missed more than half of the meetings on the Board of Health or the county DSS board.

DSS board member and county Commissioner Neil McPhatter had the worst attendance record, missing three of 12 meetings during the year.

DSS board Chairman Clayton Buoyer finished with the second lowest attendance score, attending 83.3% of the meetings or missing two of 12 sessions.

Mary Seaford and Jean Holland both had perfect attendance records for the year.

Seaford was present at all 12 meetings while Holland attended seven meetings before resigning her position in July.

Health Board members Anthony Oxendine and Dennis Russell had the worst attendance records on the health board, with each missing two of four regular meetings.

Dr. Ramnick Zota and Mike Wood finished second on that board, missing one of four meetings for a 75% average.

Health board chairman Sarah Leach and members Simon Adams, Cleo Bratcher and John McAllister had perfect attendance records for the year, making all four quarterly meetings.

# ... Toxic Sites Found

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"We found no evidence of PCB's in that tank," he added.

"I decided to test it since it was in the immediate area," Gay said.

"There is a possibility that some PCB-laced oil has been spilled or dumped in these areas, DHR Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch eastern area supervisor," Terry Dover said.

"Tests are being done," he added.

Although the Virgil's site shows no "true" amounts of PCB's, Gay said lead samples were being taken.

"There has been some obvious burnings in that area," Gay said.

"I expect to get the results from the lead samples sometime this week," he added.

"I really don't know what we will find," Gay said.

Despite the recent testing at both sites, state and local health agents have not been able to link the alleged "spillage or dumping" to anyone.

"We really have not checked out all the property owners yet," Gay said.

"I want to wait until we have completed all our analysis before we get into that," he added.

"If we find anything, we will begin a more thorough investigation into this matter," Gay said.

# Trees Offered By Foundation

The National Arbor Day Foundation is giving ten free trees to people who become Foundation Members during January, 1984.

The free trees are part of the Foundation's effort to promote tree planting throughout America.

A Red Maple, Black Walnut, American Redbud, Norway Spruce, Red Oak, White Flowering Dogwood, European Mountain Ash, Flowering Crab, Shagbark Hickory, and Colorado Blue Spruce tree will be given to members joining during January.

These trees were selected to provide a wide range of benefits: flowers, shade, berries, nuts, and beautiful fall foliage, according to the Foundation. The six to twelve inch trees will be shipped postage paid with enclosed planting instructions at the right time for planting this spring. The Foundation makes its spring shipments between February 1 and May 31, depending on the local climate and this year's weather.

The National Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is working to improve the quality of life throughout the country by encouraging tree planting. The Foundation will give the ten free trees to members contributing \$10 during January.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, a \$10 membership contribution should be sent to TEN TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31.

Burlington Declares Quarterly Dividend

The Board of Directors of Burlington Industries, Inc. recently declared a regular quarterly dividend of 41 cents per share. This represents a 3 cents per share increase from the prior level of 38 cents per share.

The dividend is payable March 1, to shareholders of record at the close of business January 30.

Earl Hendrix Elected To Soybean Assoc. Post

Earl Hendrix of Raeford, has been elected Secretary of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association for 1984.

Hendrix, a Hoke County farmer, was elected to a one-year term during the 17th annual membership meeting of the Association here on January 20.

Hendrix was also one of 10 directors to be elected to the 30-man board of the Association.

# Tobacco Conference Slated For Thursday

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, the grower-owned organization which administers the price support program for flue-cured tobacco, will hold its 26th Annual District Meeting for North Carolina growers in District #4.

District #4 includes the following flue-cured counties in the Border Belt of North Carolina: Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, New Hanover, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland.

James R. Pate of Rowland, Director from District #4, and Fred G. Bond, General Manager, jointly announced that the meeting will be held in the Columbus County Agricultural Building in Whiteville on Thursday beginning at 2.

Pate noted that flue-cured tobacco growers have completed their second season under the No Net Cost Tobacco Program. During the 1983 season, many areas throughout the flue-cured belt were affected by drought conditions which reduced the crop available

for market. Also in 1983, new legislative changes were passed by Congress which will affect every person who grows flue-cured tobacco in the coming year. Stabilization will be discussing the 1983 season in detail and the adjustments made in the tobacco program by this new legislation.

In addition to Stabilization's report, reports will be given by representatives of Tobacco Associates, Inc.; Tobacco Growers' Information Committee; USDA's Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service; and other allied organizations and agencies. Ample time will be provided at the meeting for discussion.

A brief business session will be held following the regular program to select Stabilization's Advisory Committee members from each of the flue-cured tobacco producing counties in the district.

Pate added, "Flue-cured growers are urged to make every effort to attend Stabilization's meeting in order to get a better understanding of the Cooperative's operation."

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