

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXVI Number 21

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, September 13, 1984



Fatal Crash

This truck driven by a New Bern man collided with a tractor trailer truck Thursday morning on US Highway 401 near Wayside. The driver was killed.

Highway 401 near Wayside. The driver was killed.

New Bern man killed on 401

By Ed Miller

Following a three-vehicle crash Thursday, the traffic death toll on US Highway 401 climbed after a 28-year-old New Bern man was killed near the Wayside Grocery.

The accident occurred in the early morning hours of Thursday, when a 1979 Ford pick-up truck, driven by Richard Darwin Whittington, ran head on into a tractor-trailer truck.

Whittington's was the third traffic death in Hoke County this year.

Investigating officers believe Whittington drifted off of the right side of the road, apparently tried to jerk his vehicle back in the highway, but may have pulled too hard and swerved into the left lane and into the path of the on-coming vehicle.

The two vehicles collided head on, State Highway Patrolman John Glidewell said.

Whittington was killed in the 6:40 a.m. after his pick-up was demolished by the impact.

The truck that struck Whit-

tington was knocked left of the center of the road only and hit another car in the side, Glidewell said.

Donald Bruce Neeley, driver of the truck, was transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and was reported in satisfactory condition Friday afternoon.

Neeley is 59 years old.

Gregory Terrance Whitted, 23, was the driver of the third vehicle, Glidewell said, adding that he was not injured in the crash.

City OK's Chamber plan

By Ed Miller

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce gained City Council approval Monday of a concept pooling their resources with local governing bodies for industrial development.

Last week, members of the Hoke County Commission tentatively approved the plan.

Chamber spokesman Bobby Conoly said the organization hoped to gain final approval from both bodies and to begin searching for an industrial recruiter.

"If we feel like it (the plan) can work between the three of us, we can get down to brass tacks and start looking around," Conoly said about working with the city and county.

"I like it, and I think it's the only way to go," Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth said.

"If we all go out separately, I believe we will fail," he added.

With the needed approvals, the Chamber of Commerce is now free to go about establishing an Industrial Development Commission that will combine funds from all three bodies to get industry into Hoke County.

Two members each on the new commission will be appointed by the county, city and Chamber, according to the proposal.

Funding for the hiring of an industrial developer will come from the combined efforts of the county and city, while the Chamber will hire an executive secretary who will act as an assistant to the developer and Chamber Director.

In the proposal, the Chamber of Commerce will provide both the developer and the secretary with offices. The city and county will jointly provide maintenance and utilities.

Meter approved

In other action, the council approved the recommendation of

City Manager Tom Phillips to allow Faberge to meter plant sewage.

Formerly, Faberge, as well as all the other industries in the city, have been charged for sewage by the amount of water used.

Studies by the cosmetics company show they can save about \$4,000 per year if they do not have to pay for water that is purchased, but not returned to the sewer system, Phillips said.

The City Manager also said that studies made by the city reveal that Faberge will not save that much with the metering.

The City Council voted to allow Faberge to go ahead with installing the meter because the firm is paying the costs.

The monitoring will be for a one year trial period, and if the city is losing too much money, a more amiable plan will have to be worked out, Phillips said.

Last year the council refused to allow the Hoke Block plant to meter sewage discharges after a similar appeal was made by then owner Clyde Upchurch.

Rezoning OK'd

Following a public hearing the council agreed to rezone a section of the city from commercial to residential.

The section, which lies between West Donaldson Street and Prospect Avenue, should have never been zoned commercial, said City Engineer Bill Sellars.

Apparently, the section was originally zoned commercial, but then developed into a residential district, said Phillips.

Robert M. Beaudoin, Gladys B. Rogers and Lucille Sessoms, owners of the property in question, were on hand at the meeting to see the council approve their petition for rezoning.

The action was recommended by



Vardell Hedgpeth ...likes the plan

the Raeford Planning Board, Sellars said.

There were no opponents of the action present for the public hearing.

Sweeper bought

On another matter the council members agreed to accept a bid from a Wingate firm for the purchase of a new street sweeper.

Twin States Equipment Company had sent a bid of \$58,858 for the sweeper.

The City Council had budgeted \$70,000 for the purchase.

According to Phillips, the city is getting a good deal on the sweeper because they will be allowed to purchase a "demonstrator model" that has 2,000 miles on the truck chassis and only 30 hours on the sweeper.

This sweeper will be guaranteed just like a new one, and the city will get the sweeper in about one third of the time it would take to get a new one, Phillips said.

(See COUNCIL, page 8)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the remainder of this week could be bad. According to the news, Hurricane Diana is headed for the North Carolina coast. We hope that it will turn out to sea and let us have a nice week.

Last week I ran a letter from Kay Thomas about a meeting of the Historical Association of Hoke County to be held last Thursday night. The meeting was well attended and a committee was formed to contact UCB about the old Bank of Raeford building on Main Street.

On Monday of this week the following letter was on my desk when I went to the office. I believe that it is self-explanatory. The letter follows:

Dear Sam:
Thank you for your concern for the preservation of the old Bank of Raeford building. Even though UCB has sold it and our hopes for working on it cannot be carried through, I hope we can maintain our enthusiasm for historical preservation in our downtown.

Our group will meet again on September 20 at the Library to talk about establishing a historical district that should be a goal for the Hoke Historical Association. I hope you will come and bring some friends.

Sincerely,
Kay Thomas

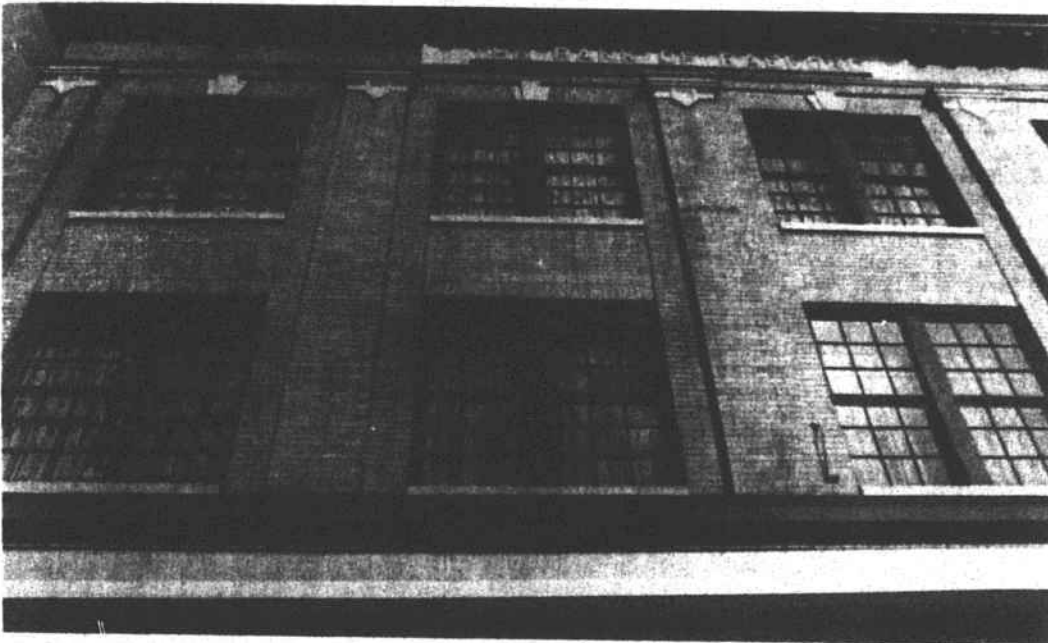
Another letter came to me from an old friend. I will share it with you readers.

Dear Sam:
I read every word of *The News-Journal* each week.

I am enclosing a letter to the editor that I hope you can use.

Ollie is a real inspiration to us in her patient and helpful way.

(See AROUND, page 8)



New retail space

An offer to purchase the historic Bank of Raeford Building was accepted by United Carolina Bank Friday. Purchaser Bobby Carter, the owner of Hoke

Realty, said the ground floor of the structure would be used for retail space.

Bid accepted for bank building

By Ed Miller

A contract for the purchase of the 73-year-old Bank of Raeford Building was accepted Friday morning, a spokesman for United Carolina Bank (UCB) said.

Hoke Realty owner Bobby Carter's offer for the building was accepted Friday, UCB Raeford Manager Robert Conoly said Monday.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

The decision to sell the building was made last week by UCB officials in Whiteville, Conoly said.

In a Thursday night meeting of the Hoke County Historic Society, Carter said he planned a "retail operation" for the building.

Other than that, Carter would give no details on the business.

Although local UCB officers were aware of the Historic Society attempts to find a civic use for the building, officials in the Whiteville

office were not, and the sale was completed, Conoly said.

Since his purchase of the building, Carter has offered the second and third floors of the old Bank of Raeford to the society, the real estate broker said.

The building has been vacant since the spring of this year when UCB consolidated a branch office.

Efforts were made by the bank to give the structure to the county for use as a college, but an architectural opinion which noted that repairs would exceed \$200,000 made the deal impractical.

About 15 Society members, downtown merchants and interested residents attended the meeting Thursday, and a decision was reached to ask UCB to slow plans to sell the building until further civic uses could be explored.

At the meeting Carter said he was willing to delay his plans until the Society had time to determine

the feasibility of the community project.

However, by 10 a.m. Friday, Carter had received word that his contract was accepted.



Mayor's office

The second floor of the building once housed the offices of former Raeford Mayor G.B. Rowland. We take a look at the history of the Bank of Raeford building on page 11 in today's News-Journal

Escrow being sought for 401 apron funds

Local officials are attempting to have the State Department of Transportation (DOT) set aside \$187,000 earmarked for apron improvements on U.S. Highway 401 this year in order to save the funds for a future four-laning of the road.

DOT Board member Martha C. Hollers is checking into the possibility of saving the money which is supposed to fund the paving of a two-foot apron strip along the side of the highway. The money would be placed in escrow, until additional funds could be raised to pay for a major widening.

If those funds can be saved, state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane will attempt to garner other state money to match federal dollars and pave a portion of the highway.

"Right now we just want to get enough to pave one mile," DeVane said.

The one-mile improvements could give motorists a stretch to pass and might help make the highway safer, the state representative said.

DeVane and Hollers met with local officials and others Friday in Raeford to map out a plan for widening the highway between the city limits and the Cumberland County line.

An effort will also be made to get the highway improvements back on the DOT 10-year Improvement Plan. The road has been on the list before and was scheduled for funding in 1972.

Being on the 10-year plan is essential to receiving funds from the DOT, DeVane said.

Paving one mile of highway will cost about \$1 million, Hollers said, noting that state funds for projects like U.S. 401 have been tight and construction has been funded on a priority basis.

If the apron funds can be set aside, local officials will attempt to line up the needed rights-of-way for a stretch of the highway to be widened, and DeVane will try to get the remainder of the necessary state money.

Local supporters of the widened highway believe the improvements would save lives and would provide a transportation link between Hoke County and Fayetteville which is vital to future growth.

Hollers is expected to meet with other DOT board members on Friday.

The need to improve Highway 401 will be brought to the board's attention, she said.

3-year sentence given for June DWI death

By Ed Miller

A Red Springs man, who was convicted last week in District Court of Driving While Impaired (DWI) and causing the death of another man, was sentenced to three years in jail.

Grady Vaughn Locklear, 29, was charged vehicular homicide on June 2 after the car he was driving left the road and crashed in the Antioch Community.

A passenger in the car, James Sherman Knight, 34, was killed, records show.

For the DWI charge, Locklear was given one year, and he got two years on the death by vehicle charge, according to records.

A Raeford woman is now on probation for 28 counts of unauthorized use of a telephone.

Claire Jones Bell was in court last Friday to defend herself against the charges.

After pleading guilty on all counts, District Court Judge Warren Pate sentenced the woman to six months in jail, but suspended

(See MAN, page 9)