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Thursday, November 22, 1984

Long-term renovations eyed for courthouse

By Ed Miller

The Hoke County Courthouse will cost almost \$600,000 to renovate, but the work can be done over the next five years, members of the county commission were told Monday night.

Three recent estimates have pinpointed the costs at about \$593,000 to put the courthouse in "top condition," William W. Dodge of the Raleigh architectural firm Dodge and Associates told the commissioners.

A second bid of \$358,761 is a recap of a bid already submitted to the county and does not include such options as painting, basement

air conditioning and some electrical renovation.

A third and final bid of \$452,723 is an adjusted estimate of the total renovation costs leaving out certain things that are not vital to building codes and federal handicapped regulations, Dodge said.

Presently, the county has \$192,000 set aside for the renovations, said County Finance Officer Charles Davis.

"We think our estimates are good," Dodge said.

A motion passed during the meeting will put the County Building and Grounds Committee, County Manager William Cowan and Dodge studying together to

come up with a plan or a recommendation for a construction schedule and funding, said Commission Chairman John Balfour.

Dodge and Associates did the renovations on the State Capitol buildings in Raleigh.

The original suggestion to phase the work came from Dodge himself; however, he also suggested the first phase be a large one because it may be easier for the county to get state and federal grants if a large amount is needed.

If the first phase is high, more bids from larger companies will possibly be submitted, Balfour said.

"We'll save money in the long run," Balfour said.

"It (the courthouse) is a really solid building. It's in good shape structurally," said Dodge adding that the plan to be used under the proposed renovation schedule will leave the 73-year-old structure much as it originally stood.

One major obstacle that will have to be overcome if an elevator is to be put into the building from the basement to the third floor is the leveling of the basement foundation and the excavation of one corner of the courthouse that is filled with dirt, said Dodge.

The basement opens to the back

at ground level, but there is a concrete section that rises in the middle that will either have to be taken out or the rest of the floor will have to be raised to meet it, Dodge said.

The Building and Grounds Committee, along with Cowan and Dodge, is to report back to the commission in January with a recommendation.

In other action during the meeting, the commission appointed John Balfour and Connell McColl as members of a newly formed Industrial Development Commission.

The two new members join those already appointed by the City

Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

According to Balfour, a meeting time has not yet been decided upon.

During discussion about the appointments, Balfour, Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch and Commissioner Cleo Bratcher expressed that they favor someone who lives out in the county to be on the new commission to look out for the county's interests.

"We need control on the board," Commission Vice-Chairman James Albert Hunt said. "We're putting more money in

(See GROUP, page 7A)

Community service scheduled for Wed.

Again this year the Raeford Minister's Association will sponsor a Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Service.

The service this year will be held at the Raeford Presbyterian Church on Edinborough Avenue Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The entire community is invited to participate in this time of offering thanks for the many blessings which are ours.

It is hoped the combined memberships of the Raeford Churches will see this as an opportunity to gather together in fellowship and worship.

President of the Minister's Association this year is the Rev. Fred Sharrai, Pastor of the Raeford Four Square Church.

The Thanksgiving message this year will be offered by the Rev. Robert B. Craig, Pastor of the Ephesus Baptist Church located at Arabia near Raeford.

Rev. Craig's sermon is titled "What We Would Miss If It Was Gone."

Special music will be presented by the combined choirs of Sandy Grove and Parker's United Methodist Churches.

The choirs will be accompanied by Mrs. Lee Simpson and Directed by Mrs. Jaxie Knowles.

Participating also will be Ashley Burell, Director of Music of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, and that church's choir.

The public is most cordially invited to participate in this service.



On top of the situation

The North Raeford Fire Department responded to two fires in the same building last Thursday. The building lies at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 401 at the caution light. In the morning, North Raeford was called in to extinguish a small fire that had caught after fuel leaked from a kerosene heater. The same afternoon, North

Raeford and Raeford Fire Departments were called when the building caught afire again. "The fire appears to have started in the same area," North Raeford Chief Johnny Baker said. Here, a wet North Raeford fireman Jimmy Stewart surveys damage.

Photo by Pam Fredrick

Four years given for incest charge

By Ed Miller

Hoke County resident Stanley Elijah James was sentenced in Superior Court to four years in prison last week after he pleaded "no contest" to charges of incest.

Superior Court Judge E. Lynn Johnson handed down the sentence after hearing evidence that James had been having regular sexual relations with his 12-year-old step-daughter, according to court records.

James, 39, was legally separated from his wife, the mother of the child, on September 6, according to testimony given in a divorce hearing three weeks ago.

During that hearing, it was found as a fact in the case that James "sexually abused his step-child," according to District Court Judge Warren Pate.

When Mrs. James was asked during the hearing why she left her husband, she said: "Because there was an incest charge against him."

According to the wife, James had a history of touching the child years before the couple moved to Hoke County.

He also received psychiatric treatments for prior incidents while living in Georgetown, South Carolina, court testimony and a Hoke County Sheriff's report show.

The infraction came to light when the daughter told her mother

that she had been raped, according to testimony.

Things had been quiet in the family residence until mid-1981, according to statements given to investigating officer, Hoke County Detective Weaver Patterson.

At about that time, James allegedly started taking the little girl, then 11, to the store with him.

On these trips, James would fondle the girl, according to the statement.

The victim would push his hand away, and he would then stop.

Finally, the victim refused to travel alone with him and all was peaceful for another year and a half, the statement says.

In April of 1983, she again rode with him to Raeford and on the way home, James pulled off the main road onto a dirt road and had intercourse with her, statements say.

During this period, James would allegedly go into the victim's room, usually on a Friday or Saturday night, and sexually abuse the child, according to statements.

The wife and victim made the report to the Hoke County Sheriff's Department on September 7.

On September 9, a call to the Sheriff's Department told of James' return to his home and (See MAN, page 11A)

16-year-old county youth sentenced for break-ins, thefts

By Ed Miller

A 16-year-old Raeford boy was sentenced to three years in prison last week after pleading guilty to three counts of breaking and entering and four counts of larceny.

Because of his size, the mother of Bruce Harris had to bring in his birth certificate before Superior Court Judge E. Lynn Johnson would hear the case.

According to arrest warrants issued for Harris, he broke into a

house owned and occupied by Joseph Roy Acorn and took a .22 calibre pistol, a black and white television set and \$30 in cash, on September 30.

On that same day, Harris also took Acorn's car, a 1979 Chevrolet El Camino.

Warrants issued for Harris on October 3 say that Harris broke into the home of Selester Bridges and took a stereo and a portable radio.

On that same day, Harris

allegedly broke into Willie Bridges' home and took a pellet gun, a .410 shotgun, a .12-gauge shotgun and another semi-automatic shotgun.

Harris was jailed on October 12 and stayed in the Hoke County Jail until his trial last Thursday, court records say.

Harris was given credit for the time he spent in jail, records say.

In other court action, a 53-year-old Hoke County man was given probation and a heavy fine for

manufacturing and possession of marijuana.

Robert Turbeville pleaded guilty to the charges, court records say.

He was sentenced to four years suspended for five years supervised probation and fined \$3,000, records say.

Turbeville was arrested on August 2 after 161 pounds, 9 ounces of marijuana were found in a barn on his property.

According to a previous report

by Hoke County Detective Weaver Patterson, Turbeville admitted to growing, harvesting, curing and packaging the marijuana at the time of arrest.

Turbeville got the marijuana seeds from a black man who is now dead, according to a brief prepared by Fayetteville Attorney James B. Wheles.

The brief also says that Turbeville never sold any of the illegal substance.

According to the brief, the fact that the pot had been sitting in the barn for a long while was evidenced by spider webs and dust all over the tops of the packaged marijuana and mouse holes in some of the bags.

Turbeville has worked hard all his life and has never done anything illegal, the brief says.

Another Raeford man, 23-year-old Daniel Eric Jones, was sentenced (See PROBATION, page 11A)

Health director hunt continues

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Board of Health are hoping that a meeting Tuesday night will end a two-month search for a health director.

A special executive session has been called for Tuesday to consider an applicant in a second interview, Board Chairman Mike Wood said Monday.

The board has been meeting weekly trying to find a replacement for former Director Lloyd Horne, who resigned September 14 to ac-

cept a job in Cumberland County.

According to Wood, the Health Board has had its share of trouble finding a qualified applicant to fill the position.

The board was on the verge of hiring a replacement about a month ago; however, that applicant accepted a job with North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill the day before he was to be hired in Hoke County, Wood said.

Another applicant was not recommended by Dr. Ronald H.

Levine, of the state Health Services and Human Resources Department.

Although Levine does not have the final say on who is or is not hired to the position, that applicant did not have a Masters Degree of any sort which is a part of the requirements for a person to be considered for the position, Wood said.

Levine said that applicant "is not qualified to be a Health Director," Wood said.

(See HEALTH, page 7A)

Questions surround IEA position

By Ed Miller

There is a "high probability" that the Hoke County Board of Education will get a recommendation for a new Indian Education Act (IEA) Director at their next meeting, according to county School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson.

Applications have been received and interviews are scheduled for next week, Nelson said Monday.

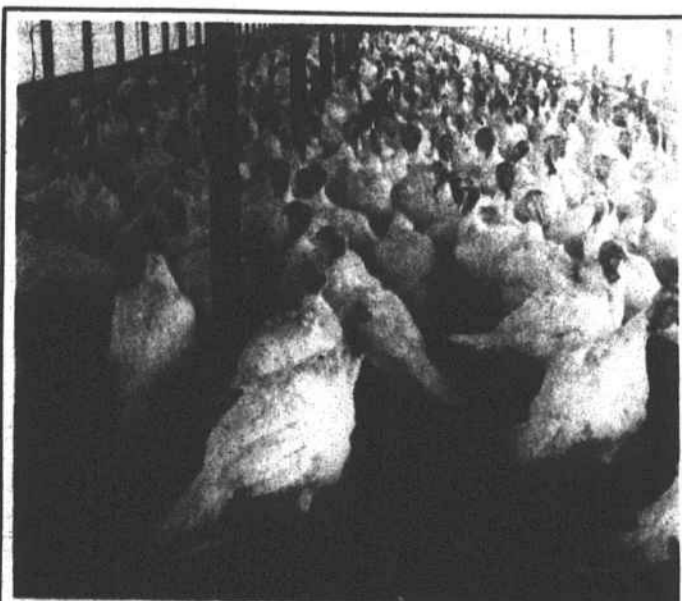
Nelson has met with the Indian Education Advisory Committee and has gotten their recommendation.

That committee has named Jerry Oxendine as their choice for the

job, said Nelson.

Oxendine has submitted an application for consideration, Nelson confirmed, but would not comment further.

According to County Commissioner James Albert Hunt and others in the Indian community, (See IEA, page 7A)



Time for turkeys

As the day traditionally known as "Turkey Day" draws near, the question "where do they all come from?" is asked frequently. On page 1 of the B Section of today's News-Journal, we examine the operation of Hoke County's Tarheel Hatcheries in an attempt to answer the question.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

This column is being written early because of the Thanksgiving holiday, so no weather report. I will write about the resignation of Robert Gatlin as the observer for the National Weather Service.

Gatlin became the observer on January 15, 1979 and continued reporting until his stroke on September 23, 1984. He reported the temperature and rainfall for the county to Washington every day at 12 noon. He said that he must have made approximately 1800 calls during his tenure. He still has all the records that he kept during the approximately six years of reporting. Robert said that they were available for anyone to check if they needed to know about the temperatures or rainfall for the past six years.

According to his records the lowest temperature was 6 degrees on Christmas 1983. The highest (See AROUND, page 7A)