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Mobile classrooms violate Raeford zoning ordinances

By Ed Miller

Mobile classrooms stationed on the campus J.W. Turlington School this fall apparently violate municipal zoning codes and could set a precedent for future uses.

There are sections of the Raeford City Zoning Ordinance that prohibit the establishment of mobile homes in areas zoned residential, and Turlington school falls in one of those zones, Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips said.

Although Raeford officials were not consulted before the units were placed on the campus, there are no plans to correct the problem at the school, Phillips said.

The mobile units could be used by others to establish a precedent for future zoning challenges, City Attorney Palmer Wilcox said.

Efforts will be made to correct the problem in the new zoning ordinance under consideration by the Raeford City Council, Wilcox said.

The proposed amendment may

be ready for the January City Council meeting, Wilcox said.

"It can be ironed out without a big controversy," said Wilcox.

According to school officials at the Hoke County Board of Education, they did not know there were any zoning laws governing the placement of trailers on school property.

"I'd consider a mobile classroom different from a trailer home," School Business Manager Don Steed said, adding that the classes are temporary.

Temporary trailers, such as construction offices and equipment storage receptacles, are allowed to be placed in the city, but temporary building permits must be obtained from the city Zoning Administrator and these permits must be renewed every 30 days, according to the Raeford Zoning Ordinance.

Neither did school officials file the original forms, nor are they renewing any temporary building permits, said Phillips.

"We are basically ignoring it," said Phillips of the current situation.

"We have not gotten a lot of heat on the matter," he said.

According to Steed, the public had full knowledge of the trailers being moved onto the school ground while it was happening.

It should have been brought to the attention of school officials at that time, said Steed.

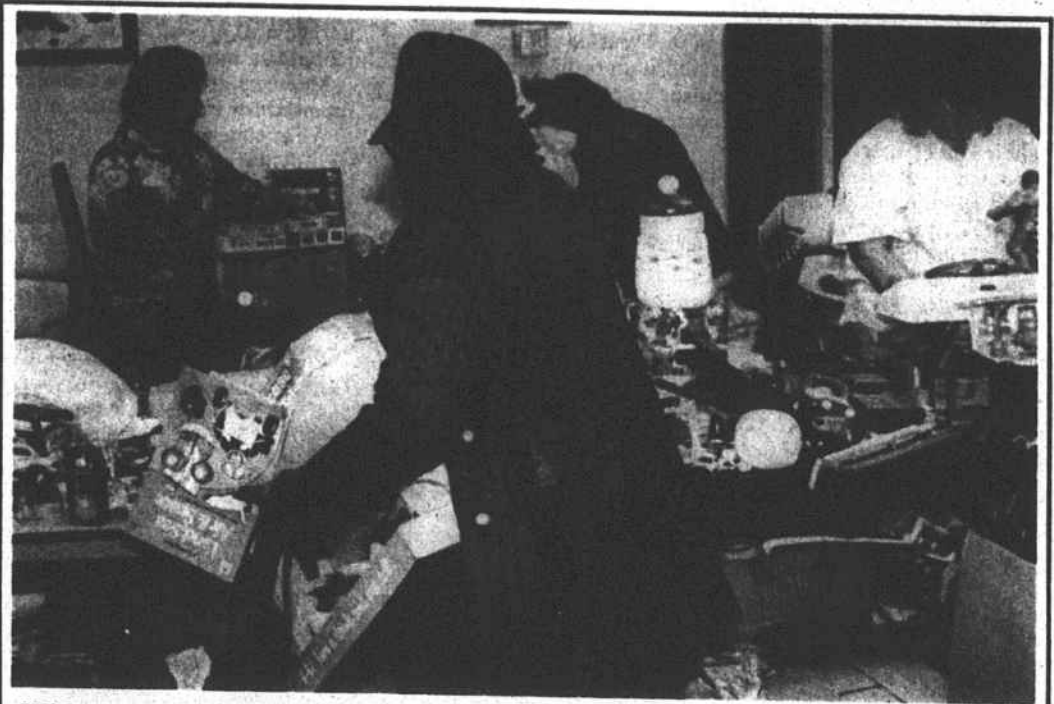
There are also some questions in the minds of school and city officials as to whether city zoning laws have any jurisdiction over school property.

"If we wanted to fight, we could probably win the battle, but we might lose the war," said Phillips.

City officials have no intention of attempting to make the Hoke County Board of Education move the trailers, said Phillips.

The basic concern, on the part of the manager, is that someone else might see the trailers at Turlington and argue that since the

(See TRAILER, page 12)



Wide spread seasonal cheer

This was how it looked at distribution time last Thursday as this year's Share Your Christmas program drew to an end. Residents from all over Hoke County received gifts just as people from all around the county gave them. The program was sponsored

by Raeford's Woman's Club with some assistance from the Department of Social Services. This year's give away made Christmas possible for about 1,000 of this county's needy.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Maybe most of us would have liked cooler weather for Christmas Day, but it was just right for the children that got outdoor toys from Santa. The thermometer was standing at 65° as this column was being written Christmas afternoon. It also made it nice for people that didn't have fuel over the holidays.

Just wait around all you folks that want cold weather; it will arrive before you know it.

John Plummer was by the office last week and asks for some help on the following project.

It seems that efforts are being made to organize a Hoke County Community Chorus. Once this adult group is assembled it would perform at community events, churches and for civic clubs. Interested adults should call John Plummer at 875-2677.

This should be a worthwhile project for Hoke County, so you singers contact Plummer.

The following letter was received last week and we will comment on it at the end of the letter.

"I have let my subscription expire and would like to renew it. Having just reached the ripe old age of eighty, I assume that I am eligible for the senior citizen rate.

"Just in case you have not received information concerning Dr. Jane T. Carswell and her fine award, I am enclosing a clipping from *The News and Observer* on the subject. I am certain she is the daughter of the Reverend A.D. Carswell, the last pastor of Sandy Grove Church.

"Mr. Carswell and my father, Martin A. Patterson, compiled a history of Sandy Grove and he preached the funeral services of both my mother and my father. Consequently, I was very much pleased to read of the great success of Dr. Carswell."

The letter was from A.M. Patterson, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) who since his retirement has lived in Raleigh. Alex Patterson went from Raeford to the U.S. Naval Academy in the 1920s. His father and mother lived in the house now occupied by the Mercer family on E. Prospect Avenue.

The article on Dr. Carswell appeared in last week's paper. It did not state that the Rev. Mr. Carswell preached at Sandy Grove Presbyterian Church. This church is in the Fort Bragg reservation and I can remember going there on the fifth Sunday to preaching. Mr. Carswell did the preaching. He preached every other Sunday at Shiloh and Bethel Churches. The fifth Sunday was for Sandy Grove.

The Blues, Camerons, McKeithans, Pattersons, Monroes, McVickers, Gillises, etc. were the members of Sandy Grove. Most

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here's to our acquaintances, old and new,
who have made each day a little happier
for us. Happy New Year!

The staff of -
The News-Journal

Modern tech forces changes

By Ed Miller

Modern technology is prompting Raeford officials to take a look at the 10-year-old municipal zoning ordinance, which does not contain regulations for such items as space dish receivers, City Manager Tom Phillips said last week.

If the new ordinance is accepted by the Raeford City Council, the old one, passed in 1974, will be thrown out, said Phillips.

The ordinance, now in the draft stage, will be brought up for discussion at the January 8 City Council meeting, Phillips said.

The draft of the new proposal will first have to be read by the City Council. Public hearings will also have to be held, Phillips said, adding that the earliest the proposal may become law is in February.

"I don't expect it to pass that soon," said Phillips.

There is a possibility that the ordinance may not pass at all, the manager said.

"I've seen zoning ordinances take two years to pass. I've also

seen them adopted after the public hearing," Phillips said.

According to the City Manager, the Raeford City Council could read the ordinance and decide to make changes.

In that case, there would have to be another waiting period until the council met again.

"The City Council may want other public hearings if there are changes made," Phillip said.

The major significance to come from the new ordinance is in areas where there were no problems when the old ordinance was passed, said Phillips.

Satellite dishes and portable signs posed no problems in 1974, said the manager.

The new ordinance will also give city officials more ability to enforce restrictions and regulations, said Phillips.

"It (the new ordinance) is a much more detailed, comprehensive plan," he said.

Currently, there is no subdivision ordinance for Raeford, the manager said.

There is one included in the new code, he said.

The ordinance will be a useful tool for developers who may want to do some building in Raeford.

"An effort has been made to give developers a direction that the city would like to see" when taking on projects, said Phillips.

Subdivision planning will help with fire protection, according to the manager.

As an example, the manager said that if a 22-story building was erected in Raeford, the developing contractor would have to build in fire protection because none of the surrounding area fire departments would be able to fight a blaze on a high floor.

The subdivision ordinance would also place a required distance to be left between houses for fire protection.

The proposed ordinance will work to protect everyone, said Phillips.

"The ordinance is a tool to do a job with," the City Manager said.

Child assault charged following argument

A Lumber Bridge man was out of jail Monday after being charged with assaulting a child during the week before Christmas.

Phillip D. Ray, 20, posted a \$100 bond and was never put in jail, a spokesman for the Hoke County Sheriff's Department said.

On the night of December 18, Ray was visiting the home of Ethel Baldwin when an argument allegedly started between

Baldwin's daughter and the suspect, sheriff's reports say.

Baldwin and her six-year-old son, who had been sitting in another room, went to see what the commotion was about when they allegedly heard a slap from the room of the argument, reports say.

When Baldwin and the small child stepped into the room, Ray allegedly hit the child with his hand in the head sending the youngster

to the floor, according to reports.

The child was taken to a neighbor's house, and Baldwin reported the act to authorities, reports say.

In an unrelated incident, a Raeford woman is out of jail on \$1,000 bond after stabbing a man in the upper left arm.

Rose Marie McNeill, 22, allegedly stabbed Norman McNeill and was charged with assault with a

deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Mr. McNeill had to be rushed to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center where emergency surgery was performed on his wounds, Hoke County Detective Weaver Patterson said in his report.

Although the report was very detailed as to locations and officers responding, circumstances surrounding the stabbing were unclear.

Further crime includes eight break-ins reported to the Sheriff's Department during the week before Christmas.

On December 17, Upchurch Junior High School was apparently broken into and a video tape recorder was reported missing.

According to reports, a window in the library of the school was

(See WIFE, page 9)

Red Springs man jailed for checks

A Red Springs man was convicted in Hoke County District Court last week of 10 counts of writing worthless checks and has received 10 consecutive 30-day sentences in jail.

W. F. Baxley bounced \$405 worth of bad checks during July and August of this year, according to court records and warrants for his arrest.

According to warrants, eight of the checks were written to the same store and four of them were cashed on the same day.

Dixie One Stop cashed the bad checks for Baxley, court records say.

Two of the checks were made payable to Jerry Adams, according to records.

Baxley will be spending 300 days in jail, records say.

Another Red Springs man was sentenced to two years in prison after being convicted of his fourth

offense of driving while impaired (DWI).

Archie Issac McMillian was arrested on November 23 on the charge, records say.

The 50-year-old man has appealed his sentence to Hoke County Superior Court, according to records.

In other court action last week, Carlos E. Jimenes, of Raeford was sentenced to no less than 12 and no more than 18 months in jail for stealing two coats and a pair of gloves from Raeford's Maxway Store and a bottle of champagne and a package of cheese from the nearby A&P food store.

The 31-year-old man had not filed an appeal in the case as of last Friday, records say.

Jimenes was arrested on December 16, according to records.

Three more cases of shoplifting were heard in District Court last week, according to records.

Joseph Mack Teal, of Raeford, who was arrested on November 17 after apparently stealing a pair of shoes from Raeford's Sky City, received a six month sentence suspended for two years unsupervised probation.

The 27-year-old man was also fined \$50 and ordered by District Court Judge Warren Pate to perform 24 hours of community service.

James Harley Caulder was sentenced to six months in jail suspended for two years unsupervised probation after being convicted of trying to take two bottles of shampoo and some camera film from A&P.

According to court records, Caulder, 46, was also fined \$100.

A 17-year-old Raeford man was given a six month suspended sentence, two years unsupervised probation and 48 hours of community service to perform after being

(See BAD CHECKS, page 9)



Hello there

Hoke County Representative Danny DeVane seems to have a face full of mullet as well as getting his hands into the act at the recent roast. Charles D. McNeill (fireside) and an unidentified helper stake out the fish around a bed of coals for, what has been said to be, a good tasting dinner. See more about the mullet on page 6 of today's News-Journal.