

... Hoke County was better off in 1984

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The old Bank of Raeford building was considered to be a suitable site for a college satellite branch. The location was given a green light by Sandhills College, but an architectural study was ordered. The Southern Pines architects later put a high price tag on the renovations needed to make the building suitable for classes. The building was dropped as a location for the school.

Lead and other hazardous waste was removed from illegal dump sites in Ashley Heights after tests showed the area was still dangerous.

About 4,000 persons crowded onto the grounds of Raeford Sand and Gravel for the first of a series of Mud Marathons.

Hoke officials defended a policy which requires some employees to live inside the county borders, and noted that all but 17 of the 231 workers living elsewhere worked for the school system.

A 20-member study committee recommended that Turlington School be closed and Upchurch Junior High be renovated and expanded.

April

Although some wind caused minor damage to a few rural barns, Hoke County escaped the ravages of the tornadoes which destroyed Red Springs and other communities in North and South Carolina.

Thomas A. Phillips was hired to take over as the Raeford City Manager. The 39-year-old Phillips had been the manager in Troy.

After months of delays, an agreement was finally reached between the city and the county on the future operation of the Raeford-Hoke Airport. A commission was appointed to oversee the facility.

Members of the study committee outlined a 10-year plan for renovating school buildings, which included a \$2.5 million bond issue.

After holding out for a month, Raeford City Council members agreed to renew a 60-year franchise agreement with Carolina Power and Light (CP&L).

May

Voter registration in the county had increased by more than 600 for the May primary elections. Local incumbents were returned to office during the May 8 balloting which saw 49% of those registered voting.

The beginnings of a Hoke County community festival got off the ground in May with the First Annual Hoke Heritage Hobnob. One highlight of the event was a performance by the Embers.

Raeford businesses closed as mourners turned out in large numbers to attend the last rites of Chamber of Commerce Director Earl N. Fowler. The 55-year-old Fowler died on May 5 of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Raeford Parachute School operator Gene Paul Thacker was charged with conspiring to traffic \$14 million in cocaine through the Raeford Airport. The case, which was brought by the State of Florida, had not come to trial by year's end.

Friends raised a \$250,000 bond,

and Thacker was released from jail.

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education submitted to the county commission a 26.9% increase in the school operating budget.

The community was shocked to learn the news that Hoke High history teacher Robert Taylor was under investigation for child pornography shortly before he killed himself.

Fund raising for the United Way campaign fell behind and did not meet an anticipated goal of \$26,000.

A Raeford man was arrested and charged with killing his 33-year-old wife with a shotgun. Charges against Larry Donald McCain, 32, were later dropped for lack of evidence.

June

In ceremonies held June 8, 240 Hoke High seniors received diplomas and listened to Dr. Robert E. Leach deliver the graduation address.

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted to approve the construction of a new park near Burlington Mills. Although the opening of the facility was predicted for fall, the work had not started by the end of the year.

A First Responder program was tabled for the third time in June by the commissioners and had not been passed by the end of 1984.

Raeford City Councilmen voted to raise the municipal tax rate by one cent despite knowledge of surplus unbudgeted revenues which would be received from a state one-half cent sales tax rebate.

After 19 years of public service, Ellen Willis retired as a Hoke County Extension Agent.

Leases at the Raeford-Hoke County Airport were cancelled as members of the newly formed Airport Commission took charge of the facility.

An apartment once owned by Commissioner James Albert Hunt burned to the ground. The dwelling was not in a fire district, but volunteers from seven departments fought the blaze in 90° temperatures.

An interim budget was passed by the county commission to meet a June 30 deadline.



Little dusting
Snow covered the streets of Raeford during the early spring, but most of the weather in 1984 for Hoke County was mild.

July

A new garbage ordinance was approved by the county commission. It was hoped that the new law would help keep dumpsters clean and cut cost of disposing of unauthorized dumping.

Jump school owner Gene Paul Thacker was arraigned in Florida on charges of trafficking in cocaine.

Hoke County received \$135,000 in state "pork barrel" funds following the short legislative session.

The money would help with the renovation of the courthouse, which had not started by year's end, and with several other projects.

A \$5.46 million budget was finally approved by the county commission in July. The new funding included a five cent tax rate hike.

Work began on \$119,000 in roof repairs for county schools.

Board of Education members announced that Hoke County would attempt to be one of the pioneer counties for a teacher tenure program. The board also adopted the largest budget in the county school's history.

A nine-year-old Rockfish girl, Angela Christine Wright, was killed and her mother and brother seriously injured after the car in which they were riding was hit broadside by a truck.

James Martin resigned as county manager to take a similar post in Robeson County.

A local summer youth theatre group dazzled audiences with per-

formances of "Broadway Our Way."

August

Birds and marijuana filled the pages of August news.

County officials found pigeons, roosting on the courthouse, unruffled by \$700 bird repelling devices, while local law enforcement officers found a large quantity of marijuana growing behind a chicken coop.

Raeford attorney Phil Diehl noted in a letter to the county commission that the courthouse did not meet standards for access for the handicapped. The county took bids for the work to repair the facility, but by year's end nothing had been done.

A Red Springs area man was charged after officers found 161 pounds of marijuana in his smoke house, and Commissioner James Albert Hunt was charged with leading a Robeson County deputy on a high speed chase.

The school board considered buying property behind Upchurch School, but no action was taken, and both Raeford and the county lost bids to gain state Community Development funds.

A delegation of local residents and officials met with Governor James B. Hunt in an effort to get state funds for the widening of US Highway 401.

As the bells rang to open another school year, administrators announced a plan to help improve the county's CAT scores.

September

When September got underway, county Health Director Lloyd Horne resigned his post to accept a position in Cumberland County. Horne had been under pressure to move his residence to Hoke when the resignation came.

A plan to form an industrial recruiting group was announced and approved by the county commission, the Raeford Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

Raeford resident Robert Daniels was injured in a Moore County accident while riding in a Hoke County Ambulance. Daniels died in December.

Don Michael Woods was charged with the killing of his wife. The case did not come to trial in 1984.

Despite a bid by the Hoke County Historical Society, the old Bank of Raeford building was sold to Bobby Carter by United Carolina Bank. At year's end Carter had not announced his plans for the structure.

A New Bern man was killed in a traffic accident on U.S. 401, and efforts continued to get the road widened.

A bid to gain higher wages for deputies, which was launched by Sheriff Dave Barrington, was put on hold by the county commission.

James Alton Watkins, 26, was sentenced to five years in jail for scalding the arms of a three-year-old child.

The DSS board of directors adopted new guidelines for foster parents, and members of the Hoke Historical Society aired plans to establish an historic district in Raeford.

October

The recreation director in Cabarrus County was hired as the new county manager. William Cowan took over during the month in the position vacated by James Martin.

After 52 years on the local scene, Hoke Auto announced that it was closing its doors. The business is for sale, but no takers had been found in 1984.

As the November general election neared, county voter registration continued to increase more than 500 since the June primaries.

A turkey processing plant, which was announced for the Goldsboro area, is expected to help the local producing business in Hoke County. Jobs would be created and local growers would have to increase production, Tarheel Hatchery owner Wyatt Upchurch said.

County Tax Supervisor Larry Holt resigned his post. Holt was also under pressure to move his residence to the county.

An investigation of the Raeford sewer system revealed that the city was treating about 1 million gallons more per day than it was selling to water customers.

In a move to improve radio communications, Hoke County moved its ambulance sponsorship from Cape Fear Valley Hospital to Moore Memorial Hospital.

Commissioner Hunt plead guilty to reckless and careless driving charges in Robeson County and was fined \$100.

A call was put out for needed foster care parents by the Department of Social Services.

November

Former school teacher Shirley Gibson and grocer Eddie McNeill won seats on the Hoke County Board of Education. Incumbent Ruth McNair was defeated.

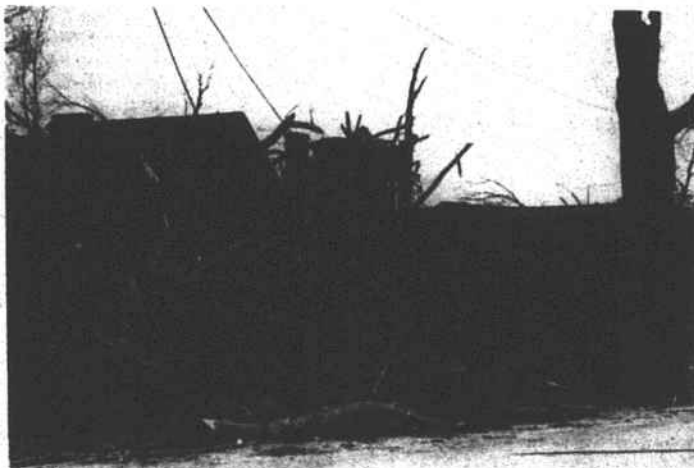
Commissioner Neil McPhatter's home was destroyed by fire. The dwelling was also in a non-protected area of the county.

A former Teacher of the Year, Ethelyn Baker was fired after hearings before the school board.

Efforts to raise the rates charged to cable television customers received a setback after the Raeford City Council rejected a proposal from Alert Cablevision. The rate hike had not been approved despite other tries by the end of the year.

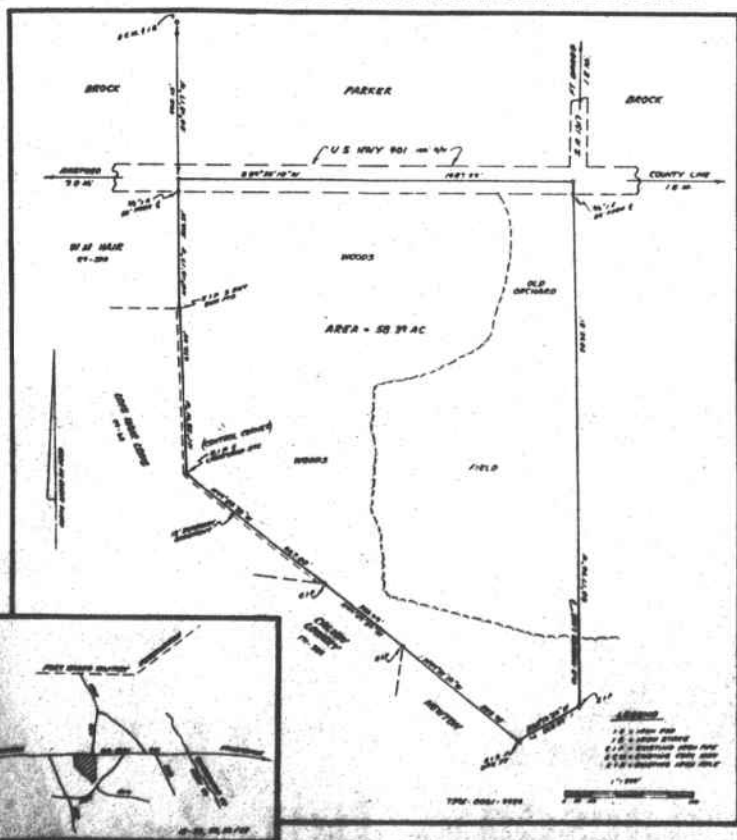
Fl. Bragg commanding Gen. James J. Lindsay announced his support for the widening of US Highway 401. The general wrote a letter to state DOT Secretary William R. Roberson endorsing a four-lane stretch between Raeford and the Cumberland County line.

Questions were raised by residents of the Indian community (See YEAR, page 7)



Wrapped in wire
This person seems to be trapped by down lines as he inspects tornado damage near Flora Macdonald Academy in Red Springs. The storm which devastated the community, and the helping hand given by thousands of volunteers was one of the big stories of 1984.

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS



JUDICIAL SALE MALLIE KINLAW LAND

Bids To Be Submitted To:
Charles A. Hostetter, Trustee
Post Office Box 277
Raeford, North Carolina 28376
By: 12:00 o'clock noon
January 15, 1985

Tobacco Allotment
(1984) 3031 lbs.
58.39 acres
SEE SURVEY

TERMS OF SALE
1. All bids may be rejected, if deemed inadequate by Trustee.
2. Subject to ten (10) day upset period as required by law.
3. Subject to confirmation of court.
4. Ten Per Cent (10%) of bid price required as deposit
IF BID SUBMITTED TO COURT FOR APPROVAL BY TRUSTEE.

ANY INFORMATION DESIRED
CALL TRUSTEE AT 875-2142
Charles A. Hostetter
Trustee for MALLIE KINLAW

IT'S OUR

Anniversary

FOOD SALE

We Specialize In Fresh Cut Meats

T-BONE STEAK 2 ⁹⁹ lb.	SIRLOIN STEAK 2 ⁷⁹ lb.	GRADE A FRESH FRYERS 39¢ lb.
WHOLE SMOKED PICNICS 79¢ lb.	FRESH HOMEMADE SAUSAGE 1 ⁰⁹ lb.	GLENDALE SUGAR 5 lb. bag 99¢ <small>limit 1 bag w/\$10 grocery order</small>
LUTER BARBECUE 12 oz. 1 ⁶⁹	JENO FROZEN PIZZA 99¢	BANNER BRAND SAUSAGE 10 oz. can 2/1 ¹⁹
ROYAL SCOTT MARGARINE 2/99¢	MERICO BUTTER ME NOT BISCUITS 9 1/2 oz. size 2/99¢	YELLOW ONIONS 3 lb. bag 59¢
GASOLINE Reg. 96. ⁹ Unleaded 1.07 ⁹	We Accept WIC VOUCHERS FOOD STAMPS	FRESH LEAN GROUND BEEF 99¢ lb. <small>(NO LIMIT)</small>
	HOURS: 9 A.M. - 10 P.M. SUN. 7:30 A.M. - 10 P.M.	WE HAVE K-1 WHITE KEROSENE

Prices Good Thru Jan. 12

Hardin Food Store

Rockfish, N.C. (Beside Fire Station)