

Chamber breakfast honors delegation

Hoke County will not be forgotten when the North Carolina Legislature cranks up this week in Raleigh, members of the local Legislative Delegation told a group gathered Saturday morning at a Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce sponsored appreciation breakfast.

The delegation members, along with Hoke County and Raeford elected officials and local leaders sat down and exchanged views over sausage and ham biscuits during the breakfast held at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant.

Representatives Pete Hasty, Sidney Locks, Danny DeVane and Sen. David Parnell all told the group they would attempt to look out for the interests of Hoke County during the current session of the Legislature.

Local leaders are expected to ask the Delegation for state funds to remodel the Hoke County Courthouse, as well as aid to fix up the new offices of the Chamber and the economic developer which will be located in the old Aberdeen-Rockfish Railroad Depot.

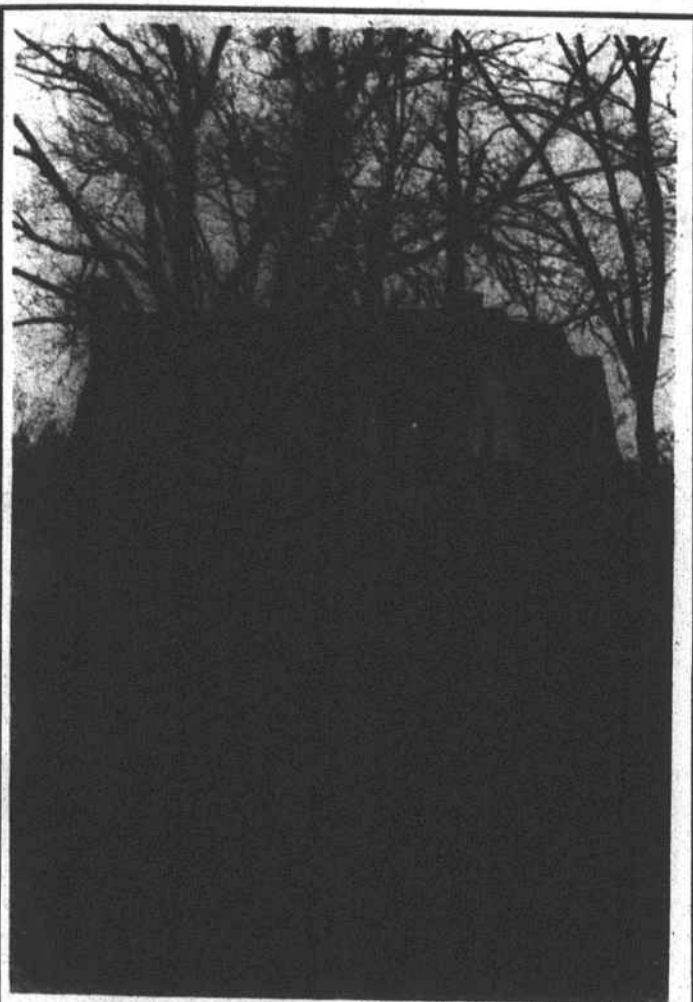
Requests are also expected to be made for help in staging the First Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival scheduled for Raeford on September 21.

On the agenda for this session of the 170-member Legislature will be to decide the fate of Governor Jim Martin's proposal to cut the intangible tax and state sales taxes on food and non-prescription medicine.

Both cuts, if not replaced with other funding, could severely hurt money coming to the cities and counties.

At Saturday's breakfast, local officials expressed concern about the cuts.

All county commission, city council and school board members attended the function, except: County Commissioners James Albert Hunt and Cleo Bratcher, Chamber President and City Councilman Benny McLeod, City Councilmen Joe Upchurch and Bob Gentry and school board members Walter Coley and Eddie McNeill.



Nice lawn

Outside of Raeford, surrounded by ice covered fields Tuesday, sits the home of the man who invented the Smith Plow. The plow was a featured exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair in October. With temperatures like they were Tuesday, the plow may not even break ground.

Deaths & Funerals

Murray V. Hedgpeth

Murray Vardell Hedgpeth, 79, died Monday evening in Moore Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were to be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Raeford First Baptist Church by Rev. Billy Beaver.

Burial was to be in the Raeford Cemetery.

Survivors are his wife: Mrs. Blanche Floyd Hedgpeth of the home; five sons: Bobby Hedgpeth of Red Springs; Jimmy Hedgpeth of Laurinburg; Charles Hedgpeth of Raeford; Vardell Hedgpeth Jr. of Raeford and Steve Hedgpeth of Raeford and 15 grandchildren.

Crumpler Funeral Home assisted the family.

Mabel McInnis

Mrs. Mabel (Jeff) McInnis, 70, died Friday in Charlotte.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday at the Dundarrach Presbyterian Church by Rev. Daniel Deaton and Ben F. Ferguson.

Burial was in church cemetery.

Survivors are her husband: Daniel McInnis, of Key Largo, Florida; Julian H. McInnis of Pembroke Pines, Florida and Daniel M. McInnis of Orlando, Florida; four daughters: Mrs. Marie Pyatt, of Oakland, California; Mrs. Dana Dearce, Miami, Florida; Mrs. Phyllis Slocum of Lithonia, Georgia and Mrs. Pat

Himsl of Charlotte; one brother; Wilson Hubbard of Long Branch, New Jersey; five sisters: Mrs. Mildred Roberson of Norfolk, Virginia; Mrs. Hallie Jones of Long Branch, New Jersey; Mrs. Lillian Matthews of Wade; Mrs. Danny Deaton of Maxton, (Annie Merle) and Mrs. Dick Prevall of Lumberton, N.C. (Vivian); 15 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Crumpler Funeral Home served the family.

Henry M. Hobson

A 71-year-old Florida man died Sunday morning at Tyndall Air Force Base following a long illness.

Funeral services for Henry Hobson, of Beacon Hill, will be held at 2 p.m. central standard time at the First United Methodist Church in Mexico Beach.

Hobson was retired from the United States Air Force and had lived in Beacon Hill for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Hobson, of Beacon Hill; one son, Henry T. Hobson, of Milton, Florida; two brothers, Stacy Hobson of Raeford and Howard C. Hobson, of Milledgeville, Georgia and one grandson.

Hobson will be buried in the family plot in the Holly Hill cemetery in Port St. Joe, Florida, with full military honors accorded.

Arrangements were made by Gilmore Funeral Home in Port St. Joe.

... Around Town

(Continued from page 1) about the deer, I will let you know.

Dr. Jane Carswell of Lenoir and a native of Raeford was honored again this week when she was named 'Tar Heel of the Week' by the Raleigh News & Observer.

In the article it stated that Dr. Carswell was born in Raeford and we always like to see Raeford and Hoke County get this type of news coverage.

If you haven't read the article, it would be worth your time to search out a copy of the paper and do so.

John Balfour, chairman of the Hoke County Commissioners, was by the office Monday and it just happened I was in at the same time. I told John that this was the first time this year we had seen each other. Usually we will run together on the golf course, but the cold and rainy weather has put a stop to golf for the time being. Balfour said he had been to San

Antonio, Texas for a meeting of the Cotton Council. He stated he didn't like what came from the meeting.

The news concerning the farmers has not been good recently. Most of us, have been hearing and reading about tobacco, but now it seems that the cotton picture isn't too good either.

Let's hope that the future for the farmers will brighten, because as history will tell, if the farmer falls, it will be the start of a bad time for all businesses.

I can't remember the ACC basketball standings being as close as this year. All the teams are good and on any given night, one team can defeat another. This should mean a super tournament in Atlanta.

An estimated 170,000 coronary artery bypass surgeries are performed in America each year, according to the American Heart Association.

... Board appointed

(Continued from page 1) board were also picked by the commissioners during the meeting.

This move stirred up the dander of one spectator.

Linda Soper said: "Why don't the people of Hoke County get to vote to see who is on the Planning Board?"

The County Commission has the power to establish the board and to choose who is on it, County Attorney Duncan McFadyen answered.

Soper accused the last Planning Board of being void and null.

She also alleged that members of the old Planning Board were chosen because they were friends of commissioners.

Expressing disfavor to mobile home parks that have recently moved into the area of Hoke where she lives, Soper said: "When I moved here, I didn't realize what a worthless piece of land I bought."

Commission Chairman John Balfour said: "You have a misconception of that planning board. There were some good members on it."

"It's imperative we move on with this ordinance. The Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Commission are in favor of it," said Industrial Commission Chairman Tom Howell.

"The Planning Board is actually a protection for the rural land owner," said Ralph Barnhart.

Barnhart was a County Commissioner when the original Planning Board was activated.

In choosing members for the current board, people from all areas of the county were selected.

Nominated to be on the new board were: Edgar Eden, Brown Hendrix Jr, Butch Posie, Buddy Newton, Henry Dial, Dwight Oxendine, Ann Ross, Bobby Strother, Walter Blue, Marcia Snow, Mabel Riley and Ralph Barnhart.

One position on the board was left open, Balfour said.

New board members will be informed of a training session by the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG) at the Robeson County Courthouse on February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Development backed

The commissioners also passed a resolution forming the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission and a proposed budget for that commission.

"We're ready to do our part for this commission," County Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Although results may not be immediate, "in the long run, this is the way we need to go," Tom Howell said.

During discussion of the budget proposal, Howell asked commission members to fund their share of a 75%-25% split of \$50,000. Hoke County's share of that

sum will be \$37,500, Howell said.

"This is exactly what is needed to get by during the first fiscal year of operations," Howell said.

"By the time the industrial director is hired, we need to know what kind of funding will be available," he said.

Commissioner James Albert Hunt made the motion to tentatively fund the commission saying: "We're 15 years behind now."

Fed satisfied

The County Commission also passed an Affirmative Action Plan thus saving federal money given to Hoke County.

At the last commission meeting, the board was warned that Hoke could lose federal money by not having a plan in effect.

Also, a plan must be in place to get any community development grants, said Vickie Tate, Personnel Specialist for the Lumber River COG.

Other matters

In further action, the commissioners:

- Accepted \$1,373.32 in additional Energy Assistance fund from Carolina Power & Light for the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS).

- Approved an additional \$5,960 in Crisis Intervention Funds for DSS.

- Appointed Wilson Harris, Tony Austin, Pat Scott and Earnest Goings to the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Committee.

- Reduced the amount given county employees who drive personal vehicles from \$.21 per mile to \$.20 per mile through June 31 when a new budget will be presented.

- Passed a motion to allow the County Manager, William Cowan, and a special committee to commission an architectural firm to draw up specifications and submit a bid on renovating the Hoke County Courthouse.

Smith honored

Capt. Steward A. Smith, son of Ida F. Smith of Rural Route 1, Lumber Bridge, has been decorated with the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The Air Force Commendation Medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement or meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Air Force.

Smith is a chaplain with the 14th Air Base Group.

He received a master's degree in 1976 from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest.

Blue finishes basic training

Pvt. Cardinal C. Blue, grandson of Mary Blue of Rural Route 1, Raeford, has completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

He is a 1983 graduate of Hoke County High School.

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