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Industry recruiter is named

By Ed Miller

Local resident John Howard was hired Monday as Hoke County's first full time Economic Developer.

The Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission chose Howard after screening many fine applicants, Commission Chairman Tom Howell said.

"After weighing all circumstances, we think we have made a good decision. We are eager to go to work as soon as possible on making the economic outlook of Hoke County good," Howell said.

As per a motion by Economic Commissioner and Raeford City Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth,

Howard was hired for \$25,000 per year.

Howard will fall under Hoke County's personnel policy, said Hedgpeth, adding that the Economic Commission will furnish him a car and that there will be a six-month probationary period placed on him.

A review by the economic commission at the end of the six month period will determine if the probation will be extended or revoked, said Hedgpeth.

According to Howell, Howard will also have planning responsibilities as dictated by the Economic Development Commission.

Howard will begin work on

April 1, said Howell.

The new 45-year-old recruiter has a good background in development.

Howard worked for American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) from January 1962 until May of 1980, he said in an interview Tuesday.

He has a B.S. Degree in Industrial Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

While with AT&T, Howard held various "interdepartmental assignments."

He began as a communications craftsman and ended his career with the company as a staff manager.

In between, he was an engineer-

ing associate, a sales supervisor, a national account manager, an industry specialist, a district plant supervisor, a district operations manager and a product manager with AT&T.

After leaving AT&T to settle in Hoke County, Howard owned and operated Howard Clothiers in downtown Raeford for three years.

Howard will begin his work for the county by drawing up a budget for the Economic Development Commission for presentation to the Hoke County Commission and by going over some outdated material being held on file at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce office.

Howard will also be working to get to know the management of existing local industries and businesses to let them know he is working for them, he said.

Since the death of Earl Fowler in May of last year, Hoke County has not had an organized industrial recruiting effort.

Fowler, who was the director of the Chamber, was on a limited budget and split recruiting time with local problems.

Most of the Chamber duties are now being handled by Executive Secretary Beverly Pasternak and by volunteer committees.

Hoke County has not landed a new industry since 1979, when Faberge settled in Raeford.



Developer John Howard

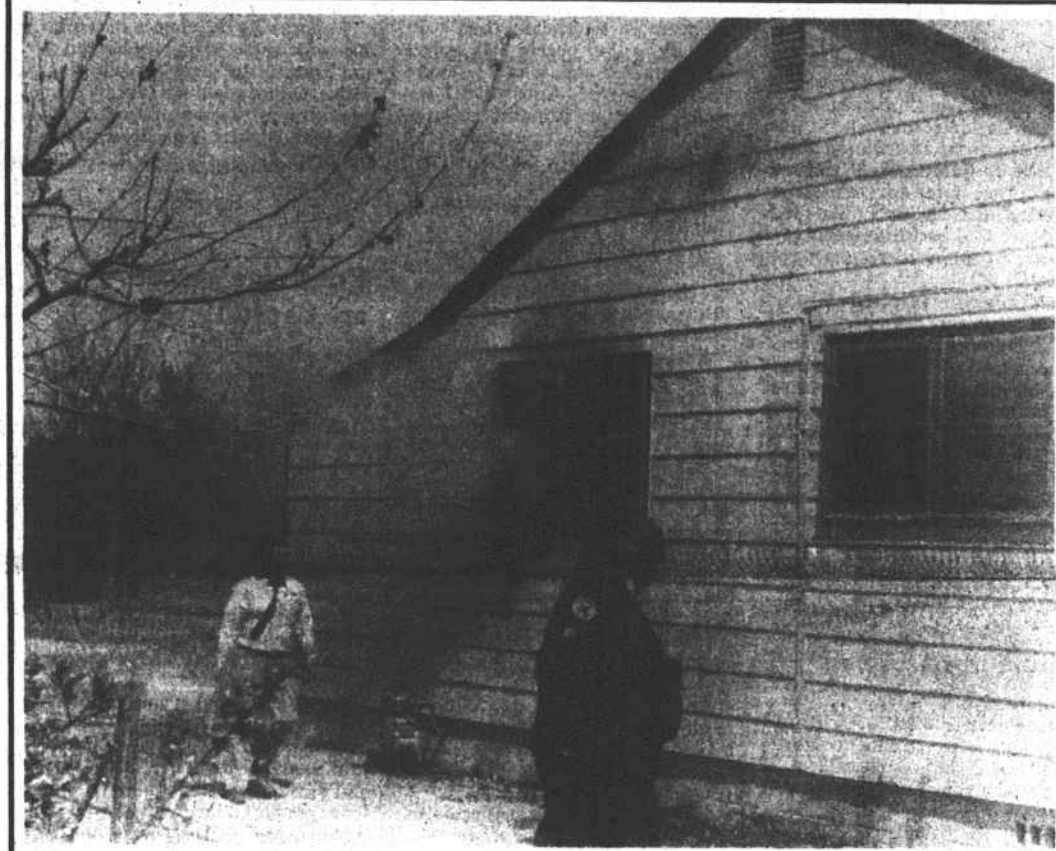


Photo by Pam Frederick

Hot morning

Raeford Policeman Earl Tindall and Volunteer Fireman Tommy Pickler survey fire damage to a house at East Fifth Avenue. According to Raeford Fire Marshall Terry Tapp, the fire, which started last Tuesday morning, did about \$10,000 damage to the house. The house was being rented to Cathy

Bratcher, said Tapp. Most of the actual fire damage was held within the kitchen area of the house, but there was heat and smoke damage throughout the house, said Tapp. There is a possibility that a small hotplate in the kitchen shorted out and started the fire, he said.

Expanded phone service tied to economic future

Local telephone service between the Raeford exchange and Fayetteville would insure the future economic survival of Hoke County, about 20 "concerned" residents and officials told Carolina Telephone Company representatives Monday.

The group, which is hoping to launch a grassroots campaign to connect the 875 exchange to Fayetteville and Ft. Bragg, noted that the service must be established to open the county for new residents and taxpayers.

"Not having the phone service is one of the main reasons that this county is in the economic shape that it is," state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane said.

Hoke County is ranked 100 in North Carolina in per capita income and has a jobless rate of almost 12%.

Supporters of the switch in telephone service are hoping to connect Raeford to Fayetteville without an increase in the Fayetteville rates or a vote by the Cumberland County customers.

"A vote in Cumberland County would kill us," Hoke County Manager William Cowan said.

Currently Carolina Telephone is using a "matrix" method to establish the rates for the proposed service.

Those proposed rates would increase Raeford residential and commercial phone rates by 57%

and Fayetteville phones by 13%.

"Once EAS (Extended Area Service) is established calling will increase 10 times," Carolina Telephone representative Ben Ward said.

Because the calls would no longer be long distance, many Hoke County residents would call "Time of Day" or to find out what's on at the movies, Ward said.

Many county residents would also be calling doctors and needed services in Cumberland County, Hoke Department of Social Services Director Ken Witherspoon said.

"This county has about 2,500 elderly people on fixed income, who need to call medical specialists and the hospitals in Cumberland County," Witherspoon said.

A recent 30-day survey of the calls between the exchanges shows that 72.8% of the 4,761 customers on the Raeford exchange called Fayetteville at least once, Carolina Telephone local rate manager David Tharrington said.

Although only 8.7% of Fayetteville's 90,188 customers called Raeford, 7,800 persons called at least once during the survey period.

Only about 30% of the Raeford customers made six calls or more during the period.

"It takes about six calls per

month to make the change worthwhile," Ward said.

Carolina Telephone determined 38,315 calls were made during the period from Raeford to Fayetteville and \$28,399.26 was generated.

Overall long distance billing between the exchanges runs about \$53,000 per month or about \$634,000 per year, Tharrington said earlier.

On Monday, Tharrington confirmed the proposed rate increases would generate an additional \$1.76 million per year for Carolina Telephone.

However, although the firm has estimated local calls would be 10 times greater, Tharrington said there are no accurate figures to establish the cost of the equipment needed to connect Raeford to Fayetteville.

"That seems like a lot of equipment you're trying to recover," state Sen. David Parnell told the telephone representatives.

Parnell helped Parkton obtain local service with Fayetteville in 1976, and no vote was taken on the larger exchange.

Additional equipment needed to connect those exchanges cost Carolina Telephone \$250,000, Tharrington said earlier.

Parnell and DeVane are working with the local group to obtain the service, and, along with legislative

See PHONE, page 10A)

Child video testimony endorsed by Hoke DSS board

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) Board passed a resolution endorsing a proposed state law allowing children to video tape their testimony in cases where emotional damage may result from direct courtroom questioning.

"It's hard for an adult to stand the pressure when a lawyer is firing questions at you and trying to trip you up. It almost has to leave irreparable scars on a child," DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said Monday.

According to the law, being pro-

posed to the General Assembly, children under age 13 testifying in cases of child abuse, sexual molestation or incest may be allowed to be questioned on closed circuit television in a room away from the courtroom.

Only attorneys for the prosecution and defense and "those persons whose presence would contribute to the well being of the child" would be allowed in the room, a draft of the proposed law says.

Only attorneys and the judge may question the child, the draft says.

Persons operating the equipment must be behind a screen, mirror or in an adjacent room.

Defendants will be allowed to view the scene from the courtroom and will be allowed to confer with attorneys at "appropriate intervals" during questioning, but cannot be seen by the child.

The law also provides for video taping testimony.

Those persons allowed in the room for closed circuit broadcasts and the judge can be present for the taped session.

There are guidelines set up in the

draft for the taping of such sessions.

The approved resolution will be taken before the Hoke County Commission at their next meeting.

In an 1982 Hoke County case, charges had to be dropped, after a six-year-old alleged rape victim failed to answer questions in an open courtroom.

Although the child had repeatedly answered questions earlier before law enforcement officers, prosecutors and counselors, she was "unable to testify in court because of pressure from family

members and the public, court officials said at the time.

Had a video tape law been in force at the time of the trial, the outcome might have been different, prosecutors have said.

Member of the DSS Board recessed their meeting until next week when the balance of the 1985-86 budget can be fully explained.

The budget was not passed Monday.

According to Witherspoon, the total budget to be presented to the County Commission is over \$1.43 million.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been cool for the past couple of days. The rain helped and will cut down on the forest fires in the state. I don't know for sure how much rain we had over the past few days, but would guess about two inches.

The forecast is for the temperatures to climb to the high 70s during the week. This should be good for all outdoor activities. Not only are we talking about recreation, but also work.

Robert Gatlin, a member of the Raeford Kiwanis Club, told me Monday that members of the club now have tickets for sale to the cir-

(See AROUND, page 11A)



Inside today

Nothing shy about this coll. He stood still for a picture like he has some ham in him. For more about this coll and his friends, see page one, section B of Today's News-Journal.

Governor to be here as Chamber speaker

North Carolina Governor James G. Martin will be the guest speaker at this year's annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce dinner, a spokesman said Monday.

Martin will be the guest of honor at the annual dinner to be held on May 10, Chamber spokesman Steve Parker said.

The governor's office confirmed Monday that Martin would attend the dinner and would be in Raeford from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Preliminary plans on the details of the dinner were sketchy Monday, Parker said, noting that the Chamber had been waiting on the Governor to confirm a definite date.

Tickets will be sold to the event,

and the Chamber is hoping to accommodate more than 400, Parker said.

The annual dinner comes at a time when the Chamber is attempting to boost its membership, and hopes are that the governor's appearance will stimulate interests in the drive.

Currently the Chamber is actively involved in such projects as the widening of U.S. 401, establishing direct telephone service with Fayetteville, developing a college satellite in Hoke County, remodeling the Aberdeen-Rockfish Railroad depot, promoting downtown revitalization and coordinating the North Carolina Turkey Festival.



Here May 10

North Carolina Governor James G. Martin is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner to be held on May 10.

Depot gifts being urged

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce are encouraging interested residents to speed up donations to the restoration of the depot, a spokesman said this week.

"We want to get started with the work, and we need for people to go ahead and make their donations," acting Chamber Director Steve Parker said.

About \$6,500 has been received as of Monday, but much more is needed to make a significant effort in the restoration, Parker said.

Under the present plan, the 80-year-old depot would be remodeled to house the economic development office, the Chamber

(See GIFTS, page 11A)