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School remap plan draws parents' ire

By Ed Miller

About 15 parents attended Tuesday night's meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education to protest their children being sent to another school because of recent redistricting.

Board of Education members took no action to change the new districts.

Most of the parents were from the Scurlock section of the county where their children were taken out of Scurlock School and sent to South Hoke School.

Parents' main concern is that their children would have an hour bus ride each way, to the school and back.

Robert Blankenship, who lives in the area, has two daughters aged six and seven.

The children went to Scurlock last year, he said.

Blankenship and his wife work, he said.

Last year, the man took his children to school and brought them home in the afternoon, but that can no longer be possible because of South Hoke School's location, he said.

"I cannot see a six-year-old and a seven-year-old standing out on the road at 6:50 in the morning waiting for a school bus," Blankenship said.

In an effort to tell parents what the Board of Education did, School Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson showed the parents maps of the county, made up for the redistricting, where pins were located for every student in the county in kindergarten through the fifth grades.

"We had to move 75 children from Scurlock to South Hoke," Nelson told the parents.

Conditions were too crowded at Scurlock, said Nelson.

Parents were also on hand from the Cameron Heights Community.

Janet Hollingsworth Gibbs complained that the school board had tried to move their children a few years ago and an appeal to the board had made them change their minds.

Gibbs was also co-author of a letter, along with Gloria Hill, protesting the move.

There were 26 names included in the letter listed as "parents interested in their children remaining at J.W. McLaughlin School."

Some children in that area had to be moved to West Hoke School because of the crowded conditions at the downtown facility.

The children will be bussed seven miles instead of less than one, according to the letter.

"It's a whole lot of travelling for those little kids," Gibbs said in the meeting.

In an effort to meet the Board of Education "halfway," parents suggested that some of the children from McLaughlin be bussed to South Hoke and the Scurlock students be bussed to McLaughlin.

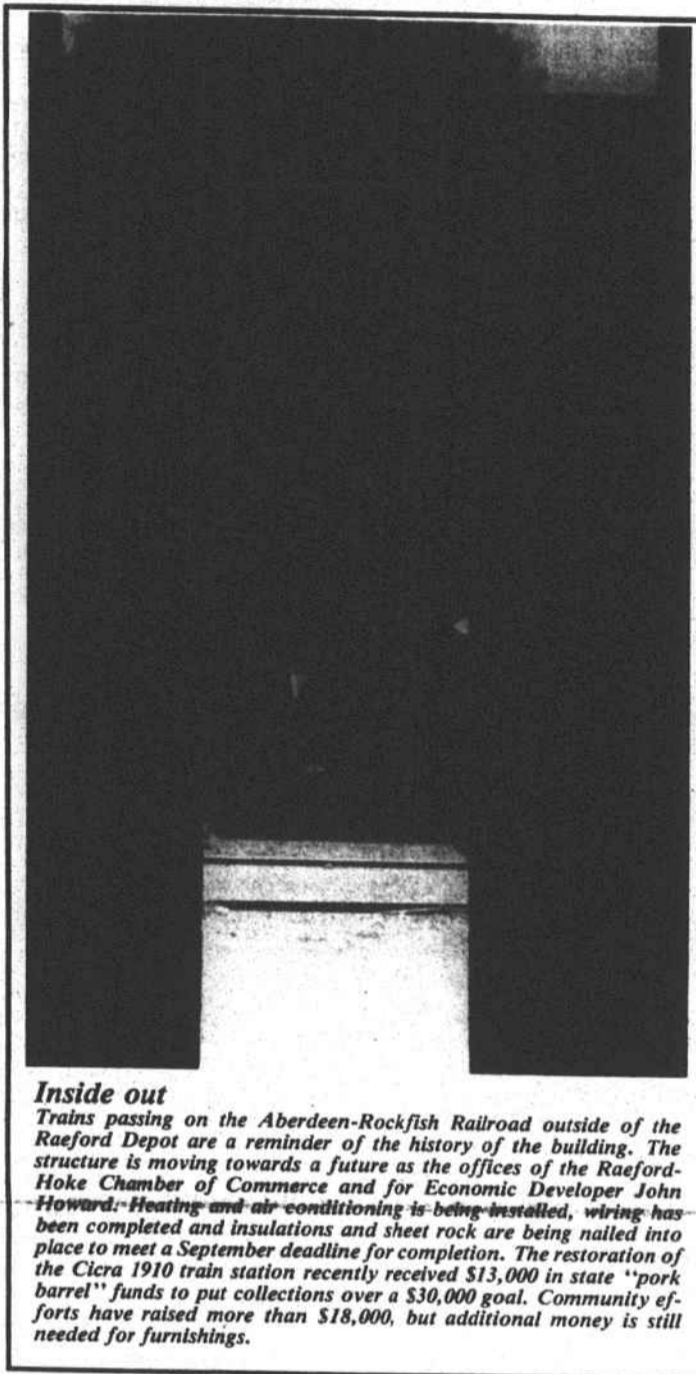
If that method is used both sets of children will have short bus rides, but none will have rides up to 20 miles, which is the case now.

Nelson explained that the redistricting was done in a manner that "seemed to be the least disruptive and most direct" way to solve the problem.

Nelson also said that this change in districting would not be the last.

"The zoning lines will have to be changed in the future," the superintendent said.

"I cannot assure you there will be no further changes, rather I can assure you that there will be more changes," said Nelson.



Inside out

Trains passing on the Aberdeen-Rockfish Railroad outside of the Raeford Depot are a reminder of the history of the building. The structure is moving towards a future as the offices of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and for Economic Developer John Howard. Heating and air conditioning is being installed, wiring has been completed and insulations and sheet rock are being nailed into place to meet a September deadline for completion. The restoration of the circa 1910 train station recently received \$13,000 in state "pork barrel" funds to put collections over a \$30,000 goal. Community efforts have raised more than \$18,000, but additional money is still needed for furnishings.

Bid for Tylertown falls short of mark

By Ed Miller

For the third consecutive year, Hoke County has lost a bid for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds needed to rehabilitate housing in the Tylertown area.

In the scoring processes used to determine who will get the grants, Hoke County scored 622 points out of a possible 1,000 and was 132 points behind the lowest funded community.

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted in May not to put any local money with the grant application and lost 100 points in the process.

The county's application ranked 139 out of the 176 applications submitted to the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), said NRCD spokesperson Penny Craver.

There are five different areas of an application that are considered for scoring, said Craver.

In the first area, "Community needs," Hoke County scored 102 points out of a possible 200, said Craver.

The scoring for that part of the application is based on census figures, and there is little that could have been done to raise the county's score on the section, Craver said.

In the "Project design" area of scoring, Hoke received 220 points out of a possible 400, Craver said.

Craver would not say exactly what in that part of the application caused Hoke's low score.

She did say scorers of the applications looked at four particular criteria for the section.

Scorers considered severity and treatment of need in the target area, as well as the economic impact of the rehabilitation work on the area and the entire community, Craver said.

The county scored a perfect 200

(See GRANT, page 13)

Monument reaching goal

By Ed Miller

Enough money has been raised to pay for the marble for a proposed war memorial to be placed on the grounds of the Hoke County Courthouse, but more is needed to buy additional materials.

Josh and Jay Pate, brothers working on their Eagle Scout projects, have reached an agreement with former Hoke resident and now noted photographer and sculptor Art Gore to construct the monument.

Gore has agreed to do the work for no cost except for materials.

The materials needed to build the monument are, according to Gore, rifles or weapons from all of the major powers participating in World War II.

Guns from Japan, Germany, Russia, Italy and the United States, will be needed said Gore Tuesday.

Gore himself has already located a German gun, he said.

The weapons will be placed in "a heaping pile," partially melted down and fused together, said Gore.

The guns will retain their original shape, he said.

"If we can find the weapons, I'm going to try to hold the cost to under \$3,000," said Gore.

One of Hoke's neighboring counties recently spent about \$50,000 for a war memorial.

The concept of the memorial

(See MONUMENT, page 12)

GSX: Few toxic waste trucks would travel through Hoke

By Ed Miller

Although Scotland County officials and opponents disagree, a spokesman for the GSX Corporation said Tuesday few trucks loaded with hazardous waste heading for a proposed treatment plant near Maxton will be passing through Hoke County.

"At this point, it's real difficult to say how much material will be going through Hoke County," GSX spokesman Dan Jones said.

"I don't look for a large amount

to be coming through your county," he said.

Most of the hazardous waste that will be going to the plant will be generated in the Charlotte area and will be traveling down U.S. Highway 74, said Jones.

Scotland County Manager, John Q. Byrd said: "They have implied that they would be coming in here with an unreasonable number of trucks from all directions."

"There's no reason to think they

wouldn't be coming through Hoke County," Byrd said.

Currently, GSX has made application to the state for permission to build their facility near the Laurinburg-Maxton Airbase, Byrd said.

The company has not applied locally, he said.

The Scotland manager said the water treated at the plant will be placed in the Lumber River.

According to Jones, the water placed into the river will have been

treated by GSX and, upon approval of officials, sent to the Laurinburg-Maxton Waste Treatment Plant where they will again treat it.

The waste treatment facility will actually put the water into the river, said Jones.

The material going into the plant will be 85% to 90% water anyway, said Jones.

Hazardous wastes taken out of the water at the facility will not

stay in Scotland County, said Jones.

It will be sent to a storage plant in Pinewood, South Carolina, he said.

"I know we've got to have a place for hazardous waste...but, let's not put it in a place that's not suited for it," said Byrd.

"We're in the Sandhills section, there's nothing to stop it (hazardous waste) from going right in the water if there's a spill," he said.

"The type of facility we're talk-

ing about is a concrete facility," said Jones.

Even materials spilled inside the facility would be contained fully and not allowed to contaminate the ground around the site, said Jones.

"It's something the majority of the people don't want. I haven't found anybody who does want it," said Byrd.

The outcomes of two public hearings in the area about the

(See WASTE, page 12)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The fall weather has left us and summer is once again here to stay for a few weeks. The temperatures have been in the 90s for the past few days and it has been around 70 degrees during the nights.

The rain seems to have moved off for a few days because no forecast predicts rain this week. The temperatures will remain in the 90s for the remainder of the week.

The Turkey Festival Committee will meet again at the Hoke County Library on Thursday night, August 15 at 7:30 o'clock. If you want to help with the festival or have some ideas that might help, then attend the meeting on Thursday night.

The PGA Championship turned into a two-player match last Sunday afternoon in Colorado. The players were Lee Trevino and Hubert Green, both of whom have been on the tour for a number of years. Green was the winner.

It is amazing how pro-golfers don't show any signs of pulling against another golfer. They do

(See AROUND, page 13)

Abounding humor
There are a lot of these buttons running around Raeford and Hoke County. Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill could be seen wearing one at last week's meeting of the city council. Rumors have it that turkey is a fowl word. Speaking of fowl, members of the North Carolina Turkey Festival Committee are looking for coaches for hopeful turkey Olympic champions. Those interested in coaching a bird may contact the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Wounded son recovers after mother shoots him

A Hoke County woman was in the Cumberland County Jail Monday under \$5,000 bond after being arrested and accused of shooting her son three times.

Elizabeth Cummings Willis, of Rt. 2, Box 143C, Raeford, has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, records say.

According to reports from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, Willis allegedly shot 23-year-old Billy Ray Willis in the right hip with a .22 calibre pistol.

Warrants for the 38-year-old woman were signed by Hoke Magistrate Brian H. Thornberg, reports say.

According to records from the Hoke County Clerk of Court's Office, Elizabeth Willis took out warrants on Billy Ray Willis on July 20 for assault by pointing a gun and assault on a female.

Those charges were dropped, records show.

In an unrelated incident, a Raeford man, 39-year-old Raymond Jones, was in the Hoke County Jail Monday under \$5,000 secured bond charged with stabbing another man while he slept,

said Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins.

Jones allegedly stabbed Mallie Graham, a 51-year-old resident of the Page Bank and Trust Building, Wiggins said.

Graham was stabbed in the right leg, said the chief.

Raeford police officers were contacted by Hoke County Emergency Services personnel.

According to Wiggins, the stabbing occurred over a domestic dispute.

Martine Locklear, a county resident, reported to the Sheriff's Department that he was assaulted by an apparent burglar after returning home on August 9.

Locklear came home and entered his house only to be hit in the head with some sort of weapon and knocked back out of the door, reports say.

The man told deputies that he then went to his brother's house nearby and returned to his home with a .357 magnum pistol.

As he entered his home for a second time, he heard the intruder leaving via the back door, say reports.

(See VICTIMS, page 12)



Sgt. Frankie Moody

New sergeant starts duties

Hoke County State Troopers have a new line sergeant, the second ever in the county, and travelers on area roads are now being protected by a fifth highway patrol officer.

Line Sergeant Frankie Lee Moody, a former Cumberland County trooper, was promoted to line sergeant and transferred to Hoke County on July 25, according to a release from the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Moody recently assumed his duties in Hoke County and will be

(See NEW, page 12)

Assault of deputy draws probation

A Raeford man, Alonzo Alford, was placed on supervised probation for three years as part of his sentence after being convicted of hitting a Hoke County Deputy in a courtroom.

Alford was cited for contempt of court in February after he began shouting obscenities in an open session of court just before Judge Warren Pate announced a sentence for the defendant on charges of carrying a concealed weapon.

Alford and his sister, Rita Alford, were sentenced to 30 days in jail for those charges, reports say.

As Alonzo Alford was being removed from the courtroom in February, he apparently hit Hoke Deputy W.C. Morrison, according to warrants for his arrest.

Consequently, the man was also charged with assaulting an officer and resisting arrest.

In other court action last week, Curtis White, a 40-year-old Raeford man was sentenced to six months in jail suspended for two years on supervised probation after being convicted of two counts of injury to personal property, records say.

According to warrants, the man did over \$200 damage each to two

(See ASSAULT, page 12)