

# New attendance policy requires students to stay in school more

By Ed Miller

Students of Hoke County Schools are expected to attend everyday of the regular year, according to a new attendance policy passed last Tuesday night by members of the Hoke County Board of Education.

"It is our understanding that this is the purpose of the state statutes and the state Board of Education," said Hoke Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson.

The new policy, formulated during the summer by the county's principals and Nelson, comes down hard on students who play hooky from school or miss days without excuses.

Students will receive grades of zero on any classwork, tests or any other grades given on the dates of an unexcused absence, the policy says.

Students will not be allowed to make up work missed on the day of an unexcused absence, says the policy.

"A pupil who has been suspended from school by the principal or his designee for disciplinary reasons shall be permitted to make up work missed," according to the policy.

There are eight reasons that qualify an absence as excusable. They are:

➤ An illness or injury which prevents a student from being physically or mentally able to attend school.

➤ When a student is quarantined or isolated under order of the local health officer or the State Board of Health.

➤ A death in the immediate

family. According to the policy, "the immediate family" includes grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, guardians or custodians. Students wishing to attend funerals of persons other than those listed must obtain permission from the principal.

➤ A medical or dental appointment provided permission for the absence is obtained prior to the date of absence except in an emergency.

➤ When the attendance of a child is required in court or judicial proceeding or "an administrative tribunal."

➤ The observance of a religious event under the precepts of the religion of the parents or child. The approval of such an absence is left to the discretion of the principal but should be granted unless the duration of the event will interfere with the education of the child.

➤ For educational travel provided the travel is valid and advance permission is obtained.

➤ When the child is urgently needed to meet the demands of home or farm and other assistance cannot be obtained. Permission of the principal must be given in advance of the absence, according to the policy.

Principals may require written verification to absences from parents or physicians, according to the policy.

Verification must be provided within two days of the student's return to school or the absence will be counted as unexcused, Nelson said during the meeting.

Under the old policy, students

were required to attend school a minimum of 150 out of 180 days or they failed the grade.

Students could not be absent more than five days in a six-weeks grading period, under the old policy.

There are no minimum requirements in the new policy.

Nelson told board members that there are no minimum requirements in the state statutes and none were put in the local policy.

## Tennis tabled

In other action at last week's Board of Education meeting, members put off making a decision on resurfacing tennis courts at Hoke County High School.

Currently, the school board has money enough to resurface three of the existing tennis courts at the high school, said School Business Manager Don Steed.

The courts can be repaired for \$12,835, Steed said.

The business manager also said that \$13,200 allocated the schools in federal Revenue Sharing money could be used for the resurfacing and is currently in the budget.

Tennis players at the high school must now use Raeford's courts.

The high school courts are unusable, said Steed.

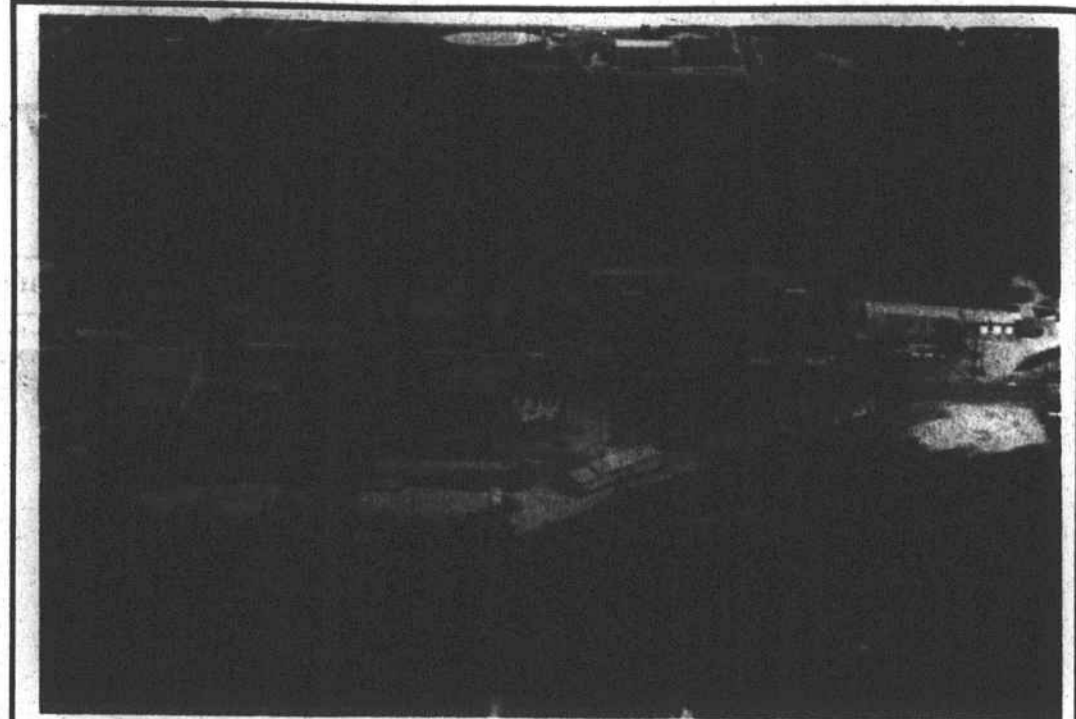
Board member Bobby Wright wants the courts to be resurfaced while Shirley Gibson sees "other needs" as being more pressing.

Other board members voiced no opinion on the construction.

## Former coach

Board members granted "an informal, executive session" meeting between board members and former Head Basketball Coach Greg Killingsworth.

No time or date was announced for the hearing.



### The site

This is where the first North Carolina Turkey Festival will be held. Raeford's Main Street will be closed from the old Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad depot (bottom right) to the Hoke County

Public Library. In the dirt field next to the depot, the turkeys will take to foot in Olympic competition.

# ...Baker appeals court decision

(Continued from page 1A)

"While the incidents offered in support of Mrs. Baker's termination were alleged to have occurred during the '82-83 school years, the principal (West Hoke Principal Milton H. Williams) did not adequately document these occurrences until the problems had reached unavoidable levels," Beauty said in the second order.

"The delayed documentation until the Spring of 1984 presented a problem of greater magnitude than the isolated incident may have

raised in their proper perspective," Beauty said.

In closing the final order, Beauty said that if the hearings and trial could happen all over again, the results may be different.

"Again the court, while believing a different result could occur upon a de novo standard of review by the Court, cannot substitute its own judgement for that of the Hoke County Board of Education when it is supported by substantial evidence in view of the entire record," said Beauty.

Baker's challenge will be heard before the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

The woman is accused of mentally abusing children and being abusive and rude to fellow teachers and aides.

In testimony against Baker, Board of Education Attorney Martin N. Erwin said the woman walked out on parent-teacher conferences and was so intolerable to get along with that three teacher aides walked out on her in one year.

# ... Around Town

(Continued from page 1A)

Marie was the daughter of the late Marcus and Kitty Dew. Mrs. Dew was born Kitty McDiarmid. She was a sister to the late Will McDiarmid and the dentist, Dr. H. McK McDiarmid. There were others that older residents of Hoke County can recall. Her father Marcus Dew was a builder and built many buildings and homes in Raeford. He built the home I lived in for many years, but which was destroyed by fire many years ago. He also built the Raeford Presbyterian church.

Besides Marie, there were two boys in the family, Church Cecil Dew and Marion Dew, and a sister, Kathleen Robinson survives.

Others can recall more about the Dew family, but this informs old residents of her passing.

Several months ago I wrote about Dr. Jane Triplett Carswell, a native of Raeford, being named "Family Doctor of the Year" for the United States. This past Sunday the *Family Weekly*, a section insert for *The Fayetteville Observer-Times* has a picture of Dr. Carswell on the front of the section. It was in color and was one that we all can see what she now looks like.

An article on the inside written by Jane Howard was an interview with Dr. Carswell.

For you folks that missed the other writing, she was born in Raeford on East Central Avenue in the home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Powell. Her father was a preacher and served Bethel, Shiloh and every fifth Sunday, Sandy Grove in the Fort Bragg reservation. The Carswell's lived here in the late 1920s and maybe the early 1930s.

For you golfers who like to play by the rules, the following was sent to me by Brooks Johnson of Narrows, Va. Brooks is the father of Mrs. Bill Archer, a local school teacher. Her husband is Bill Archer, manager of the Raeford Plant here.

Brooks and I have played golf several times when he was visiting his daughter.

Some revised rules of golf:  
 \*A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed not to have hit said tree. Hitting a tree is just bad luck and

has no place in a scientific game. The player should estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree, and play the ball from there.

\*There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course somewhere, and eventually will be found and pocketed by someone else. It has thus become a stolen ball, and the player should not compound the crime by charging himself with a penalty stroke.

\*If a putt passes over the hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity holds that any object attempting to maintain a position in the atmosphere without something to support it must drop. The law of gravity supersedes the law of golf.

\*The same thing goes for a ball that stops on the brink of the hole and hangs there, defying gravity. You cannot defy the law.

\*A putt that stops so close to the cup that it inspires comments like "you could blow it in" maybe blown in - but only if it is no more than three inches from the hole. After all, no one wants to make a travesty of the game. Arnie Kunz, quoted by Alex Thien in *Milwaukee Sentinel*.

## Kelly takes part in Global Shield

Sgt. Charles H. Kelly, son of Brigitte S. Mansfield and stepson of Michael L. Mansfield of Elmhurst Street, Fayetteville, has participated in Global Shield 85, an exercise involving U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps units, and elements of the Canadian forces.

The sergeant's wife, Cynthia, is the daughter of Alice S. Grissett of Rural Route 4, Raeford.

The News-Journal is published every Thursday by Dickson Press, Inc., at 119 W. Elwood Avenue, Raeford, N.C. 28376. Second Class Postage is paid at Raeford, N.C. (USPS 388-260). Subscription rates are payable in advance at \$10 per year in Hoke County and \$12 per year outside of Hoke County.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
 Dundarrach, N.C.  
**COMPLETE INSECT CONTROL**  
 FROM THE HOME TO THE FARM  
 • Federal Crop Insurance

Route 1, Box 251-A Shannon, N.C.  
 Phone 875-8912  
 Richard McMillan 875-2493 Nights 875-5614

# Chrysler

## Just Announced

# 7.5%

## FINANCING

or

# Up to \$1500

## Cash Back

### See Us For Details

# McBrayer

CHRYSLER  
 Dodge  
 Plymouth

JCT. 15-501 & U.S. 1 N. ABERDEEN, N. C. 944-7115 TOLL FREE: 1-800-672-2193