

...Around Town

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trunk of the car where they can't be seen.

The following letter has been received at several churches in the county along with some sheet music. I will explain later in this column.

Dear Pastor or Music Director,
It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my Advent Hymn, "Rejoice Ye People Of The Faith."

The early hymn writers would often name their hymn tunes after an important person, place or event. In keeping with that tradition, I proudly named my hymn "Raeford."

Raeford (Blue Springs) is the place of my birth and the joyful first twenty years of my life. I will always have fond memories of this place along with those that have strengthened my life. It's so nice to remember Mrs. W.T. Covington and Mrs. Arah Gatlin Stuart who started me in music and the likes of Mr. W.T. Gibson and the "Extra" fine teachers of Hoke County that inspired all of us in those things that were pure and good. And then, there are too many others to mention.

It is with these thoughts that I dedicate, "Rejoice Ye People Of The Faith," and to all the people of Hoke County, I trust it will bring joy to all who sing it.

With best regards,
Charles Landon Yarborough
5102 Valiant Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40216

PS. Because of the late date of this printing, please feel free to make extra copies if you should need them. There are also plans for this hymn to be included in a book that will have a collection of my choral music which is to be released sometime in the spring of '86. If you would like a copy, please let

me know.

Last week a phone call came to the office and Mollie said the gentleman would like to speak to me. I was surprised to hear the caller say, "this is Landon Yarborough." When I asked him if he was still in Louisiana, he said no, that he was now living in Kentucky. He told me of the music he was sending to the churches and I asked him to send me a copy of the letter and a copy of the music. This he did!

Landon is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Yarborough of Hoke County. Mr. Yarborough was overseer of the Covington Farms in Blue Springs Township for many years. After the farms were sold to the McNair Company of Laurinburg, he became manager of the Johnson Company farms and he and his wife lived at Oakdale.

There were five boys and one girl in the family. They all finished school at Hoke High but have moved from the county to make their fortune. They were Bernice, Hartman, Wilson, Earl, Fred and Landon.

The people that are mentioned in the letter will be known to most of the older residents of the county.

Besides the hymn mentioned in the letter, Landon also enclosed five other hymns in my package. They are: "And ... The Word Was God," "The Comforter," "Come Thou O Lamb Of God," "I Thought I Heard The Angels Sing," and "Christ Is The Life Of The World."

I have several copies of the Advent Hymns and will be glad to give them to any church or individual. If they give out, you can make a copy of my copy. Also you are welcome to copy the other five hymns. They will be at the office.

Thanks Landon and it was nice talking to you.

...DSS seeks more agents

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securing additional child support agents.

In other business, board members learned that 1,213 households have applied for payments under the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

Also, 320 households have been

assisted in the Crisis Intervention Program at a cost of \$31,236.54.

Witherspoon reported that quantities of cheese, butter, flour, rice, corn meal, honey and milk were distributed on November 26-27. The total value of donated foods was \$38,851.47.

The next distribution of food will begin February 25-27.

Say You Saw It In The News-Journal

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.

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Christmas contest for kids
We have a Christmas treat for the kids. It's our "three wise men" Christmas Coloring Contest. Enter your 4 to 10 year old by or before 6 PM, Christmas Eve.
Pick up your special coloring poster at our Rx Counter and have your child color it in with oil paint, watercolor, or crayon. Then, drop it off at the pharmacy. "Best efforts" will be recognized and displayed between Christmas and New Years. So, come see the results!
Our best to you this wonderful Christmas Season. We care about you!

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Halley's Comet
Jim Skinner, a Faberge employee and Hope Mills resident, managed to capture this photograph of Halley's Comet (fuzzy spot in center) on December 2. Skinner made a 20 minute time exposure while his 35mm camera was mounted on top of a telescope. The camera was guided throughout the exposure to compensate for the earth's rotation.

...Raeford downtown group seeking goals

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vide the lights for the downtown Yule tree.

Other association funds were given to the depot restoration effort.

Once all of the Christmas expenses are met, more money may be directed to the revitalization effort, Hoke County Economic Developer John Howard said.

In addition, there is about \$3,500 in the City of Raeford budget earmarked for revitalization, City Manager Tom Phillips said.

the commission in a better position to receive private donations, Dougherty said.

Downtown merchants believe downtown revitalization is necessary, preliminary results from a survey conducted by commission member Rev. Frank I. Lloyd show.

Of the first 25 merchants surveyed, 23 said they felt

Commission members are also looking into the feasibility of forming a non-profit corporation. The non-profit status would put

revitalization would be good for Raeford and most felt it would help their business.

Most of those surveyed said they would agree to staying open later at least one night a week and the majority favored Friday night.

Most downtown stores now close daily at 6 p.m.

On the idea of having local industries open outlet stores in the downtown area, 17 said it was OK and four were opposed to the idea.

Merchants surveyed said they were in favor of installing trees,

erecting park benches for shoppers and requiring awning conformity.

Most said a movie theatre was needed in Raeford. Others supported the need for a bowling alley and skating rink.

Plans are to survey more merchants and to clarify feelings on unanswered questions on the preliminary survey, Commission Chairman Kay Thomas said.

Dougherty commended Lloyd for the survey, noting it was one of the best he had seen used.

The commission will meet again on January 13.

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