

# Hoke resident visited by Santa

Santa Claus visited Hoke County residents Monday as he hunted the roadside for recyclable cans.

John Cook of Lamont Street was picking up cans near Sanford, when a man in a truck drove up and stopped, his wife, Mrs. Mary Cook, said.

The man, who was dressed in a

red suit, talked with Cook, wished him a Merry Christmas, gave him \$20 and drove away, Mrs. Cook said.

"He came home and told us he had been visited by Santa Claus. We thought he was kidding."

The visit from Santa "could not have come at a better time," she added.

## ...Around Town

(Continued from page 1A)

past several days, you would have seen a Christmas tree with many stars on it. These trees are called the Foster Children's Tree. They were put up by the Hoke County Foster Care Association.

Take a star off the tree and you will find the size, age and sex of a foster child in Hoke County. Go and buy a present of this child and return it to the tree along with the star. You will be giving a present to this child.

The members of the association will pick up and take these presents to the child that the star represents.

You have until December 20 to take a star. So do it today and it will bring happiness in two ways. One to the foster child and to you for giving at Christmas.

Dr. John C. Ropp, who is chairman of the worship service for the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Hoke County, called me Monday and said that Dr. Al Edwards of Raleigh had accepted an invitation to be the speaker at the service. This will take place on Sunday, May 4.

Most of you have heard Dr. Edwards over WRAL, Channel 5, Raleigh on Sunday morning. The committee feels honored that we can have someone like Dr. Edwards be with us to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee.

Also, Dr. Ropp said that he was working to get a combined choir for the service from all churches in the county.

So mark this date down on your calendar and hold Sunday evening, May 4 open for this great day.

The 75th Anniversary committee met last week and will soon be seeking help for many events that are now in the workings. We will need actors & actresses for the pageant and many committees

must be formed that will need your help.

Let's all work to make this a great occasion.

Maybe you noticed in last week's paper that the Turkey Festival Committee have brought forth items left over that will make nice Christmas gifts. So come by *The News-Journal* and look over these items and then purchase some to make someone happy Christmas morning.

*The News-Journal* will be published on Monday next week. This means that deadlines will be almost impossible for some of you to meet. So if you have something for the paper, be sure to get it in by noon on Friday, December 21.

Remember to lock your Christmas merchandise in the trunk of your car.

The 2nd Annual Mullet Roast was a success and was well attended. The meal was excellent and was prepared by local business men when the expected cook from Robeson County became ill.

So let's get ready for next year!

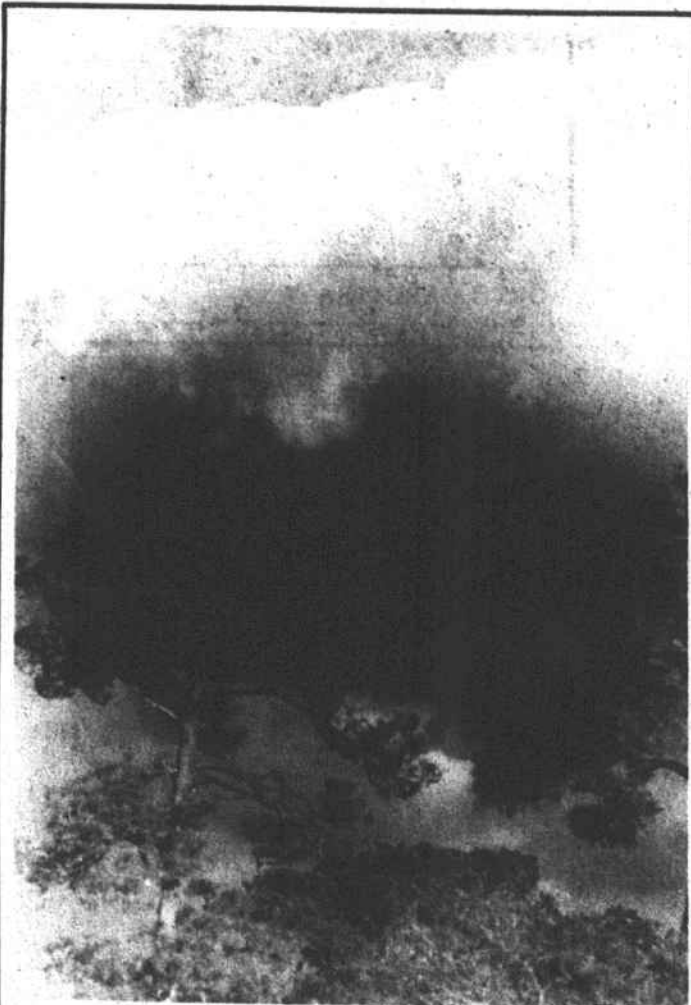
### News-Journal to print early

The *News-Journal* will be published on Monday instead of Wednesday next week to allow employees to spend Christmas with their families.

All social items must be received by Thursday at noon. The deadline for classified advertising is 4 p.m. Thursday.

All editorial matter must be received by noon on Friday.

The deadline for display advertising is Friday at 2 p.m.



**Front moving in**  
Dark clouds rolled over Hoke County last week as a cold front moved into the area dropping temperatures over 40°. The cold weather has lingered this week, and more dark clouds with rain or snow are predicted for the weekend.

## Digital telephone system to be installed in August

Digital switching equipment should be in operation in Raeford's Carolina Telephone and Telegraph office by August of next year, according to a spokesman for the company.

"The new digital equipment will allow new and improved services such as call waiting and call forwarding," Division Public Affairs Manager Bobby G. Suggs said last week.

The equipment will also increase the number of lines and phones that may be placed on the system and provide faster service for customers, Suggs said.

Also, the back tone sounds customers hear when they make

long distance calls will be decreased.

The digital system will fit in a van and will occupy a space one-tenth the size used to store the equipment currently in use at the local office.

"You won't see an army of equipment being taken into the building," Suggs said.

Installation of the equipment costing several million dollars should begin in 4 or 5 months, Suggs said.

Fiber optics are now being installed at the Raeford telephone office.

"Fiber optics are generally for long distance service," Suggs said.

## ...Deeds office moved

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received from the NC General Assembly.

The funds are Hoke County's share of approximately \$6.4 million allocated statewide to deal with the problem of adolescent pregnancies.

"This (adolescent pregnancies) is rapidly becoming recognized as one of the most serious problems in our country," Rogers said.

Nationwide, 40% of today's 14-year-old girls will become pregnant at least once by age 20, Rogers told the commissioners.

Hoke County is only meeting the needs of 39.6% of the women in need of family planning services between the ages of 15 to 19, according to Rogers.

In 1984, Rogers said, 44.9% of all pregnancies and 38% of all live births to Hoke County residents were out of wedlock.

Poverty rates for children living in single parent households are six times higher than those for children living in two parent households, Rogers added.

With the addition of two staff members to the health department and the work of the newly formed Hoke County Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force, Rogers hopes to

assure improved access to pregnancy prevention information and family planning services.

"Hopefully, we can prevent some of these early tragedies," Rogers said.

In other business, commissioners:

\*Agreed to add a \$7,000 grant to the health department budget to be used to further develop a nutritional education program.

\*Awarded a \$7,068.53 bid to Holland Pool and Fence Company, Raeford, to fence in the ballfields at Burlington Park.

\*Established a lease and maintenance agreement with Evangelical Methodist Church (the Meals on Wheels site). Commissioners agreed that the county will pay 50% of all maintenance costs.

\*Entered into a contract with the Maps Group, Raleigh, to conduct a study of county personnel.

\*Awarded a \$22,143 bid to Telephone Sales and Service, Inc., Fayetteville, to supply telephone systems for the courthouse and health department.

\*Agreed to change the county employees pay schedule from a one month period to a 28 day period in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

## New fuel pumps started at Hoke County airport

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission unanimously agreed last week to purchase a device which should make fuel purchasing easier at the county airport.

The decision was made during the board's monthly December meeting last Thursday.

When the machine is installed, fuel customers will be able to purchase gas without the assistance of an attendant.

Customers will be issued keys that fit slots on the unit's bank of 40 key meters.

Gas pumps will be activated by turning a key and the meter will then keep track of the amount of gas leaving the tanks.

Each month customers will be sent a bill for the amount of gas purchased.

Purchase of the \$2,682.40 Gasboy-Keytrol meter from Mecco Inc., Florence, SC, is pending approval by the city of Raeford and Hoke County.

"My personal feeling is a system like this is completely warranted," said Frank Baker, chairman of the airport board. "We're running

about \$25,000 worth of gas through there each year.

Airport fuel sales continue to increase, according to Vice Chairman Wayne Byrd.

"If it continues to increase accordingly it wouldn't be out of line to think that \$50,000 worth of gas will be sold each year," Byrd said.

Baker said the addition of the meter would be right in line with all the positive things happening throughout the town and county.

"We're right in step with the Downtown Revitalization Committee, The Economic Development Commission and The Chamber of Commerce," Baker said.

In other business, the commissioners discussed the possibility of establishing a flying club at the airport.

"A year ago anything anyone would be talking about was leaving the airport, not starting a flying club," Byrd said.

And although no action was taken on establishing a club at the airport, Baker commented: "I would be 100% in favor of starting a flying club here."

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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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