



The News-Journal

The Hoke County News

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Addenda

By The Editor

In getting the facts about the fires, reported elsewhere on this page, I ran into one fact that indicates a situation that is not right. See if you agree with me.

I learned that when the home of Bertha Leslie, near Upchurch School, caught fire Tuesday morning the Raeford Fire Department was telephoned, and City Clerk Robert Weaver told the caller that he wished there was some way he could help, but that the town's fire equipment could not go outside the city limits. On hearing this I immediately thought of the fire at Dundarrach Gin recently, and a fire on the premises of Bernard Bray, outside Raeford on the North Main Street extension, both of which had been attended by Town of Raeford fire equipment. This was Tuesday.

Then on Wednesday I learned that fire equipment of the town had gone to the A. B. Tapp farm near Timberland on Tuesday night, where the tenant house there occupied by Preston Moore had burned. This and the Leslie fire Tuesday morning added up to a complete reversal of policy in the same day on whether or not Raeford fire equipment could or could not go outside the city limits.

City Clerk Weaver verified that he had declined to do anything about the Leslie call, and added that he had suggested that they get in touch with Foster McBryde, county fire warden. Weaver said he was told by Fire Chief R. B. Lewis when he came to his job that the fire trucks were not to go out of the town limits, "except to Oakdale, where they have some sort of arrangement to pay for it." Weaver said he understood the "general policy is we will go to gin fires if they might save something. That's the understanding I have."

Weaver said that since he has been working at the town hall that's the policy he had been following. He said he didn't know who took the call to the Bray fire, and didn't know anything about the Tapp tenant house fire on Tuesday night. He said that when the Dundarrach gin fire was reported that Vance Wiggins, the fireman on duty, called Fire Chief Lewis and couldn't get him. He said Wiggins then called Assistant Chief N. A. McDonald, who authorized the sending of a truck to Dundarrach.

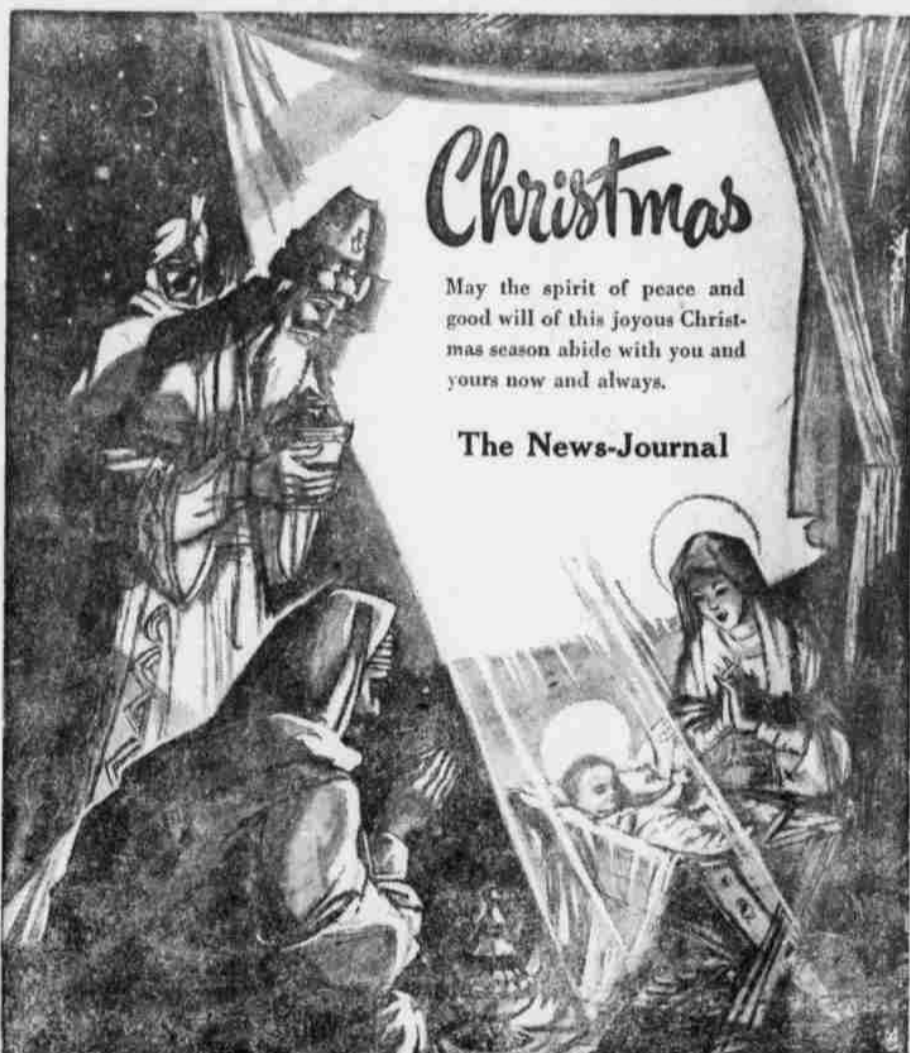
I would say that the situation is such that a complete policy as to what the town fire equipment can do, where and when, needs to be stated and made clear to all concerned. Paid fireman, volunteer firemen, town employees, fire department officials and the public. The town board should make this clarification, and the quicker the better.

Now lest there be misunderstanding by the public, the Raeford Fire Department is a volunteer organization and receives no pay for the protection it extends the community, with the exception of one man on duty at the fire station at all times. This has been the case during the 30 years of its existence, and its saving to the community in property and insurance rates during that time is great. Our debt is great to the men of the fire department, who drop their work or hop from their warm beds at any time, day or night, whatever the weather, and battle for our property and our lives if need be. They get paid nothing for their time, nor for the risk to their health, and sometimes they are hurt in doing this voluntary duty to their community. They certainly deserve our gratitude, and I express the feeling of the whole community when I say they have it.

These firemen do not decide where they go as a company. The town board should protect them with a policy so they will not again be in the position of going to one out-of-town fire, and not going to another closer one on the same day.

As for fire protection outside of the Town of Raeford, that is another subject, and whether the

(Continued on Page 6)



Christmas

May the spirit of peace and good will of this joyous Christmas season abide with you and yours now and always.

The News-Journal

Harris Plans Return To Highway Patrol

Policeman James R. Harris has resigned from the Raeford Police Department, and will be sworn in as a member of the State Highway Patrol at patrol headquarters in Raleigh on Tuesday, January 3, he said this week. Harris has served with the Raeford Police Department since May 1, this year.

A native of Warrenton, Harris entered the Highway Patrol in May of 1950, and was stationed in Elizabethtown. He was assigned to Hoke County and came here in August of last year, and was separated in April before joining the police Department May 1.

He is married to the former Zandra Louise Copeland of Missouri, and they live on West Sixth Avenue. He will not know his station with the patrol until he is sworn in, he said.

In telling his plans, Harris said he had greatly enjoyed his work here, both with the highway patrol and as a policeman. He said he liked the people and appreciates the many courtesies he and Mrs. Harris have been shown.

COURTHOUSE CLOSING NOON FRI UNTIL WED. NO COURT TUESDAY

The Hoke County courthouse and the county office building will close for the Christmas holiday at noon on Friday, December 23, and will remain closed through Tuesday, January 27, reopening on Wednesday morning, December 28, according to an announcement by County Accountant J. W. McPhaul, speaking for the Hoke County board of commissioners. There will be no recorder's court next week.

BROWNIE SCOUTS ACTIVE

The girls of Brownie Scout Troop 3, aged seven through nine, recently made angel favors and placed them on the trays of 32 patients at the Sanatorium. They also collected magazines and delivered them to the chaplain there. Instead of having their Christmas party, they contributed the money to "CARE."

Millard Sparks and son, Nelson, of Atlanta, Georgia will arrive Sunday to spend Christmas with Mr. Sparks' sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fulk.

Lt. William Niven of Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with his sister, Mrs. Martin Webb, and other relatives.

Girls Win, Boys Lose In 2 Close Ones At 71st

In two nip-and-tuck basketball contests at Seventy-First High School Friday night Coach George Wood's Hoke High girls came out on top by one point as Coach Floyd Wilson's Hoke boys dropped their contest by the same margin.

Janet Guin was the big gun for the Hoke girls in their 41-40 game, as she accounted for 26 of the Hoke tallies. Julia Morris followed with 11 and Virginia McNeill got four. Others seeing action were Jean Linthicum, Carolyn Matthews, Shirley McNeill and Lilmar Sue Gatlin. The game was the fourth consecutive victory of the season for the girls without a loss. The Seventy-First girls managed to stay in front most of the contest, but were not there when it counted.

In the boys game, also a bitterly-contested affair, Lacy Koonce and Lewis Upchurch led the attack for the Hoke boys, who got in front several times but finally came out on the bottom of a 44-43 score. Vaughn, Williams and Spears were leaders for the victors.

Koonce was high for the Hoke boys with 13 points, followed by Upchurch with eight, Dickie Hendley, Phil Huffman and Bobby Tickle with six each, and Ken Culbreth with four.

Next action for the Hoke teams will be when they go to Hamlet on Tuesday, January 3, and next home games will be against St. Pauls on Friday, January 6.

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON HEALTH CENTER

The Hoke County commissioners have set their January monthly meeting for Tuesday, January 10, instead of the first Monday as usual. It was announced this week. At this time bids will be opened and contract let for the county's new health center to be constructed east of the armory on Central Avenue.

COTTON GIN REPORT TO DECEMBER FIRST

The regular cotton ginning report of the bureau of the census of the U. S. Department of Commerce shows that 7,236 bales of cotton were ginned in Hoke County from the crop of 1955 prior to December 1, as compared with 7,834 from the crop of 1954 to the same date. This is a drop of 598 bales.

VA Changes Policy On Pension Reports

Mrs. Marian M. Clark, Hoke County Veterans Service Officer, this week called the attention of all veterans to changing pensions for non-service connected disabilities to certain important changes in the procedure by the Veterans Administration for year-end reports on incomes by these veterans.

Mrs. Clark said that in the VA has forwarded an income questionnaire to each beneficiary at the end of the year, and if it had not been returned another was sent after 30 days, with pension payments continuing.

She said that these questionnaires were sent around the first of the month again this year, but that there would be one important difference in procedure. The VA, she said, will stop payment of the pensions in all cases where this first and only report is not returned by the veteran in 30 days. She said she would be happy to assist veterans with the preparation of these forms, and urged them to see that they were returned before the end of the month.

Old Walters Home Named As Picture

The old Walters home in Blue Springs Township, on property now owned by John K. McNeill, was first correctly identified as the farm picture in last week's paper by Mrs. Bill Jones, who has probably set something of a record for guessing right more often than anyone else. Subscription for first guess went to Younger Sneed, who was next, and to J. H. Blythe of Route one, first rural subscriber.

Others guessing the identity of the picture correctly were Miss Sarah Stephens and Mrs. Angus Keith. There was one guess that the picture was of the McLeod home south of Raeford.

Details as to the history of the house and farm were not available for publication this week, but will be published when obtained.

TV SET GIVEN AWAY AT JOHNSON COTTON CO.

The console model "Nathane" television set given away by Johnson Cotton Company as a part of their introductory merchandising of the company's new Nathane line was won by Mrs. Jim Edwards of Route 2, E. A. Martin, manager, said today. The drawing was held in the store here at 4:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Fires Cause One Death, Leave Five Families Homeless, Unclad, Hungry

Rural Policemen Capture 40 Stills In 6-Month Period

Rural Policemen D. J. Jones and L. W. Stanton this week reported on their activities in the capture of moonshine stills in the county since June 1, this year. The report indicates that 40 stills were captured and destroyed with a total capacity of almost 15,000 gallons of whiskey, and that 36 arrests were made.

More stills were taken in Allendale Township than any other, 13 being taken there. Quewhiffle was next with eight. Six were taken in Antioch, five in Raeford Township, four in Stonewall, and two each in Little River and Blue Springs. A total of 15,240 gallons of "still-beer" was destroyed, and 191 gallons of whiskey was captured.

Capacity of the stills ranged from 130 gallons, through a good many eight and 900-gallon affairs, to one big thousand-gallon still. Total capacity of the 40 stills at one time was 14,340.

Four Local People Attend Tax School

Four local bookkeepers, accountants and tax advisors are in Raleigh this week attending the advance section of a school being conducted by the economic department of the School of Agriculture, the N. C. Department of Revenue, the U. S. Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration and the N. C. Society of Accountants. The purpose of the school is training in preparation of farm and small business tax returns.

Attending are J. W. Canaday, local insurance man who has been doing tax work on the side for some years, Mrs. Reid Childress, who has been with the county accountant's office for several years and who will leave there December 31; Mrs. J. W. McPhaul and Mrs. E. C. Smith, Jr., who will work in County Accountant J. W. McPhaul's tax and bookkeeping service on Edinborough Avenue.

Lockey Reports On Paving In Division

The State Highway Commission completed 17.33 miles of highway, road and street paving in the Eighth Highway Division during November. Commissioner Forrest Lockey of Aberdeen reported last week. Lockey commended the State and contract forces upon the fine work completed during the month.

In Hoke County, State forces paved the street in Raeford at the overpass for .08 mile, this being a 20-foot-wide street. State forces also paved with a bituminous surface treatment the following 18-foot county roads, and their lengths: from Antioch southwest to Red Springs-Duff's Station road, 2.6 miles; and from NC 211, 1.3 miles north of Robeson County line to Little Raft Swamp, 1.7 miles.

Other work was done in Scotland, Moore, Richmond and Lee counties during the month, the commissioner said.

JAYCEES REPORT GOOD SALES FOR FRI. DANCE

J. D. McMillan, chairman of the dance committee of the Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce, said this week that advance ticket sales for the annual Jaycees Christmas dance, to be held at the armory on Friday night, were excellent so far, and that another successful affair was assured. The dance will be at the armory from 9:00 until 1:00, music to be furnished by David Pugh and his orchestra, of Darlington, S. C.

LIBRARY CLOSING

The Hoke County Public Library will be closed on Saturday, December 23, and on Monday, December 26, for Christmas. Mrs. Ina P. Bethune, librarian, has announced.

Need For Everything By 10 Grown People, 16 Children, Gives Real Christmas Opportunity

Still Operator Fined \$250 By Recorder Tuesday

James H. Jones, Indian, appeared before Judge T. O. Moses in Hoke County recorder's court Tuesday on a charge of possessing a liquor still. Jones entered a plea of not guilty but was found guilty. Sentence was four months, suspended on payment of \$250 and court costs, and two years good behavior.

James C. Jones, also an Indian, was charged with violating the prohibition laws by being present at the still of James H. Jones. He was also found guilty, and was sentenced to 60 days on the roads, suspended on payment of \$50 and costs and two years good behavior.

Herbert L. Marlar, white Marine of Camp Lejeune, pled guilty of driving drunk and speeding 70 miles an hour. Sentence was three months, suspended on payment of \$125 and costs. His car was held as security until he could raise the money.

Brantley M. Dewar, white man charged with speeding 80, was found guilty of exceeding 70 and fined \$25 and costs. He appealed and posted \$100 bond.

Pat Robeson, colored man charged with assaulting his wife, allowed to pay the costs when she decided she did not want to prosecute him.

One defendant paid costs for failing to stop at a stop sign, and another paid costs for driving with improper brakes. One defendant left a \$15 bond for passing in the face of traffic and another the same for failing to yield right of way.

One speeder left a \$40 bond, seven left \$25 bonds, 21 left \$15 bonds, two paid \$10 and costs, and seven paid costs.

Name 4 Hoke Men N. C. Delegates To Cotton Council Meet

Four Hoke County men are among delegates announced this week to represent the North Carolina-Virginia unit of the National Cotton Council at the Council's 18th annual meeting in Biloxi, Miss., January 30-31. The delegates were named by G. D. Arndt, of Raleigh, chairman of the two-state unit.

With representatives of other state units they will review 1955 activities and approve a program of research and promotion aimed at increasing consumption of cotton and its products. Each of the six segments of the raw cotton industry, producers, ginners, merchants, warehousemen, crushers and spinners, and the 18 cotton-producing states are represented on the council.

Hoke men named as delegates were T. B. Upchurch, Jr. from the producers, Fred P. Johnson and Clyde Upchurch, Jr., representing the ginners, and Lewis M. Upchurch, representing the seed crushers.

Local Group Endorses Gibson For Office

At a meeting of the Hoke County unit of the North Carolina Education Association held at the J. W. McLaughlin School here Monday night, the members voted unanimously to endorse W. T. Gibson, Jr., for the presidency of the Southeastern District of the NSEA for the next year.

Gibson as district principal is in charge of the Hoke County High School and the McLaughlin School. He has held the post for the past nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ellis will leave this week for Richwood, Ohio to spend the holidays with Mrs. Ellis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Ehret.

One colored woman lost her life near Rockfish Monday when her clothing caught fire, and five families in the county are homeless or without clothing or goods of any kind as a result of fires in the county this week and last, it was reported yesterday by the Hoke County Welfare Department and the American Red Cross office, both of which made appeals to the public for help for the 10 adults and 16 children.

Pointing to the great need and the bitter winter weather, Mrs. C. H. Gilles, county welfare superintendent, and Clyde Upchurch, Jr., county Red Cross chairman, said that the people of the county in better circumstances are being afforded a wonderful opportunity to put the Christmas Spirit in action for people who are really destitute here at the Christmas season.

Mrs. Gilles will receive and distribute any gifts of food, clothing, money, furniture or anything to make life more livable for these families through the county welfare office, and she asked people to bring anything of use there as soon as possible. She said the greatest need is for warm winter clothing of all sizes, and added that summer clothing is of little use at this time, although it may be the easiest to give away.

Woman Burns Monday

Lula Ray, colored woman about 65 years of age, who lived alone on the family farm on the Raeford road northwest of Rockfish, died of burns there in the early afternoon of Monday. It appeared from investigation by Coroner James C. Lantz that she had been lying on a cot placed close in front of an open fireplace and that her clothing had caught fire. There was fire damage to the bed clothing and floor there, but the house did not catch fire.

Lantz said it appeared that she had run outside to the pump for water to put out the fire, and had found it frozen. He said it could be seen where she had backed up to the house in an effort to get it out, and that flesh had stuck to the side of the house. She then ran about 30 yards from the house where she died from burns, Lantz said. She was found there around three or four o'clock by a neighbor who came to bring her a load of slabs to use for fire wood.

Fires Tuesday, Wednesday

Tuesday morning at about 11:00 o'clock the home of Bertha Leslie, colored, widow, 45 years of age, caught fire and burned. It was a five-room house, located near Upchurch High School, and she owned it. She had recently completed a little store building on her lot to sell food and drinks to the school children. She and her children are staying in this now since they lost their home and personal effects in the fire which started from an oil heater. She has daughters aged 16, 18 and 13, and a son aged six.

On Tuesday night a tenant house on the farm of A. B. Tapp at Timberland was destroyed by fire and Preston Moore, colored, and his family lost everything they had, including clothing. The family included Preston, his mother, Maggie Moore, and six children aged from five to 13 years. Mr. Tapp wishes to express his appreciation to the Raeford Fire Department for their efforts to save the place.

At noon on Wednesday the home of Neil A. Maynor, colored, near Davis Bridge in the southeast section of the county was destroyed by a fire that is thought to have started from an iron heater on legs with no mat under it. No one was at home at the time and everything they had there was lost. They have five children, a son 11 years of age, and daughters aged ten, seven, six and five.

In the early afternoon of Wednesday the home of Woodrow McLaurin, colored, near Clyde's Pond in the southeast part of Raeford, was burned out inside before efforts of the Raeford Fire Department stopped the blaze.

(Continued on page 6)