

Merchants Stay Away From Meet In Droves

Chamber Plan Not Resolved

The board of directors of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce staged a special meeting Monday night to hear complaints of merchants, but the meeting went stale when only three merchants showed up.

The downtown businessmen had asked for a general meeting of the chamber, with the directors on something of a spot, to hear protests from merchants who object to chamber plans to build a new office building on Harris Avenue.

The board of directors announced several weeks ago it had bought a lot between the intersection of Harris Avenue and 401 Bypass and Quality Motors. It also announced the chamber will build a 900-square-foot to 1200-square-foot office building on the property.

There came an immediate cry of "foul" from merchants, who say they don't want the auto license bureau, which is operated as a part of the downtown chamber office on Main Street, to be removed from the business district.

Monday night, C.P. Kinlaw of Kinlaw's Jewelers, M.D. Yates of Raeford Hardware and Irving Hubbard of Collins were the only merchants present to hear Dr. Robert Townsend, chamber president, and other directors explain the project.

"The merchants will have less dues to pay next year," Yates remarked, suggesting that they will not re-join the chamber if the office is moved.

One director remarked that merchants had forfeited their interest by not appearing at the meeting, called expressly at their request.

"We are trying to work for the betterment of everybody," said Director Wyatt Upchurch. "We will hear from everybody and consider every angle before further action is taken."

The new office building is planned to replace the cramped quarters on Main street which house chamber offices, the license tag bureau, and Hoke County Planning and Development Commission. The chamber and the planning organization are administered by Jim Fout, manager of the chamber and executive director of the planning group.

Fire Destroys Trailer Home

Fire believed to have started from a faulty water heater burned the trailer home of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Smith to the ground late Sunday afternoon.

The trailer was parked about a mile southwest of Raeford near Halley Blythe's farm.

Reports indicated there are three children in the home, with ages ranging from six to 13. They are badly in need of clothing, according to latest accounts.

Barbecue

A barbecue and Fried Chicken dinner and supper will be held at Wayside Community House, Friday.

The proceeds will go for the Pupy Creek Fire Department. Meals will be sold all day after about 11 a. m.

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Hoke County People... GOING PLACES



MARTHA ALICE UPCHURCH

Martha Alice Upchurch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence (Bill) Upchurch of Raeford, has begun a career as an Eastern Airlines stewardess and is now based in Atlanta.

A graduate of Hoke High School, she qualified for and successfully completed Eastern's In-Flight Training Center at Miami. (Less than half the girls who qualify for the course complete the school.)

Her schooling included grooming, makeup and gracious presentation of dining services (in flight), as well as other flight crew duties and airline-customer relations.

Before attending the airline school, Miss Upchurch attended Louisburg College and Sandhills Community College. She also worked in Raeford as a secretary in the office of J. W. Canady.

Upon completion of the training course in Miami, she reported to Atlanta, where she will be based, then came to Raeford for a week end visit with family and friends.

From Atlanta, she will fly to many of the 110 cities Eastern serves in 26 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

\$250,000 Civil Suit Settled For \$1,250

A \$250,000 suit against Auto Credit Co. of Sanford, Inc., Sanford was compromised here Tuesday in the March term of Hoke County Superior Court, when Mayo Taylor accepted \$1,250 in full settlement.

The trial was stopped after certain testimony and a conference between plaintiff and defendant attorneys was held. Judge Clarence Hall ordered that, in addition to the cash payment to Taylor, the defendants pay the cost of the action. Attorneys for Taylor were Phil Diehl and Palmer Wilcox. Harold W. Gavin acted for the defense.

Taylor filed a complaint and sued for \$250,000 damages last February 17, claiming that the defendants had caused him "great humiliation and disgrace and great mental anguish."

The complaint followed a court action in which Judge Joe Dupree ruled double jeopardy and threw the case out.

The controversy started following the purchase of a car by Taylor in December, 1963. The Sanford firm financed it.

Taylor agreed to pay \$78.84

Scott Lad Gets Term, Appeals

Johnny, Scott, 19, of Shannon Rt. 1, was given six months on the roads when found guilty Wednesday of last week in District Court of multiple traffic violations and other charges.

Scott was accused of forcing State Highway Patrolman J.D. Robinson off the street on the night of December 30 after the officer chased him through the residential and business areas in the south of Raeford.

Scott appealed the decision to Hoke Superior Court and was freed on \$200 bond.

The sentence was handed down by Judge D.B. Herring. Carl Barrington, Fayetteville attorney, represented the Scott youth.

He was convicted of charges which included resisting arrest, assault on an officer, reckless driving, and failure to stop for an officer's blue light and siren.

Robinson testified that Scott remained ahead of his patrol

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NETS 54 OUTFITS

Band Uniform Drive Nearing \$6,000 Goal

One More Week May Wind Up

The growing fund for uniforms for Hoke High School's band neared completion today when proceeds passed the \$4,800 mark.

Goal in the drive is \$6,000 -- enough to provide 70 uniforms at \$87.86 apiece.

The project was begun only two weeks ago by three Raeford mothers -- Mrs. Ed Murray, Mrs. Ralph Barnhart and Mrs. Carlton Niven. Since then, dozens of volunteer workers have pitched in to help and contributions have come from every quarter.

A board in the display window of Niven's Appliance and Furniture Co. shows 54 uniforms accounted for. That is only 16 short of the goal.

Need for the uniforms was pointed out by the campaign organizers. Three years ago, the band consisted of several youngsters who sat in the stands and blew half-heartedly into their horns.

Then, Hoke High School acquired Jimmie James, band director at St. Pauls High School, to lead the band. Immediately, there was evident a considerable improvement in the band, as well as an increase in participation.

Last fall, the band was invited to participate in Band Day at the University of North Carolina during halftime of a major football game. The band came home and expressed pleasure that it was not called upon to play because of bad weather.

It became immediately apparent that the band needed uniforms, and that was the cause for the bashfulness.

In lieu of formal uniforms, for which there was no money, James had designed an outfit which required only a cheap Mexican straw hat and a makeshift sash.

When the band was invited to play in the annual Charlotte Carrousel Parade (a Christmas promotion), it attracted considerable attention because of its "novel" uniform. Nonetheless, it was one of the few bands rated tops.

It was time, the women said, to take the saddle blankets off the youngsters and get them in decent uniforms.

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CONCENTRATING--Mrs. Talmadge Baker, secretary in the Hoke County CAP, listens intently as T. A. Guiton Jr., founder of the North Carolina PACE program, explains some of the newly developed angles. Guiton was here last Friday to talk to prospective sponsors of the 1967 effort.

PACE Program Is Explained

The PACE program will be better and possibly bigger this year than last, T. A. Guiton, head of the North Carolina program told some 25 local promoters last Friday at the Hoke County Board of Education Building.

Guiton, a member of the staff of the North Carolina State Board of Public Welfare, and founder of the (PACE) Pupil Assuring College Education program, said that while the year-old "baby" was successful from the start and has been copied almost to a letter by several other states, there were many headaches in the beginning year. He related, however, that many of the pains have been eased and that more smoothness would be enjoyed this year.

He pointed out that there will be some colleges again this year which will receive more PACE applicants than they are able financially to accept. He urged

sponsors to move quickly in making application for the services of a PACE student so that local boys and girls will be at the head of the priority list. He explained that the first applications to arrive at the colleges would be the first served after qualifications are considered.

The PACE program is designed to help eligible students obtain a college education by working for it. The project, where a High school graduate is conserved, starts at the beginning of the summer before his first college year begins.

He is paid to work for a public agency or a non-profit organization during vacation months for wages which will be applied to his college education. When he enters college, he will be given work there and again the earnings will be applied to college expenses.

Seventeen Hoke County boys

and girls now are securing a year's college education through the PACE program. These students, according to Guiton, will have first priority in job placement this summer to begin preparations for another year of college.

Jobs available to PACE students in Hoke County last year were at the library, health department, McCain Sanatorium, schools, the agricultural extension office and county fire departments and the Local C.A.P. Office.

These organizations or agencies paid 10 per cent of the salary cost. The remaining sum was taken care of by the Office of Economic Opportunity and the respective college.

The Hoke County Community Action Program will administer the PACE program. Persons wishing more information may call J. R. Attaway at 875-2969.

Now Comes Antioch Oak: Largest Of All, By Far

BY JIM TAYLOR

It would have grown larger, but George Washington's horse bit the top out of it when it was just a sapling.

Its growth thus stunted, the "Antioch Oak" unknown generations later measures only 18 feet, four feet off the ground, in circumference. That's a diameter of 61 inches, or better than five feet.

It dwarfs championship-type specimens described in recent weeks in The News-Journal.

There was the "Hoke Holly," just east of Wagram on the Wagram-Antioch Road, which measures 114 inches in circumference. That's 38 inches across the stump.

And the "Shannon Cedar," alongside the road on the J. H. Huggins place. That beautiful specimen, unmounted years old, measures 118 inches in circumference, about 37 inches across the stump.

There's another mammoth holly tree on the Arthur Williams place near Addor. Although it's a few hundred yards outside Hoke County in Moore it has a circumference of 112 inches.

Hoke Countians don't mind conceding to Moore County people that they have a holly only two inches less in diameter than the Hoke Holly. Just so it doesn't grow

three inches before ours gets into the record book.

There are plenty of people who think the Hoke Holly is probably the largest American Holly specimen in the state, and perhaps in the country.

And perhaps the Shannon Cedar is another record, although the tree is so old it is getting smaller instead of larger.

Almost certainly, the Antioch Oak is the largest tree of any kind in Hoke County.

Albert Saunders, who runs a service station a few hundred yards from the tree, says he believes it is larger than one down in Wilmington which that city claims to be the largest oak in the world.

The Antioch Oak stands beside a frame house built by Bill Cope, but it is much older than the house.

In fact, when the house was built, they probably could have sawed enough lumber out of the tree to have built it.

The tree is better than 100 feet tall, and its branches cover a circular piece of ground fully 100 feet in diameter.

A 12-foot length of the tree, whose butt cut was made at the four-foot-off-the-ground level, would produce a beam 3.75 feet square.

That's 2 025 board feet for the square cut

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Albert Saunders And Oak

Hoke Girl, 4, Is Killed When Hit By Automobile

A four-year-old Indian girl became Hoke County's third traffic fatality of the year Sunday afternoon when she was struck by a car and killed in front of her home on Raeford Rt. 1.

She was Susan Brewer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brewer, whose home is alongside Rural Paved Road 1302.

State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson said the child apparently had been visiting the home of a neighbor and was returning to her own house when she darted directly into the path of a car driven by Mrs. Ruth McCall Gillespie, 42, of Red Springs Rt. 1.

The child was killed instantly, he said.

"She apparently dashed into the road in front of the car," according to Robinson. "Mrs. Gillespie swerved to the left and almost avoided hitting the child. She was struck by the right front fender and knocked some 36 feet."

Robinson said tire marks indicated the car skidded 34 feet after brakes were applied.

"Mrs. Gillespie said she was driving at about 30 miles per hour, and the skid marks bear that out," he said. "The speed limit at that point is 35 miles per hour."

Mrs. Gillespie, who was accompanied by her daughter, Glenda, 18, stopped and was at the scene when officers arrived, Robinson said.

"There was no telephone in the immediate vicinity, so the child's father took the little girl in his car and started toward the doctor's office," Robinson said.

Robinson noted that State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson's patrol car and the ambulance arrived.

The child was dead on arrival. Mrs. Gillespie was taken to the local hospital, Robinson said.

None of the other two highway deaths here this year also was a child who darted in front of a

car. Two-year-old Vincent E. McNeill, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McNeill of McCain, was killed instantly February 4 when struck by a car operated by Roosevelt Farmer, 22, a neighbor.

Mrs. Gillespie was absolved of blame of Sunday's accident, which happened about 3:30 p. m. She was Farmer charged in the McCain tragedy earlier this month.

The county's other traffic fatality occurred Sunday, January 22, when James Phillip Horton, 31, of Fayetteville, died in the wreckage of his car after it collided with a tobacco-laden tractor-trailer.

Funeral services for the Brewer girl were held Tuesday at Crumpler Funeral Home chapel by the Rev. N. C. Brinson. Burial was in Macedonia Cemetery.

She is survived by her parents and her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Blanche Brewer.