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COMMITTEEWOMEN -- These women head committees for the third annual Raeford Woman's Club Horse Show, scheduled to be held here April 28 and 29. They are: Standing, Mrs. Walter Coley, concessions; seated, left to right, Mrs. Bobby Carter, tickets; Mrs. Tommie Upchurch, hospitality; Mrs. John Best, programs, and Mrs. Chandler Roberts, cake committee. The annual show will offer some \$2,400 in prizes in about 114 classes, including many for local horsemen.

Mayor Says He Will Run

Mayor H. R. McLean announced this week he will be a candidate for the office in the May 2 municipal election.

He is the first of the incumbent town officers to declare himself a candidate for reelection. Commissioners J. D. McMillan, Franklin Teal, Palmer Willcox, C. P. Kinlaw and John K. McNeill have indicated they will decide before the April 15 noon deadline for filing.

Filing fee is \$5. Any qualified voter living within the town limits is eligible to run for office.

Meanwhile, registration books will be open for the next three Saturdays at polling places inside the town limits. Saturday, April 29, will be challenge day.

Mayor McLean, a retired game protector, is completing his third two-year term.

Road Project Bids Opened

The N. C. State Highway Commission is expected to award a contract tomorrow for widening and resurfacing U. S. 211 between Raeford and Aberdeen when the commission meets at 9:30 a. m. in Laurinburg.

Bids for the project was opened by the commission March 29 in Raleigh. Crowell Constructors of Fayetteville was low bidder with \$50,257.50. The bids are subject to review by the commission.

The project calls for 14.07 miles of bituminous concrete base in widening the road between SR-2063 in Moore County and a point in Raeford. It will bring width of the much-traveled highway to 24 feet between the two towns.

The action follows a joint petition by Moore and Hoke County commissioners, who earlier this year asked Highway Commissioner John McNair of Laurinburg to campaign for the project.

Narrowness of the road was termed a hazard, since it carries much tourist traffic and heavy trucks which turn east at Candor and Aberdeen on U. S. 220 and U. S. 1.

The improvement also will include relocation of the road in the vicinity of the N. C. Sanatorium at McCain. The relocated road will run to the rear of the hospital, eliminating a number of curves in the present route.

35 ACRES BURNED Burning Permits Canceled Until Rain Soaks Woods

High Wind Another Hazard

State foresters warned this week against the danger of forest fires as a prolonged dry spell and seasonal spring winds made the underbrush tinder dry.

A woods fire broke out Tuesday morning some three miles south of Raeford and burned over about 35 acres of pine saw timber before rangers brought it under control.

The woods belonged to T. B. Upchurch Jr. and Lawrence McNeill and were part of a parcel containing an estimated 200 acres.

Clyde Leach, U. S. Forest Ranger for the county, said a crawler-tractor and plow was brought here from Scotland County to battle the blaze. After plowing a fire break through the woods, forest rangers backfired along the trail and halted the blaze.

"This is one of the most dangerous seasons of the year for forest fires," Leach said. "There has not been a good general rain in a long time and coupled with the high winds of March and April, this has dried out the pine straw and leaves on woods floors and they ignite and burn like kerosene was poured on them."

Leach said all burning permits have been canceled until rain alleviates the dry condition.

"It will be illegal to start a fire anywhere outside a residence or building until further notice," Leach said. "That includes brush fires and other debris burning after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. No fires will be authorized for any purpose," he said.

Tuesday's fire was spotted from the Forest Service tower at McCain. A Forest Service plane flew here from Clinton and radioed instructions to ground crews.

Deadline Set For Art Show

Saturday has been set as the deadline for entering paintings, sculptures and ceramics in the April 15 art show sponsored by the garden and literature departments of Raeford Woman's Club.

The show is open to all local and area residents.

The show will be staged in the vacated Hoke Drug Company building on Main Street.



FIRE IS OUT -- Forest rangers of the U. S. Forest Service are shown above along a fire trail plowed by a crawler tractor through a pine woods south of Raeford. Fire believed

to have been caused by a lighted cigarette flared in the grove Tuesday morning and burned over 35 acres of timberland before it was brought under control.

Per-Pupil Cost Of Public Schools Higher In Hoke Than Average

The cost of public education is higher in Hoke County than in most neighboring counties and somewhat more expensive than the state average for county and city school systems.

A recent analysis published by the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh gave current expenditures by source of funds for all school systems in the state for the 1965-66 school year.

The cost per pupil in Hoke County was \$383.77 for the 4,564 average daily attendance. Total expenditure was \$1,751,519.83.

Among Hoke's neighbors, only Moore County, Pinehurst and Southern Pines had higher per-pupil expenditures.

The state average per pupil is \$368.79 -- or \$14.98 less per pupil than Hoke County's cost.

Here, the state provided \$1,304,662.78, or 74.5 per cent of total expenditures. The federal government contributed \$239,434.01, or 13.7 per cent, and \$207,423 or 11.8 was derived from local funds.

Cumberland, \$324.15; Fayetteville, \$377.91; Moore, \$392.19; Pinehurst, \$415.71; Southern Pines, \$421.31; Robeson, \$328.61; Fairmont, \$341.85; Lumberton, \$343.54; Maxton, \$324.89; Red Springs, \$355.32; St. Pauls, \$329.71; Scotland, \$372.19.

The total 1965-66 expenditure for current operating expenses of the public school system in North Carolina was \$406.4 million. Of that amount, about \$305 million was in state funds, \$32.6 million in federal grants, and \$68.8 million was provided locally.

Per pupil costs are affected by a variety of factors, including the number of students riding buses and the distances they are hauled; local supplements to teacher salaries; number of pupils in each class.

Statewide, there was a wide difference in the amount of "local" support of the 169 units, ranging from a high of 36.9 per cent to a low of 4 per cent. Forty-five units showed less than 10 per cent of total expenditures from local funds and six units showed more than 25 per cent total expenditures from local funds.

Units showing more than 25 per cent of expenditures from local funds included Mecklenburg, 36.9 per cent; Forsyth, 31.3 per cent; High Point, 29.5 per cent; Durham, 28.6 per cent.

Units with the highest percentage of federal support included Pasquotank, 24 per cent; Graham, 22.9 per cent; Craven, 22.8 per cent; Onslow, 21.3 per cent; Wayne, 21 per cent; Clay, 19.7 per cent; Swain, 19.6 per cent; Mitchell, 19.4 per cent; Fayetteville, 18.9 per cent; Cumberland, 18.7 per cent; Jones, 16.8 per cent, and Greene, 16.6 per cent.

A total of nine units depended on state funds for more than 85 per cent of operating their public schools and one unit exceeded 90 per cent.

The per pupil cost in local funds showed Hoke County with \$45.45. In Cumberland County, the amount was only \$12.82, but in Fayetteville, it was \$41.59. Moore County's local rate was \$59.70, while in Robeson, the figure plunged to \$26.06. Scotland County's rate was \$52.69.

County Board Considers Own Water-Sewer Survey

In a short session Monday, the Board of Hoke County Commissioners studied a possibility of applying for a government grant to make a county-wide survey.

The grant for the study will be financed by the FHA without cost to the county for the primary purpose of finding out whether it would be feasible to promote a county-wide water and sewage project.

Basic objectives of such grants, according to J. W. Pittman, FHA supervisor here, is to facilitate the preparation of plans by local bodies such as towns, counties or other public agencies (where less than 5,500 people are involved) which do not have funds available for the immediate undertaking of such a plan. Purpose is described

thusly:

"To: promote efficient and orderly development of rural communities.

"To: provide the information necessary to avoid overlapping duplication, undersign, or overdesign of the community water and sewer facilities that may be constructed in the area by the plan."

T. C. Jones, chairman of the county board, explained that the survey could serve many purposes which would be of untold value to the county, even if the water and sewer idea proves to be prohibitive.

The board voted to turn the matter over to the existing planning board, headed by Jim Fout, for study.

In other business, the county leaders accepted reports from

the farm and home agents, the county auditor, the tax collector and Hoke County Rescue Squad.

A written report showed that 73 per cent of the total 1966 tax levy had been collected through the third quarter of the fiscal year. This tallies favorably with last year's April 1, total of 72.98 per cent.

The budget report showed that as of the same period \$109,572.51 of the \$349,442.47 appropriations for general fund expenses remain unexpended. It also showed that \$308,221.8 of the estimated income of \$349,442.47 had been received.

The rescue squad reported that it made 127 calls during the past year. A sum of \$1,807.01 was expended for maintenance of equipment, purchases and other operational expenses.

AT MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Town Board Okays Survey Of Water-Sewer System

An extensive series of tests will be run on Raeford's sewage system to determine flow and load. That, in turn, is expected to indicate what improvements are needed to the system.

Town council Monday night authorized Moore, Gardner and Associates, Inc., consulting engineers, to proceed with the tests. The survey will be made by state specialists and a private testing laboratory, in addition to the town's own testing department.

Richard Moore, of the consulting engineer firm, told commissioners he was under the impression that the board instructed him to make the determinations at its last meeting.

A primary purpose of the survey is to determine how much waste, and its intensity, is being put into the system by each industrial plant using the

system.

Moore estimated that the survey will cost about \$3,000. He said he was questioned by Ed Williams, town manager, when Williams learned the survey was to cost that much money.

"I am here because I want to know the board's wishes in the matter," Moore said.

Williams told the board he questioned the expenditure because he was aware that Burlington Industries and Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., had been planning surveys of their own.

"I simply wanted to determine if the survey was one of those or whether it was that for which the town alone was responsible," Williams said.

Jim Fout, manager of Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce, explained that there had been "a duplication of thinking, but not of action."

"Burlington Industries thought about conducting a survey, but when it was learned that Mr. Moore's organization already had planned the survey, Burlington went no farther with its plans," Fout said.

The tests will be conducted at all major industrial plants using the sewage system and will determine how much waste each customer is contributing to the system.

Seven people will be employed taking samples each 15 minutes for one week, beginning April 17.

At least three parallel samples will be taken daily by state, private and town technicians. Moore said, and all three samplings will be analyzed.

The information will be used to determine what modifications and/or improvements are needed at the sewage treatment plant and in the primary sewer sys-

tem.

Moore's firm earlier recommended that two major outfall lines be installed and major improvements be made at the treatment plant. Estimate cost of the three projects totaled \$1,340,000.

With possible federal participation for 30 per cent of the cost, the town board was faced with calling for a water-sewer bond issue for some \$900,000.

Deadline for getting on a state priority list for federal assistance was April 1. When it became apparent that a bond referendum could not be organized here by that date, the town board asked Moore's firm to investigate all possible solutions to the problem.

The forthcoming survey is a result of those instructions, Moore said.

It also will be used to plan

a water-sewer rate schedule which will relate industrial water-sewer bills to the amount each individual industry loads the system.

Meanwhile, the town board has received a letter from the State Stream Sanitation Commission commenting upon the sewage treatment process used by the city of Houston, Texas.

A minor controversy arose between town officials and Dr. H. H. McLean, county health director, several months ago when Dr. McLean suggested that the Houston process might work here at considerably less expense than the \$1.34 million project recommended by Moore's firm.

Houston uses a modified activated sludge system, Dr. McLean said. He examined the system last summer while attending a health association

convention there.

Dr. McLean reported his findings to the town board, whose members said they consulted State Stream Sanitation people in Raleigh and determined to their satisfaction that the Houston procedure would not be of benefit here.

Monday night the board entered into the public records this letter from W. E. Long Jr., chief, municipal waste section, Department of Water Resources:

"Reference is made to your letter requesting information on the process used by the City of Houston, Texas, to treat wastewater. I am not certain as to the process used at Houston, but I believe that it is a modification of the activated sludge process known as Biosorption. Biosorption is a re-

gistered trade mark of Inflico, Inc. This process was developed as the result of studies carried out by Ullrich and Smith in 1947 and 1948 at Austin, Texas. The process proceeds in at least three stages: clarification, reactivation and nitrification. In the clarification or absorptive stage oxygen from the air is introduced into the wastes in an aerated tank for a limited period of time, then allowed to settle and the solids aerated for a longer period in a reactivation tank. Some of these reactivated solids are then returned into the influent of the treatment plant. This improves the clarification and removal of solids and the B. O. D. in the wastes.

"The Biosorption Process as the following advantages: See SEWER, Page 3