

SCHOOL BONDS THE CAUSE

Hoke Board Votes 10-Cent Tax Hike

Hoke County Commissioners this week approved a record \$854,311.92 budget -- \$85,568.39 higher than the current budget -- and raised the tax rate 10 cents to \$1.38.

It was the first tax increase here since 1963 and was made necessary by a \$600,000 school bond issue approved last summer to replace burned-out facilities at J. W. McLaughlin School.

The school budget for 1967-68 was put at \$517,946.92 -- highest in Hoke County history. It includes capital improvements, debt service, and current expenses.

That figure is about \$98,000 more than the 1966-67 school budget. It also was made larger by the approval of an additional \$100 per year supplement for teachers, which added some \$20,000 to current expenses.

Actually, the \$336,965 for the general fund, special funds, debt service funds, welfare funds, health fund and county poor fund is \$13,077.47 less than appropriated for those items last year.

Savings on that side of the ledger were made in spite of general salary increases for county personnel and major adjustments for several department heads and other administrators.

The tax increase was minimized by a whopping \$2 million increase in assessed valuation, according to County Manager T. B. Lester Jr.

The budget is based on a \$39 million assessed valuation, up \$2 million from last year, and the \$1.38 tax rate (per \$100 valuation) is based on anticipated 90 per cent collection of ad valorem taxes.

The entire 10-cent tax increase is charged against the school budget, which will devour 85 cents of each \$1.38 collected in taxes.

Distribution of other funds total the same as in the 1966-67 budget -- 53 cents -- although the proportion of various departments is different than a year ago.

Salary increases for county employees ranged from \$120 per year to \$1248 -- but generally were in the neighborhood of \$300.

Biggest salary increases went to employees of the welfare department, whose rate of pay is determined at state level.

The state scale made mandatory a \$1,248 increase for the director; increases of \$768 to \$1,212 for case workers (5), and raises of \$384 to \$420 for clerks (3).

Total salary increases in the welfare department amounted to \$7,834.

The various funds were approved as follows (1966-67 in parentheses):

GENERAL FUND -- Administration, \$8,433.16 (\$8,421.52); tax listing, \$8,723.54 (\$7,805.74); tax collector, \$12,665.24 (\$9,654.52); elections, \$7,100 (\$8,133); law enforcement, \$45,914 (\$38,203.51); library, \$7,180 (\$6,626); office building, \$2,933.56 (\$3,432.10); courthouse and grounds, \$7,203.54 (\$6,438.40); register of deeds, \$10,077.57 (\$11,020.24); coroner, \$158 (\$158); forest fire control, \$9,656.65 (\$6,726.65); jail, \$5,485.65 (\$4,762.58); superior court, none (\$3,235); clerk of superior court, none (\$9,946.75); recorder's court, none (\$3,972.77); county aid, \$7,190 (\$3,557); contingency, \$4,000 (\$4,000); justice of peace, none (\$1,024); Civil Defense, \$9,232.61 (\$8,485.14).

SPECIAL FUNDS -- County accountant, \$18,293.40 (\$15,819.40); farm demonstration, \$14,429.06 (\$12,609.93); veterans service officer, \$6,123.96 (\$5,483.36); rural fire departments, \$2,000 (\$1,000); reevaluation, \$3,510 (\$3,330).

DEBT SERVICE -- Debt service, \$10,052.50 (\$3,375).

WELFARE -- Administration, \$68,750.75 (\$53,058.68); public assistance, \$35,495.74 (\$30,835.23); general assistance, \$4,500 (\$5,000).

HEALTH -- Health, \$54,467.60 (\$46,906.40).

COUNTY POOR -- County poor assistance, \$25,833.86

(\$24,998.81). **SCHOOLS** -- Current expense, \$357,639.42 (\$262,233.06); capital outlay, \$50,350 (\$47,400.50); debt service, \$109,957.50 (\$89,667.50).

The tax rate distribution (dollar portion of the \$1.38 tax rate) is as follows (1966-67 figures in parentheses):

General funds, .057 (.119); special funds, .116 (.104); debt service fund, .016 (.010); welfare administration, .063 (.052); welfare public assistance, .094 (.085); welfare general assistance, .008 (.010); health fund, .120 (.104); county poor, .043 (.046); jail fund, .013 (none). Total, 53 cents.

School funds -- Current expense, .470 (.414); capital outlay, .100 (.090); debt service, .280 (.246).

Salaries were listed by Lester's office as follow per year increase in parentheses):

Tax collector -- Archie Byrme, \$5,390 (\$360); Elizabeth Livingston, \$4,250 (\$480).

Law enforcement -- Dave Barrington, \$7,000 (\$1,000); Jesse Lee, \$5,340 (\$300); Alex Norton, \$4,700 (\$300); Robert Jones, \$4,600 (\$300); Harvey Young, \$4,600 (\$300); James Adams, \$3,900 (\$300); Beatrice Herbin, \$1,500 (\$300).

Register of deeds -- J. E. Gullede, \$5,700 (\$300).

Civil Defense -- Alfred Cole, \$3,100 (\$300); Laura Morris, \$3,588 (\$336).

County accountant -- T. B. Lester, \$10,000 (none); Louise Parker, \$5,000 (none).

Farm Demonstration (county's portion only -- Wendell Young, \$2,844 (\$240); Talmadge Baker, \$1,470 (\$240); Alice

Lee, \$1,470 (\$240); Josephine Hall, \$1,200 (\$240); Elizabeth Wallis, \$1,740 (\$240); Jean Haddock, \$1,560 (\$240).

Volunteer service officer -- Marlon M. Carter, \$4,500 (\$900).

Police Department -- Mabel M. McLaughlin, \$9,268 (\$1,248); Anne Pugh, \$8,950 (\$1,212); Catherine Smith, \$6,248 (\$1,152); Pat Brown, \$6,026 (\$1,152); Ronald Huffman, \$6,124 (\$1,104); Lew F. Minton, \$5,748 (\$768); Delaine M. Sizer, \$4,128 (\$784); Merv J. Brown, \$4,128 (\$384); Frances Brown, \$4,128 (\$420).

Health Department -- Dr. H. H. McCall, \$7,590 (\$300); Matthew W. Blynn, \$6,960 (\$336); Lester B. Jones, \$1,936 (\$192); Genevieve Williams, \$6,924 (\$1,000); William Parks, \$6,124 (\$1,000); Archie Clark, \$6,960 (\$336).

Jail fund -- Earl Jones, \$1,000 (none).

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 1

THURSDAY, May 18, 1967

Local Chamber Members Told: 'Keep Up With Changing Times'

BY JIM TAYLOR

Raeform-Hoke Chamber of Commerce was challenged this week to keep pace with a changing world, or progress will pass it by.

Frank Melton, regional director, United States Chamber of Commerce, sowed these seeds at the annual chamber meeting at Hoke High School. He was principal speaker.

Chamber members, along with their wives and guests, gathered some 150 strong to hear Melton and to see new officers and directors installed.

Dr. Robert G. Townsend, outgoing president, presided at the beginning of the meeting and later turned the gavel over to Wyatt Upchurch, new president.

R. B. Lewis, a charter member of the chamber, installed officers. They included Upchurch; Neill McDonald and Younger Snead Jr., vice presidents; Franklin Teal, secretary, and Charles Hottel, treasurer.

Four new directors were installed for three-year terms. They are Ralph Barnhart, Younger Snead Jr., Franklin Teal and Charles Hottel. Outgoing directors are J. H. Austin, Archie Howard and Ed Murray.

"These men are leaders because they want Raeform and Hoke County to be the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family," Lewis said. He also praised James Fout, chamber manager, saying: "We're really lucky to have a man like Colonel Fout. (Fout is a retired Army lieutenant colonel).

In an audience participation question-answer period, Melton was asked what the local chamber of commerce needs to do to get a sound program on the planning boards.

"You might start with doing something about your chamber headquarters," Melton said. "I must say that I was surprised

when I arrived in town and was directed to the chamber office on Main Street. I was shocked, really, more than surprised. "You have no idea how much you can tell about a town by its chamber of commerce facilities. If you have a rundown, too-small, dilapidated chamber office, the town is pretty much apt to be the same way."

Melton showed a series of color slides about chamber operations and goals, giving the accompanying narrative.

The presentation was divided into three phases:

1. What Is A Chamber of Commerce? -- An organization of business and professional people who work through committees to accomplish pre-determined goals they have established.

2. What Is Its Role In The Community? -- To isolate and identify problems and to solve them by gathering facts, supplying the leadership, and acting as salesman for new ideas.

See CHAMBER, Page 11

Band Concert Set Friday

Three bands in the local public school system will give a concert tomorrow night at Hoke High School gym, beginning at 8 o'clock.

Several selections each will be played by the high school band, Raeform Elementary School band, and the fifth grade band, all under direction of Jimmy James, band director. "This concert represents the high point in our work for the year," James said. "We hope everyone will be on hand to hear all three of these groups perform and to encourage these boys and girls in their musical efforts."

Selections will include compositions by Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Bach, Beethoven, and from Broadway musicals.

Free Courses Set For Hoke County

Free schools for stenographers and mechanics are scheduled to begin in Raeform on June 19. Applications are now being received by James R. Attaway at the Community Action Program office in the county office building.

A total of \$130,728 has been allocated to Hoke County for conducting the training programs. Facilities have been leased for both schools.

The stenographic course will be taught in the McPhaul building on Elwood avenue, formerly occupied by Griffin's Fabric Shop. The course for mechanics will be taught at Billy Monroe's Garage on Highway 401.

Attaway emphasized that the educational program does not come under the Office of Economic Opportunity but is financed by Manpower Development and Training Act, a subsidiary of the United States Department of Labor. It is a program parallel to OEO. Attaway is, however, assisting in making necessary preparations.

Funds are distributed through the State Department of Com-

munity Colleges in Raleigh. The program is administered by technical institutes.

The two Hoke County schools will be under the direction of Director Van of the Sampson County Technical Institute in Clinton and Assistant Director Porter. All instructors will be hired from Hoke County and all equipment and facilities will be leased here.

Two nine-month stenographic courses will be taught, one to succeed the other. The course will be completed in nine months without cost and the student may even receive subsistence pay while learning.

Qualifications for students taking this training are: 1. Should be a high school graduate or equivalent. 2. Should possess qualities in appearance that would be acceptable to employers.

For the Auto mechanic's course, the applicant should be a male who has completed the eighth grade and is over 18 years of age. This course is pointed directly at high school drop-outs without a salable See COURSES, Page 11



INSTALLED -- R. B. Lewis, left, charter member of Raeform-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, was installing officer Tuesday night when new officers were installed at the chamber's annual meeting at Hoke High School. They are,

from right: Wyatt Upchurch, president; Neill A. McDonald and Younger Snead Jr., vice presidents; Franklin Teal, secretary, and Charles Hottel, treasurer.

Three Get Life Terms In McCormick Murder

Three young Hoke County Negroes convicted of brutally slaying a 77-year-old Duffy's Station man on the night of December 18 were sentenced in Hoke Superior Court last week to life imprisonment.

Only recommendations of mercy averted the death penalty for Robert Lee Hollings-

worth, 23, King David Purcell, 19, and Landon Johnson, 17, after the jury of seven men and five women found them guilty of first degree murder.

The week-long trial came to a dramatic close late Friday afternoon when Judge James C. Fathing of Lenoir charged the jury and told its members they should return one of three verdicts: Guilty of first degree murder; guilty of first degree murder with recommendation of mercy; not guilty.

The trio was convicted of slaying Neill Archie McCormick, who lived alone in a four-room house in the Duffy's Station section, and of robbing him of \$67.

McCormick's body was found some 24 hours after the slay-

ing when his son, Fred McCormick, stopped to check his father's house when he passed after dark and saw no lights burning.

Ironically, Fred McCormick did not know his father had been murdered until Sheriff Dave Barrington arrived and entered the house. Fred McCormick had shined his flashlight beam into the house and did not enter after he saw his father's inert body lying in a doorway between the living room and hall.

A star witness for the state-- and the principal accuser of Hollingsworth, Purcell and Johnson--was Malcolm McCoy, 17, who was given a life term after he pled guilty of first See MURDER, Page 11



MALCOLM MCCOY

Blood Bank Short

Efforts are being concentrated on recruitment of blood donors for the Friday, May 19 visit here of the Red Cross bloodmobile. This will be the final Hoke county bloodmobile visit for the Red Cross year, and the local chapter is behind in its quota according to Ed Roach, Blood Program Chairman.

The bloodmobile will be stationed at Hoke Civic Center Friday from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Donors may call at any time during these hours.

Local physicians and nurses will assist the Red Cross medical staff in examining donors and taking the blood. Raeform Jayees are sponsoring the visit and womenfolk of the town will assist in the clinic.

Donors receive credit for each pint of blood given. Their credit card provides them and

their immediate families with protection in case they should need a blood transfusion in the following six months. This means that they will receive the blood without being asked to replace each pint. A similar type of credit is extended to participating industrial and commercial firms.

Everyone who receives blood and is not covered by a credit card is expected to secure replacements for each pint received. There is no charge for the blood, other than the charge made by the hospital for the expenses of the program, but donors are expected to find replacements.

Everyone who has received blood through the local Red Cross chapter is asked to make a special effort to find replacements by the Friday bloodmobile visit.



EXECUTIVES -- Shown here are the incoming and outgoing presidents of Raeform-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, who Frank Melton, district manager, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, who was principal speaker at the annual meeting. Dr. Robert Townsend, left, outgoing president, was succeeded by Wyatt Upchurch, right.



QUIT PEEKING -- Howard Hales, two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hales, looks as if he wishes the cameraman would go away while he gasses up a State Highway Patrol car at his uncle's service station. The scene was not posed and was photographed Thursday night.