

# The News - Journal

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Workmen Are Shown Putting Bonded Roof On Bethel Road School

## New Bethel Road School May Be Ready By Fall

Raeform Methodist and First Baptist churches probably will go out of the public school business come September.

The two churches, along with Raeform Presbyterian Church, allowed the classrooms of their educational departments to be used by elementary school pupils after a disastrous fire destroyed the main building of J. W. McLaughlin School on the night of October 31, 1964.

Taxpayers of the county subsequently approved a \$550,000 school bond issue to provide classrooms to replace the burned-out school. The bond issue and other funds also provided some badly-needed classroom space in addition to that lost in the fire.

The first emergency construction project added six classrooms and a library at the unburned portion of J. W. McLaughlin School. It is now devoted to the education of first and second graders.

Third and fourth graders continued to attend classes in the Baptist and Methodist churches. When the new classrooms were completed, students vacated Raeform Presbyterian Church.

This week, W. T. Gibson Jr., superintendent of schools, told county commissioners that the new Bethel Road Elementary School -- being

built with bond money -- is scheduled for completion in November, 1967.

Ten classrooms, however, have been promised by the beginning of the fall term. They will enable school officials to recall students from the church classrooms.

School and county officials have been high in their praise of the cooperative attitude of the churches.

At the time of the fire, several hundred students were left without classrooms and the county had no means of providing them.

Portable classrooms to accommodate that many students would have cost a fortune. Too, there was the necessity of conducting a bond referendum before new facilities could be planned, and that proved to be a lengthy process.

When the main building at McLaughlin went up in flames, it robbed the school system of 15 classrooms, a library, and an auditorium.

Insurance money helped build the additional classrooms at McLaughlin. Together with nine classrooms and a cafeteria which were undamaged by the fire, they provided enough room for the first two grades.

When the new school on Bethel Road is

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SHE LOVES KITTENS--One of the finest borrowers at Hoke County Library this summer is Fran Buoy, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Buoy. She is not old enough to join the reading club with her brother, Duncan, right, but she makes the weekly visit there with him. Holding two of them in her hand while she waits for the third to be assigned to her, Fran borrows only kitten books. It doesn't matter if she runs through the library's list. Toys her age enjoy a book the second, third and fourth times better than the first.

## Hoke Crash Takes Life Of Woman

A Hoke County woman was killed Tuesday afternoon in what officers described as the only serious July Fourth accident in the county.

She was Mrs. Annie Ruth Lowery, 40, of Raeform Rt. 1. Her husband, Joseph Lowery, driver of the station wagon, and Mrs. Mary Neal McMillan of Aberdeen Rt. 1, were injured in the accident.

State Trooper E. W. Coen said the Lowery car was struck head-on on a gentle curve by a car operated by Willie June McKay, 25, of Duffie's Station.

The accident occurred at about 3 p. m. on a rural paved road which runs between Duffie's Station and Wagram.

Coen said the McKay car was going southwest toward Wagram and was on the wrong side of the road when it rammed the Lowery vehicle.

"Skid marks and tire tracks indicated the Lowery vehicle ran off the road to avoid collision," Coen said.

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## Booster Club Meeting Set

Hoke High Booster Club will meet Friday night at 8 o'clock at the high school, according to C. D. Bounds, president.

"We especially urge all members of the club to attend, because we will make preliminary plans for the annual football camp," Bounds said.

## Two-Dollar Bills, Rare Coins Stolen

There probably will be a few more Kennedy half-dollars floating around now.

A robbery took place in Hoke County last week and 44 of the coins were stolen and spent.

After experiencing such a loss, the C.H. Doves of Rockfish will probably advise you to keep your coin collection locked up--preferably in a safe deposit box.

The Doves had three \$2 bills (seldom seen in circulation) five silver dollars (also rare), 44 Kennedy half-dollars, and seven old quarters. All of it has been put into circulation, according to Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Sheriff Barrington reported that thieves first entered the home after daylight on Thursday, June 22, but while the older couple was still asleep. They ransacked drawers in a back bedroom and made off with the two-dollar bills and the five silver dollars. They left the halves and the quarters but returned at dawn Wednesday of last week and stole those.

The thieves allegedly walked into the house through unlocked doors each time. None of the money was missed until after the second robbery.

Fairley Jones Jr., 17, and a 15-year-old accomplice, both Negro, have been arrested and placed under \$1,000 bond each charged with taking the money on two separate occasions.

## Unanimous Choice

# G. R. Autry Named Hoke High Principal

## Bethel Road Post Goes To Bledsoe

George Raz Autry, principal of East Montgomery High School in Montgomery County, has been employed as principal of Hoke County High School.

Autry, 40, was the unanimous selection of the board of education which met Monday night to consider several applicants for the post.

The school board also announced the appointment of Lonnie Bledsoe, principal of J. W. McLaughlin Elementary School for the past several years, as principal of the new Bethel Road School. It is expected that 10 classrooms of the new school will be ready for occupancy in September, with the entire school to be available in November.

James Turlington, principal of Raeform Elementary School, will remain at that post. Raeform Elementary will house third, fourth and fifth graders. Bethel Road School will accommodate the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and first and second graders will be housed at J. W. McLaughlin Elementary.

The new Hoke High principal will succeed Donald D. Abernethy, who resigned at the end of the past school year to take a job at Pembroke State College. He will be director of student teaching at the four-year college.

Autry, a World War II Marine



RAZ AUTRY

who fought at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, is a graduate of East Carolina College, where he earned a master of arts degree in education. He also attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning an advanced principal's certificate.

A native of Dunn, Autry was captain of the ECC football team in 1943. A trim 200-pounder, he played guard for the Pirates.

"I think the job at Hoke High School is a real challenge," Autry told members of the school board. "I look forward to working with the young people here and I am sure we will get along just fine."

Autry comes to Raeform with

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## Hoke Wins Battle To Stay In 7th

Hoke County has survived General Assembly maneuvering which would have switched it from the Seventh Congressional District to the Eighth District and will remain aligned with counties to the east.

The Legislature, nearing the end of its longest session in state history, enacted a compromise redistricting bill Monday. A committee amendment returning Hoke to the Seventh District was allowed.

The Senate originally passed a redistricting bill which would have aligned Hoke with Scotland, Richmond, Moore, Lee, Montgomery, Anson, Union, Stanley, Cabarrus and Rowan counties. An amendment to return Hoke to the Seventh was defeated in the Senate by 22-24.

The House committee amended the Senate bill to return Hoke to the Seventh, but when it also tacked on two amendments affecting the Fifth and Sixth Districts, as well as the Eighth and Ninth, the Senate rejected the amended bill.

It then went to a committee of conferees, who were assigned to resolve differences between the House and Senate.

The Senate conferees agreed to accept a House modification pitting incumbent Rep. Basil Whitener against Republican Rep. James Broyhill in the new 10th District. The bill passed by the House would have pitted Whitener against GOP Rep. Charles R. Jonas.

House conferees, in turn, agreed to drop an amendment which would have changed the positioning of Rockingham, Caswell and Davidson counties.

The Seventh District now consists of Hoke, Cumberland, Robeson, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick and New Hanover counties. Rep. Alton A. Lennon of Wilmington represents the district in Washington.

The redistricting had been ordered by a three-judge federal court.

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## Hoke Jail Is Still Problem

Hoke County jail problems were not solved for once and for all when the bond issue passed, nor when the bids were set for a new one. Headaches still seem to be popping up from this side and that.

At the July meeting Monday of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, it was brought to light that Grant E. Key, low bidder on the new jail's kitchen equipment, is unhappy over the situation he finds himself in since signing his contract. He claims that he made his bid without complete knowledge of state requirements and he wants his contract amended to read something like \$565 more than the original figure.

Board members were in agreement that the architect is at fault for not making the

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## Welfare Department Asks For More Cash

Although the Hoke County Board of Commissioners met Monday for the first time in the new fiscal year under a newly balanced budget, it was met with a request for an increase by one of its agencies.

The welfare department asked that its aid to dependent children budget be boosted by \$356.74 to bring the total for the coming year to \$12,262 and to bring the Old Age Assistance budget up to \$14,782, an increase of \$424.99.

It was not explained by County Manager T. B. Lester why the request came so closely behind the presentation of the department's annual budget. The request was granted.

T. F. McBryde presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman T. C. Jones, who was ill. Other commissioners

present were John Balfour, J. A. Webb and Ralph Barnhart.

Rockfish Community Development Club requested by letter that the county assist the citizens in remodeling their community house. The request was for \$500 to pay for materials. It was pointed out that \$300 had been set previously as a standard amount allotted for all clubhouse repairs. The issue was tabled, however, until a later meeting.

W. T. Gibson, superintendent of schools, reported that "The school's current expense budget is in good shape and tennis courts at the high school have been completed." He said the courts are for public use but the gates will remain locked when not in use. The key can be obtained from Coach John

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Commissioners Inspect Footing For New Jail