

# The News - Journal

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## Major Expansion Indicated

# Sewage Survey Shows Overload

A recently conducted sewage plant survey conducted by three teams of laboratory specialists leaves little hope Raeford can avoid a major expansion of its sewage treatment plant.

A report of the survey was presented to Raeford Town Board at a special meeting Monday afternoon by Richard Moore, consulting engineer, who for two years has contended the town's sewage treatment facilities are overloaded.

Moore said the tests indicate the new sewage treatment plant is operating at an average of 178 per cent of its design capacity in B.O.D. (biological oxygen demand) and that its hydraulic capacity is "loaded."

He recommended a major expansion of the treatment plant which would cost an estimated \$1,020,000.

That would raise the B.O.D. capacity of the plant to 11,800 — substantially higher than the plant's original design capacity of 2,800 B.O.D.

The tests revealed the average load on the plant when the samples were taken several months ago was in excess of 5,000 B.O.D.

The tests also revealed that industrial waste accounts for a major portion of the overload, with Raeford Turkey Farms and Burlington Industries contributing heavily to the overload. The turkey plant's input was slightly greater in terms of B.O.D. than was the textile mill's.

Engineers from Burlington Industries and the turkey plant were present for the meeting and pressed for estimates on a smaller expansion than the one Moore had recommended.

The town board later voted to have Moore also prepare estimates on a 7,600 B.O.D. plant and asked him to recommend means of raising the money.

He already had suggested that the water rate to outside users be raised 50 to 100 per cent and that the sewer charge for all customers be raised to 40 to 50 per cent of the water bill.

The sewer tax currently is 20 per cent of the water bill. These increases would take care of some \$50,000 per year of the \$79,000 per year the plant improvements (11,800 B.O.D.) would cost.

Actually, the 11,800 B.O.D. facility is the same recommended by Moore about a year ago. At that time, its estimated cost was \$850,000, but Moore said costs have increased by 20 per cent since then.

The town would be eligible for 30 per cent federal participation, Moore said, leaving \$750,000 to be financed by the town.

That, of course, would require a major bond issue. Further, it would correct only the sewage treatment situation. Moore contends that major improvements also are needed to the water system, including new outfall lines to Burlington's two plants and around the southern perimeter of the town.

Both Burlington Industries and Raeford Turkey Farms have pledged to bear their fair share of the costs.

Moore said he believed his organization — Moore, Gardner and Associates, Inc., of Asheboro — can have the additional estimates ready by the September meeting of town board.

Town commissioners have been wrestling with the water-sewer problem for the past two years and seem no closer to a solution than when they started.

The present treatment plant, designed by Moore's firm, was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$400,000. It was supposed to have taken care of the town's needs for the next 15 years and its capacity was said sufficient for a city of 15,000 population.

It became overloaded almost immediately. After initial difficulties were ironed out, however, the plant has operated apparently perfectly ever since.

Although B.O.D. flow sometimes is twice the plant's design capacity, nobody has explained why the plant has been giving no trouble.

Hydraulic capacity of the plant is 1.5 million gallons a day. At peak hours, sewage pours through the plant at a rate of 1.3 million gallons per day.

However, the B.O.D. factor is termed equally important, since it indicates the degree of contamination.

The survey was conducted by Southern Testing Laboratories of Wilson, the State Health Department, and technicians at the local plant.



Deputy's Daughter, Doris, And Rattler

## Deputy 'Lights Out' When Stick Rattles

Deputy Sheriff Jesse Lee was "walking the dog" late one afternoon last week, when he spied in the twilight what he thought was a large stick.

When the stick moved, he knew better.

And when the stick started buzzing like a jarfly in July, he made a break for his farmhouse, several yards distant, calling his young bird dog as he went.

Lee got his shotgun, hurried back to the scene, and fired a blast at the stick, now coiled like a short hawser.

When it stopped writhing, he nudged it with his toe, then picked it up by the tapered rear end.

"What a rattlesnake!" Lee

said, although there was nobody near enough to hear him.

It was, to be sure, a whopper. Measured later, it turned out to be four feet, eight inches long, allowing inches for a head, which was no longer there.

And it was eight and one-half inches in circumference at the thickest part of its body.

That, most people who later viewed the snake, is about as big as a timber rattler gets.

In fact, it was only four inches shorter than a five-foot timber rattler — a record here — killed in July, 1965, by Game Protector Phil Buckner.

Meanwhile, the first snakebite of the season was reported this week after Ellis (Juice) See RATTLER, Page 9

## Hoke Jury Commission Established

A Hoke County Jury Commission appointed here Monday is the first such commission to exist in the area.

The three-person body is made up of D.H. Hodgkin, William Lamont and Miss Bonzie Dobbins. They were named for the new duties by the county commissioners, Judge Maurice Braswell, resident judge for the Twelfth Judicial District, and E.E. Smith, clerk of court. Swearing-in ceremonies will be held Friday at 4 p.m.

The work of the commission will be to set up a file of all persons eligible for jury duty and to meet when necessary to draw a court-designated number of jurors for each court session. County commissioners have previously performed the job. The commission will not have authority to relieve any person from jury duty. Only the judge, or the district court judge, will now have that privilege.

At the same meeting, the board appointed M.A. Maxwell to serve as county electrical inspector. Maxwell has been doing county electrical work for a number of years and is now at work on the new Upchurch School cafeteria.

Allendale community, which had made the request, was granted \$210 for repairs of the community house there. The building is property of the county.

The library board was granted funds for construction of a shelter for the bookmobile and Miss Josephine Hall was given authority to purchase a sewing machine for Home Demonstration and 4-H Club work.

Reports were heard on accomplishments of the agricultural extension office during the past month by W. S. Young, county extension director, Mrs. Ellen Willis, 4-H worker and Talmadge Baker, assistant farm agent.

Young reported, among other things, that farmers had sold tobacco on the South Carolina tobacco market and had been pleased with their sales.

Mrs. Willis reported that some additional clubs were being organized

# Sheriff May Be Prosecuted For Killing Hoke Alligator



TROUBLEMAKER -- This seven-foot alligator, shown with one of its captors, Willie McPhaul, has turned out to be a real troublemaker. State game authorities have indicated Hoke Sheriff Dave Barrington, who killed the 'gator, may be prosecuted. Alligators and their eggs are protected by a law passed by the 1965 General Assembly.

## State Trooper Is Injured In Ashley Heights Crash

State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson of Raeford was injured Friday night in a head-on collision with another car near the Hoke-Moore county line at Ashley Heights.

Also injured were Belle L. Baldwin, 57, and her husband, Willie W. Baldwin, 59, who live

a short distance from where the accident occurred on Highway 211.

Patrol Sgt. J. B. Howell of Fayetteville said Robinson, 28, was returning to Raeford from a breathalyzer school in Morganton when a car driven by Mrs. Baldwin pulled into the highway from a side road.

Robinson suffered a broken nose, two black eyes, a cut finger and other injuries. He was admitted to Moore Memorial Hospital, from which he was discharged Monday.

Mrs. Baldwin and her husband both sustained cuts and bruises and were taken to the Pinehurst hospital. The woman was released Monday, but Baldwin remained under treatment for severe injuries.

Other troopers declared that Robinson would have been more seriously hurt had he not been wearing a seat belt. Both cars were demolished.

Robinson apparently will be off duty for several weeks. No charges have been filed pending completion of investigation.

Meanwhile, several other accidents were reported in the county during the week end.

Trooper E. W. Coen said he investigated a wreck at 9:45 p. m. Saturday near Mildouson School in which two persons were injured.

He identified them as John David Hair Jr., 19, of Red Springs Rt. 4, and Larry Huggins, 15, of Red Springs. They were treated and released at

See TROOPER, Page 9

## Trucker Keeps Cool

It was hot Tuesday morning, but not that hot. Several downtown store owners complained to authorities at about 9 a.m. that a man was running up and down the street clad only in undershorts.

He entered several stores, officers said, before he was taken into custody.

Sheriff Dave Barrington said the man, a truck driver, was passing through Raeford driving a tractor-trailer. No reason was given for his peculiar behavior.

Barrington said prosecution of the man will depend upon eyewitnesses being willing to testify against him in court. He indicated nobody wanted to testify.

## Reptile Protected By State Game Law

Indications this week were that Hoke County Sheriff David M. Barrington will be prosecuted by state wildlife authorities for killing an alligator here some three weeks ago.

The reptile — a seven-foot, 80-pound specimen — was captured near Antioch by Willie McPhaul and Lerow Henderson. It was brought to town in the trunk of McPhaul's car to determine what disposition should be made of it.

A state law prohibiting the taking of an alligator or its eggs was passed by the 1965 General Assembly.

Barrington shot and killed the alligator after it was dislodged from McPhaul's car on the J. W. McLaughlin School grounds.

The reptile was restrained by a single length of insulated wire, which its captors had slipped noose-fashion over its head. The loop was around the 'gator's neck and its powerful jaws were in no way restricted.

The angry alligator writhed on the ground, popping its jaws and lashing out with its powerful tail. A bystander reportedly stuck a two-by-four into the creature's open jaws and it splintered the wood with its teeth.

At about that point, Sheriff Barrington shot it with his pistol.

The sheriff declared that he considered the alligator a menace and a threat to the public safety. It was scarcely a block from the busy downtown business section. Moreover, pre-school youngsters were being taught at the school and would have returned the following morning for classes.

Barrington, who admitted he knew nothing about alligators, did not realize they are protected by law in North Carolina until he "read up" on them that night.

See ALLIGATOR, Page 9

## Former Mayor Has Attack

Alfred Cole, former mayor of Raeford, was stricken by a heart attack last Wednesday while visiting in Fairmont.

Cole, 65, reportedly was en route to the coast when he stopped by the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nettie Davis, in Fairmont. When he complained of being ill, he was persuaded to remain in Fairmont and was stricken during the night, reports indicated.

He reportedly has had another seizure since being admitted to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton, where he is on the "critical" list. Cole's wife died May 31 of this year.

# Hallie L. Gatlin Dies At Age 84

Funeral services were held here Wednesday afternoon for Hallie L. Gatlin, pioneer Raeford merchant and farmer, who died Monday at Moore Memorial Hospital. He was 84 years old.

Last rites were performed at First Baptist Church by the pastor, the Rev. John M. Glenn, assisted by the Rev. R. E. L. Moser. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

A native of Darlington County, S. C., he came to Raeford in 1905 after a year of study at the University of South Carolina and further education at a business college. He joined his father, B. R. Gatlin, in farming and the mercantile business. The business subsequently was incorporated as Farmers Furnishing Company in 1911 and operated as such until January, 1967.

In 1906, he returned to Darlington County to marry the former Margaret Privett. They returned to Raeford and established a home at 213 Central Avenue, which continues as the



HALLIE L. GATLIN

Gatlin homeplace. Mrs. Gatlin died in 1965.

Following the death of his father in 1932, H. L. Gatlin headed Farmers Furnishing Company until his retirement

See GATLIN, Page 9

# Ambulance Service Owner Says Rescue Squad Taking Business

One Raeford ambulance service has gone out of business and a successor is making threats to do the same.

Bill Bruton, operator of Raeford Ambulance Service, told the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Monday morning that he will be forced to call it quits for lack of business if Hoke Rescue Squad keeps receiving all the calls first and filling the needs before his own vehicle can arrive.

Crumpler Funeral Home complained to the same board more than once before he discontinued service to highway accidents. He said he was being called upon often and being paid seldom and wanted the county to help pick up the tab.

The commissioners indicated they would not become involved

with private business. Bruton contended that the ambulance service could not be compared with other business because the client usually is unconscious. He said that his firm has been able to serve a call only two or three times in the past couple of months because Hoke Rescue Squad had already left the scene with the patients when his ambulance arrived.

"We cannot continue to make trips without pay," he declared. "If we get the first call, we can be there first because our vehicle is in our yard and they have to go downtown to get theirs."

When Board Chairman T.C. Jones asked him if the trouble didn't lie with the highway troopers who do the calling, Bruton

said the troopers call the police or the sheriff's department and they in turn call for ambulance service.

Sheriff Dave Barrington, called into the meeting room, said his men always call the ambulance service and he knew nothing about last week's incident, when, as Bruton claimed, the ambulance service never received a call to the wreck at Mildouson School where four were injured.

On the other hand, Bruton said he knew nothing about a report that his ambulance had recently arrived 20 minutes after the patient had been taken to the hospital.

Commissioner J. A. Webb said, "We don't want to say anything to hurt the rescue squad. They are doing a good job with-

out pay. On the other hand, we want to keep the ambulance service here, too."

Barrington said that the Rescue Squad is called to help with other jobs created by an accident and the ambulance service, to pick up the injured. "But if I see that a life is in danger, I can only rush the patient to a hospital immediately and by the first opportunity, if I have to take them myself."

Barrington assured Bruton that men in his department will notify his service when an ambulance is ordered by the sheriff's department. Bruton made a similar complaint Monday night to Raeford town board. The board informed him that in any emergency, the town radio operator will notify both the ambulance service and Hoke Rescue Squad.