

# The News - Journal

The Hoke County News- Established 1928

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1967



**FAMILY CAR**--A young Hoke County family of three was wiped out when this compact car collided with a tractor-trailer April 22 on U.S. 401 south. Killed were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel David Russell and their infant daughter, Phyllis Diane Russell. Driver of the tractor-trailer also was killed.

## Hoke Had No Disasters, Sensational News In '67

Newswise, 1967 was a better year--from the standpoint of less tragedy--than most 12-month periods in recent Hoke history.

There were fewer murders (only two charges) than in most recent years.

The fatal accident rate was lower than the previous year (10 to 14).

There were no major disasters, no significant scandals, no political upheavals, no major changes in the business and industrial climate.

This week, we will recap news of the first six months of the year, week by week. In next week's issue, we will take a look at the second half of 1967, which is not yet ended.

**JANUARY 5**--A Fort Bragg soldier and one of four passengers in his car were killed

near Rockfish shortly before midnight New Year's Eve near Rockfish, bringing the 1966 traffic death toll to 14 in Hoke County.

Marine Private W.J. Bennett, former Hoke High School football and wrestling star, was credited with saving the life of a Moore County woman when he entered the automobile in which she was trapped and revived her by mouth-to-mouth respiration.

**JANUARY 12**--Raeford town commissioners were in a tizzy after they learned it would cost \$9,000 to run water and sewer lines to the new elementary school on Bethel Road. Eventually, the problem was solved at a much lower cost, but the town's critical water and sewer problem (About \$1 million in improvements were needed) continued to plague the town

board.

Police launched a search for a hit-run motorist who struck down Robert Rogers, 47, during the night on South Main Street. Rogers recovered from serious injuries, but the hit-run driver was never found.

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation appointed Mrs. J.M. Andrews, widow of Judge J.M. Andrews, president of the co-op at the time of his death, to take the judge's place on the board of directors.

After losing four straight basketball games, Hoke High's Bucks got back on the winning trail with a 61-39 revenge victory over Rockingham. They went on to complete the regular season and district tournament without another defeat, but were beaten in the first game of the state tournament in Dur-

ham.

**JANUARY 19**--Four young Negro men were indicted on charges of first degree murder by a Hoke grand jury. They were accused of slaying Neil Archie McCormick, 77, at his home in the Duffin's station community. All four subsequently were sentenced to life imprisonment. They were Malcolm M'Koy, 17; Landon Johnson, 17; King David Purcell, 21; and Robert Lee Hollingsworth, 23.

Building permits in Raeford numbered 10 in 1967, compared to 30 the year before.

Julius Judson Niven, 56, a retired Army master sergeant and a native of Raeford, died January 16 at his home here.

**JANUARY 26**--Many members of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce were up in arms after the chamber purchased a

lot on Harris Avenue and announced plans to erect a new office building there. Most of the opposition came from downtown merchants and businessmen, who claimed retail business would be diverted if the chamber and license agency offices were moved off Main Street. Ultimately, the chamber moved to a new office space next door to City Cleaners.

Raeford Jaycettes -- the women's counterpart to Jaycees -- established a \$300 scholarship to be awarded each year to a "deserving" senior girl at Hoke High School.

The News-Journal, winner of many state and national awards for excellence in news, editorials, photography, advertising, and typography, was declared first place winner in photo-

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**TAX LISTERS** -- These Hoke County people were part of a crew sworn in last week for taxlisting jobs. They are, left to right, Harry Thornberg, Ell Shankle, Cliff Conoly, Julian Love and Mrs. Mary Matherly. Other listers (not shown)

are Mrs. Alma Lovette and Mrs. Willa McLaughlin. Their stations are listed elsewhere in the News-Journal in an advertisement. Taxpayers will be required to list their property between January 2 and February 1.

## Negro Citizens Plan To Register Voters

An organization to educate and register voters among the Negro population of Hoke County has been formed here, with the Rev. Thomas P. Walker of Raeford as chairman and Jimmy Morrissey as director.

"Our best estimates indicate that only about half the Negroes eligible to register are on the books, and only about half of those who are registered take the opportunity to vote," the Rev. Mr. Walker said.

On January 4, John Edwards Jr., director of N.C. Voter Education and Registration Project (VERP), will be guest speaker at a meeting of the Hoke VERP group. The gathering will be held at East Freedom Masonic Lodge.

"VERP was officially organized in the county earlier this month," Walker said. "It is designed to assist citizens in registration and voting procedures. Previous registration efforts here were without official organization."

Because of the large number of eligible Negroes who will register and vote, a "more coherent organization" is essential, Walker said.

"This is not a political unit," he said. "Our work lies in teaching registration and voting procedures and in assisting people in getting to the proper places to perform these functions."

Walker said Edwards, a Durham native, is "an active community worker." He has served as director of Winston-Salem's Boys Club and was employed in that city's anti-poverty program, "Experiment in Self-Reliance." He also was connected with Durham's anti-poverty program, "Operation Breakthrough."

"He also is a past secretary-at-large of the NAACP voter registration campaign throughout the Southeast," Walker said.

The Rev. Mr. Walker is pastor of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church here, where he began his pastorate in July, 1966. He moved his family to Raeford in September, 1967, after completing eight years of active duty in the Army, being last stationed at Fort Bragg.

Other officers of Hoke VERP were listed as Robert L. Doby, vice chairman; Bobbie L. Bratcher, secretary; Grace McAllister, assistant secretary; W.T. McAllister, treasurer, and Gilbert A. Robinson, publicity chairman.

Morrissey is vice chairman of Hoke Community Action Program. He also will serve as education chairman for the VERP organization.

## Winter Storm Is On Its Way

Local state highway patrolmen warned motorists planning to be on the highways during the New Year's weekend to check weather conditions at their destinations and along their routes.

The eastern seaboard braced itself Thursday morning for the season's first severe winter storm. Rain was preceded by light snow here before daybreak today, but the rain that fell during the morning was expected to change to snow, sleet, or freezing rain before nightfall.

The Christmas and New Year's holidays traditionally are the worst seasons of the year for traffic accidents. Weather conditions usually are worse, and holiday drinking and merriment add to the hazards.

A light snowfall had accumulated early this morning in the Piedmont and mountain sections of North Carolina, with the snow moving eastward from the mountains.

The U.S. Weather Bureau station in Raleigh warned that snow was expected to cover most of the interior of the state, with as much as four inches in some sections. Along the coast, the precipitation was expected to continue as rain.

Actually, the first snow of the season fell here sometime last Thursday night. It was hardly more than a heavy frost and quickly dissipated after sunrise.

Oddly, that snowfall began in the coastal region and moved inland, changing to rain in the interior.

The current storm developed in the aftermath of a cold front which passed through North Carolina Tuesday. It became stationary over Florida and "a lot of precipitation began

## Courthouse Visit Set By Lennon

Rep. Alton A. Lennon, who represents the state's Seventh Congressional District, will be at Hoke County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 3, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

"In the few days since Congress adjourned, I have been able to travel briefly in the district and to spend some time in our district office," Lennon said. "The length of this year's session, unfortunately, limited the amount of time I have to visit counties in the district."

Lennon said he will be happy to talk with anyone in Hoke County who has a problem relating to the federal government.

"Even if they have no problem, I will appreciate people dropping by to say 'hello' while I am in Raeford," he said.

## Town Seeks Bond Issue Approval

Raeford officials will go to Raleigh next week to seek approval of a \$650,000 after-sewer bond issue to provide improvements to existing facilities, said to be badly overloaded.

The bond issue must be planned--or at least its various aspects have to be approved--by the League of Municipalities. Local officials will confer with

W.E. Easterly, executive secretary of the league.

The State Stream Sanitation Commission already has given its go-ahead to the bond referendum. Its approval was necessary because the proposed bond issue would push the town's bonded indebtedness beyond the recommended limit.

It is necessary to get the

bond referendum underway to qualify for a 30 per cent federal grant for the project, which will bring major expansion of the sewage treatment plant and a new outfall line from Burlington Industries to the treatment plant.

The entire project will cost just less than \$1 million. The federal government would chip

in some \$300,000, provided the referendum can be in certain stages of planning before April 1, the deadline for federal participation during the fiscal year.

Richard E. Moore, consulting engineer who has been working with the town to solve its sewer problems, met with mem-

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## Main Street Yule Tree Yields Gifts For Needy



More than 125 persons of Raeford and Hoke County helped to put a light in the hearts of 80 children by buying a bulb for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree, according to a report from Wyatt Upchurch, chamber president.

Those wishing to help some underprivileged child were invited to "pay \$2 for a bulb to be lit" on the Main Street tree. Many donors paid for several bulbs. The money actually went to purchase trade certificates.

"The results were encouraging," Jim Fout, chamber manager said, "and another such project will be carried out next year."

A secret committee screened families where children were in need. They were listed on a priority basis and trade certificates were delivered Thursday and Friday. The certificates are to be used in the purchase of shoes, clothing and toys for children, only.

"We thought it best to give them a certificate rather than a gift since sizes would present a problem", Fout said.

Any store in Raeford that is a member of the Chamber (that includes the majority) will accept the certificate.

**FOR CHARITY**--Jim Fout, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and his committee made a list and is checking it twice to be sure that there is a trade certificate for as many of the underprivileged as this year's contributions would take care of. Envelopes in foreground contain trade certificates.



**NEW BOSS AND ASSISTANTS** -- Donald D. Abernethy, new Hoke superintendent of schools, took over his new job at the Board of Education office December 19. "We will really get down to business now that Christmas is over," he said

this week. His helpers are, left to right, Miss Margaret McKenzie, Mrs. Dot Bounds, Mrs. Gertrude Daniels and Mrs. Pat Polston.