

The News - Journal

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Might Save Money, Be More Practical

Town May Route Sewer Through 'Hill'

Surveyors will be working for two or three more weeks planning installation of a new sewage outfall line from near Pacific Mills to the town's sewage treatment plant, according to Ed Williams, town manager.

Current indications are that the line may not parallel the existing outfall, Williams said, because of certain complications. Instead, it may be run around the eastern and northern area just outside the town limits.

The additional outfall line is a recommended part of water and sewer improvements which will require a bond issue of \$700,000. A referendum on the bond issue is now being set up.

The proposed bond issue was raised to the \$700,000 level this week on recommendation of the N. C. Local Government

Commission, which then gave its approval of the necessary bond referendum. The original proposal was for a \$685,000 bond issue.

W. E. Easterling, executive secretary of the local government commission, required the \$35,000 increase Monday when Williams, Town Attorney Phil Diehl, and consulting engineer Richard Moore met with him in Raleigh to gain his approval of the bond issue.

Bond attorneys in New York City already have begun preliminary steps to set up the bond referendum and a subsequent bond issue. It appears that the earliest date the referendum can be held would be April 20.

Easterling said the additional \$35,000 would provide a "cushion" to absorb increased construction costs, Williams said.

If final costs are less than the authorized amount of the bond issue, the additional bonds will not be issued.

Easterling also said the interest rate may be slightly higher than anticipated in Moore's estimate.

Raeford Town Board voted late in 1967 to ask citizens to approve bond for the project, which consulting engineers say is essential. The town's sewage treatment plant, completed in 1963, already is taxed beyond its designed capacity, engineers say, and any further loading of the system eventually will lead to serious trouble.

Town commissioners wrestled with the problem for more than a year before finally deciding to propose a major addition to the treatment plant and an additional line to handle waste from Burlington In-

dustries (Pacific Mills Division).

The proposed expansion will cost almost \$1 million, but the town's responsibility will be only 70 per cent of that amount, since it will be eligible for a federal grant to cover 30 per cent of the cost.

Williams said it may be more practical to route the new outfall line around the eastern perimeter of town than to install it through town, parallel to the existing outfall line.

Elevation at one point along the present route is such that the new line would have to be buried 20 to 30 feet to obtain proper fall, Williams said. That would require brick-lined manholes, much like a cased well, which would add appreciably to the cost, Williams declared.

"If this additional expense can be avoided, we certainly

want to do so," Williams said.

At least one town commissioner has said he favors running the line through "the hill" (a Negro settlement just outside the northern town limits). When and if that section is annexed, a substantial saving would have been made if the sewage main already was there.

Residents of outlying Negro communities currently are planning a campaign to bring running water to their neighborhoods. They held a public meeting on the matter some two weeks ago, but have announced no results of the gathering.

Raeford's latest sewer and water troubles began soon after the new treatment plant was opened here in the fall of 1963. The plant has a designed capacity of 1 1/2 million gallons of sewage per day, but a B.O.D.

(biological oxygen demand) capacity of only 2,800.

The B.O.D. load on the plant rose last fall to more than 5,000 daily -- almost twice the designed capacity. An extensive survey was made of sewage loads on lines and treatment facilities, with the State Health Department, the town water and sewer department, and a private laboratory conducting the tests.

Moore, consulting engineer whose firm designed the existing plant, then planned the proposed project, according to instructions from the town board. Moore had recommended even more extensive expansion, which would have cost some \$1.3 million.

Industry leaders here (from Burlington Industries and Raeford Turkey Farms, the two biggest water and sewer custo-

no additional burden upon the average citizen. The entire bond issue would be paid over a 25-year period by industrial and commercial customers, who would pay substantially higher rates.

Neither water rates nor sewer rates (a percentage of the water bill) would be increased for residential customers.

Industrialists here have agreed their plants contribute a major part of the water and sewer load. They have almost without exception showed a willingness -- almost an eagerness -- to help solve the problems, town officials say. Towns met several times with town officials to iron out rough spots in the proposed improvement program.

Somewhat remarkably, the proposed bond issue would place



OFFICERS -- Three of the four above officers were reelected by Hoke Rescue Squad. Left to right are Eric Allen, commander; Lloyd Maxwell, executive vice commander (public relations); Marion L. (Jim) Wade, vice commander (equipment and maintenance), and Harvey Jackson, secretary-treasurer. All but Maxwell served in the same capacity during 1967.

Hoke Rescue Squad Volunteers Work 1,107 Hours During '67

Hoke County Rescue Squad answered a total of 169 calls during 1967, the most ever in its most recent six-year history.

In an annual report to county commissioners, officers of the squad spelled out the job the unit is doing for the county and its citizens, all by volunteer workers.

Biggest service rendered by the squad was its presence at the scene of auto wrecks and other accidents, where squad members rendered first aid, directed traffic, and cleared the roads of debris.

Maxton's Speros Enters Campaign

Gus Speros, 44-year-old Maxton contractor and a former member of Maxton town board, has announced his candidacy for the N.C. House of Representatives, subject to nomination in the May primary. He is the fourth Democrat to

enter the race in the 24th District, composed of Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. Already in the race are incumbents Neil L. McFadyen of Raeford, R.D. McMillan of Red Springs, and R.L. Campbell of Rowland.



GUS SPEROS

The fourth incumbent, Rep. Roger L. Kiser of Laurinburg, has not yet disclosed his intentions. The district is entitled to four seats.

See SPEROS, Page Nine

Hoke County Faces Loss Of Credit At Blood Bank

Donations Far Less Than Need Hoke Murder Trial Nears Final Stage N-J Wins Two More Awards

Alarmed civic, business and industrial leaders met here Monday night to organize a major effort to keep Hoke County eligible for the Red Cross blood program.

Loss of the privilege to borrow blood from Piedmont Carolina Red Cross Blood Center is threatened if the county cannot close the gap between its withdrawals from the bank and its contributions to it.

A tabulation of such data for 1967 indicates 167 pints of blood were borrowed on behalf of patients in or from Hoke County. Total contributions in Hoke County for the year amounted to only 99 pints of blood.

Monday night's meeting was called by Clyde Upchurch Jr., chairman of the Hoke County chapter, American Red Cross. "We are well pleased with results produced by the meeting," Upchurch said. "After open discussion, we made plans to produce enough blood for future needs. We are hopeful we can get enough to make up the deficit."

Upchurch, in a letter to key citizens of Hoke County, pointed out in calling for the public meeting that Hoke County is not facing its responsibilities in the matter.

"For instance, on the two bloodmobile visits to Hoke County during 1967, we collected from donors 72 pints on the first visit and 27 pints on the second (the second visit was cut short), for a total collection of 99 pints. We have used over 165 pints and further need is anticipated immediately. This simply means that other counties in the Piedmont Blood Center area are having to furnish blood for our

See RESCUE, Page Nine

Deer Still Taking Beating At Crossing

Hoke County deer continued to take a beating at a deer crossing on N.C. 211 at McCain this week when two does were hit and killed by one automobile.

State Highway Patrolmen E.W. Coen said the driver, who was from another county, told him three does jumped into the highway in front of his car just after he had met another vehicle. There was no chance to dodge the animals, the driver told Coen.

At least a dozen deer have been killed along a half-mile stretch of N.C. 211 since deer hunting season opened last fall. Coen alone has investigated nine incidents since last fall.

See BLOOD, Page Nine

The trial of two Hoke County men charged with second degree murder in the slaying of one of the men's son-in-law headed into its final stages Wednesday afternoon after the better part of Tuesday was consumed in seating a jury and hearing the first of the state's witnesses.

The defendants are Colon Purcell, 24, and John Stephens, also known as Boyd Stephens. Stephens faces an additional charge of accessory before the fact in murder.

They are accused in the January 13 knife slaying of Robery Melvin, 29. All three live on Raeford Rt. 1.

Evidence for the state indicated Melvin and Purcell got into an argument over Melvin's wife, who is Stephens' daughter, and that Melvin pulled a knife. Purcell then left the house, with Melvin following.

Outside, testimony indicated, Stephens handed Purcell a knife and Purcell and Melvin came together. Melvin received fatal cuts on the head and chest.

Earlier in the session,

another Hoke Man charged with murder in the pistol-slaying of his nephew was sentenced to four to six years in prison after the state accepted his plea of guilty to manslaughter.

He was Matthew Thompson, 49, Raeford Rt. 1, who was accused of shooting James Oscar (Frog) Leslie to death on the morning of December 9.

Thompson, Leslie, and a 16-year-old boy, Earl Leslie, shared quarters adjacent to Bertha Leslie's Club north of Raeford, where the shooting took place.

Evidence indicated that the shooting occurred in early morning when Thompson returned to the room after being out all night.

Thompson and Leslie got into an argument. Leslie was shot while seated on his bed. Evidence indicated the shot was fired from another section of the quarters separated from Thompson's area by a curtain.

Judge Maurice Braswell of Fayetteville is presiding over the term, with Solicitor Doran J. Berry serving as prosecutor.

Tuesday, a dozen extra jurors had to be summoned after the original venire was exhausted. A total of 60 jurors were drawn for the term, but 16 of that number were assigned to the grand jury.

Other decisions handed down during the early part of the term included:

Isabel Dombrowski, Raeford, careless and reckless driving, remanded to District Court from which judgment was appealed. James Walter Bratcher, forgery and passing a forged check, two years suspended for four years, \$25 and costs, probation for four years, \$10 restitution to Robert Harrell, trading as Harrell's Grocery.

Albert Lovette, address unknown, operating distillery, not pros with leave.

Luther Edward Locklear, Red Springs Rt. 3, assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, two years suspended for five years; must possess no guns or knives or other deadly weapons for five years; must not See COURT, Page Nine

The News-Journal won two awards in the 1967 better newspaper contests of North Carolina Press Association, bringing to a dozen the number of state and national awards presented to the newspaper since 1961.

The awards were presented Thursday night at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with Gov. Dan K. Moore making the presentations.

The News-Journal was declared second place winner for "best spot news story" and third place in "best feature picture." It was the fourth award for photography in the past five years for The News-Journal, first newspaper in the state to convert to the photo offset method of printing back in 1963.

Both winning entries were the work of Jim Taylor, News-Journal editor.

Winning entries were not identified in the notification mailed to participating newspapers.

Spot news entries submitted See AWARDS, Page Nine

Two Hoke High School Seniors Are Candidates For Academies

Two Hoke High School seniors have been nominated as candidates for admission to the U.S. Military Academy and the Air Force Academy.

They are John (Rook) Pope, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pope, nominee for a West Point appointment, Ralph Huff, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Huff Jr., nominee for the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Their nominations were made by Rep. Alton A. Lennon of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina. Five other nominees will compete with Pope and Huff for the appointments from this district. There are eight counties in the district, meaning that less than one boy per county won a nomination.

Pope is a 195-pound member of the HHS wrestling team, and has not lost a match this season. Last year, he was Eastern champion in the 175-pound weight class.

He also was a star tackle on the football teams of 1966 and 1967, and has a high academic average.

Huff does not participate in conference athletics, but has

one of the highest academic averages in the senior class. He was one of three seniors nominated this year for a Morehead Scholarship, with Hoke's top nominee, Bill Senter, ad-

vancing to the finals of the scholarship competition.

In letters to the two students, Lennon said:

"You will soon receive official notification of your nomination from the Department of the Army (Huff from the Department of the Air Force), together with instructions concerning the further requirements to qualify for admittance.

"As authorized, I have named five other candidates who will be competing with you for our district vacancy. All candidates will be carefully evaluated by the Military (and Air Force) Academic Board.

"My congratulations for satisfactorily meeting the preliminary requirements for nomination and my best wishes for your continued success."

Hoke County has not had a young man appointed to either of the three service academies in several years.



JOHN POPE



RALPH HUFF