

The News - Journal

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May Lose \$500,000

Hoke Schools Warned: 'Desegregate By Fall'

Hoke County Schools face loss of federal funds unless "the dual school system" is eliminated by the beginning of the next school year.

The county was one of 50 systems in North Carolina receiving warning letters this week from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. They were singled out as school systems suspected of "probable non-compliance" with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

D. D. Abernethy, superintendent of Hoke schools, said his office received the letter in his Monday mail.

Specifically, the letter contended that desegregation of students and faculty has not proceeded at a satisfactory pace in the county's nine public schools.

It referred to a survey of the local situation almost a year ago, when federal officials examined the entire school setup here and recommended certain steps to speed up desegregation.

At that time, the Hoke school board revised its plans along lines suggested by the federal team. It was ruled shortly after the current school year began that the revised plans were sufficiently progressive to qualify the county for continued federal financial aid.

Federal assistance in all school programs amounts to more than \$500,000 a year, Abernethy said.

The plan proposed by the local school board last spring called for continuation of "freedom of choice" in assignment, plus transfer of the Upchurch (all Negro) sixth grade to the county's new elementary school, and limited desegregation of facilities.

The proposal called for transfer of the Upchurch class to what now is W. T. Gibson School by December, which was the date the school was supposed to have been completed by the contractor.

Abernethy said the transfer will be completed just as soon as the contractor turns the building over to the county, which is expected to be by the middle of February.

The latest letter from HEW indicated a review of the Hoke situation has been made since the beginning of the current school year. It disclosed the following areas of "probable non-compliance":

"Faculty desegregation, student desegregation, free choice failed to adequately desegregate your dual system, segregated bussing patterns, and failure to implement specific assurances.

"Although your district, following our on-site review, took steps adequate to insure compliance for the current school year, the situation in your system does not meet constitutional

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DEATH CAR--Ann Tadlock of Raeford died in the wreckage of this car late Friday afternoon when it skidded on

rain-slick N.C. 211 two miles west of Raeford and crashed sidewise into a logging truck.

Industry Was Lost, Says Fout

Raeford recently lost an industry because adequate water and sewer facilities could not be furnished, according to Jim Fout, manager of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Fout made the declaration earlier this week at a meeting of Hoke Board of County Commissioners.

Fout told commissioners that Hoke Planning and Development Commission, established more than a year ago by commissioners, is proposing a county-wide survey of water and sewer needs with an eye toward setting up a long-range plan for land use throughout the county.

The study, which will cost \$8,500, will be paid for by a federal grant, Fout said.

Meanwhile, private citizens in three neighborhoods in North Raeford have formed a corporation to deal with the federal government in securing funds to put running water in that area.

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Woman Is Killed In Car Crash

A 28-year-old Raeford woman was killed late Friday afternoon when her car skidded on wet pavement and crashed into a two-ton truck two miles west of Raeford on N. C. 211.

Killed instantly was Ann Tadlock, former wife of Guthrie Long Jr. of Raeford. Death apparently resulted from head injuries, according to Coroner Frank Crumpler.

It was the first fatal accident of 1968 in Hoke County.

State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson said the truck, a logging rig, was operated by Neil Arnold Peoples, 54, of Waycross, Ga. It was partially loaded with "fat pine" chunks.

Robinson said Peoples told him he saw the car approaching at about 50 miles per hour. It skidded sideways, crossed the centerline, and slammed sidewise into the right front of the truck.

Light rain was falling at the time of the accident, about 5:30 p. m.

Parts of the wreckage were

Three File For Hoke Board

Three persons have filed for nomination as candidates for the Hoke board of education in the May Democratic primary, J. Scott Foole, chairman of the county board of elections, reported this week.

They are Robert L. (Bobby) Gibson, incumbent, the Rev. Wade Locklear, and Ivery McNair. The Rev. Mr. Locklear is Indian. McNair, a Negro, operated a Raeford dry cleaning establishment.

Elsewhere, incumbent Sen. N.H. McGeachy of Fayetteville filed for nomination in the primary as one of two Democratic candidates for the State Senate in the Hoke-Cumberland district.

John T. Henley of Hope Mills, the other incumbent senator in the district, has indicated an announcement of his intentions will be made in the near future.

Two seats on the five-man Hoke Board of Education will be filled next fall, following the county's inauguration of a staggered term system for members of the board.

Incumbents whose term will expire in December are Gibson, and Dr. R.M. Jordan, current vice chairman of the board. D.R. Huff Jr., W.T. Howell Jr., and A.W. Wood Jr. were elected to four-year terms two years ago.

Bill Lamont Succeeds Cole

William Lamont Jr. was named Hoke County Civil Defense director Monday when Hoke Board of County Commissioners held its February meeting.

Lamont will succeed Alfred Cole, who resigned for reasons of health. In a formal letter of resignation, Cole said he is leaving the post with reluctance. "The cooperation I have received has been gratifying," he said.

The resignation was accepted "with regret" by the board.



GALLON GIVERS -- These three employees of Pacific Mills here have given two gallons or more in blood donations to the Red Cross Bloodmobile over the past several years. They are, left to right, John Fly, Charlie Wilson and Lonnie D. Smith. Not shown are two-gallon givers Clyde E. Upchurch Jr., and Calvin Lawton. All five will be back in line tomorrow when the bloodmobile makes an urgent visit to Hoke, which is far behind in blood contributions and stands to lose borrowing privileges at the regional blood bank unless donations equal debts to the center. The bloodmobile will be at Raeford Methodist Church from 11:30 to 5 p. m. Friday.

New County Jail Ready By June 1

The new Hoke County jail will be completed by June 1, according to an announcement made by County Manager T. B. Lester at the February meeting of the county commissioners.

Lester said M. F. Page, architect, had notified him the work is expected to be completed three months ahead of schedule and that the county could go ahead with the purchase of equipment.

Lester was asked by the board to compile a list and set wheels in motion for the purchase, so orders will come through. Items to be purchased will include 32 mattresses and blankets, kitchen utensils and two new desks.

Tom McBryde, vice chairman, presided over the meeting in the absence of T. C. Jones, who is ill. McBryde reported that the chairman is better and is expected to be released from Moore Memorial Hospital soon.

The four board members present, John Balfour, McBryde, J. A. Webb and Ralph Barnhart, heard a report from Raeford Chamber of Commerce Manager Jim Fout on a proposed county-wide water and sewer survey. He said the cost would be approximately \$8,000.

Retired Sergeant Says Chief Acted For Spite

A retired Army sergeant complained to Raeford Town Board this week that the town had taken punitive action against him because he had a run-in with Police Chief L.W. Stanton.

The action included assessment of a privilege license to operate a livery stable, assessment of \$7.50 per head for two colts, and the addition of sewer charge to the water bill at his horse barn, where there is no sewer tap.

Ralph D. Pandure, who said he retired from the Army as a sergeant first class with a physical disability after 24 years of service, presented his case Monday night at the regular monthly meeting of the town board.

He objected to the multiple assessments against him, contending they were presented immediately after he ordered police officers to get off his property at his home on North Jackson Street.

Pandure said the officers had been summoned by telephone by his wife during a domestic disturbance. When Chief Stanton and assistant Chief Sam Motley arrived, Pandure said, he advised them their services were not needed and told them to go on about their business.

If the project is launched, he is certain it will be worthwhile, he declared. Fout also stated that he was exerting every effort to locate a dentist and a medical doctor for Raeford to replace those lost recently.

The board made a study of the grand jury report. Lester was asked to investigate each recommendation and determine the feasibility and practicality of making the suggested changes. Among the requests was extermination at the county office building to get rid of roaches, which apparently are infiltrating the upstairs rooms from nesting places in the basement.

A letter was read from Dr. H. H. McLean, former Hoke County health officer and now regional public health consultant of the N. C. Department of Health, who advised that he has prospects for a part-time county health doctor for Hoke County.

A petition turned in by Commissioner John Balfour asking for a road in the Stonewall Community to be opened and maintained by the State Highway Department was passed upon and directed to the highway department.



JEPHTHA JORDAN

Prominent Hoke Man Succumbs

Funeral services for Jephtha Franklin Jordan, 82, retired Hoke County farmer, were conducted Thursday at 4 p. m. at First Baptist Church. Officiating were the Rev. John M. Glenn and the Rev. R. E. L. Moser. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

He was the son of James Riley and Mary Jane Gibson Riley and a native of Scotland County. He came here from Whiteville half a century ago at the age of 31 and purchased a farm on Aberdeen Highway, where the

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but charges only a dollar per day per horse, which he said was a losing proposition.

He said Chief Stanton asked, at the time he presented the bill for immediate payment, that he be allowed to inspect the barn. Pandure said he agreed only after the chief told him he would padlock the place immediately unless it was opened to him.

Chief Stanton was not at the meeting. Members of the board deferred action on Pandure's request until their March meeting.

The town's \$7.50 assessment against horses was imposed two or three years ago after horse-owners and the town board reached agreement on an ordinance regulating the keeping of horses within the town limits.

The ordinance was an outgrowth of complaints by one or more citizens against horse-owners quartering their horses in residential areas.

At the time the ordinance was drawn, an assessment of \$7.50 per owner was levied. The following year, the assessment was raised to \$7.50 per horse.



PAM McMILLIAN



DIANNE UPCHURCH



JULIAN JOHNSON



RONNIE HUFF

NOMINATED--These four Hoke High School students have been nominated for the Governor's School for Advanced Study in Winston-Salem next summer. They are Pam McMillian, piano, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. McMillian; Dianne Upchurch, voice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Clyde E. Upchurch Jr.; Ronnie Huff, academic area, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Huff Jr.; and Julian Johnson, academic area, son of Mr. and Mrs. June Johnson. The summer program brings together exceptionally talented students from throughout North Carolina.