

The News - Journal

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Must Have Them By Monday

Private School Seeks 200 Pupils

BY JIM TAYLOR

A whirlwind drive to enroll 200 students in grades one through nine was launched here Wednesday by a group of citizens proposing to establish a private school.

The 200 minimum was set as the least number of students with which the proposed school could operate.

That number must be signed before July 1, the founders stipulated. If 200 Hoke students have not been signed by Monday night on a first come, first served basis, additional students will be admitted from communities in neighboring counties.

Total cost of first-year enrollment will be \$400 per student, with \$50 of that amount an "entrance fee" the student will pay the first year only. Tuition has been set at \$350 for the first year.

The proposed school -- to be known as Hoke Day School -- will lease the former Rockfish School Plant, now owned by a private corporation. It proposes to provide classes in

grades one through nine.

The proposal was explained Tuesday night to a group of about 80 persons in a pre-arranged gathering at Hoke Civic Center, where an initial private school meeting last week attracted some 200 persons.

Younger Snead Jr. functioned as head of a steering committee which reported on its findings since it was appointed at the initial meeting.

Snead revealed that a minimum of 200 students will be required to raise the \$80,000 estimated as necessary to launch the program and provide the first 10 months of operation.

The school will aim for 25 students in each of the first eight grades and will take applications for ninth graders, Snead said.

The committee has opened an office in the former Dr. Matheson office building adjacent to Wood Furniture Company on East Elwood Avenue. It will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Sunday, until Monday evening.

It was indicated that sufficient interest must be shown

by that deadline before the project can proceed. If registration is only slightly less than the required 200, another seven days will be used in recruiting the students from nearby communities in other counties.

Snead and other members of the committee indicated inquiries already have come from parents outside Hoke County, but that Hoke County is the primary concern of the committee and that local needs will be attended to first.

The \$400-per-child fee is payable in three installments although the committee indicated it would rather the entire \$400 be paid at the time of application.

If paid in installments, \$100 must be paid at the time of application. An additional \$150 must be paid by August 1 and the remaining \$150 by August 20.

The committee pledged that any money paid in advance of the school's opening will be placed in escrow and refunded if the school does not open.

Similarly, if a parent says the \$100 initial fee and applies

for his child's admission, the \$100 will not be refunded if the child does not enroll (except for reasonable cause, such as moving away from the area).

The proposed budget will provide \$80,000 for salaries (headmaster and one teacher for each grade); an additional 5 per cent for teacher retirement benefits, a total of \$3,000; books, \$3,500; rent, \$1,200; desks, \$2,000; janitor, \$1,300; secretary, \$3,600; heat, \$1,000; lights, telephone, supplies and other administrative costs totaling \$3,800 -- a total of \$73,400.

"We would not expect to pay a teacher less than he or she would be entitled to in the public school system," said Jake Austin, chairman of the budget committee. "I would not be a party to asking a teacher or anybody else to accept employment for a year unless we had the money on hand to insure payment of this year's salaries," he added.

Snead and other members of the committee stressed the necessity of securing a minimum of 200 students within the next few days.

"Time is working against us," Austin said. "We have to know within the next few days if we are going ahead with the school, and we obviously cannot go ahead if 25 or 30 people are going to have to foot the bill."

There will be no out rate for multiple admissions from one family, the committee said. The first-year \$50 fee and \$350 tuition will apply to each student, even though two or more may come from the same family.

Asked about second-year tuition costs, Snead declared: "We are concerned right now with the first year. Until we get the first year under way, we can't think about a second year."

He and other members of the committee later said, however, that if adjustments were needed for a second year of operation, they would be made.

"It is possible that the tuition would have to be increased to \$375," Snead said.

The committee revealed that it was to interview a prospective headmaster Wednesday (yesterday). He was described

as a Maxton man who has been public school principal in Robeson County.

The committee revealed it has arranged with the Rockfish school property owners to lease the facilities for \$100 a month under a two-year lease.

Paul Johnson, chairman of the building committee, said the plant offers four classrooms, an auditorium that can be converted into two classrooms; a dining room that will provide another; an office, and a library.

The private school would operate no lunchroom. Transportation would be provided by parents, presumably by use of car pool arrangements.

Johnson said the school can be ready, as far as the physical plant is concerned, by fall, and that work can commence within 10 days or so.

"We will have to depend on a lot of volunteer help in getting the rooms repaired and painted," Johnson said. "We estimate that each family with a child enrolled will have to contribute 20 hours of work-- and the paint to refinish the

rooms," he said.

Several committee chairmen have been named. They included Paul Johnson, building; Jake Austin, budget; Jackie Crumpler, public relations; John Balfour and Julian Barnes, furniture and fixtures; Sam Copper, scholarships; and Jimmy Sinclair, admissions. Phil Diehl was listed as legal counsel for the organization.

Before he presented the proposed budget, Austin asked why the crowd was less than at the first meeting. At that time, parents signed statements indicating interest in enrolling some 130 students in the school.

No applications were taken Tuesday night. The committee said application blanks were being prepared and printed and will be available at the downtown office.

Inquiries from parents at the Tuesday night meeting ranged from "will the school have a band?" to "will high school grades be added next year?" Snead and other committee members said plans for next year cannot be made until after the first year is a success.



Wagon Train Survives Hot Trek

Some 200 hardy "pioneer" types weathered one of the hottest weekends on record here, surviving a wilderness campout and a 15-mile wagon train trek from Waldo's Beach to Raeford at the height of the heat wave.

Despite roasting heat Saturday and Sunday, participants in the fourth annual Hoke Wagon Train termed this year's outing

the best of the four. The wagon train pulled out of Raeford early Friday morning after having assembled the night before for an evening of revelry at the National Guard armory here.

With some 35 wagons and 150 horseback riders in tow, wagon train scouts led the way out Rockfish Road, past Philippi

Church to Davis' Bridge, then to Waldo's Beach near Hope Mills in Cumberland County.

The trip eastward was made under cloudy skies, with pleasant temperatures and a cool breeze stirring. The pleasant weather was not to last long, however, and soon after the campers pitched their tents in the underbrush near the beach,

the sun came from behind the clouds and the temperature began to rise.

By Saturday, most campers were stripped down to Bermuda shorts or swimming trunks and the "swimming hole" at the beach got a good workout Saturday.

Saturday night, a square dance

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ON THE FIRING LINE -- Tanks of Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, are shown here on the firing line at the Camp Stewart, Ga., artillery range during a two-week summer encampment of the North Carolina National Guard (30th Infantry Division). The battalion's headquarters is in Raeford, as is a portion of the headquarters company

of the battalion, and other units are in neighboring towns. The local Guardsmen returned to Raeford Sunday after two weeks of rough weather and hard drilling in Georgia. They were plagued the first week by heavy rains, and the final week by torrid temperatures.

Hoke May Share Federal Grant

Hoke and three other counties have applied for a \$1.3 million federal grant to provide means of keeping their rural folks from migrating to other areas.

The grant is available through Farmers Home Administration, a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and can be used to build low income housing, develop industrial sites, and provide other inducements to enable migrants to stay put.

The appropriation for four pilot areas in the United States, including the Hoke-Bladen-Columbus-Robeson district, already has been made by Congress and must be used before the end of the current fiscal year (June 30).

The grant will be used in the four-county area for purposes outlined by the federal government if the application submitted last week is approved.

Leaders of the four-county area have established a non-profit corporation to plan the program, secure the loan, and administer the project. It is Action, Inc., with a board of directors including persons from all four counties.

Members of the board from Hoke County include Ralph Barnhart, W. T. (Bill) Altman and Jerry McNair. Officers of the corporation are J. A. Singleton of Red Springs, president; J. Roland Gore, Tabor City, vice president; and D. M. Campbell, Elizabethtown, secretary-treasurer.

Purpose of the pilot program was outlined at a meeting last week by Marion Holland of Raleigh, FHA state supervisor. Simply put, Holland said, it is to reverse the migration trend and keep the younger

generation at home. The Hoke-Bladen-Columbus-Robeson area has one of the highest emigration rates in the country.

Directors of the corporation were told they may use the money to provide loans for housing, develop industrial sites, or provide training or other inducements aimed at enabling prospective migrants to

remain in the area. Money used to build or buy housing would be repaid by the borrower. Repayment could then be used to build or buy other homes.

The application was hastily drawn to meet the deadline. Further meetings will be held as soon as the application is approved.

Hoke School Expense Above State Median

Hoke County's per-pupil expenditure in its public schools is some \$90 per year higher than the state average, according to a survey made public last week.

The study, prepared by the State Department of Education, shows a per-pupil outlay of \$426.29 for 1966-67. That figure was for current expenses only and does not reflect capital outlay or bonded indebtedness principal and interest.

Statewide, the average for current expenses was \$426.29. Hoke's figure was above the state average largely because of higher than average federal involvement. The local expenditure included \$290.65 in state funds; \$54.08 in local money, and \$110.26 in federal funds.

The state average included \$292.19, in state (slightly higher than Hoke); \$68.45, local (\$14.38 higher than Hoke), and federal, \$65.66 (\$44.00 less than Hoke).

Added to the current expenses outlay would be some \$20 per pupil for debt service and about \$10 per pupil for capital outlay.

While education accounts for about 65 per cent of all county budget expenditures, the local share of the total school cost is only a fraction of the total cost. The \$54.08 in local costs was only 12 per cent of the total for 1966-67.

Hoke County has a tax rate of \$1.28 per hundred dollar evaluation. Of that amount, about 85 cents goes for local school expenses.

New Pastor Arrives At Bethel, Shiloh

The Rev. J. Allan Smyth was installed as pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church Sunday night and will be installed at

Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Montrose Sunday night, June 30, at 8 o'clock.

The Rev. Mr. Smyth and his wife have been in Raeford for three weeks, moving here from Dunn, where he served as assistant pastor of First Presbyterian Church. His responsibilities included serving the congregation of Sanson Chapel and serving as campus pastor at Campbell College, where he was director of a coffee house ministry, sponsored by several churches in the area.

Before the work at Dunn, the minister served as pastor in Leatherwood, Ky., a coal camp in the mountains near Harlan.

He is a graduate of Davidson College and of Union Seminary in Richmond. He grew up in Hartsville, S.C., and in Blacks-

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REV. J. ALLAN SMYTH

FHA Loan Approved For 'Hill'

A \$221,700 FHA loan has been tentatively approved for a non-profit corporation to provide water in the Queenmore, Silber City and Cameron Heights areas north of Raeford. It was announced this week.

The federal loan, secured through Farmers Home Administration, will be used to provide water for some 275 families and to develop the water system.

The loan will be made to Northwest Water Supply, Inc., to drill wells, construct pumping stations, erect a 100,000 gallon water tank, and lay 20 miles of pipeline.

Construction of the project will provide 3,740 manhours of labor for engineers, well drillers, ditch-digger operators, surveyors, and day laborers. The system will be capable of

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Newspaper Early On Fourth

Next week's edition of The News-Journal will be issued a day earlier than usual to give advertisers benefit of July 4 holiday weekend business.

Thursday being a legal holiday, most subscribers would not receive the paper until Friday if it were issued at the customary time. Now, the paper will be in the hands of subscribers by Wednesday, giving weekend advertisers

an extra day of circulation.

Community correspondents and other readers with contributions for the paper are asked to deliver them to the newspaper office a day earlier than usual. That is, all material for publication should be submitted by Monday morning.

The News-Journal office will be closed Thursday, as will most business establishments and offices in Raeford.