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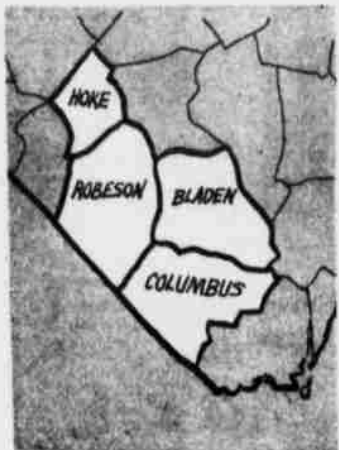
RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1968

To Stem Flood Of Emigration

Hoke Will Share \$1.3 Million Grant



area working to curb migration

The federal government has allocated \$1.3 million to finance a project in four North Carolina counties, including Hoke, to stem the emigration of low-income families from the area.

The North Carolina project, one of two in the nation, includes Hoke, Robeson, Bladen and Columbus counties — where an estimated 40,000 persons have moved away since 1960 because of a lack of job opportunities.

The grant was provided through a special impact program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and will be administered under direction of Farmers Home Administration by Advancement, Inc., a non-profit corporation based at Lumberton.

The four-county area is said to be one of the heaviest emigration areas in the nation. The other pilot project is in a four-county area in Kentucky. The two pilot projects areas were selected from among 11 in the nation.

Seriousness of the problem of emigration is reflected in statistics from the Economic Research Service, which shows an estimated 44,582 persons moved out of the four-county area here from 1960 through 1967.

County - by - county, the emigration figures, with total population based on 1967 estimates, are:

Hoke 2,640 or 13.9 per cent of 17,493 total.

Robeson 21,703 or 19.6 per cent of 91,772 total.

Columbus 12,823 or 20.8 per cent of 50,046 total.

Bladen 7,416 or 20.4 per cent of 28,627 total.

Office of Economic Opportunity community profiles show Robeson County with 7,022 families in the poverty classification in 1966. The county's median family income was \$3,590, more than \$1,000 under the national norm.

With 39.2 per cent of its families classified as poverty stricken, Robeson accounted for 2.5 per cent of all poor families in the state. However, the county had improved its economic situation over 1960 figures, which showed 58 per cent of its families received poverty incomes.

Hoke County showed 1,230 poverty families — about a third of the population two years ago. The median family income was \$3,910.

In Bladen County, 2,096 or 36.2 per cent of families were in the poverty bracket. The median family income for the county was \$3,534.

In Columbus County 3,558 families, or 33.3 per cent of the total, were listed as poverty stricken. The median family income was \$3,734.

The migration problem in the four-county area is caused by the lessening of day jobs available for farm workers. All four counties are largely agricultural, and mechanization has put

virtually thousands of former day laborers and tenant farmers out of work.

"We are very optimistic about bettering conditions and keeping at least some of these people at home," said J. A. Singleton of Red Springs, chairman of Robeson Board of County Commissioners and president of Advancement, Inc.

Hoke County's representatives on the 12-man board of directors are Ralph Baruhart, W. T. Altman and Ivery McNair.

Although there have been no meetings of the board, Singleton indicated a number of projects are in the "talking or planning stage."

The money can be used to establish industrial sites, provide training, erect low-income housing, and provide other inducements to families which otherwise might move away.

The 12-man board of directors also includes:

Robeson Singleton, David Townsend of Rowland and Benford Lowery of Pembroke.

Bladen W. G. Fussell of Elizabethtown, D. M. Campbell of Elizabethtown, and Bryon McNeill of Clarkton.

Columbus B. T. Elliott of Mt. Olive, Roland Gore and B. L. Nesmith of Tabor City.

Three of the directors are Negro, one Indian, and the rest white.

The program was hastily prepared in June in time to get the appropriation before June 30, the end of the recent fiscal year.

The program presentation was worked up by Marion Holland of Farmers Home Administration and FHA directors in the four-county area will play an important part in working out further details.

Present plans call for employment of a director in the near future

Hoke Gets \$17,000 For Hungry Families

Hoke County has received a \$17,000 supplement to the surplus food program for low-income families here and the money will be used to provide food vouchers for persons most desperately in need, according to W.T. Altman, director of Hoke Community Action Program, the local anti-poverty office.

Several hundred families in the county already receive monthly allocations of some 13 surplus commodity items. The food is distributed to families whose need has been certified by the welfare department and amounts to about \$7 worth of food per person per month.

The supplementary money will be used to provide food for persons termed to be "hungry or suffering from malnutrition," Altman said.

"We will not hand out money or food to anyone not checked out by the welfare department or by people in the

client's neighborhood," Altman said.

The money will be used first to help families whose needs are desperate, but who do not qualify for one of the four categories of welfare assistance, Altman said. It also will be used to provide food for families who have qualified for welfare assistance, but have not received their first check.

Altman said the program is not designed for long-range support of impoverished people, but is a stopgap measure initiated by the Department of Agriculture when surveys indicated hunger and malnutrition were rampant on almost 300 U.S. counties, including Hoke.

Altman said his office will check on prospective recipients after leads have been provided by the welfare department or other dependable citizens.

Prospective recipients should not apply at the anti-poverty office, he said.



BANGED UP — Sheriff Dave Barrington's patrol car, shown here in the "junk" lot of a local auto company, doesn't appear to be seriously damaged. However, mechanics say the frame was badly bent when the vehicle was rammed at its parking place in front of the county courthouse last week.

Sheriff's Car Hit Parked On Street

Sheriff Dave Barrington declares he was not driving a 1967 Ford belonging to the Hoke County Sheriff's Department when it was badly damaged last Thursday.

Trooper J.D. Robinson vouched for him. He located and arrested James Edwards and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident and with driving without an operator's license.

The car being driven when a

collision took place as the sheriff's car was parked on Main Street belonged to Murdock Clifton (Pete) Brown, a friend of Edwards. Brown, however, was driving the automobile when it was taken away from Jackson's Pool Room, according to Robinson, where he was arrested and charged with driving drunk. Edwards reportedly ran in another direction and was picked up at his home the next

day. Bond for Brown was set at \$150 and for Edwards at \$500.

The sheriff's car, struck from the rear, was damaged an estimated \$1,000 when the two-way radio equipment was damaged, the chassis and frame were bent. The other car's damage was estimated to be \$450.

Meanwhile, a 1958 Ford driven by Richard Lee Chavis was termed a total loss Sunday

when it overturned several times at the intersection of Sunset Park Road and Dundarrach-Davis Bridge Road.

Robinson said that Chavis, Lonnie H. Stewart and Dick McEachin of Fayetteville Rt. 4, all were injured and that Chavis was admitted at Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville with a back injury.

He was charged with exceeding a safe speed. Wednesday afternoon, a stationwagon driven by E.G. Inman left the pavement of Cole Avenue Extension and crashed into a utility pole, injuring the driver, according to Patrolman E.W. Coen.

He said the vehicle was moving toward US 401 Bypass when it left the pavement on the left side of a curve, skidded back across the street, then crossed the pavement once more before crashing head-on into a utility pole.

See WRECKS, Page 11

McMillan Rites Held

Funeral services were held here Saturday afternoon for L. Starr McMillan, retired superintendent of the Raeford water department, who died Thursday at Duke Medical Center.

McMillan, 77, had entered the medical center four days previously for an eye operation. He reportedly died of a heart attack.

A native of Hoke County, he was employed by the town for more than 30 years. After his retirement, a street in a new Raeford subdivision was named in his honor.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Saturday at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Cortez A. Cooper, pastor. Burial with Masonic graveside

See McMILLAN, Page 11

Burlington Pays Bonus

Vacation bonuses totaling more than \$4½ million are being paid to wage employees of Burlington Industries during the vacation season this summer.

Charles A. McLendon, Burlington vice president for personnel, said vacation pay is given to employees in July and August to coincide with manufacturing plant vacations. The summer payments are in addition to some \$3½ million paid last December.

About 50,000 Burlington

employees at plants in 15 states including two plants here, are to receive the payments, with individual amounts based on length of service, McLendon said.

Bonuses are paid in addition to benefits provided by Burlington's profit sharing retirement plan for non-salaried employees. In 1967, members of the profit sharing plan had approximately \$6½ million credited to their accounts, which was equivalent to about 4 per cent of the member employee's wages.

Private School Plans Delayed

Planners of a private school for Hoke County this week abandoned efforts to get the school opened by September and said they probably will renew efforts to organize the school after January 1.

Hoke Day School was to have opened at the beginning of the fall school term at Rockfish in the former public school plant there. The facilities, now owned by a community corporation, would have been leased to the private school.

Lack of students was the most obvious reason plans to open the school were abandoned, or at least delayed.

Younger Sneed Jr., chairman of the planning committee, said recruitment turned up only 85 to 90 pupils. It was estimated at the beginning of the campaign that 200 students would be required to open and operate the school for the first year.

"We were seriously hampered by a lack of time," Sneed said. "If we had gone about recruiting differently like working outside the county earlier we might have signed enough students. But, of course, we didn't know. We felt the necessary enrolment could be recruited in Hoke County, and we wanted to give our people first chance at it."

Monday night, advocates of the school held a "deadline

meeting at Hoke Civic Center. Announced purpose of the meeting was to determine if enough students had been signed, and if not, to call off the project.

When it appeared obvious that further sign-ups Monday night would still leave the

project short of the student goal, down payments were refunded to parents who had entered their children on the roll.

Indications were that the group will maintain an inactive committee, secure a post office See PRIVATE, Page 11

★ Dollar Days ★

Raeford merchants will bring to a close their July trade promotion, "Auction Dollar Days," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday when they stage the climactic auction of prizes on the parking lot behind Western Auto.

Also on tap is a free show "of mystery and illusion," featuring "The Amazing Mr. Bradbury and Company."

For some three weeks, merchants have been passing out "play" money with each purchase in their establishments. Customers have hoarded the script and will use it instead of real cash to pay for auctioned prize items Saturday night.

Nineteen merchants participated in the promotion. They include Belk's, Collins, Western Auto, Johnson Stores, Theresa's, Raeford Hardware, Niven's Appliance and

Furniture, Wood Furniture, Griffin's Fabric Shop, Mark's Food Store, Pope's 5 & 10, R. L. Long Grocery, City Cleaners, Raeford Super Market, Home Furniture, Mack 5 & 10, Allen's Ltd., Raeford Cleaners, and Hoke Discount House.

Jim Fout, manager of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, reminded shoppers today they still have three days in which to accumulate auction dollars through purchases downtown.

"If a person is planning to buy any of the goods or services offered by the participating merchants anytime soon, it would make good sense to go ahead and buy before Saturday night and get in on the free prizes," he said.

Prize items are on display at Niven's Appliance and Furniture Store, Main Street.



WILL HAVE TO WAIT — The former Rockfish School, currently owned by a community corporation and leased as storage space, will have to wait at least another year for renovation. It was to be used by the private school which this week announced the project was being sidetracked for the time being.



DRIVER HURT — E. G. Inman of Raeford was painfully injured when the above station wagon skidded off wet pavement in the Sunset Hills section last Thursday and struck a utility pole. Inman was thrown into the windshield and was hospitalized with facial cuts and other injuries.