

# The News - Journal

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1968



Rep. R. D. McMillan Jr. Mrs. Lawrence McNeill Sen. Hector MacLean Mrs. J. M. Andrews

## Greater State Support Of Libraries Urged

A full house turned out Tuesday night for an organizational meeting of Hoke County Citizens for Better Libraries. State Senator Hector McLean of Lumberton spoke at Hoke Civic Center regarding the possibility of greater state support.

Mrs. C. H. Hostetler was elected first president of the organization after Mrs. Lawrence McNeill opened the meeting. A slate of officers presented by Mrs. R. E. Neeley, chairman of the nominating committee, was unanimously elected. Other officers include Mrs. Laurie McEachern, vice president; Mrs. Daisy Flowers, secretary, and Mrs. Stephen Thompson, treasurer.

MacLean pointed out that as it now stands, North Carolina is at the bottom of the list in state per capita library support. He is a member of The Legislative Commission to Study Library Support, appointed during the last General Assembly and is chairman of the North Carolina Citizens for Better Libraries.

Also present were other state legislature members, including Sen. John Henley of Hope Mills, Rep. Neill McFadyen of Raeford, Sen. N. H. McGeachey of Fayetteville, Rep. R. D. McMillan Jr. of Red Springs and Rep. R. L. Campbell of Rowland.

MacLean said the library is the educational center of the community and that more funds must be invested there.

He explained that the legislative library committee will present its findings to the 1969 session of the General Assembly and if recommendations are passed upon, a state-wide referendum will be held in 1970 giving the people a chance to vote for an amendment which would allow tax levy for the support of libraries. As it

now stands, no tax money can legally be used for libraries.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. J. M. Andrews.

Bylaws of the new organization were read by Wilton Wood and were adopted. Mrs. James Best was named to head up a study committee and C. D. Bounds and Mrs. C. R. Pursley were appointed as a two-member action committee.

Present for the meeting were librarians from four neighboring counties.

Refreshments, which were a bottling of Aberdeen Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Home Food Market, were served.

### Health Class

#### Takes An Hour

Monday morning clinics at Hoke Health Department will be interrupted for an hour - between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. - for the next several months while personnel attend an in-service educational program.

Patients will be seen between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. each Monday and after 9:30 a.m., a spokesman for the health office said.

## ASC Committee Ballots Counted

Ballots for the 1969 ASC community committee election were counted Friday and the names have been announced by Thomas R. Burgess, office manager of the Hoke County ASC office.

The list by communities, are in order of chairman, vice chairman, regular member, first alternate and second alternate. They are as follows:

Affendale - D.A. Currie, L.A. McGugan, David Liles, George C. Wilson, Martin L. Jacobs.

McLaughlin - Douglas Monroe, J.A. McDougald, E.B. Newton, Julian Barnes, Luther Cummings.

Stonewall - C.D. Bostic, David Hendrix, T.W. Jones, J.W. Hayes, M.C. Boyles.

Antioch - Herbert C. Gillis, H.A. Boyles, G.B. Bostic, F.C. McPhaul, A.H. Currie.

Quewhiffle - B.H. Thornberg, Charlie Pendergrass, Robert Strother Jr., James R. Nixon, Edgar B. Barnett.

Blue Springs - T. J. Harris, Earl Hendrix, C.H. Gainey, Luther W. Clark, Joseph Lowery.

Raeford - Joe Upchurch, J.B. McLeod, James L. Warner, J.A. Williamson, Robert O. Wright.

The three regular members were delegates to the county convention, scheduled to be held last night September 25, at 7:30 in the ASCS office.

## Federal Loans Available

# Hoke Disaster Area; Town Water OK

Hoke County has been declared a drought disaster area, along with a number of other North Carolina counties, making farmers and others eligible for low-interest loans to "weather" a season of lowered income.

It marked the third time in four years Hoke farmers have been eligible for the loans, which are administered through the Farmers Home Administration.

Loans covering several phases of farming operations are available at 3 per cent interest. The local FHA office, which will process the loans, did not set out exact provisions of the loans, but normally they are made to purchase feed and livestock, and to pay for production costs and other expenses where income is lessened or wiped out by adverse growing conditions or other disaster.

Application for loans may be made, and full information regarding the program, at the local FHA office in the post office building.

Meanwhile, many communities in Eastern North Carolina and other parts of the state went on shortened water rations as a two-month drought continued.

In Raeford, the town's seven deep wells showed no signs of shortage, despite heavy industrial and residential use.

John Gaddy, new town manager who has been here only four weeks, said there is not indicated a need to deprive either business, industrial or residential customers of normal water use, but he did urge citizens not to be wasteful with water.

Gaddy said there have been no significant complaints of water shortage, that storage tanks have been kept full, and pumps have given no indication of overwork.

"There have been one or two complaints in the western section of town about inadequate pressure, but that may well be trouble with water lines," Gaddy said.

Bill Sellers, superintendent of the water-sewer operations for the town, and a crew worked Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning surveying the water situation here. They measured wells to determine water levels and flow, but at noon Wednesday, had not completed a compilation of their findings.

Without assessing results of the survey, Gaddy said, there are no alarming indicators that water supply here is diminished to the point that curtailment of use is necessary.

"We will keep close watch on the situation," Gaddy said. "If it becomes necessary to lessen normal use of water, we are sure our citizens will cooperate."

Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., which along with Burlington Industries is the largest user of water, said supply has been adequate and apparently normal for its processing operation here.

The continuing drought has wreaked havoc with crops in the area, particularly corn, grain and soybeans.

After an early summer drought which crippled the corn crop, several substantial showers brought the tobacco crop out of the kinks. July and August were dry, however, and there has been no appreciable rainfall here so far in September.

Soybeans are perhaps hardest hit. After the mid-summer rains brought tall

soybean vines and profuse blossoms, subsequent dry weather dried up the pods, many of which have no beans, or one or two at most.

The cotton crop will be less than normal and short staple length is anticipated. Some cotton fields already have been picked - with most of the picking done by machinery.

There were indications that many soybean fields will not be harvested, and some have been salvaged as hay.



## Women To Sponsor Quarter Horse Show

Raeford Women's Club announced this week it will sponsor the third annual Raeford Quarter Horse Show in November.

The agreement between the local women's organization and officials of North Carolina Quarter Horse Association, was a major development in the local horse show situation.

The Raeford quarter horse event is one of six major quarter horse showings on successive days in North Carolina. The six shows last year attracted virtually all the top quarter horses on the show circuit.

In spite of Raeford being only a small town, and one with a minimum interest in quarter horses, the local show ranks as a top-flight event, even compared to the premier showings at Fort Worth and other big shows in quarter horse country. Eight world champs and an estimated \$4 million worth of horseflesh showed here last year.

The reason is that the six North Carolina shows are staged at almost the end of the show season. Top horses which have been hauled all over the country dare not miss the six shows - which offer a lot of total points - because a lesser animal would get the points and possibly pass the top horses in point standings.

National and international champions are determined by their showing throughout the year. Naturally, the horse in each division with the greatest number of total points is declared champion. Last year, for instance, one horse passed the leading animal on the basis of its showing in Raeford and neighboring towns.

Raeford Woman's Club for the past four years has sponsored an annual horse show here in the spring. Those events require much more work than the profits usually justify.

## Powell Bill Cash Coming

Raeford will receive \$17,419 in Powell Bill funds for street improvements and projects have been designated by town board to be completed with the cash.

The money, in varying amounts from year to year, is returned to municipalities on the basis of population and street mileage. The money represents one-half-cent of the six-cent state gasoline tax.

Throughout the state, Powell Bill appropriations amounted to \$10,415,343. Checks will be mailed from Raleigh before October 1.

Resurfacing projects in Raeford will include the following:

- South Dickson Street between Harris Avenue and Bethel Road.
- North Wright Street from See STREETS Page 11

## Elderly Hoke Woman Victim Of Flimflam

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

Swindlers have hit Raeford a second time in two weeks, Police Chief L. W. Stanton reported this week.

Broken down in tears and shock, a local Negro woman (who begged to have her name kept secret "because I am a 67-year-old widow who lives alone and people have already stolen my chickens and have tried to steal my mule") rushed into the police station with her son Saturday at 2 p. m. to report their plight.

The woman said she had lost \$750 through connivance. Her 12-year-old grandson was obliged to tell the story when his grandmother was unable to suppress her sobbing.

This is the story: She was standing on a Main Street sidewalk here when a personable woman stopped and began talking to her. The conversation was of general nature until the stranger had won the confidence of the local citizen.

"She hypnotized me," the older woman declared. She brought up the subject of money, asking me if I wanted some cash.

When she learned there was money in the bank available to the about-to-be victim, she was told that if she would put up what she had "to show faith" she would get \$6,000 in return. The money

was in a local bank and the bank book was at home, she was told.

The young swindler coaxed and the two got into a car and went after the passbook. They returned after the short trip to the country and the stranger who had given her name as Mrs. McNeill waited in the bank while the old Negro woman handed her book to the teller, signed a check for the full amount, and received the cash. Around 12:30 p. m. when the two were outside again, the swindler took the money and told her victim to wait until she went around the corner to pick up the \$6,000. "By the time she was out of sight I came to my senses," said the robbed lady. But the one who called herself Mrs. McNeill was nowhere to be found.

The money had been put in the bank by her son "for my old age," the distraught woman whimpered.

She described the extortioner as a Negro female about 30 years of age, height about 5 ft. 6 in., weighing about 130 pounds. She was wearing a brown sweater, black and brown checkered skirt and brown shoes.

Stanton said that the local person swindled a couple of weeks ago was "bewitched" by the slick talker, who promised her a large sum for an investment of her own. She was educated to the point of going to a Raeford loan office and borrowing \$100, which she

(EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the oldest swindles in the history of bunco is the widely practiced "flimflam." Every year, from Murphy to Manteo, it crops up in the news. Undoubtedly, many hundreds of cases go unreported, because victims are reluctant to admit their gullibility.

It is rather remarkable, really, that confidence men and women are still able to operate the flimflam, yet repeated publicity and warnings seem somehow to make the populace more gullible.

During the past year or two, hundreds of newspaper stories of flimflam have appeared in North Carolina papers. A N. C. State University professor wrote a best-selling book on the subject. The book, "The Flimflam Man," was made into a widely publicized, popular motion picture by the same name.

In spite of all this notoriety, each new practice of the flimflam draws gasps of amazement from people who no longer should be amazed. Although it is not at all to her discredit, Mrs. Lucy Gray Peebles, writer of the accompanying article, did not know that the victim about whom she had written was a recipient of the old flimflam. And it is worth noting, perhaps, that police authorities did not identify the incident as such in reporting it to her.

Mrs. Peebles is not unique among intelligent citizens who having lived most of their lives in the very land wherein the flimflam flourishes fail to recognize it as such when it rears its ugly head.

Beware the flimflam. Charity comes from friends, not strangers, and people with the means of getting rich - quickly or by agonizing degrees - usually do not share the secret).

quickly lost in the same way. The police chief did not say whether he thought the two thieves belonged to the same gang.

Such connivers may make the approach with any kind of tale, Chief Stanton said. Some of them pretend they are working for the NAACP. Others use techniques akin to the following. He relates:

A man comes to town with a small child. He walks up to a woman and asks if she knows anyone who will look after the child for him. His wife has died, he claims, and left him with this one and

four others who are in school.

He will get \$5,000 in insurance, he declares, and will pay someone well to keep the child. Unaware that she is about to be caught in a web, the woman wonders why anyone would mind keeping a small girl for such good pay.

When a second person comes up and is introduced as a school teacher who wants to take the child but can't because of her job, everything seems even more realistic.

As the hometown woman becomes

See FLIMFLAM, Page 7



NO SHORTAGE - Although several neighboring towns are having water shortages, the flow in Raeford has not been curtailed at all. Even pooches have not been denied baths, but the two-year-old dachshund, above, looks like he wouldn't mind if the town cut off his master's water.