

# The News - Journal

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## 1969 License Plates On Sale January 2

Application cards necessary for obtaining 1969 license plates were consigned to the Post Office on December 18. The Department of Motor Vehicles officials expects this huge mailing, estimated to be of more than 3,214,000 cards, to be delivered by January 1.

The new reflectorized green and white plates will go on sale throughout the State on January 2. The 1968 plates expire December 31 and their use beyond that date is permissible only if they are duly registered by the Department to the vehicle on which display is made. Owners who have their vehicles properly registered by the Department have until February 15 to obtain new plates.

Surrounding area residents may obtain plates at the Raeford Chamber of Commerce. Office hours will be from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, Saturday 9-12.

The local license agent, Frances W. Greene points out that "to renew a license plate you must have a renewal card" and cautions against the misplacing of it when it is received. She also asks you to open the envelope, read the instructions and complete the application according to instructions before presenting it for a new plate. This will expedite issuance and keep lines from forming.

Motor vehicle owners who have not received their license application cards by early January should notify the Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh.

## A. C. Gillis, 79, Dies Sunday, Funeral Tuesday

Funeral services for Arthur Clifton Gillis, 79, will be conducted Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Cortez A. Cooper.

He died late Sunday night following a week's illness. Burial will be in Raeford Cemetery.

A lifelong resident of Hoke County, he was a member of Raeford Presbyterian Church and an active member of the Ellis Williamson Post, 20, American Legion.

He was a retired Civil Service Worker. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ethel Guin Gillis, two sons, Harold L. of Raeford and A. Watson Gillis of Springfield, Va., three grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Hugh Hair, Raeford Rt. 2, one brother, O. W. Gillis, Raeford Rt. 2.



**RAEFORD'S FIRST** - It's a Christmas tree and it can be seen at Raeford Methodist Church. All of the symbolic ornaments were made by women of the church circles and a program was held on Sunday during which time each sacred ornament was hung and its meaning was explained. The cross at center with smaller crosses between each arm is called the crosslet. It represents the spread of Christianity to the four corners of the earth. The butterfly near the bottom represents Easter and the resurrection; the dove near the top, the holy spirit, and so on. The women, under the leadership of Miss Jessie Bright Ferguson, have been working on the bejeweled ornaments for several months.

## District Court Has Brief Session

District Court on the last week before Christmas was brief after being called down to about a dozen cases. Magistrate's court was not much heavier. Judgments were as follows:

R. G. Hall Laurinburg, worthless check, \$224.20 and restitution for \$45. Must make restitution for both checks to Bernard Bray and pay costs of court.

M. A. Overcash, Raeford, worthless check, \$10, restitution to Martin Scarboro

and costs; worthless check \$10 restitution to William C. Tanner Jr., and costs.

Mary McK. McNair, Raeford, expired mechanical inspection certificate, costs. Daniel Frazier Spears, Fayetteville, inspection

violation, costs. Robert Mack Jr., Red Springs, driving 45 in 35 mile zone, \$5 and costs. Pier Crompton, Ft. Bragg, violation of restriction on drivers license, costs. See COURT, Page 9

## Class Puts Christ In Christmas

# Couple To Have Happy Holiday

By Lucy Gray Peebles

An elderly Hoke County couple is already having a happy Christmas. They were having it all last week as they

watched a new home go up. The cost to them - only an appreciative smile and a thankful attitude.

Jacob Purcell and his 82-year-old wife, Glennie, and a younger cousin, Minnie

McQueen, now live in a tumble-down shack back in the woods off turnpike road.

A Raeford Presbyterian Church Sunday School class which voted to help

the couple last Christmas, became interested in them and kept in touch all year through. They were distraught to learn that anyone in the county lived in such uncomfortable circumstances and their desire grew stronger and stronger to see the three likeable old people get a real gift this year - a new home.

The pitiable couple and their feeble-minded cousin are found this time of year hugging a weak heater fire with cold wind whistling around their backs. The stove pipe sticks dangerously through a hole in the wall sending smoke upward outside only to be whipped back into the room through an opening between the rafters and the side wall.

A rusty and cracked tin roof also serves as an inside ceiling. The careening structure apparently has never seen a coat of protective paint. Warped ends of weatherboarding swing a foot away from the outside framework and all other pieces are worn threadbare, or rotted away in foot-long strips. The stepless home is better only than nothing.

The old Indian man doesn't know exactly how old he is but white people who have befriended them for many years know him to be 87. He feels better now, he said last week, and he gets around slowly indoors, and out, on unsure legs. Persons closely connected say he began to complain less when the materials were hauled in for the new house.

Mrs. Purcell suffers from rheumatism and gets around with the aid of a long stick.

The young Sunday school enthusiasts learned immediately after they began that the job was bigger than the bunch of them. To get help, however, they had only to tell some of the church men about it. Their interest aroused, the men drew up plans and decided on the materials needed.

The project was yet to get off the ground. It would take a lot of money, even for a small building, just for

materials alone. Then, there would be the labor. In the words of the old couple, "The Lord helps those who do good." Things began to fall into place. Concrete block and lumber merchants agreed to furnish materials at cost. Sheeting and windows were contributed. Some cash donations began to come in.

To make the rising walls a reality, the high school bricklaying class, under the direction of Lendwood Sampson, agreed to do the construction work.

The Sunday school class refuse to accept praise for the thoughtful and momentous gesture because, "It is the people (mentioned above) who have made it possible."

The class tried to get federal money. But prohibitive red tape made funds from governmental agencies

unobtainable, not only because it would take more local funds but running water and electricity would be required and the old couple didn't want them. They will be happy with a warm and dry house and the same oil lamp and water bucket they have been used to for four score years - and then some, they pleaded.

"We worked as long as we were able," the unsteady old woman declared. They acquired eight acres of land and the careening shack which has been signed over to the welfare department so that they can get help for food, clothes and fuel.

"We have been praying for the people who have been doing this for us," she humbly said, "and we know the Lord will bless them."



**JACOB PURCELL AND FAMILY** - Christmas 1968 brings smiles to their faces because they're getting the best present they ever had. People they didn't even know until recently are building a new home for them and it won't cost the old man a cent. With him are his wife, Glennie, center and cousin, Minnie McQueen. They stand in front of their present worn-out cabin.



**HELPING OUT** - The High School bricklaying class is erecting a new home for a needy couple. They are working along with a local Sunday School class which has secured the materials with the help of other church people and local merchants.



## Christmas Spirit Shown In Hoke

Many Hoke County families will have a brighter Christmas because of the generosity of Raeford citizens.

The Chamber of Commerce Empty Stocking fund is growing and requests have been coming to the welfare department for names of needy families.

Miss Mabel McDonald, Hoke County director of Public Welfare, said that she has not known a town before where so many people wanted to do something for the poor at Christmastime.

"We have given names of more than 50 families to clubs, church groups, school organizations, scouts and so on during the past two weeks." One small high school group raised \$68 for their "adopted" family.

She commended a Presbyterian Sunday School class which she said were given a family last year. They never let go, she said. Hardly a week passed all year that they didn't return to do something for the elderly couple or to see how they were getting along. That is what she calls a lasting Christmas spirit.

Last week's contributors to the Empty Stocking Fund were:

Raeford Pentecostal Holiness Church, United Raeford Methodist Church, Mrs. R. B. Lewis, Mrs. Harvey Warlick, Miss Mabel McDonald, the Rev. Jack Mansfield, Phil Diehl, Mrs. Agnes Johnson, Mrs. Faye Baker, W. L. Poole Jr., Mrs. Hubert Cameron, Dr. Robert

Townsend, Mrs. Helen Barrington, Talmadge Baker, Mrs. Gilbert Ray, Mrs. R. A. Matheson, Uniroyal, Inc., Mrs. W. C. Sellers' Sixth grade; Mrs. Paul Dickson, Mrs. Thomas N. McLaughlin, Mrs. N. A. McDonald, an anonymous donor.

## Dial A Devotion

Starting this coming Monday, December the 30th, the First Baptist Church of Raeford is offering to the people of the area a daily devotion by phone. Simply by dialing 875-3033 the caller will receive a taped message that will offer guidance and inspiration for that day. There will be a different devotion each and every day.

The pastor, Jack Mansfield, who will tape the messages for the public, says that "this program will offer to the people, all people of many denominations, and those who do not belong to any church, a spiritual service during the work-week as well as on Sunday. In today's hectic world, he went on to say, we all need to know that the Lord through His church is interested in our needs at any time, any place. This 24 hour service we hope will provide that source to all who may want it."

The program is being underwritten by the congregation of the church through the regular church budget.