

Traffic Fatalities, School Integration, Sleeping Pupils In Hoke News For 1968

The year, 1968, which we saw the last of at midnight Tuesday (if we were up that late) was outstanding if not record-setting on many scores.

Weatherwise, it outdid itself with extremely cold weather which departed with hesitation only to start what old timers declared was the hottest summer they could recall.

On January 11, winter's first hard freeze came bringing with it a hazardous mixture of freezing rain and snow. This was followed only a few days later with more of the destructive same. Heavy coats of ice clung to trees and utility wires breaking and dragging them downward. Areas were without electricity and phones for as much as three days.

Numerous well-known persons departed this world during the year, including three of the county's oldest citizens, Jephtha Jordan, 82, Col. William L. Poole, 81, and E. L. Peele, 91.

Law enforcement records show multiple homicides during the year and highway accidents of Hoke County took the lives of 14 persons many of whom were local citizens. The year's fatality statistics overshadow the 1967 record by

three. The school system went through a history-making transition with a drastic consolidation program.

Headlines in 1968 ran like this: Jan. 4: Raise in postage rates to 6 cents per ounce for first class mail and 10 cents for air mail.

Jan. 11: Snow and freezing rain. New Gibson School filled to overflowing.

Jan. 18: Second blast of ice and snow within the week.

Jan. 25: Town continues survey for proposed sewer and treatment plant improvements.

Feb. 1: Colon Purcell found guilty on murder charge. Gets 16 years for slaying of James Melvin.

The late Supt. W. T. Gibson, Jr., named "Man of Year" by Kiwanians.

Linda Harrell critically injured in accident.

Feb. 28: Ann Tadlock fatally injured when car collided with truck in 5:30 p. m. rain.

Hoke Schools warned to desegregate by fall. Orders face Supt. D. D. Abernethy soon after he succeeds the late

W. T. Gibson. Feb. 8: Jephtha Jordan dies.

Feb. 15: Huge turnout for bloodmobile visit after threat of lost participation.

Feb. 29: Col. William L. Poole dies.

Feb. 29: Two-year-old Harold Jacobs killed as he stepped in path of car.

Snow again. Mar. 7: New voting precinct established in Raeford, bringing to 13 the electoral subdivision. Now five precincts in city.

Mar. 14: Hoke County makes national news with sleeping first graders at Upchurch School.

Merle Richard Thompson and David Gilchrist dies in car-truck accident on old US 401.

March 28: Sherman E. Breeden, 26, of Red Springs, and Dockery Jones Jr., 25, of Raeford killed when car is squashed by Greyhound bus on old US 401.

G. A. Page dies after long illness.

April 11: National Guard called to Wilmington. Entire battalion was pressed into service when riots and violence flared up in several cities following slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

April 18: A. T. Bobbitt killed at 6:30 a. m. in his store. (James Willie Watson, 19, a former resident of McCain was later arrested in New York and has been brought to Hoke County for trial.)

April 25: A \$700,000 bond issue for sewer treatment plant improvement was passed by voters.

May 9: Town board accepts "with regret" the resignation of Ed Williams, town manager for more than three years.

Hoke County voters turned out in record numbers May 7. Rep. Neill L. McFadyen, incumbent Democrat in Hoke-Robeson-Scotland district, won renomination and led all democrats in Hoke Primary balloting.

May 7: Hoke boy, Cpl. Kenneth Wayne Floyd killed in Vietnam, making three local men lost in hostile action there. (The other two, Jerome McCormick and Lt. Samuel Warlick.)

May 23: Nine-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Cagle of Lumberton, seventh fatality on Hoke highways. Accident caused by tire blow-out.

Hoke County Schools graduate 222 young students.

June 6: Hoke County will wipe out

segregated schools. June 20: Parents make attempts to establish private schools.

Town board set biggest budget. \$377,421.

Hoke ups 1967 budget \$15,681 to \$1,083,912 for 1968.

June 27: A \$221,700 FHA loan approved to provide water in the Queenmore, Silver City and Cameron Heights area.

July 4: Summer weeks pass under intense heat and dry weather.

July 18: Hoke gets share of \$1.3 million grant to help stop immigration of low-income families from area.

Aug 8: John D. Gaddy of Bessemer City hired as town manager.

Aug 15: Hailstorm ruins tobacco. High temperatures still prevail.

Aug 23: Roy Wood's plane crashes in Robeson County, takes life of pilot.

Aug 29: Schools open with complete consolidation of all grades from 6 through 12. Buses reeked with confusion. (Trouble soon ironed out.)

Sept. 15: Major James Watson, 16, of Red Springs killed in two-car collision on Highway 211. Seven others hospitalized.

Oct. 3: Jim Fout resigns as Chamber manager. Succeeded by Harold Gillis.

Oct. 10: United Fund budget cut \$2,000 bringing goal to \$20,000. (Goal was met in Nov.)

Race relations committee named by county board.

Oct. 17: Jaycees decide against county fair for the first time in several years.

E. L. Peele dies.

Nov. 7: Scott carries Hoke County. Mrs. Neil Branch critically injured.

Nov. 28: Charles Newton guilty of manslaughter in auto accident. Three-year sentence suspended.

Nov. 14: Lester Frank Thomas and daughter of High Point die as result of pick-up truck accident at McCain.

Dec. 12: Lt. Col. Paul Dickson retires as commander of second Battalion, 252nd Armor, National Guard Unit. Maj. Edwin D. Newton assumes command.

Dec. 19: Wade Paschal killed in Ashmont section in cross roads collision. Also killed were Lexie Odell McCrimmon of Robbins and Arthur Hales of Southern Pines.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1969



A PROSPEROUS ONE, TOO - With daddy's help, Kimberly McNeill wishes a Happy New Year to all. She likes the new year bells but what the calendar has to do with things, she doesn't know and could care less. She had fun on New Year's Eve, too, and was still happy the next day - that's more than a lot of people can say. She is the 9-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken McNeill.

Influenza Strikes County

Influenza of one kind or another has struck Hoke County with full force and many families are found with multiple cases.

One by one, five persons out of the seven employed in the ASCS office in the post office building have been absent because of the flu bug and one Extension

office worker from the same building was confined to his home all of last week with a similar ailment.

The same kind of reports come from the Sheriff's office and from other offices and business houses throughout the downtown section.

Funeral Held Saturday For Laurie McEachern

Laurie McEachern, 72, a former state legislator from Hoke County, died Thursday night at Moore Memorial Hospital after an illness of three months.

Funeral services were conducted at Raeford Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member, at 2 p. m. Saturday by the Rev. Cortez A. Cooper Jr., pastor. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery in Laurinburg.

A native of Marlowe, Ga., McEachern attended Washington and Lee University. He represented Hoke County in the House of Representatives in the sessions of 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1941.

Mr. McEachern worked for the N.C. Department of Revenue for some 20 years, retiring in 1963 as deputy commissioner and director of field forces.

He served for many years on the board of control for the North Carolina State Sanatorium system. He was also a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee for a number of years.

Surviving are his wife, the former Ruth McCullers of Wake County; one daughter, Mrs. Ben Lamm of Chapel Hill; one brother, Arch McEachern of Hoke County; and two sisters, Mrs. Cyrus Thompson and Mrs. Sarah McNeill, both of Raleigh.

Palbearers were, James Sinclair and



Palmer Wilcox of Raeford, Dick Bullock of Red Springs, Ralph Monger of Sanford, Albert McMillan of Lumberton and A. L. Ellis of Raleigh.

Brief Court Session Friday

A brief court session was held Friday morning by District Court Judge Joe Dupree.

Judgments in the five cases tried were as follows:

Wesley M. Startt, Fayetteville, hunting with unplugged gun, costs.

John Roland Brown, Raeford Rt. 1, exceeding safe speed, \$10 and costs.

Betty Lou Jones Fairley, Hoke County, assault with deadly weapon on Billy Fairley, not guilty.

Leon Love, Raeford Rt. 1, drunk in public place, five days.

Lane Aaron, Lumberton, no operators license, \$10 and costs.

Girl Burned To Death

A 10-year-old girl was burned to death early Sunday morning when her home on the Dundarrach - Davis Bridge road burned.

The girl, according to Sheriff Dave Barrington, was Evelyn Richardson, daughter of Maggie Lee Richardson, who suffered from smoke inhalation.

The girl was apparently trapped in her room by a fire of unknown origin which broke out about 2 a. m. The house was completely destroyed.

Another person injured in the fire was Margaret Richardson, 33, who was admitted at Cape Fear Valley Hospital for treatment of facial burns.

Killing Mars Holidays

A violent death and a single destructive accident marred an otherwise quiet Christmas as far as county, city and highway patrol officers were concerned.

James McCrimmon, a 28-year-old Aberdeen Negro was allegedly shot to death at the After Hours Club near McCain.

Lorenza Daniels, 41, has been arrested

and charged with the slaying of McCrimmon, who was his brother-in-law. According to Sheriff Dave Barrington, the shooting took place following an argument. The one shot struck the victim in the left chest.

Daniels is being held without bond pending a hearing on January 3.

The auto accident occurred on Highway 211 Saturday night when a Pontiac owned by Harvey Campbell of

Raeford and driven by his son, (name unavailable) was involved in a collision with a Corvair in which three Ft. Bragg men were riding.

The Campbell man was hospitalized at Cape Fear Valley hospital and the three soldiers and another passenger, names unknown, were admitted at Womack Hospital.

The two automobiles were extensively damaged.

Tax Listing Starts Today

Listing of real and personal property for county and municipal taxes which must be done by all Hoke County residents during the month of January will start in each township today, according to T.B. Lester, county tax supervisor.

Farmers who have an unusual amount of machinery and other property to be listed are asked by township list takers to make appointment so that others will not have to wait out the lengthy time required for such tax payers.

Places to list other than the lister's residence are as follows: ALLENDALE Township - Miss Willa McLaughlin, list taker, Jan. 14, 12 to 4 p. m. and Jan. 28, 1 to 4 p. m. at Alex McCormick's Store. Will not list on Saturdays.

ANTIUCH Township - C.C. Conoly, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. at Scarboro's Station, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. at John Henry McNeill's

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D. H. Hodgin, Former Hoke Sheriff, Passes



David Henry Hodgin, 73, who had served Hoke County as sheriff for 34 years, died Saturday in the VA Hospital at Fayetteville. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 3 p. m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member, by the Rev. Cortez A. Cooper and the Rev. Gower Crosswell. Burial was in the Raeford Cemetery, with Masonic rites by Raeford Lodge 306.

He had served as sheriff from 1928 until his retirement in 1962. He was a past president of the Raeford Kiwanis Club, member of the American Legion, a Shriner and a past master of Masonic Lodge 509 of Red Springs.

Surviving: three daughters, Mrs. Franklin Teal and Janet Hodgin of Raeford and Claudine Hodgin of Mill Valley, Calif.; one son, David Jr., of the U.S. Navy, San Diego, Calif.; one grandchild; one brother, W. C. Hodgin of Antioch; six sisters, Martitia Hodgin of Washington; Mrs. P. Rogers of Franklinville; Mrs. D. B. McFadyen of Raeford; Mrs. Sarah McDonald, Jean Hodgin and Catherine Hodgin, all of Antioch.

H. T. Bundy Retires As Highway Foreman

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

To the very young, 40 years is a lifetime! But to H. T. Bundy, who retired last week from four decades of service with the State Highway Department, it is just time for a change.

Those who work with him extended well wishes, holding a supper in his honor at the shop on Dec. 23. Bundy retaliated by expressing appreciation to them, to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners and to citizens in general, all of whom, he said, helped to make pleasant his work and life in Hoke County during the past 38 years.

Bundy first took a job with the highway department in 1929 when salaries were at low ebb. He was glad to get the job even at 20 cents an hour.

He began work in Robeson county as a foreman's helper, working at the same wage until 1931 when the state took over county roads and he was promoted to a section foreman for the south and western parts

of Hoke County.

At that time, there were only two paved roads in the county. These were Highway 211, running from Aberdeen to Red Springs and US 401, running south, past Raeford, from Fayetteville. Duties of the highway crew were to keep up shoulders on the two paved roads and to maintain county dirt and sand-clay roads.

Now, there are more paved roads in the county than there were dirt roads in the early 1930s. A network of blacktop strips cover the county, totaling some 400 miles. Left unpaved are 25 or 30 miles of short pieces of road.

When Bundy began in Robeson County, there were only three men in his section. In the old days when there were miles and miles of dirt roads which turned into washboards after frequent rains and constant use, the equipment consisted of only a grader, which leveled and filled gutters washes on the roadside and a drag which helped to fill

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HAPPY GOODBYE - H. T. Bundy is congratulated on his four decades of service to the State Highway Department by his superior, Z. B. Tiler of Southern Pines, area supervisor. Bundy was honored with a supper on his retirement, Dec. 23.