

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

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VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 39

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$4 PER YEAR 10¢ PER COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1969

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Congratulations to Charlie Hottel as the "Man of the Year" and to R. B. Lewis on receiving the Legion of Honor from Kiwanis International. Robert Gatlin presented the award to Hottel and said he refused to present it at first but when he found out it was Hottel he accepted. This is a tribute to Charlie in itself. Clyde Upchurch, Jr., presented the award to Lewis and also gave a corsage to Mrs. Lewis for eating alone on Thursday night for 45 years.

The speaker at the meeting kept everyone bent double with his humorous jokes but at the end he certainly had a message for us all. The trouble with most people, business and any type of organization is lack of communication. We just don't get through or we are not clear with our words. This type of a program seems to hold the interest of the audience better than a long dry speech.

Billy Floyd, former manager of the Hoke County ABC Store, was in the office Monday. He is now in Patrol School at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. In discussing what he was doing at the school reminded me of my days in OCS at Fort Monroe, Va. Anyway to make it tough on a person is what the instructors try to do. They test you not only for physical ability but also try to wear out your mental ability. Of course, our troopers must be patient as well as physically strong. Billy has completed four of the 14 weeks and stated only one out of 40 had dropped out at the present time. The screening of these men must be excellent with that ratio. Keep up the good work Bill and maybe you will spend the summer on the coast.

The group that is undertaking to form a Sandhurr Club in Hoke County sent out letters this past week to individuals asking them to donate \$10 for membership. The response so far is good and there should be a crowd at the game at Southern Pines on February 15th. In case your name was erroneously overlooked when the letters were mailed, just drop a check for \$10 in an envelope and mail to Sam Homewood, P. O. Box 550, Raeford, N. C. The amount will be tax deductible.

The two men from Canada that are installing the organ at the Presbyterian Church speak French rather than English. Of course, they can make conversation in English but had rather speak French. It seems they had some kind of a misunderstanding with Ken McNeill the other day, either about the amount of work he was to do or the amount of money he was to receive for his work. All the details haven't been received as we go to press but from reliable information Ken will be glad to inform you about the work. If you cannot get in touch with Ken just go by Frank Teal's office and he has complete information.

By the way if you want to be introduced to the two Canadians J. D. McMillian said he will be glad to tell you how to pronounce their names and give you a formal meeting.

The announcement in the paper this week of Palmer Wilcox opening his law office and leaving the firm of Hostetler & McNeill again gives Raeford three firms, since the merger of Moses & Diehl. I can't confirm the rumor of how the breakup of Hostetler, McNeill & Wilcox came about but it seems when Hostetler heard Wilcox answer the phone - Wilcox, McNeill & Hostetler - that was it. The Rev. Cortez Cooper has complete details.

The Dicksons will be back from Florida next week and it may be awhile before I can write a front page column again. So long.

Auto Tag Sales Lag

Sale of auto tags are running ahead of those last year this time but there are still 3,000 more to be sold and only two weeks to do it in.

Miss Frances Ward Green who is in charge of sales at the Chamber of Commerce office, said that an increased demand is expected this year.

The purchase deadline is Feb. 15, at noon. The deadline for use of the 1968 tag is midnight that night. The office will be open on Wednesday afternoon.

Rep. McFadyen Meets With Commissioners

Hoke County Commissioners passed on a bill constructed by Rep. Neill McFadyen which will place Hoke County under the stock law.

McFadyen read from the General Statutes Book, the law which already covers many counties and said that when he presented the bill before the legislature, he would eliminate sections which would not apply to this county or which are obsolete.

On another subject, the representative reminded the board that he had voted against the tobacco tax before when it was previously brought before the legislature and planned to do so again. "This does not mean that I am not in favor of a raise for teachers. They should have one and I believe will get one. I just don't want to jeopardize the farmers," he declared.

The commissioners advised Rep. McFadyen that they had been reviewing a questionnaire sent to them from a Legislative Poll Action Committee and said they were in favor of the sales tax question on a statewide basis but did not want the suggested local option basis.

They advised him they were in favor of the following questions:

1. Making general statutes which grant permissive authority to boards of county commissioners apply to all 100 counties.
2. Authorization of boards of county commissioners to enact ordinances applicable outside municipal jurisdictions in the same manner as municipal governing bodies are now authorized to enact ordinances applicable within their respective jurisdiction.
3. Authorizing boards of county commissioners to fix compensation of county commissioners.
4. Authorizing boards of county commissioners to modify the number and method of elections of succeeding county commissioners within limits of the general law, subject to right of voters on 10 per cent petition to demand a referendum on any specific change proposed.
5. Fixing uniform statewide schedule of fees of the register of deeds.

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True Bill Returned Against Watson

A true bill was returned last week against James Willie Watson by the grand jury.

Watson, 20, a former Hoke County man, is accused of the murder of A.T. Bobbitt of Southern Pines, a store operator at McCain. Bobbitt's body was found on the floor of the store about 7 a.m. April 13, 1968, by a passing truck driver. He had been shot in the head.

Watson was arrested on a fugitive warrant in New York in November. His trial is scheduled for the April term of Hoke County Superior Court.

Also bound over during Superior Court last week, were Thomas Lorenzo Daniels and James Frederick Handon. Daniels is accused of the murder of James McCrimmon, Dec. 28, and Handon is accused of the slaying of Robert (Bob) Stewart on August 11, 1968.

Edwards Goes To Prison On Mother's Testimony

By Lucy Gray Peebles

"That's it, that's my TV." This was the exclamation an elderly woman broke forth with from the witness stand in Superior Court last week when a television set was brought into the room as material evidence.

Mrs. Alma Edwards, mother of 14, was testifying against her son who she said had stolen her TV and had sold it. She said she lived alone on Prospect Street except when her son was there on occasional visits since his release from prison last fall.

Calm as a kitten one minute and nervously tucking gray hair beneath her blue flowered head scarf, the next, the aged witness recalled that she had come down town on January 17, to see about another son who was in trouble and when she returned home she found her TV set gone. Her son, Jim, was there, she continued, and she asked him where it was. "Jim said he knew where it was and that he would take me there," she declared. But when she went to a house on Vass Road, a crippled Negro man named Warren Tate, admitted that he had it, she said, but he vowed he had bought and paid for it and he would not return it to them. She said she then went to the sheriff's office about the matter.

Tate, the purchaser, testified in court that he was standing on Main Street in Raeford that day when Jim Edwards approached him and began to talk. In the course of conversation, Tate said he mentioned that he had just bought a

Republic Contracting Co. Low Bidder

Disposal Plant Contract Signed By Town Monday



WINS HONORARY TITLE - Charlie Hottel, officer of Southern National Bank, was named "Raeford Man of the Year," by the Kiwanis Club last Thursday night. Here, he receives a gift and a silver cup from Robert Gatlin at the annual banquet held at the Empire Steak House in Fayetteville. In the background at center is club president, Bill Lancaster, and at right, Mandy Lancaster, Jim's brother of Winston-Salem who had part on the program, and Bob Clodfelter, speaker of the night, also of Winston-Salem.

Hottel And Lewis Honored By Kiwanians

Charles Hottel was named "Man of the Year" Thursday night when Raeford Kiwanians held annual recognitions and ladies' night all in one. The award was made by Robert Gatlin.

Hottel, loan officer at Southern National Bank has been a resident of Raeford for the past nine years. During that time, he has been outstanding as a civic and church leader. He is a member of First Baptist Church where he sings in the Sanctuary Choir, is assistant Boys Chorus director, is an active deacon and is superintendent of the Intermediate

Sunday School Department. Hottel is a Kiwanis director and chairman of the Boys and Girls Committee. He is secretary of Hoke High Booster Club, and treasurer of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Recreation program. He and his wife, Betty, have four children.

R.B. Lewis, the only active charter member of the Raeford Kiwanis Club, was presented the Legion of Honor Award from Kiwanis International, District and the local club by Clyde Upchurch, Jr. a past district Lt. Governor. Lewis has been in the local club for 45 years, has held all offices in the club and is a former district Lt. Governor. This is the highest honor bestowed by Kiwanis International.

A special award was presented to Marion Gatlin for having been prompt, dependable and perfect in attendance for 25 years. Two other men, Jake Austin, 15 years, and Julius Jordan, 16 years were also recognized for long perfect attendance records. Attendance awards were presented by Charlie Hostetler.

Loni Bledsoe presented Graham Pope an award for having prepared the best program during the past year.

The Rev. Jack Mansfield served as master of ceremonies and gave the invocation prior to a steak dinner. He also

Car Vandalized At Ball Game

During a basketball game being played at Hoke High School against Sanford, Jan. 28, a visiting automobile was badly damaged. This type of thing can give all of Raeford a bad name and the allegedly guilty party does not even live in town!

The car belonged to a Sanford policeman, Johnny Lee Sellars, who had brought a load of boys to the game. When Sellars returned after the game, he found a flat tire. He left the boys and caught a ride to the local police station where he borrowed an air tank.

While their driver was gone, the riders observed some scratches on the side of the car. They examined the vehicle further under a nearby service light and found that there was a big cross on the trunk made with the point of a knife. Both sides had been striped over and again with the same instrument. Damages were estimated to be \$140.

After interrogation of several boys, local policeman Sam Motley arrested Kenneth Saunders, 17, a Hoke High School white boy of the Antioch section.

introduced special guests.

Harold Gillis welcomed the wives and other female guests and Mrs. Cortez Cooper made the response.

Kiwanis president, Jim Lancaster, introduced his brother, Manley of Winston-Salem, who after numerous witticisms of his own presented his friend, Bob Clodfelter, a humorous after dinner speaker, also of Winston-Salem. Both were well received.

After 30 Years

Josephine Hall Resigns As Agent

Miss Josephine Hall, Hoke County Home Agent, tendered her resignation Monday when Hoke County Commissioners met in regular session. It was accepted with reluctance and regret by the five men, especially those whose wives have been working closely with her.

Miss Hall has been an extension worker in Hoke County for the past 30 years and as Commissioner J.A. Webb put it, may be the only one in the state who has served that many years in one county.

The letter of resignation stating that she would go into retirement as of Feb. 28, was read by Board Chairman T.C. Jones.

Miss Hall later made a final monthly report before the board, the likes of which she has presented at least 10 times a year for the past three decades. The commissioners expressed appreciation for

General contract for an extensive expansion program at the Raeford Sewage Disposal Plant has been let to Republic Contracting Co., of Columbia, S. C., after two months of anxious waiting.

The opportunity came to the front just in time to meet the February 10, deadline. Bids were submitted Dec. 10, and bidders were at liberty to withdraw if contracts had not been signed within 60 days. Town board members were anxious to take advantage of present bids in view of the continuous advancement in prices.

Loss of time was caused by the fact that the lowest bid was considerably more than the estimated cost. Town officials went about what at one time seemed to be a hopeless effort to raise additional funds needed in the amount of \$162,000. When Burlington Mills, Inc., came up with \$120,000 (prepayment of water and sewage services) and a \$42,000 government grant came in, the problem was solved.

The decision on contracts was made Monday night at the February meeting of the board after John Gaddy, town manager, reported that approval had been made of the \$42,000 federal government grant by the State Pollution Control Committee through which the funds will be forthcoming.

Republic's \$709,000 contract is for work which is to be done at the plant, proper. This bid was \$85,000 lower than any other submitted.

Contracts on lesser jobs were let as follows:

Sewer lines, T. A. Loving Co. \$314,625.

Water lines, Blue Contracting Co. \$16,124.

Plant electrical work, Vick Bros. Electric Co. \$27,850.

Total cost of the contracts amounts to \$1,067,599.

Legal fees, engineering, administrative, land and project contingency costs brings the total project cost to \$1,170,000.

The board adopted a resolution to obtain easement necessary for right of way for sewer lines - to negotiate if possible or condemn if necessary.

In other action, the board accepted a plan submitted by the planning board to rezone the Dixie Peace property on Edinborough Ave. to commercial. The property is to be used as offices for local attorneys.

her services to the county people and told her she would be dreadfully missed.

W.S. Young, Hoke extension chairman, said she would be hard to replace but that efforts to find a new worker for the office would begin immediately.

Car Taken, Returned Same Day

A car theft at the Raeford Auto Co. was solved within a few hours and the accused had been brought back from another state by 9 p.m., Jan. 28, the same day the one o'clock theft took place, according to local police records.

L.Z. Ellerby, 28, of McCain was caught driving the 1964 Pontiac within 15 minutes after the incident was broadcast by radio. A Bennettsville patrolman called to say he had the man and the car. Ellerby signed extradition papers and was brought back by local policemen, Sam Motley and Jim West.

He will be given a hearing tomorrow in District Court for taking the car without permission and for driving without operator's license. Ellerby had just been released by the prison department that morning, Motley said.

