

The News - Journal

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Around Town

BY SAM MORRIS

Mrs. W. T. Gibson called this week and asked that something be said about the good work the Raeford Fire Department had been doing. She was in high praise of the work done by them at the fire at her house last Friday afternoon. It was thoughtful of Mrs. Gibson to call this to our attention, as most of us take the firemen for granted. These men work for free at all times so we should all express our appreciation to them for jobs well done.

The article in this week's paper about Mrs. Taylor and the covered wagon brings to mind the wagon train trip here each summer. It took place about a month ago and the hot weather is still with us. The wagon trip and the National Guard going to camp seem to run hand in hand with hot weather. The local NG unit leaves Sunday for Georgia, so hot weather should continue for at least two more weeks.

While on the subject of wagons we don't need a mule or horse at our house. Someone asked me this week if I wanted to buy one to pull my wagon. The wagon parked beside my house was left there after the last trip of the wagon train. Every time Rep. N. L. McFadyen has his lot mowed next to the house, the wagon is moved closer to my lot. This wagon belongs to D. R. Huff, Jr., chairman of the Hoke County Board of Education, who lives in Ashley Heights. The reason the wagon stays on is unknown to me, but anything from farming, cattle, vacations or school work could have hindered "Junior" from moving the wagon. About one more mowing of the lot and the wagon will be on my lot and then more conversation will come from my friends. Anyway it is a good wagon and seems to be in perfect condition. Maybe a good raffle would help!



Someone brought the above picture in the office last week and asked if I knew the man in the picture. I did not and inquired around until I found out. This soda jerk worked at Reeves Drug Store, now Howell's, in 1940 and 41. The reason he is so hard to recognize is that it seems impossible that he would work hard enough for the use of an apron. He is well on the way to becoming a character of Hoke County. The man at the salvage yard can give you his name.

The program at the Kiwanis Club last week was presented by Robert Gatlin and he told some tall stories concerning "characters" and "personalities" that are living or have lived in Hoke County. Some that he recalled are Tommie Upchurch, Ben Ray, Rock and Gravel, Mr. Downer, Max Hiens, Dr. Matheson and Harry Greene. One of the tales he told will be related below with the wording changed somewhat.

This is about Ben Ray, still living, and was told by Dr. Matheson, so Gatlin stated.

Ben Ray went to a house to vaccinate dogs one day. Years ago the dog warden went about through the county and vaccinated all dogs, instead of going to a place and the people bringing dogs to him. During the course of Ben getting on with his work it seems the lady of the house wanted to make conversation.

She told Mr. Ray that she was having a hard time with her children. When they were young she said they would tell lies. Then after getting older some of them would steal and she asked Ben what to do about it?

Ben stated that when a man wanted a fine pig he would go and get a registered boar, if he wanted a fine calf, he would acquire a registered bull. The woman asked what that had to do with her children?

Ben said a woman would go and marry the sorriest and laziest man in the world and expect all the off - springs to be preachers.



TOTAL LOSS - Smoke still rises from the ashes of the home where Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Baldwin lived until last Thursday night. All that remains standing are the chimneys.

Struck By Lightning

Old McPhaul House Near Antioch Destroyed By Fire

"We have so much to be thankful for." It seems like rather an odd comment for anyone in this day and age to make but even more peculiar if that person had just lost a house and its furnishings in a fire. But this is the reaction given by Mrs. A. S. Baldwin Friday morning just 12 hours after her home was completely destroyed by flames.

"It could have started late at night and we would all have been killed," she continued.

According to A. S. (Slim) Baldwin the fire in their house, which is the old J. W. McPhaul house, located between Antioch and Duffie Station, probably started when a bolt of lightning hit the house about 8 p. m. Thursday night.

"There was a terrific pop that occurred when the lightning struck," Mrs. Baldwin explained. "The lights went out in the house and about five or 10 minutes later,

my husband smelled smoke." Baldwin ran out on the front porch and saw the smoke billowing out of the upstairs windows. Although he tried to enter the upstairs the fire was already too embedded in the rooms and he had to retreat.

Mrs. Baldwin immediately went to see her invalid mother who was living with them. They carried her from the house and Mr. Baldwin started carrying furniture from the downstairs out to the yard. Mrs. Baldwin ran to the nearest phone and called the fire department.

"The response from the fire departments in the area and the neighbors was wonderful," said Mr. Baldwin.

"I've never seen so many people work so hard in my whole life," commented Mrs. Baldwin. "We're so grateful to have

so many friends." The front section of the house was destroyed. Ironically, the oldest section of the house, which is over 100 years old, is still standing. But it too was completely gutted by fire. The fire trucks left the scene around midnight.

Much of the furniture in the downstairs portion of the home was saved, although it received fire and water damage. Everything in the upper portions of the house was destroyed; which included their 20-year-old daughter's college wardrobe.

"Our daughter was at the beach and didn't come home until Thursday," said Mr. Baldwin.

"All of my silver was recovered," said Mrs. Baldwin. "But the china and stemware is mostly broken."

The Baldwins are storing the remainder of their belongings at the old Burlington School auditorium.

"We'll store it there until we find somewhere to go," said Mrs. Baldwin.

Guard To Georgia For Encampment

The Hoke County National Guard will leave for summer camp this Saturday at 7:45 a. m. According to Major Edwin Willis over 100 men from the county will spend two weeks training at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

The entire North Carolina Brigade of 1,500 men will be participating in the two weeks of training. The guard will return on August 3.

Two Injured In Accident

Two residents were slightly injured in an auto accident here last Saturday morning. The accident occurred at 11 a. m. at the corner of Stewart and Edinborough when Ronald Adcock of Roxboro failed to observe a stop sign.

According to Police Chief L. W. Stanton Adcock's car hit a car driven by Louise Caulder. Mrs. Caulder and a passenger in her car, Mrs. John Caulder, Sr. were injured.

The car driven by Mrs. Caulder was thrown out of control and two parked cars were hit. These cars were owned by Cecil Pace and Charles Bramlett, both of Raeford.

Damage to Adcock's car amounted to \$350 and the Caulder auto received \$500 in damage. The parked car owned by Cecil Pace received \$150 in damage and the Bramlett car had \$500 worth of damage, according to Stanton.

Adcock was charged with failing to stop at a stop sign.

Carter, Currie Are Promoted

W. E. (Gene) Carter, who has been serving as cashier of the Lumberton office of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, has been named assistant vice president and managing officer of the Cladborn office.

A native of Raeford, Carter joined Waccamaw in July, 1966. Prior to that he was manager of the Southeastern Grain Company in Whiteville.

Angus J. Currie, who had been serving as executive officer of First Union National Bank in China Grove, has been promoted to head the bank's operation in Siler City.

A graduate of Hoke County Schools and the School of Banking of the South, Currie has been with the bank since 1960 and a city executive for five years.

He was previously employed by the Bank of Raeford.



HUGH SIMMONS

Simmons Manager Tex-Elastic Plant

Plant manager for the new Raeford Tex - Elastic Division Plant of Adams - Millis Corporation is Hugh Simmons. Simmons took over at the new plant last week, shortly after the Uniroyal plant was purchased by Tex - Elastic.

Simmons is a native of North Carolina; he was born and raised in Hickory. A graduate of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, Simmons majored in textile engineering.

He started his career working for three years with the Kayser - Roth Corporation. From there he moved to the Kendall Company in Seneca, South Carolina.

In 1967 he started working with the Tex - Elastic Division at their main offices in High Point. He helped to establish a fine and critical yarn for the company that is used in such things as girdles and some types of women's hose.

The Simmons' family, which includes Hugh, his wife, Hilda and their two children, Chris, and Annaliese are moving to Raeford the first part of August.

Dave Jones Retires

Commissioners Sample Free Food

A cake made by the Hoke County Nutrition Aids was sampled by the County Commissioners during their lunch break at the July 14 meeting. According to Ellen Willis, County Home Agent, the cake was made with commodity food and was an example of some of the new foods the nutrition aids are demonstrating to homemakers using the surplus food.

The commissioners appointed Tom McBryde as the fourth representative to the Southeastern Community Action Program. Notice has been received that the board of directors to the SCAP program had been enlarged and Hoke County was to select another director. Other directors serving on the board from Hoke are Dr. Robert Townsend, J. H. Austin and William Windley.

Dave Jones, retired Court House janitor, was presented a watch for his many years of service to the county. The watch was given by the Commissioners and county employees.

A death benefit clause was added to the county employees retirement policy at a total cost of \$14.24 per year. The clause allows one year's salary to be paid to the beneficiary in case of the death of the insurer.

The commissioners approved state maintenance to a road located near Rockfish in the chance sub - division.

In other action the commissioners approved the purchase of a light and rental of another radio for the two new cars for the Sheriff's

department. The commissioners also gave Sheriff Dave Barrington authority to attend the Sheriff's convention, July 20 in Atlantic Beach.

The Sheriff also confronted the commissioners with the problem of disposing of 48 cases of confiscated beer that is now in the lands of the department. The county attorney, Charles Hostetler suggested that he felt the proper procedure if the county wanted to sell the beer would be to offer it for sale to the wholesaler. If the wholesaler would not buy it then it would have to be destroyed.

A delegation of women concerned with the upkeep of the Stonewall community building requested help for fixing the building from the commissioners. The commission had delegated \$350 for material on any community building and this amount was allotted for repairs on the building.

The new director of the Sandhills Community Action Program, Charles S. Crenshaw was presented at the meeting. He replaces Frank Kivett.

A delegation concerned with the draining of the Lowery Swamp asked the commissioners if they would sponsor the program. After much discussion it was decided that the commissioners could not act as a sponsor for the program and it was suggested that those concerned with the project choose a representative to get the right - of - ways and easements from those living in the swamp area.



DAVE JONES RETIRES - County Commissioner chairman T. C. Jones presents a gold watch to Dave Jones for his many years of service to the County. Jones has served as janitor in the County Courthouse continuously since 1951.

Covered Wagon Trip Recalled In Space Age

The horse and buggy days seem long gone in this era of rocket ships and new moon shots. There are few people left who remember the covered wagon trips of long ago, but Raeford has one citizen who remembers it well. She is Mrs. H. C.

Taylor, mother of Mrs. Nelda T. Baucom. Mrs. Taylor believes her ninety years and her active life can be envied by those who are many times younger than she.

In 1879 Mrs. Taylor was born in Cherokee County, N. C., where she spent most of her younger years. She moved to Charlotte with her husband, Dr. H. C. Taylor in 1917. Until 1947 she resided in Charlotte until she moved to Raeford.

"When I was around six years old I can vividly remember a trip we took across Nantahala mountain in Cherokee County to visit our grandfather," she recalled. "It took us two days to get there and we camped on the river bank along the way."

For the trip Mrs. Taylor remembers that her mother, who also lived to be in her ninety's, packed a large trunk with food.

"During the nights my father didn't sleep much," she said. "The mountains held a lot of wild animals then."

Mrs. Taylor is the only surviving member of a family of eleven. She was the seventh oldest in her family.

She still knits and occasionally sews and even cooks. Her good health she attributes to hard work and good living. Occasionally she will go to Charlotte or Fayetteville with relatives and has even been to the beach this summer!



MRS. TAYLOR