

# City Board Votes To Support Local Option Sales Tax

Raeford's City Board of Commissioners went on record as being in favor of the proposed 1% local option sales tax. The vote of the board was unanimous.

The General Assembly, in its last session, paved the way for a county-wide 1% sales and use tax election in each of the 100 counties of North Carolina.

The tax increase would be limited to

1% and would not add any items that are not presently affected by the 3% sales tax in this state.

The 1% local tax and the 3% state sales tax would be collected by the local merchants as is presently done. The State would collect the 1% and deduct the cost of collection and then distribute the monies back to the counties on the basis of ad valorem taxes and per capita population.

Half of the total amount of revenues collected from the approving counties would be redistributed on the basis of ad valorem taxes and the other half on the basis of per capita population.

Counties not voting in favor of the local option sales tax in November would not be affected by the tax increase nor would they receive any of the benefits.

Figures in a pamphlet released by the

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners indicate that Hoke County's share would amount to approximately \$143,000, with the Town and County dividing this amount.

This estimate is based on the supposition that all 100 counties in the State vote for the local sales tax.

The board discussed a petition from residents of Shawtown to buy water from the City. It was decided by the

commissioners to discuss the proposal further with the petitioners.

A motion was made and passed to call for bids on a new car for the police department.

The board also approved the advertising of surplus equipment for sale by the city.

The board discussed several routine matters and voted to adjourn for the evening.

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## Around Town

BY SAM MORRIS

A large crowd turned out for the opening football game in the new stadium last Saturday night. The local fans could get an A-1 view of the game from the stadium. No one walking in front of you and the only complaint was the concrete was hard. Maybe a pillow would help for the game against Rockingham Friday.

The parking at the new stadium is another matter and some thought should be given to it. The flow of traffic was as expected, but it was impossible to get your car out of the parking lot until the cars in front, behind or beside you moved. Of course, someone will question why you want to leave before the game is over. This is true, but some people like to stand around and talk after the game. Students want to put up their instruments and fans have to wait in line until all these things are completed.

We think that space is available around the school building to park cars so that anyone could leave when they please. This is not a new problem and has been worked out at other stadiums.

Richard Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Davis of Fulton Street, received the Eagle Scout award during the morning worship service at the Raeford Presbyterian Church Sunday. The award was presented by the Rev. Cortez Cooper, Jr., pastor. Congratulations to Richard.

David Scott Currie was in the office Monday and subscribed to the paper for his son Cadet Paul Currie who is at the US Military Academy. David said Paul was doing fine and liked it very well. He is going out for the 150-pound football team and is also a member of the Plebe Glee Club.

A letter from J. H. (Buddy) Blue, Jr., of Williamston was received last week. Cousin Buddy sent me an article from an old State magazine about a preacher who was at Bethel Church. The article was written by the late Arnold A. McKay of Hoke County. The article appeared in the State issue of January 9, 1937. Buddy said he thought the writer of the Bethel Church article a few weeks ago would be interested.

A letter from the Red Cross reads as follows:

"Class for Home Nursing Instructors scheduled to begin Sept. 15, 1969 has been postponed indefinitely because the Staff Instructor from Charlotte Headquarters of the American Red Cross will be on duty with the Camille Red Cross Relief Mission."

Robert Gatlin called last Thursday and told me he was at the pond draining Saturday, August 30th, but he couldn't confirm any statement made by the owner, Clayton Bunyer. When I inquired why, he said, "Because his father wouldn't do that!"

Gatlin also commented on Antioch High School. He said that in 1924 or 1925 he lost a speaking contest to a Biggs boy from Antioch High when they were in the eighth grade. (The schools only had 11 grades then.) The Biggs boy gave a speech on the subject, "The Man with His Hat in His Hand," Gatlin recalled. He stated that he received a gift from his father for being in the contest and that is what brought it to his mind. The gift was his first pair of long pants. How times have changed. Boys have long pants now when they start to school.

Mrs. Earl Gordon called this week and said several members of the class of 1939 at Hoke High School would like to have a class reunion. Fifty-six graduated in the class and if you are interested you can contact the following:

Mrs. Earl Gordon, Raeford; James L. Currie, Raeford or Laverne McInnis, Maxton.

## Some Students And Parents Unhappy

# School Superintendent Explains Difficulties With Busing System

## Preacher Tries To Go Bail; Ends Up In District Court

## Two Thefts Occur During Weekend

The Reverend Elias Rogers received a six month suspended sentence in District Court last Friday for driving under the influence.

Rogers appeared at the Hoke County Jail to bail out a friend who was being held for driving under the influence. After being told by deputies at the jail that he was in no condition to drive, Rogers did so, and consequently ended up before Judge J. E. Dupree.

Judge Dupree suspended a six month sentence in Hoke County jail on condition that Rogers follow several driving restrictions for the next year, pay a fine of \$100 and costs.

In other cases heard in District Court, Carwell (Bo Peep) Jackson of Shawtown was found guilty of assault. He was sentenced to six months, suspended, *capias* and/or

commitment for two years, and costs of court.

William Anthony McGuire, Orange, N.J., excessive speed, *no pros.*

Pfc. Michael Eugene Moss, Camp LeJeune, improper passing, *no pros.*

Mary Hazel Willis of Raeford was found not guilty of assault.

Sam Willis of Raeford was found not guilty of assault.

Anios Lemons, Lumber Bridge, assault, *no pros.*

Tim Wilson, Fayetteville, no chauffeur's license and failure to secure a load to prevent it from falling off a vehicle, \$10 and costs.

John Thomas Warren, Raeford, careless and reckless driving, and hit and run, property damage, *no pros.*

Alice Willoughby Edwards, Kernersville, following too closely (accident), judgment

suspended upon payment of \$10 and costs.

Willis O. Ross, Southern Pines, worthless check (\$100), restitution and costs.

Larry Lee Moser, Red Springs, unsafe movement (accident), \$10 and costs.

Elizabeth Ann Blue, Fayetteville, allowing unlicensed operator to drive, \$10 and costs.

Jerry Wayne Hyatt, Raeford, larceny, prayer for judgment continued for three years with the court reserving the right to pass final judgment at anytime during the period. Defendant and probation officer are to secure an appointment with the Sandhills Mental Health Clinic, and if treatment is indicated, he cooperate fully, and pay cost of court.

Esteller H. Malloy, Wagram, failure to yield the right of way (accident), costs.

Naomi Jackson, simple assault, six months suspended, *capias* and or commitment anytime in the next two years, and costs.

Jesse Belle Billinger, Shawtown, simple assault, 30 days suspended, *capias* and commitment anytime in the next two years, and costs.

Willis Odell Ross, Raeford, failure to decrease speed to avoid a collision, 30 days suspended of payment of \$25 and costs. Defendant gave notice of appeal to Superior Court.

Mike Walters, Raeford, malicious damage to property, *no pros* with leave.

Bertha McLean Hollingsworth, Raeford, assault with a deadly weapon, *no pros.*

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Raeford Police reported Monday that two thefts occurred in the city during the weekend.

According to police, a riding lawn mower was stolen sometime Sunday night from the driveway of Alton Walters. Walters lives at 520 South Main.

The seven-horsepower lawn mower was valued at \$710.

Younger Sneed, Jr. reported to police Monday morning the theft of a car from Hoke Auto display lot behind Southern National Bank.

It is thought the red 1968 Chevelle was taken from the lot between 4:30 and 7 a.m.

An all points bulletin was immediately issued by Raeford Police.

## Football Schedule

Buck JV's host Lumberton JV's Thursday Night at 7:30 PM. Hoke Athletic Field

Bucks play Rockingham Friday Night at 8 PM. Hoke Athletic Field



NOT A BAD SEAT IN THE HOUSE - This is only a portion of the fine crowd that went out to see the Bucks' first game in the new Hoke Athletic Field. Everyone seemed to be completely satisfied with the new stadium and the performance of the Bucks. The Bucks will host the Rockingham Rockets Friday night at 8 P.M.

Hoke County School Superintendent Donald D. Abernethy released a statement this week concerning problems experienced by some youngsters who ride buses to and from school.

Abernethy's explanation of these problems, and their solution is as follows:

School transportation is a complex function that requires perfect synchronization of routes and schedules in order to be successful. Most Hoke County citizens can well recall the state of confusion experienced for several weeks last year as school officials worked to untangle the problems of overloaded buses, traffic jams, lost children and late buses.

This year, the routes are more simplified with fewer transfers and more direct home to school service. Problems are being faced, however, and are being solved as rapidly as possible. Now that school has operated a week, most of the difficulties have already been removed. The chief complaint now is with overcrowding in some situations.

Overcrowding on buses has been partially caused by more people using the services of the transportation system. Students from Raeford who have never ridden a bus are now riding to South Hoke School. A problem arises when we try to balance the load and find after taking some students off a given bus, it will be overfilled again by students who have ridden to school in cars the first few days and now wish to ride the bus. It may take several weeks for this condition to be stabilized.

Some of the complaints about overcrowded buses are from parents whose children have never ridden school buses. For information to these parents, the state does not consider a bus overloaded until it has more than 25% of the load standing. The 1969 legislature took a look at this problem, but elected not to change the policy because of the obviously high cost.

We will continue to work to balance the loads to have as few students standing as we possibly can.

School bus transportation in Hoke County is functioning more smoothly this year largely due to the efforts of E. G. Inman who is serving as Transportation Director. His office is in the W. T. Gibson Building of Hoke County High School.

Buses are kept in excellent mechanical condition by the county garage managed by L. E. Luck.

Abernethy also explained and clarified a recent federal court decision which has caused some confusion over who can and who cannot ride school buses.

The following points are for clarification and apply to Hoke County:

1. No student who lives inside the city limits of Raeford may be transported on the school bus to a school located inside the city limits of Raeford. These schools are Hoke County High, J. W. McLaughlin and Raeford Elementary. EXCEPTION: Until March 1, 1970, pupils who reside in the areas annexed to Raeford since 1957 and also reside at least 1 1/2 miles from the school they attend may ride the bus to a school within the city limits. Only a few students fall into this category.

2. Students who live inside the city limits of Raeford may be transported to any school attended outside the city limits of Raeford, provided that the student resides at least 1 1/2 miles from the school attended.

3. Students in the eastern and western attendance areas may ride the school bus as long as they live at least 1 1/2 miles from the school they attend.