

The News - Journal

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Around Town

BY SAM MORRIS

The holiday season has ended and everyone is back to the old grind again. We all like to get off from work but at the same time if the holidays are too long, most of us are ready to go back on the job. Someone said Tuesday when the weatherman was predicting snow that it would mean staying off the job for a few days and this would be bad. So most of us get along better when we are working.

The advertisement this week by The Bank of Raeford has a picture in it that was brought into the office last week by Robert Gatlin. The picture belonged to Robert's father and he came across it while cleaning a room at the Gatlin home on Central Avenue. As most of the old timers know Mr. Gatlin was chairman of the Board of Directors at the bank when he died. Robert showed me a few things in the picture and also talked about other events that took place during early 1912. We will try to put a few down in this column.

The man standing in the door of the bank is John W. Moore, first cashier of the bank. The only other person that has been identified is the first gentleman to Mr. Moore's left. He is Cockman the jailer and town policeman.

If you will notice at the rear of the bank the building now occupied by Woods Furniture Store was not built at this time. As the date at the top of the bank building states it was built in 1911. Robert commented that the courthouse and old jail was built at the same time and all the bricks are the same. At the right of the picture the other three story building is where Hoke Drug Co. is now located. It housed the hotel during 1912. The bank did not need all the space on the first floor for many years. In the right front of the building is the store of Harvey and J.A. Baucum. This business later moved into the building now occupied by Belk - Henadale Co. after the Baucums moved out the space was taken over by the Post Office. When the Post Office was moved into the building next to the City Hall the bank took over the space.

In the rear of the building was a barber shop as is denoted by the barber pole. Later three offices were taken over by Dr. Geddie and then by Dr. R.A. Matheson. We can't find out who occupied the second and third floors at this time.

The streets were not paved at this time. Robert stated that the four cars in the picture could have been all the autos in Raeford in 1912. He assumes they were assembled when it became known that a photographer was in town. The dog in the picture was a common thing in most times. Dogs would lay down in the street and buggies, wagons and the few cars would sometime have to dodge them.

Against the second window from the left on the second floor can be seen the street light across the center of the road.

We don't know the makes of the cars but would like for anyone that can identify them to do so and we will publish them. Also if anyone can identify the other people in the picture come by or write to the paper. Of course Robert was at home in the crib when this picture was taken but his information has been confirmed since he found the picture.

The bank in its ad states this was "Our first giant step" and it was also the beginning of a county and city.

We always try to stop rumors and set things straight when anyone gives us an item for this column. So whoever said that Dick Neeley was selling timber because Mrs. Louis Parker was in the hospital is wrong. Neeley had the trees removed because of wood worms. This is straight from the Horse's mouth.

The ace reporter and my right hand man here at the office, A. B. (Skip) Dickson, became involved with the law before Christmas. Usually we leave these things to the court reporter but in this case things don't seem to me to be on the up and up. Here are the facts which you can read and draw your own conclusion.

Policeman Jim West put a parking ticket on Skip's car when he left it in a two - hour parking zone over the required time. Of course, all of us at the office had to make some comment to Skip about the ticket. He stated after a few ribbings that he would go to court with the ticket. This is the right of any citizen.

But ...

A few days later while making a house payment at the Raeford Savings and Loan we could hear voices coming from the coffee break room of the association. Going back into the room there was Skip, our reporter, in person. Also in the crowd were Town Attorney, Palmer Wilcox and City Councilmen J. D. McMillian, Crawford Thomas, Jr. and Franklin Teal. When we asked Skip if this was the way he would get his ticket fixed, he smiled and the party broke up.

These are the facts so everyone can draw their own conclusions.



CONGRESSMAN SPEAKS - Seventh District Congressman Alton A. Lennon made his annual visit to Raeford and Hoke County Tuesday to visit with his constituents. The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce arranged a dutch treat luncheon for the Congressman. Lennon made a few remarks at the informal affair.

Council Works Hard For Early Adjournment

The Raeford City Council met Monday night, in what will probably be its shortest regular meeting of the year, and went right to work so they would be finished with City business in time to view the television coverage of the Gamecock - Tar Heel basketball game.

After approving the minutes of their December meeting, the Council heard Mr. Evan Minier from Moore - Gardner Associates discuss pump design changes at Raeford's Sewage Waste Treatment plant that is presently under construction.

Minier told the Council that construction on the plant was progressing according to schedule and would be in operation sometime in February and final completion around the first of May. He also indicated to the Council that the construction of the plant would cost some \$27,000 less than originally anticipated due to the elimination of some unnecessary equipment.

He recommended to the Council that they replace two of the plants four pumps with variable speed pumps that will save on operational costs of the plant and wear and tear on the pumping system. The variable speed pump system is anticipated to raise the cost of the plant about \$12,000.

The Council unanimously voted to have Minier get quotations on the new type of pump and to report his findings.

The Council then turned its attention to the purchase of a new loader (bulldozer) for use at the City Dump. Last month, the City received bids for a new loader from the Craven Company of Greensboro and the N.C. Equipment Company of Raleigh. The two bids were very close, with the Craven Company submitting the lower bid by about \$250.

A motion by Councilman McMillian, and seconded by Councilman Clark, to accept the Craven Company bid was passed by a vote of 5 - 0.

Two requests by the Planning Board for zoning changes were discussed by the Council. The Planning Board requested that a lot on College Drive, owned by J.W. McPhaul adjacent to Maxwell's Esso Station, be rezoned from Residential to Commercial and that a funeral home be allowed to operate in a residential area on

North Main Street Extension. The Council voted to hold a public meeting to determine the feelings of the people in these two areas. The public hearing was scheduled for Monday, January 26, at 7 p.m. at the City Hall.

The Council voted to have City Manager John Gaddy order the codification of the ordinances of the City of Raeford. The lowest bid on the job received by the City is \$3200 from the Municipal Code Corporation of Tallahassee, Florida.

The Council voted to allow the Hoke County Rescue Squad to borrow a unit header and a radio mobile unit for use at the Rescue Squad building. The equipment is not being used by the City.

The North Carolina State Highway Commission requested the City present them with a proposal for furnishing water to the new State Highway Commission Maintenance Shop near the Burlington plant. The Council voted to furnish the labor for the water line extension if they would provide the necessary equipment, pay the tap on fee, and pay out of City water rates.

The Council then discussed existing loading zones in two-hour parking zones. The two - hour zones are just for loading and unloading and are not for the private parking by a business firm. Town Manager Gaddy was instructed to discuss the use of the zones with the businesses that have requested them.

The Council having wound up its business for the evening, adjourned to watch the ballgame.

Review Of 1969

Coming Next Week

The second installment of the review of 1969 will appear in next week's edition of the News-Journal.

The review was omitted this week because of space limitations in this week's issue.

F. Knox Watson Files For House Seat Monday

The 1970 political season got under way Monday when the first candidate threw his hat into the political arena and announced his candidacy for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

F. Knox Watson, a former member of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, paid his filing fee Monday morning to Hoke County Board of Election Chairman John Scott Poole. Watson will run in the Democratic Primary this May for one of the seats presently held by Neill L. McFadyen of Raeford, Gus Speros of Maxton, R. L. Campbell of Rowland and Roger Hall of Lumber Bridge.

Watson served four terms on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners between 1944 and 1952. Twice he served as Chairman of the Board. He has served as a director of the State Association of County Commissioners for six years, the National Board of County Officials for two years and the Board of Consultants. He also served two terms as chairman of the Hoke County Board of Health before retiring from political office in 1952.

Watson has lived in Hoke County since 1917. He is married to the former Annie Neal Barker of Lumberton. They have two children and are members of the



F. KNOX WATSON

First Presbyterian Church of Red Springs. He is a Mason and past Master of the Red Springs Lodge.

The filing deadline for the May election is 12:00 noon, March 20, 1970.

Trainable Class To Begin Friday At McLauchlin

Finances Face Board Mon. At First Meeting

Representatives of several organizations appeared before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Monday morning during the Board's first monthly meeting of 1970.

Miss Mabel McDonald, Director of the Department of Social Services in Hoke County, came before the Commissioners to inform them of serious budget difficulties that are being encountered by her department, and others throughout North Carolina.

According to Miss McDonald, the Hoke County Department of Social Services will, if the present situation continues to exist, have a shortage of funds for public assistance programs totalling more than \$23,000.

For this fiscal year, Hoke County budgeted a little more than \$45,000 for public assistance. This figure represents about 13% of the total public assistance budget in this county. The remaining funds come from the State and Federal Government.

Miss McDonald said Tuesday that she hated to have to inform the Board of the problems of her department, but felt it was necessary.

The reasons cited by Miss McDonald for the expected deficit were a 12 - 15% increase in the case load and increases in the payments since the budget was set last year. "These two factors have really played havoc with our budget" she said.

Miss McDonald requested the Commissioners allow the Department of Social Services to use \$306 from other programs in the AFDC program so that the grants cut as of January 1 could be fully restored to their former level.

The Commissioners approved the request unanimously.

Mrs. J. M. Andrews, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hoke County Library, Vince Anderson, Director of the Sandhills Regional Library, and Mrs. Lee Cameron, librarian at the local library, met with the Commissioners to discuss the pros and cons of Hoke County becoming affiliated with the Sandhills Regional Library, which is presently composed of Moore, Montgomery, Richmond, and Anson Counties.

Association with the Sandhills Regional Library would increase the number of books and magazines purchased, increase the local library's base of growth by taking better advantage of recent legislation passed by the General Assembly dealing with funding of public libraries, increase the work of professional librarians in the local libraries.

The county would be expected to turn over to the regional library its County and Efforts Grants plus \$2050 of local funds for the operation of the regional offices. Hoke's participation would qualify the Sandhills Regional Library for additional grants from the State of North Carolina.

In return for the funds from Hoke, the regional library would assume the cost of the salaries of the professional and clerical staffs, the purchase, binding and maintenance of books, magazines and film strips, maintenance and operation of local bookmobiles, telephone costs, and the cost of bonds and audit.

The Commissioners discussed the proposed affiliation but took no action.

Because of the high cost of a new bookmobile for the local library and the \$2,050 cost to join the Sandhills Regional Library, it is not expected that the Commissioners will support the proposal to join the regional set up.

Jim Fout, Director of the Sandhills Community Action Program and former Manager of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board to discuss the SCAP program for 1970 in Hoke and the other member counties.

According to Fout, SCAP will have about the same programs in Hoke this year as last. He discussed the possibility of SCAP establishing a manpower development program in this county. At present, the responsibility for such a program belongs to SECAP, but indications are that the present setup may change in the next few months.

The next visitor to meet before the Commissioners was Algie Burns Vickery

Puppy Creek Sets Benefit Supper

The Puppy Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Community Development Club are having a covered dish supper Thursday night, January 8, at 7 p.m. at the fire station. All members are invited to attend.

of Atlanta, Georgia. Vickery discussed recent legislative changes in the laws concerning public housing. Much of the "red tape" involved in a public housing program was eliminated by the Congress in December.

The Commissioners vote unanimously to raise the hourly pay of the surplus food employees in Hoke County. The workers will get a raise of 25 cents per hour. Most of the employees are presently being paid \$1.25 per hour.

The Board approved the purchase for a 3M Copier for use in the Register of Deeds office. The present copier is completely worn out, according to T. B.

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Hoke Group Holds Water Meeting Monday

A meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a corporation for a water system for the Scurlock-Hillcrest area of Hoke County was well attended by area residents.

Smith McInnis presided over the Tuesday night meeting at the Hillcrest Fire Department of 30 to 35 citizens from the Hillcrest and Scurlock Communities. After giving the audience an idea of what he had in mind by calling for the meeting and confessing that his knowledge about getting a water system was limited, McInnis introduced Jake Vincent, Director of the Farmers Home Administration.

Vincent began his informal discussion by telling the people the FHA was not out trying to drum up business, but that his office would be pleased to provide any possible assistance to the people, if they decided to attempt to secure a water system in the area.

Speaking in general terms, Vincent explained to the crowd that it was impossible to give them specific costs of a water system without knowing the length of the proposed system, the number of water users, and many other details.

Vincent gave the people a general idea of how to get started on the project and referring to the experiences of the people in Hoke County who have water system projects he gave the group an idea of what they could expect.

After a question and answer session, the people decided to set up a temporary steering committee to investigate the water system further. Smith McInnis was elected Chairman. Jimmy Morrissey and D.B. McFadyen were voted in as vice-chairman.

The steering committee will survey those area homeowners who did not attend the meeting to determine their attitudes about the water system project and check other details and report back the entire group at a later date.

Car Wreck In Georgia Kills Miss Kaye Lindsey

A young Raeford woman and a companion died as a result of injuries received in a head-on automobile collision New Year's Eve in Hindsville, Georgia.

Miss Edith Kaye Lindsey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Best, and Richard Dean Holland, of Fayetteville and Omaha, Nebraska, were both pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital in Hindsville. A third person in the car, driver, Henry Johnson of Fayetteville, was hospitalized, but his injuries are not thought to be serious.

The three young people were returning to Fayetteville after spending a few days in Florida during the holiday season. Miss Lindsey had visited friends of her family in Florida and then gone to the Miami area for a few days before returning to North Carolina.

Funeral services for Miss Lindsey were held at 3 p.m. Friday afternoon at the Raeford United Methodist Church, officiated by the Reverends Kermit Wheeler, R.C. Mooney, and R.E.L. Moser. She was buried in the Raeford Cemetery.

Memorial services will be held by the Quaker Church in Fayetteville this Sunday at 2 p.m. at the YMCA on Fort Bragg Road for Miss Lindsey and Dean Holland. The public is invited.

The long awaited class for mentally retarded children in the trainable category has been approved and is scheduled to begin Friday morning at the J. W. McLauchlin Elementary School.

Hoke County School Superintendent Donald D. Abernethy reported Monday that a trainable class would be taught for the remainder of this school year at the McLauchlin School with Mrs. Larry Phillips as the teacher. Abernethy called the class a joint effort under the sponsorship of the State of North Carolina, the Hoke County School system, and the Hoke County Chapter of the Mentally Retarded Children's Association. The State will pay the salaries of the teacher and her aide, the local school system is providing classroom facilities, and the local retarded children's association will provide supplies and equipment for the class.

Twelve students will be in the newly formed class. They have been screened by Mrs. Emily Cameron and by psychologists from the Sandhills Mental Health Center. The parents of the prospective students were notified by the Board of Education this week. The pupils range in age from eight to 15.

Mrs. Larry Phillips, teacher of the class, will be assisted by Mrs. Pamela Sessoms. Mrs. Phillips is a graduate of Hoke County High School and attended Lousburg College for two years. She has been certified to teach the class by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Mrs. Sessoms has one year of college work. She worked with crippled children at a hospital in Durham for two years.

Mrs. Phillips said Tuesday the first objective of the instruction would be to teach the children how to take care of themselves, basically how to feed and clothe themselves. As the children progress, she hopes eventually to teach them to read and write.

Mrs. Brown Hendrix, President of the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Mentally Retarded Children's Association, reported Tuesday that an upright piano would be of invaluable use in the class. She asks that anyone who has such a piano they can loan or donate to the class contact her.

The education of handicapped children in the trainable category is a slow, long range process, but after several years of effort on the part of several Hoke County citizens to get such a class in Hoke County, visible progress can already be seen. A big step has been taken.

Tax Listing Started In Hoke Jan. 2nd

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 is underway in each township, 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 an appointment so that others will not have to wait out the lengthy time required for such tax payers.



MISS KAYE LINDSEY

Kaye Lindsey was a graduate of Hoke County High School in 1965. She graduated from the junior college program at Vardell Hall in Red Springs. See WRECK, Page 11