

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOL. LXVI NO. 13

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$4 PER YEAR 10c PER COPY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1970

Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

The article in last week's paper about Mrs. Flora McLaughlin brought to mind an incident that occurred in World War II days. Now Mrs. McLaughlin lived in Raeford for many years and her husband, the late Will McLaughlin, was mayor of Raeford for a number of years. They lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Howell on Central Avenue. Mrs. McLaughlin is also a aunt of William Lamont.

During the early years of World War II the housing situation around these parts was a major problem. Before the invasion of Africa General George S. Patton, Jr. had his Armor Division in the reservation for training. Also Ft. Bragg was a large recruiting center and the area was filled with young men that had just entered the service. Now the two local National Guard units had taken almost all the young men when they were called to active duty. So the feeling for young soldiers in Raeford was at a high pitch.

Nearly every home in Raeford was filled with soldiers and their wives before they went overseas. This also included the home of Mrs. Flora McLaughlin.

About a year ago we went to Ft. Bragg to a meeting of the Braxton-Bragg Chapter of the AUSA. This is an army-civilian organization to promote good will. We were introduced to Col. Warren Rock who is in charge of the Court Martial of Capt. Jeffrey McDonald now going on at Ft. Bragg.

Col. Rock asked us how long we had lived in Raeford and we replied since birth except for the World War II years. He asked us if we knew Mrs. Flora McLaughlin, and we replied yes. Col. Rock said he was a 2nd Lt. in 1941 and was sent to Ft. Bragg before going overseas. His wife was with him and it was impossible to find a place to stay. He related of going to a number of homes and finally coming to Mrs. Flora's house. She told him her house was filled, but a small room or house behind her home was vacant. Col. Rock said he and his wife stayed in the small house for a few months and that he would never forget Mrs. McLaughlin or the other people of Raeford that did so much for the servicemen during that time.

Col. Rock said he was coming over to Raeford again just to see the changes that have occurred during the years he had been away. We don't know if he ever got over, but if you mention Raeford to him he will ask about Mrs. Flora McLaughlin.

...
The apples from the trees of H.R. McLean always make the best pies. We want to thank him for the bag of apples he left at the house recently.

...
The softball tournament is still in progress and if the weather continues, should end on Friday night. As of Tuesday three Raeford teams were still in the fight for a place in the area tournament. The area tournament will also be played here and will begin Tuesday night August 11.

If you haven't been out to the tournament, make a special effort and see softball at its best.

...
The Back-to-School promotion of the local merchants will start next week. Be sure to check your local stores for your back to school needs. Most of the time you can find what you need in Raeford. See and let's keep the money in Hoke County.

Alfred Cole Dies Tues; Funeral Thurs 3 P.M.

Alfred Cole, former Raeford mayor and director of the county Civil Defense office, died Tuesday night. He was 68.

Cole was born Dec. 25, 1901 in Moore County but his parents moved to western Cumberland County, which is now a part of Hoke, when he was a small boy and he has taken an active part in the community throughout his life.

He served as mayor of Raeford for eight years during the 1950's and early 60's. Before that, he was a member of the city council for two years.

As director of Civil Defense, he helped organize the unit here and served for eight years without pay. He was paid by the county as part-time director during the last six years he served and on his retirement in 1968, he was commended by the North Carolina Civil Defense Association of Directors for "outstanding contributions to civil defense work in the state and nation."

Cole was a member of the regular Army and the National Guard for 24½ years and served in the Army as a First Sergeant at an anti-aircraft school during World War II. He was also dedicated to the work of the Boy Scouts and led a troop as assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster from 1928 to 1940. As a young man he was an outstanding athlete. An active member of civic organizations, he served two terms as Commander of the American Legion, was president of the Kiwanis Club, a member



ALFRED COLE

of the Raeford Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Hoke County Farm Bureau. He was a life-long member of Raeford United Methodist Church and served as president of the Men's Club there and president of the Men's Bible Class.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. at Raeford United Methodist See COLE, Page 9

City Plans \$140,000 Bond Issue Vote For Utilities To New Knitting Plant

Council Discusses New Plant

Knit-Away, Inc., the new textile knitting plant coming to Raeford, and the extension of water and sewer lines to serve the industry were the main topics at the city council meeting Monday night. The city is seeking approval to extend the debt limitation beyond the 8 per cent level in order to issue bonds to help finance the \$270,000 cost of the new lines. A bond issue election is expected to be called in October.

The council approved an agreement to pay \$5,602.50 to J.A. Singleton, Jr. for a 4.6 acre strip of land on South Main Street that is planned as the site for a new water station. The council had given approval to purchase the land at the July council meeting.

A resolution for the creation of a regional council of local officials was adopted by the council as a preliminary step to forming an organization that would conform to the boundaries of the state planning regions. The council, if it is formed, will include local officials from Hoke, Scotland, Robeson and Bladen counties.

In other business, the council approved a permit for James W. McRae to operate a taxi in the city and adopted new building permit fees.

The previous building permit established fees for buildings with an estimated cost of \$25,000 or less and the new portion of the ordinance set Monday night set fees for buildings costing more than \$25,000.

Under the new fee schedule, a permit for a building with an estimated cost of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 will be \$30 plus \$75 per thousand; \$50,000 to \$100,000 is \$48.75 plus \$50 per thousand and the permit for buildings costing more than \$100,000 will be \$73.75 plus \$25 per thousand.

Man Arrested For Shooting

Glen Gibson was arrested Friday and charged with assault with a deadly weapon following the shooting of William E. Nelson on West Edinborough Street July 27.

Gibson was released on \$750 bond and a hearing is scheduled in District Court on Aug. 14.

Danny Chason, Ronnie Chason, Bobby Davis and William Nelson were also charged with engaging in an affray and disturbing the peace, Police Chief L.W. Stanton said. They were released on bond pending a trial on Aug. 14.

Rockfish Area Is Hit By Storm Much Damage To Crops, Homes

A violent storm, with wind, rain, hail and possible small tornados, hit the Rockfish community Wednesday night, injuring one person and leaving behind ruined crops, overturned trees and damaged homes.

James Allen Kelly, 11, was struck by lightning about 7 p.m. in his home near Davis Bridge. He was treated for burns on his left side at Cape Fear Valley Hospital and was released. The Kelly home was damaged in the storm when lightning set the electrical wiring on fire.

The storm hit first near Davis's Bridge at about 7 and then moved toward the Rockfish area. Power was disrupted throughout much of the community at 7:25 Wednesday night.

As much as five inches of rain were reported to have fallen during the worst part of the storm, which lasted about an hour. Fields and yards throughout a four mile area around Rockfish were flooded. A dam burst on a pond on the Bill Wright place there Mrs. Wright reported.

Scott Poole, who surveyed the crops in the area with an insurance adjuster, reported that the crops near Rockfish were a total loss and that those within a two mile area were about a 60 per cent loss.

"The tobacco is a total loss in Rockfish and cotton is at least 60 per cent," he said. "Corn and beans both look like a 100 per cent loss. As you travel away from Rockfish for about two miles on any side, there is about a 60 per cent over-all loss."

Homes were damaged by the water and by winds that roared through the community, uprooting hugh trees and toppling chimneys. Helicopter pilots flying for an ROTC demonstration that night at Ft. Bragg reported seeing several tornado formations in the area.

Robert Brooks at the Rockfish Store said the wind, which seemed to come from every direction made two circular sweeps through the community. A tree was blown over in his yard, narrowly missing his house trailer.

Perhaps the hardest hit home in Rockfish was the parsonage at Tabernacle Baptist Church, occupied by the Rev. Carl Strickland and his family. Two large trees at the back of the house were toppled in the wind and fell across the roof of two bedrooms, smashing windows and ripping through the ceiling. No one was in either of the bedrooms, which are the children's, at the time. A twin bed in one of the bedrooms was torn up, and water damage in the home was extensive. Poole, who insures the house, estimated the damage amounted to \$3,000 - \$5,000.

The church was also damaged in the storm, with broken windows and damage to the electrical system caused by lightning, Poole said.

Many other buildings in the community were damaged to a lesser extent. Power lines were blown down or broken by falling trees and electrical service was out in many homes until Thursday afternoon. Several crews worked Thursday cutting trees away and restringing fallen lines to restore power to

See STORM, Page 9

Reading Club Plans Party

The Aerospace Reading Club will end its summer reading program next week with a party Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Hoke County Library.

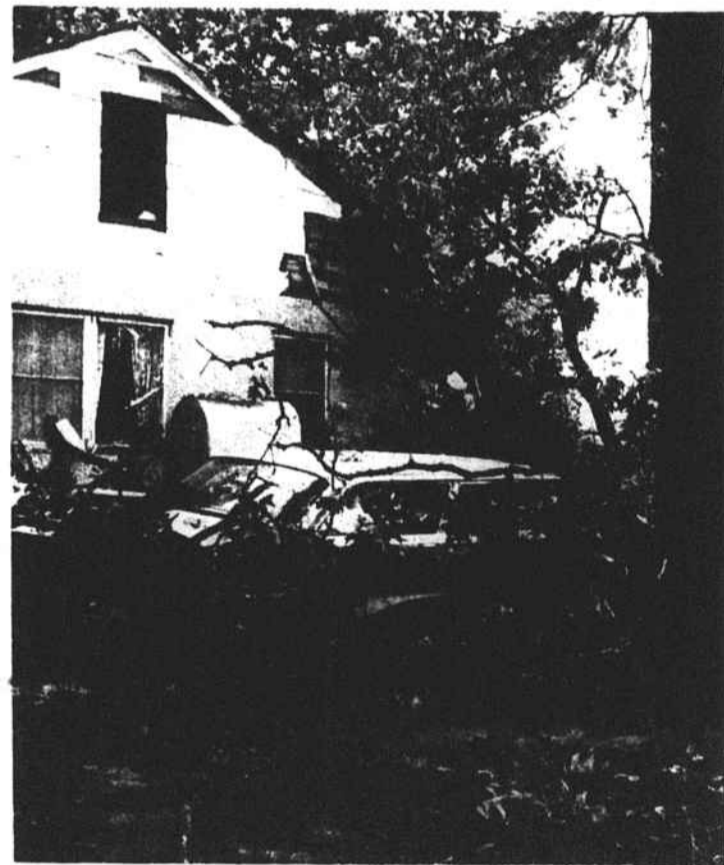
Everyone who registered for the reading program is urged to come to the party.

Love Charged With Murder

James Earl Love has been charged with murder and is being held without bond following the death last Wednesday of Willie James McGougan.

McGougan was hit on the head with a soft drink bottle during a fight that took place in the Arabia section of the county July 19.

Love was arrested the next day, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and has been held on a \$25,000 bond until Wednesday when McGougan died at Cape Fear Valley Hospital. A preliminary hearing is scheduled in District Court for Aug. 14.



AFTER THE STORM - Two large trees fell across the roof at the home of the Rev. Carl Strickland by Tabernacle Baptist Church in Rockfish ripping through the roof into the two children's bedrooms, and burying the car in a tangle of limbs.

Knit-Away Officials Hold Groundbreaking

A ground breaking ceremony Tuesday morning at the Knit-Away site officially began construction of the new textile plant.

Richard P. Bruce, president of the corporation, manned the shovel in the ceremony attended by officials from the state highway department, city and county governments and the chamber of commerce.

Charles Dawkins, state highway commissioner, promised Bruce that a road would be cut into the site immediately and that it would be assigned a high priority for paving. Roads to new industries are provided under a special category, he explained.

Dawkins also got in a good word for the gasoline tax as he told the group that

the tax was essential for financing new roads in the state.

City councilman J.D. McMillian represented the city government as mayor pro tempore at the ceremony. T. B. Lester, county manager, attended from the county and Palmer Wilcox, Chamber president, represented the Chamber of Commerce.

Also attending were John Gaddy, city manager; Harold Gillis, Chamber manager and Graham Clark, city councilman.

Construction will begin Monday, Bruce said. Trailers are to be set up on the site this week for offices and applications for employment will be taken then, he said. Several clerical workers have been hired already this week.

McNeill Asks County For Utilities Funds

Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr. appeared before the County Commissioners Monday to request funds from the county to be used in the extension of water and sewer lines to the new textile plant under construction on Highway 211.

The city requested an allocation of a minimum of \$5,000 a year from non-tax revenues on anticipation of tax revenue from the new industry.

In a statement to the commissioners at the regular August meeting this week, the mayor said:

"As you know, Hoke County and the City of Raeford are hopeful of acquiring a new industry to locate here in the near future.

"We see this operation will be a definite economic asset to our community, but we also realize the problems involved when more people are brought into a community. The new residents may tend to crowd the school system and there will be an addition of services required, but our pressing problem at this time is financing the required utilities to the industrial site.

"Since you are familiar with our bond indebtedness and our borrowing power, you realize that the City of Raeford

cannot continue to borrow money for extending the utility system at this time.

"The City does intend to submit a bond referendum to the public with hopes that the public will see fit to approve the issue which will allow extending a 12 inch water line and an 18 inch sewer line to the industrial site. Incidentally, this tract is large enough to allow other industries to locate, which these extended lines will be able to serve adequately.

"Since this industry will mean a great deal to the County of Hoke, the City Council is requesting the County to participate in the financing of this project.

"The preliminary report submitted by the City's engineers show a total construction cost of \$60,000 to extend adequate water lines to the industrial site, and \$210,000 for sewer out-fall lines. If the County would allocate a minimum of \$5,000 per year from non-tax revenues on anticipation of tax revenues from the new industry, it will be more than greatly appreciated."

T.C. Jones, chairman of the commissioners, told McNeill that the board was sympathetic to the city's See McNEILL, Page 9

City officials will ask for a bond issue election sometime in October to extend the water and sewer lines to Knit-Away, Inc., the new textile plant to be built on South Main Street.

A notice of intention to ask the state to approve an extension of the 8 per cent debt limitation for the city was published this week in The News-Journal.

Total cost of the extending the lines is estimated by the city engineers at \$270,000. A bond issue of \$140,000 will be needed to finance the expansion, city manager John Gaddy said.

However, the anticipated utilities from the new industry are expected to off-set the debt service costs of the bonds and the new issue will not increase the water utilities rate or the tax rate, he said.

The debt service payments are estimated to be \$23,660 a year and utilities revenue is estimated to be \$24,335.74 based on charges of \$1,000 a month for water and \$2,027.93 for sewers, Gaddy said.

An 18 inch sewer line will be laid parallel to the existing lines that run near Raeford Turkey Plant. The new line will correct the overflow of sewage into Rockfish Creek that now occurs, besides serving the new plant, Gaddy explained. It will also be adequate for other industrial expansion in that section, he said.

A 12 inch line will extend from the 18 inch line into the industrial site. 7,700 feet of 18 inch line and 1,500 feet of 12 inch line will be needed for the extension. 2,000 feet of 12 inch water line and two new wells are planned to provide water service to the site. The water line will connect with the existing line on Stewart Street.

Besides the \$140,000 bond issue, the city plans for a grant of \$63,000 from the air and water resources board and a \$40,000 grant from Advancement to be approved. These grants will be lost if the bond issue doesn't pass, Gaddy said.

The city also has \$29,000 remaining for sewer construction from the last bond issue held in 1967. This money can only be used for sewer construction.

In addition to these sources, the city has also asked the county commissioners for an allocation of non-tax revenues amounting to at least \$5,000 a year.

Cyclist Dies From Crash

Erbon Ray Maynor of Antioch died Monday morning from injuries received Saturday when his motorcycle collided with a truck on N.C. 211 near Antioch.

He was riding the motorcycle about 7 p.m. when the vehicle ran into a truck driven by Leroy Locklear. This was the sixth fatality in the county this year.

Maynor was traveling south on 211 toward Red Springs when Locklear drove from the parking lot of McNeill's Store at Antioch onto the highway. Maynor struck the tail-gate of the truck.

Locklear was charged with failure to yield right-of-way.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at Mt. Eden Baptist Church by the Rev. King Maynor and burial was in the church cemetery.

Maynor is survived by his wife, Audrey Maynor; one son, Ernie and one daughter, Audrey Maynor; two stepchildren, Fred Locklear and Evelot Locklear; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. McKenny Maynor; three brothers, James Arthur, Daniel Richard and Jimmy Dean Maynor; three sisters, Mrs. Clarice Blue, Mrs. Francis Strickland and Mrs. Ilene Jacobs.

Two-Car Crash On Dickson

Two cars collided on Dickson Street Sunday morning causing about \$200 damage to each.

A car driven by Clayton Biggs of Raeford struck the side of a car driven by Mrs. Roland Furr as Biggs turned from Prospect Avenue onto Dickson.

Biggs was charged with careless and reckless driving.

Rescue Squad Aids Rockfish

The Hoke County Rescue Squad went to work in the Rockfish area after the storm last Wednesday night to remove trees from the roads there. It took about an hour and a half of cutting to clear the roads, Squad officials said.