

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1970

Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

Chamber Endorses Bond Issue

The \$140,000 city bond issue to be held Oct. 17 was endorsed by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce at the monthly meeting last week.

The Chamber board expressed strong support for the bond issue, which will be used to extend water and sewer lines to a new textile industry on South Main Street.

A dinner to highlight Firemen's Week, Oct. 4 - 10, was discussed. The Chamber will co-sponsor a dinner Oct. 6 with local insurance agents and financial institutions, to honor members of the Hoke County Firemen's Association and their wives. Several other activities are also planned for the week.

The Chamber also set the date for the Christmas parade on Dec. 4 and began plans for Christmas activities.

In other business, the Chamber heard reports on industrial activity and merchant events. The Knit-Away plant was reported well underway with construction and it was announced that a new finance company will occupy the hotel building on Oct. 1. The remodeling of the Johnson Store and Home Furniture into one operation known as Helig-Meyers was reported in progress.

Dues and membership was discussed at the meeting. The response from a recent letter to all prospective members was reported to be good.

Hoke Quiet

A routine weekend was reported by city police and the county sheriff's department.

Raeford Police Chief L.W. Stanton and Hoke County Sheriff D.M. Barrington both said their departments handled no cases out of the ordinary.

Blown Fuse Stops Water

A fuse that blew out during the night left early morning risers without water Tuesday.

One of the fuses leading to the pumps malfunctioned about 3 or 4 a.m. Tuesday morning, stopping the pumps, city manager John Gaddy explained.

The tank soon drained, leaving little or no water pressure. Many homes had no water at all or only a trickle from the faucet until the trouble was corrected about 6:30 a.m.

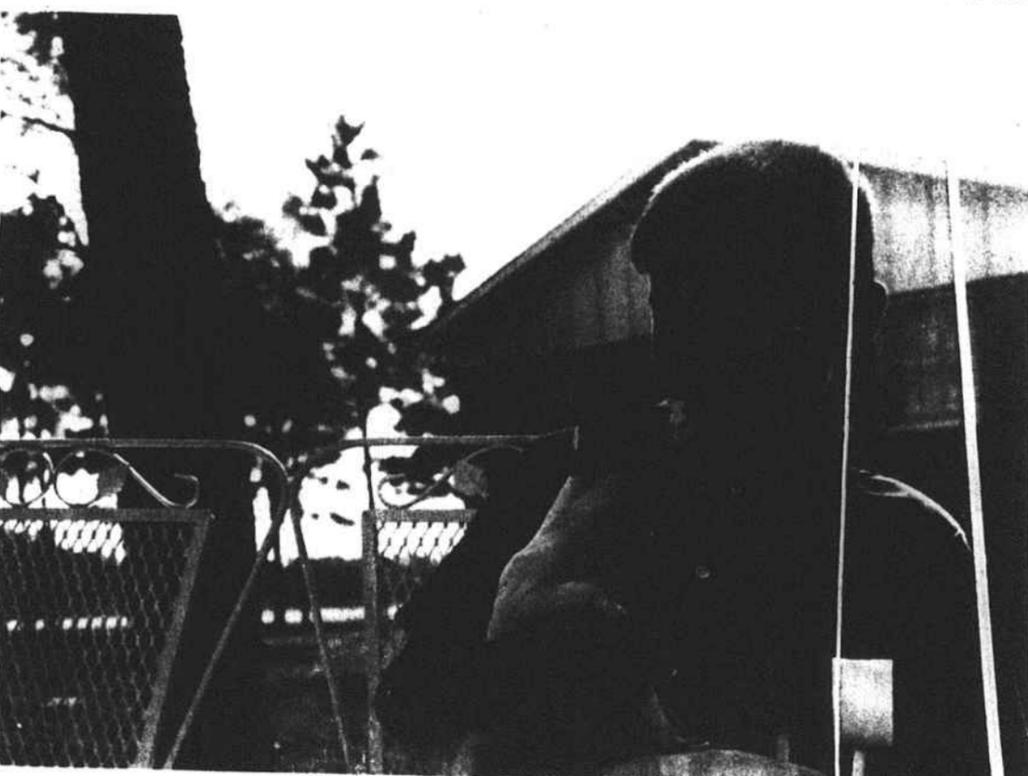
However, a transformer at the pumping station was either damaged in the blow-out or was broken before that, so only one pump could be put back into operation immediately, Gaddy said. Water pressure remained below normal Tuesday until the other pump could be repaired and the level in the tank restored to normal.

Tickets On Sale Now For Robeson Rally

Tickets are now on sale for the Robeson County Democratic Rally to be held in Pembroke at the Pembroke Senior High School on Oct. 3.

Visitors present at the rally will include Sen. Ervin, Jim Graham, Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor, Rep. Alton Lennon, John Lockamy, Irvin Aldridge, Roy Sowers,

State And Local Officials At Water System Dedication



LOVE - Shorty, the family Chihuahua, plants a kiss on his master, ten-year-old Lawrence Walters. Maybe the two are talking over plans for National Dog Week this week. Lawrence is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton G. Walters of South Main Street.

Dedication ceremonies for the county's first community water system were attended by Farmer's Home Administration state director, FHA committeemen from nine counties and local community officials.

The Northwest Water Supply Company has been in operation about six months in the section west of Raeford along Vass Road and 401 By - pass.

James T. Johnson, state director for FHA, and members of the FHA advisory committee from Scotland, Richmond, Anson, Union, Montgomery, Moore, Lee, Hoke and Stanley counties were on hand for the dedication.

W.R. Windley, director of the Samuel Leonard Training School, was guest speaker at the ceremonies. He was introduced by J.D. McAllister, assistant school supervisor.

Other speakers on the program were John A. Staton, a teacher at Leonard School, Jake Vinson, county FHA agent, Robert Fleetwood, district FHA supervisor and Johnson.

The Rev. Milton Williams, pastor of McLaughlin Methodist Chapel, led the dedication prayer. Guests were introduced by the Rev. F. Fisher, Arthur Kemp, president of the board of directors for the community water system, was the master of ceremonies.

An area committee meeting for the FHA committeemen was held Wednesday morning at the civic center. After a meeting that morning, the committeemen divided into smaller groups and toured homes in the Seaflock community that were built with FHA loans. Jimmy Morrissey, Essie Mae Vigil and Charles Lide were hosts to the three groups.

The area committeemen also visited the home of Paul Purcell, which was designed by graduate students at North Carolina State University School of Architecture as part of a community action project to provide quality design for low cost homes. The Raeford project is the only one of its kind in the state.

City To Get \$20,498 In Powell Bill Funds

The city will receive \$20,498.74 from the state this year to maintain non-state system streets under the provisions of the Powell Bill.

The allocation, which is based on population figures and number of miles of non-state system roads, was announced this week by the North Carolina State Highway Commission.

Powell Bill funds, which are provided by one-half cent of the gasoline tax, are returned annually to cities and towns.

The checks will be mailed from Raleigh this month so they will reach municipalities by Oct. 1.

Population figures used in figuring the allocation were based on the 1960 census

since the 1970 census has not yet been certified. Raeford's 1960 population was 3,058. The city has 18.69 miles of non-state system roads and streets.

The 428 cities and towns that

participate in the Powell Bill funds will receive proportional cash allotments amounting to \$11,909,265. This year's total is almost \$700,000 larger than last year's allocation, which was \$11,24,494.

Senior Citizens Point To Money As Biggest Need

More money was cited as the most pressing need of older Americans by the large majority of senior citizens who attended the Hoke County Senior Citizens forum Tuesday.

In discussing their needs, many who spoke pointed out that they had either never worked under social security at all or had worked only a short time under the system and therefore their social security payments amounted to only between \$40 and \$60 a month.

Better housing was voted by the group to be the second most important need.

About 65 persons attended the meeting held at Raeford Methodist Church. Many were members of the three senior citizens clubs in the county. Many were members of the three senior citizens clubs in the county. In addition, workers from the county social services department, the health department and ministers from local churches attended.

A panel composed of T.C. Jones, John K. McNeill, Mrs. Charles Hostetler and

Mrs. Missouri Oxendine listened to members of the audience talk about the needs of senior citizens. The Rev. Jack Mansfield was moderator for the program.

The forum was held as part of nationwide preparation for a White House Conference on Aging planned for 1971. Senior citizens forums were scheduled all over the country for this week. After the results are compiled, they will be sent in a report to the conference staff in Washington.

After Mrs. Ellen Willis, home economics agent and one of the committee members who organized the forum, welcomed the group, Rev. Mansfield began the program by asking members of the audience to tell what needs were felt to be the most important to older Americans.

Most of the speakers at least mentioned increased funds, either through social security or pensions, as being a major need.

Mrs. Lena Terrill said "I can live on the little social security I get, but there isn't enough to buy the dentures or the glasses I need."

Mary Barrett told the group: "I am very concerned about social security. I worked under it for a short while, but not long enough to get much support."

In addition to more money, Mrs. Barrett also said that better housing for both young and old people was a need in this county.

"Another thing I'm concerned about is some young people pushing off their children on older people to take care of them. Some of these older people are afflicted in some way and can't care for these children."

Others who cited the need for increased funds were Mrs. Pearl Long, Mrs. J.L. "Preacher" Bethea, Person L. Locklear, the Rev. McInnis, Mrs. Edna Green and Mrs. Alma Edwards.

Mrs. Rowland Currie said that

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Baker Acquitted Of Murder Charge

"I never did anything I hated to do worse than that, but I believe I was protecting my life and that of my family," Neil David Baker, who was charged with the murder of his son-in-law, said in a statement read in District Court Friday by Sheriff D.M. Barrington.

A finding of no probable cause was returned in the preliminary hearing by Judge Joseph Dupree.

Baker was charged in connection with the shooting death of S/Sgt. Henry William Hardin, Jr., who was killed Sept. 11 at his home near Raeford.

Baker's daughter, Mrs. Birdie Hardin, testifying calmly but with noticeable difficulty, told the court that her husband was uncontrollable when he became angry and that they had quarreled shortly before he was shot.

"You could not reason with him when he got into a rage," she said. "When my husband got mad, he had no control over himself at all. He would hurt and after it was over, I have seen him cry like a baby."

Mrs. Hardin said she had once gone to a chaplain at Ft. Bragg to seek help for her husband.

They had argued the night he was shot, she said, and he had hit her and had thrown her to the ground. Later, her son

told her that Sgt. Hardin had gone into the bedroom to get his pistol. Mrs. Hardin testified that the pistol was always kept unloaded in a dresser drawer but that the clip was loaded and was kept near the gun. Her husband was an expert with the weapon, she said. She told the court that she did not know if Sgt. Hardin had loaded the gun that night.

Sheriff Barrington testified that the semi-automatic pistol had a clip in place but that the safety catch was engaged and there was no shell in the chamber.

Mrs. Hardin said she heard her husband go into his bedroom and then go to her father's room. She said she thought she heard him open the door and then she heard a shot. Her husband came into the living room, bleeding from a wound in the chest and fell at her feet, she said.

Mrs. Hardin left the courtroom as soon as she had completed her testimony.

Sheriff Barrington also read a statement made by Baker during the week he was in jail awaiting the hearing. Baker did not testify at the hearing.

Baker said in his statement that he could hear his daughter and husband arguing that night. Baker and his wife lived in the same home with the Hardins'. He had gone to bed after watching television for a while that night but had been awakened by the couple quarrelling

in the living room. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Hardin's son, Eddie, were also in the living room.

Baker said in the statement that he got his shotgun from behind the door, where he kept it always for protection and sat down on the bed.

"I knew he had the pistol cause I heard them talking about it. He came in and threw the door open and threw his left hand up against his bosom. The gun was still in his bosom.

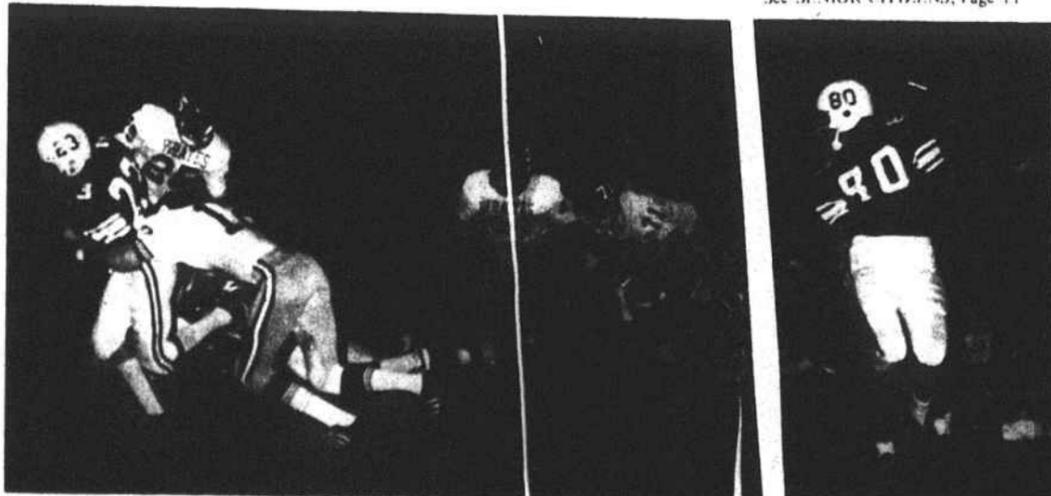
"I shot him as soon as he came in the door because I thought he would shoot me and I didn't intend for him to.

"He was drunk or doped or something. I never saw him like that. I do believe that he was going to shoot me and then kill her (his daughter) and maybe my wife and grandson.

"I never did anything I hated to do worse than that, but I believe I was protecting my life and that of my family."

After the sheriff had finished reading Baker's statement, the state closed its case and William Geimer public defender, moved for a finding of no probable cause.

In granting the motion, Judge Dupree said "I guess all of us are, in essence, digging our own grave every day but some of us do it a bit faster than others."



TOUCHDOWN - Tim Hawkes, No. 23, goes over from the eight yard line for the first score. McNeill made the extra point to give the Bucks a 7-0 lead with 8:17 to go in the first half.