

The News - Journal

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Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

We want to report to readers of this column that we didn't have any kind of an accident over the New Year's holidays. Of course the family was at home and the only trouble that arose was who would use the color T.V. Anyway after much conversation we worked out a deal and everything was peaceful and quiet on Jackson St. I heard my daughter tell her mother that Daddy would dream of football for a week. We only have about three more weeks to watch football so anyone can see that six months of football is not too much for a fan.

We haven't heard much about Carolina sports from our son, John, since the defeat of the Tar Heels in the Peach Bowl, but after the basketball win Monday night over South Carolina we know we will have a big weekend at home. Not only John, but we expect some other Tar Heel fans will be seen with their heads high once again.

It is hard to measure or try to figure out what articles in the paper are read by the subscribers. We found out this past week one paragraph that was read by most of the readers. It appeared in the column that is on page two and signed by the editor. We refer to the paragraph about the breaking of a foot by yours truly.

We tried to explain how the accident happened but after comments, phone calls and letters we will truthfully say that the vote on how my foot was broken doesn't agree with my story. Is the majority always right?

Some of the comments are as follows: Mrs. Paul Dickson: "Either drunk or stupid."

Dan McInnis: "Did your wife put her foot down?"

Trooper E.G. Coen: "Why don't you change brands?"

Mrs. Laurie Telfair: "If you weren't drunk you missed a golden opportunity, because you will be accused of it."

Rep. N.L. McFadyen: "He kicked a Republican."

Judge Joe Dupree: "I understand, because I accidentally shot my foot."

Ken McNeill: "You finally got your foot in your mouth."

The article written by the editor had many more paragraphs but it seems the only one anyone paid any attention to was his sneaky way of doubting my word.

Well this is the way the world turns. People never look at the good in anyone; just try to pick out his bad points.

The only person who wouldn't question me was the Rev. John Ropp and now my mind keeps working as to why he stayed off me?

Time will tell as the foot is about well and we will soon be back on the golf course.

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A large farmer and equipment dealer of Hoke County upset the Sunday School at Antioch Presbyterian Church last Sunday when he wore his new wig to class.

Everyone thought he was a stranger and it seems the teacher gets nervous when strangers are in the class. Also it seems an aunt of the wig wearer wanted to know who the fine young man was at the family reunion. We haven't seen the wig but from all reports it is a knockout.

So you men with receding hair, please take notice.

Commissioners List Three Uses For One-Cent Sales Tax Revenue

Man Dies In Fire Board Hears Petition For Food Stamp Program

A man died Saturday night in a fire that burned his home to the ground.

Preston McPhatter, about 60, was found near the oil heater by the chimney. Coroner Frank Crumpler, who investigated the accident, speculated that McPhatter was putting oil in the heater when the fire started.

McPhatter lived alone near the Doug Currie farm. Neighbors noticed the fire about 11:30 p.m. Jan. 2 and called the Sheriff's Department.

County Buses More Crowded

County school buses traveled more miles and carried more children per bus than did the average school bus in the state, according to data recently announced by the transportation division of the Department of Public Instruction.

Using figures for the 1969-70 school year, the average school bus in the state transported 67 students and traveled an average of 17.8 miles a day. State mileage is based on an average of 1.59 trips per day each 11.9 miles in length one way.

In Hoke County, each bus carried an average of 76.6 students and traveled an average of 43.8 miles a day. There were 52 buses operated in the county to transport an average of 3,983 students.

Two other buses have been added this year, Donald D. Abernethy said, to help alleviate bus crowding. However, the county's pupil load per bus is higher than the state average partly because the county uses a larger bus than many other counties, he said. Many of Hoke's buses have an 85 student capacity.

While the average mileage traveled by each bus per day is more than the state average, Abernethy said this does not mean that individual students are riding 43.8 miles a day. Many of the buses transport children from more than one school, which increases the mileage figures for the county.

The operating cost for the county was listed by the Department of Public Instruction as \$5,047.1 per mile. The average cost statewide for the 1969-70 school year was \$2,026.19 per bus and \$2,958 per bus mile of operation. The total cost of North Carolina's school transportation for 1969-70 was \$19,141,379.21, including replacement buses.

The date for the public hearing will be announced later, city manager John Gaddy said and will be advertised.

An attempt was made by the city once before to establish a housing authority, Gaddy said, and members were appointed to it. However, the procedures used in establishing the authority were not correct, he said, and the city later dissolved it.

In other business, the council made several appointments to city boards.

Two new members were added to the recently formed building code board of appeals. They are J.B. White and Hugh Lowe. Already serving on the board are J.W. McPhaul, Sam C. Morris and Ivery McNair.

Three appointments were made to the zoning board of adjustments to replace members who have resigned. Thomas Holmes, appointed to replace Avery Connell, will represent residents outside the city limits.

Jimmy Conoly and Bennie McLeod, replacing R.B. Lewis and J.H. Blue, will represent city residents on the board.

The county board of commissioners Monday indicated support for a food stamp program in the county after hearing a group of citizens request the program.

Jimmy Morrissey, the Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Mary B. Whitted and Mrs. Ozella Bridges, appearing as officials and members of the Hoke County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, presented a petition requesting food stamps to the board.

The action, the Rev. Mr. Walker said, was prompted by the economic slump which has left many workers in the county on reduced wages. The cost of the program to the county would be about \$4,000, he estimated, but the initial costs would be compensated by state funds and by taxes from increased business revenue.

Morrissey, president of the NAACP here, told the commissioners he favored retaining the surplus commodities program and adding the food stamp program to it.

Walter, chairman of the NAACP executive committee, said the food stamps would be beneficial to a wide range of residents that are the surplus commodities. Essentially, he said, the program provides \$10 worth of foodstuff for each \$4 spent on the stamps. The stamps are issued on a sliding scale according to income level, he explained.

The program is administered in the state by the Department of Social Services and at the federal level by the Department of Agriculture.

The text of the petition presented to the board read:

Whereas, the strained economic situation in the United States has caused increased unemployment in Raeford and Hoke County, and

Whereas, there has been a decided drop in the sending power of many citizens of Raeford and Hoke County and

Whereas, the constant rise in living costs has made the maintenance of a balanced diet almost impossible for many citizens of Raeford and Hoke County and

Whereas, there is a program of relief available to the citizens of Raeford and Hoke County other than the surplus commodities program,

The Executive Committee of the Hoke County Chapter of the NAACP petitions the Board of Commissioners for Raeford and Hoke County to initiate necessary actions leading to the institution of a

Food Stamp Program in and for the citizens of Raeford and Hoke County.

The board approved a motion to investigate the matter. T.B. Lester, county manager, was asked by board members to obtain advice from state officials in Raleigh on the program and then the board agreed to meet again with the NAACP officials on the matter.

"The board is in sympathy with you and we are willing to work right with you," T.C. Jones, chairman, told them.

The board also heard a report from M.R. Mills, county sanitarian and Fred Wood of the State Board of Health, on a garbage disposal plan for the county.

Cost of a system using 50 containers placed around the county and a service truck to transport garbage to a landfill would be \$38,500 for the initial investment and \$14,750 for annual operating expenses, Wood told the board.

This does not include payment to the City of Raeford for use of the city landfill and equipment.

In other action, the board approved an amendment to the county budget to appropriate an additional \$4,472.20 for the addition to the county health building and approved \$1,063.84 to the Region "N" Council of Government as the county's pro rata share.

The board did not act on a request from the Sandhills Mental Health Center for a meeting to discuss next year's

budget. In a letter to the commissioners, the center announced that they were reducing their staff and services offered to the four county region served by the center because of inadequate funds. A federal grant expected by the center was not released and the center has since experienced severe financial problems.

A letter was read from Dr. M.B. Pate Jr., health director for Robeson County, requesting that the county consider joining in a Region "N" Comprehensive Health Planning Council. Hoke County now participates in a comprehensive health planning council with Moore and Lee counties.

The board also agreed to ask the Highway Commission to place caution signs at the approaches of Hoke County Holiness Church and to ask for directional signs to Ephesus Baptist Church in Arabia.

Reports were received from the county farm and home agents and from the tax collector.

Tax receipts were down in all categories from last year. Brian Thornberg, tax collector, reported. So far, this year, 38.69 per cent of the tax levy has been collected for a total of \$276,423.15. Last year 40.40 per cent had been collected. Collections for December amounted to \$34,037.50. Collections last December were \$35,393.47.

Abernethy Invited To Seminar In Russia

Donald D. Abernethy, county superintendent of schools, is among a hundred educators invited to attend a seminar on socialist education to be held next November in Russia.

The seminar is sponsored by the Comparative and International Education Society, Phi Delta Kappa, the National School Boards Association and the Research Center for Socialist Education.

Seminars have been held previously in most of the countries of Western Europe but this is the first opportunity in many

years for educators to observe the educational system used in the eastern Communist countries.

The group will stop first in Budapest, Hungary and Bucharest, Rumania before going on to Moscow. The main part of the seminar will be held in Academic City in Novosibirsk, Western Siberia. On the return trip, the group will stop at Warsaw, Poland. The seminar is scheduled from Nov. 6-27.

The purpose of the seminar is to point out the contrasts and problems in education in those nations.

Sales tax money will be used to meet the county's needs in three areas: county recreation program and toward keeping personal and property tax taxes down, T.C. Jones, chairman of the board of commissioners, said.

"We will apply the revenue to a county garbage disposal system, a city recreation program and toward keeping personal and property tax taxes down," T.C. Jones, chairman of the board of commissioners, said.

The estimated revenue for the county from the sales tax will be \$120,000 a year, according to T.B. Lester, county manager. The city will receive another \$20,000, he said.

The commissioners in an interview Monday pledged \$4,500 to the city-county recreation program if the tax measure passes. The recreation program has previously been operated with funds from the United Fund. This year, fund officials asked the city and county government to take over the financing.

The city council has approved up to \$1,500 for recreation if the county will furnish the remaining funds. The recreation program has a budget of \$6,000 this year. The United Fund included \$1,000 for recreation in this year's fund drive to provide financing until the city and county governments begin a new budget period. However, the county has not yet approved any funds for recreation.

The county government also plans to move into the use of post-graduation rural residents and is working on sales tax money to finance a state park.

A report received this week from the State Board of Health is now under study by the commissioners.

In the report, it is estimated that county residents produce 100,000 tons of refuse each year. While 60,000 tons is burned and part buried at the county dump, a large part is cluttering streams, woodlands, streams and highways.

A system of containers placed at 50 locations around the county is recommended. A service truck would transport refuse left in the four-cubic-yard containers to the landfill. The report recommended that the landfill be operated by the city.

This system will cost about \$60,000 to initiate and operate for the first year, the commissioners estimate.

The dumpmaster truck will cost about \$23,500 and 50 containers will cost another \$12,500. Site preparation for the containers will cost about \$2,500.

Yearly operating costs are estimated at \$14,750. The amount of subsidy for the city for use of the landfill has not yet been determined.

With the county providing facilities for garbage disposal, commissioners are in ordinance against dumping, including private property can be enforced.

Citing the increased cost of running county government, the board pointed

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County To Get Aid From Army

The city and county that announced the start of a waste disposal program in cooperation with the Army at Ft. Bragg.

Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. said in a statement Wednesday morning, "Hoke County and the City of Raeford are to enter into a Ft. Bragg project in which they have offered to assist the Army."

"To get the project moving, the county is to provide office space, personnel to act as liaison with Ft. Bragg."

"This office will be staffed by one officer and two enlisted men."

Fire Destroys Wilkes Home

A fire believed to have started in the kitchen destroyed a five-room wood-frame house off 401A last week.

The home in which Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkes and their children lived was a total loss, Hillcrest Fire Chief Ed McNeill said.

A pan on the electric stove caught fire, McNeill said, and Wilkes tried to extinguish the blaze before calling the Hillcrest Fire Department about 1 p.m. Dec. 30.

A water tanker and truck from the Hillcrest department and a water tanker from North Raeford Fire Department answered the call. Firefighters were hampered by spectators who parked cars in the roadway, blocking the water tanker from going to refill, McNeill said.

Nothing from the house, not even clothing, was saved, McNeill said. No one was injured in the blaze, he said, but two of the children who were evacuated from the building in freezing temperatures were sick with mumps.



A BARGAIN - City tags are on sale now until Feb. 16 for a dollar. After the deadline, city residents caught without tags may find the price skyrocketing. City L.W. Stanton points out, because court costs for a violation of city ordinances are \$15. Here Ronla Pickler, left, gets her tag from Betty Smith at City Hall.

Council Considers Housing Authority

The city council agreed Monday night to call for a public hearing on a plan to appoint a housing authority for the city.

A petition containing the names of 25 city residents who requested a housing authority was presented to the council.

Two Break-Ins In County

Two break-ins were reported in the county during the New Year's holiday.

The pumphouse at the Allendale Community House was broken open and a water pump was stolen, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

A storage building on the A.S. Baldwin property at Duffy's Station was entered and a radio, a television set and a new heater were taken.

Both break-ins were reported to the sheriff's department on Dec. 31.