

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News- Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOL. LXVI NO. 36

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$4 PER YEAR 10c PER COPY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1971

Ice Coats Trees, Lines But Creates Few Troubles

Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

John Scott Poole said last week that one Saturday morning recently he counted 27 men in his office chewing the fat. He made the statement after reading in this column about the writer getting information from the folks that gather there. We hate we missed that many characters together at one time. It would have been excellent copy.

Poole is also chairman of the Board of Elections for Hoke County and asked that we remind voters that the books are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. until one p.m. You cannot vote in the February 9th sales tax election, but you can register for future elections. Also if you want to change your voting precinct, now is the time to do so.

The chairman reminds all voters that the books will not open in each precinct as in years gone by, so if you are not properly registered be sure to do so at once.

The United Fund needs approximately \$700 to meet the campaign goal. Many in the county haven't contributed and the fund needs the money, so send in your check today.

Mrs. John Scott Poole said that a record player has been donated to the Anthony Nursing Home and also a few records but that there was still a need for more records. If you have any records around the house that you don't need, be a cheerful giver and donate them to the rest home. The records will certainly bring many happy hours to the shut-ins.

Bill Howell and Younger Snead were telling me last week about Buist Bethune of San Antonio, Texas being in town. Buist lived in Raeford before going off with the National Guard in 1940. He remained in the service and is now at a hospital in San Antonio. He must be in the Medical Corps as Bill and Younger both were relating some of his latest tales. Of course, Bethune was always known for his holding to the line in his truth. We hate that we missed him on his visit to Hoke County but glad to hear that he is well and around as usual.

The legislature started its 1971 session yesterday and Rep. N.L. McFadyen, from an article on the front page, is looking for a long and difficult tour this year. Be sure to read what he thinks about the upcoming session.

The vote on the one cent sales tax for Hoke County will come before the people for the second time on February 9th. This writer was against the election last time because he couldn't find out where the money was to be spent. This time the commissioners have brought forth two worthwhile projects that will be beneficial to numerous citizens of all races in the county. The recreation program and the land fill project are things that will be worth the few pennies a week each citizen will spend on the tax. We endorse this election and hope that all citizens will study the projects and the amount of money involved in this issue, then go to the polls and vote "Yes."

In the remaining weeks before the vote we will try to bring forth many reasons why you should endorse this tax, so as to support these two projects and many others.

Safe Robbed At Grocery

A small safe was torn open Sunday night at Lipscomb's Grocery and an undisclosed amount of change was taken. The theft was discovered Monday morning by Jimmy Thompson, who went to open the store.

The safe was located in a storage room at the rear of the grocery. The room was entered by the back door, Chief of Police L.W. Stanton said.

The door of the safe was ripped off by a crow bar or similar tool, he said, but only small change was in the safe at the time of the theft.

A rifle, three shotguns and several bottles of wine were also reported missing.

The break-in and theft is still under investigation, Chief Stanton said.

United Fund Needs \$700

With virtually all of the contributions in, the United Fund is slightly more than \$700 short of its goal.

Raeford Turkey Farms workers contributed \$930.55 this week to push the fund to \$18,401.48, campaign manager Jerry Goza reported.

This is \$779.71 short of the county goal of \$19,181.19.

Twelve agencies within the county depend on the United Fund for financing. These are the Scouts, Red Cross, White Cane, 4-H, Crippled Children, community development, the recreation program, Hoke Rescue Squad, needy school children, senior citizens and Carolina United, which includes national agencies.

Campaign officials have not given up hope that the goal may still be met.

"If anyone who hasn't contributed yet wants to or if anyone wants to give a little more, we'll be glad to have it," Goza said.

Contributions may be turned in to Goza, to Box 550 or to the office of The News-Journal.

Fire Destroys Bethea Home

One home burned to the ground and two others were damaged by a fire that broke out in the North Raeford section on Vass Road last Thursday.

The home of Thomas Bethea was burned completely. Flames were already coming through the roof when the first firemen arrived, Johnny Baker, chief of the North Raeford Fire Department said. The fire began inside the home, he said, but the cause has not yet been determined.

Firemen from the North Raeford and Raeford fire departments were able to extinguish the blaze which had spread to the houses on each side of the Bethea home with only minor damage to the two houses.

Homes owned by Robert McGregor and Junior Bethea were damaged slightly.

The blaze was reported about 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 7. There was no one at home at the Bethea's when the fire started, Baker said, and firemen received the call too late to save the four - room, frame house.

Fire hydrants which were installed in the past year as part of the community water system were located near the homes.

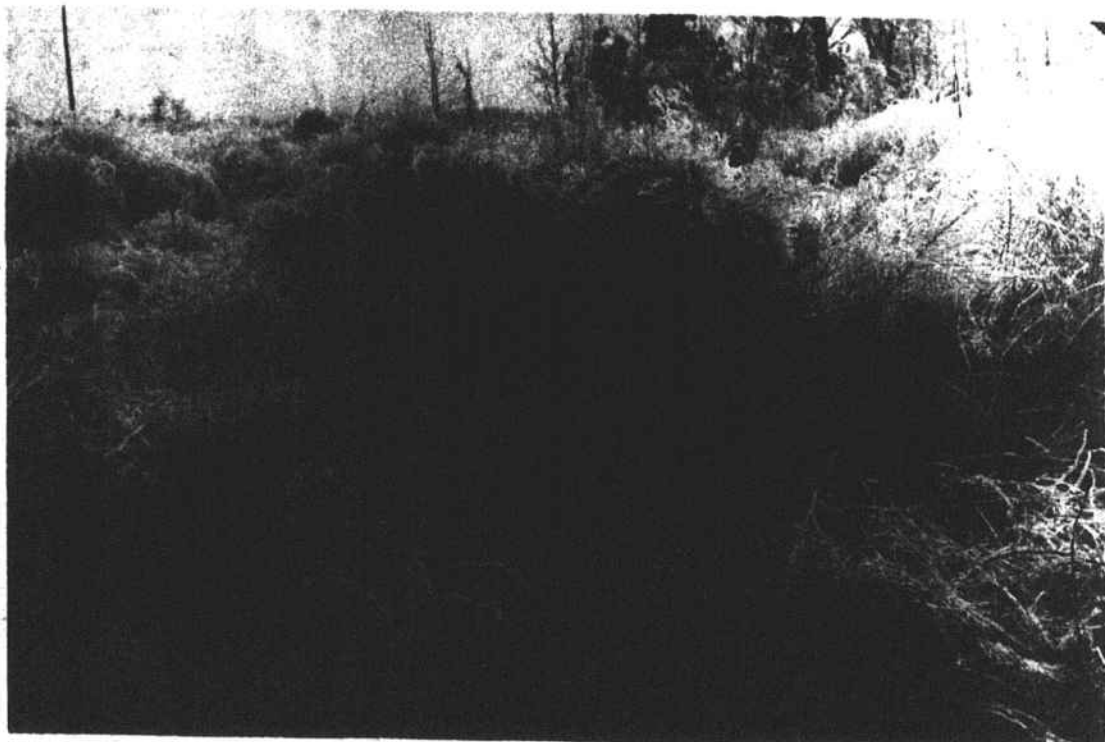
18-Year-Olds Register Here

Seven 18 - year - old voters have been registered in the county since the Supreme Court decision allowing them to vote was put into effect here, John Scott Poole, chairman of the election commission, reported.

Residents aged 18 to 20 may vote in all national elections, but not in state or county elections.

Five voters aged 21 or up have also been added to the books since the county began a system of full - time registration Jan. 1, he reported.

Registration for the sales tax election on Feb. 9 closed Friday, but voters may still register for future elections from 9-1 Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at Poole's office.



HEAVY LOAD -- Pines bend almost to the ground under their load of ice.

McFadyen Expects Session To Be Long And Difficult

State Representative Neill L. McFadyen, a veteran of six terms in the House, looks for a "long, drawn-out and hard session" when the legislature convenes this week.

Facing the legislators are some very difficult and time - consuming problems, McFadyen said. Chief among these will be the task of reorganizing state government in accordance with the recent constitutional amendments; the restructuring of higher education; the improvement and modernization of the state system of correction; restructuring throughout the state; and setting the largest budget in state history.

"Just that will be enough to keep us busy for the next six months," he said.

Thompson Names New Solicitor

Linn Johnson, new Assistant Solicitor for this district, was introduced to courthouse personnel Friday by Solicitor Jack Thompson.

Johnson is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, 1963 and received his law degree from UNC in 1966. He was a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, stationed in Detroit and New York from 1966 until 1969.

He is married and has one child.

Health Board Names Chairman

Donald A. Abernethy was elected chairman of the county board of health at a meeting of the board on Jan. 5.

He succeeds Walter Coley.

Stephen Williams was named vice - chairman, succeeding Dr. Julius Jordan.

"And some of it is going to be awfully hard to decide. In addition to those major problems there are going to be a number of relatively minor, though still important, and time - consuming matters."

Examples of this type, McFadyen said, will be the questions of liquor by the drink and of Bald Head and Smith islands.

McFadyen said he expected to vote in favor of a bill for a referendum on liquor by the drink, if one is introduced.

"If a bill for referendum should be presented, I would vote to approve it on the basis that it would allow the people in the area concerned to settle the question for themselves."

On Bald Head and Smith islands, he said: "The question seems to have come to a stalemate at present and the state legislature will be requested for money to buy the islands in order to preserve the

natural conditions that exist there." I cannot make a prediction whether such an appropriation will be approved or not.

McFadyen said he is planning to see McFADYEN, Page 9

City Slates Public Hearing

A public hearing to determine the need for a city housing authority is scheduled at City Hall Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The hearing was planned after a petition hearing 25 names and requesting the establishment of a housing authority was presented at the last city council meeting.

Ralph Lessen and Jean Melvin, of the State Department of Local Affairs, met with city manager John Gaddy and Mayor John K. McNeill Tuesday to discuss the steps necessary to form an authority.

A housing authority was formed once before by the city council but was dissolved when it was learned that it had been formed improperly, Gaddy said.

If the city establishes a housing authority, it will be composed of five persons with the chairman appointed by the mayor and city council, he said. The authority will be able to serve a ten - mile radius of Raeford.

The petition requesting the authority may be seen prior to the public hearing at the city manager's office, Gaddy said.

Boosters To Meet Tuesday

The Hoke High Booster Club will meet next Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. at the Hoke High gym.

Fund raising projects and the annual Spring banquet will be discussed. Booster president Charlie Hottel said.

Firemen Elect New Officers

The Hoke County Firemen's Association elected officers Jan. 6 at a meeting held at Rowland's Barbeque.

Ed McNeill of the Hillcrest Fire Department was elected president. Charles Helbing, of Puppy Creek, was named vice - president and Johnny Baker of North Raeford was elected secretary.

Julian Barres, of Rockfish Fire Department, was named treasurer and Henry Kiger of North Raeford was chosen chaplain.

The association is composed of the fire departments of Raeford, Rockfish, Puppy Creek, Hillcrest and North Raeford. Forty - eight members were present at the meeting.

The firemen also distributed 1500 stickers imprinted with the central telephone number, 875-2844, to the rural fire departments. These will be given to residents living in the fire districts, Baker said, to remind them that persons can report a rural fire to that number, which is the sheriff's department, and the proper fire department will be called.

Sleet and freezing rain moved through the county Friday, coating trees and power lines with a shimmering, brittle blanket of ice.

Iceing began early Friday morning and continued most of the day. However, temperatures above freezing kept the streets clear. One wreck was reported Friday afternoon on 401 Bypass when the driver lost control on the rain-slick highway.

Many residents throughout the county experienced power failures, some lasting for several hours, but power companies reported damage due to ice was relatively minor.

"We were fortunate," Ben Hurley of Carolina Power and Light Company said. "This was not anything like the storm in February, 1969. But if it had kept up another few hours or if the temperature had been a little lower, we would have had trouble."

Crews began work about 9 p.m. Friday night, he said, and worked on until Sunday morning. Power failures occurred when trees and falling limbs hit the lines. Pine trees, that bent nearly to the ground under their load of ice, were the greatest source of trouble, Hurley said.

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation also reported scattered outages. All the main feeder lines were restored by Saturday afternoon, a spokesman said.

Outages reoccurred when the ice began to melt, allowing the trees to spring back and knock the wires down again.

Downed trees and fallen limbs created some problems in the city. The state highway department removed trees and limbs on the highways and right of ways and a city truck had to make extra rounds to clean up the limbs, city manager John Gaddy reported.

Schools Plan Parents' Day

Raz Aron, principal at Hoke County High School, will ask parents to visit the school next Wednesday during visitation day.

In a letter sent home with students, he said:

"Dear Parents:

"Wednesday, Jan. 20, was the date put in the school calendar by the Hoke County Board of Education to be used as a visitation day by the parents. The purpose of the visitation is for the parents to have an opportunity to visit the school and talk to the individual teachers about the progress of their child. No students will be in school on this date, leaving the day entirely free for parents.

"In speaking to the faculty at Hoke County High School, I would like to urge that the parents take advantage of this opportunity. Before this day you will have an opportunity to see your son or daughter's report card, enabling you to feel or not feel the necessity of talking to the teachers or the Guidance Department. Please feel free to come between the hours of 8:30 and 3:30."

All schools will be open for parents that day for visits.

Sheriff Reports Shooting, Theft

Sheriff's department reports included one shooting and a theft in the county this week.

Larry "Lott" Ballard of Rt. 1, Red Springs, was shot Friday night while at the home of Boss and Catherine Jones, also on Rt. 1, Red Springs.

Ballard was taken to Southeastern General Hospital.

The report is still under investigation by the sheriff's department.

A theft reported at Riley's Antique Shop, Rt. 1, Aberdeen on Friday afternoon is also under investigation.

Several hand guns and shotguns were missed from the shop.

Coen's Patrol Car Rammed In Chase

Coen said.

Trooper M.R. Beman, of Fayetteville, who was called to assist, met McNair on the Tyler Town road and took up the chase. Coen said, McNair was arrested at his home by Beman.

McNair was charged with speeding 85 in a 60 mph zone, two counts of driving under the influence, careless and reckless driving, driving while his license was revoked, failure to stop for a blue light and siren, hit and run and assault on an officer. He is in jail in lieu of \$1350 bond.

Highway Patrol Sergeant D.L. Minshew, newly assigned to Raeford, was riding with Trooper Coen at the time of the accident.



SAFE CRACKED -- The door of this small safe at Lipscomb's Grocery Store on Harris Avenue was torn off and an undisclosed amount of change stolen in a break-in at the grocery Sunday night.