

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News- Established 1928

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1971

Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

The decision of the North Carolina Supreme Court concerning the optional one cent sales tax takes away my subject matter for the week. We will say that the election has been called off in Hoke County. Elsewhere in this issue the matter is discussed at length by the officials of the county.

We expect to be writing about this issue later on after the legislature acts on the matter.

We attended the press convention in Chapel Hill last Thursday and Friday. We ran into two former employees of The News-Journal who were also attending the convention. They were Eugene Smith, Hoke native, and now publisher of The Havelock Progress. The other man was Mike O'Hara who was a reporter for us several years ago. They were both looking very prosperous and in the best of health. Mike had put on some extra pounds since being here.

Also we talked with Cliff Blue, Hoke native, and of course writes a column in this paper. It was a good meeting and you always pick up a few points when talking shop with other newspaper people.

Mrs. Clayton Buoyer called me the other night and said that Mrs. Mary Odom, one of our district representatives would be the speaker at the February meeting of the Raeford Woman's Club. The meeting will take place Tuesday, February 2 at the Civic Center. We know that all ladies of the club will want to be present to hear Mrs. Odom. After three weeks in Raleigh she should have some interesting facts about what she thinks the lawmakers will do in the near future. So ladies go out and make her welcome.

The following letter is published in an effort to aid Mrs. Harris in obtaining names of the Class of 1947 at Hoke High: Dear Mr. Morris:

I wrote you several months ago concerning an attempt to organize a 25th Class Reunion of the 1947 Graduating Class of Hoke County High School and you were kind enough to print my letter in your paper, however, I have only had three class members to respond and these live in other areas. I know that there are right many of the members living in this immediate area and feel certain that they read your paper. My main interest at this point is making contact with the members. Many of them are married and of course I do not know their married names. I would appreciate your mentioning this in your column once again in hope that I will have more response from the class members or from the teachers who were at Hoke High at that time who might be able to help me in this venture. Maybe there are some who are just not interested in anything like this, but I am sure this would be a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and reminisce.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Jean McNeill Ray Harris
P.O. Box 5165
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303

Bob Hughes, president of the Raeford Lions Club called this week and asked that we announce the dates for the annual golf tournament sponsored by the club. The tournament this year will be played the weekend of May 15 and 16. So mark this date on your calendar if you are ready for another fine Lions Golf Tournament.

Housing: Topic Of Two Meetings

Housing was the topic of two meetings in the city Monday night. The city council held a public hearing on a city housing authority and the

Fires Kill Baby Turkeys

Two fires resulted in the loss last week of approximately 17,800 day-old turkeys at Upchurch Turkey Farms. The first fire occurred about 9:30 a.m. Jan. 20 when an infra-red heater on a bus used to transport young turkeys from the hatchery on Campbell Street to the farm exploded. Killed in the fire were 11,800 tom-poults.

A second fire that night at the farm burned a brooder house and killed 6,000 brooder hen-poults. The fire was believed to have started from a gas heating system malfunction, Wyatt Upchurch said. Upchurch estimated the loss at \$17,000.

Commissioners Call Off Tax Vote Following Supreme Court Ruling

Man Dies In Fire

An elderly man died Thursday afternoon in a fire at his home near Balfour's crossroads.

He was identified as Will H. Baldwin, 75.

Firemen from Hillcrest Fire Department who arrived at the blaze about 2 p.m. sprayed the flames enough to allow them to remove the body. The house was destroyed.

Baldwin's body was found just inside the front door beside an oil heater, Hillcrest fire chief Ed McNeill said. The cause of the fire was not determined.

Baldwin, a feeble, one-legged man, lived in the five-room cinderblock house with his wife. She had gone to Antioch to list taxes at the time of the fire, McNeill said.

Goza Thanks Workers

With other fund drives ready to begin in the county, the United Fund is ending its campaign approximately \$700 short of the goal.

Drives for the Heart Fund, the March of Dimes, Cander Fund and other projects will soon begin.

"I would like to thank those who contributed to the campaign this year," Jerry Goza, campaign manager said.

"And I especially want to thank those who donated time as well as money to the effort. These included Miss Josephine Hall, Lester Shelton, Vardell Hedgpeth, Danny DeVane, Paul Solomon, Wendell Young and Tom Burgess, who collected funds."

"I'd also like to thank Mrs. Postel and the Girl Scouts for making posters and placing them in the businesses downtown," he said.

Although the campaign is officially closed, any contributions will still be welcomed, he said.

TNT Found Buried In Rockfish

Seven cases of TNT were found buried in the back yard at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hayward of Rockfish.

The explosives were found Jan. 20 by Hayward's sons, Danny, 9, and Wayne, 10. The boys, who were out of school that day, were digging a hole in which to bury garbage about 400 yards from the house.

They told Hayward about their find when he returned home from work that evening. Hayward notified the sheriff's department, who investigated and called Army demolition experts from Ft. Bragg to remove the TNT.

Fuses and caps were found with the explosives.

The Haywards have lived in the home since Aug. 8 of last year.



NEIGHBORS WAIT - Will H. Baldwin, 75, was found dead in his home near Balfour's crossroads after fire destroyed the interior of the house. His body was discovered just inside the front door by Hillcrest Fire Chief Ed McNeill

Judge Denies New Trial To Patrolman's Killer

Willie Junior Smith, sentenced in 1964 to life imprisonment for the murder of Highway Patrol Trooper W.T. Herbin, lost his bid for freedom Monday.

In a post-conviction hearing in Superior Court, Smith asked for a new trial on the grounds that his legal and constitutional rights were violated during his original questioning and trial.

Superior Court Judge Jame H. Pou Bailey denied the motion for a new trial after a lengthy hearing Monday.

Smith was tried and convicted of the slaying by a special venire of jurors brought in from Bladen County. Herbin, a popular patrolman who had served in Hoke County for 13 years, was found severely beaten and shot four times in the face. Four men were originally charged with murder and two were tried and convicted during a special session of Superior Court in December, 1964.

Smith contended Monday that his legal or constitutional rights were violated during his original questioning and trial. In his petition, he alleged that out of the 150 jurors selected in a special venire from Bladen County, only 23 were Negroes and that the method used to select the jurors systematically and intentionally excluded Negroes.

Secondly, Smith contended that of the 14 Negroes drawn for the jury, all were excluded either because they voiced opposition to capital punishment or pre-emptively. He also said that substantial numbers of other jurors were excluded because they voiced opposition to capital punishment.

Smith charged that at the time of his arrest, he was held incommunicado in jail for a number of days, constantly and repeatedly harassed and denied opportunity to consult with his lawyer. Finally, he contended in his petition, a statement made involuntarily by him was admitted into evidence.

In denying the request for a new trial, Judge Bailey ruled that Smith was lawfully tried and found guilty by a jury on a valid bill of indictment and that after the verdict, he was sentenced according to law.

There was no evidence to show he had been held incommunicado, Judge Bailey said. Smith's court-appointed attorney, Phil Diehl, had devoted 14 1/2 hours in preparation for the trial and had exhausted every resource in Smith's trial, Judge Bailey said.

Judge Bailey also ruled that Smith had been fully and adequately advised of his rights by James C. Lothspeich, a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that Smith had understood his rights before making a statement.

The transcript of the trial showed that the trial judge had conducted an extensive investigation into the admissibility of the statement at the original trial, Judge Bailey said.

Newspaper accounts of the trial report that Diehl objected to the admission of the statement on the grounds that it had been taken involuntarily, and that the point was argued for about two hours before the statement was admitted as evidence.

Judge Bailey also ruled that every effort was made by the Highway Patrol to protect Smith from any violence and that the crowd that gathered at the courthouse when he was arrested was quiet. There is, Judge Bailey said, no evidence of any duress, cruelty, threats or any evidence of unlawful questioning.

The special venire ordered from Bladen County was drawn in a manner then recognized as adequate by the state, Judge Bailey said. The Bladen County sheriff selected 150 jurors with the sole consideration that they were freeholders

and had paid their taxes, Judge Bailey said. No exclusion was made by reason of race, color, creed or wealth and, in fact, 28 Negroes did come to Hoke County.

The names of the prospective jurors were drawn by a child and 91 names of the 150 were drawn before thirteen were

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Water System Meeting Called At Scurlock

A meeting of residents in the Hillcrest and Scurlock area to discuss the community water system has been called for Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Scurlock School.

A tentative commitment for a loan and grant to install the water system has been received and an organizational meeting must be held.

All interested persons are asked to attend.

Health Center Makes Changes

The county health center is getting a new look. Two new staff members have been hired recently, a third has been approved by the county board of health and construction was begun last week on an addition to the building.

Mrs. Eve Nichols, of Fayetteville, has been hired as a part-time nursing supervisor for the center. Dr. H.H. McLean announced, and Mrs. Barbara Allied has been hired as a licensed practical nurse.

Two public health nurses, Mrs. Flora Crowder and Mrs. Jerry McLamb, resigned from the center in December after many years service there.

The board of health approved a resolution in July calling for a nursing supervisor after a study of the personnel problems at the center was made by the state. Dr. McLean, Walter Coley, then chairman of the county board of health and Dr. John Parkson of the State Board of Health, appeared before the county commissioners in July to request a transfer in funds already budgeted for the center to hire the nursing supervisor.

The commissioners postponed action on the request. However, the money was approved after Christmas, Dr. McLean said.

The county board of health last Thursday night approved the hiring of Mrs. Dean Huggins as public health nurse trainee, D.D. Abernethy, chairman of the board of health, announced.

Mrs. Huggins is a native of Hoke County and graduated from high school here. Her brother, Dr. R.A. Matheson, Jr., practiced medicine here for many years. The public health nurse trainee position is paid by the state and is filled by the State Department of Health, Abernethy said.

Construction on the center was begun last Wednesday. Additions will be built on each end of the present building to expand the offices and waiting space, T.B. Lester, county manager said. The waiting room will be extended about nine feet and the end of the building nearest the Armory will be extended about 18 feet.

Offices for the county sanitarian and



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