

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

It is hard to believe that Christmas is over for 1971. We realize that we had a turkey dinner and opened our presents, but the 70 degree temperature just doesn't feel like the end of the year.

We rode around early Christmas morning and we were amazed that we didn't see kids on bicycles and tricycles. Maybe most of the kids receive these toys before the Christmas season. We can remember when the only time you would get a bicycle would be at Christmastime.

Anyway we did have a happy holiday and we hope all our readers had the same. We didn't break a foot like we did last year.

We enjoyed the football games during the holidays, but from what we can read in the papers it would seem that a game on Christmas day will be a thing of the past. We still have about three more weeks of football on TV. We hope the wife and Sarah can hold up for these three weeks.

School will not begin until Monday so remember the kids playing and walking around town. Drive carefully.

We will not make any New Year's resolutions because we don't want to break them. We will say that the year 1971 was a happy one for us and we hope it was for you.

We want to thank all the people that contributed to this column during the year and we hope that we have been of some service to our readers. So if you have something for this column, send it along and we will be glad to publish it.

We would like to wish our readers a very happy 1972.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

From  
The Staff of  
The News-Journal

## Three Die In 401

### City Quiet Chief Says

The holidays were quiet for Raeford policemen, Chief James E. Lamont reported Tuesday.

No "Christmas crimes" such as shoplifting or present stealing were reported to city police.

"I'm sure with as many people as there were in the stores before Christmas that there probably was some shoplifting,"

Chief Lamont said. "But none was reported to us by storekeepers and we didn't catch any. The increased patrols helped, I'm sure."

In the days before Christmas, there were five policemen on duty in the downtown area during business hours, patrolling the streets and the stores.

## Burlington Watchman Held While Plant Is Robbed

### No Funds

## ESAP School Projects To Be Dropped Jan. 10

All of the projects begun with the emergency school assistance program (ESAP) funds last year are ending on Jan. 10, Donald D. Abernethy, county school superintendent said this week.

This includes the 12 teacher and aide jobs, he said.

HEW did not approve the proposed \$91,000 request from the county to continue the projects or start additional ones this year.

The projects undertaken under the first grant last year included the completion of six student-built portable classrooms, the purchase of home economics

materials for underprivileged students and funds for the 12 employees.

Hired under the program were two teachers, seven aides, a receptionist at the high school and two library aides.

They were told at the beginning of the year that the jobs would be eliminated in mid-year if the grant was not approved for this year, Abernethy said. The displaced personnel will have priority on rehiring if money becomes available for additional programs, he said.

He said that the county was still hoping to get additional federal funds if the education bill now before Congress is passed.

A masked gunman held the night watchman at Burlington prisoner in the boiler room for over an hour early Monday morning while other thieves ripped from the plant walls three money changers containing about \$800 in bills.

According to Hoke County Sheriff D.M. Barrington, the night watchman, Preston Moore, was making his rounds at the plant when a man, said by Moore to be white, drew a pistol on him. The man wore stockings on his face and hands, Moore told the sheriff.

Moore told the sheriff that he was taken to the boiler room by the gunman, who guarded him there from about 2 a.m. to 3:15. Another masked man came in the boiler room once, Moore said.

The sheriff said the thieves apparently entered over the fence, as the gates were locked during the long Christmas holiday. They entered the plant through the back ramp and went into the concession area where they unbolted the money changers from the wall. Two of the changers contained approximately \$350 each and the third had about \$100 in it. The changers, owned by Mid-South Vending Machine, are valued at more than \$800 each. Drink machines and other vending machines were rifled but contained little money during the holiday, the sheriff said.

The thieves left in a blue and white Burlington Industries pick-up truck, which had been parked in the lot with the keys in the vehicle, the sheriff said. They stole Moore's keys to open the plant gates and then left the keys on the ground.

Moore was left tied in a chair to a pole in the boiler room, Sheriff Barrington said. He was reported missing at 7 a.m. and was found shortly after that by Raymond Maxwell and Carl Stutts.

The automatic alarm system is programmed to shut down at midnight Sunday and on holidays, the sheriff said, as normally the third shift begins then. Moore made his last round on the alarm before the gunman arrived.

The Burlington truck was found Tuesday morning in a ditch near Phillip Church; the money changers have not been located.

Total damages and losses are estimated at more than \$3,000.

Sheriff Barrington, Deputy Harvey Young and Raeford Police Chief James E. Lamont investigated at the plant Monday morning. The investigation is continuing and no arrests have been made, the sheriff said.

## United Fund Now \$6,121

United Fund contributions boosted the total to \$6,121.85 this week.

McCain contributors added another \$70.45 to their other donations to give more than \$400 to the community fund this year.

Other contributors included Hoke Oil Company with \$239.

Still to report are most of the industries and downtown stores.

The goal this year to support the dozen agencies that depend on the Fund is \$18,171.11. This year's goal is \$1,010.08 less than the goal for last year, which was, in turn, reduced over the previous year's goal.

Only the 4-H clubs allocation was increased this year. Budget cuts were made to the recreation program, the community development program and to Carolina United, the catch-all for the national agencies such as USO.

The campaign this year is being conducted by the officers and directors: Dr. Julius Jordan, president; W. T. McAllister; Mrs. O. B. Israel, secretary and Sam Morris, treasurer.

Directors are: Mrs. Richard Neely, Lewis Oxendine, Wyatt Upchurch, A. W. Wood, Jr., Hugh Simmons, William Lamont, W. T. McAllister, Allen McDonald, Sam Morris, Leonard Frahm, C. D. Lounds, Mrs. O. B. Israel, Dr. Julius Jordan, Graham Pope and Steve Clutter.

## Wreck

Two Raeford residents died Sunday night in an accident just north of the Hoke County line.

Johnny Dims, 44, of Raeford and Mable Smith, 40, of Rt. 1, Raeford were killed in a head-on collision on U.S. 401. Also killed was Robert Smith, 53, of Fayetteville.

Injured were Daniel Heath, 35, of Rt. 4, Fayetteville and Robert Carlton Johnson, 33, of Orlando, Fla. They were both admitted to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where they were listed in satisfactory condition Monday.

Highway Patrol Trooper M.R. Beaman said a 1962 station wagon driven by Dims apparently had a blowout and went out of control. The wagon crossed the center line and was struck by a 1970 Pontiac driven by Heath, who was traveling toward Fayetteville. The three persons killed were all riding in the station wagon.

Both vehicles were destroyed.

### Local Soldier

### Killed On 401

A young Ft. Bragg soldier, son of a Raeford resident, died last week after a wreck on U.S. 401 about five miles south of Fayetteville.

E3 Danny Ellis Pruitt was injured on Dec. 21 when his car veered out of the northbound lane and hit a tractor-trailer headon. He died Dec. 23.

## Tax Listing Time Is Here

Tax listing time is almost here again and this year there is a stiff new penalty for failing to list.

Listing dates are from Jan. 4 to Feb. 3. The penalty for failing to list has been increased ten times and is now as much as a \$500 fine and up to six months in prison. Under the old law, the maximum fine and jail sentence was \$50 and 30 days.

In Raeford, taxes may be listed at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8-12 on Saturday. Mrs. Mary Lee Matherly is the list taker for Raeford and persons

whose home is in townships other than Raeford are asked to list in the township in which they live.

At Stonewall, Eli Shankle will take tax listings at his home Monday through Friday from 9-9. In Allendale, Miss Willa McLaughlin will take tax listings at her home Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.

In Antioch, C. C. Conoly will take tax listings at his home from 9 to 9 on Monday through Friday and on Saturday

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**SURE AS TAXES** - Ed Smith, clerk of superior court, swears in the list takers for county taxes. From the left are Smith, Miss Betty McFadyen, Archie Bryne, Douglas Monroe, Julian Love, Eli Shankle, Mary Matherly, Cliff Conoly, Mrs. Mildred G. Odom and Miss Willa McLaughlin.

# Good News And Bad: This Is The Way 1971 Was

And so 1971 passes, marked by both sorrow and good news, as all years are.

Some of the good news was reflected in the day to day accomplishments of county citizens that didn't perhaps collectem very large headlines: many Hoke High students continued to qualify for scholarships in colleges and universities across the state and many of those who went off to school regularly made the dean's list; the youngsters involved in athletics did well in state competition, taking the state title in girls track, for example, and reaching the semi-finals in the Eastern 3A football playoffs. Debbie Little, a 15-year-old Hoke High student, went all the way to Denver, Colo. to compete in the national Junior Olympics track meet and finished fifth in the nation in the high jump.

And then other accomplishments made the headlines. Knit-Away started operation this year and doubled in size by spring. The Army program began here this year, collecting headlines in the New York Times, Time Magazine and The New Republic, but at the same time helping the county health center to get moving. But there was bad news this year also.

The traffic death rate tripled from ten killed in 1970 to 30 dead in 1971. A plane crash took the lives of three Knit-Away executives and the pilot in the week before Christmas. The community was saddened this year by the loss of J.D. McMillian and Israel Mann, both of whom were responsible for many of the accomplishments in the community through the years, and by the deaths of Chalfie Steele and C.E. 'Preacher' Bethea.

Citizens got used to paying a one percent sales tax in 1971 and to detouring around the high school. The county commissioners imposed the sales tax and the city council closed Bethel Road during school hours.

And so it went this year, both good and bad but never to return.

Month by month, this is the way 1971 was:

In January, the sales tax was an off and on affair, as county commissioners got into gear for an election and then had to call it off when the state supreme court ruled the local option tax unconstitutional.

A petition was presented to the commissioners from officer of the local

chapter of the NAACP for the county to adopt food stamps and meanwhile the city council was approving the formation of a housing authority in order to apply for low-rent housing. House fires left two dead and two families homeless during the month and an ice storm made the county sparkle in the sunlight but caused comparatively little damage.

A landmark fell as the old Raeford gun was dismantled and Knit-Away began dying operations that month.

In February, house fires continued to destroy homes and property losses soared in the county. The Army medics and doctors began to get their new program into operation and health care at the county health department was expanded, even as the building was being expanded to relieve the cramped quarters.

The county commissioners approved food stamps and the long wait for government approval began. The board also listened to a plea from recreation officials who were struggling to get funds for the city-county recreation program.

Mayor John K. McNeill was named Man of the Year by the Kiwanis club and two youngsters from the high school took

the conference championships in wrestling: Paul Smith and Donald Plummer.

The official U.S. census listed the county population as 16,436.

March came and it was horse show time again for the Raeford Woman's Club. Mrs. J.M. Andrews was chosen as a finalist in the state Mother of the Year competition.

The county commissioners gave the recreation program \$2,500, which also freed a previous commitment on the part of the city council, and the city police department began writing more speeding tickets with the help of the new radar unit. The Hoke County-Army teamwork made the New York Times and the Hoke County Rescue Squad broke ground for their new building.

The county acquired land for the county's first sanitary landfill.

In April, two youngsters placed in the state Fine Arts contests: Kenny Davis took second in the vocal competition and Suzanne Jordan won honorable mention in the 7-9th grade art.

The medical examiner system was begun in the county with Drs. Riley

Jordan and Robert Townsend named from this part of the county. A McCain physician was to be named also. The city and county signed an agreement on the joint landfill operation and a countywide recreation program was planned and announced, depending on Army help. The help never came and the program was not fulfilled but hopes were high for it in April.

The Raeford Jaycees honored Jim Blackburn at their annual banquet. The mayor and five city councilmen were unopposed for reelection.

The community was shocked by a sex offense charged by a high school girl against a teacher.

In May, Pat Taylor headlines the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting as speaker. Knit-Away doubles in size and acquires a new plant but the city has problems with progress as a temporary sewer line causes continuing pollution problems and water shortages in the city system cause become commonplace in the city system. On top of that, postal rates go up.

Hoke High girls become state champs in four track events. Champions are Pat

McKoy, Gloria hurdles; Debbie Little, high jump; Gloria Carthans, 80 and a relay team of Janie Beatty, Gloria Carthans, Debbie Little and Barbara Lide. Later in the month, eight youngsters competed at the state Jr. Olympics in Jacksonville.

June was a busy month. The Army expanded its medical operations in the county and CONARC commander Gen. R.E. Haines came to inspect.

A letter written by George Willoughby, Jr., state highway administrator, to Gov. Robert Scott, revealed that the only reason the project to widen U.S. 401 to four lanes from Raeford to Fayetteville was included was to give the governor and Highway Commissioner Charles Dawkins something to tell the county commissioners and that no effort was being made to move the project through the environmental study.

The last bloodmobile drive of the fiscal year failed with only 23 pints collected and the county was put on probation. But a make-up drive on the last day of the month netted 225 pints and put the county back in good standing.

Rockfish dedicated its new community water system.