

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The N. C. Press Institute was held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Chapel Hill. The News - Journal didn't receive any awards this year but it is always good to renew old acquaintances and pick up ideas from other newsmen.

Gov. Bob Scott was on hand Thursday night to pass out the awards to the winners. On Friday afternoon all announced candidates for governor, except Skipper Bowles, who was ill, were on hand for a panel discussion. All the candidates handled themselves very ably.

On Friday night the group went to Duke University and enjoyed the hospitality of this institution. The food was very good and the speaker was well received.

The press always looks forward to the meetings at both of these great universities.

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The announcement in the paper this week of the government approving the grant for the airport in Hoke County is certainly a step forward for our city and county. Sen. Sam Ervin and Sen. Everett Jordan called this office and informed us of the grant being approved. Many hours of hard work was put on this progress by local officials and they should be commended. Also the firms and individuals that contributed money to this project should receive praise. When this project is completed it could open up avenues that many have never dreamed about in this county.

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The drive at Burlington Worsted for the United Fund is underway and from all reports is doing very well. We haven't heard whether Knit - Away has started the drive or not. The drive at Raeford Turkey Farms has been underway for a week or so and final returns from the drive should be in soon.

If you haven't contributed send your check to United Fund, Box 550, Raeford, N. C. If any firm has envelopes that need picking up, call 875-2121 and someone will be by in a day or so to pick them up.

The fund needs your contribution, so donate today.

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Randall Ashburn and Clyde Teal are not smiling these days as they were a week ago. The weather once again has turned to spring and high today (Tuesday) is supposed to reach 70 degrees. As this is being written early Tuesday morning the temperature, it would seem, will reach the prediction.

The weather has caused many to come down with the flu and if a change doesn't occur before long many more will be sick. Let's everyone keep their fingers crossed and maybe the smile will return to Randall and Clyde.

# FAA Makes Award Of \$61,695 For Improvements At Airport

### \$11,004 In

### Sales Tax

### For December

Local one per cent sales tax collections in the county were \$11,004.52 during December, the state Department of Revenue reported last week.

That is the total amount collected, not the amount that will be returned to the county, T.B. Lester, county manager emphasized.

The county is to get its first one per cent sales tax payment in February, he said.

December collections in Cumberland and Moore Counties were \$270,688.50 and \$55,185.70, respectively.

## Boys Found

### In Store

Two youths were found at Robert Harrell's grocery store early Monday morning by city policeman Johnny Young.

Young caught one of the boys inside the store about 2:30 a.m. The other boy was standing outside the store at the rear and ran when the patrol car drove up. Young caught him after a chase on foot, Raeford Police Chief James Lamont said.

The boys were returned to Samuel Leonard School at McCain and juvenile petitions for breaking and entering were filed.

## Sr. Citizens

### Meet Tuesday

The Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club will meet Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Raeford United Methodist Church.

A musical program is planned. Members are asked to bring plants to exchange and to bring surplus newspapers.

# Jury Finds Willingham Not Guilty Of Sex Charge

A jury of ten men and two women found Alfonso L. Willingham not guilty of carnal knowledge after deliberating the case for only a half hour.

Willingham, a teacher at Hoke High School last year, was accused of having sexual relations with a tenth grade student and he had been dismissed by the school board last April 26 after a hearing.

The Willingham trial was the first case heard during the two week session of Superior Court that began Monday with Judge Edward B. Clark of Elizabethtown presiding. The case occupied all of Monday's session and Tuesday morning. The jury received the case at 2 p.m. and returned at 2:30.

The testimony for the state was much the same as that presented at the school board meeting.

Delores Bratcher, who was then 15, took the stand first and testified that she was summoned from her home economics class on Nov. 3, 1970 by a note from Willingham asking her to come to his room. He took her to a small office in the Gibson gym where he had intercourse with her, she testified. She said she returned to her home economics class and after class told her teacher, Mrs. Majorie Foster. When she got home from school, she said she called her former pastor, the Rev. Thomas Walker.

Mrs. Foster and the Rev. Walker both testified that Miss Bratcher had told them of the incident about the first part of November. Neither was sure of the date. Debra McMillian testified that she took a note to Mrs. Foster from Willingham and walked back to the Gibson gym with Miss Bratcher.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington completed the evidence for the state, testifying to the details of the arrest of Willingham on April 26, some five months after the offense was alleged to have occurred.

Willingham, taking the stand in his own defense, said that he had left school that day and had gone to Fayetteville to see about his car insurance. Franklin R. Fowler, an insurance agent in Fayetteville, said he was out of the office that afternoon, but that when he

returned about 3:30 or 4 p.m., he found a letter from the State Department of Motor Vehicles addressed to Willingham and a note from Willingham about the insurance.

T. Torrey, a Hoke High teacher, testified that Willingham had asked him to look in on his fifth and sixth period classes and two students, Hester Love and Virginia McKoy, testified that they had kept his two afternoon classes that day.

Mrs. Willingham testified that she had asked him to go to Fayetteville to get the car insurance taken care of that day.

Character witnesses for Willingham included Hoke High coaches Billy Colston, Glenn Langdon, and Jerry Osborne, his pastor, the Rev. David Darnell and his coach at FSU, Page Saunders. A tape recording taken at the school board hearing of Miss Carol Condos, a Hoke High teacher who was sick, was also played. Miss Condos not only testified to his good character, but also related a confrontation with Miss Bratcher in which the girl denied ever having intercourse with Willingham.

In their closing arguments to the jury, both defense attorney Charles Hostetler and Solicitor Jack Thompson condemned the action of Mrs. Foster and the Rev. Walker in not reporting the girl's accusation on the day she first made it.

Thompson explained that the state was without the proper medical evidence it should have had and said "lets lay the blame right where it belongs -- on the school."

"Everyone whom this girl contacted about the events of that day, didn't tell anyone else."

Hostetler said it was inconceivable that an educated school teacher would not have reported the accusation, "if she had believed it."

Instead, he said, Mrs. Foster gossiped to another teacher and the Rev. Walker told several students and the rumors grew until Willingham was arrested.

Late Tuesday afternoon, a jury was being selected to hear a murder charge against Leon McPhaul, who is accused of stabbing Ernest Lewis Bratcher last April.

The state also took a nol pro on a larceny charge against Harry Nelson McNeill and on a charge against Seavy Barefoot of driving on the wrong side of the highway.

Allen W. Carter and William Steele, accused of highway robbery and Wellon Tuddy Scott, accused of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, were called and failed to appear for trial.

Neil Senter was chosen foreman of the grand jury. New jurors selected are Hester Settiff Boyles, Edna Biggs Everleigh, Carl McKenzie, John Wayne Strickland, Lu Ester Kelley, Thomas Rudolph Burgess, Wesley Douglas and Jerry L. Adcox.

Remaining on the grand jury until August are Josephine Hall, secretary; Lena Blue Woodard, Doris S. Holt, John J. Henderson, Sadie Blue Sinclair, Robert Lewis Tyner, Mrs. James C. Stewart and Calvin Henry McQueen.

## Voters Can Register At South Hoke Sat.

Voter registration will be held Saturday at South Hoke School, Scott Poole, chairman of the county board of elections, announced.

The registration is being held at the request of the Hoke County Jaycees.

The regular registering days of Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Poole's office make it difficult for some

of the voters in the county to register, Poole said. Two other Saturday registrations in other precincts are being planned.

The voter books will be open at South Hoke from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. if needed. Poole said that they would close earlier, however, if no one comes to register in the late afternoon.

## Leonard Frahm Is Named Kiwanis Man Of The Year

Leonard Frahm was named Kiwanis Citizen of the Year at the annual ladies night banquet in Southern Pines last Thursday.

He was cited as the man who "has had a lot to do with making Raeford a household word" by Harold Gillis, who presented the award.

A man of the year is selected annually by the Raeford Kiwanis by a secret committee appointed by the outgoing president.

Frahm was honored as an active civic leader in the community for the past 14 years. He has supported the American Legion, United Fund, the Hoke Swim Association, Hoke Civic Center, Woman's Club Horse Show, the Booster Club, the stadium, and the recreation program, especially the softball league.

He is a director and former chairman of the board of Southern National Bank in Raeford; a director of Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce; a member of the county's first Human Relations Board.

A native of Manning, Iowa, Frahm came here in 1958 as plant manager of Priebe and Sons poultry processing plant. He was selected general manager after the plant was sold to Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., whose brandname "House of Raeford" has become well known.

He is married to the former Shirley Stahl and they have nine children.

The Kiwanis also presented attendance awards and an award for the best program of the year.

The best program of the year award went to Jim Attaway for a talk on the POWs in Indochina given by a former prisoner of war, Tom Osborne.

Awards for perfect attendance went to Marion Gatlin for 28 years; Dr. Julius

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - Leonard Frahm was honored last week as the man of the year by the Raeford Kiwanis Club at their annual ladies night banquet. Here, he shows off his award to his wife, Shirley.

## Landfill Opens Monday

The city - county landfill will open Monday.

The first sanitary landfill for use by county residents and the first step in a solid waste disposal system for the county, the landfill has taken almost nine months to get into operation.

The county acquired the land last spring from the M.L. McKeithan estate and the city agreed to supervise the operation as a joint city - county facility. A dispute with the State Highway Commission over building an access road was resolved in late summer when Charles Dawkins, highway commissioner for the district, got state approval to build the road.

Local officials then planned to get the landfill into operation in October, but meeting state board of health requirements delayed the opening.

Now, however, according to John Gaddy, city manager, everything is ready for operation.

A sign on the road off 401 by-pass to the airport directs users to the landfill. Once there, an employee will direct users to the proper area. Separate areas are provided for household garbage, leaves and limbs and old appliances and autos. The appliances and cars will be stockpiled and disposed of by a firm that has a crusher, Gaddy said.

The landfill is open to all county residents, but wastes from industries will have to be comparable to household garbage, Gaddy said.

"The city - county committee wants to take care of everything," he said, "but this is new to us and we have to get started first. When we can dispose of industrial wastes, we will do so."

Only material that can be compacted and covered can be placed in the garbage fill, he said.

The hours of operation are from 8-5 on weekdays and 8-12 on Saturday.

Work is not quite finished at the site, he said. A well still must be drilled and an equipment shed built.



OPENING SOON - Mrs. Charles A. Hostetler and her daughter Divcas are ready to give the new city - county landfill a try when it opens Monday. Actually, Mrs. Hostetler doesn't have to take her trash to the landfill since the city sanitation department does it for her, but she and her daughter make an attractive pair to publicize the long-awaited opening of the landfill.