

Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

The article by Bruce Phillips that was printed in the column recently has brought forth a letter from John Manuel who started slow pitch softball in Raeford when he was here with Burlington Industries.

The letter is as follows:
Mr. Don Porter
Amateur Softball Association
2801 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Dear Don:

I am attaching an article that I clipped from the Hoke County Journal, one of the top weekly newspapers published in North Carolina, located in Raeford.

As the story states, the story was written by Bruce Phillips, a native of Raeford, North Carolina Times.

Since North Carolina doesn't get too much space in "Balls and Strikes," I thought it might make a good story for our softball paper and also give it consideration for the National Association of Softball writers and Broadcasters award.

At one time, I lived in Raeford and I was the one who started Slow Pitch softball in the community back in 1960. The interest has grown considerably since that time.

I am certain that this story depicts the game of Slow Pitch softball as played in most of the small towns throughout the country and expresses the true emotion that both participants and spectators receive as the result.

Sincerely,
John M. Manuel Secretary
North Carolina Amateur
Softball Association

Water Bond Vote Set For Tuesday

Correction

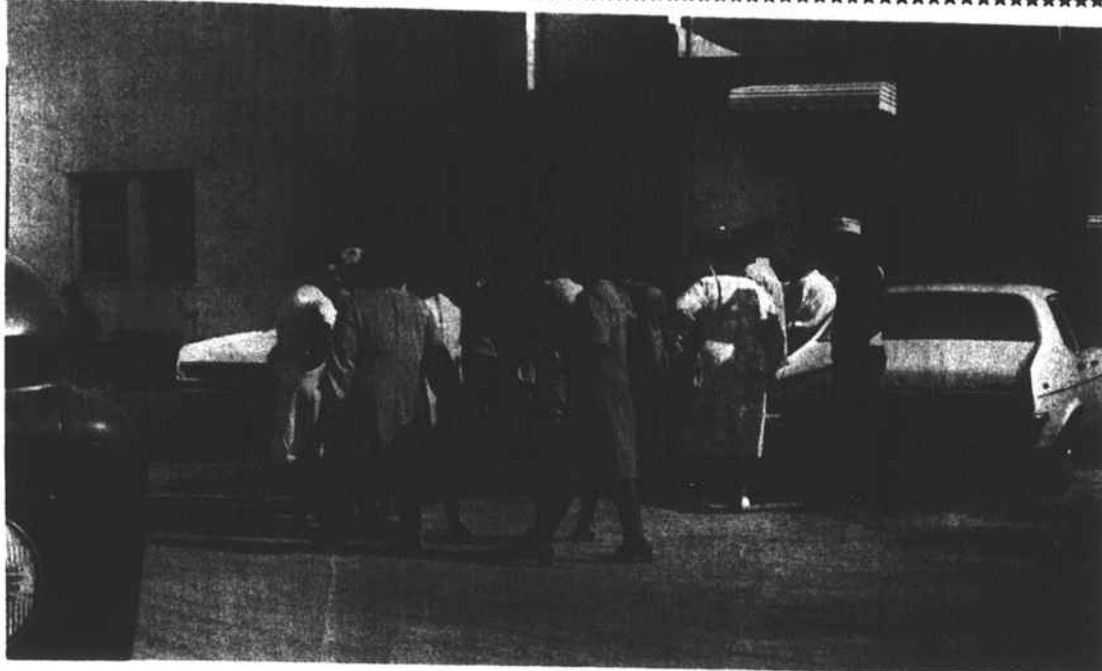
In the June 29 issue of The News-Journal, it was erroneously printed that Hillman Edens, Rt. 2, Raeford, was being held in the Hoke County Jail on a \$5,000 bond on a charge of receiving stolen property. The story should have read that Edens was released upon payment of bond.

William C. Tanner Jr., Rt. 2, Raeford, was still being held in the Hoke County Jail on a \$5,000 bond on a charge of receiving stolen property and possessing tax paid liquor for the purpose of sale.

Polling Hours For Bond Vote

Polling hours in Tuesday's water bond vote will be 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., according to Scott Poole, chairman of the Hoke County Board of Elections.

The entire voting precinct of Raeford No. 2, and the voters of Raeford No. 1 and No. 4 that live within the city limits will cast their ballots at the Town Hall on Main Street. Total number of registered voters within the Raeford city limits was estimated at 1,100.



OPENING DAY - Waiting in line for the opening of the food stamp program in Hoke County are some of the 350 families that have been certified for stamps so far. Hours for selling are 9:15 a.m. until 3 p.m. from the first to the 25th of each month. Applications for stamps are still being taken by appointment. Director of Social Services Miss Mabel McDonald said about 450 families have signed up so far, and many more in the county are eligible.

What Bond Passage Means To Typical House

A typical Raeford household could save as much as \$26 a year if the water bond issue is passed, according to a study made by city manager John Gaddy and mayor pro tempore Franklin Teal.

A house with an assessed value of \$15,000 that uses 8,000 gallons of water per month was used in the study.

At the present \$1.45 tax rate in operation, taxes would be \$217.50 and water and sewer bill would be \$10.20 per month.

The new proposed tax rate change to \$1.10 would reduce the tax bill to \$165. Water and sewer bill for the typical household would increase to \$12.41, a difference of \$2.21.

Thus the decrease in taxes would amount to \$52.50. By subtracting the annual increase in water and sewer rates, \$26.52, from this total, the total reduction figure comes to \$25.98.

Gaddy said the household of \$15,000 and the water usage of 8,000 gallons were chosen because they represent an average for the households in Raeford.

Actual savings, of course, would depend on the individual house assessment and actual water usage he said.

"But there's no doubt about it," Gaddy stressed, "people in Raeford will save money if the bonds are passed."

Commissioners Endorse Water Bonds

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners endorsed the upcoming water bond vote at their regular monthly meeting Monday morning.

In urging the commissioners to support the bond issue, chairman of the board T. C. Jones said "it's very important that the city get the bond issue passed and we want to help any way we can."

Commissioner Tom McBryde said "I'm in favor of it - it's not going to take anything away from the county and it's something the city needs."

Vote on the \$750,000 bonds is slated for July 11 at the Town Hall. If passed, revenue from the bonds will go towards enlarging the water works for the city of Raeford, including drilling a new well and extending water lines.

In other action taken by the board, a request from Mrs. Parks at the Hoke County Health Center for authority to attend three more sessions of Nurses Supervisor Training was approved by the commissioners. In discussing the proposal, the commissioners said that since the director of the Health Dept. resigned, Mrs. Parks has taken on additional duties and could benefit from the three training sessions.

A motion to use a draft of funds for the newly implemented food stamp program was approved by the commissioners. The new system will mean less work for the county because checks for payment of the stamps will not need to be certified daily.

A request from the Board of Education to approve an increase of \$20,000 from the current expense fund was authorized by the commissioners. The funds are presently available in the school budget, but an authorization from the board was needed to spend the money.

A request from the Antioch Community house for an additional \$60 for repair work was also approved by the board. At an earlier meeting the commissioners approved expenditures of \$350 for repair work to the floors and walls of the building, but actual work on the house came to more than the appropriated amount. Work completed includes replacement of the wooden floor with concrete and installation of four steel support columns to hold up the building. In moving that the board approve the extra amount, commissioner John Balfour said "I don't believe we have spent anything on the house in the past five or six years, so I think we ought to go ahead and approve the project."

The board also approved payment of a bill from Bobby Carter's Tire Recapping Service for \$860 for work on cars owned by the Hoke Sheriff's Dept. County manager T. B. Lester said some of the bills for work dated back to 1969, and it was suggested that the motion to pay the amount include a word about the lateness of the bills. Lester said "They (Carter's) ought to at least get out their bills in the same year as the service they perform."

The commissioners also approved the amended re-evaluation budget.

In an earlier meeting of the board held in June, a contract from Clyde Leach for handling service to the trash containers in the county was approved. Bids are now open for the purchase of 50 trash containers to be placed throughout the

county. The bids will be considered beginning on July 10 at 2 p.m.

The tax commissioners' report presented by T. B. Lester showed that 91.77 percent of the taxes for the 1971-72 fiscal year had been collected as

Home Break-In Investigated

The Hoke County Sheriff's Dept. is investigating a break-in at the home of William Poole, Rt. 1, Raeford, last Friday night.

Poole was out of town at the time of the occurrence. The break-in was discovered by his son, Billy, the next morning after he returned from spending the night at a friend's home. Entry was gained through the back door.

Among the items reported missing

were a .22 caliber pistol, a .45 automatic, a camera and projector, several watches and \$20 in cash. Total value of the items was set at \$930. It was originally thought that a large amount of cash was stolen, but a search located the money.

Deputy Harvey Young, who investigated the incident, said the house was ransacked. No arrests have been made.

Council Raises Deposit

The Raeford City Council voted to raise the deposit on water meters from \$5 to \$10 at their July meeting, held Monday night.

City manager John Gaddy said the measure was necessary due to the large losses from persons moving without paying their water bills. He said so far this year, a total of \$348.48 was lost from unpaid bills. The measure will affect new families who move into Raeford.

The council also voted to uphold a prior ruling by the Planning and Zoning Board denying a change of zoning from residential to commercial of a piece of land west of the Raeford Turkey Farm. Request was made earlier in the month

by J.W. Williams, who desired to build a warehouse on the property on Central Ave. The Planning Board met earlier in the month following a request by Williams to consider the matter. The area in question will remain zoned as residential.

Bids are now being received for improvements on the Raeford Airport, including paving of the runway, and installation of runway lights, a search beacon and wind cone. Bids will be opened on July 11 at 2 p.m. Gaddy said the work on the airport will hopefully be finished by fall.

All members of the council were present at the meeting.

Assistant County Agent Resigns

Assistant county agricultural agent David Bodenheimer has announced his resignation from his position in the county, effective June 30.

Bodenheimer has been working with the 4-H programs and livestock programs in the county for the past year and a half. He has accepted a position as herdsman for the Mulberry Plantation Farm at Camden, S.C. He will manage a herd of about 5,000 head of cattle.

Bodenheimer is a graduate in livestock

production at North Carolina State University. Originally from Davidson County near High Point, he lived in Raeford with his wife and daughter while working in Hoke County.

County manager T.B. Lester said "it is with regret that the Board of Commissioners accepted the resignation of assistant agent David Bodenheimer."

County agent Wendell Young said a replacement for Bodenheimer is expected to be announced in about a month.

Bus Route Changes

Some changes in the school transportation routes will be made for the 1972-73 school year. Hoke School superintendent D.D. Abernethy announced.

An addition of 25 adult drivers will be needed to work the new routes, he said. Applications are now being taken in the transportation office at the Hoke High Gibson Building by transportation director Joe Soles.

The changes in routes will mean a shorter riding time for youths in the county and also shorter routes. Work is currently being done on mapping the new routes by Dallas Whitford from the State Board of Education. Full details will be

furnished later this summer.

Up to now, Abernethy said, all school buses were driven by high school students. The new plan will put children in grades one through five on a separate route from the Upchurch Junior High and Hoke High students. Adult drivers will be needed to drive the routes for the elementary grades. High school students will still drive the routes to Upchurch and Hoke High.

Drivers will be paid by the hour at a rate of \$1.88. All an applicant needs is a state driver's license and a good driving record, Abernethy said. The transportation department will certify applicants to drive the school buses

Raeford residents will go to the polls Tuesday to vote on a sale of water bonds totaling \$750,000, which will provide funds to extend and enlarge the water works for the city of Raeford.

Annexation of Burlington Mills, which was approved by a mutual agreement between the board of directors at Burlington and the city of Raeford, hinges on passage of the bonds on July 11. If annexation takes place, a new lower tax rate for Raeford residents from the present \$1.45 per hundred dollars of assessed value to approximately \$1.10, will be incorporated into the 1972-73 budget, because of the greatly increased tax base.

"There's no doubt that taxes will definitely be lowered if the bonds pass," city manager John Gaddy said. "I've figured the budget over a half dozen different ways and a new rate of not more than \$1.10 will be set in the new budget." Gaddy said if the bonds do not pass, the present \$1.45 rate or a higher one would be incorporated into the budget.

Representatives from Burlington stated that voluntary annexation would be impossible if the bonds fail to pass because adequate water and sewer facilities are not available in the city.

Bond sales will provide capital for the drilling of an additional well and adding water mains to the present system. Funds will also be used for the improvement of treatment facilities.

The city is also hopeful that the \$750,000 bonds will provide a capital reserve for future expansions, so a new bond issue will not be called for each time work is needed.

The addition of Burlington will add approximately \$9.5 million to the assessed value of property in Raeford. The greatly increased tax base, besides lowering taxes, will also increase the borrowing power of the city when future projects are needed, Gaddy said. Now federal grants cannot easily be obtained for improvement projects because the city does not have a large enough tax base, Gaddy said.

He explained that when the last project for sewer line improvements was undertaken, the city had to get special indebtedness to go beyond the limited indebtedness they were allowed. "If the bonds pass, it will allow for a little long-range planning," Gaddy said.

At the announcement of Burlington's willingness to annex to Raeford at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner in May, Burlington representative Jack Bradford said that the annexation would be mutually beneficial to the industry as well as the city of Raeford. Both Bradford and Raeford mayor John K. McNeill, in commenting on the announcement, said they hoped the people of Raeford would fully support the local industries by providing them with needed facilities.

The Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce endorsed the bond vote at their June meeting, after city councilman Graham Clark appeared before the chamber concerning the bonds. He explained that the city was badly in need of water works improvements and that the bonds were the only means of financing them.

City councilman Franklin Teal said that passage of the bonds "will be a big boost to us. It has all the advantages for the people of Raeford and no disadvantages to it."

Teal said that successful annexation of Burlington will shift the costs of operating the industry to Burlington and take the burden off the taxpayer. "The attitude of industries around Raeford has been excellent," he said. "Burlington accepts their responsibility to the city and they want to pay their share."

Teal said that when he first served on the City Council in 1965, there was a water crisis in Raeford. "Expansion of the water systems will eliminate future crises and will provide money for continued growth," he remarked.

Lumbee Co-op Hires Manager

The appointment of a new general manager for the Lumbee River Electric Corp. was announced this week by the chairman of the firm's board of directors.

Charles L. Staples, a veteran of nine years experience with electrical cooperatives, has been named to the post, according to Cecil Dunn, chairman of the board of directors of the firm.

The co-op services rural areas along the Lumbee River including over 2,200 families in Hoke County.

Staples last position was with Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Lexington, S. C. He formerly made his home in Columbia.

He was employed by Mid-South for two years and worked for seven years before that with two other electric cooperatives in Georgia.

A native of Hendersonville, Ky., he attended the University of Kentucky's Northwest Center in Hendersonville and the University of Georgia.

Staples is married and has two children, aged ten and four years. He resides on Saratoga Street in Red Springs.

employed. The present staff will be under the supervision of assistant superintendent Ernest Sutton.

Child Burned

A young Raeford boy received severe burns Sunday night following an accident which occurred near his home.

Three-year-old Roger Allen Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Baker, was apparently playing with a cigarette lighter when he caught fire to his shirt. He was discovered by his parents shortly after the

incident. The youth was admitted to the Duke University Hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

Just a week prior to the accident, the Bakers lost their five-year-old son, William Anthony, in a drowning accident.



T. F. Davis

Hoke County schools maintenance supervisor T.F. Davis retired from his 35 year position with the county this week, according to an announcement made by superintendent D.D. Abernethy.

A native of Hoke County, Davis said he began working in the schools when there was no maintenance staff. His first work was just doing any of the odd jobs that were needed to maintain the 33 rural schools that were in operation at the time.

The maintenance staff has since grown to nine persons, who worked under the supervision of Davis, and the number of schools in the county has decreased to seven. The schools, of course, are considerably larger than the one room classes of 35 years ago.

Davis cited personal reasons for his retirement. He resides with his wife on Donaldson Ave. in Raeford. The Davises have six children and 19 grandchildren.

He said "I've really enjoyed my job with the schools in Hoke County and I'm going to miss it."

Abernethy said a new supervisor for the maintenance department will not be