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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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## Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

The following letter was received from Laurie Telfair and I believe it will be of interest to her former readers. The letter follows:

Hey Everybody,  
Well, we crossed the wide Missouri. And recrossed it several times on our way here, in fact. The river winds down from somewhere in the northwest, flows alongside Nebraska and into the uplands of Missouri. Interstate 70 crosses it several times before Kansas City - which seems strange because the highway runs straight across the state from St. Louis to KC so the river must corkscrew through the hills.

But now we are all together in Omaha, somewhat established in the house although our appliances are giving up the ghost with alarming regularity so that we have had to add a new washer to the household and now the television is in the shop. Danny and I drove down to Kansas City last weekend to meet my parents and the girls, who had spent the month in Memphis since I left them there on my way west. My father got confused on when his vacation began and what was to have been a leisurely trip to KC with a baseball game and a trip back through the Ozarks turned into an overnight hustle and back the next day. We drove back to Omaha by going up the bluffs of the Missouri to St. Joseph and then across to Kansas and up the rolling plains to Omaha.

Prairie has always brought to mind flat land, but it isn't. It is rolling hills, treeless for the most part. Danny remarked that one of the things he missed about the southeast were the woods. There are trees around homes but the fields and pastures are open. Rain has been good this year and the crops are lush. They have patchwork quilt designs on the hills, with the golden wheat contrasting with green fields of corn. I've never seen corn planted as close together as it is here. I can't imagine how they harvest it unless they just mow it all down for silage. I guess Mr. Young could tell me, or probably one of the farmers in the county like Mr. Balfour. Or maybe the man most noted for corn production on the county commission, Ralph Barnhart. Ask them about it, Elaine, okay.

We are living in what was a small town on the southwest edge of Omaha until the bigger city annexed it. There are still cases pending in the state courts fighting the theft, I understand, and the local residents of Millard are pretty hot about the issue yet. The school district remains separate, which makes it the third school district within the city of Omaha. Taxes here are high, about \$1,200 a year on a \$30,000 house but they seem to have plenty of services. There is a city pool within walking distance of most residential areas of the city and the schools are plush. The senior high here includes an indoor pool, two tennis courts, and a beautiful track. The physical plants of the other schools are also nice and judging from past experience with the schools here, the academic program will match the building.

Anyway, Millard is a bedroom community with little local industry. It has a short main street, not as long as Raeford's and one shopping center. The town is dominated by its principle structure - a six block long feed and lumber mill alongside the railroad. There are nearly a dozen bars here though, indicating that Millard folks like an after-dinner drink. At 90 cents for an ounce of booze, I doubt that they have too much of a drunken driving problem, but I can't back that up with any figures. Bottled liquor is sold in state licensed stores, which also may sell groceries or drugs (or for all I know) dresses. The largest grocery store in Millard doesn't have a license and doesn't even sell beer, and the booze can be purchased at the "pharmacy and bottle shop" down the street, Strange.

Oh, yes...something that might be of interest to the recreation commission. The city operates several Playmobiles that circulate throughout the city on a fixed schedule, bringing a supervised recreation program with them. They are housed in vans like Bookmobiles and I don't know exactly how they are set up, but the idea has possibilities for a county like Hoke. Speaking of recreation, I enjoyed the writeup on the House of Raeford team you reprinted in your column, Mr. Morris. That portrayed an attitude often found in Hoke that I am beginning to think may be lacking in other places...the willingness to get along with folks different from yourself.

The paper looks good and I enjoy keeping up with people. Elaine is doing a good job and is covering a wider range of news than I did. I always meant to get out into the county but never did. The more I got to know people there, the more I enjoyed talking to them. I learned a lot of things, many of which were helpful in writing stories, but nonetheless it is a fact that the more time you talk the less time you have to write it all down. From the looks of things, Elaine talks less and writes more than I did.

Well, two and a half pages enough for anyone to write. I don't do this very often.

(See AROUND TOWN, Page 11)

# City Tax Rate Reduced to \$1.10

## Boy Drowns At Rockfish

A 16-year-old Hoke County boy drowned in an irrigation pond in Rockfish Monday, while taking a break from cropping tobacco.

He was John K. Campbell, Rt. 2, Raeford.

Neil Smith from the Hoke County Rescue Squad said a number of young people had been swimming in the pond that afternoon about 3 p.m., when they observed the Campbell boy go under the water. Those present attempted to rescue the youth, but were unable to and summoned the Rescue Squad for assistance. The body was later located near the spot where the accident occurred.

He was the second drowning victim in the county this summer.

## Housing Help Now Available

Improved housing is a possibility in Hoke County. In order for this to become a reality for more families, five volunteers will be working throughout the county to acquaint families with available financial assistance programs.

Farmers Home Administration's requirements and applications will be discussed with families. Other assistance programs will be discussed.

Families in the Raeford and Scurlock area contact Jimmy Morrissey, Five Points and Montrose, Mrs. Helen Small, McCain and Ashley Heights, Mrs. Retha Long, South Hoke and Antioch, Plummer Locklear, Bowmore and Bethel, Mrs. Helen Thomas.

Hoke County Extension Service and the Farmers Home Administration will offer a series of lessons for prospective homeowners with such subjects as Building Materials, Housing Credit and Assistance Programs, Floor Plans, Lot Development, and other subjects related to building a home. The course will begin in early October. For further details contact Mrs. Ellen Willis, home economics agent, or Wendell Young, county agent, at the Extension Office. The number is 875-2162.

## Merchants To Meet

The Raeford Merchants Assn. will hold a meeting Thursday morning, July 27, at 9:30, at the Family Restaurant.

The purpose of the meeting will be to plan activities for the fall. All merchants are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

# Scott Injured In Shoot - Out

An argument in a parking lot near the Tastee Freez last Thursday night led to the shooting of Johnny Lee Scott. He was not seriously injured.

Charged with the shooting with intent to kill is Lucille Helms, 42, of N. Main St. in Raeford. She was arrested on a \$10,000 bond, which was later reduced to \$1,000 after it was learned that Scott was not seriously injured. Bond was posted for Miss Helms and she was released Friday.

According to an investigation by Sheriff's Deputy Alex Norton, Scott and a friend Billy Hayes, had apparently been parked between the Tastee Freez and the

## Break - In At Tangledvines Late Thursday

The Tangledvines Restaurant on U.S. 401 was broken into late Thursday night and a total of \$148 was reported stolen, plus an undetermined amount of change from a cigarette machine and a juke box.

The break-in was discovered at 6:30 Friday morning, by restaurant employee John Stewart. Entry was gained by kicking in the night latch of the front door.

Of the total amount stolen, \$18 was removed from the cash register and \$130 from the safe, which, according to Sheriff D.M. Barrington, had not been forced open. The change boxes of the cigarette machine and juke box had been forced open and the coins removed.

Deputy George Brown, who helped investigate the incident, said that a number of papers in the back room were scattered about and the furniture moved around. He said a number of costly items, including a guitar and a rifle that were in the restaurant, were left untouched. The restaurant is the property of Willard Lewis.

Also aiding in the investigations was Deputy Robert Graham. No charges have yet been made.



SPLASH PARTY - When the heat's on, the best thing to do is enjoy a cool dip. This group of Hoke teenagers spent part of Tuesday splashing in Rockfish Creek. (from left) - Sue Moore, Danny Gibson and Mike Odom.

## Trash Container Locations Set

The Hoke County Health Dept. has established the locations of the 50 trash containers recently purchased by the county. Some of the containers are expected to be in operation within the next two weeks, county sanitarian Russell Mills reports.

Pick-ups, for the four cubic yard containers are scheduled for twice a

week, and will be handled by the Pick-Up Sanitation Service, a firm belonging to Clyde Leach of Dundarrach. The containers are of the type with a split lid on top, designed for ease in handling.

The State Highway Department has been working with the County Health Department in preparing the locations for the containers. Mills said no one in the

county will have to drive more than five miles to the nearest container.

In addition to the containers placed throughout the county, three will be placed at the entrance to the landfill off U. S. 401, for use when the landfill is not in operation.

The location of the containers are the following:

(See CONTAINER, Page 11)

## Windows Broken Out At Grocery

The glass windows at the Walter Parks Grocery at Dundarrach were reported broken out last Friday night about 10:30. An investigation by the owner and the Hoke Sheriff's Dept. revealed that nothing had been taken from the store.

## Line Trouble Causes Black-Out

A broken main power line in the Carolina Power and Light Co. system Sunday afternoon knocked out power for most of Hoke County for a half-hour period.

Many residents in the area speculated that the blackout may have been due to excessive use of power to run air conditioners during the weekend's high temperatures. But CP&L representative Ed Chappell said the real trouble was a broken cross arm in a main line near the Lumbeertown plant.

Power blacked out at 12:57 p.m. and was restored at 1:27. The breakage affected all of the CP&L customers in Hoke and most of the Lumbee River REA customers.

Chappell said "at this point we do not anticipate any problems from excessive use of power this summer."

A new tax rate for Raeford residents of \$1.10 was approved by the City Council in a special budget meeting held Thursday night.

The lowered rate from last year's \$1.45 per hundred dollars of assessed value was made possible through the successful annexation of Burlington Mills to the City of Raeford.

City manager John Gaddy said this is the first time that city taxes have gone down over a previous year. Last year's rate of \$1.45 reflected a 15 cent increase over the previous year. Taxes have not been lower than the new \$1.10 rate since 1961, when they were \$1.05. The 1962 rate went up to \$1.17, where it remained until it climbed to \$1.30 in 1969.

The rates of tax are based on an estimated total assessed valuation of property of \$27,360,624, which includes the \$9.5 million that Burlington's annexation added to the city. The annexation was made possible through approval of a sale of water bonds totaling \$750,000, which will provide capital for the drilling of an additional well and adding water mains to the present system. The estimated rate collections used in computing the new tax rate was set at ninety per cent.

The 1972 - 73 budget estimates show a substantial increase of approximately \$78,000 over last year's total in the General Fund. The revenue is a result of several different sources. First, is an increase of property tax as a result of new industry and increased building, and the one cent Sales Use Tax which was imposed in Hoke County in October, 1971.

The state increased from one-half to one cent share of gasoline taxes to be distributed to all municipalities, which gives the city approximately \$20,000 in additional revenues. The added revenues, plus the unexpended revenues from the 1971 - 72 fiscal year, reflect the 1972 - 73 budget.

The General Fund expenditures for the new budget total \$439,623.64, compared with last year's total of \$260,980.

Gaddy said the expenditures of the projected increased revenues will be disbursed about evenly within approximately all departments, which includes the Airport and Garbage Disposal Departments, which are new and will require additional revenues to operate and maintain.

The Garbage Disposal Dept. was made necessary through the opening of a sanitary landfill off U.S. 401 on Feb. 1. Previously the city had maintained its own disposal facilities.

The Airport Dept. was created to handle improvements to the Raeford Airport, including paving of a runway and installation of lights, and to maintain the facilities.

The new budget also shows water and sewer fund revenue increases of approximately \$65,000 over last year. The 1972 - 73 estimate is projected at \$352,121.92. Gaddy said the increase in this sector is a result of added water consumption, mostly by Knit - Away. It is to be disturbed evenly throughout the water and sewer budget to provide increased services to all customers.

A complete itemization of the adopted budget follows:

(See TAX RATE, Page 11)

## Office Closed

The Local Draft Board will be closed during its regular hours on Monday, July 31, Tuesday, Aug. 1 and Wednesday, Aug. 2. The office will be open as usual beginning Mon., Aug. 7.

## William Lamont, Jr. Buried Here Sunday

William Lamont Jr., Hoke County Civil Defense director, died Friday after suffering a heart attack while vacationing at Holden Beach. He was 61.

He was a native of Raeford and served with the National Guard before World War II. He entered the service in 1940. He served during the war in the West Indies and Okinawa. He retired from the Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and commanded the National Guard Battalion in Raeford for many years.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Sunday at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. John Rupp. Burial was in the Raeford Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Paul Dickson, T.B. Lester, J.W. McPhaul, Carlton Niven, Berder Niven, Graham Clark and Bill Howell. Honorary pallbearers were the Elders and Deacons of Raeford Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Morris; one daughter, Mrs. Palmer Wilcox of Raeford; two sons, William III of Chapel Hill and Andrew M. Lamont of Lumber Bridge; one sister, Mrs. Jean Dickson of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; one brother, Charles M. Lamont of Columbia, S.C. and four grandchildren.



William Lamont, Jr.

## Boy Dies

Three-year-old Roger Allen Baker died at Duke Hospital Tuesday night where he had been under treatment for burns received in an accident on July 2.

The child received severe burns when the cigarette lighter he had been playing with ignited his shirt. He was discovered by his parents near their house shortly after the accident. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Baker of Raeford.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church by the Rev. Jack Mansfield. Burial will be in the Raeford Cemetery. Arrangements will be handled by Lentz's Mortuary in Raeford.

Surviving besides his parents are a sister, Anita Baker of the home; his paternal great grandmother Mrs. Susan Baker of Raeford; his maternal great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Haithcox of Moncure; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Baker of Raeford; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hardison of Raeford.

Just a week before the accident in which Roger Allen was burned, the Baker's five-year-old son, William Anthony, drowned in an accident in Rockfish Creek.