

Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

The golf scores appear in this issue and I was surprised to see Raz Autry's name listed as number three in the championship flight. Maybe McBryde will have to find another reason for Raz failing to send the results of a tournament to the newspaper.

The tournament at Pinehurst was very successful it seems to me. I don't know how it came out financially but the crowd seemed to enjoy the play.

The number of spectators from Raeford who attended the tournament was very large. I can't remember seeing as many local people at a golf tournament before.

The open house idea that has been started by many businesses seems to add something to the tournaments. I think everyone enjoys stopping at a place for a few minutes and enjoying food, drink and fellowship. I believe this idea will be taken up by many more in the years to come. This is good advertisement for a business as most of the people won't forget this type of enjoyment.

The bulldozers leveling the ground on the property owned by the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad brings back memories. In the early twenties all that was on that block was a blacksmith shop. It was moved and replaced by the L & S depot.

Before the depot was built, pine trees covered the block and horse traders and others would camp at this site. After the depot, came the Raeford Gin, and I can still remember the long line of wagons waiting with cotton to be ginned. The farmers must have gotten up before daylight because I would be on the way to school and the line would be to the Laurinburg road.

I can remember the shed that was built and the packing of cucumbers and cantaloupe every summer. The packers would come from Florida and one summer a family stayed at our home.

Rail sidings were added to the main railroad line and watermelons were packed for weeks. Some days as many as 10 to 15 cars would leave Raeford. Buyers would come through each afternoon and purchase the cars of melons.

The stems of the melons would be painted with a solution and we kids made spending money doing this. As the packer of the car finished a row of melons the painter of the stems would then proceed to paint the stems. (years ago).

Now the block is being leveled and from the rumors that are flowing around town, Raeford is in for a big surprise.

It is hard to believe how fast things can change and the looks of a town can change. To have progress things must change, but still the memories of the old days come to mind every once in awhile.

County Eligible For Federal Aid Through Economic Development Act

Rogers Files Suit Against Electric Co-op

A \$258,656 racial discrimination suit was filed in U. S. District Court in Fayetteville last week by Elias Rogers against the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp.

Rogers, a Lumbee Indian from Hoke County, was defeated for a seat on the governing board of the electric co-op during the November, 1970 election. He charged the board with racial discrimination through the misuse of proxy ballots.

His two year controversy ended in April, 1972, when he was appointed to fill an at-large directorate on the governing board following an extensive investigation by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He accepted the directorate on the advice of his attorney, Phil Diehl, and the advice of Jacob Schlitz, a U. S. Civil Rights Commissioner.

The suit filed last week under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, contends that the defendants, the employees of the co-op, conspired to deny him a seat on the board because of his race. The suit asks for \$8,656 in actual damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages.

Rogers suit contends that he was defeated for re-election to the board for a three - year term in November, 1970, because president of the co-op Cecil Dunn printed a number of unofficial proxy ballots which were used to elect Rogers for re-election.

The suit further alleges that the members of the governing board directed employees of the corporation to take the specially printed proxies and obtain signatures. He contends that the employees were told they could lose their jobs if they did not cooperate.

Rogers alleges that the illegal use of the proxy votes on election day is what caused his defeat to W. B. McDiarmid. He contends that employees were instructed to cast their proxies against the plaintiff, Elias Rogers, and that he was defeated by W. B. McDiarmid through the use of 515 illegal proxy ballots.

Defendants named in the suit are the corporation itself, Dunn, McDiarmid, Neill A. Watson, D. J. Dalton, Robert W. Currie, Irvin R. Currie, Gail Boyles and Genevieve Edens.

Rogers was appointed as a director of the board after the Agriculture Department notified the board that the

1970 election constituted a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The by-laws of the corporation were subsequently amended to increase the membership of the board from nine to 12 members, including three at-large directors.

Rogers' term will expire in November, 1974, at which time the seat will be filled by an election.

In computing his actual damages, Rogers states that he spent 326 hours of his time gathering evidence concerning the election for use in the administrative and legal actions for a sum worth \$1,031. He also states that he has traveled more than 18,500 miles since the date of the election, seeking information and evidence concerning the use of proxy ballots, at a cost to him of \$2,220.

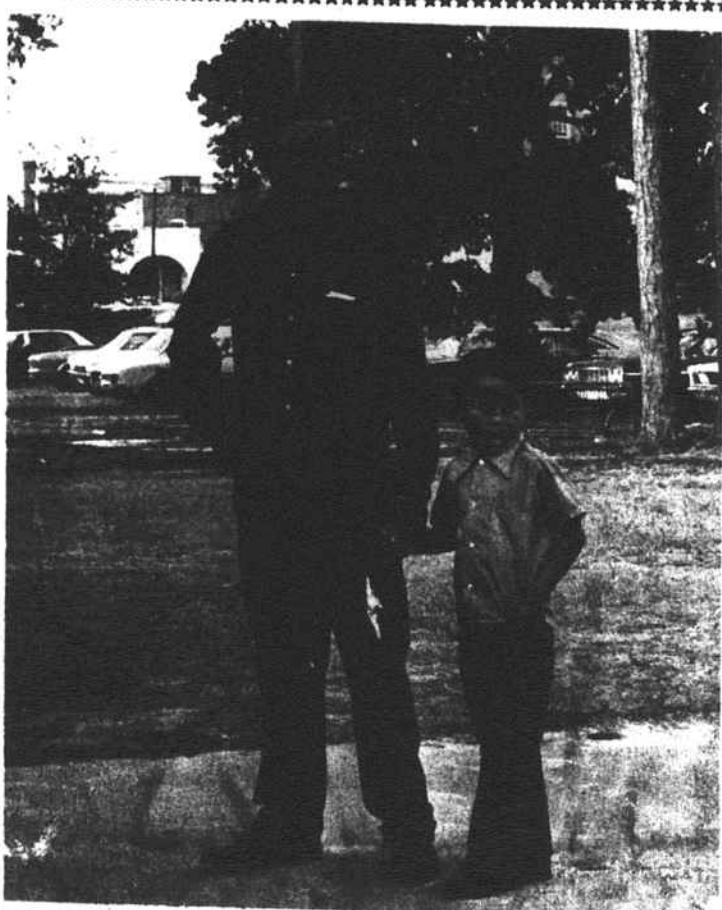
He also states in the suit he has expended \$95 on telephone calls in gathering evidence and that he has incurred attorney fees in the case amounting to \$5,000. In addition he states that he has been deprived of a total of \$300 in payment from the co-op because of his defeat in the election.

Man Shot At Club

The Hoke Sheriff's Dept. is investigating a shooting on Aug. 20 at the "After Hours" club in McCain.

Henry Louis McNeill, Rt. 3, Raeford, was shot in the stomach around 11:50 p.m. and was admitted to Moore Memorial Hospital for treatment. He told authorities the shot came from a darkened section of the establishment.

Investigations are being conducted by Harvey Young.



OPENING DAY - Parent and student alike, look a bit apprehensive at the opening of school last week. Picture was taken at McLaughlin School, which has only first grade classes.

Zoning Laws Regulate Mobile Homes

A number of persons in Raeford have recently been informed about zoning ordinances which affect the placement of mobile homes within and up to one mile outside of the city limits.

City manager John Gaddy said persons should be familiar with the zoning ordinances regarding mobile home placement in the city before purchasing a unit. Gaddy said mobile homes may only be placed on areas specifically zoned as R-MH, for mobile home parks.

The ordinance establishing zoning regulations for the City of Raeford was formed about two years ago to "guide the growth of the various land uses of the City and to encourage the future development of the City in accordance with a plan of land use and population." Gaddy said the ordinance is designed to let the city realize its best potentials as a place to live and work.

At the present time there are only two locations in Raeford specifically zoned for mobile home parks. They are the Oakwood Trailer Park, owned by Neill McFadyen, and the park behind Upchurch School, owned by Jack Autry.

According to the guidelines established by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, before any area is developed as a mobile home park, a development plan must be approved by the City Council upon recommendation of the Planning Board.

Included in the plan must be area and dimensions of the site; number, location and dimensions of all mobile home plots; locations of and width of roadways, automobile parking facilities and walkways; location and size of service buildings and areas; location and size of recreation areas; location of lighting and electrical systems; and location and specifications of water supply, refuse and sewage disposal facilities, including the location of water and sewer lines and riser pipes at each mobile home plot.

Regulations concerning area and bulk regulations include specifications as to the total acreage of a mobile home park and individual plots for units.

The ordinance states the site for the park must not be less than three acres and in area and shall have at least five spaces available at first occupancy.

The area for each mobile home plot, according to the ordinance, must be 5,000 square feet in area and have a width of at least 50 feet and a depth of at least 100 feet.

Minimum setback regulations are also included in the ordinance for each mobile home and for homes which border the site boundaries. In addition, the regulations specify the width requirements for internal streets and requirements for parking space.

The ordinance further states that at least one recreation area, easily accessible from all mobile home plots, must be included in the park. The size of the recreation area is set at a minimum of 2,500 square feet.

The ordinance also specifies handling of the utilities for the park, including specifications about water supply and sanitary sewer systems.

The general regulations concerning the five classifications of zoning in Raeford - R - Residential, R-MH - Mobile Home Parks, C - Commercial, IL - Light Industry and IH - Heavy Industry - also include specifications concerning nonconforming uses.

The ordinance states that after the effective date of the ordinance, pre-existing lots or structures which would be prohibited under the regulations for the district in which it is located, shall be considered as nonconforming. The ordinance further states that nonconforming lots may be continued provided they conform to provisions of the ordinance concerning minimum single lot requirements and minimum multi-lot requirements.

Gaddy said any questions concerning the ordinance regulating mobile homes may be presented to members of the Planning or Zoning Board of Appeals. The ordinance may be examined in greater detail at the City Hall.

Persons serving on the Planning Board inside town include Chairman W. L. Howell Jr., vice chairman Stanley Koonce, and committee members Ken McNeill, James Davis and J. H. Austin. Those outside of town are Jim Williamson, J. B. McLeod, H. L. Gathin Jr., J. D. McAllister and Younger Snead, Jr.

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals include chairman Jimmy Conoly, vice chairman Hugh Lowe, and committee members Bobby Cox, Dan McInnis and Ivery McNeil, all inside of town. Those on the board outside of town are Alfred Leach, J. H. Blythe, Thomas Holmes and A. S. McInnis.

September Meetings

Regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the Hoke Board of Education, County Commissioners and Raeford City Council have been postponed due to the Labor Day holiday next Monday.

The City Council and the Board of Education have both postponed their meetings for one week to Monday, Sept. 11. The council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall and the school board will meet at 8 p.m. in the Board of Education building.

The County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Board of Education building.

Apartment Entered

A Raeford youth was arrested this week in connection with a break-in at H.D. Harrison's garage apartment at 401 E. Donaldson.

Bennie Hammock was arrested on a \$1,000 bond and charged with breaking, entering and larceny. Entry was gained to the apartment by breaking out a window with a rock. Among the items reported missing was a radio, stereo set and a quantity of bedding, total value for which was set at \$600.

Investigations were conducted by Raeford policemen Leonard Wiggins, J.R. Riley and J.C. Barrington. Hammock is scheduled for appearance in Hoke District Court this Friday, Sept. 1.

No Projects

Bids for 18 road projects in 17 counties were received by the State Highway Commission this week. No projects for Hoke were included.

The total of the 18 bids was \$11,224,745.64, which is to cover more than 84 miles of road improvements.

Gresham Resigns

City policeman F.B. Gresham has announced his resignation from the Raeford force, effective Aug. 23.

Gresham said he and his family are planning to move back to their home in Alabama. He served on the force here for the past five months and has lived in Raeford for about a year.

Dedication Ceremony Held For 50 Containers

"It's amazing what a penny can do if we put enough of them together," chairman of the Hoke Board of Commissioners T.C. Jones told those present Tuesday morning for the dedication ceremonies of the 50 trash containers recently placed throughout the county.

Jones was referring to the one cent sales tax in the county which has been greatly responsible for the funds to purchase the containers. Ceremonies took place at the location of the container placed across from the North Raeford Fire Dept. on property belonging to Burlington Mills.

Jones commended the county officials for the work done in preparing the locations and in informing county residents of the proper use of the containers. "This is one of the best systems we know of and we believe the people will cooperate in helping to clean up the county," Jones remarked.

Also present at the dedication ceremonies were Highway Commissioner Charlie Dawkins, county manager T.B. Lester, chairman of the Governor's Beautification Program in Hoke, Mrs. Evelyn Manning, home agent, Mrs. Ellen Willis, county agent Wendell Young,

county sanitary aide Bobby Posey, Commissioner J.A. Webb and Clyde Leach from the Sanitation Pick-up firm, who is handling the trash removal.

After those present witnessed a demonstration of the "Dempster Dumpster," which picks up the container and empties and compresses the trash, everyone said a few words about the trash program and about their hopes for a more beautiful area.

Dawkins discussed the problems of littering in the county and surrounding areas, and said that "Hoke will have a lot nicer county because of the landfill recently opened and because of the trash containers."

The Highway Commission worked in conjunction with the County Health Dept. in determining the locations for the 50 containers and in clearing the land for their placement.

Speaking on behalf of her role in the state's beautification program, Mrs. Manning said that when the report is sent to Raleigh concerning the trash containers, it should help the county get some awards for their part in the state-wide project.

A short benediction by Young concluded the ceremonies.

Hoke County has been designated as a Redevelopment Area County by the Southeastern Economic Development Commission, a measure which will make organizations and individuals eligible to apply for Federal assistance to improve employment and economic conditions in the area.

Eligibility is based on unemployment rates in the county, which were in excess of six per cent for the previous calendar year, and on income levels. Hoke County first applied for the designation as an redevelopment county in November, 1971.

Federal assistance for high unemployment areas was made possible through a Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, which is administered through the U.S. Department of Commerce. The purpose of the act is to help such areas carry out problems to improve employment and economic conditions.

Hoke County was first informed of its eligibility for Federal help in October, 1971, when an amendment to the Economic Development Act was passed allowing areas which have a median family income of less than 50 per cent of the national median to apply for assistance. Previously the qualifying income level had been 40 per cent of the national average.

The report informing Hoke County of their eligibility for application for the benefits, stated that the median income in Hoke was between 40 and 50 per cent of the national median.

In 1966 Hoke had been designated by the Economic Development Administration as a "carry over" area from the Area Redevelopment Act, but had not been designated for the overall economic development program, which is the new designation.

Before the county was able to apply for the new designation a committee had to be formed to analyze the basic development problems and the resources available to help build or strengthen economic activity. Such a committee, designated the Overall Economic Development Committee, was formed last fall in Hoke to analyze the problems and prepare the necessary reports for the Economic Development Administration.

Included in the report submitted by committee chairman Ralph Barnhart, was data on industrial and commercial development in the county, a study of transportation facilities, information on needed community public facilities, a survey of education and training needs of the area and a report on natural resources.

County manager T.B. Lester said now that the redevelopment designation has been made in Hoke County, the

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3 Arrested For Break-ins

Three 18-year-old Hoke youths were arrested in connection with four daytime break-ins in the area during the past month.

James Murphy, Rt. 1, Shannon, Ronnie L. McPhatter, Rt. 1, Red Springs and Barthonia Ray, Rt. 1, Raeford, were all charged with breaking, entering and larceny in the four incidents. Bond was set for each at \$2,000.

The break-ins were at the homes of Stanley Adcox, Jim Madden and Fred Harris Jr., all of Rt. 2, Raeford, and William Poole, Rt. 1, Raeford. Total value of the merchandise stolen was valued at over \$2,800.

Hoke Sheriff D.M. Barrington said some of the merchandise has already been recovered from pawn shops in Fayetteville and further investigations are expected to recover more of the goods.

The Adcox home was entered on Aug. 10 after a brick was thrown through a pane of glass on the door and the lock unstashed. Reported missing was a rifle, pistol, some jewelry, a camera, a watch and a clock. Total value was set at \$825.

Stolen from the Madden home on Aug. 9 was a stereo, radio and tape player valued at \$350.

A quantity of firearms, a tape player and two speakers and a radio was stolen from the Harris home after a rock was thrown through a window and entry gained by climbing through the window. The merchandise taken was valued at \$739.

The Poole home was entered on June 30 and a quantity of merchandise valued at \$930 was stolen including a quantity of firearms, a camera, projector, watches and \$20 cash.

Preliminary hearings are set for the three youths this Friday, Sept. 1 in Hoke District Court. Investigations were conducted by Deputies Harvey Young, Alex Norton and George Brown.