

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

A note from Raz Autry principal at Hoke County High School is as follows: "Once again I wish to express my appreciation for the support that you and The News - Journal render to the high school throughout the year, and especially school throughout the year, and especially during our athletic season."

Harry Harrison, former Hoke attorney, now working for the Employment Security Commission, recently spent several days in Germany with a study group. He was one of 22 North Carolinians to make the trip.

Here are a few comments made by Harry about the trip: "We went as guests of the West German Republic, specifically invited for briefs on the Federal Republic of Germany."

The Federal Parliament (Bundestag) is located in Bonn, Germany, and is the embodiment of the Federal principal. Lodging was arranged by Dr. Hans Indarf, Director of the ECU - European Study Center, 53 Bonn, Bad Godsberg at the Steigenberger Hotel.

"Two particular points of interest were an 'All American' lunch at Hans Steineck, ECU - European Study Center and a visit to Hotel Petersberg, possible site of a UNC branch in Europe."

"W. Germany has 10% unemployment, in fact, they import 2 1/2 million workers from neighboring countries. They do have an employment security program to which the employer contributes 50% and the worker 50%. Its primary use, however, is for seasonal unemployment."

"We were invited to the Federal Parliament Building to observe returns. Voting is, by law, always held on Sunday. The present government under Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt, a coalition of S.P.D. and F.D.P. (political parties) were returned to power and the candidate from C.D.U. conceded about 7:30 p.m., only 1 1/2 hours after the polls closed Sunday afternoon. There was almost 90% participation of the party memberships."

"Finally, it would amuse some of our brethren, to know that we saw a Protestant Lutheran Church constructed near Mainz sometime after the reformation, wherein a bar was constructed in the entrance hall so that mixed drinks - or straight whiskey could be purchased in the vestibule where outer garments are left during services. The bar is open 15 minutes before services, during services, and 15 minutes afterward. Our guide and interpreter explained that the bar was instituted in the beginning to serve brandy to members who had traveled long distances in the cold weather. The practice was continued when it proved profitable to the church treasury."

I want to thank Harry for these interesting comments and hope the readers will enjoy them also.

The following letter from Fire Chief C. L. Thomas gives very good advice to all of us:

Dear Sam: The Christmas season is now with us, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind Hoke Countyans that there are several ideas to keep in mind while preparing for Christmas.

Everyone has repeatedly been warned about the health hazards purchased in some toys and children's clothing. Please remember to check flammability tags before buying to protect your children, their friends, and homes. There are books in our county library that can serve as good guides if you are interested in learning the results of research in this area.

Let me also remind you that Christmas trees can and do cause fires. You hear this every year, yet people forget each Christmas season. Keep your tree in water or use a living one and keep the roots moist, and do not leave Christmas lights burning if you are not at home.

I do hope that Christmas will be happy and safe for all of us.

Sincerely,  
C. L. Thomas, Chief  
Raeford Fire Dept.

## Kiwanis Supper Served Tonight

The Raeford Kiwanis Club is giving a pancake supper today from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gift - School cafeteria. For \$1 diners will be served. Only cash can eat.

Proceeds from the supper will be used to support Kiwanis projects including the student loan fund, tennis courts and civic center program.

The club has committed \$1,000 for three new tennis courts at Hoke County High School and pledged continued support of the civic center.

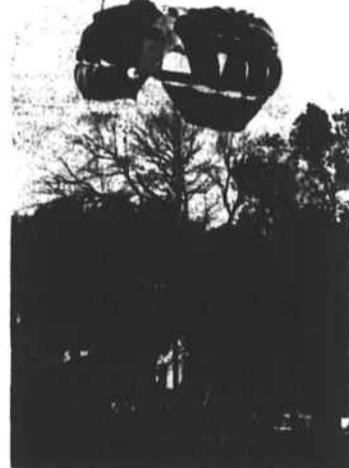
The student loan program is a revolving fund to assist needy college students from the Raeford area. During its approximately 17 years of existence the fund has helped 35 to 40 students.



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## Education Board Members Sworn

The Hoke County Board of Education held its regular meeting, the first of the new term for the re-elected members, Monday evening.

After the call to order by Chairman, D.R. Huff Jr., and the reading of the minutes of the November meeting, Clerk of the Superior Court, Ed Smith swore in all five of the board members: D.R. Huff, Jr., Dr. R.M. Jordan, R.L. Gibson, W.L. Howell, and A.W. Wood Jr. All five of the members must run for the post every two years and the five incumbents were re-elected in November.

The board then organized for the next two years by re-electing Huff as Chairman and Dr. Jordan as Vice-Chairman.

The board approved the addition of Sara Ann Coker, Floise M. Campbell, and Anna Jordan to the substitute teacher list.

The board received the report of an advisory committee which has been working for several months on a suggested policy to implement the new laws providing for orderly dismissal of personnel.

The report of the committee, which included teachers, principals and board members, was presented by Committee Chairman, J.D. McAllister. A complete policy statement was presented to the board for consideration at the January meeting.

G.R. Autry, Hoke County High School principal appeared before the board to describe events leading to re-organization of the football conference. After many hours of negotiations with other schools, it was decided Hoke County would be in a 3A Conference with Lumberton, Clinton, Pinecrest, and Dunn. Non-Conference games scheduled next year include Red Springs and Laurinburg-Scotland, according to Autry. Superintendent D.D. Abernethy read a letter from the Upchurch Faculty inviting the board members to a school open house.

# County Tax Collector Resigns Other Tax People Promoted



## Heart Fund Balloon Day Is Saturday

The Second Heart Fund balloon and tag day in Raeford is Saturday. Girl Scouts will circulate in the downtown area distributing the balloons for donations to the North Carolina Heart Association, announces Paul Solomon, local Heart Fund president.

The first balloon day kicking off the fund drive was Dec. 2 and four more are scheduled for February. Exact dates will be announced later.

February fund raising activities still in the planning stage include a benefit dance, golf tournament, and bridge benefit, said Solomon.

He reports individuals wishing to give special or memorial gifts to the fund may mail them to Heart Fund in care of Bobby Conoly at the Bank of Raeford. Queries concerning the association may be sent to the North Carolina Heart Association, 1 Heart Circle, Chapel Hill.

Local officers in addition to Solomon are Conoly, treasurer; Anita Lentz, secretary; Jerry Goza, publicity; and Fran Solomon, fund raising chairman.

The board of directors met early in November and selected 25 directors 10 of whom will be appointed to the board. Their major function will be to elect a new president next year and supply continuity to the operations of the local association.

## Thieves Hit City Furniture Store

Heilig-Myers Furniture Co. Inc., Harris Ave., was broken into sometime between Thursday night and Friday morning. Police Sgt. Leonard Wiggins reports thieves took three wrist watches, three radios and tape players, one record player and one set of walkie-talkies valued at \$739.

Wednesday morning Raeford police arrested Larry Walker, 23, Rt. 2, Raeford, in connection with the Heilig-Myers break-in. Walker along with two other men is charged with breaking, entering, larceny and receiving in connection with the case.

The other two James Breen, 18, Rt. 2, Box 70, Raeford, and Mack McLaughlin, 18, Rt. 2, Box 528 A, Raeford, were arrested earlier and are being held in jail in lieu of \$7,000 bond in connection with another case.

At press time bond had not been set in the Heilig-Myers case.

Police recovered two wrist watches, two stereo sets, one stand and two television sets taken from the furniture store.

## Jailed Trio Wanted For 3 Hoke County Breakins

Three persons held in jails in other counties are wanted for questioning by the Sheriff's Department in connection with at least three breakins in Hoke County.

The suspects, all from Hope Mills, are Kevin C. Blacker, 16, Diana Lynn Stevenson, 18, and Michael G. Blacker, 17. All are being held on other charges.

Kevin Blacker and Miss Stevenson are in Cumberland County Jail and Michael Blacker is in the Robeson County Jail. Deputy Sheriff Alex Norton says the trio is suspected of involvement in the breakins of Mrs. Clifford Bostic's home in Arabia on Nov. 26, and Gerald Pittman's house on Nov. 30.

In addition Kevin Blacker and Miss Stevenson are wanted in connection with a break-in of Jimmy Plummer's Wayside home Nov. 25, Norton said.

A pistol was taken from the Bostic

## Handbell Choir Will Perform

The United Methodist Church Handbell Choir under the direction of Mrs. Betty Upchurch will present a program of Christmas music at the First Baptist Church of Raeford.

The program will be given Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.



## Earl Wiggins Is New Patrolman

Raeford Police Chief James E. Lamont announced the hiring of a new patrolman for the Raeford Police Department.

Earl Wiggins Jr., 29, is replacing Lloyd Leazer who resigned Nov. 3 for medical reasons.

Wiggins, a Scotland County native, served one year as Scotland County deputy sheriff and 18 months with the North Carolina Department of Corrections. He joined the Raeford force Nov. 21.

The graduate of Laurel Hill High School attended the basic law enforcement training school at Richmond Technical Institute in Rockingham.

The new patrolman and his wife, who is employed at Abbott Laboratories, Laurinburg, hope to move to Raeford within two weeks.

## Man Released On \$500 Bond After Assault

An Antioch man, Weldon Locklear, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill was released from jail on \$500 bond Friday.

Locklear is charged in connection with an assault on David Chavis of Duffy about 9:45 p.m. Friday at the Antioch home of Margaret Jones on Goose Pond Road, report sheriff's deputies.

Chavis, allegedly cut with a pocket knife, was taken to Scotland Memorial Hospital suffering cuts on his left arm and chest.

Investigating officers are Harvey Young, Preston Moore and George Brown.

## Prisoner Faces Murder Charge

Clinton Barton of Maxton has been charged with murder in connection with the death of Bender Bullard, 33, also of Maxton, following an Oct. 8 shootout on the Old Maxton Road about 300 yards inside the Hoke County line.

Barton who was on a weekend pass from the State Department of Correction Central Prison in Raleigh at the time of the incident is being held in the state prison in Mecklenburg County.

## Look First In Raeford

The Raeford Police Department is looking for information regarding a man who was seen in the area of the city recently.

## Escaper Caught After Breakin

An inmate who escaped from the N.C. Sanatorium in McCain Nov. 26 has been recaptured and allegedly confessed to breaking into the home of Mrs. Albert L. Hatos, in Ashley Heights on Nov. 27 at 2:15 p.m.

The escapee Amos Junior Chandler, 23, allegedly pried a small glass from the rear door of the house, possibly using an ax removed from a tool shed at the rear of the residence.

Sheriff's deputies report \$50 in coins was missing from the bedroom.

## UF Drive Nears Goal

Wednesday morning total United Fund contributions reached \$14,153. It appears the goal of \$19,636 will be reached, said Younger Snead Jr., campaign manager.

Recent contributions received were Tex-Elastic Corp., \$1,948; Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co., \$150; and Hoke Oil and Fertilizer Co., \$240.

The total is expected to show an increase when Kind-A-Way Inc., Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., and many other businesses submit their contributions.

Snead said others wishing to contribute to the fund may send their donations to the News-Journal.

## City Council Votes Yes On Rezoning

The Raeford City Council approved a rezoning recommendation of the city planning board at its regular monthly meeting Monday night.

The property on Harris Ave. between Bethel Road and Roberts St. belonging to Mrs. Mary Tapp and Mrs. Sarah Calbreth will be rezoned from residential to commercial.

The council voted to continue water drilling in the Turnpike Road area and discussed the proposal to be presented by Federal Cablevision at the January meeting.

Also approved subject to approval of the North Carolina Local Government Commission was a contract with A.K. Lovin and Co. for conversion of city accounting records to comply with the uniform local government accounting system.

The councilmen approved entering into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources to provide planning assistance to the city and review zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and city charter.

This service will cost \$1,650 and will take approximately six months to complete after executing the contract.

## Two Men Jailed In Car Larceny And Auto Arson

Two Raeford men are being held in the county jail in lieu of \$7,000 bond in connection with the Nov. 29 break-in and theft of a car from Quality Motors, Harris Ave.

Preliminary hearings have been scheduled Dec. 15 for the pair, James Breen, 18, Rt. 2, Box 70, Raeford, and Mack McLaughlin, 18, Rt. 2, Box 528 A, Raeford. They are charged with breaking, entering, larceny, auto theft and arson of an automobile.

## Gutted By Fire

The stolen vehicle was found Saturday night by police Sgt. J.R. Riley and Patrolman Ora Dukes in the woods near Upchurch Pond.

The 1970 Chevrolet had been gutted by fire and the wheels, tires and battery were missing. Police recovered five tires, wheels and the battery.

The crime was discovered by Dukes at 6 a.m. Nov. 30. He reported the thieves broke into the Quality Motors office, took the key to the car and then drove away in the vehicle.

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The escapee Amos Junior Chandler, 23, allegedly pried a small glass from the rear door of the house, possibly using an ax removed from a tool shed at the rear of the residence.

Sheriff's deputies report \$50 in coins was missing from the bedroom.

At the regular meeting of the Hoke County Board of County Commissioners Monday Tax Collector Brian H. Thornburg formally tendered his resignation in a letter dated in mid November and effective Dec. 1.

The letter, delivered to the board by Thornburg, said he could no longer serve as tax collector for personal reasons.

After presenting the letter Thornburg told the commissioners they had given him "a raw deal." The former tax collector said there were stories circulating about him and the board never had allowed him to present his side.

Thornburg also stated he had been tax collector four years and had received no cooperation from anyone during that time.

T.C. Jones, board chairman, thanked Thornburg for his services and said the board appreciated all he had done to bring the collections up to date.

The tax collector's report for the year through November indicated 31.84 percent of taxes have been collected this year as compared with 27.82 percent last year at the same time.

Two Promotions During the discussion it was pointed out a savings of \$7,000 a year would accrue to taxpayers by operating the tax office with two people instead of three. Thornburg's salary was \$7,385.

The two who will operate the tax office were sworn in earlier Monday morning. They are former assistant tax collector, now promoted to tax collector Elizabeth Livingston with an annual salary of \$7,385. Her former salary was \$6,541.

The second person in the office is former clerk now promoted to assistant tax collector Bonnie A. Niven with an annual salary of \$5,251.00. Mrs. Niven's former salary was \$4,051.

Organizing In other action organizing the new board Jones was re-elected chairman and Tom McBryde was re-elected vice chairman. T.B. Lester was elected board clerk and appointed county manager with additional duties.

Additional appointments made by the board were Archie McQ Byrne and Mary Lee Matherley. She receives \$6,000 annual salary already budgeted, and Charles A. Hostetler, county attorney. Bonds for register of deeds, tax collector and auditor were examined.

The board members approved holidays for the coming year and appointed members to the Hoke County Fire Commission. They are: Ralph Barnhart, fire commissioner; W.F. McNeill, president; and members-at-large Crawford Thomas, Johnny Baker, Paul Frederick Johnson, Frank Bundy and Robert Jones.

Master Plan J.B. McLeod appeared before the board with representatives of the N.C. Department of Natural Economic Resources Division of Community Services.

These men said it would be possible to do a recreation master plan study in Hoke County. They said the county could apply for federal funds to assist with the study costs.

Total cost of the one-year study would be \$3,500. The county would be required to pay \$1,500 of this and federal funds, if granted, would pay for the remainder.

The commissioners decided to study the proposal and make a decision by the January meeting.

Other Reports County Agent Wendell Young reported on activities in his office during the month. These included a soil testing program by the 4-H Clubs, stream reclassification, harvest reports and swine inspection program.

County Home Agent Ellen Willis told of simple home repair workshop, radio programs, a demonstration house and helping hands council.

Public Hearing A public hearing on farm land assessment was set for Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. in the courtroom at the Hoke County Courthouse. This meeting is being called in compliance with a resolution of the North Carolina Association County Commissioners.

Lester explained the county commissioners hope to come up with recommendations on the problem as a result of the public meeting. The State See RESIGNS, Page 15

## Santa's Schedule

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and the Raeford Merchants Association announced Santa Claus's schedule.

Santa will circulate primarily in the downtown shopping area late each Friday and Saturday afternoon. He will also make periodic unannounced visits to other business areas in the city.