

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Miss Mabel McDonald called after the paper came out last week and said her telephone had been ringing all day concerning aid for the family I wrote about in this column.

She said that beds, mattresses, bed linen and many other things had been donated by the people of the county and that now the family was sleeping warm and had also received many articles of clothing.

Miss McDonald also said that the man was working and that the Social Services department would continue to give aid to this family.

It was hard for me to believe that 24 hours after the paper hit the streets that this family had been taken care of. Maybe the true spirit of Christmas is really in Hoke County.

I would like to thank the readers of this column for coming to the aid of this family.

A letter from Laurie Telfair received last week is too long to print but will quote a few paragraphs that I think will be of interest to her friends in Hoke County.

"Sorry I haven't written, the letter from Elaine made me feel guilty. It's not that I don't think about you. Every Monday when I get the News-Journal, I mentally compose a letter back. I just never seem to get them written.

"It's great to get the N.J. and keep up with the people bac 'home'. I am glad to see them prosper and am sorry to read of the misfortunes that occur.

"I was sorry to see Elaine leave so soon but you seem to have found a winner in Kay. She really is on top of things and the headline 'Alas, Poor Hamlet, They Played Not Well' just can't be beat.

"Finally I have landed a terrific part-time job, a copy reader on the day copy desk of The World Herald - a huge paper. It is fantastic experience-if I survive. Mr. Morris and Mr. Dickson can well appreciate my problems at editing-me with my lack of ability in spelling and inclination to careless mistakes. It should do wonders for me - if I last. In the first week I've done more wrong than right. The first day was a disaster. The only headline I wrote that wasn't changed came back too long and had to be done over.

"It was two degrees today when we were putting up the outside decorations. Last week it was -7 and we've had a blizzard already. Everyone says this is going to be a much worse winter than usual. Wouldn't you know it? I will probably freeze before spring.

"Well that's about it for now. Keep those papers coming folks-it's my last touch with reality. People who live by choice in climate like this can't be entirely sane.

"Have a nice Christmas and New Year. Love, Laurie"

Thanks Laurie and I can't believe you are still around with that kind of weather.

To all my readers and to Lib, Lucy Gray, Margaret Ann, Laurie, Carol and Elaine, may you have the best Christmas yet. Keep in touch, everyone at the office thinks of you always.

Local Offices' And Businesses' Holiday Hours

Holiday closings for offices and businesses in the city and county are announced.

The Food Stamp Office will close for the week from Dec. 25 through Dec. 30. City Offices close noon Dec. 22 through Dec. 26.

County offices are closed Dec. 25 and 26.

Clerk of Superior Court office closes Dec. 25 and 26.

The Post Office and federal offices close Christmas Day only.

Most stores in downtown Raeford will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Friday. Saturday's closing time has not been determined. Stores will close Christmas Day and reopen Dec. 26.

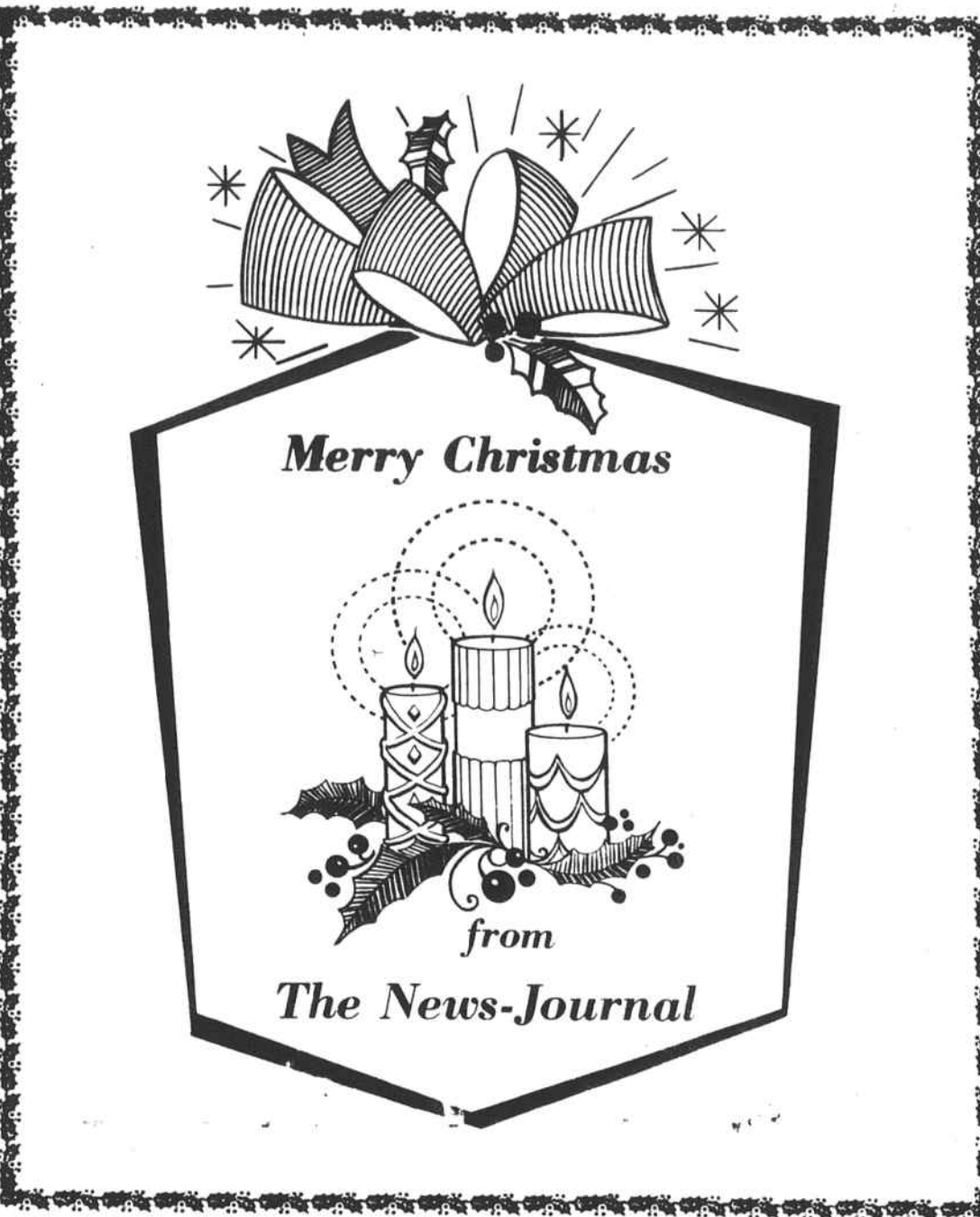
Social Services office (welfare) is closed Dec. 25 and 26.

Both banks, Southern National and Bank of Raeford, will close Dec. 25 and 26.

The News-Journal business office will remain open all day Dec. 22 and until noon Dec. 23 in order to accept gift subscriptions. The office will close Christmas Day.

Messiah Choir's Local Broadcast

Christmas Day the Bank of Raeford will sponsor the re-broadcast of the Messiah Choir of Independence, Mo., in its 56th annual performance of Frederic



Claim Ruling Not Affect Rape Case

Last week's order by the state Supreme Court that the death penalty in a Johnston County case be changed to life imprisonment has led to speculation concerning the validity of the death sentence meted out in the Junior Lee Washington rape case here last month.

In the Johnston County case the choice of recommending life imprisonment instead of death was the responsibility of the jury. Connell Carroll, convicted of first degree murder and armed robbery in a December 1971 slaying, received the death sentence when the jury did not recommend life in prison.

In last week's decision the state high court ruled the death penalty cannot be imposed in North Carolina under present law which permits juries to decide between life and death for the defendants.

No Bearing

Solicitor Jack Thompson, prosecutor in the Washington case said the recent decision of the state Supreme Court has no bearing on the Hoke County case.

"The Raeford case is totally different from the Carroll case," he told the News-Journal. "In the Washington case the jury was given no choice in the sentencing only in the innocence or guilt of the accused," continued the solicitor.

Thompson feels North Carolina must restore the death penalty either by court decision or legislative action. He said the high court's ruling in the Washington case will indicate how to write new legislation if it is needed.

Not Playing Around

Concerning stories reporting the Hoke County case as purely a test case Thompson stressed, "We are not playing around with a man's life. I sincerely feel the defendant in this case deserves the death sentence."

The solicitor explained the confusion over the constitutionality of the death penalty stems from the wording of the North Carolina statute in relation to the June 29 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thompson reports the state statute says the penalty for rape is death but if the jury sees fit it may recommend life imprisonment.

The nation's highest court ruled the death penalty as it was being carried out in the United States was unconstitutional because it allowed arbitrary executions by giving the jury a choice between life and death sentences.

Heard Both Cases

Judge Coy E. Brewer, who presided at both the Washington and the Carroll cases, points out the high court has not ruled on capital punishment when the death sentence is mandatory.

He feels the U.S. Supreme Court has struck part of the North Carolina statute, leaving the portion which says the punishment for rape is death.

Jury Charged

It was on this basis he charged the Washington jury, "This (life or death) is not your decision to make. You will return a verdict of guilty as charged or innocent. If the verdict is guilty the sentence will be death in the gas chamber."

Judge Brewer agrees with Thompson the recent state Supreme Court ruling will have no effect on the Washington case.

Attorney General

Commenting on the state Supreme Court ruling in the Carroll case Robert Morgan, state attorney general, said on radio station WRAL in Raleigh, "The decision handed down by the high court states that in this particular case (Carroll) the state was without authority to execute the death sentence for first degree murder.

"It did not say the entire death penalty statute is unconstitutional. It did not rule out the death penalty in North Carolina.

"As applied to the case in question the

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Sales Tax Collections

The November report from the State of North Carolina Department of Revenue listed the net collection in Hoke County for the local one percent sales and use tax as \$12,682.38.

This figure reflects a downward trend in recent months. It is \$251 below the October collections and \$1,257 less than the amount listed in the September report.

Need Early N-J Items

News items for the Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 editions of The News Journal should reach the N-J office as soon as possible.

The early submission of items is requested because even though the N-J will close Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, printing days will still be on Wednesdays.

Leonard Decision Up To Assembly

The 1973 general assembly will receive a recommendation to close the Samuel Leonard Training School in McCain, announced James M. Paige, commissioner of Youth Development, at an 11 a.m. press conference in Raleigh Wednesday.

Yule Gifts For Local Patients

Mrs. Richard Neeley Patients Service chairman for Hoke County and other volunteers are assisting the Mid - State Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association with Christmas presents for sanatorium patients from this county.

The gifts will be taken to local people in Gravelly Sanatorium in Chapel Hill and McCain Sanatorium in McCain over the Christmas holidays.

The Mid - State Association, which is composed of 12 counties including Hoke, is arranging thorough volunteers in the area for all sanatorium patients to be remembered during Christmas.

Special Christmas activities planned for both institutions include a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

Live Nativity At Raeford Church

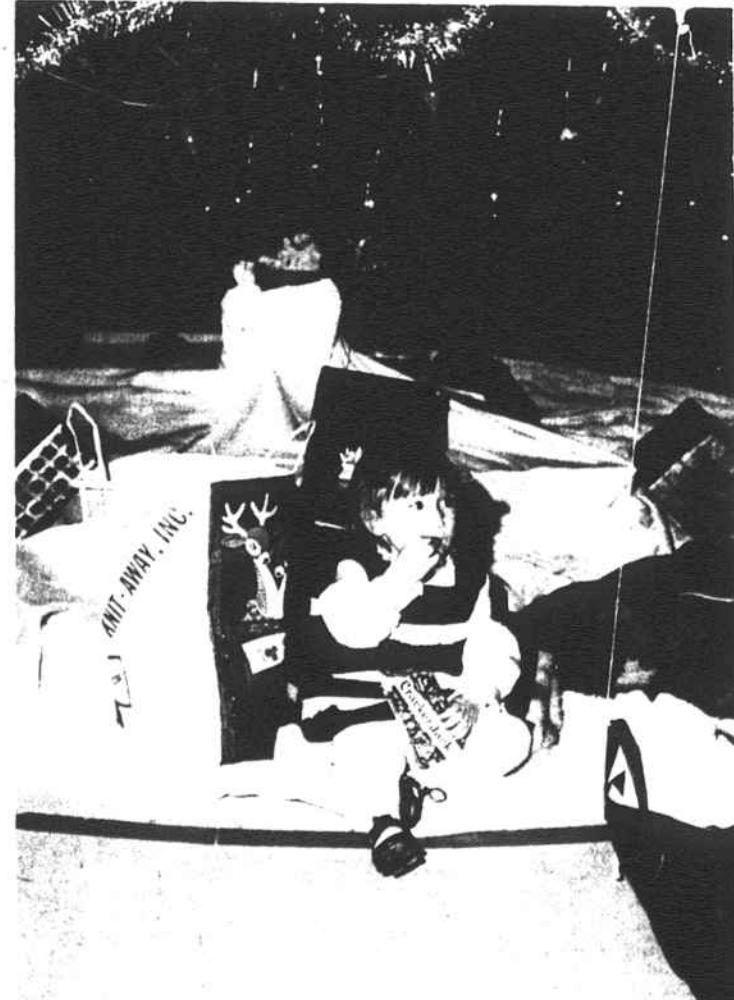
A living tableau of the traditional Nativity Scene will be presented again this year by members of the Senior High and Pioneer Fellowships of the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

This annual presentation is offered to area citizens as a Christmas "Present" from the young people and their leaders in the church.

The Rev. John C. Ropp, minister, announced the Scene may be viewed by automobile passengers on Edinborough Avenue. The presentation is Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 to 9 p.m. On Sunday the young people leave the Scene at 7:30 p.m. to participate in Christmas Eve Communion Service with the congregation, then return at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Assisting in planning and staging are Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goza and Mr. and Mrs. Harless Wright, adult advisors for Senior High Fellowship; and Miss Betty Smith and Miss Elizabeth Johnson, adult advisors for Pioneer Fellowship. Many others gave time and talents in helping with details.

Depicted in the still-scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the angel, wise men and shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged for this event, and appropriate music with narration of the Christmas Story from Luke Chpt. II will be heard in the background.



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THE REAL THING - Wide-eyed little girl sits under huge tree at Knit-A-Way Inc.'s first annual Christmas party and wonders if she's dreaming. She knows one thing for sure, Christmas is crunchy when it comes from the box of caramel corn in her lap. (Photo by Jesse Peoples)

In his statement to the press Paige said this recommendation will be made by the Board of Youth Development with provisions that staff positions be transferred to other schools within the system in order to upgrade and further develop programs in the remaining schools.

A recommendation will also be submitted to convert the Richard T. Fountain School at Rocky Mount into a diagnostic unit to serve eastern North Carolina.

There are absolutely no plans to recommend closing of any other schools, said Paige.

He further stated that 712 students from the eight Youth Development Schools will be granted home visits during Christmas Holidays. In addition 174 students will be released from the schools to return to community living.

Christmas holiday home visits will be increased this year from the usual five day period to 11 days. This is the largest number of youngsters to ever be granted home visits during a holiday season. This will not only provide the students an opportunity to spend Christmas with their families but will also help in determining readiness for return to community living, stated the commissioner.

In a telephone interview with the News-Journal Paige stressed the recommendations were the result of studies by the Board of Youth Development but the final decision on whether to close the McCain facility will have to be made by the General Assembly.

The board made the recommendation based partly on the steady decrease in population at Youth Development Schools throughout the state.

The board is also asking the assembly for ten group homes, frequently called half way houses. At this point there is no decision as to possible location or funding of the group homes. Details of the

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Crash Kills Local Man

A 20-year-old Raeford man was killed in a head-on collision on a rural paved road near the Irongate County Club in Cumberland County at 6:55 p.m. Saturday.

Bruce Graham, Rt. 1, Raeford, died instantly from multiple injuries when his car veered across the center line and slammed into the front of another vehicle.

Graham apparently was traveling at a high rate of speed and skidded on a curve less than a half mile from the country club, reports State Highway Patrolman E. M. Roberts.

A witness reportedly saw a second person in Graham's car just before the accident but investigation indicates the report was in error.

Injured in the second car and taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital were Lebron Edward Lee, 29, his wife and two children.

Funeral Service

Funeral services for Graham were held Monday in the Second Baptist Church by the Rev. Louis Jolly. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Mary Graham, Raeford; two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Wilkes, Raeford, and Mrs. Susan Manstein, Chicago, Ill.; two brothers, Billy and Tommy Graham, Raeford; and paternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Graham, Lumberton.

Mill Holds First Party For Young

More than 1,500 people attended Knit-A-Way Inc.'s first annual children's Christmas party at Gibson School gymnasium Saturday.

A thousand gift bags containing toys, games, candy and gum were distributed to guests up to 12 years old.

Dominating the gym was a towering 20-foot tree which measured 25 feet in diameter. It was lighted with 600 bulbs and decorated with garlands and icicles.

Santa greeted and talked to youngsters near the tree. The Hoke High School Choral and Children's Choir rendered a selection of Christmas tunes.

Committee chairmen were Fred Williams, corporate personnel director, and Dick Lovette, personnel manager. Others were Dennis Teasley, Richard Pascal and Jerry Hall, decorations; Preston Black, mechanical service; Phil Foxworth, safety; Carl Dooley, electrician; and Mrs. Lynwood Moon, table decorations.

This week Knit-A-Way will present employees turkeys, fruits, nuts and candies.