

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The following note was on a Christmas card received last week from Lucy Gray Peebles:

"Dear Sam:
"Read your Xmas greeting to former members of the firm at 12:45. (Thanks). So you see I have to read The News-Journal even if it's midnight before I get to it. I'm healthy and happy so the good wishes you extended should come true without fail.
Sincerely, Lucy Gray."

Raz Autry and his committee at the Arabia Golf Club have another tournament coming up. It is the monthly four ball tournament and will be held Sunday, December 31. The official starting time will be at 12:30 p.m. Raz states that a team could play in the morning if they so desire.
So your tournament golfers get ready for another big day at Arabia.

The pro football games over the weekend really did have exciting endings. This coming weekend should be filled with another day of thrillers.

Saturday in the Sun Bowl between Carolina and Texas Tech. Then on Sunday the Washington Redskins play hosts to the Dallas Cowboys.

So even if the weather continues to turn cold we can all sit around the TV and watch football.

This being the last issue for 1972, I think back to the year that just passed and would like to say that it wasn't so bad after all. Even with a Republican landslide most people seem to think 1972 was a successful year in about all ways. Of course I wish the troops and POWs had returned during the year but I suppose we can't have everything turn out for the best. I only hope that during 1973 that we once again can have peace in our time.

I also want to thank the many folks that have contributed to this column. Without your letters and small tales I couldn't possibly get something together every week.

I want to wish to everyone A Happy New Year!

Farmers Want Property Assessment Based On Use, Not Market Value

United Fund Increases

Tuesday total United Fund contributions reached \$15,459.92. This is approximately \$4,000 under the \$19,636 goal which Younger Sneed Jr., campaign manager feels will be reached.

Recent contributions received were from instructors and staff of Samuel Leonard Training School, \$137.50; and McCain and Quehuffle Township, \$672.92.

The goal is expected to be reached when Knit-A-Way Inc., Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., and other businesses submit their contributions.

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

Man Held For Shooting

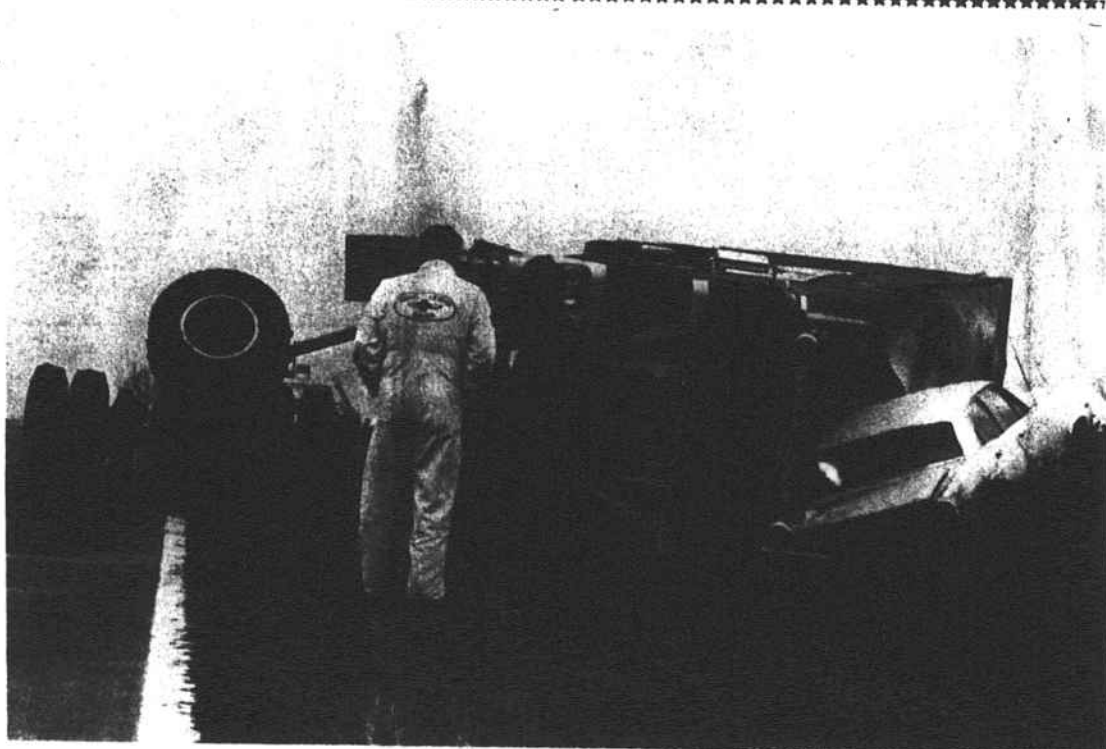
A Fayetteville man is being held in the Hoke County jail without bond on charges of murder in connection with the Saturday morning fatal shooting of Johnny Daniel Fairley, 26, of the Oil Mill Section.

Awaiting a Jan. 12 preliminary hearing in District Court is the suspect John Edward Bethune, 26, who surrendered to Raeford Police Sgt. J.R. Riley and Patrolman Earl Wiggins at 9:45 a.m. Sunday.

Raeford police were called to the Oil Mill residence of Amos Jones at 3:45 a.m. Saturday where they found Fairley with a shotgun wound in the stomach. The wounded man died at Cape Fear Valley Hospital at 5:20 a.m.

Chief James E. Lamont said a warrant was issued for Bethune's arrest based on information received from witnesses to the assault.

Investigating officers are Lamont, Riley and Sgt. Leonard Wiggins.



TWENTY-TWO TONS OF EXPLOSIVES - Truck loaded with explosive shipment turned on its side following collision with automobile last Thursday morning on state highway 211 west on Raeford. Drivers of both vehicles received minor injuries.

Explosive Truck Collides With Car

A truck carrying 22 tons of explosives was involved in an accident Thursday morning on state highway 211 three miles west of Raeford.

Two men were slightly injured in the crash and one was cited for making an unsafe movement.

Cited was Perry Dean Stewart, P.O. Box 116, Raeford, driver of a car involved in the crash, reports Highway Patrolman J.F. Stanley.

Investigation indicates the truck driven by Benjamin Franklin Marshall, Princeton, W. Va., was in the left lane passing cars when Stewart's vehicle pulled out of the right lane. Stewart and Marshall were injured.

The truck flipped over on its left side with a double axle and wheel assembly torn from its undercarriage. The car was smashed against the roof of the truck.

Members of an explosive ordinance detachment at Ft. Bragg were called shortly before noon and completed unloading the cargo at 10 p.m. Thursday. Hoke County Rescue Squad and North Raeford Fire Department stood by during the unloading.

It was 9 a.m. Friday before the two vehicles were removed from the scene.

Campaign Updates Moore, Ewing Named Chairman

Moore Memorial Hospital has launched a \$2,000,000 public campaign to help support the largest expansion and modernization program in its history. Board Chairman Dr. J.M. Medlin announced.

The large majority of patients who rely on Moore Memorial Hospital come from eight neighboring counties including Hoke. Projections indicate that 807 or 8.5 percent of the total admissions for 1973 will come from Hoke County.

The Board of Directors named Robert S. Ewing, publisher of the Moore County News, to be general chairman of the public campaign.

More than \$250,000 has already been pledged, Ewing said. The Woman's Auxiliary of the hospital pledged \$150,000 and the hospital employees \$50,000. The remainder has come from other friends of the hospital.

A campaign among all employees with a challenge goal of \$50,000 was oversubscribed by \$253 with pledges still coming in. It is the largest fund-raising effort ever undertaken by the employees and the highest total ever subscribed. The campaign was headed by Chief Engineer Rufus Mahaffey.

Ewing said at least two foundations have shown interest in helping on a matching basis, but they are waiting to see what people in the hospital's service area do.

"This is just one more reason why we must do well here," Ewing said. "We need a minimum of \$2,000,000 from the public. Every dollar raised over that will reduce the amount the hospital has to borrow."

The expansion program will cost an estimated \$9,900,000, Moore Memorial Administrator Mr. J.J. Shinn announced. He said the federal government will provide a grant of \$1,500,000. The remainder of the cost, except that produced by the campaign, will have to be borrowed.

Mr. Shinn said the hospital is operating at capacity and statistical studies indicate that the need for the hospital's services

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New Year's Day Business Hours

New Year's Day hours for offices and businesses in the city and county are announced.

The News-Journal business office and plant will be open Jan. 1.

The Bank of Raeford will be open New Year's Day.

Southern National Bank will close New Year's Day.

Most stores in downtown Raeford will close Jan. 1.

Also closed Jan. 1 will be city, county, state and federal offices.

The post office will also close New Year's Day.

PD To Extradite Suspects

Police Chief James E. Lamont expects to be in New Jersey next week to extradite two men who are wanted in connection with the Dec. 19 break in at Wood's Furniture Store on Elwood Ave.

The suspects Henry Medlock, Patterson, N.J., and Alvin R. Evans, New York City, were stopped Dec. 20 by a state trooper for driving too slowly on the New Jersey Turnpike.

The patrolman checked the contents of the truck and found several television sets bearing tags from Wood's store. Kermit Wood, owner of the firm, was called and

To Watch Slides

The Raeford Senior Citizens' Friendship Club meets at the Raeford United Methodist Church Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Miss Ethelynde Ballance and Mrs. Ellen Willis will be in charge of the program. "Spanning The Years," a slide show on preserving cherished old things in today's home. Members are reminded to bring newspaper for the paper drive.

Bicentennial Head To Address Women's Club

The January meeting of the Raeford Women's Club will feature an address by Richard F. Gibbs, Chapel Hill, director of the North Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (NCARBC). The meeting, open to all members and their guests, will be at the Civic Center Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Gibbs has been director of the NCARBC since its beginning in 1969. Immediately prior to accepting this appointment, he was working on his doctoral degree in American history at University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is known regionally and nationally for his work in bicentennial planning. He was an organizer of the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States, and served as its first chairman.

He was the principal drafter of the North Carolina bicentennial plan, American Revolution II, which received much acclaim in other parts of the nation. Additionally, Gibbs is the author of several articles on the American Revolution and the commemoration of its bicentennial.

Gibbs is a native of Charlotte, son of the late Dr. Wallace D. Gibbs and grandson of the late Dr. J.T. Gibbs of Warrenton. He, Mrs. Gibbs and their daughter Karen, a junior high school student, have lived in Chapel since 1969.

The Fine Arts Department will host the meeting under the direction of Mrs. Sarah M. McNeill. Mrs. J.L. McNeill is department chairman.

The Fine Arts Department is divided into visual arts, crafts, creative expression, cultural heritage, music and



RICHARD F. GIBBS

public speaking. The department's goal is to develop respect for heritage, reverence for all art forms and responsibility to preserve and continue family and ethnic arts and crafts.

The department offers club members information, opportunities and entertainment in all phases of the arts. It sponsors a creative writing contest for Hoke County students, a Girl Scout Troop and the fine arts festival.

During the past year club members supported the school reading program, the T.B. Christmas Sale, Senior Citizen's projects, Salvation Army Dolls, Samuel Leonard Training School, O'Berry Center, Girls' Haven and the horse show.

A public meeting in the Hoke County Courthouse Dec. 21 resulted in a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners requesting agriculture land be valued based on its present use and income - producing capacity rather than on its true market value.

The text of the resolution reads: "In the appraisal of land for the establishing valuation for real tax purposes, with reference to agriculture lands, the character of the present use of the land and its current income producing capacity, shall be considered in establishing value, and present market value shall be a lesser consideration than the value of the land for the purpose for which the land is actually used."

In the past it has been the practice to allow farm land preferential assessment but the state Board of Assessment says the county must adhere to state law which requires all land to be valued at fair market value.

The public meeting was called by the commissioners to seek recommendations from land owners concerning a resolution on farm land assessment to be submitted to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Based on resolutions from counties throughout the state the Association will probably recommend changes in the assessment laws to the state legislature.

Some of the land owners attending the public meeting were upset over rumors that farm land on road frontage would be assessed on the basis of residential value. Others had heard farms would be re-evaluated at their highest potential use. They believed pastures and cultivated acres might then be taxed as heavily as subdivision or industrial property.

At least one group of farm owners from McLauchlin Township was represented by an attorney, Phillip A. Diehl, at the meeting. Diehl explained the group was concerned over the next reappraisal of property in Hoke County scheduled for 1974.

Commenting on the meeting Lester said the farmers were upset over possible methods of re-evaluation before the schedule of standards had even been set. He reports the schedule will be set sometime in January 1974 and will be placed in escrow for ten days to allow the public to examine it. The standards must be approved by the State Board of Assessments.

The Commissioners have retained Southern Appraisal Co., Williamsburg, to check the classification of property in Hoke County. They will check the type of land and buildings so the information is available when the schedule is set. Southern's work should be completed in July 1973.

Lester says land owners will receive notices during August. These notices will contain details on hearings for land owners who feel adjustments should be made.

Diehl explained the taxpayer has 15 days to file a complaint after notification of appraised value of his land. The complaint will be heard by the County Board of Equalization and Review.

The County Commissioners serve as the Equalization Board without extra pay. Up until two years ago the commissioners were paid \$15 for each meeting attended including meetings of the Equalization Board. Now they are paid a flat monthly rate. The chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is paid \$40 a month and members are paid \$30 a month.

If a land owner is still dissatisfied after the Equalization hearing he may appeal to the final authority, the State Board of Assessments.

Recent Breakins

Deputy Sheriff J.R. Young is investigating a Dec. 18 break in at Curtis Cumming's residence, Rt. 3 Box 106, Raeford. A television set valued at \$299.95 was taken.

Raeford police discovered a Christmas morning break in at the Raeford Lumber Co., office on Main Street. Sgt. J.R. Riley reports the building had not been entered when he checked it at 5 a.m. but glass in the front door was broken when he again checked at 5:30 a.m.

Drawers in the office were rifled but nothing was reported missing.

