

Around Town

By SAM C. MORRIS

Several weeks ago I wrote about making Elwood Avenue a one-way street from Magnolia to Stewart. The following letter has been received in support of this suggestion.

The letter follows:
 "Several weeks ago a suggestion was made in The News-Journal to make Elwood Avenue from Magnolia to Stewart one-way. With this, the staff at the Raeford Kindergarten and Day Nursery certainly concur. We have a traffic and safety problem on our corner which would be eliminated by one way traffic on Elwood."
 The letter was signed by Eleanor Scull and Jean Holland.

Another letter was received from W.T. McLean of Clinton who was a native of this area. It follows:

"Sorry I missed the expiration date of The News-Journal, however thanks for the reminder and the rate to the old folks. I often think of the baseball games I played in with your Father, Bruce Morris and also your uncle Carl Morris. They were good baseball players.

"In thinking of the fellows who were members of the teams I used to play on, only Scott Currie and Hooch McLean are still around. Living in Raeford until the end of 1912, I still recall many men and boys that were around during the time I was growing up, however it seems that the majority of them are not around anymore.

"When a fellow passes eighty-four years of age the folks in your age group become fewer and fewer.

"I enjoy The News-Journal. Best Wishes"

W.K. Morgan, recreation director during the summer months asks that the following announcements be made to softball players.

An organizing meeting of the Hoke Open Slow Pitch Softball League will be held at the Uphurch School gym, Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. All people interested in participating MUST be present at the meeting.

Don't forget the annual Raeford Woman's Club Horse Show on Saturday, April 14th starting at 9:00 AM. More about this event will appear in later issues.

I have been informed that some civic clubs are going to collect glass to be re-cycled. I will also write more about this in later issues. Just remember to save your glass until plans are completed by these civic organizations.

I asked Robert Gatlin about the rainfall for 1973 but couldn't get all the figures as he didn't keep a record of the rainfall in January. In February, according to Gatlin, 10 inches of rain was recorded and through March 12 rain fall was 4.2 inches.

He also stated that the average yearly rainfall for this area is 49 inches to 52 inches. So if the rain continues we could have a record fall this year.

If anyone can give me the record for January I would appreciate it.

County Announces Special Meetings In Compliance With N. C. Statutes

Three County Session Fills House Seat

A committee authorized by the state legislature meets today to nominate a replacement to select a nominee to fill the vacancy in the General Assembly created by the death of Rep. Frank S. White, D-Robeson, who died Saturday.

The meeting at 2 p.m. in the court room of the Hoke County Courthouse is open to the public.

The committee which will select the nominee consists of two members from each of the three counties in the 21st District: Hoke, Robeson and Scotland. Hoke County's members are Neill McFadyen and W. T. McAllister.

Voting strength is based on population. Each County is authorized one vote for every 300 people. According to 1970 census figures the populations are: Hoke, 16,436; Scotland, 26,929 and Robeson 84,842.

The name of the committee's nominee will be sent to Governor James Holshouser who has seven days to make the appointment. If the governor does not make the appointment the nominee will automatically take the seat in the legislature.

A unanimous vote by Robeson County committee members would be the deciding vote at the meeting. Rep. Joy Johnson, D-Robeson, said Tuesday he expects his county to send the first Indian member to the General Assembly. He indicated the Robeson County committee members, Mrs. Brenda Brooks and Mrs. La Rue Jones, would vote for Henry Ward Oxendine of Pembroke.

Families Get Soldiers' Aid

Eleven needy families in Hoke County received four truck loads of furniture and household goods March 7, delivered by members of the 35th Signal Group from Ft. Bragg.

The distribution was part of a continuing domestic action program the Signal Group has had in operation since 1970.

The furniture and household goods were donated by people who bought new furniture or moved and did not want it. The furniture was picked up by the group and stored in a warehouse until its delivery.

"This is an outstanding and meaningful program," said Lt. Alan Buonpastore, domestic action program officer. "It shows an awareness of community responsibility. I think everyone should get involved," he added.

Anyone having excess furniture or household goods they would like to donate may call 396-8898.



COURTHOUSE BULLETIN BOARD - Notice announcing special meetings of the board of county commissioners will be posted on this bulletin board located between the two entries to the clerk of court's office in the Hoke County Courthouse. By law notice of special meetings must be posted here at least two days prior to the meetings. County officials began posting such notices last week.

F.S. White Dies At 61

State Representative from the 21st District Frank S. White, 61, of Pembroke died Saturday in Lumberton following an illness of several months.

White was elected representative in November 1972, succeeding Neill McFadyen, of Hoke County who served six terms in the legislature.

White was a Robeson County Commissioner from 1952 to 1958 and was a former member of the Robeson County Board of Education.

He had been a livestock dealer and was associated with Liberty Tobacco Warehouse.

A funeral service was held Monday at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. Masonic Rites were held in the church cemetery after the service.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Margaret Boie White; two sons, Thomas M. of Tuleresa, N. M., Frank S. White II of the home; a daughter, Miss Margaret Boie White of the home; a brother, Earl R. White of High Point; three sisters, Mrs. Susanna Samuel and Miss Marnie White of High Point, and Mrs. Wilma Lundsford of Yaupon Beach; and two grandchildren.

State Takes Nol Pros, Pleas And Presents No Evidence

In district court Friday Solicitor David Fox Jr., Nol Prossed charges against three youths charged in connection with the Dec. 20, 1972 break-in at Scurlock School and the Jan. 16 break-in at the Main Street home of Mrs. D.C. Cox. Two other youths received suspended sentences.

Charged in the cases which were Nol Prossed were Lonnie Bledsoe Jr., 16, Lewis Street, breaking, entering and larceny of Scurlock; Dwight W. Hasty Jr., 16, 908 E. Donaldson Street, breaking and entering of Cox home; and Daniel Edward Wilkes, 16, 632 E. Donaldson Street; breaking and entering and larceny of Scurlock and breaking and entering of Cox home.

Fox at first announced the state would take Nol Pros with leave, which means the cases could be reopened in the future. Judge Joseph E. Dupree advised the solicitor to show in court the state did not have a case. Fox then said the state would take Nol Pros, which means the case may not be reopened in the future.

Fox said his investigation and conferences with law enforcement officials and attorneys revealed the state could not justify trials in these cases.

Fox reported, "The state can find no legal way to pursue this matter."

In addressing Bledsoe, Hasty and Wilkes, Dupree said "The decision in this case was made by the state and not by the court. The solicitor has indicated his investigation revealed each of you had knowledge of but did not participate in the crimes."

Dupree reminded the youths they had embarrassed their families by their actions. He told Bledsoe, "Under case law you violated no law but you did violate a moral law by not coming forward and telling what you knew about the incident."

"There has been great pressure in this case," continued Dupree, "and the court will be accused of partiality. This is not so." The judge then cited the North

Carolina Records establishing precedence in the cases before the court.

One case indicates a defendant who had been picked up by codefendants five minutes before a crime was committed for sole purpose of giving defendant a ride should have been granted a nonsuit.

The two youths receiving suspended sentences were John Richard Harrell, 16, 908 E. Donaldson; and Billie Dean Holland, 18, 304 Harris Ave.

Harrell charged with felonious breaking, entering and larceny in the Scurlock incident and felonious breaking and entering of the Cox home entered innocent pleas. The state presented no evidence and the court found no probable cause. Harrell then pleaded guilty to misdemeanor breaking and entering of the Cox home.

Holland was charged with felonious breaking and entering of Scurlock and felonious breaking entering and larceny of the Cox home. He pleaded innocent, the state presented no evidence and the court found no probable cause. Holland then pleaded guilty to misdemeanor larceny of Scurlock School.

Holland and Harrell each were given two years as youthful offenders suspended three and a half years if they violate no penal laws and pay \$105 restitution. These sentences to begin at the expiration of sentences being served

See NOL PROS, Page 11

Thieves Active In Hoke County

A rash of thefts were reported to the Sheriff's Department recently.

Twenty five cartons of cigarettes, 18 cases of beer, and several packages of chops and steaks were reported stolen by Brantley Allen, owner of Texaco Grocery on 401-A.

Chester Price, investigating officer said someone entered the back door March 9 at 1 a.m. It was reported someone shot at the prowler.

Crackers and soft drinks valued at \$15 were taken from the Bertha Leslie Store on Rt. 1 Raeford, March 11, at 2:15 p.m. The thief broke the front windows of the store to gain entry, reports Deputy Sheriff J. C. Barrington.

Sheriff's deputies investigated a break-in at the home of Ora Mae Malloy of Rt. 4, Red Springs March 12. Officers reported someone broke in the back door and took two banks containing \$5 and \$7 in cash.

Deputy Sheriff Alex Norton on routine patrol spotted broken glass in the front door of Cut Rate Grocery March 9 at 4:30 a.m. Investigation showed beer and wine were taken from the North Main Street store. Officers said the store had been checked by deputies thirty minutes before the break-in.

Harvon Livingston reported to See THIEVES, Page 11

Court Funds Stolen Here

Someone robbed \$560 from the clerk of court's office at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 26. The money was in five, ten and 20 dollar bills.

Betty Wood, deputy clerk, stepped into hallway between two of the offices and while standing there heard the door to her office click.

She stepped back into her office and found the cash drawer open. Mrs. Wood told investigating officers she checked in main hallway of courthouse but could see no one, reports investigating officer Alex Norton.

The amount taken was determined by an audit. E.E. Smith, clerk of superior court, said he does not know if the missing funds are covered by insurance. He is waiting for a ruling by the State Administrative Court Office.

T. B. Lester, county manager and auditor, took steps last week to correct a situation which found the county commissioners holding special meetings which may have been in violation of state law.

North Carolina statutes require written notices of special meetings be posted on the courthouse bulletin board at least two days prior to the meeting. Before last week Hoke County authorities had not been posting these public notices.

Friday Lester posted a notice on the bulletin board announcing a special meeting of the board of county commissioners Tuesday at 10 a.m. A notice was also mailed to The News-Journal.

Legal Question

Minutes of the commissioners meetings indicate four special meetings have been held this year.

When asked if actions of the board at these unannounced special meetings would be legal, Lester replied, "I think so. I don't see any problem unless someone files charges against the board of county commissioners."

New Rates

At a Jan. 4 special meeting the commissioners appointed James W. Bailey Hoke County electrical inspector and authorized him to appoint his own assistant subject to approval of the board.

At the same meeting the commissioners approved a hike in electrical inspection rates. New rates (with old rates shown in parenthesis) are: trailer service, \$10, (\$7.50); construction, pole only, \$5, (\$5); residence including rough-in, \$20, (\$12.50); change over from 100 amperes or above, \$10, (\$7.50); and each additional trip, \$7, (\$5).

Joint Venture

At a Jan. 30 special meeting the commissioners decided by unanimous vote to let the city of Raeford manage and operate the landfill and pay 25 percent of the operating expenses with the county paying 75 percent.

John Gaddy, city manager, and Franklin Teal, city councilman, attended the meeting to discuss the operation of the landfill and purchase of new landfill equipment.

The commissioners voted to extend the tax listing through Feb. 9. They also discussed land and building schedules for revaluation.

Revenue Sharing

At a Feb. 23 special meeting the board voted to let the School Board use \$90,000 in revenue sharing funds to purchase land and construct a new building. This authorization stipulated the school board keep the county manager informed of progress and deed the present Board of Education Building to the county.

At the same meeting the commissioners agreed to use revenue sharing funds to pay for the county's share of new landfill equipment.

Concerning the new Board of Education Building, the commissioners will later discuss and vote on acquisition and payment of the property and will probably call for bids and vote on the expenditure of money to pay for the building.

Land Schedules

At a March 1 special meeting the commissioners discussed the 1974 revaluation schedules but no action was taken until the regular monthly meeting March 5. At that time the schedules were approved.

Open Meetings

State laws do not require the city council give public notice of special meetings, according to John Gaddy, city manager.

The North Carolina open meetings law states meetings of governing bodies, with See COUNTY, Page 11

P.D. Make Grass Arrest

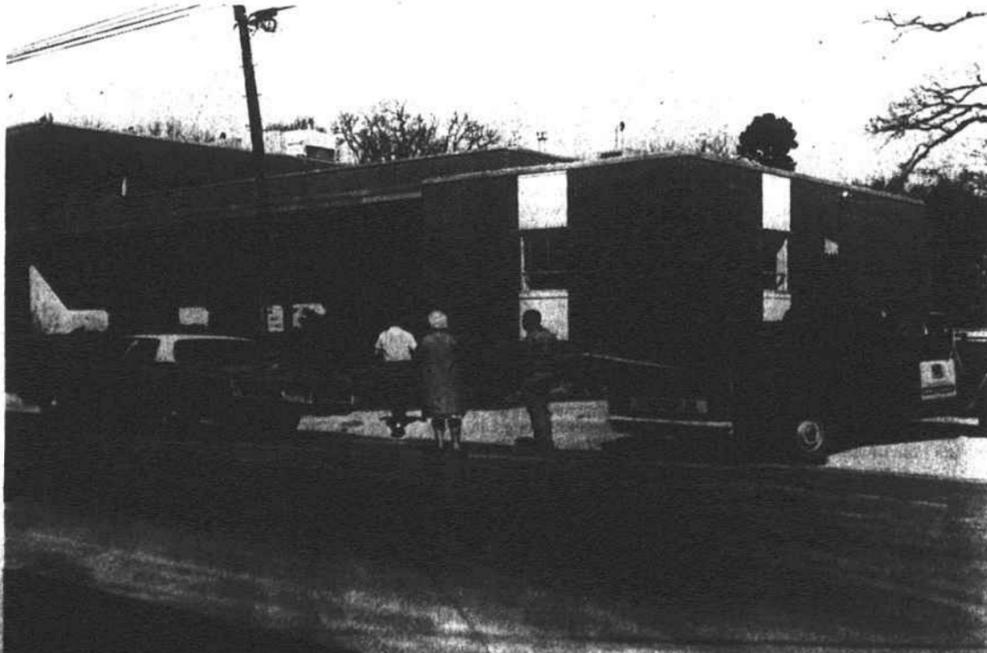
The first arrest for possession of marijuana in Raeford was made at 3:30 a.m. Monday by Sgt. J.R. Riley and Policeman Preston Moore.

Ricky Ward, 17, Rt. 2, Raeford, is being held in county jail in lieu of \$2,000 bond. His preliminary hearing is scheduled March 30 in district court.

At the time of the arrest Ward was driving a vehicle which had been reported stolen in Austin, Tex., police say. Moore and Riley stopped the car for a routine check.

The material was turned over to the State Bureau of Investigation and reports of preliminary tests show marijuana.

Chief James E. Lamont said Wednesday he had received word from the Texas Highway Patrol they do not plan to extradite Ward on the auto theft charges pending against him in their state. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is handling the theft case.



PKNDER BINDER ON WEST ELWOOD - An estimated \$250 damage was reported in this accident on West Elwood Ave. Tuesday. Police said Allen Ray Wood of Smithfield was backing his truck from the Post Office parking lot and was struck by the 1972 Chevrolet operated by Ronald Thrawler Strickland of Raeford. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$50 and \$200 to the car.