

The News - Journal

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1973

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Bill Bailey came by the office Tuesday afternoon and said his trip to Florida was fine. He didn't have a chart because the rain seems to have stopped for the time being.

Trooper E.W. Coen told me Tuesday at the courthouse that the amount of water still in fields would surprise many people in the county as it did to him Sunday. He said that he went up in an airplane and that it seemed that lakes had formed in about every field in the county.

The following letter was brought by the office this week by H.R. McLean. He said that someone named Graham gave the letter to his daughter who lives away from Hoke County and that she mailed it to him.

Raeftord, N.C. Aug. 12'08.

Dear Sir:

All Raeftord Institute students who were in school here while Miss Lizzie McDuffie was teaching knew her value as a friend and teacher and the high esteem in which she was held by all who knew her, a number of R.I. Boys being assembled, the following resolutions were adopted:

First: That we, former students of the Institute during the time that Miss Lizzie was teaching, endeavor to show our appreciation of her by having a life-sized portrait of her painted and presented to the school at the Educational Rally to be held here on Aug. 26th, provided we can secure prompt reply from the old students, contributing their proportional part, in order to have the work done.

Resolved Second: That only former students of the Institute be allowed to contribute, and that the boys who either recited to her or were in the High School Department be asked to give their part.

Resolved Third: That a programme be carried out at the above named Rally by the students in making a public presentation of said portrait, which will be hung in an appropriate place in the school building, and that all former students are cordially invited to be present on Aug. 26th.

Having secured sixty names of old R.I. boys, and the portrait and frame costing \$30.00 we find that your proportional part, therefore, is just 50c and if you feel interested in this and wish to have a part in this memorial of one whom we all loved so much, you will please remit the said 50c at once, so we can proceed with the work without delay. Remit by registered letter or P.O. money order to either F.P. Johnson or A.P. Dickson, Jr., Raeftord, N.C.

The committee appointed by the above name students, have also resolved that the names of those who respond to this letter and contribute, shall be read out at the Rally. We have secured the services of a former R.I. teacher, Miss Zula Tomlinson, to paint the portrait, and owing to the fact that she knew Miss Lizzie personally we feel sure the work will be good, as she is also giving us a \$50.00 painting for \$25.00 the frame costing \$5.00.

Trusting you will respond at once and favorably, we are,

Very respectfully yours,
A.P. Dickson, Jr. Ch.
F.P. Johnson Sec'y.

J.W. Turlington, principal at Raeftord Elementary School handed me the following:

"NOBODY LIKES ME AT SCHOOL," said the son. "The teachers don't and the kids don't. The superintendent wants to transfer me, the bus drivers hate me, and the custodians have it in for me. I don't want to go to school." "You have to go," insisted the mother. "You're healthy. You have a lot to learn. You've got something to offer others. You are a leader. Besides, you are 49 years old. You're the principal, and you have to go to school." (Sent in by Russell Allen.)

Senior Citizens

The Raeftord Senior Citizens Friendship Club's covered dish luncheon is 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Raeftord Methodist Church. Guests are members of the Parkton Senior Citizens Club. Raeftord members are reminded of the paper drive.

Commissioners Avert Crisis With Tentative Pay Increase Approval

P.D. Strength Increases

Starting May 1 the Raeftord Police Department will be above authorized strength with seven full-time men, one part-time patrolman and acting Chief Leonard Wiggins.

Chester Price and J.C. Barrington, both former Hoke County Sheriff's deputies and former city policemen, will join the Raeftord Police Department May 1.

None of the men who walked off the job without notice during the department crisis earlier this month have been reinstated although one of them, Junior Ward, has been rehired.

Authorized strength of the department is five men plus a chief but 80 percent of salary for two of the excess positions is paid by the state Criminal Justice Region and only 20 percent by the city.

Ten True Bills Given

The Hoke County grand jury examined 10 bills of indictment in a one-day session Tuesday. All of them were found to be true bills.

Indicted were Billy Ray Collins alias James Earl Collins, armed robbery; Mack McLaughlin, breaking entering and larceny and arson of a motor vehicle; Fredrick Lee Stephens alias Freddie Stevens, two counts of common robbery; Lorenzo Murchison, larceny; Glenn Franklin West, two counts of common law robbery; James Lowery and Edison Lee, escape.

Si grand jury members visited the McCain Prison and found everything satisfactory.

The grand jury thanked Superior Court Judge Coy E. Brewer, District Attorney Jack A. Thompson and his assistant Edward W. Grannis Jr. for their assistance. They also thanked Sheriff D.M. Barrington and the Police Department for their cooperation and efficient records.

Thieves Take Pipe And Seed

The Sheriff's Department is continuing investigations of recent thefts in the county.

Items valued at \$151 were taken from W.R. Bullock's farm, Rt. 3, Raeftord during the night of April 17. Among the missing items are a 12 inch length of galvanized pipe with nozzles, two bushels of seed wheat, a pump and a control.

Between 8 p.m. April 18 and 7:30 a.m. April 19 someone took an undetermined number of turkeys from the Upchurch Turkey Farms near McGroan Pond.

Ernest Dickens, Rt. 1, Raeftord, reported Friday someone dismantled a lawn mower at his home and took the engine valued at \$80 and a BB gun valued at \$9. Apparently the theft occurred between April 13 and 20.



DEAD FLIES PILE UP - Close up photo shows pile of dead flies near front door of John Graves' new home in Arabia. Apparently a number of residents in the area are plagued with swarms of flies. Graves claims the flies come from a nearby chicken farm owned by Burnice Williamson. Williamson told M.R. Mills, county sanitarian, state laws prohibit use of toxic pesticides because they contaminate eggs. Mills reports receiving complaints from two families in the area and said his department checked the chicken farm about two weeks ago and noted no deficiencies. Mills also contacted the insect and vector control section of the State Board of Health Wednesday morning to request a state representative inspect the chicken farm and assist in control of flies.

Area Law Salaries Below Rest Of Nation

Law enforcement salaries in Raeftord and Hoke County are well below those in other parts of the nation. A nationwide police employment survey published by the Department of Health Education and Welfare, Department of Defense, Department of Labor and International Association of Chiefs of Health Education and Welfare, Department of Defense, Department of Labor and International Association of Chiefs of Police lists law enforcement agencies throughout the United States which have openings.

Since all agencies listed in the survey are seeking employees it is assumed those with highest pay, broadest fringe benefits and best working conditions are probably not listed in the publication because their employment problems would be minimal.

The Raeftord Police Department is authorized five men and pay starting salary of \$427.66 a month. Of the 75 five-man agencies listed in the survey only three pay below the Raeftord salary. A typical entry for these departments show, of the five positions, two open now and two projected openings in the near future.

Included in the five-man department listings are 21 departments paying \$499 starting salaries, 23 with \$599, 26 with \$699 and two with \$799 starting salaries.

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Gaddy reports the proposed budget for the fiscal year has not been presented to the city council and until that time he can not indicate what the increases in salary may be for members of the Police Department.

City Manager John Gaddy said he plans to recommend some raises for the policemen. He hopes the amount will at least cover the cost of living increase during the past year.

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Owners of the goods have not been identified. The items found on the dirt floor of the barn include a 17 inch portable black and white Zenith television set, an Underwood adding machine, a Monroe calculator and a tool box containing assorted hand tools.

Cache Found

Sheriff D.M. Barrington reports a cache of goods presumed to be stolen were discovered in a tobacco barn on property of the Dundarrach Trading Company about 11 a.m. Monday by Mrs. Minnie McGregor of Stonewall Township.

On April 18 George Pittman Jr. reported the left front window of his car was broken and six to eight tapes were missing from the vehicle which was parked in the Raeftord Hotel parking lot.

Lawrence Bounds, McLean Street, told police spare tires were removed from two pickup trucks at his home the night of April 16.

Sales Tax Report

The March report from the State of North Carolina Dept. of Revenue listed net collections in Hoke County for the local one percent sales and use tax as \$12,935.58.

Man's Death Investigated

An autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause of death of a Raeftord man who was found on the bedroom floor of his trailer home about 7:20 a.m. Wednesday morning by his daughter.

The man Mitchell Davis, 49, was dressed in street clothes when his daughter Thelma Barbour found him in their trailer, lot 10, Greenwood Trailer Park just off N.C. 20.

State Bureau of Investigation is assisting the Raeftord police with the investigation. Acting Police Leonard Wiggins said a wound was visible in the dead man's chest but the type of weapon, if any, has not been determined.

Wiggins also reports there were no visible signs of a struggle in the trailer.

Two Men Found Guilty

Two men were convicted on several charges and sentenced in district court Friday for the theft of 17 hogs from the Raeftord Livestock Farms and Upchurch Milling Company.

Jack McGregor, Rt. 1, Raeftord was convicted of four counts of misdemeanor larceny, and one count of forcible trespass and attempted larceny.

He received 4 two-year consecutive sentences. Each sentence was suspended five years and McGregor was placed on five-year probation for each conviction. He was ordered to pay \$850 restitution and costs.

Cornelius Easterling, Queenmore Section, was convicted of four counts of misdemeanor larceny and found (See TWO MEN, Page 9)

Guard Tanker Supplies Water At West Hoke

A National Guard tanker filled with potable water is dispensing drinking water to students and faculty at West Hoke School. Tests on water at the school revealed a low level bacteria count and the pump was pulled for sterilization.

M.R. Mills, County Sanitarian, reports, "There is no danger. The count is so low a youngster would probably have to drink ten gallons of the well water a day in order to be affected."

The water problem is being alleviated by continued use of paper plates in the lunch room. Mills expects the pump to be in operation and the regular water supply to be drinkable soon.

He reports the water is still suitable for use in commodes and for washing hands.

The problem was created when the school ground was flooded following heavy rains. A drainage ditch behind the school was recently opened and the water level has subsided.

It appears Hoke County deputy sheriffs will receive salary increases requested by Sheriff D.M. Barrington for the 1973-74 fiscal year. At least the county commissioners at a special meeting Tuesday night tentatively approved the wage hikes pending final budget hearings.

The action was taken by the county fathers to ward off an impending employee crisis in the Sheriff's Department. The crisis was precipitated by low wages and increased standards for law enforcement officers throughout North Carolina.

Barrington told the commissioners two of his deputies, J.C. Barrington and Chester Price, are leaving the department early next week to move to the Raeftord Police Department where they will receive higher salaries.

He also said at least two and possibly three more deputies indicated they would resign if salary increases were held to 5.5 percent.

Latest federal instruction on Phase III guidelines indicate the county may, under present circumstances, authorize pay raises in excess of the 5.5 percent level.

"We'll end up with myself and one or two patrol deputies for the whole county," Barrington told the commissioners. "I'm trying to hold my department together," he commented.

Starting Salary

The sheriff pointed out, "Starting salary for deputies is \$5,000 a year. The dog warden earns \$5,500 and only two women on the county payroll earn less than most of my deputies and one of these ladies is a part-time employee."

"Until I get my salaries up to what the average married woman earns, I'm going to lose my men," continued Barrington.

The city is offering higher starting salaries with promised increases in July. There is even talk they are considering raising the chief's salary to somewhat between \$10,000 and \$15,000," said the sheriff.

Dialogue

Commissioner J.A. Webb said, "What we need them is to set a goal."

"We don't need a goal -- we need to do something," replied Barrington. "I need 'X' number of dollars per man to hire and hold deputies."

Commissioner John Balfour commented, "We agreed at the budget request hearings the deputies are underpaid."

"But," interjected Webb, "Money isn't everything. Think of the satisfaction the men get from their job."

Barrington retorted, "That is no help when you have to refinance your house because you are in debt with a salary so low you can't feed your children and continue to meet your financial obligations."

Take Home Pay

The sheriff pointed out one patrol (See CRISIS, Page 9)

Correction

Last week's article in The News-Journal concerning a land option for the new Board of Education building reported Robert H. Gatlin obtained the 12.5 acre tract of land in 1958 from his mother, Margaret P. Gatlin in consideration of other articles of value and \$10. Omitted from the article was mention of 107.8 acres in McLauchlin Township which Gatlin deeded to his mother in exchange for the 12.5 acre tract.



TWO TRACTORS WORK ONE FIELD - dust was flying over Hoke County fields this week as farmers worked preparing fields and planting. Some men toiled day and night to accomplish the task. Tractor at left is pulling a disc harrow. One at right is spreading liquid, probably fertilizer.



WATER STILL REMAINS IN FIELDS - despite hot sun and windy days some fields in Hoke County are still under water following an extremely wet spring. Other fields dried out and were creating dust clouds during plowing.