

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

A bumper sticker appearing on some cars these days is as follows: "Don't blame me, I voted for George McGovern." How things have changed since last November.

I ran a letter in this column last week which was dated 1908. Last Friday Mr. D.H. Williamson, who is approaching his 90th birthday came by the office and was wanting to contribute 50 cents to the portrait of Miss Lizzie McDuffie.

It seems that Mr. Williamson knew Miss McDuffie and he had somehow mixed up the signature of A.P. Dickson, Jr with the publisher Paul Dickson.

I believe what caused this misunderstanding is that Paul Dickson a few years ago was collecting money for the cemetery fund and Mr. Williamson was working there during that time. Anyway I am glad to know that the column is being read.

While on the subject of the Class of 1908 I want to comment on the commencement exercises of that year. According to a graduation invitation for that year. The invitation follows:

"The Senior Class of Raeford Institute request the honor of your presence at their Commencement Exercise—May 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20, Nineteen hundred and eight."

Now I would say five days is really a nice graduation time. I imagine the exercises were filled speeches and other fanfare for the five days.

The sound of the loudspeaker each afternoon and nights tells me that the soft music has started once again. I haven't been able to figure out who has the biggest time at the games—the players or the fans. It would seem that the players play a game so that they can become fans for two games. The games have brought enjoyment to many in Hoke County and I hope that they will continue to do so.

Don't forget the disposable glass pickup Saturday between the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take your glass to the parking lot behind the Raeford United Methodist Church. The drive is being sponsored by the Raeford Woman's Club and the Raeford Jaycees. This project is part of the "Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc." and everyone should help to do just that. Take out a few minutes and take any bottles or other glassware to the lot on Saturday.

As I write this column it is hard to believe that four months of 1973 have passed. I guess that as my father used to say that the older one becomes the faster time seems to slip by.

I like the changing of the clocks to Daylight Saving Time. It would suit me to have it that way 12 months instead of six but I found out many years ago that I don't always get my rathers. Anyway everyone can get the hour back the last Sunday in October.

## Rains Cause Bug Problem

M. R. Mills, county sanitarian, reports the mosquito problem in Hoke County will be "outrageous" due to the great amount of water in fields and wooded areas as a result of the recent unusually heavy rains.

He reports the city of Raeford will be able to obtain melathion from the state board of health for fogging operations. The city has fogging equipment and personnel to carry out the operation.

"But," claims Mills, "the large area of 326 square miles may deter spraying in Hoke County." If county fogging operations are undertaken, it would entail spraying with airplanes. Although the state would pay half the expenses, the cost to the county would be prohibitive.

Mills said if illness directly attributable to mosquito infestation occurs, the state may supply additional aid.

# Collins Appeals Robbery Conviction, \$25,000 Appearance Bond Set

## West Hoke Water On

Water problems caused by recent heavy rains and flooding at West Hoke School have been solved. All facilities at the school were in full use Tuesday after further testing of water showed no contamination.

One water sample taken April 18 showed a 2.2 level of Caliform bacteria, the kind found in human feces, probably caused by overflow from the septic tank. A second sample taken the same day was not contaminated. Daily samples since then have been tested and found potable.

The school's underground pump was pulled for sterilization and a seal was found to be leaking. The well pipe was extended above ground level and enclosed in concrete. The system was rechlorinated.

M. R. Mills, county Sanitarian, said water was used only in commodes and that all other sources were cut off. Students were asked not to use sinks for washing hands for one day. Drinking fountains were cut off four or five school days and drinking water dispensed from a National Guard potable water tanker.

D. D. Abernethy, Hoke School Superintendent, says the school was kept open because all testing of water at the school since April 18, has shown water safe for use and since safe drinking water was available, it would be better for the students to have an uninterrupted school term.

## Investigation Continues

Law enforcement officers investigating the April 25 death of a Raeford man say it appears Mitchell Davis 49, died from a self inflicted wound. A final determination will be made after results of the autopsy and laboratory tests are received.

Acting Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said investigation by the Raeford department and the State Bureau of Investigation indicated a 12 gauge shotgun was propped along a box spring at the time of the shooting. Severe powder burns along a chest wound and bruises on Davis' right arm, presumably caused by the jolt of the weapon, caused investigators to feel the death was not a homicide.

Davis' daughter Thelma Barbour found him about 7:20 a.m. on the bedroom floor in their trailer, at Greenwood Trailer Park just off N.C. 20. It is estimated the shooting occurred about two hours earlier.

Mrs. Barbour said her father had been in ill health recently, reports Wiggins. The SBI mobile crime laboratory was brought from Wilmington to assist in the investigation. Hoke County Sheriff's Department also participated.

## Reports Show Rash of Thefts

Kemp Radio and TV Service, Rt. 1, Raeford was broken into April 24 and merchandise valued at \$824 was taken. Among the items stolen by thieves who broke a window to gain entry to the building were television sets and tape players, reports the Sheriff's Department.

E.J. Smith, Ashley Heights, reported to authorities April 24 tires, wheels, batteries and tubes valued at \$122 were taken from farm equipment at McDiarmids' farm.

## April Meetings Set

Regular monthly meetings of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, the Raeford City Council and the Hoke Board of Education are Monday.

The commissioners meet at 9 a.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

The School Board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education building and the City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.



PUMP IS RAISED - Workmen raise well at West Hoke School and surround it with concrete in efforts to correct drinking water problem.

## High Court Rules Life Not Death

A Red Springs man who was sentenced to death in the gas chamber last November, appeared in superior court last week and was resented to life in prison by Superior Court Judge Coy E. Brewer.

At resentencing Brewer told Junior Lee Washington, "This resentencing was held at the direction of the state supreme court. I personally feel you were entitled to the death penalty for your crime and I so ruled at your trial last November."

The North Carolina supreme court remanded the case to the Hoke County superior court and directed a life sentence be imposed in lieu of the death penalty.

Washington was convicted of raping a Raeford woman Aug. 2, 1972. On companion convictions for kidnapping and breaking and entering Washington received life and ten years. The sentences are to run consecutively.

The convicted man informed the court he wished to appeal the life sentence and said he would talk to his parents about hiring a lawyer to handle the appeal. Brewer told Washington he had ten days in which to file the appeal.

J.C. Barrington Jr., requested release as Washington's court appointed attorney and was told to prepare the proper request.

After court Brewer stressed, "Anyone who commits such atrocious type crime, be he black or white, ought

## Thefts Reported

Tommy Wright, Niven Street, reported to police Monday morning someone had taken a landscaping rake from his yard sometime Saturday or Sunday.

Police report tape players were taken from two cars the night of April 25. One car was parked in the Hoke Auto Co. used car lot on Elwood Ave. and the other vehicle was in the Burlington Mills lot at the time of the thefts.

## Power Off

The cities of Raeford and Red Springs experienced a sixteen minute power blackout Tuesday from 10:24 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Ed Chappell of Carolina Power and Light said the blackout was caused by some unknown trouble in Robeson County between Red Springs and Lumberton.

All CP & L customers in Hoke County east of McCain were affected.

to receive the punishment as prescribed by the North Carolina supreme court.

"In January this year the state high court ruled the death sentence mandatory for all persons convicted of rape, arson, first degree murder and first degree burglary if the crime was committed after Jan. 18, 1973, but ruled out the death penalty for capital crimes committed prior to Jan. 18, 1973."

## Hoke Quota Falls Short

Hoke Countians are using more blood than they donate, reports Clyde Upchurch, Red Cross chapter chairman. Since June 1, 1972 residents used 360 pints of blood but donated only 225.

In an effort to make up the 135 pint deficit the American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be a Raeford United Methodist Church Monday from noon until 5:30 p.m.

The Hoke County quota is set by contract with the Piedmont Carolina Blood Center. "If we do not meet our quota," stressed Upchurch, "it is possible our contract could be canceled and Hoke Countians would have to pay \$30 a pint plus lab fees when they need blood. Now all they pay are the lab fees."

Hoke County sends blood to hospitals in Fayetteville, and Scotland, Moore and Robeson Counties as well as to Duke and Chapel Hill Hospitals.

Upchurch reminds all Hoke Countians of the blood drive slogan, "Only you can give the gift of life."

## Stagger Bill

A second bill introduced in the General Assembly by Rep. Joy Johnson, D-Robeson, which would stagger terms of office for Hoke County Board of Education members was referred to the calendar committee which will decide if or when the bill will reach the House floor.

A similar bill introduced earlier by Johnson was reported out of the House unfavorably.

Both bills would keep the five member board but would stagger terms beginning with the 1974 general election. The new bill calls for election on a non-partisan basis and specifies board members would vote for a replacement to fill an unexpired term should a vacancy occur.

## Most Budget Requests In

Most Hoke County budget requests which were due April 9 for the 1973-74 fiscal year have been received by the county government. Still to be received are requests from the mental health, ambulance service and Region N, Council.

The county commissioners will consider and review the requests and set a tentative budget. The public will be notified and the tentative budget will be available for public inspection at the county manager's office for at least 20 days. A public budget hearing will be scheduled after July 1.

County administration 1972-73 budget was \$10,461, requested for 1973-74 is \$10,739. Others are: tax collector, \$23,067, requested \$31,976; tax collector, \$23,590, requested \$24,061; elections, \$10,470, requested \$15,190; law enforcement, \$96,584, requested \$125,490; library, \$10,730, requested \$12,230; highway office building, \$5,000, requested \$2,350; and

Office building, \$6,843, requested \$8,928; courthouse and grounds, \$14,707, requested \$14,702; Register of Deeds, \$16,748, requested \$21,095; medical examiner, \$2,400, requested \$3,200; forest fire control, \$12,658, requested \$15,472; jail, \$19,616, requested \$22,431; jury commission, \$500, requested \$900; county aid, \$51,744, requested \$50,446; solid waste disposal, \$45,000, requested \$38,500; and

Contingency, \$9,415, requested \$20,000; civil defense, \$13,346, requested \$19,966; accountant, \$24,498, requested \$28,291; revaluation, \$31,270, requested \$20,400; farm demonstrations, \$21,917, requested \$23,295; veteran service officer, \$11,146, requested \$11,349; rural fire departments \$3,345, requested \$3,345; and

Social services \$137,810, requested \$157,608; public assistance, \$62,178, requested \$79,248; general assistance, \$3,760, requested \$4,500; health administration, \$82,760, requested \$96,508; county poor fund, \$14,617, requested \$18,674; and debt service, \$8,602, requested \$8,302.

## Spring Concert

The Hoke High School Band will present their Spring Concert Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the High school gym. The concert will be free to the public.

Music played will range from excerpts from the opera "Die Meistersinger" to sounds of the Three Dog Night.

## Neill J. Blue, 57, Is Buried Wednesday

Funeral service was conducted at Raeford Presbyterian Church Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock for Neill James Blue, 57 - year - old native of this community who died Monday afternoon in Winston - Salem. The service was conducted by the Rev. John Ropp, pastor, and burial followed in Raeford Cemetery.

pallbearers were to be Jimmy Plummer, Steve Phillips, Mike Prince, Tommy Wright, George McFadyen and Steve Hedgpath.

Mr. Blue was born here September 4, 1915, son of Mrs. N. B. Blue and the late Mr. Blue. He graduated from Raeford High School, and attended Oak Ridge Military Institute, The Citadel in Charleston, S. C., and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He entered the Army in 1940 with the Raeford National Guard unit as a private and served in the West Indies and Europe, where he was a field artillery captain.

He was a life insurance representative for many years, but had become less active as his health had become steadily worse. He was fond of young people and an avid follower of all sports at Hoke High School. He had been named an honorary life member of the Hoke

A Robeson County man is being held in lieu of \$25,000 appearance bond while waiting appeal of conviction and sentencing for robbery with firearms.

Billy Ray Collins alias James Earl Collins, 20, was convicted by a jury last week and sentenced to 20 to 30 years in state prison by Superior Court Judge Coy E. Brewer. The jury deliberated seven minutes.

Collins, according to testimony, robbed Fred Riley at his Ashley Heights store Jan. 14, 1972. Taken in the robbery were \$150 in cash, a pistol and a rifle valued at \$350.

Riley testified Collins and another man spent about 45 minutes in his store looking at guns. Riley said he turned to get some ammunition and when he again faced the men Collins was pointing a gun at him.

The victim testified Collins threatened to shoot him if he refused to open the cash register.

Collins testified he could not remember events of that afternoon because he had taken some "yellow jackets", smoked a couple of pipes of marijuana and drank about a half of case of beer or more.

Also charged in the Riley robbery was Steve Locklear, Stonewall Township. Locklear failed to appear and \$2,000 bond was ordered forfeited with judgment absolute.

## Receiving

Two men who entered guilty pleas to felonious receiving stolen goods were each sentenced to four to seven years in prison. Alvin R. Evans, New York City, and Harry Medlock alias John Gurney, Patterson, N.J. were convicted of receiving \$4,500 worth of merchandise which had been taken from Wood's Furniture Store Dec. 19, 1972.

## Assault

Andrew J. Willis, Fayetteville, was found innocent of assault with a deadly weapon. He had been charged with shooting Elmer Davis on July 6, 1972.

Bobby Lee Edwards, Green St., Raeford, pleaded guilty to assaulting Linda Edwards with his fists on March 10 this year. Edwards was sentenced to six months in jail.

## Larceny

Glen Franklin West, Crawford Street, Raeford, entered a nolo contendere plea to misdemeanor larceny in connection with the theft of guns from two boys on Dec. 31, 1972.

West received two years suspended four years and was placed on four-years probation. He was ordered not to go on any of Upchurch's ponds and not to violate penal laws of state or federal government during period of probation.

See COLLINS, Page 11

High Booster Club in a ceremony at a game two years ago.

In addition to his mother, Mr. Blue is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Joseph H. Hoffman of Winston - Salem and Mrs. W. A. Covell of Pensacola, Fla.



NEILL JAMES BLUE