

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

A section of the paper this week is the annual congratulations to the high school graduates. On the front page of this section is the schedule for the commencement exercises.

One event that I look forward to each year is the Senior Breakfast which will take place next Tuesday morning.

Congratulations to the Class of 1973 and I will see you at the breakfast.

I would like to say "Thank you" to Gail Conoly who has done a fine job reporting the student activities at Hoke High this year in the column, "Hoke Highlights." May your days ahead be filled with success. Thanks.

Mrs. A. K. (Sarah) Leach was by the office recently and showed me a parking ticket she received in Canada when she was up there with her husband. I would like to run the wording on the ticket in this column.

At the top of the ticket are the words "Parking Violation" then the regular lines for name, address, license number, etc. This is the following message.

"This is not a ticket, but if it were within my power, you would receive two. Because of your bull headed, inconsiderate, feeble attempt at parking, you have taken enough room for a 25 mule team, 2 elephants, 1 goat, and a safari of pygmies from the African interior. The reason for giving you this, is so that in the future you may think of someone else, other than yourself. Besides I don't like domineering, egotistical or simple minded drivers and you probably fit into one of these categories.

"I sign off wishing you an early transmission failure on the expressway at about 4:30 p.m. Also may the fleas of a thousand and one camels infest your armpits. With My Compliments."

Enough said!

Star Wilson Sessoms, a native of Rockfish, who now lives in Maryland, sends the following item concerning U. S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

"Attention: Submarine Veterans of World War II. Join your buddies for comradeship, recreation and information. A North Carolina chapter of U. S. Submarine Veterans of World War II, 1941-45, is being formed (Limited to those serving a submarine or sub tenders in any capacity outside continental waters.) To enroll contact: Star Wilson Sessoms, one Eugenia Ave., Glenburnie, Md. 21061. Phone 301-766-4470."

So if you want to belong to the chapter contact Star Sessoms at once.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 28 and a number of places in the city will be closed. Watch for signs on doors of places so you won't be caught napping.

'Empty' Gun Shoots Boy

A seven-year-old boy died at Cape Fear Valley Hospital May 16 from a gunshot wound received about 9:20 p.m. when a 22 caliber automatic rifle was apparently fired accidentally.

Rodney Earl White, son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. White of Stonewall Township, died about an hour after being taken to the hospital by his parents, report authorities.

White told investigating officers he had used the gun earlier in the day and thought it was empty. At the time of the shooting, White was preparing to reload the weapon in the livingroom of his home. The bullet hit the young boy above the left eye.

Hoke County Sheriff's Department investigated.

Police Report Thefts Abound

A .25 caliber pistol was reported missing Friday from the office desk of Dr. R.M. Jordan, 116 Campus Ave. Police were given a description of a youth suspected of taking the weapon. A youth answering the description was picked up by officers and found to be in possession of the pistol.

It was later discovered the youth was a runaway from the Leonard Training School. He was turned over to Juvenile Officer Howard Culberth.

Police records show the reported breaking and entering of the School Room 107 Elwood Ave. Raeford. A note was thrown through the window

Indian Act Could Benefit Hoke

Kidnap Hearing Scheduled Friday

Four people are being held in Hoke County jail without bond pending a hearing in district court Friday on charges of kidnaping, assault with a deadly weapon, highway robbery and auto larceny.

They are Kenneth Andrew Jackson, 16, who was born in Hoke County but gave his address as 2618 13th St. NW, Washington, D.C.; his half brother Frederick Lee Leach, 17, 2620 13th St. NW, Washington, D.C.; Tina Joyce Clark, 17, originally from Wheeling, W.Va., who gave her address as 1805 4th St. NE, Washington, D.C.; and Shirley Jane Herlth, 16, who according to Maryland authorities ran away from the Department of Juvenile Corrections group home in Baltimore May 12 or 13.

The four are charged in connection with an incident Sunday night in which they allegedly beat, choked, and robbed a Hoke County woman, kidnaped her 12-year-old daughter and stole the woman's car.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington reports Estella Thomas of Stonewall Township said she was giving the four suspects a ride to Raeford from Mrs. Irene McLauchlin's Antioch Community home at the request of Mrs. McLauchlin. Mrs. Thomas' daughter Patricia was also in the car.

Mrs. Thomas said one of the suspects looped a belt around her throat and threatened to kill her when she stopped the car on Saunders Street Extension.

One of the suspects, Mrs. Thomas was allegedly beaten, kicked, choked and dragged almost 70 feet by the belt around her throat. When she recovered consciousness the suspects reportedly were driving away in the car with Patricia.

Mrs. Thomas walked to the Sheriff's Department and reported the incident at 11:15 p.m. A wanted bulletin was broadcast and the suspects were apprehended by a highway patrolman after a high speed chase near Elm City. Patricia Thomas was not harmed. The suspects were returned to Hoke County Tuesday.

Teen Center Opening Set

The Recreation Commission appointed a young people's council to plan activities including dances for youths at the new teen center tentatively scheduled for June 1 opening in the Municipal Building on Main Street. Working on the project are Martha Anne Wood and W.K. Morgan.

In other action the commission voted to refer McLauchlin park plans to the city council for approval.

It was pointed out the group needs a replacement for Tom Walker in the bowling program.

Bill Passes

A bill to stagger terms of Hoke County Board of Education members passed the Senate and became law Tuesday afternoon.

The law provides the five-member board be elected on a non-partisan basis. In the general election of 1974 three members will be elected to four-year terms and two will be elected to two-year terms.

Thereafter elections will be held every two years but for four-year terms.

The investigation is being conducted by the Sheriff's Department. Raeford Policemen Gilbert Tillman and Earl Tindall assisted Chief Deputy Sheriff Harvey Young with the early stages of the investigation.

250 Hear J.E. Ramsey

Speaker of the state House of Representatives James E. Ramsey advised approximately 250 people about legislative action in the General Assembly.

Neil McFadyen introduced Ramsey Monday at the annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce dinner in W.T. Gibson cafeteria.

Lifetime memberships were presented to W.D. McLeod, former owner of City Market, and R.B. Lewis retiring Bank of Raeford president, by Sam C. Morris, outgoing chamber president.

Officers installed for the 1973-74 term were William L. Poole Jr., president; Bob Gentry, vice president; Ashwell Harvard, vice president, and Freddie Williams, secretary-treasurer.

Door prizes were provided by Knit-A-Way Inc., Burlington Industries, and House of Raeford. The Hoke High School chorale performed and dinner was prepared and served by county 4-H Clubs.

Man Attacks School Boy

A negro man described as over six feet tall, about 30 years old and weighing 240 pounds attacked a 14-year old boy, tied him to a tree and stole the youth's shirt, socks and 35 cents lunch money.

The incident occurred May 11 at 6:50 a.m. while the youth was waiting for a bus near his Montrose home.

Commissioners Seek Location

At a special meeting May 16 the board of county commissioners appointed a committee to search for land suitable as a site for a future county office building. A future building would replace the present county office building on Elwood Avenue.

This would not affect transfer of the present board of education building to the county for use of offices now located in the courthouse.

Appointed to the land search committee were Commissioners Tom McBryde and Ralph Barnhart and County Manager T.B. Lester.

In other action the commissioners voted to pay 45 days terminal leave pay to two county employees at time of their retirement June 30. The retirement plan could not be drawn until the commissioners set a date when the terminal leave would be paid.

The retiring employees are J.E. Gullledge, register of deeds and Archie McQ. Byrne, assistant tax supervisor.

Budget Change

In compliance with the Local Government Budget and Federal Control Act of 1973 County Manager T. B. Lester will submit a budget message to the Board of County Commissioners instead of a tentative budget.

Although the act becomes effective July 1 the budget message will be submitted prior to June 2 to permit commissioners time to study the budget recommended by the county manager before July 2 public budget hearing.

Sales Tax Report

The May 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 \$13,940.



ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER - William L. Poole, new Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce president, stands with guest speaker, James E. Ramsey, speaker of the state House of Representatives, and Neil McFadyen, who introduced Ramsey at the Chamber's annual dinner in the W.T. Gibson cafeteria Monday.

Is Hoke Hungry?

By Kay Piotrkowski

This is the first recent News - Journal article concerning hunger in Hoke County. It is written in light of the report by the U. S. Senate committee on hunger which allegedly states nearly one million poor North Carolinians are not being fed. This and subsequent articles are also undertaken in an effort to check the veracity of a story by Paul Bernish which appeared on page one of Sunday's edition of the Charlotte Observer.

The main thrust of Bernish's article is that the poor of Hoke County go hungry and the primary reason for the hunger is failure of agencies in the county which exist to help the poor.

To substantiate the hunger claims Bernish concentrated a major portion of his article on one Lumbee Indian family with two young children, Lorraine, 10½ months old, and Ray, 2.

The article reports the children's father is between jobs in Charlotte. It points out the mother leaves the youngsters with their aunt every day while she works at a local plant earning "some \$35 per week."

The News - Journal's investigation revealed the mother works for \$1.30 an hour. She earned \$83.20 last week and \$45.50 the week before. She could be eligible for food stamps and certainly must be aware of their existence because the aunt's family participates in the program.

The Observer article indicates the woman has not sought help because she does not want anyone telling her how to raise her children.

Additional Stamps
The aunt and her husband have seven children of their own at home and purchase \$208 worth of food stamps each month for \$93. Reportedly they have been keeping Ray and Lorraine for the past three or four weeks and have

Bike Thefts In Season

Reports of bicycle thefts soar as summer nears. Acting Chief of Police Leonard Wiggins warns bicycle owners to take precautions against thefts by first writing the serial number of the bicycle on a piece of paper and keeping it in a safe place. Wiggins said serial numbers were the only sure means of identification for bicycles.

Another safety precaution is to lock bicycles either in a storage room or with a chain and padlock. Wiggins suggests if bicycles cannot be kept inside, they should be kept away from the street near the house and locked when not being used.

Dr. R.M. Jordan, 110 Fulton, Raeford, reported two bicycles missing from his yard Friday. Investigation continues.

Lacy and James Blue, Rt. 2, Box 19, Raeford, reported two bicycles taken from the parking area of Hoke Concrete Works while the Blues were working inside Monday. Investigation continues.

May 15, Ralph Pandure, 611 Jackson, Raeford reported a bicycle missing. It has been recovered.

A bicycle was found near the ball park Saturday by Terry and Jeff Scarborough. It was turned over to the police. No owner has been located.

been feeding them along with their own children.

Under present food stamp regulations the families eligibility must be recertified every three months. Several questions asked during this procedure concern related and unrelated boarders in the home. The family was recently recertified but did not indicate the presence of Lorraine and Ray in the household.

Had they so indicated they may have been able to purchase additional food stamps for the two boarders provided their mother would pay the aunt and uncle an amount based on the minimum food stamp allotment of \$36 a month per child.

Families Fed
During April 2,401 Hoke Countians from 575 families used food stamps. Additional families who receive some form of public assistance also participated in the program. Twenty of these people from nine homes received the stamps free.

Others paid according to a sliding scale based on income, size of family, expenses and resources. In April \$56,885 worth of food stamps were purchased by Hoke Countians for \$20,524 - a savings of \$36,361.

Roger Dixon, Hoke food stamp administrator, says his office notifies food stamp participants by mail when to come to his office for recertification. Monday notices for those whose certification expires in June were ready for mailing.

If the individual fails to keep his appointment, a second notice is mailed 30 days after expiration of certification, reports Dixon.

Simpler Than Tax Forms
People applying for food stamps do have to furnish certain papers and information to prove their eligibility. Included are proof of amounts spent for rent, utilities, taxes and medical expenses as well as proof of income and number of people in household.

Some may object to this inconvenience but a study of the forms reveals they are not as complicated as most income tax forms. In addition, food stamp personnel fill out the forms for the applicants.

When the food stamp program began in Hoke County in July 1972 it was well (See HUNGRY, Page 15)

Two Retire

Two Hoke County employees whose joint service totals more than 42 years will retire June 30.

J. E. Gullledge, register of deeds since "3 p.m. Sept. 10, 1948," was originally appointed to fill an unexpired term of office. He has run for the office without opposition in every election since that time.

Gullledge who completed 24 years service last September ran the office without an assistant for 20 years. He has been married 41 years and lives at 316 E. Donaldson Ave.

Also retiring after 17 years service is Archie McQ. Byrne, assistant tax supervisor. He began as tax solicitor Jan. 1, 1956. At one time he served as tax collector. Byrnes resides at 710 Fulton St.

Both Gullledge and Byrnes attended a class to learn the retirement options available. The retirement system is based on a combination of age and years of service.

Hoke County schools may qualify for \$41,258 Indian Education Act (IEA) assistance if they can meet federal requirements by June 8. The Board of Education received notification of the requirements May 17.

A public hearing will be held at the Board of Education Building Friday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss use of IEA funds.

The funds will be based on a rate of \$61 per Indian child. Hoke schools have 678 Indian students enrolled. The 1972 IEA states the funds may be used in various areas; vocational, dental, psychiatric, counseling, math, language and arts. The N.C. State Department recommends the funds be used for language, math and arts.

To qualify Hoke must first form an advisory council at least half of whose members must be parents of Indian children who will participate in the program. The rest of the council may be drawn from teachers and secondary school students.

Once the council is formed they must decide on a program which will meet federal approval. According to D.D. Abernethy, Hoke school superintendent, "The program must comply with the civil rights act and must be administered so as to avoid reverse discrimination."

All of this must be accomplished soon enough to permit the paper work to reach the federal government by June 8. The program for the 1973-74 school year will receive approval or disapproval by June 30. If some points should not meet federal requirements it is hoped they may be revised and approval negotiated.

Public action on the program began Monday night when the first of three area meetings was conducted by the Hoke County Jaycees in the Lowry Community. Meetings were also scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Hoke County Pentecostal Church and South Hoke Baptist Church.

The meetings were held to explain the program to the Indian community and to select nine parents of Indian children for membership on the advisory council.

Earl H. Oxendine, South Hoke principal, says he feels, "Indian students at Upchurch Junior High School and Hoke County High School could benefit most from the funds if used to involve the students in the main stream of school life and extracurricular activities."

He points out, "In these two schools the percentage of Indians in the student body makes them the minority of the minorities."

Indians File Co-op Action

Seven Robeson County Indians filed suit in U.S. District Court, Fayetteville, against the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation charging the company with illegalities in the November 1970 election of the co-op's board of directors.

The suit was brought by Lee Vester Carter, Doug McMillan, Wilmon Rogers, Frank Jacobs Jr., Doyle Locklear, Reedy Locklear and Preston Brooks.

The suit charges co-op officials with conspiring to defeat the election of two non-white candidates, Elias Rogers and Thomas W. Bethea.

A suit brought by Rogers, after the election has been dismissed on the grounds Rogers had already been granted the relief he sought by being appointed to the co-op board.

Rogers claims his defeat was due solely to racial discrimination by ballot box stuffing, false ballots and proxies. Rogers is appealing the dismissal of his case through the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

The new suit names Cecil S. Dunn and Neil A. Watson, 1970 members of the corporation; Irvin R. Currie, office manager; W.B. McDiarmid, candidate for a board post; and the corporation itself.

County Thefts

William H. Womble Jr., Center Drive, reported the theft of a bicycle valued at \$100 taken from the carport of his home Friday between 4:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Charlie McNulty, Harmony Heights, reported the theft of \$15 in pennies from a jar in his trailer May 16 between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

A \$450 television set taken from Upchurch School between May 11 and May 14 was recovered by Deputy Sheriff J.R. Young in a wooded area behind the school. Also taken in the breakin of the cafeteria and classroom area was \$15 worth of food.