

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weatherman says that rain may come in the next day or two. The rain last week helped but was not enough to keep down the threat of forest fires.

Last Friday the eighth and 14th fairways at the Arabia golf course were on fire. I believe the only way this could have happened would be for someone to throw down a cigarette. With everything so dry a lighted cigarette shouldn't be thrown anywhere this day and time.

So please be careful when you are around grass or trees this time of year.

Last week I wrote about a large persimmon that was sent to T.C. Jones from California. This week R.L. Carter brought a box of large persimmons into the office that were picked from a tree in his back yard. He stated that North Carolina has persimmons as large as California. I didn't argue with him after seeing the fruit he brought into the office.

I found out that other people besides myself had only seen the persimmons about the size of a plum. The box of persimmons were on the table in the front office and about 75% of the people that came into the office called them tomatoes when they first saw them. Anyway I am glad to know that the older I become that I still am able to learn new things.

Thanksgiving Day was quiet in Raeford as far as I can find out. I don't believe anyone could ask for a nicer day. Even with all the shortages we all have many things to be thankful for.

So now everyone can look forward to Christmas which is just around the corner.

The gas shortage is for real as far as the service stations in Hoke County are concerned. Many stations ran out of gas last week and others started running out the first of this week.

I don't know if President Richard Nixon's voluntary plan will work or not. If his percentage is set on all drivers cutting down speed and all thermostats set at 68 degrees then it will not work. The percentage of people breaking laws is too high to think that they will stop other things on the request of the President. I have heard some say already that the President should practice what he is preaching and stay at the White House.

I hate to see it come again but I think the only fair way to handle this business is to have gas rationing.

Now some say this will bring on black market gas. Some service stations in the country are already charging double price for gas so this excuse won't hold water.

Anyway let's all of us cooperate with this plan and see what the end results will be.

## Postmaster Advises Send Mail Earlier

The United States Postal Service urges full cooperation of the public to keep mail moving during the energy crisis and anticipated record volume of Christmas mail.

Postmaster Charlie Morrison announced that postal customers could be helpful in mailing earlier than usual due to the time element in mail delivery that has resulted in all postal vehicles being slowed to conform to conserving fuel by adhering to slower speeds of surface mail trucks and the reduction of airline flights.

"During the past two years speed of mail movement has steadily increased and we have reached better than 95 percent delivery of first class mail the following day within a radius of approximately 150 miles and airmail within a radius of 600 miles provided customers deposit mail before 4 p.m.," Morrison said.

He also encourages use of the correct zip code on all greeting cards and letters to move the mail more efficiently.

## Sales Tax Report

Sales tax report from the North Carolina Department of Revenue lists Hoke County sales tax net collections for October 1973 local one percent sales and use tax as \$15,923.

Quarterly collections for the quarter ending Sept. 30, were: Net collections, \$49,779 cost of collection, \$499; and net distributable proceeds \$49,280.

# Power Crunch Packs Sunday Punch

## Hoke Gasoline Dribbles Down To Last Drop

Pump after pump dribbled out the last drops of gas throughout Hoke County during the past week. As December neared drivers were turned away from their regular service stations when November allotments proved to be far less than needed.

Stations that still have gas in their tanks are employing a variety of methods to stretch their remaining supply. Some are only selling to regular customers others are limiting sales to all comers and a few are severely limiting sales to non-regular patrons while filling up tanks for regulars.

Most stations are closed on Sunday, not because of President Nixon's request they do so but because it is their normal policy. A few are observing Sunday closing for the first time and several others are taking a "wait and see" attitude.

Randall Ashburn, Raeford Oil Company manager, reports his firm "completely out of gasoline" and describes the situation as "critical". His firm supplies about 18 Exxon stations in Hoke County and Ashburn said "only one or two still had some gas Tuesday afternoon."

Ashburn expects a resupply Saturday or Monday but anticipates continued shortages because of increased consumption. Allocations are based on sales during the same month of the preceding year.

Clyde Teal of Teal Oil Company reports his firm in "pretty good shape" and feels the 10 or 12 stations he supplies may make it through first of the month without running out of gas. This picture could change, says Teal, "if there is a run on our stations because others are out of gas - then it will be awfully close."

Pete's Exxon Station, North Main Extension, squeezed out the last drop of the day before Thanksgiving and will have been out almost two weeks before expected delivery arrives. Although out of gas Pete's is remaining open for grocery customers. The firm is never open on Sunday so national Sunday closing will not affect them.

Strickland's Exxon at U.S. 401 north and the bypass also emptied their pumps last week. Earlier in the summer the firm limited individual gas sales but owner Johnny Strickland says "we ran out anyhow." So he did not bother to ration supply this month.

Conoly's Exxon Station on Central Avenue went "dry" on all three grades of gasoline Tuesday morning. They usually close at 6 p.m. Saturday and remains closed on Sunday.

Harrell's Grocery on West Prospect Avenue sold their last gas about noon Monday. Before that the pumps had been empty a total of seven days in November. The store will remain open on Sundays but no gas will be sold.

Traveler's Service Station on U.S. 401 south reports a "short supply." The operators set a daily sales quota and when it is reached they "close for the day." They are supplied by Traveler's Oil Company in Wilmington and expect a delivery first of the month. Normal operating hours include Sunday closing.

Graham's Gulf on South Main Street reports "very little" gas left even though sales are limited to \$1 a day per customer. Holding the same limit is Hugh's Texaco and Alignment Service on Campus Avenue. Clark's Gulf on U.S. 401 south is holding the limit to 10 gallons but estimated Tuesday pumps would run dry Thursday or Friday. The station has been closed on Sundays for the past "six or seven years."

Locklear's Sunoco on U.S. 401 estimated by limiting sales to regular customers only, supply might last until Friday. The station has been observing Sunday closings for the past three months.

Iron's 76 Station on U.S. 401 is, for the most part, saving gas for regular customers although they will "pump a little" for others. Diesel fuel supply is excellent and is under no sales limitation at the station.

Averitt's 76 on Central Avenue, supplied by McNeill Oil Company in Aberdeen, is not limiting sales and will probably "last until Thursday." They report expected delivery Friday but "the gas man said not to look for him until we see him coming."

Parks Grocery and Grill, NC 211, reports dry pumps three days earlier in the month but "have plenty right now." The station is usually open on Sundays but will probably begin closing now to help conserve fuel.

Danny's Texaco on U.S. 401 bypass "got a load Monday" and is operating without a sales limit. The station is normally open on Sundays "but will go along with others if they all close."

### Club To Meet

The Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club will have a covered dish luncheon at the Raeford Methodist Church Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. Members are asked to bring a gift valued at from 75 cents to \$1 for a gift exchange and old newspapers for the paper drive.

He called upon all postal customers to mail domestic mail one week earlier than previously announced and foreign mail two weeks earlier.

Morrison asks cooperation of all customers to observe the following deadlines for holiday mailings to insure delivery before Christmas.

November 29: international air parcels to Canada and Mexico, and international air greeting cards to Africa, the Near East, and the Far East;

December 2: international air greetings to Europe, Central and South America;

December 4: international airmail greetings to Canada and Mexico;

Domestic First class greetings should be mailed no later than December 12, and airmail greetings should be deposited by December 15, to insure before Christmas delivery in the continental United States.

As a further aid to the Postal Service, Morrison urges during winter months customers keep approaches clear of snow on city curb - side and rural mail boxes so mail carriers can properly service the boxes. He warns failure to do so could prohibit mailmen from serving the boxes.

"If your usually warm post office seems a bit cooler during the winter, blame it on the fact heat of post offices will be lowered to 66 or 68 degrees during business hours and even lower during the night. Employees will be wearing warmer attire as they work in the post offices. All this is necessary to cooperate in conserving fuel," Morrison said.



## Schools Expect To Weather The Energy Crisis

It appears the Hoke County school system will weather the energy crisis this winter without changing the academic calendar. According to Superintendent D.D. Abernethy school tanks were filled with heating fuel by a local firm Tuesday and "unless winter is particularly cold or we face a severe cut in allocations, I anticipate no changes in the school year due to petroleum product shortages."

The local school system is implementing a number of energy conserving moves to assure that the schools will remain open. Tuesday, 11 members of school custodial staffs attended a study session on fuel conservation at the board of Education Building. A video tape, produced by the N.C. director of planning operations, demonstrated ways fuel could be conserved. Suggestions included omitting all use of school buildings at night; turning heat on later in the morning and off earlier in the evening; maintaining burners in good operating condition; and locking fuel tanks. Thermostats in local schools will be kept at a lower temperature this year.

Joe D. Soles, school transportation officer, attended a workshop in Elizabethtown Tuesday afternoon to discuss ways of conserving gasoline in school transportation. Soles reports the state suggests service trucks travel at 50 miles per hour or slower, lessen motor warmup time, reduce back tracking and a review of bus schedules and routes.

Soles reports a study will be made of Hoke County bus schedules and it is possible some small changes may be instituted. Any changes resulting from the study will be announced well in advance of effective date in local news media, reports Soles. He pointed out that each time a bus stops and starts it increases fuel consumption. Not only is fuel short but price of gasoline purchased from the state has increased almost 70 percent since April 1972 reports the transportation officer.

December heating fuel allocation for the school system is 6,700 gallons. Since

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## Crisis Clips Wings Around Hoke County

The energy crisis is clipping wings of government, business firms and private citizens throughout Hoke County. City Manager John Gaddy reports keeping thermostats in the natural gas heated municipal buildings at 68 degrees on weekdays and dropping temperature to 45 degrees nights and weekends. He has ordered city workers to make every effort to reduce unnecessary trips by checking to be sure all equipment and tools needed for a job are on the city vehicle before starting out. He also has workers doubling up on garbage pickup trucks to use only one truck where, in most cases, two would have been used in the past.

The city manager reports no plans, at present time, to cut street lighting. He expects this and Christmas lighting to be discussed at Monday's city council meeting. The city's gasoline supplier, Raeford Oil Company is out of gasoline until the first of December and Gaddy reports city vehicles are "buying where they can" from service stations. This move was taken to conserve and supplement the 300 gallons remaining in city pumps. "This way we will still have some on hand for emergency vehicles," said Gaddy.

Police Chief Leonard Wiggins says his department is making an effort to conserve gasoline by reducing speeds, spending more time on foot patrol and using a 1972 patrol car more than a 1973 one because the older model gets four to five miles more per gallon. Wiggins has instructed his men not to exceed 35 miles per hour in patrol cars unless answering "an extreme emergency call." The chief reports no reduction in downtown traffic during the shortage and said, "There are still many kids joy riding after school. I think people should wake up and realize there is a shortage."

County Manager T.B. Lester reports temperatures in county buildings is maintained at 68 degrees during daytime and 50 degrees at night. At the courthouse the full building is heated even though the courtroom is used only once a week. Lester explains radiators in the courtroom can not be shut off without causing water damage to floors and walls. Lights are usually turned off at night in all county buildings except the jail. During daylight hours hall lights in the courthouse are remaining off except on very dark days, says Lester.

Sheriff's Department patrol cars are the only county owned vehicles besides those of the Board of Education. Gas for the patrol cars is normally purchased from retail service stations on a monthly rotating basis. Sheriff D.M. Barrington says, "We will just have to see to it that our cars are all full before stations close Saturday evenings." Danny Morrison of Morrison's Ambulance Service and Danny's Texaco says he will keep a 2,000 gallon reserve in his pumps for ambulances and other emergency vehicles including rescue squad equipment and law enforcement patrol cars. This apparently will enable local law enforcement agencies to continue offering protection to citizens during the gas shortage and Sunday closings.

Business firms are among those cutting heat and reducing use of lights. C.P. Kinlaw of Kinlaw Jewelry Store says his firm will have no lighted Christmas decorations this year and will not use their lighted outside sign. He reports cutting thermostat from 72 to 68 degrees to reduce fuel consumption. William Howell of Howell Drug Company says he will "support the cutback 100 percent." He will leave the store's outside sign turned off and will burn only a minimum of lights inside at night. Temperature will be kept at 68 degrees during sales hours. He said he plans some Christmas decorations but without many lights.

Lewis Quick, Raeford Merchants Association president, reports the organization will not light a Christmas tree this year but will instead provide a moveable house for Santa Claus so the old gent may rotate location along Main Street. At the Raeford Department Store Quick has changed automatic window light cutoff from 10 p.m. to 7 p.m. Heating policies at the store will not change because last year Quick kept daytime setting at 65 to 68 degrees and completely shut off heat at night. He will do the same this winter.

At Macks Variety and Fashions in Edenborough Center lights and decorations recently purchased for the new store have been put up but it is unlikely that any of the lights will be turned on this holiday season.

Many local people are walking or riding bicycles to work and most say they will lower thermostat settings. They will be dressing warmer this winter to compensate for the lowered temperatures. A number report observing the 50 mile voluntary speed limit on highways and complain about the number of motorists who are not "doing their share."

## Schools Ask For Money

For the second year the Hoke County school system is submitting a grant application to help ease problems of school desegregation.

The application to the federal government's Emergency School Assistance Act for \$270,000 if approved, will provide funds for remedial instruction in mathematics, reading and guidance counseling during the 1974-75 school year. Remedial

mathematics will be new to Hoke schools.

Last June D.D. Abernethy, Hoke School superintendent, signed agreements with ESAA for \$138,000 grant for the present school year.

The newest application is being prepared with assistance of the 15 member ESAA advisory committee.

## Supper And Bazaar Set To Benefit Library Fund

The Raeford Kiwanis Club is joining forces with the Raeford Woman's Club Garden Department to present the annual Kiwanis pancake supper and bazaar December 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the dual event in the Gibson School lunchroom will benefit the Hoke County Bicentennial Library Fund. Tickets at \$1.50 per person are available from members of the Kiwanis Club, Garden Department and Key Club. Children under five years old will be admitted free.

Bazaar sale items, all made by Garden Club members, will include Christmas gifts and decorations, home canned and baked foods, American flags, wire flowers and other craft items.

Kiwanis members will perform all work for the pancake supper including cooking, serving and cleaning. Garden Club members made bazaar items at their own expense and donated them to the bazaar.

Kiwanis president is Graham Pope. Bazaar chairmen are Mrs. Julian Wright, Mrs. June Johnson and Mrs. W.K. Morgan.



BAZAAR WORKERS - inspecting items made by members of the Raeford Woman's Club Garden Department for December 6 bazaar are, from left, Mrs. Sam Hanz, Mrs. Harvey Warlick, Janet Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Clark, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Wyatt Upchurch. Bazaar items will be sold at Gibson School lunchroom from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. during Kiwanis annual pancake supper with all proceeds going to the Hoke County Bicentennial Library Fund.