

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

A nice letter and card was received at the office last week from Laurie Telfair who was with the staff of this paper a year or so ago. With the letter and card was a check for \$5.00 to the Library Fund which Laurie said she used many times while working here. Thanks Laurie, I will put the check in the proper hands.

She also said that she and her husband would be coming to Norfolk, Va., in the near future and she would come down to Raeford for a visit. Everyone will be looking forward to the visit.

I don't believe we could have asked for finer weather at Christmas time. It was not too hot or cold.

The traffic and crowd of last minute shoppers Christmas Eve were tremendous but everything seemed to be going in an orderly manner.

All at the Morris home had a very nice Christmas and we also had Mary Alice's mother to be with us.

Of course the gas shortage was on everyone's minds since Sarah had to drive back Christmas afternoon to Virginia Beach. At around 8:20 Tuesday night the phone rang and she was safely back and found gas at one place on the way back and now had a half a tank to go to work Wednesday morning.

I hope each of you had a fine Christmas.

As I write this column Wednesday morning it is raining but the thermometer is in the sixties. So it should be another nice day.

As someone said the other day a year ago a gas war was going on in Raeford and this year most stations were limiting gas if they had any to sell. The year 1973 will be known as the year of corruption in government and the energy shortage.

Now we all must look forward to 1974 and what the future holds for each of us. I have all confidence in the people of this country and know that with the help of God they will work something out to correct the mistakes that have been made.

The things that have happened in 1973 may be a blessing in the long-run as they have opened the eyes of most people and have united them in working for the best interest of the country.

So to all the readers of this column may you all have a Happy New Year.

Byrd Wins

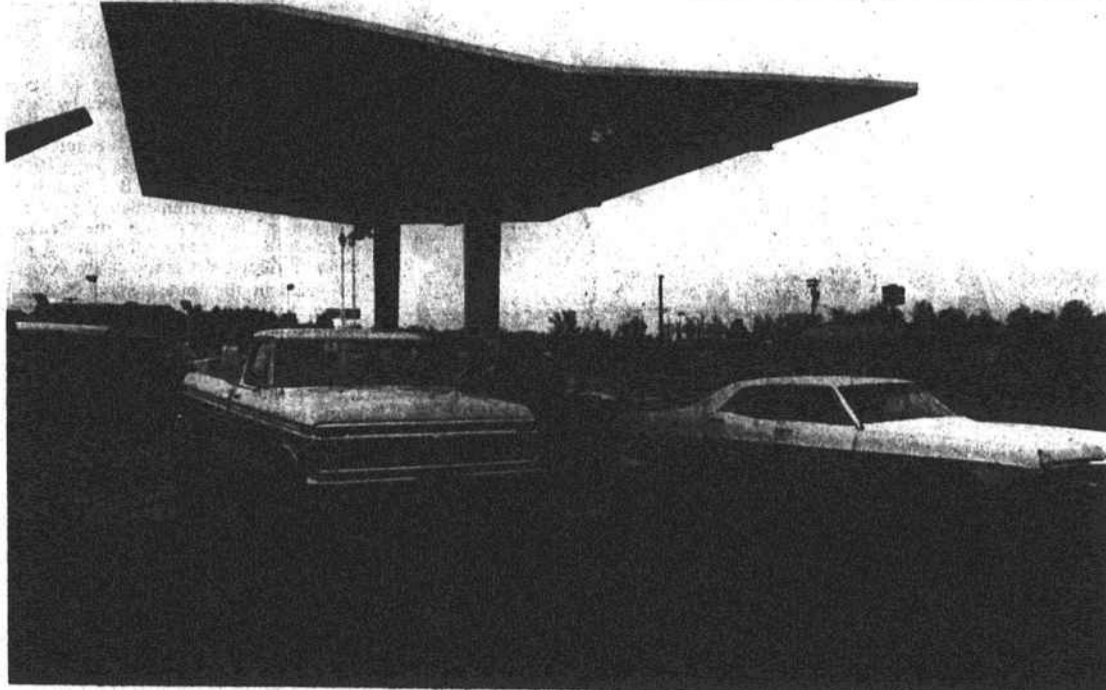
Fireman-of-the-Year

A Robeson County native was named North Raeford Volunteer Fire Department's first Fireman-of-the-Year December 20 at the department's annual Christmas and awards dinner.

The winner will enter the Hoke County Firemen's Association first annual County Firemen-of-the-Year competition.

Chief George Baker presented a gold plaque to the winner Lieutenant Wayne Byrd, NFRD training lieutenant. The recipient of the award, highest given by the department, is a three-year Hoke County resident who lives on Trunk Road and is employed at McDonald's Tire Recapping.

Mrs. Elwood Baker was presented a poinsettia plant in appreciation for her services to the department. The firemen gave Chief Baker a birthday present. William Niven, county civil preparedness director, was commended for his service to the department.



FEEDING TIME - Hungry cars gulp gas Wednesday morning following a long, dry holiday weekend in Hoke County. The usual end-of-month drought hit many pumps during holidays and most stations closed for several days or closed early on days they were open. This station expected to sell day's quota by noon Wednesday. (N-J Photo)

Cars Go Hungry, Hoke Sans Gas

The end of month gasoline shortage has again walloped Hoke County motorists and service station owners. Wednesday attempts to contact 16 area service stations revealed nine of them closed. How many were closed for lack of gas and how many for extended holiday vacation could not be determined.

Stations known to be out of gas included Carter's Exxon on U.S. 401 by-pass, Conoly's Exxon on East Central Avenue and Parks Grocery on North Main Street. Out of at least one grade but with a small amount of other grades left are Clark's Gulf Station, (ran out of regular Friday), M.L. Parks Grocery and Grill on N.C. 211, and

Hugh's Texaco and Alignment Service, on Campus Avenue.

Limiting sales are Grahams Service on South Main, Hugh's, Clark's, and others. Travelers Service Station set a daily sales quota and closes pumps when that is reached. In recent days they have sold the quota as early as 9:30 a.m. Some days it has stretched a few hours longer.

Danny's Station on U.S. 401 reports having gas and not limiting sales. Most stations hope for delivery later this week or first of next week.

Holiday visitors to this area and local residents who made Christmas trips reports no problem finding gasoline in some areas of Colorado, Ohio and western New York.

Hoke Leaf Allotments, Leases Are Uncertain

In the aftermath of disclosing last week a plan to boost or suspend 1974 acreage allotments on flue-cured tobacco the federal government notified the local Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation office Wednesday to wait until further notice to mail allotment notices to Hoke County farmers. The notices, originally scheduled for January 4 mailing, had not been received by the ASC office today.

If the U. S. Department of Agriculture boosts or suspends

allotments 700 tobacco farms in Hoke County will feel the impact.

About 350 of these farms are grown by owners and the remaining are leased from owners by growers. Re-negotiation of most of leases is scheduled to begin next month and the possibility of suspending allotments leaves the fate of these leases in doubt.

There are a number of arrangements in area leases. Most acreage is leased at 15 to 20 cents a pound yielded. In some

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FIRST ANNUAL NFRD FIREMEN-OF-THE-YEAR - North Raeford Fire Department Chief George Baker, left, reads inscription being pointed out by Steve Hedgepeth, NFRD secretary treasurer, center, while the department's first Fireman-of-the-Year Lieutenant Wayne Bird, training lieutenant, right, holds plaque awarded him at annual Christmas and awards dinner December 20.

Holiday Letters, Taxes Burden Local Mailmen

Postmaster Charlie Morrison reported Wednesday Holiday mail was "heavier than last year. It certainly was enough to keep us busy." Nationwide the two-week period before December 10 showed a more than 15 percent increase in mail volume over last year.

Morrison said there was a drop in the number of first class pieces Wednesday but expects the usual January increase in circulars and catalogs. "There will be plenty of pieces addressed to 'occupant' or 'box holder'" commented the postmaster.

He reports state and federal tax forms should be arriving soon and it will take the post office staff about two to three days to sort them for delivery. This also

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Kidnap-Assault Hearings Here

State Mails Tag Forms

Application cards for 1974 license plates were mailed December 3, 14 and 20. Department of Motor Vehicles officials expect this huge mailing, estimated at more than 3,700,000 cards, to be delivered by January 1.

The 1974 green and white plates will go on sale throughout the state January 2. The 1973 plates expire December 31 and their use beyond that date is permissible only if they are registered by the department to vehicle on which displayed. Owners of property registered vehicles have through February 15 to obtain new plates.

Area residents may obtain plates at RAEFORD.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 and FEBRUARY 6 and 13 OPEN ALL DAY, other than Wednesday close at noon.

Local license agent, Frances W. Greene, points out that "to renew a plate owners must have a renewal card" and cautions against misplacing cards. She also asks owners to complete the application according to instructions before presenting it for a new plate. This will expedite issuance and help keep lines from forming.

Motor vehicles owners who have not received license application cards by January 1, should notify the Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh. "It will take from ten days to two weeks to get an application," says Miss Greene.

A detention hearing will be conducted Friday morning for two juveniles and preliminary hearings will take place in district court January 4, for four teenagers in connection with Friday evening's kidnap-assault on two juvenile girls. Two of the youths are also charged with rape in Robeson County in connection with the same incident. A third juvenile reportedly involved in the incident has not been jailed in Hoke County.

Held on \$50,000 bond is Bobby McCrowie, 18, charged with two counts of kidnaping and one of assault with intent to commit rape.

Held on \$40,000 bond each are James H. Bordeaux, 18, and Robert L. McMillian, 18. Each faces two charges of kidnaping and two of assault with intent to commit rape. McMillian is also charged with rape in Robeson County.

Also held is Ronnie Bordeaux, 16, who was being held as a juvenile until his age was correctly determined. Law enforcement officers are expected to swear out warrants against the younger Bordeaux, and a magistrate will set bond. All except McMillian are from Fayetteville. He is from Parkton.

No bond was set for the juveniles pending the detention hearing which will determine if the youths are retained in detention or released to parents until a January 4 juvenile hearing. At the detention hearing appearance bonds could be set for the juveniles but this is rarely done.

The seven youths allegedly forced the two 14 year-old girls into a car around 10 p.m. Friday. The girls had been walking along the shoulder of U. S. 401 north about four miles from Raeford.

After driving around for a while one girl managed to escape near Rockfish Road and sought help at a nearby residence. The youths then drove the second girl into Robeson County where she allegedly was raped twice and released on U. S. 301 east of Parkton.

About 3 a.m. Saturday Hoke authorities were notified by radio the second girl was at Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton.

After the incident a description of the car was broadcast. The vehicle was located in Fayetteville and officers began making arrests. All suspects were booked into Hoke County jail at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Area Incidents

Merchandise valued at \$667 was reportedly taken from Thomas Bryant's grocery store at McNeill Lake sometime between 12:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

Thieves apparently emptied two 15-gallon trash containers and filled them with the loot which included

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Mrs. N.B. Blue Dies Monday

Funeral service was conducted at Raeford Presbyterian Church Wednesday afternoon for Mrs. Neill B. Blue, 82-year-old lifelong resident of this community who died Monday in her home.

Pallbearers were Joseph Dupree, Walter Coley, Herbert McLean, Jimmy Plummer, Graham Monroe and J.H. Blue Jr.

The former Mamy Blue was the daughter of the late J.A. Blue and Jenny McNeill Blue and widow of the late N.B. Blue.

She was a charter member of the Raeford Woman's Club, President of the Raeford chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and a member of the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Hoffman of Ft. Meade, Md., and Mrs. Arnold Covall of Pensacola, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. Kate Covington of Raeford, and seven grandchildren.



THE AFTER CHRISTMAS STORY - Under tree remnants silently testify Wednesday to the joy spread through at least one local household Christmas morning. Toy boxes, cartons and gift wrap wait beside overflowing trash can for workers to haul them away.

