

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXVII NO. 45

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$5 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1974

**Around Town**

By Sam C. Morris

For the first time in the history of Hoke County the chairman of the Board of Elections is a Republican.

I know that these men will do a good job but I feel that John Scott Poole needs to be commended for the job he has done as chairman of the board. During his role as chairman not one challenge has come forth or have any arguments taken place. So to Poole a big thanks for a job well done.

\*\*\*

R. Palmer Willcox, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee states that he has a few Jefferson-Jackson Dinner tickets still available. If you plan to attend this affair get in touch with Willcox as soon as possible.

\*\*\*

Henry Hall Wilson, candidate on the Democrat ticket for U.S. Senate, phoned last Friday that he would be at The News-Journal office on Monday. But late Monday afternoon one of his workers called that he had been detained in Fayetteville and would be unable to come to Hoke County at this time.

I hope that his schedule can be arranged for him to come to the county so that the voters can talk with him before going to the polls. I say this because most people in the county here have seen right much of Robert Morgan and the other candidates during the past few years.

\*\*\*

The gas lines in Raeford were about a thing of the past this week. I haven't seen a line at any of the stations and this is for the best. I believe that the panic buying is over and that if everyone will abide by the rules that the station operators set a couple of weeks ago that things will soon be back to normal. Any problem can be solved if enough people will work on it. Most of the people have tried to cooperate with the service stations and should be commended for it.

\*\*\*

Don't forget the Booster Club Golf Tournament that is coming up soon. Call the Arabia Golf Club for complete details.

\*\*\*

Streaking is now the latest fad to hit our universities and colleges. One school after another tries to outdo the other in numbers and different ways of streaking.

The best comment I have read about is the coed who said they were streaking so fast she didn't have time to see the boys' faces.

\*\*\*

The fields on most of the farms have been disked and planting should begin before long. The weather last week was perfect for farmers and most farmers had the tractors going all week.

The weather was colder the first of this week but so far it hasn't been cold enough to freeze so the fruit trees are safe for the time being. Most fruit trees are blooming or budding and a freeze would just about do them in.

**Farmer Gas Forms Here**

Confusion continued to move into the energy crisis this week with release of additional forms and information designed to help farmers who must purchase agricultural gasoline allocations at service station pumps rather than in bulk quantities from distributors.

**Bond Set For Jailed Suspect**

A Fayetteville man is being held in the Hoke County jail in lieu of \$20,000 bond and charged with the December 1973 armed robbery of Wayside Station.

Andrew J. Bethune, 21, was booked into the jail Monday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Alex Norton after Bethune had been arrested in Cumberland County in connection with an alleged shooting there.

In January session of superior court Waverly Clyde Williams III, also of Fayetteville received 15 to 25 years in prison for the same armed robbery.

At that time the Hoke County grand jury returned a true bill charging Bethune with armed robbery. His case will now go directly to superior court.

**Cagers Play For Youths**

The Kiwanis Streakers challenged the Lions Tails to a Hoke County Civic Club Basketball Championship game April 4 to benefit the Hoke High School Chorale's European singing tour this summer.

Admission to the 8 p.m. game at Hoke High gym is \$1 but larger donations will be accepted. A surprise half time entertainment is scheduled. Tickets are available from any Lion or Kiwanian.

The European tour is open to North Carolina high school seniors who are members of outstanding high school chorale or choral groups whose director is a member of N.C. Music Assoc.

Nine members of the local chorale plan on participating in the tour. Music has been purchased and rehearsals began this week.

Each student must have approximately \$1,100 to participate. This includes travel, meals, accommodations and spending money.

Mrs. Mary Archie McNeill, director, reports many of the participating students are working at part-time jobs to finance the trip. In addition, donations and bake sale profits have netted \$600.

Students scheduled to participate in the tour are Margaret Dew, Betty Odom, Jodi Upchurch, Sallie Bray, Paul Barnes, Ken Clark, Melanie Childress, James McEachin and Daniel E. Harrell.

The concert tour is from June 26 to July 10 and will take participants to Austria, France, Switzerland and England.



**KIWANIS STREAKERS**-Kiwanians gathered for a practice session Monday in preparation for upcoming Hoke County Civic Club Basketball Championship to be played April 4 at Hoke High School Gym. Kiwanis cagers challenged Lions Tails to battle of the baskets for benefit of Hoke High School Chorale's European singing tour this summer. Practicing streakers are, from left, Harold Gillis, R. B. Lewis, coach, and Marion Gatlin. (N-J Photo)

**Fire Kills Man**

A Wednesday morning fire reportedly claimed the life of a Hoke County man. The body of a man tentatively identified as Johnny McLaughlin was removed from a burned frame house on the J. L. McNeill farm about three miles southwest of Raeford.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the fire may have started when a heater exploded. McLaughlin was found in the living room of the house near a chimney. North Raeford Fire Department and the Hoke County Rescue Squad answered the call. The body was released to Doby's Funeral Home.

**Court Hears Few Cases**

Boyd Hardin, Fayetteville, entered a guilty plea to driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages, first offense, in superior court March 6 and received six months suspended three years and was assessed \$300 fine and costs.

In other action Julius Belk alias Julius Belt, Main Street, convicted of non support, received six months suspended five years providing he pay \$10 weekly child support.

John Ray Campbell, 213 Reeves St., entered a guilty plea to driving under

See COURT, Page 11

**Final Forum Session On Local Government**

The final session of the Hoke Forum will be 7:30 p.m. March 21 at the Raeford Elementary School. Topic of the forum session will be "The Authority of Local Government." Guest speakers for the evening will be Albert Coates, professor emeritus of law, UNC Chapel Hill, and founder of the Institute of Government, and Warren Jake Wicker, professor of public law and government and assistant director of the Institute of Government.

Moderator for the evening will be J.K. McNeill, Raeford mayor. Following the speakers, a local panel consisting of John Gaddy, city manager, T.B. Lester, county manager, T.C. Jones, chairman of the board of county commissioners, and John Balfour, county commissioner, will comment and a question and answer period will follow.

There is no admission and the public is welcome.

Coates was born in Johnston County in 1896. He received an A.B. degree from UNC in 1918; a LL.B. from

**Knifing Kills Young Man**

A Tyler Town man is being held for \$10,000 bond on manslaughter charges in connection with the knifing death of his younger brother.

Lester Blue, 18, died Saturday from abdominal stab wounds, according to reports.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington said the death resulted from a struggle with a butcher knife, between the victim and his brother, Larry Blue, 19.

The elder Blue's preliminary hearing is scheduled March 22 in district court.

Funeral services for Lester Blue, 18, Rt. 1, were conducted Tuesday at St. Andrews Holiness Church by the Rev. J.W. Williams with burial in East Freedom Cemetery.

**Ax Assault Suspect**

A Rt. 3 man was released from jail Sunday evening after posting \$1,000 bond.

Silas Locklear, 35, is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill in connection with an alleged ax assault on James Bullard Jr., Rt. 3, Saturday. The victim reportedly suffered a shoulder wound.

Investigating officers are Deputy Sheriffs Alex Norton and George McGuire.

**Board Wants Office Space**

Hoke County board of elections members were sworn in at noon Monday and held their first meeting as required by law. The same day, two board members apparently took action without the knowledge of the third member.

Action reportedly taken at the meeting with full knowledge of all three members included selection of Earl M. Chason, the new board member, as chairman and Abner Lee Strother as secretary. Selection of an executive secretary was postponed until the March 25 meeting. Chason and Strother are the Republican board members. The third member, chairman for the past ten years,

is Democrat J. Scott Poole. Poole's wife Edna has been serving as executive secretary.

Both Poole and Strother report there was no discussion at the meeting concerning office space for the board of elections.

County Manager T. B. Lester said he found a letter on his desk "right after lunch" Monday from the board of elections requesting the county commissioners immediately make space available for a board of elections office. The letter, dated March 11, was signed by Chason and Strother, but not by Poole, although there was a block for his signature.

Poole says he was unaware of the letter or its contents until questioned by The News-Journal Tuesday afternoon. Strother said he was the first to sign the letter and does not know why it was not brought to Poole's attention. Chason was unavailable for comment.

Buddy Blue, Republican spokesman from Robeson County, said Edith Nixon, Hoke Republican chairman, called a meeting a week or two ago to discuss recommendations for precinct registrars and election judges and board of election office space was discussed. Blue, a former Hoke Republican chairman, says he is assisting Mrs. Nixon.

It is not clear when or if a meeting of the board of elections was held to vote on the action requesting office space. Poole says he was never notified of any meeting other than the one held immediately after the swearing in.

A spokesman at the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill reports, under current statutes there is "no requirement of notice (of meetings) to all members of the election board, yet it is customary for notice to be given to all members. In addition, the meeting Monday was required by statute."

The statute also stipulates that the

See BOARD, Page 11

**C of C Meets**

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday and appointed a nominating committee of outgoing directors to select eight nominees for the Board of Directors. The nominee names will be submitted to the general membership in April. The four receiving the most votes will be elected to a three-year term on the board beginning June 1, 1974.

Plans for the annual dinner were announced and approved by the board. The dinner will be May 6 at the Hoke High School Gibson Cafeteria. Principal speaker will be J.F. Havens, president of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. of Tarboro. The Hoke High School Chorale will provide entertainment and the dinner will be preceded by a social. Details will be announced later.

It was reported to the board that budget planning would take place within coming weeks. Future needs and activities were discussed.

The gasoline shortage, state legislation pertaining to Hoke County and the report on retail and industrial outlook for the county was discussed.

**Pre-Registration Dates Set**

The Hoke County Health Clinic administers immunizations required for pre-registration of kindergarten and first grade students Mondays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the County Health building, U.S. 401 N.

In order to pre-register, all children must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and polio, and present a birth certificate.

Pre-registration for first grade students and kindergarten students will

be on March 27 and 28 and April 3 and 4 at J.W. McLaughlin, Scurlock and West Hoke Schools from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Parents are asked to register at the school serving the family's school attendance zone. A child must be six years old before October 16, to be eligible to enter the first grade, and five years old before October 16 to enter kindergarten.

Selection of students for next year kindergarten classes will be made later and parents will be notified.



**SOIL SAMPLE**-Soil Conservation Service employee takes soil sample from ground near Raeford. The project which will take five years to complete in Hoke County will identify soils and thus their capabilities and recommended uses. It is designed to help landowners utilize land to its highest capabilities. (N-J Photo)

**Team Takes Soil Survey**

Soil Conservation Service representatives are conducting a national cooperative soil survey in Hoke County. Presently 18,000 acres have been completed.

Teams are currently working in the one-mile Raeford radius and an interim soil report is tentatively scheduled for July. Workers take samples from about five feet below ground level to identify the type of soil, its capabilities and recommended uses.

It will take approximately five years to complete the county survey. Results will be used for county planning to help county government and landowners to use land for the best suitable purpose.

Working on the project are Julian Butler, Soil and Water Conservation Service district supervisor, Furman (Shorty) Clark, district conservationist, Brooks Hale, SCS party leader, and Larry Sink. Both Hale and Sink are assigned to the Fayetteville SCS office.