

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

April 1 came in Monday and 25% of 1974 is behind us. The weather changed completely during the week. Last Monday it was snowing and sleeting in the state and this week the thermometer was between 80 and 90 degrees.

The temperature at the Raleigh-Durham Airport Monday afternoon was 89 degrees. Summer weather!

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Bill Bailey came in with his weather chart this week, and in March Hoke County had approximately four inches of rain. Most of this came in the final week. Last year the rainfall in March was 11.1 inches.

Bailey was out of town last Saturday and when I looked at his weather calendar, he did not have hail down for Saturday. He wrote hail in on the calendar but put a question mark by it. I guess Bill doesn't trust the writer!

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The following letter to an editor was brought by the office by J. W. Turlington, principal of the Raeford Elementary School. It appeared in the March 10, 1974, New York Times. "To the Editor:

"Your series last week on college sports recruiting recalls a recent incident.

"A friend, an award-winning high school football player, was contacted by a prestigious Southern University that emphasized football. He expressed an interest but did not attend, accepting instead an athletic scholarship from a Midwestern university.

"On semester break, home from the Midwest, he received grades (all C's) from the Southern University."

The letter was signed J. Brady, New Milford, N. J.

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The green flag is flying at almost every gas station in Hoke County this week. Some stations pumped gas all day a couple of days last week. So, the situation must be better or the price of gas is getting up to where it could become plentiful again. Anyway, the panic buying seems to have stopped.

I know the service station operators must be feeling better now and getting more sleep since this has come about.

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Don't forget the basketball game between the Raeford Kiwanis Club and the Raeford Lions Club tonight (Thursday) at the Hoke High School gym at 8:00 o'clock. The game is for a worthy cause, so take time to go out and see the fun.

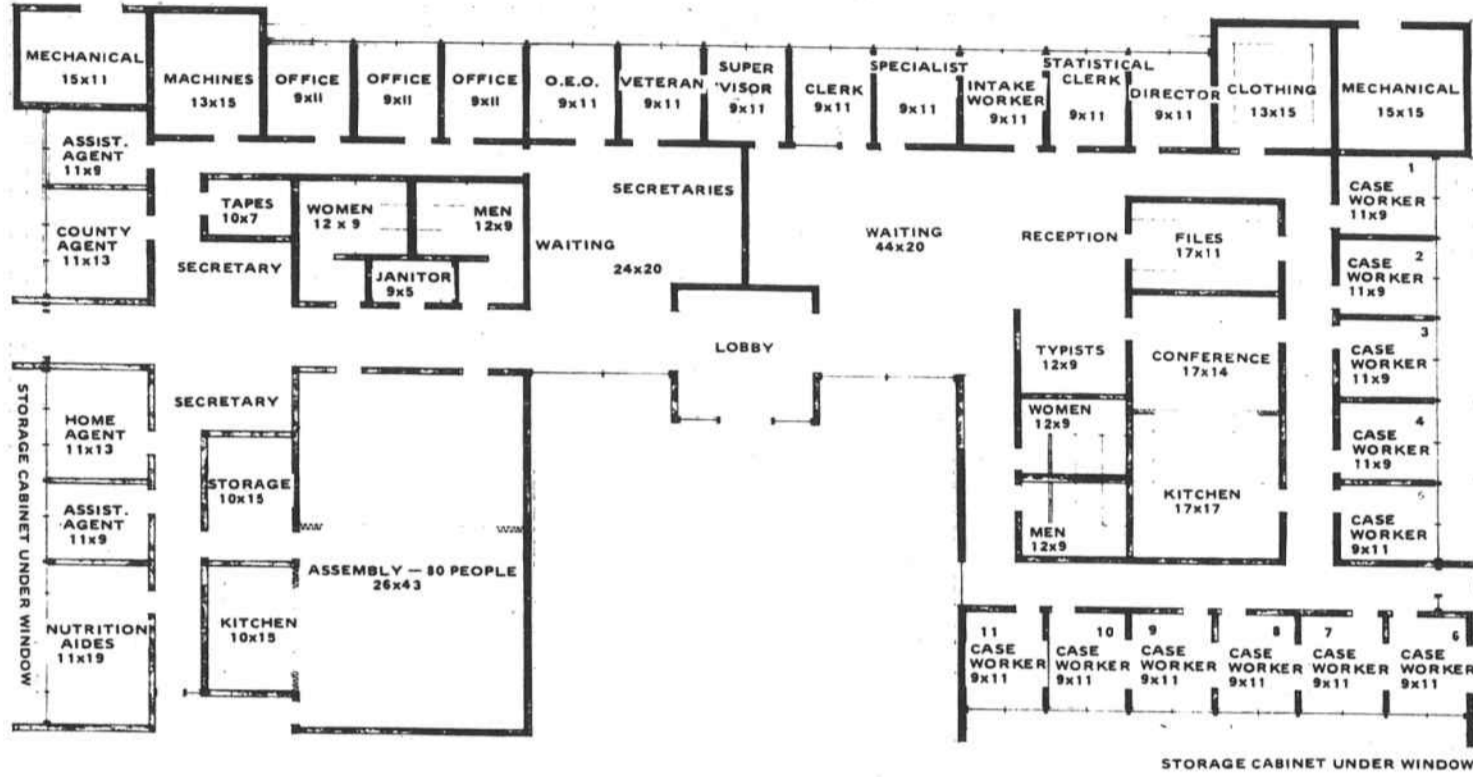
## Burlington Promotes Nine Including Pope And Biddix

Burlington Industries announced the promotion of nine manufacturing executives in the Raeford operations of Burlington Worsted.

Joseph D. Beam, Jr., division executive vice president of manufacturing announced that Graham Pope has been promoted from plant manager of the Burlington Worsted Dyeing Plant in Raeford to manufacturing manager of the Burlington Woolens Division's Cleveland, Tenn. plant. Pope, manager of the local plant for the past five years, joined Burlington in 1959.

George W. Wilcox, Jr., Worsted Division, vice president of Dyeing and Finishing, announced John Biddix's move to plant manager, succeeding Pope. Biddix who has been with Burlington since 1963 was formerly superintendent of dyeing at the local

# Commissioners Consider Latest Drawings, Hoke Office Building Could Cost \$500,000



FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING AREA 11,650 SF  
 OVERHANG 8% 1,208 SF  
 TOTAL 12,858 SF (+ 1279 SF OVER FIRST SCHEME 1)

HOKE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING. RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA. 1/8" = 1'0" JOB NUMBER 7330 22 MARCH 74 SCHEME 2

PROPOSED COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING—Floor plan of architect's newest drawings for proposed county office building to be constructed at Wooley Street site. Estimated costs, if built within next six months, are \$485,000 to \$500,000. Building, as presently designed, would house county agents, Department of Social Services, veterans office and Sandhills Community Action Program. Included in

structure are two kitchens, an 80-person capacity assembly room and a conference room. Twenty-four of the 28 offices measure 9 feet by 11 feet. The building contains 11,650 square feet of space. Commissioners are studying the plans to see if they are suitable, acceptable and affordable.

Most recent plans for the proposed county office building were presented to county commissioners at their regular monthly meeting Monday. County fathers are studying the plans to determine if the building would be suitable for planned use, proposed site and for the revenue sharing pocketbook.

If the plans are accepted, cost of the 11,650 square foot building to be constructed on the board of education Wooley Street property, if built within six months, is estimated at between \$485,000 and \$500,000. Earlier plans for a \$600,000 building were rejected as too costly by commissioners.

In May 1973 commissioners allocated \$145,368 in revenue sharing funds for the project. In July of the same year they designated an additional \$154,632 for the proposed structure. These allocations totaled \$300,000 in revenue sharing funds to cover purchase of land and construction of building.

If commissioners should approve the most recent plans it would require an additional expenditure of about \$200,000. An \$80,646 revenue sharing check is expected later this month with an equal amount due in July. These checks plus \$41,201 in on-hand uncommitted funds and \$9,100 interest will total \$211,593 in revenue funds available in July. Designation for \$200,000 additional money for the new building would deplete uncommitted revenue sharing funds to about \$11,600 after July of this year.

Structure in the newest plan would house Department of Social Services (welfare), county agents, veterans and Sandhills Community Action Program with at least three vacant offices for future expansion.

The plans include 28 offices, 24 of which are 9 feet by 11 feet. The remaining four are larger. Also included are two kitchens, an 80-person assembly room, conference, file, tape and clothing rooms, four restrooms and reception and waiting rooms.

Past revenue sharing expenditures or commitments include \$173,935 for board of education building and site, plus allocations for landfill equipment and accounting machine. Revenue funds are on hand to cover these.

Fire Departments  
In other revenue sharing related business representatives of the County Firemen's Association and six of the eight county volunteer fire departments appeared to submit requests according to instructions given the fire departments at an earlier monthly commissioners meeting.

The six departments requested \$101,995 in revenue sharing funds to purchase fire trucks, hoses, nozzles, sirens, fire fighting clothing and for

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## Medicaid Sticker Controversy Erupted Here

A controversy erupted last week when county commissioners received a letter from Scotland County commissioners, and The Laurinburg Exchange published an article in which Scotland Memorial Hospital employees reportedly charged Hoke County Social Services with lack of cooperation on delivery of Medicaid stickers to the hospital.

The Scotland County newspaper account reported Hoke and Robeson County responsible for \$10,000 in current uncollected stickers and "Hoke and Robeson counties (social services) flatly refused to cooperate at one time."

Ben Niblock, Hoke County director social services, said he received no communication from Scotland County concerning the problem and reports checking files and questioning DSS employees and finding no records refusing the Scotland County hospital Medicaid stickers. He sent the following letter to Mrs. Ruth Smith, Scotland County Memorial Hospital credit manager:

Dear Mrs. Smith:  
I have just finished reading your newspaper's account of the charges you and Mr. Martin leveled at the Hoke County Dept. of Social Services at the Scotland County Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday night, March 26th.

I have reference of course to your allegations, that our Social Services Department will not provide Medicaid labels for Hoke County residents that receive treatment and care at Scotland Memorial Hospital.

To set the record straight, the Hoke County Department of Social Services has, and will continue to provide you with Medicaid labels for all eligible Hoke county residents. I must emphasize though that they must be eligible, and must have been eligible at the time they were hospitalized.

I also find it very strange that if you were having problems in this area, that you did not bother to communicate

with me or someone in our agency.

You and Mr. Martin contend that \$10,000 is the amount of uncollected Medicaid labels from Robeson and Hoke counties; I would appreciate your letting me or my board of commissioners know how much of that if any is owed by Hoke County residents.

You also might find it very revealing if you would check and see, how many claims you failed to file at all, or submit within the one year time limit.

Regarding your Board of Commissioners and apparently yours and Mr. Martin's accusation, that Hoke County was responsible for Scotland Memorial's debt; all I can say is nothing could be more ludicrous, absurd and false.

If your paper misquoted you and Mr. Martin or anyone else at the meeting you have my sincere apologies.

Finally, I want to emphasize that I am grateful for the service you have provided for the people of Hoke county, and you will find that I am pretty easy to work with, if you will just get in touch with me, instead of lambasting our department in the press.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin O. Niblock  
Director  
Hoke County Department of Social Services

Tuesday, Mrs. Smith said, "Mr. Niblock was upset and justifiably so. Hoke is involved only in a small way. Since Mr. Niblock has been serving Hoke County I communicated with him only one time concerning Medicaid stickers and received an immediate reply

and cooperation."

She reports Hoke patients responsible for about \$2,200 of the current \$10,000; Medicaid accounts for in-patient care. She did not have exact dates available but said the cases went back to September or October, 1973. She promised to search her records and release detailed information for next week's newspaper.

She continued, "There was a point where we gave up trying to collect from

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## Club Cagers Play Tonight

Two teams participating in today's Hoke County Civic Club Basketball Championship announced players names this week.

The Lion's Tails under guidance of Coach David Smith, will roar onto the court with Ronald Baxley, Charles H. Daniels, Meade Freeman, Ed Hart, David Jordan, Jack Kolb, George J. (Dick) Lovette, David Lovette, Bill McPhaul, Richard Morgan, Dale Ormsby, Jerry L. Semones, Don Steed, Tommy Stone, Sandy Thompson and Eric Vann.

The Kiwanis Streakers will do their thing under surveillance of Coach Bob Lewis. Streakers are John Biddix, Bob Childress, Avery Connell, Bob Gentry.

## City Denies County Space

The city council met Monday and denied a request by County Manager T. B. Lester for use of City Hall space as an office for the County Board of Elections.

According to City Manager John Gaddy, the request was denied because space "is unavailable". Gaddy went on to say that space which the city had furnished the county for listing taxes is now used to house a U.S. Army recruiting office and as storage space. He said space above the city's water department is also partially used for storage and "is in no condition to be used for any kind of an office."

City fathers agreed easement of property at Raeford's airport be granted for Paul Rose provided a suitable agreement is made between Rose and the city. Rose is currently operating a flight school at the airport from a temporary location the city is granting him on a month-to-month basis. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)

recently reported the land Rose is now using is scheduled for airport expansion. The land the council voted for use by Rose Monday is reportedly near his present location and may be leased to him on a more permanent basis as it is not scheduled for airport use.

The council requested FAA assistance in implementing the second phase of city airport improvement, a project Gaddy said included the installation of taxiways and enlarging the present airport apron.

The council will meet again Monday at 5 p.m. in City Hall to open bids on the construction of a proposed new city garage.

City Councilman Benny McLeod, who is also chairman of the Hoke Recreation Commission, reported to the council on proposed improvements to the Robbins Heights playground area recommended by the commission. After discussion, McLeod said he was

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John Biddix



Graham Pope

## Hoke Holds Local Man

A Hoke County man, reportedly wanted in connection with the stabbing death of a Mobile, Ala., driver's education teacher, is being held without bond in the Hoke County jail on probation violation charges, reports Sheriff D. M. Barrington. Two other men, allegedly charged in the same case, are being held elsewhere following their arrest in Virginia.

Barrington and Deputy Jimmy Riley arrested Glenn Franklin West, Rt. 1, in the Main Street A&P store about 1 p.m. Monday. Authorities report West was unarmed at the time of arrest. Law enforcement officers had received a tip West was at the store.

Bobby Lee Edwards, 36, Green

Street, and James Robert West, Jr., 28, formerly of Raeford, were picked up by Virginia authorities near Richmond, Va., Monday.

At Elizabethtown, Tenn., Sheriff's Capt. Eulas Sargeant said the dead man was identified by relatives Sunday as Billy G. Dannelley, 39, Mobile, Ala.

He was reportedly missing after he failed to show up for classes at Foley High School in Mobile, March 27. Reports indicate Dannelley's body, which was found at a trash dump near Elizabethtown, Tenn., Friday, had 15 face and body stab wounds.

Barrington reports he is awaiting warrants from Alabama authorities which allegedly charge Glenn West in the Mobile case.