

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The Easter weekend has come and the weather brought forth rain and thunderstorms but it was not cold. Most of the churches had large congregations and many visitors were among this crowd as relatives returned to visit home folks over the Easter weekend.

The legal holiday on Monday gave North Carolina taxpayers an extra day of grace on their income tax returns.

Anyway, it was a fine weekend for the people of Hoke County.

The gas shortage has become almost a dream to the people of the county. There have been no lines this month and most stations are staying open all day and selling a full tank to their customers. Most of the station operators state they have plenty of gas, except the Exxon dealers, but they are still open and pumping every day at this time.

I hope that we have seen the worst of this situation, but all of us should still do everything we can to conserve fuel.

The political campaigns are picking up as more politicians are appearing in the county each day. With Congress adjourned for the Easter holidays and the State legislature adjourned for the year, this gives the present office holders an opportunity to get out among the voters. I guess the easing of the gas situation also has contributed to more candidates coming into the county. So, if you have anything to complain about, now is the time to find where each man stands on the issues that are troubling you.

Mary Alice and I were invited to the Senior Class Super Star banquet last Thursday night and came away with many memories. There were 93 seniors invited or tapped for this banquet and along with their parents, the school faculty and school leaders, the Gibson Gym was a sellout for this affair.

This was the second such affair and the only way you could get an invitation was by being an outstanding student, either in school work or club work. Also, conduct of a student was a must, to be chosen.

One of these students had been nominated by three different teachers or clubs and were given certificates for this as special recognition.

Six students who were nominated four or more times were given the title "Super Stars." They received special awards and were given special recognition. It was kind of a surprise to me that all six were girls (or young ladies may be a better way to put it). Now this couldn't come from Women's Lib, because some of the teachers were men and the cause for nominations had nothing to do with the subject. So maybe the girls just have more on the ball at Hoke High than the boys. I will wait until next year to be sure.

I will say that Jerry Thompson should have been given an award because he was the star of the show, in my book. Anyway, it was a fine affair, and I think everyone left with a full stomach and fine feelings for the faculty, for a swell evening.

Boy Dies In Wreck

A four year old Hoke County boy has died of injuries received in a two-car accident at the intersection of U.S. 401 South and Rural Paved Road 1204 in Bowmore Section at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to investigating State Highway Patrolman Joe Stanley.

Taborri Purcell, Rt. 1, was a passenger in a car reportedly driven by his mother, Betrice Purcell. According to accident reports, the brakes on the Purcell car failed and the car went through a stop sign at the intersection, reportedly hitting a second vehicle driven by Margie Whitley Lindsey, Fayetteville.

Mrs. Purcell was cited for improper equipment and a stop sign violation.

Reportedly injured in the accident were both drivers, Viola Torrence, 63, Rt. 1, and John Lee Torrence, 8, Rt. 1, both passengers in the Purcell car, and Dale Lindsey, 9, Susanne Lindsey, 8, and Robin Lindsey, 13, all of Fayetteville, passengers in the Lindsey vehicle. Cape Fear Valley Hospital reported Robin Lindsey in satisfactory condition Wednesday. No other information was available.

The injured were taken to the hospital by Morrison Ambulance service.



LOCAL RIDERS—Local participants in Saturday's Raeford Woman's Club Tenth Annual Horse Show included, from left, Dennis Ellis, Andrea Priest, Richard Jones, Mary Myers, Cheryl Maxwell and their mounts. (Gillis Photo)

Local Winners Named

Winners of the five open division classes of the Raeford Woman's Club Horse Show held Saturday at Bobo Stables, U. S. 401 bypass, were announced by show secretary Mrs. Tom McBryde. They are as follows:

Go As You Please: first place, Scooters Wind, ridden by Lee Vincent, owned by Roger H. Dent, Durham; second place, Red Bee King, ridden by Lee Tower, owned by Dan Tower, Fayetteville; third place, Sundance, ridden and owned by Mary Ann Laurent, Fayetteville; fourth place, Gold'N Silver, ridden and owned by Andrea Priest, Pinehurst; fifth place, Tony, ridden and owned by Elaine Disoway, Spring Lake; sixth place, Red Man ridden and owned by Phyllis Mull, Raeford.

Local Pleasure: first place, Red Man, ridden and owned by Phyllis Mull, Raeford; second place, Sandy, ridden and owned by Richard H. Jones, Raeford; third place, Cindy, ridden and owned by Cheryl Maxwell, Rt. 2; and fourth place, Chu-vas-ko, ridden and owned by Mary Myers, Rt. 2.

Open Western Pleasure: first place, Gold'N Silver, ridden and owned by Andrea Priest, Pinehurst; second place,

Scooters Wind, ridden by Lee Vincent, owned by Roger H. Dent, Durham; third place, VenGador's Moon, ridden by Emily Spilman and owned by Louis Spilman Jr., Fayetteville; fourth place, Mr. Buzz, ridden and owned by Tommy Wagoner, Ft. Bragg; fifth place, Bear's Tornado, ridden by Jane Bailey, owned by Jane Elizabeth Bailey, Fayetteville; sixth place, Tony, ridden and owned by Elaine Disoway of Spring Lake.

Open English Three Gaited Pleasure: first place, Sundance, ridden and owned by Mary Ann Laurent, Fayetteville; second place, Shadowfax, ridden and owned by Lisa Mason, Fayetteville; third place, Dice, ridden and owned by Tracy Ross, Fayetteville.

Open Equitation: first place, Gold'N Silver, ridden and owned by Andrea Priest, Pinehurst; second place, Red Bee King, ridden by Lee Tower, owned by Dan Tower, Fayetteville; third place, Shadowfax, ridden and owned by Lisa Mason, Fayetteville; fourth place, Sundance, ridden and owned by Mary Ann Laurent, Fayetteville; fifth place, Dice, ridden and owned by Tracy Ross, Fayetteville; sixth place, Mr. Buzz, ridden and owned by Tommy Wagoner, Ft. Bragg.

Bike Safety Education Begins

The educational phase of the multi-phased bicycle safety program being sponsored in Hoke County by the Raeford Woman's Club Education Department, the Police Department, and County 4-H, will be presented April 22-26 in county schools.

Representatives from each sponsoring organizations will be at the schools to present films, slides, pamphlets and other educational material to students.

Following the week of bicycle safety education, students participating in the program will be tested. Those passing will receive bicycle safety patches furnished by the Modern Woodmen of America.

The education phase of the program will be followed with bicycle

registration, inspection, and demonstration of skills phases, and a final special events phase consisting of a bicycle rodeo and other fun events, according to Brenda Abrams, chairman of the program's curriculum committee.

Schedule
Monday, all materials for bicycle education classes will be delivered to county schools. Tuesday, sponsor organizations' representatives will present programs at Scurlock School beginning at 9:15 a.m., and Upchurch School, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, programs will be presented at West Hoke School beginning at 9:15 a.m., McLauchlin School beginning at 9 a.m., Hoke High

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Harold Brock

Board Picks Harold Brock

"Our intention, as far as method of election is concerned, is to follow footprints used in the past so people will say we held as fair an election as possible," said Harold Brock immediately after his election as Hoke County Board of Elections chairman, April 18.

The Hoke County native stressed, "We need to get registrars sworn in and I am looking forward to working closely with all Hoke County election officials."

Harold Brock, a Republican, was appointed to the board last week and elected chairman to replace Earl Chason who resigned April 5. Chason was the first Republican to hold the Hoke County chairmanship since the county was formed in 1911.

At last week's meeting during a discussion of precinct officials' salaries, J. Scott Poole, Democratic member and former chairman, explained recommended pay in election laws is based on size of registration. Of the several salary categories Hoke falls into the smallest. Cumberland is in a different category because of larger registration figures.

Abner Lee Strother, board member, reported the county commissioners had granted an extension of budget request deadline because of the change in chairman.

The new chairman is poultry sales representative for Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc. The 1959 Hoke High School graduate earned a basic mechanical drafting degree from Fayetteville Technical Institute in 1967 and in 1971 completed several business courses at North Carolina State University in Fayetteville. He, his wife, the former Patricia Ann Besse, and their daughter reside in McLauchlin Township.

Correction

Last week's District Court news mistakenly reported Henry Lee Lloyd, Rt. 1, was convicted of DUI, and the state not pressed a careless and reckless driving charge against him.

The article should have stated Lloyd was convicted of careless and reckless driving, received 60 days suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs and the state took nol pros on companion DUI charges.

Collection Will Benefit Library

The Public Affairs Department of the Raeford Woman's Club will sponsor a returnable drink bottle collection April 27 for the benefit of the Library Building Fund.

Returnable bottles should be brought to the Presbyterian Church parking lot between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Firemen Burn

Alleged Revenue Runaround Leaves Volunteers Blazing Rulers Render Flaming Reactions Shocked Response

Blazing, angry Hoke County firemen met April 11 to discuss revenue sharing funds and approved a motion to contact Congressman Charlie Rose for assistance. The firemen want to determine if Hoke County government has complied with all regulations concerning handling of revenue sharing funds.

The firemen are up in arms because they claim county commissioners turned them down on a request for revenue sharing funds at a budget hearing April 9. According to Grady Peeler, Firemen's Association president, "We've been getting kicked around for several months."

At last week's association meeting Peeler said the group appeared before county commissioners in January to request \$5,000 in revenue sharing funds for each of the eight county volunteer fire departments. "Commissioners told us to submit a letter stating what we needed the funds for." Firemen were advised to return with the letter the first week of April, Peeler reports.

Peeler said firemen were later requested to fill out three detailed forms on annual budget estimates of expenditures and revenues. These were presented to commissioners at an April 1 meeting. There apparently was a mixup on meeting dates and Peeler reports T. B. Lester requested firemen return for budget hearings April 9 with two forms.

The firemen say commissioners told them at the April 9 meeting that all revenue sharing money had been allocated. Hillcrest Fire Chief W. E. McNeill said, "Commissioners said there are just no revenue sharing funds for us because we did not apply in time and the money has been allocated."

The volunteers report commissioners and Lester kept bringing up possible fire tax rate changes. Steve Hedgpeh of North Raeford Department said, "I told commissioners and Mr. Lester the purpose of our coming was to submit budgets and not the tax rate. We went for \$5,000 revenue sharing money but yet...anytime we brought up revenue sharing into it, they got right back on the tax rate."

"What it boils down to is we aren't getting any money at all. I thought the purpose of turning in the budgets was to show due cause for the \$5,000. We spent a lot of time making out those budgets."

Peeler added, "All the time they were giving us the run around—had us filling out all those forms which were useless, because the money had already been allocated for 1974-75."

Hedgpeh continued, "When Crawford Thomas told commissioners the city of Raeford bought a truck with revenue sharing for upwards of \$50,000 that quieted them down, and they jumped right back on the tax rate again."

One fireman said he received a call

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Firemen Find Income Minus Outgo=Red Ink

Hoke County fire departments find income minus outgo leaves most departments in the red. Main income for the departments comes from fire taxes levied on taxpayers in each fire district.

The amount of tax money varies from district to district. Wiley McDougald, Tyler Town assistant chief, reports his department received \$264 last year and \$397 March 2, this year.

North Raeford Department, which used to get \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year while the Burlington Industries plant was in their district, now gets about \$5,000 a year.

West Hoke Fire Department receives about \$1,200 to \$1,400 a year. For 1972-73, Pinehill received \$1,462; Puppy Creek, \$2,302; Rockfish, \$2,233; and Hillcrest, \$3,219. Additional money comes from suppers, dances and other fund-raising projects.

Inflation has made fire fighting a costly business with prices on some fire hoses jumping from \$80 to \$150 an inch in the past year.

Recently, Hillcrest Department held a practice at Scurlock School and found they have only enough hose to reach the right front corner of the structure. If a fire starts any place else in the building, the present hoses could not help. Cost of the necessary hose and installation at the school would cost \$1,660.

The department wants to install the

Tuesday, County Commissioner John Balfour expressed shock over the county firemen's reaction to the April 9 budget hearing. "I don't know what got the firemen so upset. I thought they understood that was only a hearing to accept budget requests."

"They apparently did not understand we were there just to accept budget requests and no decisions were made. I'm for helping the departments if we possibly can. I felt we all left the meeting with a more positive attitude than in the past," stated Balfour.

"We have obligated ourselves to the new county office building and the architect is still making plan changes. We could decline all bids if we find the building will be too expensive, (cost estimates range up to \$500,000) but we do have to wait until we get bids on that building before we can tell anybody anything about revenue sharing," he said.

At current estimates, construction of the proposed building would deplete all but about \$11,000 of revenue money through June of this year. Two additional checks are expected by the end of the year and based on past figures, could amount to about \$160,000, total.

"I have leaned towards using McLauchlin School, but it would be a big expenditure to renovate it for office space. Also, new schools cost more per square foot than new office buildings and the school board has made no overtures to the commissioners on McLauchlin School," Balfour reports.

"Another thing that has been pushing us on the new building is the fact the federal government will begin charging us rent for the county agent's offices."

"We have tentatively allocated \$200,000 for the library, and if any money is available after that, the fire departments' requests will probably be next in line," concluded the commissioner.

T. C. Jones, commissioner chairman, said he was unaware the fire association had met, but that revenue sharing funds were not denied at the budget hearing. "I expect you had better call Mr. T. B. Lester (County Manager). I don't know very much about that budget meeting." Jones said he was not at the hearing when the firemen appeared.

Lester said commissioners did not turn the firemen down. "They can't do that until a budget resolution is passed and we know what money is available. The government has not yet told us how much revenue sharing money we will receive between July, 1974, and June, 1975." The first check for that period is due in September.

"The commissioners told the firemen that other revenue sharing requests were ahead of them. The library is ahead of them," said the county manager.

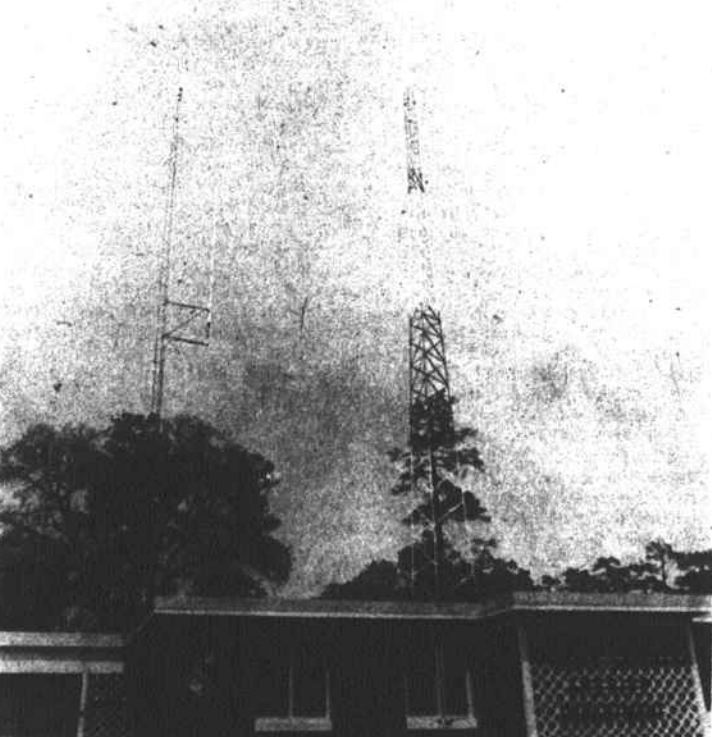
He also reports the rescue squad requested \$5,000 in revenue sharing funds, but that \$3,000 of that was balance due on a note and revenue sharing cannot be used for that purpose.

Autry Waits On Study Results

Raz Autry, Hoke County superintendent of schools, said Tuesday he hopes to be able to make recommendations on county school facilities at the May meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Autry said no recommendations were possible until the school board receives the results of a recent study of county school buildings made by the state. He said he expects the study results next week and will base his recommendations to the commissioners on the report.

He added the future of McLauchlin, Raeford Elementary, and possibly other schools in the county, will depend on the state study results.



TOWER — Workman scales new tower at Hoke County Sheriff's Department April 11. At left behind jail is shorter old tower. The new red and white tower is part of new communications system being installed under federal safe streets and crime act. (N-J Photo)