

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

As I write this column early Tuesday morning the sun is shining and it should make for a perfect primary voting day. I have already cast my ballot and do so early each election day so as not to have anyone change my mind.

With the weather as is and the large number of candidates on the ballots a large turnout should be expected. Anyway by the time you read this it will all be history.

Just remember if you didn't vote please be silent as to how the elected officials run the government.

Bill Bailey, weather expert for The News-Journal, was by the office Monday and informed me of the amount of rain that occurred over the weekend. Bill stated that this is what farmers describe as "a million dollar rain."

He said that it rained three different times from Friday through Sunday and that the rainfall was 1.1 inches. The first rainfall was .2 of an inch, then another .2 of an inch and then Sunday it was .7 of an inch.

Bailey said that the light rainfall all three times soaked into the soil and that he would say every inch was put to use. Also the skies were overcast and let it all soak up. Thanks Bill for the information.

Monday night at the Gibson School Cafeteria the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner meeting. The meeting was well attended from both industry and merchants of the county. New officers were installed and of course the singing by the Hoke High Chorale is always an outstanding event.

Chamber Manager Harold Gillis stated things that had happened in the county during the past year that the Chamber was dealing in, it seemed like a very successful year. Little things can grow into major projects.

Then Jack Havens, president of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, gave a talk about his company that struck me as very timely for the night. It showed that the company uses service and dedicated personnel to sell the company products. The food was excellent being prepared by the Hoke County 4-H Clubs.

I would say that in all it was a successful affair.

I guess you could say that we had very little spring this year. But a sign that summer is just around the corner is the graduation exercises at the colleges and universities over the state. Also the schools here in the county will be closing in about four weeks.

It seems only yesterday that school opened but as I have always heard "the older you get, the faster time seems to fly."

Havens Spoke Before C Of C

President of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company J. F. Havens, Tarboro, spoke before approximately 200 people Monday night at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce annual banquet at W. T. Gibson Cafeteria.

Installed as new officers by Sam C. Morris, past president, were Bob M. Gentry, president; Edwin H. Brown, vice president; Graham Clark, vice president; and Freddie Williams,



ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER - Mr. and Mrs. Bob Gentry chat with J.F. Havens, center, at annual Chamber of Commerce dinner and installation of officers Monday. Gentry was installed as president of the local organization and Havens, Carolina Telephone and Telegraph president from Tarboro was guest speaker. (Gillis Photo)

Hoke County Voting Is Light

Morgan Wins Nomination For Senate

With all but four precincts in the state reporting, Atty. Gen. Robert Morgan led a field of ten candidates for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination with 50.49 percent of the vote. Former U.S. Rep. Nick Galifianakis pulled 32.21 percent and Henry Hall Wilson drew 11.46 percent. If Morgan maintains his slim margin above 50 percent, there will be no second primary. The other seven candidates each drew less than one percent of the vote.

With 99 percent of the vote in, Morgan had 292,676; and Galifianakis, 186,710.

The Democratic nominee will face Republican nominee William Stevens in the November general election. With more than 60 percent of the votes counted Stevens, with 38,620, had 67.3 percent of the votes. His closest challenger was Wood H. Young with 25.4 percent.

In Hoke County voting, Morgan received 1,035; Galifianakis, 1,007; and Wilson, 165.

In the Seventh District Congressional race incumbent Charles G. Rose III was way ahead of his challengers with 171 of 178 district precincts reporting. Rose received 40,020 or 60.43 percent of the votes. Challenger N. Hector (Hec) McGeachy drew 28.87 percent with a total vote of 19,072. Third Democrat in the race, Peter Davis, with 7,126, received 10.76 percent of the vote.

Rose, a freshman Congressman from Fayetteville, faces no Republican opposition in the November general election and will represent the district in the U.S. House of Representatives for a second term.

In Hoke County voting, Rose received 1,611 to McGeachy's 668, and Davis' 160.

May Campaign Is Underway

Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc., is promoting the anti-litter campaign this month as part of "Clean Sweep '74". For campaign, Raeford has been divided into four sections with a week in May set aside for clean-up in each area. Clean Sweep will concentrate on the southwest section May 5 through 11, the northeast section May 12 through 18, the southeast section May 19 through 25, and the northwest section May 26 through 31.

Merchants and residents may aid the campaign by keeping property litter free. A yard of the week will be chosen from city and county residences each week by the Raeford Woman's Club

See CAMPAIGN, Page 11



JAMES ALBERT HUNT



MRS. KERMIT (MABEL) RILEY



DANNIE DELORIS McCOLLUM

Hunt Is Winner, Two-Seat Runoff Possible

With, according to unofficial estimates, just over one-third of registered voters turning out to exercise their voting privileges Hoke Countians chalked up one and possibly three firsts for the board of county commissioners. James Albert Hunt swept the county with, according to unofficial count, 1,422 votes to become the first Indian elected to the county governing body.

With three seats at stake, second and third highest vote getters were Mrs. Kermit (Mabel) Riley with 785 and Dannie Deloris McCollum with 713, and if seated on the board, would be the first woman and first Negro to serve on the governing body.

Since neither Mrs. Riley nor McCollum exceeded the 1,026 votes needed for a majority they could face a runoff with fourth place incumbent John Balfour, 710, and fifth place incumbent Ralph Barnhart, 620. If Balfour or Barnhart, or both, decide to call for a runoff, the second primary must be held June 4. Winners will face one Republican in the November general election.

Wednesday morning Hunt said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank each person from throughout the county for the support they gave me in the election. I am looking forward to serving the people of Hoke County in the next four years. Anytime anyone has any problems (they should) feel free to call on me and I will do my best to try and help."

Votes drawn by others seeking nomination for 1974 commissioners race were A. Smith McJannet, 599; Woodrow (Woody) Wilson, Jr., 535; R.L. (Lud) Hales, 375; W.B. (Brownie) McDiarmid, 342; and Clarence G. (Joe) Odom, 53.

In another county race, incumbent Clerk of Superior Court L.E. Smith rolled up a whopping 1,898 against challenger City Councilman Robert W. Weaver who pulled 417. Incumbent Coroner G. Franklin Crumpler drew 1,093 and opponent W.D. Danny Morrison, received 1,009.

In the race for three seats in the N.C. House of Representatives from the 21st District (Hoke-Scotland-Robeson), incumbent Henry Ward Oxendine led the pack of five Democratic candidates with 12,640 votes and incumbent Joy J. Johnson eased into second with 11,639.

A recount will probably be called for to determine the third Democratic See RUNOFF, Page 11

Newcomb Leads State Judicial Race

Local unofficial election returns seem to echo the statewide results in the race between Republicans James M. Newcomb and Eleta Melton Alexander for their party's nomination for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Newcomb, who finished with 51 votes in the county, reportedly held a

solid lead over Alexander, Greensboro, the first black woman district court judge in the nation. Newcomb, of Williamston, is a fire systems salesman with no legal experience. The winner will face Supreme Court Associate Justice Susie M. Sharp, a democratic nominee, in the November general

election for the post now held by Chief Justice William H. Bobbitt.

Superior Court Judge J. William Copeland apparently won the democratic nomination to the N.C. Supreme Court. Again, Hoke County voters showed similar results with Copeland getting 813 votes over opponents Eugene Hafer, 643, and James A. Webster, Jr., 624.

The winner will face Republican Court of Appeals Judge James M. Baley for the seat now held by Justice Sharp.

Statewide returns show a possible runoff situation in the race for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court between James G. Exum, Jr., and R. A. (Fred) Hedrick.

With 883 of 2,303 precincts in, Exum polled 68,138 votes to Hedrick's 51,277. Reginald Frazier trailed with 28,679. Unofficial Hoke county shows Exum receiving 1,341 votes, Hedrick, 527, and Frazier, 266.

Hedrick could call for a runoff June 4. He has until May 20 to decide. There is no republican opposition for the seat.

In Court of Appeals races, Superior Court Judge Robert M. Martin defeated District Court Judge Tom H. Matthews and State Rep. Gerald Arnold, D-Harnett, led the race against Wake District Court Judge S. Pretlow Winborne although local unofficial returns showed Winborne with 1,035 votes and Arnold with 949. With 888 of 2,303 precincts reporting statewide, Arnold had 74,201 and Winborne, 63,141; with 891 of 2,303 precincts reporting, Martin held a 34,060 vote margin statewide. Local tally shows Martin with 1,196 votes and Matthews with 838.

County Signs Contract

At their regular monthly meeting Monday, county commissioners' actions included signing a retroactive contract with Morrison's Ambulance Service, approving payment of a retroactive salary raise to Edna Lou Poole, former elections board executive secretary, setting salaries for board of education members and approving subject to specific changes, a contract with Stonewall Fire Department.

The contract with Morrison, dated and signed Monday, covers the period July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1974. Under terms of the contract the county pays Morrison \$12,000 in \$3,000 quarterly payments with first payment Oct. 1, 1973, and Morrison "provides twenty-four hour ambulance service for the citizens of Hoke County, in accordance to rate schedules attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this contract."

The contract, signed by County Commissioner Chairman T.C. Jones and Danny Morrison and attested to by County Manager and board Secretary T. B. Lester, is renewable year to year unless either party terminates by giving the other party written notice before June 1 of the year.

Commissioners set annual salary for board of education chairman at \$750 and for members at \$600. They approved a contract, subject to discussed changes, with Stonewall Fire Department which will permit Stonewall to borrow money from the Farmers Home Administration.

In other action, commissioners appointed Tom Burgess to the local Energy Petroleum Council, received a request from Mrs. Laurie McEachern, Bicentennial Chairman, that commissioners accept her resignation as chairman, effective September.

Commissioners were informed 1974-1975 revenue sharing funds will total \$310,302. Other action authorized See CONTRACT, Page 11

Board Hires Teachers

The Board of Education met Monday and approved the hiring of five teachers for the 1974-75 school year. Miss Cecelia Ropp, Christine Winberry, Mrs. Allen Edwards, Linda Huff, and Stephen McNeill were hired.

All resignations to date were accepted and Superintendent of Schools Raz Autry was empowered to accept resignations as they are submitted.

The School board also voted to allow any civic organization to pay for installation and materials for lighting three new tennis courts at Hoke High School with the lights becoming the property of the Hoke County Board of Education upon installation. Lights could be used by inserting a coin in a meter affixed to the light pole.

Autry's recommendation that the summer Recreation Commission may use any school facilities in their summer program with the approval of the school principal was accepted.

In further action, the board instructed Autry to apply for Federal Impact Funds, and approved the Adult High School program in conjunction with Sandhills College.

A Driver Education budget of \$32,223 was approved for the 1974-75 school year, and the board voted not to allow Goodwill Industries to collect in county schools this year.

Substitute teachers approved were Belinda Coleman, Jacquelyn Becker, Bobby Little and Virginia Howell. Sick leave for Mrs. Beulah Cartwright was extended 20 days.

Teachers resigning include Anna Bullard, Mary Garner, Diane Smith, Virginia O'Tuel, Clara Frierson, Marsha P. Marble, Sally Jordan, Linda Wyatt, and Richard Neely.

Teachers retiring this year include Megellan Robinson, Leona Coleman, and Mary W. Watson.

Council Minus Quorum

The City Council met Monday without enough members present to form a quorum. Present at the regular meeting were Councilmen Crawford L. Thomas, Jr., and Robert W. Weaver, Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and City Manager John Gaddy.

As advertised, bids were opened on curbing and guttering work scheduled to be done on city streets this summer. Bollinger Construction Co., Lumberton, sent a bid of \$70,742.50; Lee Paving Co. had the high bid, \$87,995.50; and Crowell Construction of Lumberton had a low bid of \$67,386.55. No action was taken.

As advertised, bids on construction of a metal building to house a city garage and office space were opened. Bids received on the building included: F.R. Bray Construction Co., Lumberton, \$33,100; Speros Construction Co.,

Maxton, \$42,526; Metal Building Systems, Sanford, \$33,311; and J.S. Singletary Co., Clarkton, \$28,229.43.

Only one plumbing bid was received, Raeford Plumbing & Heating Co., \$1,855.

Bids for installation of electrical wiring included \$4,150 from Raeford Electric Motor Service, and \$2,150 from Edens Electric, Raeford.

Raeford Plumbing & Heating sent a low bid for Heating installation of \$3,088. Edens Electric bid \$3,095.

No action was taken on any bids due to lack of a quorum present. The bid opening was the second on the building and installations.

Tommy Wilkerson was present at the meeting to request the council study the possibility of passing a city leash law to help control stray dogs. No action was taken.

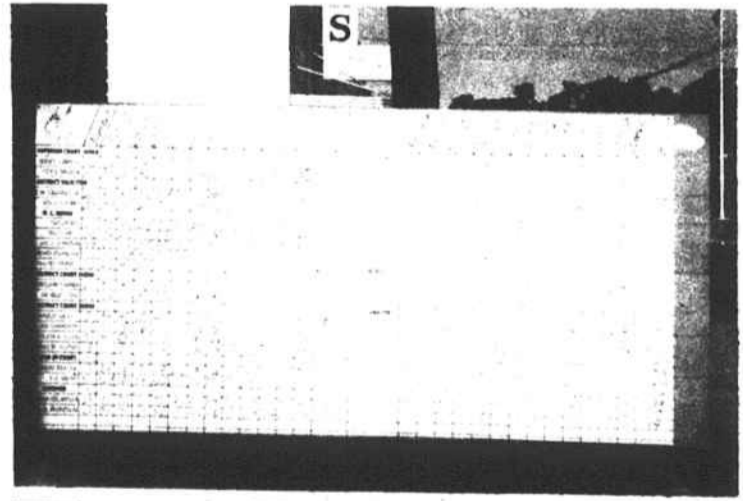


Table with columns for candidates and precincts. Includes names like Ronald Frazier, James M. Newcomb, and Eleta Melton Alexander. The table shows unofficial election returns for the judicial race.

UNOFFICIAL RETURNS ON "THE NEWS-JOURNAL," ELECTION BOARDS (Absentee ballot votes not included)