

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

As could be expected since the Lions Club was having its annual golf tournament the rains came. I haven't seen Bill Bailey but understand that four or more inches of rain fell in the county over the weekend. Anyway the fields were too wet Monday for the farmers to put tractors in.

I didn't hear of any hail or any damage from lightning that accompanied the rains. I did hear that the electric power was off in some sections of the county Saturday night.

There is right much talk about the runoff primary which will come about Tuesday, June 4th. Now this is a favorable sign but what counts is the mark on the ballot primary day. Don't sit back like last time and leave it to your friends to do the voting, go with him to the polling places and be counted.

It may not seem important to elect a judge but remember that the commissioners will be running the county for the next four years, providing the programs and projects that the county will undertake, and last but not least, will set the tax rate for your property.

This may not be important to you, but it is for me, and I will be sure to vote June 4th if my health is so that I can get to the ballot boxes.

I did not play in the golf tournament last weekend but did ride out Sunday afternoon to watch some of the locals play. One foursome I talked with and followed a couple of holes, was complaining about the slow play in the tournament. The only reason they gave was that golfers were losing balls and taking a long time to look for them.

One of the foursome said that a turtle from the pond on hole two crossed the fairway of hole three while they were waiting to tee off. Of course I didn't see this, or haven't had proof from my friends that needed to make Harvey Warlick's birdie story truthful.

But this I will say; some of the slow play came from the scores that were posted after the end of play. It takes somewhat longer to hit the ball 103 strokes than 83 strokes. Now this needs no proof; this is facts.

I noticed in Charles Craven's column Tuesday morning that he was writing about a former state employee that had retired several years ago and was back in Raleigh on a visit. The lady had worked for the Wildlife Commission and was telling Craven about speaking in different schools over the state.

This is one thing she said: "And everything I said to those students, from a one room Indian school in Hoke County to the graduate school at Duke University, came to pass as to the air, clean water, soil . . . the only way to preserve natural resources is to keep people's hands off them. They use to many paper towels, too much of everything."

Bill Bailey came by the office after I had already turned in my column with the following figures on May rainfall. During the first 20 days of May it has rained 10 days and the rainfall for that time is 6.4 inches.

Thanks Bill I even think you know something about farming.

College Honors G.B. Rowland

A long time Hoke County resident was honored Sunday at Campbell College ceremonies dedicating the institution's new religious building.

Campbell College board of trustees dedicated one room of the building to Gordon B. Rowland, 610 N. Stewart St. Two additional rooms were dedicated by Rowland. One in memory of his late wife Sally Rowland and the other in memory of his deceased parents, Mr. and Mrs. O.L. Rowland.

Rowland who was born in Columbus County in 1890, created a charitable gift annuity at Campbell College in 1973 which gives him an annual income and benefits the institution. He was Raeford Mayor in the 1920's and served as county solicitor.

Attending the dedication with Rowland were his sister Mrs. Carrie Ketherson, who is visiting from St. Simons Island, Ga., and a niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. B.G. Thomas of Erwin.

Hoke Budget Nudges \$1.4 Million

City Council Receives Tentative Budget Plan

City Manager John Gaddy presented city council members with first drafts of a tentative city budget for the fiscal year 1974-75 at a special meeting May 16.

The draft is made up of city department heads' requests for city funds. Gaddy requested the council study the draft and be prepared to make changes, additions or corrections at a later meeting.

Gaddy also asked the council to be thinking about possible distribution of \$94,863 in revenue sharing funds expected during the coming fiscal year.

The tentative proposed budget shows a current revenue sharing fund appropriated balance of \$72,107.38, and interest earned at \$5,000 making an estimated total of \$171,970.38 in Revenue Sharing Funds received by the end of the 1974-75 fiscal year.

The rough draft of the proposed budget includes Revenue Sharing expenditures of \$60,000 for a new garbage truck; \$39,956.88 for buildings; \$28,863 for equipment sheds and fencing at the new city garage; \$27,150.50 for recreation and parks; \$9,500 for garbage disposal; \$6,000 for fire truck equipment; and \$500 for miscellaneous material. Gaddy said he was sure the council would change the proposed revenue sharing plan and added that the first draft of the budget was to show available funds.

The city is required to file a proposed budget with the city clerk in Raeford's case Gaddy - by the first of June, advertise it, and make a copy of the proposed budget available to the public at least 10 days before calling a public hearing. The budget must be accepted by July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

Proposed Allocations

The budget draft showed expected general fund revenues and expenditures, \$585,559.25; with the largest proposed allocation \$106,120, going to the Police

Department. This is \$16,020.80 above the total budgeted for that department for 1973-74. Most of the requested money would go for department salaries.

Other department budget proposals include: \$99,428.50 for the street department, with the largest expenditures in the areas of salaries and contracting; \$58,270.20 for the governing body; \$52,041.87 for non-departmental spending; \$50,196.80 for the city fire department with salaries and capital outlay for equipment the largest expenditures; \$45,000 in Powell Bill Funds; \$39,338.30 going for garbage disposal with expenditures of \$15,618.30 for salaries and \$10,000 for contracted construction; \$38,717.98 for the sanitation department with salaries listed as the largest expenditure; \$30,100 for public buildings; \$29,800 for the municipal garage; \$16,052 for the planning and zoning department; \$10,993.60 for the cemetery; \$5,500 for the Raeford Airport; and \$4,000 for the library.

General Fund Revenue estimates for 1974-75 are based on a tentative tax rate of 65 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

This compares with \$1.10 this year, but current taxes are based on 65 percent of assessed valuation and the new tax rate is based on 100 percent of assessed value. Further complicating the comparison is the recent re-evaluation of property.

Water and Sewer

Water and sewer revenues for the coming fiscal year are estimated in the tentative budget at \$411,800, about \$50,000 more than shown in the 1973-74 budget.

The largest proposed expenditure of the water and sewer funds is for water and sewer maintenance. Debt service on principal maturities, interest on bonds and bond service charges totaling \$112,405 is included in proposed water and sewer spending.

Ambulance Rates Wait OK

County Manager T.B. Lester announced Tuesday tentative ambulance rate schedules which will be presented to county commissioners at their next meeting for consideration and incorporation as part of the retroactive contract signed with Morrison Ambulance Service May 6. The contract covers the period July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974.

A clause in the contract stipulates Morrison will provide the ambulance service "according to rate schedules attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this contract." At the time the contract was signed there was no rate schedule attached.

Under the rate schedule announced Tuesday one-way ambulance service from within Raeford City limits to Moore Memorial Hospital or any Fayetteville hospital would be \$25; Southeastern General Hospital, \$35; Chapel Hill, \$75; Duke or Durham, \$90.

Lester stressed these are minimum charges from within Raeford city limits. Longer distances would be charged at \$1 a mile and a charge of \$8 an hour would be made after the first hour of arrival at destination.

Under the contract signed May 6 county government pays Morrison \$12,000 year to provide ambulance service in Hoke County. Morrison must provide 24-hour ambulance service, two ambulances, a private telephone line to be used exclusively for ambulance service and a qualified operator on call 24 hours a day.

The ambulance service must answer all emergency calls for service within Hoke County whether or not advance arrangements are made for its fees. The contract is renewable from year to year under same conditions unless ambulance service or county government terminates by written notice before June 1.

Morrison said, "This contract is for emergency services only. I will not be running a taxi service for people who could go to the hospital in a car."

In 1971-72 county government funded \$1,500 for ambulance service evenly divided between the former

Sales Tax Collections

The April report from the N.C. Department of Revenue lists net collections in Hoke County for local one percent sales and use tax as \$17,936.54.



NOT SUITABLE - A state survey team reports, "Most of the buildings at Raeford Elementary School are nonfire-resistant; the total facility is not worthy of extensive renovations due to the limited site and to its poor condition for educational purposes." The state Division of School Planning survey report recommends two options for the Hoke County School system. Both options include discontinuing use of Raeford Elementary building as a school (N-J Photo)

School Survey Report Offers Two Options

The Hoke County school survey report made by state Division of School Planning recommends discontinuing use of Raeford Elementary School building for educational purposes and recommends two options for the Hoke County school system.

The survey report indicates, "Most of the buildings at the Raeford Elementary School are nonfire-resistant; the total facility is not worthy of extensive renovations due to the limited site and to its poor condition for educational purposes."

The report rates all four buildings at Raeford Elementary as structurally sound but objections to use of the building as a school include insufficient ground area and a street separating the school from the play area.

Option I in the report recommends having McLauchlin, Scurlock, South Hoke and West Hoke schools house kindergarten through third grades; Upchurch, grades four and five; a new school, grades six through eight; and Hoke High School, grades nine through twelve. Estimated cost of this plan is \$3,792,875.

Option II recommends having McLauchlin, Scurlock, South Hoke and West Hoke house grades kindergarten through fourth; Upchurch, fifth and sixth; Hoke High-Gibson, grades seven through nine; and a new high school, grades ten through twelve. Estimated cost of this option is \$3,725,875.

Recommendations under option I include maintaining McLauchlin School at its present size with no future expansion; expanding West Hoke and Scurlock to include kindergarten classrooms; and removal of 1946 building (classrooms, library and office) and part of 1951 building at Upchurch.

At Hoke High School Option I recommends converting Gibson administration and media centers to classrooms; constructing three or four additional classrooms on Hoke High side of campus; and constructing new media center, administration, health and guidance facility between Gibson and Hoke High campuses.

The report also says, "The presence of Bethel Road separating the two major areas of the high school campus is certainly not desirable from either an educational, an esthetic or a safety point of view. The committee suggests the Hoke County Board of Education continue to work toward closing the road permanently with the through traffic routed around the campus; in the meantime, the board should secure permission to close the road at least during school hours."

Recommendations under Option II See SURVEY, Page 14

Library Gives City Revenue Sharing List

The Hoke County Library filed a four-page proposal for spending \$10,000 in Revenue Sharing Funds allocated by the city for library use in the 1973-74 budget.

The spending plan, drawn up by Mrs. Frances Edwards, library director, and reportedly approved by the Library Board, shows \$8,824 going for equipment and furniture; and \$1,176 for supplies. Mrs. Edwards explained when she drew up the plan she was under the impression all revenue sharing money had to be spent by July 1, the end of the current fiscal year.

John Gaddy, city manager, said even though revenue sharing money must be spent within 24 months of the day it is received, city fathers can shift revenue sharing priorities and re-allocate funds to keep a specific total available for any program until the total allocation is spent.

To date, Gaddy reports \$295 of the \$10,000 paid out through the city, \$215 on January 22, 1974, to Hayes, Howell and Associates, the architectural

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Boosters Meet

The Booster Club meets 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Hoke High School library. Noah Hendrix, 1974-75 president, requests all officers and members attend.

Alaskan Champ Practices What She Preaches - Life

By Jama Chesser

To be the very best in anything you do. That is the personal philosophy of skydiver Britian Carroll, 25, of Anchorage, Alaska. Miss Carroll is currently the holder of three skydiving titles in Alaska, overall champion, style champion and accuracy champion for women. She has held the overall champion title for two years and has held either the style or accuracy titles for five years.

The 5 feet 3 inch brunette is practicing at the Raeford Airport to compete for a spot on the five-woman-five-man U.S. Skydiving team which will be selected at the national finals competition in Talequah, Oklahoma later this year.

What was the most memorable of her 750 jumps to date? The one that earned her the distinction of being the first woman to parachute onto the true polar ice cap, the north pole.

"I hired a polar bear hunt guide and I went on a polar bear hunt," she explained. "That's how I got to jump. They had skis on the plane and landed to pick me up. I got to see a polar bear too."

Which was more exciting, seeing the polar bear or the jump?

"I told them not to let me jump near the polar bear, to just keep going. So we took the planes much further. We had two planes. When you fly that light a plane in the north you have to have two planes, a cover plane, and a plane."

"The cold was the hardest part of the jump. When I left Point Barrow, the last point of land I was on, it was 52 (degrees) below and with a 10 knot wind, that makes it 62 below with chill factor. And, I was sitting in the aircraft door for five or six minutes at 142 below with chill factor. I got frostbite. It was cold."

And what does the well dressed polar ice cap jumper wear? "Everything," said



EQUIPPED - Miss Britian Carroll, Alaska's championship skydiver checks her equipment. The gear, including jump suit, boots, two parachutes and helmet weighs approximately 45 pounds and costs an estimated \$750 to \$800. She is practicing at the Raeford Airport to compete for a spot on the U.S. Championship team. (Chesser Photo)

Miss Carroll. "I had everything on. I had to roll out of the plane I had so many clothes on. I made a stand-up landing."

The veteran jumper of five years went on, "people here can't imagine the vastness up there. It is so vast. I had no depth perception. Where we were flying along I couldn't tell if we were at 30

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The almost \$1.4 million Hoke County 1974-75 tentative budget is available for public inspection at the county manager's office in the courthouse. The proposed budget will be available at the public until a June 6 public budget meeting in the courtroom at 7 p.m.

The close to \$1.4 million figure includes \$310,302 in revenue sharing funds.

In his budget message to county commissioners Friday, County Manager T.B. Lester said expenditures in the tentative budget are up \$171,563. This is attributed to requests for increased salaries; up six to ten percent with the average at seven and a half percent.

Finance, health department and tax listing are requesting one additional employee each and the Sheriff's Department is requesting three additional employees.

Lester also reports more than 91 percent collection of current taxes. Tentative tax rate is listed as 86.12 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This compares with \$1.46 this year but current taxes are based on 65 percent of assessed valuation and the new tax rate is based on 100 percent of assessed value. Further complicating the comparison is the recent re-evaluation of property. In addition the estimated 86.12 cents tax rate does not include fire taxes which have not yet been set by the eight fire districts in the county.

County commissioners will study the tentative budget, hold meetings to discuss the budget and conduct the June 6 public budget meeting before voting on the final budget.

For only three departments does the county manager's recommended funding differ from the amount requested by the department head. In two cases the recommended funding is higher than that requested and in one case lower.

Tax listing requested \$32,150 and recommended was \$31,895. The recommendation asks \$255 less be budgeted in salaries than requested. The Health Department's requested budget of \$106,776 was recommended increased to \$108,444. The recommended \$1,668 increase is in the salary of adjustment fund.

Department of Social Services requested a \$267,201 budget and Lester recommends \$271,188. The recommended increase is all in public assistance. The aid to families with dependent children is increased from \$36 to \$51 a month per recipient.

County governing body 1973-74 budget was \$12,719, tentative for 1974-75 is \$15,390; elections, \$14,100, tentative, \$18,030; finance, \$25,350, tentative, \$29,417; tax collector, \$21,500, tentative, \$24,106; tax listing, \$31,200, tentative, \$31,895; and

Legal, \$600, tentative, \$600; register of deeds, \$16,165, tentative, \$18,266; public buildings, \$35,932, tentative, \$39,730; sheriff, \$112,843, tentative \$148,680; public safety, \$12,800, tentative, \$17,600; jail, \$16,100, tentative, \$24,080; fire, \$18,817, tentative, \$22,810; sanitation, \$65,000, tentative \$73,000; and

Health, \$95,524, tentative, \$108,444; medical examiner, \$3,200 tentative, \$3,700; social services, \$225,316, tentative \$271,188; civil preparedness, \$17,564, tentative, \$18,917; extension services, \$21,383, tentative \$29,353; veteran service, \$10,082, tentative, \$11,387; and

Recreation, \$17,653, tentative, \$21,307; library, \$11,750, tentative, \$15,750; soil conservation, \$4,325, tentative, \$4,325; county development (FHA, planning and development, senior citizens, Sandhill area development) \$7,675, tentative, \$8,875; non departmental, \$65,450, tentative, \$78,461; contingency, \$30,000; tentative, \$30,000; and jury commission, \$900, tentative, \$200.

Holiday Hours

Classes will be in session in Hoke County schools Monday, even though county, city, state and federal offices will close in observance of Memorial Day.

Also closing Monday are the Raeford Savings and Loan Association, Bank of Raeford and Southern National Bank.

Post office windows will be closed all day and no city or rural house deliveries will be made. Incoming mail will be placed in P.O. boxes Monday morning and outgoing mail deposited by 10 a.m. will be dispatched.