

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Mrs. James Hulon, who lives across from the Arabia Golf Course, called last week and said that the Sheriff's Department of Hoke County should be commended for the work they were doing. She said that she and her husband went away for two weeks and asked the sheriff's department to check their home occasionally. They returned late one afternoon and parked their truck behind the house and then retired for the night. They were awakened some time later and it was deputies shaking down the truck and wanting to find out who was around the house.

It was nice of Mrs. Hulon to commend the lawmen, as so few of us ever think of the fine good they are doing.

Robert Gatlin stopped by the office last week and asked had I heard that Dick Neeley could not plow his fields. Not being a member of the early coffee drinkers, I had not heard this, so I asked how much rain he had to keep him out of the fields. Gatlin said it was not wet fields, but that the air conditioner in the cab of Neeley's tractor had broken down.

Now farming has certainly changed over the years. Alfred Leach and his white shoes and Dick Neeley with an air conditioned tractor. Before long they will be sitting in the house looking at the TV set and have radio controls to guide the tractors.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam:

On behalf of the administration and our schools I would like to express my deep appreciation personally for the wonderful cooperation that The News-Journal has given us not only this year but for the many years I have been in Hoke County. They have been real kind to me personally. They have also been real kind to our schools in giving us the publicity and the cooperation or anything else that we needed. This of course is necessary to have the kind of school system that we need for our young people.

I don't think I've ever experienced or been associated with a newspaper that was so fully committed to the Public Schools. My deep appreciation and at the end of another school year I just wanted to say in a small way "Many Thanks". If we can ever help you personally or collectively, please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,  
Raz Autry



**TREE-TOP LANDING** - David Hayne, student pilot, reportedly guided a single engine plane owned by Rose Aviation, Inc. to a tree-top landing barely missing houses in the Robbin Heights - East Prospect Avenue residential area. The plane landed upside down in the backyard tree of the Bill Gill residence on East Prospect. Witness Ronnie Odum said the plane's engine stopped before it hit the tree. Hayne reportedly suffered a broken jaw, broken ribs, and minor injuries. (Jesse Peoples Photo)



**LONG MAY SHE WAVE** - Post Office flag, in what may be rehearsal for Friday's Flag Day, snaps smartly in the breeze. Flag Day was designated as such in 1895 and is observed each year on June 14, the anniversary of Congress' adoption of the American Flag in 1777. Even though it is not a legal holiday, Flag Day is celebrated by public display of the flag. (N-J Photo)

## Plane Misses Homes Crashes Into Trees

A single engine aircraft owned by Rose Aviation and piloted by David Hayne, Circle-H Mobile Home Park, crashed into trees in the back yard of the William Gill residence, 606 E. Prospect Ave. at 3:50 p.m. Saturday.

Hayne, who reportedly holds a student pilot license, was alone in the plane. He was taken to Womack Army Hospital, Ft. Bragg, where his wife reported he was treated for a broken jaw, three cracked ribs, and minor cuts and bruises.

According to witnesses, the plane's engine was not running at the time of the crash and had cut on and off several times as the plane flew at tree-top level from the northeast over the Robbins Heights area.

Ronnie Odum, who watched the crash from his mother's yard, 516 Grant Street, said the plane's engine cut on "long enough to allow him (Hayne) to nose it up and then . . . the propeller even stopped turning."

Odum said the plane's left wing then struck a tree, ripped off, and the plane flipped upside down and landed in the lower branches of another tree.

Police officer Kermit Griffin reported Phillip Huffman, off duty Policeman John McNeill, Willie Harrell Jr., and Ralph Huff helped Hayne from the

plane. Morrison's ambulance service took Hayne to Womack Army Hospital.

Mrs. Paul Rose, said the plane was a total loss and placed its value at \$7,000 including radio equipment. She said Federal Aviation Authority is investigating the cause of the crash.

Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said "although the crash was bad, it could have been worse. Response from citizens, the State Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Department, ambulance service and Hoke Rescue Squad was excellent. The men who helped the pilot from the plane didn't know if the engine would explode, they just wanted to help him. It is gratifying to see such cooperation among agencies and people."

## Council Reopens Road

The city council called a special meeting following Monday's public hearing on the city budget to receive a petition signed by 216 Hoke County residents requesting the entrance to the Raeford Cemetery off U.S. 401 Business be reopened. After hearing the petition, and spokesmen for keeping the road closed, the council voted 3 to 1 to reopen the road. One council member did not vote.

Spokesman for the petitioners, Neil McFadyen, said, "It is my information a traffic problem exists in the area. This problem was not caused by the cemetery or the entrance to the cemetery." "The closing of the road will neither solve the problem nor serve any other purpose, therefore, . . . I respectfully request you reconsider your action and open the old main entrance to our cemetery."

The cemetery entrance off U.S. 401 business was closed last week by unanimous vote of the city council upon recommendation of the State Highway Department and City Police Chief Leonard Wiggins, and City Manager John Gaddy because of the dangerous intersection. Gaddy explained the heavy traffic from workers at the House of Raeford turkey plant, the angle of the intersection, and infrequent use of the cemetery entrance combined to make it a dangerous spot. Two other entrances to the cemetery exist, one from Edinborough Avenue, and one off Elwood Avenue.

## Hoke Historical Association Organizational Meeting Set

A meeting to organize the Hoke County Historical Association is scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at the Raeford Presbyterian Church in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will be open to Hoke County citizens. Memberships will be accepted and officers will be elected. Guest speaker will be H. Clifton Blue, publisher of The Sandhills Citizen and past president of the Moore County Historical Association.

Purpose of the Historical Association will be to investigate, preserve, and make available knowledge of the history of Hoke County, its environs, and inhabitants. Plans call for the association to establish Hoke County history by discovering collecting and preserving materials such as relics, pictures, manuscripts or published works, and to

# Hoke Sets Tax Rate, Approves Budget

## Two Charged In Armed Robbery

Two Hamlet men, charged in connection with the June 6 armed robbery of the Hoke County ABC Store, are being held in the Hoke County jail on \$50,000 bond.

William F. White, 28, and Leroy Pinkney, 19, were arrested by Sheriff D.M. Barrington shortly after the robbery and all but \$20 of \$586 reported missing from the ABC store was recovered.

White allegedly entered the store about 4:40 p.m., waited until two customers left, ordered and paid for a pint of rum. He then ordered a bottle of Scotch and paid cashier Ervin Wilkes for the purchase.

White reportedly started to leave but turned back toward the counter pointing a cocked pistol and ordered Wilkes to open the cash register. The gunman then took all bills except singles from the register, reports Barrington. The gunman ordered a second cashier, Russell Wayne Ashburn, to give him cash. Ashburn placed the money on the counter and was ordered to get more cash, said the sheriff.

During this time a customer reportedly approached the store, pushed front door open, saw what was happening and ducked behind his car. Another man drove into ABC Store parking lot, realized something was wrong and pulled into a nearby parking lot hoping to get license and description of getaway vehicle, reports indicate.

When the robber left, Ashburn called the Sheriff's Department. Ashburn and the sheriff rode in a patrol car along College Avenue looking for gunman who was walking. A woman who had been working in her garden flagged the patrol car, gave a description of getaway car which had been parked nearby and said the vehicle had headed toward Fayetteville on U.S. 401, reports Sheriff Barrington.

Barrington's patrol car caught up with the suspect's vehicle just a mile north of the Hoke - Cumberland line. The suspect's car pulled over and was riding part on the road and part on the shoulder. Barrington says he stopped in front of the other car, pulled his gun and waived the vehicle to stop.

Barrington said he ordered the two men out of the car but once they refused to obey his orders. At that time a Highway Patrol car arrived from direction of Fayetteville and the troopers placed one suspect in the sheriff's car. Deputies Alex Norton and Jimmy Riley arrived, handcuffed the other suspect and placed him in the patrol car. A wad of five, ten and twenty dollar bills totalling \$530 was found under seat in suspect's car, reports Barrington.

Raeford Policemen Kermit Griffin and Charles Campbell found 36 one dollar bills strewn in a field adjacent to the ABC Store. Chief Deputy Sheriff Harvey Young, found bag of liquor in bushes about a half block from the store and two area residents found a gun in a clump of bushes half way between U.S. 401, College Drive and Cole Extension, reports Barrington.

## Lester Outlines Bond Floating

At their regular monthly meeting June 3 board of education members voted to ask county commissioners to approve including a \$3 million dollar school bond referendum on the November general election ballot.

This week City Manager T.B. Lester explained procedures for floating a bond issue. If county commissioners should approve the request when it is received, the referendum would probably be held in conjunction with the November election.

If voters approve the bond issue, county commissioners would work with N.C. Local Government Commission which decides how much money may be borrowed. Total bonding capacity is eight percent of assessed value of all taxable property in Hoke County. Under re-evaluation bonding capacity is

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## Club Hears Tolson Speak

John J. Tolson III, N.C. Military and Veterans affairs secretary, will speak on energy problems and civil preparedness at the regular weekly Kiwanis Club meeting 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Civic Center.

Tolson, state veterans secretary since March 1973, is a New Bern native who retired from the U.S. Army in February 1973 with the rank of lieutenant general.

In addition to serving in his cabinet level post, Tolson chairs the Governor's Energy Panel and was N.C. Energy Crisis Study Commission chairman until the group was dissolved in January.

The World War II and Vietnam veteran is no stranger to the Hoke-Cumberland area since military assignments returned him to his native state at least three times during his career. The 1937 West Point graduate served at Ft. Bragg for several months in 1942, returned to the same post again during 1949 and 1950. His final Ft. Bragg assignment was as commanding general XVIII Airborne Corps and Ft. Bragg from August 1968 to March 1971.

During this period Tolson initiated a

At a June 6 public budget hearing county commissioners set the 1974-75 tax rate at 80 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 80 cent rate does not include fire taxes which have not yet been set by all fire districts.

Puppy Creek requested an eight cent rate. Rockfish and Stonewall requested 10 cent rates and North Raeford requested rate change from 10 cent to 15 cent.

Even though the 80 cent figure reflects about a 15 percent drop in the tax rate, individual taxpayers could be facing a bigger tax bill this year because of the re-evaluation.

Under current rate taxpayers could estimate taxes by figuring \$9.49 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. Under the 1974-75 rate the amount is \$8 for each \$1,000 of assessed value.

During 1974-75 fiscal year the county tax base will be reduced by \$3,189,740 on exemptions, reports County Manager T.B. Lester. These include \$300 exemptions on personal property for each adult and \$5,000 for each person over 65 years old whose income does not exceed \$5,000.

Only seven people besides commissioners attended the meeting to hear the almost \$1.4 million budget approved.

Budgeted for governing body is \$6,090 which includes a 33 percent increase for board chairman and a 50 percent increase for other county commissioners. Chairman T. C. Jones' salary will be \$960 annually, up from \$720 and commissioners will draw \$720, up from \$480. Lester's salary as a board clerk remains unchanged at \$1,200.

Elections board expenditures are budgeted at \$14,030 compared with current \$14,100 budget. Elections chairman's salary remains unchanged at \$600 annually while executive secretary's pay is increased to \$4,020 as compared with current \$3,000. Election officials combined salaries are reduced from \$9,000 to \$5,000.

Finance department budget is \$29,417, up from \$25,350. County manager and accountant's salary is \$13,992, up from \$13,200, a 6 percent increase. This brings Lester's total salary to \$15,192. Accounting clerk receives a 10 percent raise to \$7,700.

Tax listing budget is up \$695 to \$31,895. Tax supervisor's salary goes from \$9,000 to \$9,675 or just over seven percent and assistant's from \$6,500 to \$7,320 or just under 13 percent.

Tax collector's budget is \$24,106, up from \$21,500. Tax collector's salary is \$9,000, up from \$8,150 or just under 11 percent. Assistant's is \$6,380, up from \$5,800, or 10 percent.

Register of deeds' budget is up \$2,101 to \$18,266. Register of deeds' salary is \$8,526, up from \$8,000 or just under seven percent. Clerk is up to \$4,800 from \$4,200.

Public buildings budget is \$39,730, up from \$35,932; rescue squad \$5,000, See TAX RATE, Page 15

community service program which was the forerunner of the current U.S. Army domestic action program which provides furniture and clothing to needy families including Hoke County residents.

David Britt, state civil preparedness coordinator, and Victor Harris, area coordinator, will accompany Tolson.



JOHN J. TOLSON III