

Merchants, City Take Action On Trash

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Don't forget that if you are not registered to vote in the November General Election, the books will be open Wednesday, Friday and Monday. The books will close at 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 7.

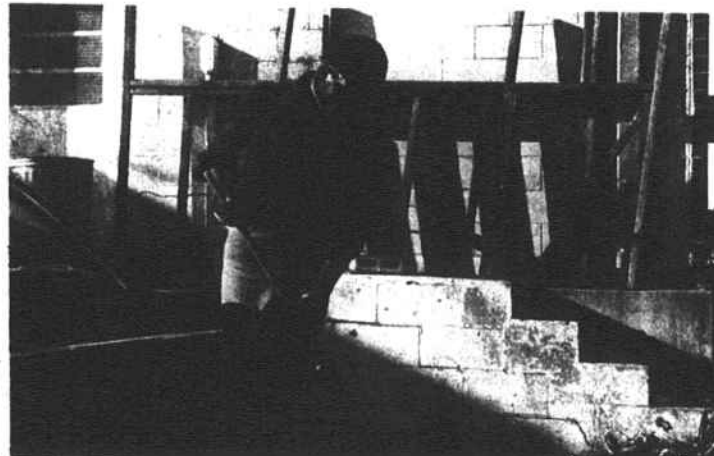
Also, persons who have moved from one precinct to another within the county must go by the Board of Elections office and change their registration to the proper precinct.

Civilian applications for Absentee Ballots may be made in person or in writing to the Election Board. Deadline for voting by Absentee Ballot will be Wednesday, October 30.

If you have any questions concerning registration or the election, go back to the Election Office or call 875-4526.



CLEAN-UP - The back alleys of downtown Raeford got a good cleaning this week as businessmen, spurred by newspaper articles and the chief of police, had trash and debris removed. Alexander McNeill and James Gibson clear away an old bin behind



the Elwood Avenue and Main Street building that houses Value-Mart, Popes, Lundy's Shoe Shop and other shops. Gregory Floyd spent a day cleaning up around the building occupied by Pittard and Perry accountants and Byrd's Fabric Shop.

By Marty Vega

Response from Main Street businessmen was mixed following criticism of their trash lots by the head of the county Keep North Carolina Beautiful Committee. A few were bristling.

Elmer Parnell, manager of Heilig Meyers Furniture, put the blame on the city for the messy appearance behind his store two weeks ago which drew the attention of the beautification group.

"I don't want to say too much, other than the fact that for the week prior to when the picture was taken, the regular driver was on vacation and some (trash) hadn't been picked up. The bin hadn't been cleaned out."

Parnell said that he is generally satisfied with the city trash service, but indicated he personally takes responsibility. "Monday, I had all my employees stop working and we went out there and raked up everything and loaded it on our truck and took it down to the landfill ourselves."

Meanwhile, police chief Leonard Wiggins was seen Monday in the alleys adjoining the main business district taking a close look at conditions.

The chief said he was making suggestions to a few people regarding the conditions he observed and was confident clean up action would be forthcoming. As the police chief was conferring with an unidentified store manager behind Pope's Dollar Store, one of the city sanitation workers viewed a bin loaded with loose garbage with a critical eye.

"I've reported this mess again and again", Lonnie Smith stated. "I've reported it to (M.R.) Mills and Dewey Inman and nothing is ever done about it. Just look at it."

By Tuesday, considerable action had been taken. The old bin in the corner of the alley behind Main Street was cleaned out by city workers and a tree blocking the fire escape there had been removed.

Litter along the alley had been picked up by employees of merchants along Elwood Avenue and litter and weeds behind The News-Journal were cut.

Chief Wiggins stopped short of characterizing his discussions with businessmen as official, but he was carrying a copy of the city ordinance with him. According to the law, the city manager or police chief have the authority to call violations of the trash laws to the attention of the owner and to have the offending trash removed at the owner's expense if the conditions are not corrected within 12 hours.

Paul Solomon, manager of Joe Sugar's, said he, too, is satisfied with the service he receives on trash removal.

"We had a small problem, but I called (City Manager) Mr. Gaddy and he took care of it, so I wouldn't call it a problem", Solomon stated. "Our main problem is that hotel crowd. Four or five times I've had to pay boys to clean up cans, rubbish, and plain everyday garbage behind the property. I've got no complaints with the city, but since I've been here, I've noticed that everytime there is a changeover in management at the Raeford Hotel, I've got problems," Solomon asserted.

Robert Webb, manager of the Raeford Hotel, replied "no comment" when questioned by The News Journal last Friday about the litter behind the hotel.

The manager of the Raeford Dept. Store, George Martin, reported he has no complaints with the trash pickup, since he has been in the job. However, the store's assistant manager, Lois Long, indicated there has been problems in the past. "Before, they'd come and pick it up, all right, but they'd leave half of it, scattered around everywhere, then we'd have to go out and pick it up."

Elaine McBryde, the Keep N.C. Beautiful chairman who leveled the charges last week, said Monday she revisited the Heilig Meyers store and is thanking them for the cleanup.

Boosters Meet

The cost of putting the football players through a season will be discussed by Hoke High principal Allen Edwards.

Edwards will talk to the Booster Club on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

The public is invited to the meeting.

Correction

The State Highway Department of Transportation issued a correction on the dates Davis Bridge would be closed.

The road across the bridge will be closed Oct. 2-4 for repairs on the bridge, the department announced. An earlier announcement set the closing on Sept. 28-29.

A 4.8 mile detour by Arabia gold course is suggested by the department.

Autry Gears Up For Bond Vote

County school superintendent Raz Autry opened his campaign to sell the upcoming \$1,250,000 school bond issue to the voters by addressing two departments of the Raeford Woman's Club Tuesday night.

RWC Education Department and the Home Life Department did not endorse the bond issue as a group, but members pledged their individual support.

A heavy schedule of talks to other groups is also planned.

In an Oct. 1 letter mailed to over 100 area women, Autry said it was his job to try to convince voters to approve the

bonds. The superintendent will present the needs of the schools and plans for the use of the money at a meeting next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the courthouse. Autry outlined areas which the money would be put to use if the bonds win approval at the polls.

At Hoke High, one gymnasium would be extended by 50 feet, creating a "gymtorium", suitable for the production of plays, recitals, and other events. At the present time, the high school has no facility where the entire student body can be seated. Air conditioning for the Gibson Building

and the addition of two more shops are in the plans for the high school.

At West Hoke, a media center (library) would be built and four more classrooms added. Raeford Elementary School would get a new cafeteria and improvements to the gymnasium and dressing rooms, for use in the physical education program.

More classrooms will be added at the Scurlock School, according to Autry.

Autry emphasized the needs of the high school and the relation to the bonds.

"We've either got to do something or

it is certainly going to affect our accreditation", he warned. An accreditation review from a regional school council is due this year. Hoke High is accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, which is the highest accrediting agency in the Southeast.

In keeping with his promise to try to sell the bond issue to voters, Autry scheduled an appearance at a meeting of the Junior Woman's Club on Oct. 2, and also announced plans for a bumper sticker campaign. He is also planning to meet with the extension homemaker clubs.

Hoke Ahead Of State In Food Stamp Use

Hoke County is well ahead of many of the other counties in the state in participation in the federal food stamp program.

According to figures compiled by the state department of human resources, the county has a total of 2,364 persons buying food stamps here. The department lists 4,560 persons as having incomes below the poverty level.

However, not all persons with below poverty level incomes are eligible for food stamps, the department points out.

The state as a whole has less than a third of the persons with low incomes receiving food stamps. Only 310,052 persons in the state were receiving food stamps as of July 1 and 996,310 are considered to have incomes below the poverty level. Two lawsuits against the state are now pending for alleged failure to follow legal requirements to actively recruit persons who are eligible to use food stamps.

Only Mecklenburg County, with 31,287 of a possible 43,487 receiving stamps, has exceeded a recently state-set goal of 60 percent participation. Cumberland County has 36,271 listed below poverty level with 12,441 receiving food stamps. Robeson County lists 32,012 with low incomes and 10,259 buying the stamps. Some counties have very low levels of participation, such as Dare County with

285 on the food stamp program from a probable number of 1125 eligible.

Hoke County should add 372 more persons to the program in order to meet the state goal, Ben Niblock, county director of social services, said.

Niblock said lack of information about the program here is not the problem.

"Our biggest drawback to maximum participation is that the biggest part of the users are in that income area where they have to shell out a large amount of money at one time for the stamps," he said. "People living on a marginal income, well, if anything goes wrong that month, the refrigerator breaks or a child gets sick, it throws them off the program for a month."

A family of four making a net income of up to \$500 can qualify for food stamps, Niblock said. But near the top of the income bracket, stamps worth \$150 will cost the user \$126.

"When they get near the top of the scale, they are hard pressed to come up with that amount of money all at one time," he said.

Niblock said he would like to see the program changed to a bonus plan where the user receives stamps amounting to the difference between what he would pay and what the stamps are worth.

"As it is now, the program imposes on them: the necessity to shop once a

month. And most people don't do that. They shop weekly," he said.

The permissible income scale for food stamp eligibility ranges from \$194 per month for a single person to \$999 per month for a family of ten.

The cost of \$150 in food stamps

varies according to the income. For example, a family of four making a net income of \$250 a month would pay \$71 for the food stamps, Niblock said. A family of four with a net monthly income of \$500 would pay \$126 for the same amount of stamps.



CO-CHAIRMEN - Mrs. Sarah Leach and Mrs. Joan Balfour will head the United Fund campaign drive this year.

Co-Chairman Named To Head UF Drive

Mrs. Sarah Leach and Mrs. Joan Balfour were named co-chairmen of this year's county United Fund drive.

A meeting to plan the drive will be held Thursday. UF president Ashwell

Harward said. Last week the directors of the fund approved a goal of \$19,441.21 for the eight programs that will share in the drive. The budget is down from last year's goal of \$21,325.57.

ASC Lists Eligible Voters

A list of the names of all persons to receive ballots in the upcoming annual ASC committeemen election is available in the county ASCS office, reports Tom Burgess, county executive director.

ASCs, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for farm program administration. On the local level, ASCS operated under a farmer-elected committee system. This year's election will be by mail ballot between Nov. 22 and Dec. 2.

Anyone who meets the following requirements is eligible to vote in these farmer committee elections: any individual of legal voting age with an interest in a farm as owner, tenant, or sharecropper who is eligible to

participate in any ASCS program.

Persons not of legal voting age who supervise and conduct farming operations on an entire farm are also eligible to vote in ASC elections. No person can be denied the right to vote because of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin.

Several general provisions relate to ASC voter eligibility. A wife who operates a farm with her husband can vote if her name is on the deed of conveyance. A youth under 18 years of age can vote if he runs a farm, and a legal guardian who runs a farm for a child can vote for the child.

A person may cast a ballot in any

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Cotton picking time... has begun in the county.