

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather has finally reached winter, and the temperatures have been in the 30s and 40s for the past few nights, getting into the 50s and 60s during the days. A much needed rain came Monday and forecast is for more rain Wednesday.

I hope that the winter will be mild because of the energy shortage. But if people are conserving heating fuel like they are gasoline on the highways, we will run out before mid-winter is here. So, think about the gas lines of last year and imagine getting up in a cold house, then maybe you will conserve energy.

Hoke's Only Rest Home To Expand With \$350,000 Building Program

N-J Sets Early Deadline Next Week

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the News-Journal will be published next Tuesday, a day early. Deadline for news items for next week's paper will be Monday, Nov. 25.

All standing columns, advance publicity about club meetings, bake sales, church news or similar items should reach The News-Journal office by tomorrow.

Deadline Set For Library

A letter to the editor this week brings issue with the associate editor about what governors have been to Hoke County while being in office. The writer of the letter is correct in his saying that two governors were in Hoke that he can remember.

Also, the same two governors were here other times during their terms of office. Gov. Luther Hodges was at McCain for a dedication ceremony, and Gov. Terry Sanford was here for the crowning of the queen and the parade of the Golden Jubilee of Hoke County in 1961.

I believe that Gov. Clyde R. Hoey dedicated the National Guard Armory in the 1930's. Maybe someone could set me straight if this is not the case.

If anyone can remember other governors being in Hoke County, write in and let us know.

I will not give out the source of where the associate editor got her information on this subject, because he has had enough political bad luck in the past few weeks and I haven't seen him since the election to set him straight.

Thanksgiving will be with us next week and then a month from that will be Christmas. It seems to me that the advertisements for Christmas are coming earlier this year.

Not many years ago all the large parades for Christmas started being held on Thanksgiving Day. I reckon this was because it was a holiday and would draw large crowds.

This year Santa Claus could be seen the first week in November at some stores, and he is on TV every day now advertising different shopping centers. As for Thanksgiving, I haven't heard or seen much about it except everyone will get the day off and football games and parades will fill the tube.

For the past few years here in Raeford they have started observing the Thanksgiving service the night before. This is like observing Veteran's Day in October when it was first set aside on November 11, for the Armistice Day truce ending World War I. I can only hope that Sunday morning worship service will not be changed to Saturday night to let us sleep or play longer on Sunday.

I have observed January 16 as my birthday for the past 56 years and intend to observe it on this date until death.

Maybe I am a square, but to change things for convenience when it defeats the principle works against my grain.

Office will be closed Thursday, November 28, for observance of Thanksgiving.

Final Rites Wednesday For Julian Johnson Jr.

Final rites for Julian Samuel Johnson Jr. were held Wednesday at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. John Ropp. Burial was at Raeford Cemetery. Johnson, 51, died Monday after a long illness.

A prominent Hoke County farmer and businessman, Johnson was owner of Oakdale Gin and the Johnson Company. He was noted as an avid sportsman and lover of wildlife.

Johnson served as an elder and deacon of the Presbyterian Church, where he also taught Sunday school.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jean Clark Johnson; two daughters, Mrs. Eddie Baker and Mrs. Bobby Wright of Raeford; a son, Julian S. Johnson III of Raeford; a sister, Mrs. John Campbell of Raeford; three grandchildren.

Pallbearers were William Davis, David Hayes, Henry Maxwell, Clyde Upchurch, Joe Upchurch and Paul Johnson.

Honorary pallbearers were the elders



REST HOME... will be doubled in expansion program.

Man Sought As Murder Suspect Apparently Takes His Own Life

The estranged husband of a young Raeford woman missing from her home since Nov. 4 apparently took his life Saturday and authorities disclosed Monday the dead man is believed to have murdered his wife.

Sheriff David M. Barrington said Rudolph V. Jones, formerly of Raeford, was killed by a single shot in the right temple from a .25 caliber automatic pistol in the Camden, N.J. home he had gone to following his wife's disappearance. Police termed the death a suicide, Barrington said. No note has been found.

Jones' wife, Brenda L. Jones, 25, of Rt. 1, Raeford, has not been found and Barrington revealed for the first time the details of an investigation indicating the missing woman was brutally killed in her mobile home north of the city limits.

"We felt at the time (of her disappearance) and still do, that there was foul play. From the evidence we have, we have reason to believe Rudolph Jones murdered his wife," he said.

Barrington said a search warrant for the home was obtained on Nov. 11 and he and SBI agents who entered the trailer found a "large, bloody area" on the mattress and box spring in the master bedroom. It appeared the mattress had been reversed and turned over in an effort to conceal the stain, the sheriff said. An attempt had been made to remove the stain by the use of some liquid or solvent.

Broken glass, pieces of a shattered lamp and several knives were also seized during the search and Barrington said he



RUDOLPH V. JONES



BRENDA L. JONES

is awaiting the results of a crime lab analysis on them.

Jones' car, a 1974 Toyota, has been impounded by Camden police at the sheriff's request for an examination of the interior, scheduled for next week.

Barrington said New Jersey officials also have advised him the dead man has a wife living in Camden.

The couple, both Burlington employees, had occupied the mobile home for about a year, until Jones quit his job early last month and moved to the home of a sister, Edith Bourgeois of Camden.

Barrington stated he questioned

Jones about his wife's disappearance and Jones told him he had seen his wife speaking to a man and a woman in a green compact car outside the home the afternoon of Nov. 4. Mrs. Jones then came in to get her pocketbook and told her husband she would be back in a while, according to his statement. Jones was reportedly caring for the couple's two-year-old daughter at the time.

Barrington said a search for the woman's body was made in the vicinity of West Hoke School after a witness reported a car matching the description of Jones' vehicle was seen in the area, but nothing was found.

Plans were announced last week for the expansion of the county's only rest home and the project is expected to cost between \$330,000 and \$350,000.

William Moses, legal coordinator for the organizers, said a corporation known as the Campus Avenue Development Co. has been set up to acquire the financing for the proposed enlargement of the Open Arms Rest Home in Raeford.

Moses said the directors of the development corporation are Benny McLeod, Neal McDonald, Ralph Barnhart, Walter Coley and Younger Snead, Jr.

Moses said the details of the project are still being worked out.

"We're in the process of getting cost estimates right now which will be drawn up," he said.

Present plans call for 55% of the money to come from local lending institutions, 35% through a Small Business Administration loan, and 10% from local subscriptions.

These percentages are set by the SBA under the provisions of the government's 502 program, John Leandro, one of the Open Arms operators said.

"The purpose of the 502 program is to provide loans for businesses in which there is a strong community interest," Leandro said. "This is why the 10% requirement must be filed by local investment, which substantiates strong local support," he added.

Leandro and Gene Chalaire, the other partner operating the Open Arms, announced that about a third of the money to be secured from lending institutions has been acquired through loans already approved by Southern National Bank, Bank of Raeford, and the Raeford Savings & Loan Association.

Both stated they expected a favorable response from the SBA. "We've been in contact and they have shown an interest," Leandro said.

The current plans include construction of a new building on property adjacent to the present home on Campus Ave. The new building will meet requirements of an intermediate care facility and will be staffed by professionally trained nursing personnel on a 24 hour a day basis.

A dining room, day rooms, arts and crafts areas, and a physical therapy

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Baptists Hold Anniversary

Baptists in Raeford will celebrate Sunday the 75th anniversary of the founding of their church, capping a week of revival services.

Attending the special Sunday service at First Baptist Church will be four of the 17 pastors who have served the church. The Rev. John Glenn, who was pastor here from 1956 to 1967, will bring the anniversary message. The Rev. Mr. Glenn is now retired and lives in Columbia, S.C.

Other First Baptist pastors will be the Rev. J.E. Reamy, who served here from 1936 to 1942; the Rev. J.D. Whisnant, who was pastor from 1943 to 1948 and the present minister, the Rev. Jack Mansfield, who came to the church in 1967.

The Rev. Mr. Reamy now lives in
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Solving Busing Problems Is Complicated

By Raz Autry
Superintendent of Schools

Many of our citizens and, unfortunately, many of our bus drivers, do not understand the complexity of the school bus transportation system. I would like for our citizens to understand why we have so many problems with this particular phase of our school operation. I will attempt to explain it in detail so all of our people will have a better overall view and understanding of it.

The original school bus is purchased by the county with local tax money. When this bus is no longer mechanically suitable for use, the state will replace it with state tax money. If we feel we need an additional bus for the next school year we will place the money in our Local Budget.

A couple of year ago the cost was \$12,000. The price has gone up considerably now and a new bus will

cost in the neighborhood of \$14,000. Over the years, in this manner, we have accumulated 54 buses, with 4 spares.

We have had overcrowded conditions in some of our areas and we have tried to eliminate this by shifting buses.

We have an overcrowded condition that we are in the process of eliminating in our Central District. This involves students who live in the Raeford area and attend South Hoke School. Also, we have had overcrowding at Scurlock School. We hope we now have eliminated this problem.

For a very brief insight into the complexity of the problem, I will give you some figures for the last three years. In 1972 we had 54 buses and transported 4,228 students. In 1973, with these same 54 buses, we transported 3,948 students. This year, at the end of the second school month, we are transporting 3,731 students.

You can see that in a 3 year span we are transporting approximately 500

students less than in 1972. This has been caused by a decrease in student population and perhaps because more high school students have cars. Therefore, it is hard to understand why we have crowded conditions on these same 54 buses.

At the high school, none of the buses are crowded. In fact, some of them have a capacity of 70 or 75 and are only transporting 50 students. What we have to attempt to do is to shift these larger buses to South Hoke and Scurlock to take care of their load. This will create another problem in that it makes the routes so long that the students will be on the bus around 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. We are constantly fighting that problem.

I will explain to our citizens what we will start doing Monday morning, Nov. 25. We have 4 spare buses. We will put two of them in the South Hoke District (we have already added one there) and transfer a larger bus from Hoke High to

the Scurlock area. By doing this, with permission from the State Department, we feel we can finish out this school year without having to spend \$25,000, the purchase price of two new buses. We could not get immediate delivery and probably will not need them under our reorganization plan for 1975-76.

The State of North Carolina, with tax money, pays the salary of the drivers and all expenses for upkeep and operation of the buses, including salary of mechanics. The county's responsibility is to buy the original bus. After our reorganization in 1975-76, I hope our 54 buses will take care of our students. If so, we will be in good shape.

This, very briefly, is an insight into our school bus problem. If, at any time, any of our citizens want to know about our transportation problems, or any other aspect of our school system, I will be glad to talk to them about it.

Many people are under the
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JUNE JOHNSON

and deacons of Raeford Presbyterian Church.