

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The Post Office for the past several years has been a meeting place for a number of local businessmen. They come and go between the hours of eight to eight-thirty o'clock each morning. They swap jokes and other bits of news waiting for the mail to be put up.

For the past few weeks the mail has been slow in being put up and some of the local men seem to feel that they are wasting time by waiting and going back to the office empty-handed. To look at it another way, they could have a guilty conscience standing around with no mail when other people come and look for mail and leave and come back later.

Now, of course, some people blame the situation on the whole postal system, but I believe it is due to the heavy mail at Christmas time. Anyway, the situation does occur.

A lawyer in town came by the office last week and said he had found a way to whip the problem. When asked, "How?", he said he was going to miss a day and then he could pick up yesterday's mail by eight-thirty every morning. I always knew that a lawyer could figure a way around any situation.

While on the subject of mail, it reminds me of another thing that happened in the post office a few years ago.

It seems this lady was awaiting an important letter and phoned to the office after the local carrier had come by her door and asked if all the mail was up for the day. She was told that it was, and the man on the telephone, to be nice, said he was sorry, she didn't receive a letter.

He almost dropped the phone when the lady asked him to look in tomorrow's mail and see if the letter had arrived.

I have heard many favorable comments on the Cantata at the Raeford United Methodist Church last Sunday night. This was a joint event for all the three churches in Raeford, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian.

Someone said it was amazing how much talent could be in one small city. Congratulations to the directors and all who had a part in this event.

I don't believe the street and garbage department will have as many Christmas trees to pick up after the holiday season. It seems that fewer live trees are on sale this year than ever before. Most people must be going to the artificial trees. What the difference is I don't know, but some people won't have anything but a live tree.

So, each to his or her own opinion.

School will be out Friday for the holidays and children will be playing before and after Christmas all over the city. So, when you are driving around during the holidays, watch out for them on the streets. By doing this it will help to keep a Merry Christmas in every home.

Police Chief Worried

Increase Seen In Arrests Of Teens

Most of the arrests in the city for larceny in the last three months have been of teenagers and Raeford's chief of police is concerned.

"What's causing it?" Chief of Police Leonard Wiggins asked rhetorically. "We've had a few young people before for larceny, but not like this."

"Something's wrong somewhere." As of early Tuesday, six persons had been charged this month by city police with larcenies. Four of those arrests were of teenagers and the remaining two were of persons ages 21 and 22, city police records show.

In November, there were six teenagers arrested for larceny. Three, an 18-year-old and two 16-year-olds, were charged with seven counts of larceny between them.

Only three persons over the age of 20 were charged with larceny that month, according to records. A 21-year-old was charged with two counts of larceny and there were arrests of a 30-year-old and a 28-year-old.

In addition to theft arrests, young people were charged with several other offenses in November, Wiggins said.

A 16-year-old was charged with driving under the influence, as was a 20-year-old. One arrest of an 18-year-old was for using profane and indecent language, Wiggins said.

In October, three teens - ages 16, 17 and 18, were charged with larceny,

Yule Celebrations Held

Christmas events were in full swing around Raeford this week and even Santa Claus was reported to be in the area.

Members of B Co. 2/505 (ABN) at Ft. Bragg entertained the three Head Start classes at West Hoke School with a party Monday.

Twenty-three soldiers, under project leader Lt. John Quinones, passed out gifts to 54 children.

Twelve students of the trainable mental retardation class at McLaughlin Elementary surprised the residents of the Open Arms Rest Home with candy canes and Christmas caroling Monday morning.

On Tuesday, about 16 Open Arms residents traveled to Aberdeen to the Rose's store where they were invited to do their Christmas shopping before the store opened to the public.

Santa Claus delighted the oldsters with an unannounced visit and gifts.

The Raeford Junior Woman's Club accompanied the residents to assist. Transportation was furnished by the First Baptist Church in Raeford.

'Wolfpack' Moves In On County Motorists

A large number of arrests were made Friday and Saturday nights when the highway patrol's "Wolfpack" operation was sprung on motorists in the Raeford area.

A total of 21 persons were charged with drunken driving, according to 1st Sgt. F.M. Lemmond, commander of the operation.

Lemmond said 57 citations were issued in the hazardous movement classification, which includes speeding, stop sign violations, and illegal passing.

There were seven miscellaneous violations, two offenses of illegal transportation of whiskey, one concealed weapon charge, and one for resisting arrest, Lemmond said. A few tickets were issued for driving without a license.

"Wolfpack" was carried out from 6 P.M. Friday until about 3 A.M. Saturday and resumed Saturday evening for about the same hours, officials said.

Ten troopers were divided into two squads led by Sgt. D.L. Minshew of Raeford and Sgt. C.R. Blalock, who concentrated on the area within a five mile radius of Raeford.

"Wolfpack" is conducted by the Highway Patrol as part of an effort to curb rising fatality rates, Lemmond said. It is done periodically and he hinted another one may be staged in January.

About fifty motorists escaped with only warnings. Most of these were for equipment defects.

Meal Plan For Elderly Considered

A proposal to provide a hot lunchtime meal for senior citizens in seven areas, including Raeford, will be discussed tonight at the Lumber River Council of Governments.

The council is expected to request \$110,825 from the North Carolina Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging for the project and to contribute \$5,816.50 in COG funds.

If approved, the project would provide one meal a day, five days a week for persons over the age of 60. Presently, four areas in the Lumber River region are receiving meals.

Delegates to the COG from Hoke County are Ralph Barnhart and Graham Clark.

Appointments to a regional manpower advisory committee also will be made at the meeting. Recommended to serve from Hoke County are Barnhart, Jimmy Morrissey and Raz Autry.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 at the Robeson County public library in Lumberton.

resisting arrest, Lemmond said. A few tickets were issued for driving without a license.

"Wolfpack" was carried out from 6 P.M. Friday until about 3 A.M. Saturday and resumed Saturday evening for about the same hours, officials said.

Ten troopers were divided into two squads led by Sgt. D.L. Minshew of Raeford and Sgt. C.R. Blalock, who concentrated on the area within a five mile radius of Raeford.

"Wolfpack" is conducted by the Highway Patrol as part of an effort to curb rising fatality rates, Lemmond said. It is done periodically and he hinted another one may be staged in January.

About fifty motorists escaped with only warnings. Most of these were for equipment defects.

Churches Observe Yule

Nativity scene will be staged again this year by the members of the senior high fellowship of Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The scene will be visible as you ride to the church from Main Street west on Edinborough Avenue. It will be presented on Dec. 23, from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. and on Dec. 24, from 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. and 8:15 - 9:00 P.M. On Tuesday evening the young people will leave the scene at 7:30 to participate in the Christmas Eve Communion Service with the congregation, then return to the scene at 8:15 P.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Harless Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goza are the adult advisors for the Fellowship, and are assisting in planning and staging the scene.

Depicted in the still - scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angel, Wise Men and Shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged and music will be played in the background. Many adults in the church have helped the youth of the church in all areas of the production.

Depicted in the still - scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angel, Wise Men and Shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged and music will be played in the background. Many adults in the church have helped the youth of the church in all areas of the production.

Depicted in the still - scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angel, Wise Men and Shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged and music will be played in the background. Many adults in the church have helped the youth of the church in all areas of the production.

Depicted in the still - scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angel, Wise Men and Shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged and music will be played in the background. Many adults in the church have helped the youth of the church in all areas of the production.

Depicted in the still - scene tableau will be the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angel, Wise Men and Shepherds. Special lighting and costumes have been arranged and music will be played in the background. Many adults in the church have helped the youth of the church in all areas of the production.

Jingling Cash Registers Make Merchants Merry

Others Still Need Help At Christmas

Two young families who canned a large amount of vegetables this summer will provide a good Christmas dinner for a less fortunate Hoke family.

Another Hoke Countian, who will spend her first Christmas this year as a widow, is helping a needy person at Christmas with the money she would have spent for her husband's gift.

Other families and clubs and groups have responded to the appeal by social workers to help less fortunate neighbors, but there is still more to be done.

"Please consider giving help to someone less fortunate than yourselves this Christmas," Mrs. Dayna Pate, case

worker at the county Department of Social Services, said.

"These are people who have suffered personal tragedy, illness, fires, you name it," she explained.

Mrs. Pate urged those interested in helping to call the Department of Social Services.

"If you can't take an entire family, we'll take donations of canned goods, clothing, toys, whatever you feel you can do," she said.

Social workers are especially hopeful that individual families will become involved with the Christmas project, she said.

Christmas as usual is the watchword up and down Main Street this year for merchants as area shoppers keep cash registers jingling.

While some businessmen say the season began a little slower than usual, most say that holiday spending is approaching normal levels.

"We are very pleased and appreciative," Mrs. Theresa McByde, owner of Theresa's dress shop, said. "The season has been very good and I can't tell that much difference from last year."

However, Ron Corrado, manager of Macks, said business was off some from last year but was picking up as Christmas approaches.

"As far as the circulation of people through the store goes, that's up," he said. "But people don't have the dollars to spend."

"Considering the conditions of the economy, things are better than you might expect," he said.

Reducing the size of their gift list was one way shoppers have changed, Danny DeVane, owner of DeVane's Department Store said.

"I think people are cutting out some buying for people they bought for last year," he said. "They are restricting gifts to the immediate family."

DeVane said he thought shoppers were buying more wisely.

"They aren't buying foolish gifts just to be buying," he said.

Overall, he said he had been pleased with the holiday business this year.

Sales of Christmas wrappings, cards and decorations have been excellent this year, according to Mrs. Cindy McDaniel, manager of Valu-Mart.

"Cards, paper and so on are selling just as good as ever," she said. "And people are buying lights again this year. I don't see that business has slacked off at all."

Lay-aways on bikes and toys have been very good this year, James Wood, manager of Western Auto, commented.

"It started out a little slow in December but sales are picking up now," he said. "It's about like usual now. Lay-aways on toys and bicycles have been very good."

Wood said sales have shown a great deal of improvement in the past week.

Furniture sales have been good this season also, Elmer Parnell, manager of Hellig-Meyers said.

"We're pretty well satisfied," he said. "It's about like it was last year. I can't tell a whole lot of difference. Merchandise is coming through good too; we don't have any shortages."

Raeford stores will remain open until 9 p.m. most nights until Christmas. Stores close at 6 p.m. on Saturday and Christmas Eve.

Man Dies In Crash On N.C. 211 Saturday

A young man on a weekend pass from the prison unit in Robeson County was killed early Saturday morning in a two car smashup on Highway 211.

Trooper K.W. Weston identified the victim as Hubert Lowery, Jr., 25, of Rt. 1 Shannon.

According to Weston, at about 2

a.m., Lowery was a passenger in a 1970 Chevelle operated by William McMillan, 27, of Southern Pines, who was backing out of a driveway onto the highway at a point about 13 miles west of Raeford.

The McMillan auto was struck by a 1975 El Camino driven by Edward Brewer, 38, of Aberdeen, who received cuts and bruises and was taken to Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst.

McMillan sustained shoulder injuries and a passenger, his daughter Tonya Rebecca, received head injuries which were termed serious. Both were transported to Moore Memorial Hospital.

Weston said the McMillan car was knocked 117 feet by the impact and Brewer's car 118 feet. Weston said the Brewer car was estimated to be traveling at about 65 mph at the time of the accident.

Brewer was charged with exceeding a safe speed and McMillan was cited for making an unsafe movement.

Damages to the Chevelle were estimated at \$1,700, and put at \$3,200 for the El Camino.

Weston said seat belts and restraints were not in use in either car.

Trooper C.A. Bennett assisted Weston in administering first aid until the arrival of rescue squads from Hoke and Moore Counties.

ASCS Pick Committee

Joe Upchurch was elected chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county committee for a one-year term.

Vice-chairman is D.A. Currie, chosen for a two-year term.

Julian Love was elected to a three-year term as a regular member. Alternate members elected were Douglas Monroe and James R. Strother.

Committees elected for each township in order of chairman, vice-chairman, regular member, and first and second alternates are:

Alleendale - L.A. McGugan, David Liles, Welton Locklear, James H.

McGugan and Doc Monroe, Antioch - G.B. Bostic, Herbert Gillis, H.A. Boyles, F.C. McPhaul, and Willie McNeil, Blue Springs - Julian Love, Earl Hendrix, C.H. Gainey, J.D. Harris, and Roosevelt Platt, McLaughlin - Douglas Monroe, Edwin B. Newton, Julian Barnes, Thomas A. Ray, and R.W. Posey, Quawhite - James R. Strother, James Nixon, J.W. King, Horace Walters, Jr., and Shelby Calloway, Raeford - Ken McNeill, Jimmie Wainey, J.B. McLeod, J.A. Williamson and H.C. Dew, Stonewall - Tom Jones, Henry Maxwell, Dan McGugan, M.C. Boyles and H.E. Rogers.

Early Deadline For News, Ads

The Christmas issue of The News-Journal will be published Monday. Deadline for all News-Journal items and classified advertising will be noon tomorrow (Dec. 20). Display advertisements it 5 p.m. Dec. 20.

The News-Journal office will be closed Dec. 25 and 26.

Correction

Because of a typographical omission, several persons were erroneously listed in The News-Journal as having been found guilty in district court last week, when in fact they were found not guilty.

These persons were found not guilty of various charges: Ranzay Carter, Shannon, larceny; Timothy L. Watson, Rt. 1, Raeford, simple assault; Danny H. Chavis, Red Springs, larceny; Glenn Chavis, Rt. 2, Raeford, larceny; Roger L. Locklear, Red Springs, assault on a female; Bessie L. Blackburn, Shaw Town section, assault with a deadly weapon; Leonard Baldwin, Raeford, non - support; Alton G. Walters, Main St. Raeford, worthless check; Charles G. Crowder, 413 E. Donaldson, Raeford, driving at a speed endangering persons and property, and Kenneth Dixon, 55 in a 45 mph zone.

The News-Journal deeply regrets the error and any difficulty it may have caused.

County Leaves Choice On Compactor To City

The county commissioners met Monday night and approved two out of four bids submitted for the proposed city landfill compactor, leaving the final decision up to the city.

The bids examined were listed as Gregory Povele Equipment Co., (Caterpillar) \$49,457; Tri-City Equipment Co., (John Deere) \$47,650; N.C. Equipment Co. of Raleigh, (International) \$38,123.91; and E.F. Craven Co. of Greensboro, (Fiat-Allis) \$33,039.58.

A motion to accept either the Craven Co. or N.C. Equipment bid and allow the city to choose which is best suited for their operation was carried unanimously.

Also on the agenda was a discussion of plans to implement plumbing, heating and air conditioning inspections in the county, which was tabled at the

suggestion of Commissioner Ballfour until a further study could be made.

The board requested county manager T.B. Lestei and Sanitarian M.R. Mills to check with Scotland County officials to see how such inspections are carried out there and report their findings at the next scheduled meeting, Jan. 6.

A resolution to exempt law enforcement employees from overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act

See COMPACTOR, Page 14

Visits Friday

The mobile office of Congressman Charlie Rose will be at the Raeford post office parking lot Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rip Collins, Rose's administrative assistant, will man the office.