

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

From all forecasts, the outlook for a fair and warm Christmas is not the best. As I write this on Friday morning, it is raining and the chance of rain for tonight is 80 per cent. Snow is falling in the northern section of the country and it is bad weather all the way to the California coast. This weather should be with us the first of the week.

However the weather, remember that the Spirit of Christmas can be with you no matter what the weather is.

The Department of Social Services will be open Monday (Dec. 23) and if you would like to aid a needy family, go by and talk to a worker in this office. If you do, I know you will have a happier Christmas.

The Bicentennial notes last week, written by Mrs. Pauline McFadyen, nee Pauline Freeman, brought back memories to this writer. I can't remember the Christmas she said I disposed of the paregoric, but I can recall many days playing with the people in our neighborhood.

In the article she mentioned many people, but I was the only one that was pinpointed on the scene today. So, I will identify a few others, both living and dead.

The grandfather was B.R. Gatlin and this family lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pate. Uncle Hallie was H.L. Gatlin, who lived in the house where Mr. and Mrs. Julian King now live.

The cousins were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Gatlin, who were H.L., Jr., Robert and Marion. I don't believe that Mary Helen (Mrs. Neil Senter) was born at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Freeman, the parents of Pauline, lived in the home, now the residence of Mrs. M.L. McKeithan, on Magnolia Street. In this family were four daughters, Pauline, Marguerite, Hallie and Frances Jean. Living nextdoor in a white wooden house was Bruce Morris and family. The house was located where L.S. Brock, Jr., now lives. At the time she was writing about, approximately 1920 or 21, three children were in the Morris family, Margaret, Sam and Bruce, Jr. Another brother, James, was born in 1924. So, this is why I would have been playing with the girls on Christmas day.

Of all the parents and grandparents and also the aunts, only one is now living, and that is Mrs. W.E. Freeman. She resides on West Donaldson Avenue.

I bring these names out because many people now living in Raeford will now place the living with the dead and can read the article in this week's paper and know some of the ones mentioned.

The article was very interesting to me, and I know it should have been to others older than this writer.

Thanks, Pauline, for taking time to go back and bring back memories to some of us.

This will be the last column for this year, so I take this opportunity to wish for all the readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It Was A Plane

The strange object that seemed to hover over Raeford Thursday evening was probably just an airplane bucking a strong headwind, according to an air traffic controller in Fayetteville.

The airplane, or whatever, with two bright lights flashing, could be seen about 5:30 about four miles northeast of Raeford. Traffic along U.S. 401 by-pass slowed to watch and several vehicles stopped along the shoulder of the road.

A spokesman at the control tower at Grannis Field in Fayetteville explained that what motorists saw was most likely a twin-engine plane that flew at about that hour over the Raeford airport. It was flying directly into a strong wind at about 3400 feet, the controller said, and this would give the appearance that the plane was not moving.



LIVING TREE - Members of Brownie Troop 352 pose around the Living Christmas Tree planted last year by older Scouts. Front row left to right are Lisa Bissett, Lisa Williams, Revis Ann Lovette, Stephanie Parker, Kim Bounds, Kim Summers, Sally McLean, Julie Vann, Noel James, and Linda Glissom. Back row, Cissie Edens, Laura Lynn Stone, Ansley Belcher, Cynthia Gibson, Sue Ellen Weese, Kim Huffman and Kim Parker. The Brownies left "presents" of gift-wrapped dirt at the base of the tree.

Teen Shoplifters To Get Taste Of Jail, Small Doses

The theft of a pack of Kool cigarets valued at 32 cents will cost a young Raeford youth his freedom for the next four weekends under the terms of his sentence in District court Friday.

Vernon Singletary, 16, of Rt. 2, Raeford, pleaded guilty to Judge Joseph E. Dupree of shoplifting the cigarets from the A&P store.

Judge Dupree handed Singletary a six month term suspended for two years and placed him on probation for two years. A special condition of the sentence is he is to report to the county jail for the next four weekends from 6 P.M. Friday until 6 P.M. Sunday.

Another teenager found himself with the same sentence Friday, after admitting to shoplifting.

Michael Dean Chapman, 17, 730 Green St., Raeford, admitted to stealing a sweater from Macks store and received the same sentence and probation period. Chapman was also ordered to spend the next four weekends in the jail.

In handing down the judgments, Dupree directed court costs be remitted, noting the presence of Singletary's grandmother, and saying it was not his intention to have the parents or guardians be penalized.

Chapman, who is white, and Singletary, who is black, will be occupying the cell reserved for youthful offenders. Judge Dupree told the courtroom the cell will now be fully integrated.

Raeford Man Killed In One Car Crash

A young Raeford man was killed Saturday night in a one car accident on Central Avenue.

William Rufus Hayes, 20, of 702 Saunders Street, was dead when city police arrived at the scene.

According to Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins, Hayes was driving east

on Central Avenue about 10:50 p.m. when his car apparently left the road on the right just past the turkey plant. Hayes apparently jerked the auto back onto the road and lost control, crossing the street and running off the road on the left.

The 1969 Ford crashed down a 30-foot embankment and across a ditch before striking a tree, Wiggins said. He estimated the speed before the crash as 50 mph in the 35 mph zone.

This was the second traffic fatality in the city this year. To his knowledge, the police chief said, there has been only one other fatal accident in the city in the past decade.

Library Fund Gets Donation

The Bicentennial Library fund was \$85 richer this week as a result of efforts by the home extension clubs.

The money was donated from proceeds of the Christmas tour of three Raeford homes last week, sponsored by the extension homemakers.

N-J To Print Early Again

The News-Journal will be published a day early next week, however, because of the postal holiday. Jan. 1, mailed copies should be received on Thursday as usual.

All news items and advertising should be received by Monday to meet the early deadline.

Turn Policy Set

City police won't be in a hurry to write tickets for turning right on red after the first of the year, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

"If we see someone turn on red after the law goes out of effect, we'll probably stop them and give them a warning," he said. "But we won't be in a hurry to write out tickets."

City manager John Gaddy said he planned to ask the city council to enact an ordinance permitting a right turn on a red light within the city. Councilman Sam Morris said he intended to bring the matter up at the January council meeting.

Holiday Closings

Board of education will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 26.

City offices will close the afternoon of Dec. 24 and will re-open Dec. 27. County offices will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 26.

The banks and Raeford Savings and Loan will close Dec. 25 and 26.

Most stores will be closed Christmas Day and will re-open Dec. 26.

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

Juvenile Sentenced

A fifteen year old boy was ordered Friday to undergo psychiatric evaluation after admitting to breaking and entering and larceny allegations.

The youth had been named in the theft of beer, cigarets and money from Blanton's Grocery in Raeford by Police Officer Charles Campbell.

The boy had told District Court Judge Joseph Dupree, who presided at the juvenile hearing, that he expected to be put on probation.

Dupree ordered the youth placed in the custody of the N.C. Board of Youth Development to undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment. Under the terms of the decree, the youth will remain a ward of the court until his eighteenth birthday.

Money Given For Workshop

The gas bill is paid and there is \$75 in the bank for the sheltered workshop program, as the result of several recent donations.

Mrs. Juanita Edmund said that the gasoline bill had been paid through November and that the driver of the van that transports county residents to the sheltered workshop had been reimbursed for personal money she had spent to keep the van rolling.

The program is sponsored entirely by the Hoke County Association for the Developmentally Disabled.

Law May Alter Policing In Hoke

***** Phone Cost May Rise

Telephone rates may go up for North Carolina customers if the increase asked for by the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. wins approval.

J.F. Havens, president of the utility, announced the company has filed with the state utilities commission for an increase in rates and miscellaneous charges.

Havens cited inflationary costs have reduced company earnings to a low point, and a higher level is needed to attract the capital required to meet new service demands.

Havens said the proposed increase would boost net income by \$5.9 million annually.

Carolina Telephone, serves about 380,000 subscribers in a 38 county area in eastern North Carolina.

After the first of the year, the county will face the difficulty imposed by lack of money on the one hand and, in the other, a new law limiting the number of hours in a week that policemen may work.

The Fair Labor Standards Act, a federal law that for years has covered employees in private business, goes into effect for public safety employees on Jan. 1. The act sets a 60-hour-a-week or 240 hours in a 28-day period maximum on the time law enforcement officers and firemen work. After that, they must either be paid time and a half wages or given compensatory time off.

The new law will most affect the sheriff's department.

"We have two choices," Sheriff D.M. Barrington said. "We will have to double our department or the county will have to accept inadequate police protection."

The sheriff's department now includes eight deputies and three jailers. Prior to last October, the sheriff explained, his men normally worked a 12-hour shift, six days a week. This totaled 72 hours a week, without any extra duty in court or any emergency work.

The work week averaged 80-85 hours, he said.

Since October, when he began to experiment with the schedule to find ways to comply with the law, deputies have worked a 60-hour week, with ten hour shifts six days a week - if everything worked right. In addition, the off-days are rotated so that each man gets two days off in a row.

However, the sheriff explained, anything out of the ordinary, such as a school that must be attended, a vacation or illness, as well as major crimes that require several officers, will throw the entire schedule out of kilter.

With the new schedule, he said, the county is not receiving adequate police protection.

"The county is not adequately covered," he said. "Twelve years ago, if I had had eight men, I could have covered it. Now that I have eight men, we have had a terrible rise in crime. We have more rapes, more murders, more armed robberies that must be investigated. We have to deal with drugs."

"And, too, we check the doors of businesses in the county every night, sometimes twice. We also check the homes of people when they go out of town. We try to check the houses of women who live alone out in the county. People need this and they get used to it."

Barrington estimates that to meet the law and maintain police coverage, he will need to double his department.

"I need at least 16 men on the road and one more jailer," he said. "I can make do with 12 men and another jailer."

By hiring eight new deputies and a jailer, Barrington said he could have four men on duty at all times and stay within the 60-hour limit. With the addition of four deputies and a jailer, he would have three men to a shift.

The costs of meeting the law will be considerable. Base salary is \$7,000 and it takes another \$600 per person for equipment. In addition, Barrington said he would need two additional patrol cars, costing about \$6,000 each.

He estimated that the cost of meeting the minimum needs would be about \$50,000 a year.

"I'm not asking for this," Barrington said. "I'm saying this is what it will take to police the county and still keep the men under 60 hours."

According to county manager T.B. Lester, no action can be taken until the next budget year, beginning in July. Until then, he said, "We've got to try to live with it till we get to the next budget."

"This might cut down on some things," he said. "Like patrolling."

Asked what would happen if the new schedule failed to keep deputies within the maximum work week, Lester said, "It'll run the county."

Time off can be granted to

(See POLICING, Page 11)

Council Sets Speed Limits

At a special meeting Tuesday, the city council voted to change speed limits on state-maintained roads and awarded a contract for the purchase of landfill equipment.

The council accepted the bid of \$38,123.91 from North Carolina Equipment Company for an International tractor-loader. The bid included a \$4,000 trade-in on the 1969 tractor now at the landfill. The city and county will split the cost with the county paying 75 per cent.

The council also acted on a request from the state to set 55 mph speed limits on state-maintained roads in the city.

The speed limit will apply to a short section of street off Bethel Road, SR 1149; to the section of 401 By-pass within the city; Teal Drive from the by-pass to Prospect Avenue; Sanders and Stevens Street from Prospect to the city limits; and St. Pauls Drive, from about the creek to the city limits.

The state speed limit of 35 mph was reduced to 25 mph by the council on city-maintained Bethel Road, Stewart Street and West Fifth Avenue.

Participation Is Panel Goal

Members of the Bicentennial committee met recently for a brainstorming session on ways to make the public more aware of the Bicentennial celebration.

"Our objective for the next few months will be to orient people to the Bicentennial, what it is, what is to be accomplished, and how people can join in," Iris Davis, county co-chairman, said.

Mrs. Davis said the group will concentrate on speaking before local clubs and organizations.

At the Kiwanis Club meeting Dec. 12, Pauline McFadyen presented a reading of her original stories written as part of the heritage theme.

Dr. Larry Wheeler, Horizons chairman of the state bicentennial committee, is scheduled to speak at the next meeting, Feb. 11.

Mrs. Davis said Dr. Wheeler will help plan the county's national registration. Registration with the national committee in Washington will entitle the county to a special flag.

Anyone may attend the meetings of the Hoke Bicentennial Committee, held the second Wednesday of every month at 415 Fulton Street. There will be no meeting in January.

Merry Christmas