

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The leash law passed by the City Council last year goes into effect this month. All dogs must be registered with the city and a tag put on the dog's collar. The dog, under the law, must be under control at all times.

So if you own a dog maybe you had better check by city hall and read the law. It may save you some trouble.

A friend of mine handed me the following article taken from a neighboring newspaper concerning the leash law in that county.

Q. Does the county leash law apply to all the people in the county or just to certain people in the county?

A. While we agree that some people probably should be leashed, we think the law actually applies only to dogs in the county.

The jury is in and four of the five defendants in the Watergate trial have been found guilty on all counts. In most cases this would be the end and the news could be taken up with other things. But this will not happen in these cases. I suspect that we will be hearing about Watergate for many years to come. It will be one appeal after another until most people will be glad to throw out the whole affair and let the guilty off so that the country can get on with other business.

The right to appeal is certainly right but sometimes we all become too soft and don't see justice done.

Forty years ago this May the last class to graduate at the old Raeford High School building, that was destroyed by fire, finished eleven years of school work. There were 48 in the graduating class and several of the ones graduating started in the first grade at this building and completed school at the same place. This was the last class in the county to do this as the class of 1936 moved to the new high school building, now Raeford Elementary School.

Some of the people that finished in the class of 1935 would like to hold a reunion on the 40th anniversary this May, of course in 40 years the 48 members have scattered all over the country and many of the ladies have now married and names have changed so getting the group together will take time and help from many sources.

Being a member of this class I will do everything I can to assemble these names but will need help in securing addresses of these people. So if you were a member of the class, even if you live in Hoke County, drop me a card or write a letter giving your name and address so that plans can get started for this reunion. If you are a relative or a friend of someone that graduated in this class please inform them of these plans or get in touch with me so that they can be informed of the reunion.

Any help anyone can give will be appreciated because much water has gone over the dam in 40 years.

Situation 'Temporary'

Turkey Plant Lays Off Entire Shift

Light Bill In Schools Is Soaring

A strong conservation effort is being mounted in the schools to try to combat soaring electricity costs.

Costs for electricity this year are expected to more than double the amount budgeted, according to school superintendent Raz Autry.

For example, he said, the electric bill for the Gibson building at Hoke High during November amounted to \$3,033. The Gibson building, which is all-electric, contains 23 classrooms, a cafeteria and a gymnasium.

For the same month last year, the bill was less than a third as much, \$1,039, Autry said.

The November electric bill for the Hoke High building across the street amounted to \$1,079.

The total bill for electricity in the county schools for that month amounted to more than \$6,000, Autry said.

He estimated that if the bills average \$5,000 a month, then Hoke taxpayers will have to pay \$60,000 for electricity for the schools this year.

However, only \$28,000 was budgeted for that purpose this year, and this was \$3,000 more than was in the budget last year, Autry said. In addition, the county receives \$800 a month from the state for water and electricity bills.

"I'm sure you want to know how we are going to make up the difference," Autry said. "It's a simple matter of using the old cliché of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. We will cut from some other place in the budget."

Autry observed that in 1941, the electric bill for the entire county school system was less than \$500.

Several steps have been taken in the last few days, he said, to help conserve electricity.

"The most important thing we are doing is to educate our people to conserve. I've asked all the principals to meet with their faculties and have them stress the seriousness of the problem to their students."

Thermostats have been lowered in all schools to 68 degrees and Autry said the automatic vents in the heating systems would be replaced so that the heat can be regulated manually rather than electrically.

Except for security lights operated by

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DELEGATION - State Representatives exchanged views Tuesday at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Here David Parnell of Parkton takes his turn at the speaker's stand. Also are (from left) Harold Gillis, C of C manager, Bob Gentry, president, Joy Johnson, Representative from Fairmont and (far right) Henry Ward Oxendine, Representative from Pembroke.

Leash Law Discussed

Implementation of the city's leash law was discussed by the city council Monday night.

The ordinance, which forbids dogs to run at large and requires them to be licensed, became effective Jan. 1. Dog tags are on sale now through Feb. 15 at city hall.

City attorney Palmer Wilcox, who wrote the ordinance, discussed enforcement with the council and fees were set. License fee was set at \$2.50 for the tag, with \$1 replacement fee. A pick-up charge for animals impounded was set at \$2.50 with \$1 a day board. The council deleted the portion of the ordinance that required a county tag also.

John Gaddy, city manager, reported that he had arranged with T.B. Lester, county manager, to have the county dog warden work several days in the city to train a city dog warden. However, Gaddy said there was no money in the

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Raeford Taxpayer Irked Over Lack Of City Water

A Raeford resident, irked by lack of water service, asked the city council Monday night to either move the city limits to place her property outside the line or to cut her taxes in half.

Mrs. John Campbell made the request at the city council meeting Monday night in round two of three of a long-standing disagreement over extending a city water line to her home. Mrs. Campbell lives just within the city limits on St. Pauls Drive.

While a city can annex property, there is no provision in the law to remove areas from the city, Palmer Wilcox told the council. Nor can the council reduce taxes for a citizen after the tax rate has been set, it was decided.

At a meeting earlier this fall, Mrs. Campbell had asked for water service and had charged that once before, when her husband had threatened not to pay taxes, the city had extended water pipes along the road to her driveway. When

the taxes were paid, she said, the city picked up the water pipes.

Cost of extending the city water line was estimated at more than \$7,000, an expense not justified for only one or two houses, the council has countered.

Instead, the city offered, in a letter to Mrs. Campbell, to install a two-inch pipe to the property of Larry Upchurch, located near her house. She could then hook on to that line, the council says. The Upchurch property is presently served by a smaller city line. The council contends that this would significantly reduce the cost to the city and that the cost for the hook up would be similar to the cost of a tie-in with a line run beside the St. Pauls road.

Mrs. Campbell said she planned to seek a remedy from the legislature and to investigate instituting a suit against the city for water. She said she did not plan to pay more than 50 per cent of her taxes.

Commissioners Vote To Force Pay Reduction

Hoke county commissioners sided with commissioners from two other counties Monday to force a seven and a half per cent reduction in salaries at Sandhills Mental Health Center.

The action stemmed from a misunderstanding of several years in which the Sandhills Mental Health Board requested salaries in excess of the state standard without first obtaining approval from the county commissioners in the five counties area.

A ruling in October by the attorney general's office established the requirement to obtain approval for salaries and left the mental health clinic in the position of having operated for two years without approval. The general statute orders the salaries to conform to the state standard salary plan if the board and commissioners do not agree.

David Culbreth, area director for the clinic, in a letter read to the commissioners, Monday, asked that he be allowed to return employees to the standard scale during the next fiscal year, beginning in July.

Otherwise, he wrote, "there is the distinct possibility that we would have to decrease professional salaries by 7 1/2 per cent and require these people to pay back the percentage above standard since July 1" (of last year).

The commissioners had not taken action on the matter when word was received by telephone that commissioners in Moore County had voted to allow the cutback to begin July 1, but that Montgomery and Richmond commissioners had voted to require the reduction Jan. 1. Anson County commissioners had agreed to side with the majority, county manager T.B. Lester reported to the Hoke board.

In a resolution, the board voted to require the salaries to conform with the standard pay plan as of Jan. 1, which would require a 7 1/2 per cent reduction.

School Buildings

County school superintendent Raz Autry met with the board to schedule the sale of bonds and told the commissioners that current building cost estimates had been revised, to the county's advantage.

The most recent building cost estimates were considerably reduced, Autry said, and, if accurate, would enable the county to build a library at West Hoke with state, rather than local funds.

The county will receive \$1,215,000 in state bond money. Projects scheduled to be built with those funds include the Hoke High library, planned for \$400,000 and now estimated at \$325,000; Scurlock classrooms and library, planned for \$615,000 and now estimated at \$525,000 and West Hoke classrooms, planned for \$200,000 and now estimated at \$160,000. Autry said if these estimates prove correct, the county can construct the library at West Hoke with the \$140,000 remaining in state funds.

He proposed to the board that only part of the \$1.25 million in local school bonds be sold now. Projects planned would include renovation of the Raeford Elementary cafeteria, now estimated at \$125,000; new Hoke High shops, estimated at \$225,000 and the auditorium addition at the high school gym, still estimated at \$200,000.

These are the most urgent needs, Autry told the commissioners.

He agreed to delay the schedule for

selling the bonds until a meeting could be arranged with the Institute of Local Government to advise on the sale.

Library Plans

Members of the county library board accompanied the director and business manager of the Sandhills Regional Library system to meet with the county commissioners.

Bill Bridgeman, director, explained to the board the advantages of joining the system, composed now of the public libraries of Moore, Richmond, Anson and Montgomery counties.

The chief advantage would be financial and professional help, Bridgeman explained. He said a tentative budget to be presented for the operation of the library next year will amount to \$44,706. As a member of the regional library system, the budget, including increased expenditures for books and materials, would amount to only \$27,600.

As a member, the local library would continue to pay salaries of local employees and maintenance of the building and utilities. They would also pay \$2,050 to the regional library for office expenses.

The regional library would pay the salary of a professional librarian and would pay costs of books and materials and upkeep on the bookmobile, among other expenses.

Mrs. J.M. Andrews said the library board had endorsed joining the regional system. She also announced that the board had regretfully accepted the resignation of Miss Frances Edwards, librarian.

The library board is scheduled to meet with the commissioners again in

February to decide on membership.

Recreation

Members of the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission also met with the board of commissioners to discuss immediate plans.

Mrs. Milo Postel, chairman, G.L. Lovett and Benny McLeod first made sure that \$10,307 in unspent recreation funds was still available for this year. They then asked the board for some guidance in spending the money. Two possibilities included an immediate start at recruiting a fulltime recreation director or the development of a new ball park.

The commissioners, citing uncertain revenue this year, discouraged any recruiting and approved a resolution directing the recreation commission to "carry on as in the past."

They were more receptive to the idea of purchasing land to develop and agreed that it would be a good idea for the recreation commission to look into the matter.

Lovett also asked for office space and storage for recreation equipment now owned by the county. The board suggested the old county office building, which will not be vacated until late summer.

Another Office

Another person who came to the meeting in search of office space was Mrs. Juanita Edmund, clerk of superior court.

She asked the board for an office for the magistrates. It should be private and should be located with an outside door

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More Blood Is Needed

It will take a whopping big collection of blood at the quarterly visit of the Bloodmobile next week to keep Hoke County's account with the Red Cross balanced.

Right now, residents have used 73 pints more than has been donated in the county.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile has made one visit this fiscal year, which began in July, and only 50 pints were collected then.

But, according to records kept by the Red Cross, Hoke Countians have used 123 pints since July first.

Clyde Upchurch Jr., county chairman of the blood program, said that in the last three months, persons living in the county have needed an average of 45 pints a month.

The county has a yearly quota of 398 pints.

Most of the blood is used by surgery or burn patients, he said.

"And not a drop of blood that is contributed is ever wasted," he commented. "If it is not used immediately, then it is made into plasma or fibrinogen (a clotting agent made from blood)."

Upchurch also stressed that all the hospitals in the area participated in the Red Cross blood program and urged patients to make sure the hospitals identified them as Hoke County residents. Sometimes patients did not get credit for the participating program because mailing addresses, with portions of the county being on Fayetteville, Aberdeen or Robeson County routes, can be misleading, Upchurch explained.

Upchurch receives regular reports of

Jobs for more than 300 workers at Raeford Turkey Farms ended this week as the turkey processing plant reduced its work force to one shift.

Larry Phillips, personnel manager, said the layoff was due to a lack of live turkeys to process. The cutback is expected to be temporary, he said, and the firm is going ahead with the expansion program already underway.

The new facility is expected to be ready by summer, Phillips said.

The total number of workers laid off this week was estimated by Phillips as 338. Interviewers from the Employment Security Commission are scheduled to visit the plant, Phillips said, to take applications for unemployment compensation.

The economic impact on the area caused by the loss of income to turkey plant workers is estimated at more than \$31,000 each week.

Phillips said production is normally less at this time of year and employees who are paid hourly, have often worked on short time.

"However, this year, because of the unavailability of live product, Raeford Turkey Farms is forced to go to a one-shift operation," Phillips said.

Supply of live turkeys to the plant has been cut by about 50 per cent, Phillips said. However, it is expected that more turkeys will be available later this year.

"As we get more birds, we'll continue to hire," he said. "We are in the position to be very competitive to get birds and we anticipate that we'll be able to get more."

However, Wyatt Upchurch, who produces young turkeys for growers, estimated that supplies will be short throughout 1975. Even though it appears that farmers will be more eager to raise turkeys this year, the length of time it takes to increase breeding stock, hatch poults and grow turkeys to market size indicates shortages for the rest of this year, he said.

Upchurch said the cost of raising turkeys for market in the past year rose sharply. "Turkeys aren't being raised because you can't make money at it," he said.

In 1973, he said, the cost to produce 100,000 birds was about \$425,000. In 1974, it was \$700,000.

Turkey production in the county is down markedly according to farm agent Wendell Young. In 1971, there were an

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Classes Open

Registration is still open for the winter quarter of off-campus classes offered by Sandhills Community College, Division of Continuing Education.

Interested persons may register during the week of Jan. 13-16 in class.

Youth Faces Trial As Adult

One of two juveniles charged with the Dec. 28 burglary at the home of county commissioner James A. Hunt was ordered to stand trial as an adult following a hearing Friday by District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree.

Daniel R. Locklear, 15, will face indictment by the grand jury on charges of breaking and entering and larceny connected with a break-in at Hunt's home in which \$950 in cash and checks was stolen.

It was reported Locklear was on a See YOUTHS, page 13