

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Flu has hit Hoke County. According to reports, one class at school had 15 pupils absent the first of the week. Of course the weather doesn't help with the sickness.

Sunday it was sunny and warm with the temperature in the 60s, but Monday it was raining and the thermometer was in the 40s. Tuesday morning it was fair, but the temperature was in the 20s. So, you can see that the changing weather is not good for our health.

Let's all be careful and maybe we can avoid an epidemic in the county.

The basketball game between N.C. State and Carolina last Saturday kept fans on edge most of the way. Most of the Carolina fans had almost started celebrating when the Tar Heels took a six point lead in the game with only 1:27 minutes to play. Some State fans and especially the players were going to give it all they had until the final whistle. It played off as State pulled it out by three points, 88-85.

State misses the big man, but experience paid off for them in this one. I heard that one State fan, Ken McNeill, gave up on the team. Maybe after the victory he will give you details.

I don't have all the facts of the shooting that took place Saturday night, but from what I heard it would make a fine show for television except that no one was hit during the exchange of pistol fire.

From reading in the papers and listening to television, it now seems everyone in the national and state governments is all for cutting taxes. Now I am all in favor of this, but one thing comes to my mind. I can remember when I didn't make any money, I didn't have any to spend. So, if taxes are cut, what will happen? Some of the programs now financed by these taxes must be done away with or the governments must go into debt that much more.

So, if you are expecting a cut in taxes right away, maybe you should look again. The men that represent us in Washington can't make a hasty decision because some people want a tax cut and others want so many of the existing programs to continue. What will happen? Time will tell.

I have received phone calls and letters from old classmates concerning a reunion on the 40th anniversary of the graduating of the class in 1935. Raz Altry was also nice enough to look back in the school files and give me a list of the class members. Mrs. Oscar Wood, Catherine Stubbs, also came with a list she had saved since that day in 1935. So, maybe plans can soon be undertaken to contact all the members and have the reunion.

I also received a call from a member of the class of 1934 wanting to go in with the class of 1935 and have a joint reunion. This will be brought up when a committee meets later. If you haven't contacted me about the reunion, please do so in the next few weeks.

# Federal Money Opens Jobs Here

## Hoke Man Charged After Chase, Gunfire

A Hoke County man was captured Sunday night after he eluded two city policemen and fired at a deputy following a Saturday night shooting incident at a Raeford store.

Willie Julius Caesar, 48, who lives on N.C. 20, was found at the home of a friend in the Shawtown section and offered no resistance to arrest.

Caesar was placed in jail under \$40,700 bond on multiple charges. Chief of Police Leonard Wiggins gave this account:

About 7:15 p.m. Saturday night, Glennwood Hunt, a service station attendant at Crumpler's Handy Mart on Main Street, reported to Officers Kermit Griffin and Earle Tindell he was punched in the face by Caesar. Caesar then left, threatening to come back with a gun.

A short time later, the officers heard gunfire coming from Crumpler's Handy Mart and a 1969 Chevrolet station wagon took off at a high rate of speed south on Main Street. Marie Guin and Archie Conoly, who were in the store, were not hit.

The car ran a red light speeding down Highway 211 to McLeod's Crossroads with the officers in pursuit, where it turned left and continued to N.C. 20 headed toward Arabia. Deputy J.E. Lamont joined the chase.

Wiggins said the officers pulled

alongside the auto and attempted to force it off the road. Caesar rammed the station wagon into the police car, causing minor damage.

The station wagon left the road and went into a ditch about six miles from the Handy Mart location. Caesar ran from the vehicle, firing a shot from a small caliber pistol at Deputy Lamont, who returned the fire.

Six adults and a small child in the car were not hurt.

Wiggins said bloodhounds from nearby McCain were used in an unsuccessful search for Caesar Saturday night.

On Sunday, police went to a house in Shawtown and arrested Caesar. He was unarmed.

Caesar has been charged with five counts of assault, including assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill (ADWITK) on Archie Conoly and Lamont.

He is also charged with discharging a firearm in the city, firing into an occupied dwelling, speeding, running a red light, failing to stop for blue light and siren, leaving scene of an accident, speeding to endanger persons and property, and having no operator's license. A Jan. 24 hearing has been set.

Wiggins said Caesar was paroled from prison after serving a term for second degree murder.

## Food Stamp Wait Is Long

Applying for food stamps may be an all day wait, but persons are better off here than in many counties, according to Ben Niblock, county director of social services.

"If people will just wait it out, we can usually see them the same day they come in," he said. "It's not good, but it is better than in most counties where they are giving appointments for weeks ahead."

Appointments to apply for food stamps are now being made for the week of Feb. 10.

Persons without appointments are seen as time permits. Complaints have surfaced recently of waits of four or five days.

However, Niblock said he didn't think anyone had waited that long.

"I can see where that might happen if someone came and waited an hour or so and then left and came back the next

day and waited an hour or so," he said. "But if they'll get there sometime between 8 and 10 in the morning and wait it out, their chances of being seen that day are good."

More food stamp specialists are being hired with the \$28,398 allocated to the department under the emergency employment program.

Presently four fulltime workers and two persons working part-time are assigned to take applications and certify persons for eligibility. Two more eligibility specialists will be hired.

Fifteen appointments per worker a day, or one every thirty minutes, are scheduled. In addition, 25 to 30 others are seen without appointments, food stamp workers said.

Niblock said he understood from talking to directors in other counties that by Christmas some areas were making appointments for April.

## \$1 Million Plus Comes Back In Revenue Sharing

More than a million dollars have been returned to Hoke County in the past three years in revenue sharing funds.

In addition, more than \$83,000 has been earned for the city and county by interest payments on the money.

Since 1973, the county government has received \$877,249 and the city has received \$268,513. This total \$1,145,762 in federal money returned under the program.

By placing the funds in certificates of deposit until spent, the county has earned \$67,922.84 additional in interest and the city, \$15,676.93.

The money has been used for a wide variety of projects in both the city and county.

A large part of the city's share was shifted to the water construction project last year to make up a \$77,741.27 deficit.

City expenditures have totaled \$219,385.62, with the bulk of that, \$166,161.09, being spent last year.

Revenue sharing funds, in addition to the water project, have gone to the library, \$6,258.13; recreation, \$14,891.83; airport, \$258.73; streets, \$29,377.52; and fire department, \$4,936.12.

The lot next to city hall was purchased for \$30,276.48 and \$49,022.58 was spent on the new city garage building. Sheds, equipment and fencing at the garage were purchased



DEATH FALL - Fifty-one-year-old Harry Warren Lee slipped from the ladder atop the city water tower on Dickson Street Tuesday and fell to his death about 120 feet below.

## Jersey Man Dead In Fall

A fifty-one-year-old worker painting a water tower on Dickson Street plunged to his death Tuesday after he apparently lost his balance.

Warren Henry Lee, Brooklawn, N.J., was pronounced dead at the scene by the medical examiner, Robert Townsend. The immediate cause of death was reported to be a broken neck.

Chief of Police Leonard Wiggins said Lee's son, Mark T. Lee, was working on the tower at the same time and witnessed the accident.

Lee was an owner of Osborne and Lee Institutional Painting of Brooklawn,

N.J., which was awarded the contract by the city for painting the two water towers.

Wiggins said the painting was nearly completed and today was to be the last day for the workers.

Lee, on the permanent ladder which leads to the top of the tower, was painting float indicator lines when he fell at about noon. He struck a catwalk railing that encircles the tower before reaching the ground. Wiggins estimated the distance of the fall at 115-120 feet.

The body was taken to Crumpler's Funeral Home pending arrangements.

Local officials expect to begin hiring this week with \$76,191 allocated to Hoke County under the emergency public service employment program.

The city, county and schools will share a \$38,095.50 allotment. The department of social services gets \$28,398 and \$9,697.50 has been allotted to the Employment Security Commission to hire additional personnel in Hoke County.

Thirteen persons, mostly in maintenance or clerical jobs, will be hired by local governments.

Hoke County schools will hire two persons for school maintenance and one as a security guard, superintendent Raz Autry said.

The city will employ five persons under the program: an assistance tax clerk, a dog warden and three maintenance laborers.

The county plans to hire three clerks: one for the health department, soil conservation service worker and one to keep personnel records. Two janitorial workers will also be hired for county office buildings.

T.B. Lester, county manager, said salaries were set at \$5,100 annually for maintenance workers and \$5,200 for clerks. The county will administer the program, but the city and schools will each hire its own employees, Lester said.

He cautioned that the program is funded only for six months at a time and that employees hired under the program do not have to be funded from county revenue after the program ends.

However, John Gaddy, city manager, said that the city would probably continue funding the positions.

Plans for use of the money changed after discussions at a special meeting of the county commissioners Monday night. Originally Gaddy had hoped to hire an equipment and purchasing superintendent for the city garage and possibly hire an administrative assistant. Autry had wanted to hire teachers' aides.

"But after talking it over, we didn't think we would be able to find people for the supervisory jobs who would also meet the guidelines for this program," Gaddy said.

The federal money being pumped into the local economy has strings attached.

Persons hired must meet these guidelines: out of work for at least 30 days with those who have exhausted unemployment insurance getting top priority. Those out of work for at least 15 weeks get second priority and those not covered by unemployment get third consideration.

The social services personnel will work in the food stamp office, where a heavy backlog of applicants is developing, Ben Niblock, county director, said.

Niblock said originally he had hoped he could hire three Aid to Families with Dependent Children eligibility specialists, a social worker, a clerk and two food stamp eligibility specialists.

However, he was informed last week that the money could be used only in the food stamp program. Niblock said he was attempting to get the requirement changed and expected to be able to hire the additional employees. However, Niblock was out of town at a meeting Tuesday and could not be reached for further information.

One of the workers was hired in the food stamp office late last week.

## Response Good At Bloodmobile

The Bloodmobile collection at Burlington Friday was termed a success with the amount tripling over the last visit of the Bloodmobile.

Clyde Upchurch, Red Cross chairman, reported 153 pints were donated of which 119 came from BI employees. Three donors were from Kni-Away and three came from Raeford Turkey Farms.

"It wasn't for Burlington, I don't know what we'd do," Upchurch said. "It was so well executed. Burlington had everything the unit could have asked for."

Upchurch said many large users of blood were completely covered by friends with pints to spare.

"We're in good shape now for the year if we can have 100 pints in May and 100 in August," he said. Hoke has a yearly quota of 398 pints.

The Bloodmobile center is staffed by volunteers, coordinated by Mrs. Ralph Barnhart. Professional personnel from Raeford and McCain provided medical assistance.

## The Wait For New Church Ended With Dedication

After much hard work beset by delays and shortages, the members of McLaughlin Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church dedicated their new building Jan. 5-19 with services climaxed by the laying of the cornerstone.

The new church is built behind and to the side of the old building on state route 20 west of Raeford.

A modern, stately structure with a 16' spire, the interior has been designed with natural tones of wood and white walls. Delicate moss green furnishings complete the simple and natural setting.

Valued at \$200,000 the building was constructed for \$150,000 through the patient efforts of pastor and members.

The church was built under the leadership of Rev. M.H. Williams, president of the Hoke County Civic League and holder of many offices in the Laurinburg District of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

A long time dream, the new building was planned to take advantage of every opportunity to save money. No contractors were used. Groundbreaking for the building was

Easter Sunday, 1970, but there were long waits before the new home could become a reality.

A glass shortage interfered, and then a wait for the furniture began which was to last fourteen months.

The original cornerstone of the church is dated 1908, but the church did not have a real home until 1913.

Mrs. Betty Johnson founded the original congregation, which met in her home. In 1913, J.W. McLaughlin urged the members to join the fledgling A.M.E. conference, and he erected a small building near the swamp. In the ensuing years, many ministers came to McLaughlin Chapel.

Mrs. Johnson turned the first shovel of dirt for the church building put up in the 1920's.

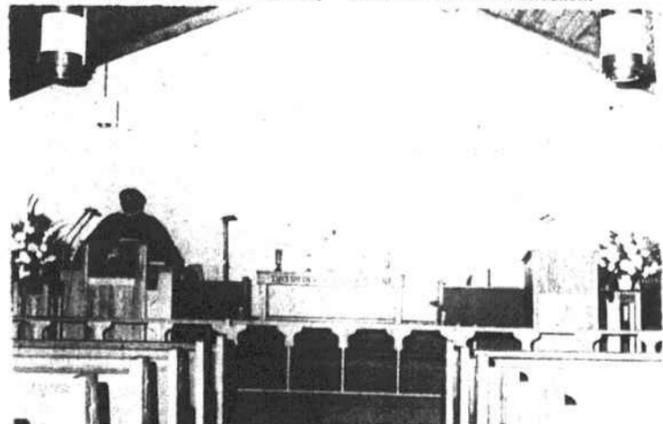
Today, the church has a membership of 150.

Trustees are Cleo Bratcher, Jr., chairman, Jerome Bratcher, secretary, Ardell Bailey, Matthew McRae and Tony Bule.

Rev. Williams came to the Laurinburg district in 1965. Prior to that time, he

served as pastor of the Jackson Springs Circuit, Jackson Springs, and West End,

N.C. This is the second church constructed under his direction.



CHAPEL - Natural wood accents the white walls and green accents of the new McLaughlin Chapel, under construction nearly five years before the first services were held there this month. The Rev. M.H. Williams stands at the pulpit.

## Bike Registrations Set For Saturday

Bike registration will be available at the Raeford Police Department Saturday morning from 9-11. Police Chief Leonard Wiggins announced. Bicycles will get a numbered decal and the number will also be stamped on the sprocket.

Wiggins urged all owners to register their bikes now, as many bikes were bought for Christmas and there is a greater risk of theft.