

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The groundhog, according to reports, didn't see his shadow for the first time in several years Sunday, February 2, and according to "old sayings", we should have an early spring.

Tuesday morning it looked like an "old time" winter with sleet on the ground, but the sleet changed to rain by late morning and things were wet and muddy.

I haven't heard of as much sickness this week, but if the weather stays like this, things could change. So, let's all hope the sign of the groundhog is right and an early spring will be with us.

Last Friday night I was invited to a rabbit supper at Clayton Buoyers' pond. This was the first time I had eaten rabbit in a number of years. Some of the men in attendance said it was the first time they had ever tasted rabbit. Of course, most of us have been eating high on the hog and have forgotten how we were raised. From the looks of things we may all be glad to get rabbit again.

The meal was prepared by John Haire and he did an "A" one job. My friend, Buoyers, was around, but what help he was giving must have been answered by John, as I couldn't see him doing anything but "being around."

All kidding aside, it was a fine affair and everyone had a fine time.

The traffic problem on Elwood Avenue has been discussed in this column many times in the past several years. I have suggested that the avenue be made a one-way street and see if things would improve. Now this will be tried beginning March 15 if proper signs can be erected by then.

This action was taken Monday night at the monthly meeting of the City Council. The plan will be in effect for three months, and if everything works out it will remain. If not, then something will be done about it.

The way to see if this plan will work is for everyone to give it a try. Don't start giving it lip service before it has become effective.

I am not one that wants to change things just for changes, but I want to change things if progress can be made. I don't believe the problem will be worse by giving this plan a try. It will inconvenience most of us in some way or another, but it will aid the overall traffic problem for many on Elwood.

So, let's all try and see what the end result will be.

The United States Congress received the budget from the President Monday, and it was in four books and can be purchased for \$26.00. I don't believe most of us have time to study this budget and then it would be hard to understand what it meant, anyway.

One news man said that to make it short that it had the government spending one billion dollars a day and going in debt one billion dollars a week.

Who but the government could operate this way?

Parnell Pays Visit To Board

Freshman state representative David Parnell of Parkton paid a surprise visit to the county commissioners' meeting Monday morning and came away with a request to do something to get the county out of debt to the state penal system.

The commissioners want the state to stop billing the county for the upkeep of persons in prison who are appealing superior court convictions.

Parnell said he was not aware of the problem but would certainly investigate it. He advised the board to pass a resolution asking for action and send it to the 21st district delegation.

The commissioners, in a busy morning, met with the library board, a planner from the council of governments, the county civil defense coordinator, home and farm agents, the school superintendent and a representative from the cable television company.

Library

The board approved a motion to request membership in the Sandhills regional library system, a move asked by the library board. The commissioners were also shown a model of the proposed building.

The library got the jump on budget time, presenting their request for next year of \$17,000 from the county. The total budget of \$22,000 will include \$5,000 from the city. No salary increases were approved and the total for next year is only \$50 more than for this year. However Mrs. J.M. Andrews, library board chairman, asked that county librarians be included in any salary increases granted county employees.

Planning

Larry Stahm, planner for Region N COG, discussed questions concerning the ordinance for a planning board which he is preparing for the county.

The board decided to include seven members, based on the number of townships in the county. Stahm was asked to draw up a sample ordinance and bylaws and report back to the board.

Bond Funds

Raz Autry approached the board with plans for the local school bond money. Construction costs have lowered enough since the original estimates were made, to slice \$500,000 from the \$1.25 million approved by the voters, he told the board.

Autry also said that four most needed construction projects could be built for \$750,000. He requested \$250,000 in revenue sharing funds for 1976 and \$500,000 from the sale of bonds.

The board took no action, deciding to consult first with the local government commission. However, the bond counselor is due to meet soon with county officials. T.B. Lester, county manager, said, and a decision on the amount and date of sale must be made promptly.

Autry said contracts would be let

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POUNDING PAVEMENT - A workman breaks away the curbing on Elwood for one of two driveways into the new Bank of Raeford parking lot. The work was halted by the city Friday until zoning requirements were met.

Zoning Law Delays Lot

City officials enforced the zoning ordinance Friday to halt work on a downtown parking lot after a day school operator complained to police that the lot would take away parking spaces.

City manager John Gaddy made a quick inspection of the Bank of Raeford's new lot on Stewart and Elwood and asked the workman to stop beating out a section of the curb to install driveways opening from Elwood Avenue.

After reviewing the zoning ordinance with zoning administrator Bill Sellers, Gaddy asked bank officials to move one driveway several feet farther from the corner and to increase the distance between the drives.

A building permit was also required for the project, Gaddy said.

He reported to the city council Monday night that the zoning requirements were being met. Changing Elwood an eastbound one-way street is expected to provide a loading zone for day school students.

Man Dies In Wreck; Driver Is Charged

A 20-year-old Red Springs man died Friday night when a car in which he was riding overturned on a rural Hoke County road.

Jimmy Jacobs was thrown nearly 75 feet when the car went out of control on a sharp curve on state road 1436, the last paved road before the Robeson County line.

The car, a 1974 Ford, turned over several times before stopping in a field adjoining N.C. 211 South, according to Highway Patrol Trooper C.A. Bennett. According to witnesses who stopped on the highway, Jacobs was thrown onto 211, and was struck by a pickup truck driven by James Brown King, Jr. of

Asheboro. The body was dragged 127 feet before the truck driver stopped, Bennett said.

The driver of the Ford fled the scene and was arrested Sunday at his home in the Union School area of Robeson County.

Carl Oxendine, Rt. 1, Pembroke, is charged with hit and run involving a death, manslaughter, reckless driving and racing. He was taken to Hoke County jail, where bond was set at \$5,000.

Also arrested in connection with the accident, and charged with racing, is Claude Bennett Jones of Raeford. His bond was set at \$600. Preliminary hearings and trials for the two men are set for Feb. 21 in district court.

Jacobs is the second person to die on Hoke County roads this year.

School Board To Let Bids

Architects for the construction projects to be built with state bond money met with the board of education Monday evening.

Contracts will be let Feb. 25 for the library at Hoke High, nine classrooms and a library at Scurlock and three classrooms and a library at West Hoke.

The board heard a report from reading supervisors Florence Cohen and Roy Maynor and were told that the class for learning disabled children will begin Monday.

The board approved the hiring of

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Eastbound

Council Okays One Way Street

RWC Drops Horse Show

The Raeford Woman's Club will not hold its annual horse show here this year.

The show site on U.S. 401 Bypass has been sold and is not available, RWC president Mrs. Kay Thomas explained, and the show committee could not find suitable grounds.

There is a possibility the Raeford club will co-sponsor a show outside the county, Mrs. Thomas said.

Some large fund-raising project to benefit the library will be undertaken this spring, she said.

Housing Funds Set For Hoke

Enough money to assist 27 to 40 families to rent decent housing has been allocated for Hoke County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to an announcement Tuesday by state director Richard B. Barnwell.

Based on a "fair share" formula devised by Congress, Hoke is entitled to \$67,785 for rent subsidy payments.

The money is to be used to subsidize rent for either newly-constructed, substantially rehabilitated or existing housing. Payments will cover the difference between the market rent of the unit and what the family can afford to pay, which must not be more than 25 per cent of their gross income.

The program will be open to private others, both profit and non-profit motivated, and to public housing agencies.

However, the allotment of money to Hoke County does not represent any commitment to put housing units here, according to Terry Piper, HUD economist in Greensboro.

Further regulations will be announced soon, he said, but basically Hoke will be included in a larger area

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Schools View Tornado Plan

School principals were briefed on tornadoes in a program Friday presented by Bill Niven, county coordinator for civil preparedness.

A series of slides and a film of an actual tornado were shown to the educators.

Niven stressed that it is impossible to predict a tornado and requested that each school develop a plan of action to follow.

Most tornadoes in North Carolina occur in May, he said, and Hoke County

lies in a belt that could receive winds of upward of 80 miles an hour. Winds of 55 mph can topple a mobile home, Niven said.

Niven explained that 95 per cent of all tornadoes travel in a southwest to northeastern direction but once a tornado touches down, the wind velocity can go in any direction.

For this reason, it is recommended that children be moved to the most structurally sound corner of the building, Niven told the principals.

The city council made Elwood Avenue a one-way street and took a tentative step toward public housing Monday night.

A plan presented by councilman Sam Morris was approved to change Elwood to a one-way street going east from Magnolia to Stewart Street starting March 15.

The original plan called for Elwood to carry eastbound traffic only and Edinborough Avenue to carry westbound traffic one way. However, the council decided to leave Edinborough as a two-way avenue.

According to Morris, making Elwood one way will relieve traffic congestion at the corner of Main Street and at the day school on Elwood and Stewart. Drivers will be allowed to turn left from Elwood onto Main Street after the plan goes into effect, he said. He also advised that a pick-up zone be marked on the left side of Elwood in front of the day school.

In addition, he pointed out, the mail box at the post office can be used conveniently when the street becomes a one-way thoroughfare.

The council made it clear they were approving the plan on a trial basis, even though a time limit was not stated in the motion.

The council also agreed to arrange a joint public meeting with the county board of commissioners to hear from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) officials on public housing after being prodded by a delegation to the council meeting.

Dayna and Warren Pate, Phil Diehl and Mrs. Nina Morrissey, representing "20 or 30 other people interested in getting low cost rental housing", outlined the need for housing in the area and urged the council to reactivate the old Raeford Housing Authority.

Mayor John K. McNeill answered, saying he did not believe that the housing authority was needed and explained several new federal programs through which housing money may become available.

The council declined to appoint a citizens' study group, as Diehl requested, but they did agree to arrange the meeting with HUD housing specialists.

Recommendations by the airport committee were approved by the council to lease another piece of property at the airport to Gene Thacker under the same terms required in the lease to Paul Rose. In addition, Thacker was released from the lease he now holds with the city and the council agreed to allow him to use a portion of the city paved apron until his area is paved. The council also agreed to the airport committee's recommendations to move Thacker's gas storage tanks for him from the area he is returning to the city to the new area.

A joint agreement to provide disaster relief was approved between the city and the American Red Cross. Bill Niven, county civil preparedness coordinator, presented the document.

The council also discussed the request

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SUNNY DAYS last week tured the flowers into bloom...

(Photo By MacDonald)



BUT SNOW and icy rains came back to chill the county.