

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The article last week in this column asking for the whereabouts of two members of the class of 1935 at Raeford High School paid off. Thursday, I had received phone calls that would put me in touch either with the person or someone who could give me the information.

I now have the addresses of all members or some way to find out what the addresses are at this time.

I want to thank all who have aided in this project and hope the reunion will be as successful as acquiring the names.

I received a letter from James H. Morgan, Jr., recently, which will follow. He is also trying to contact shipmates during World War II so that they can have a reunion. If anyone can be of aid to him, please write so he can complete his list.

The letter: I am seeking men and officers who served aboard the mighty aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga - particularly those of WW2 - while there is time left!! Every man who served on this fine ship is entitled to join our group. We will be having our 4th Annual Reunion this coming May, at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

If interested, and for more details, write me, giving your rate/rank, Division, and year on board.

James H. Morgan, Jr.
Big "T" Veterans Assn.
Waterside Lane
So. Berwick, Maine 03908

P.S. If Veterans Post Commanders were to post this letter on their bulletin boards, it would be greatly appreciated.

The basketball team at Hoke High School was defeated in the tournament last Thursday night by one point and was eliminated. The team that defeated them went on to win the tournament and will play in the State finals at Durham this week.

The Bucks had a great year with a 19-2 season record. So, everyone should feel proud of the performance this team showed during the year. They placed the name of Hoke-Raeford across the State and everyone should offer congratulations to players and coaches for a job well done.

It is said that anyone can find an excuse to stay away from church. In observing this over the years I would say that the saying is true.

Now the Raeford Presbyterian Church has eliminated the excuse that it is impossible for me to climb the steps to reach the sanctuary and attend service. An elevator has been installed and you can ride up and down to the sanctuary without climbing steps. So, if you have been using this excuse, forget it and come on back to church. If you have been away using another excuse, come by some Sunday morning and see the elevator in operation and maybe you could stay for service that day. It could get to be a habit - a good habit, too.

John Gaddy, city manager, stated Tuesday that the State Highway Department would assist in the posting of signs and markings on Elwood Avenue before it becomes a one-way street March 15. Gaddy said the Department maintained Main Street and that the city would underwrite the other intersections at Magnolia and Stewart Street.

Budget Set For Indian Act

A tentative budget based on an estimated grant of \$36,291.94 for the Indian Education Act program was adopted at a public meeting held last week.

The program will be similar to the one last year, according to J.D. McAllister and is based on guidance counseling and home school visits.

Some cultural activities will also be sponsored, he said. Robert Taylor was re-elected chairman of the county advisory committee, which is composed of ten parents and ten students.

Elected vice-chairman was Harold Brewer and secretary was Betty Rogers. The budget includes salaries of \$13,816 for counseling and \$4,950 for the home-school visitor. Travel expenses for the two are budgeted at \$2,000.

Consultants and other contractual fees are set at \$3,315.59 and supplies are budgeted at \$1,000. Fringe benefits for salaried workers are set at

Health Worker Off 'Guarded List'

Hiring Funds Boosted

Hoke County received an additional grant of \$89,000 to expand hiring under the emergency public service employment program, county manager T.B. Lester announced.

The latest increase in the federally funded project brings the total allocation thus far to \$141,000, Lester said. The money was unexpectedly released through the state Manpower Commission and the county was officially notified Monday.

Lester was uncertain how much of the money could be put to use immediately, since many jobs have been filled since the start of hiring, began Jan. 22.

Lester said there are present plans to hire about 12 more workers in the schools, and possibly five jobs in the county government. The jobs are mainly maintenance and related work, he said.

The funds, which may only be used to pay salaries, must be utilized by March 1, a deadline established by the Manpower Commission which administers the program.

Lester indicated it was unlikely the county's present requirements would make it possible to create enough jobs to spend the full amount allotted.

"We'll spread it around as best we can," he said.

City Manager John Gaddy said Tuesday he has begun screening applicants for outside maintenance workers in the streets and sanitation department. Gaddy said the additional hiring may now make it possible to do some needed cleanup in the city's ditches.

A filing clerk to assist in the billing office is also under consideration, he said.

Schoolmen Meeting

Craig Phillips named reading and programs for exceptional children as the top priorities in education at a District Eight meeting of school boards.

Phillips, state superintendent of schools, spoke at the banquet following the meeting. He also discussed the budget for the next year.

D.R. Huff of Hoke County completed his three year term as district president, turning over his duties to Hoke Smith of Harnett county. Ralph Lassiter of Montgomery County was chosen vice-president and Alton Grey, superintendent of Harnett County, was elected secretary.

Approximately 100 persons from eight counties attended the meeting. Discussion topics included the Equal Opportunities Act, Title Nine and school records, Fiscal Control Act and school board policy.

The Hoke High dance band and choral entertained at the banquet.

Tax Report In

Net proceeds from sales and use taxes in the county for the quarter ended Dec. 31 amounted to \$54,804.80, according to state revenue officials.

The statewide total was reported as \$29,364,326.04.

Collections in the county for January were listed as \$20,958.60. Total for the state is \$11,630,522.84.

\$3,120.70.

Other transportation costs are planned for \$4,000 and community services are allotted \$1,000. The indirect cost of administering the program is set at \$2,939.65, which will be returned to the county school system by the federal government.

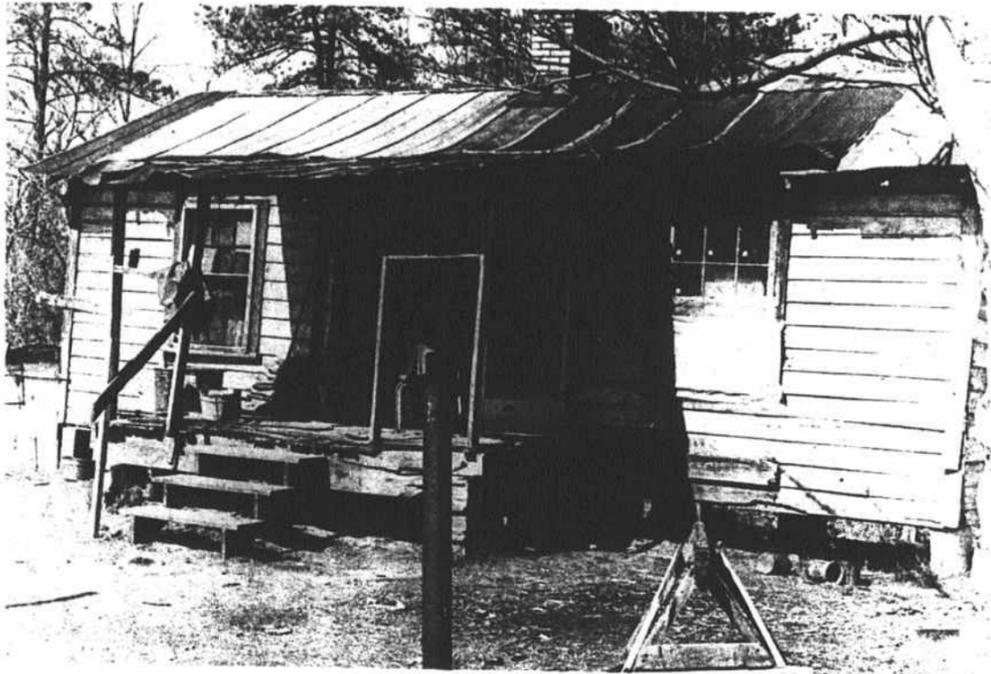
In commenting on the majority of the grant being spent on salaries, McAllister said, "You must convert salaries to service. You can't get service without salaries."

"Danford (Danford Dial, guidance counselor) counsels groups and individuals. We've used home-school visitors before in both ESEA and ESAA programs and had good experiences.

"The goal of a home-school visitor is to try to establish and keep good rapport between the home and the school. We think we've done this."

A mini-bus was purchased last year to

See INDIAN ACT, page 11



PATCHED - The two-room house, built about twenty years ago, has been repaired and patched to keep out wind and rain. A wood stove heats the home now owned by Mrs. Estelle Shaw and there is no running water or indoor plumbing.

Leaky Roof, No Plumbing That's Home For Some

The long, grey concrete block structure is one of the statistics on housing in Hoke County.

Built originally as a motel, according to one of the occupants, the block building now contains two apartments. Mrs. Hallie Mae Good occupies one of the three-room apartments. It has no running water, no plumbing, no closets or cabinets. Mrs. Good says she pays \$30 a month rent.

A thin rug covers the concrete floor inside. The block walls are bare and unpainted. A hole in the thin ceiling discloses no insulation.

The rooms are heated with a wood burning stove. Mrs. Good said she had to supply the heater since there was none when she moved in.

She lives in the apartment to be close to her mother. She said there aren't any other rental homes nearby.

Mrs. Mary Baker and her two small children rent the other apartment but for the last several months they have been staying in Mrs. Good's home. Mrs. Baker's apartment leaks and she has no heat.

Her rent is \$32, said Mrs. Baker. These apartments are among the 1,294 rental units in the county, according to 1970 census information, the latest available.

There are 4,305 housing units in the county, of which 1,018 are located in Raeford.

Plumbing is lacking in more than a third of the homes, on 1,530. This is considerably higher than the average of 15.6 per cent for the state.

More homes here are heated by coal or wood. A total of 7.6 per cent of homes in Hoke County heat with coal or wood, compared to 4.1 per cent in the state. Slightly more than five per cent of the homes use coal or wood for cooking, compared to three per cent in the state.

Housing was a topic at the last city council meeting when a group of Raeford residents asked the council to reactivate the Raeford Housing Authority.

A public meeting is being planned to discuss housing further.

Four years ago, the city formed the housing authority and an application for 100 low income rental units was filed with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Federal funds for the housing program dried up, according to Raeford mayor John K. McNeill, and the application was never acted on.

Joe Upchurch was appointed chairman of the housing authority, with a term of office to run through January, 1976. Other members were the late W.T. McAllister, Bobby Carter, Henry Dial and Ken W. McNeill. Their terms have expired and no appointments have been made to fill the vacancies.

Dayna Pate, a case worker for the county Department of Social Services who is interested in obtaining better

housing sees low income housing as basic to the development of the county.

"Children can't develop properly in these surroundings," she said. "Is it any wonder that they fail at school and then stay on the tax rolls the rest of their lives?"

Ben Niblock, director of the county department of social services, has had considerable experience with public housing in other counties.

"I would certainly like to see the county get some public housing," he said. "Many people see the housing problem as primarily a social services client related problem, but it's not. Sure, a lot of our people need public housing, but there are a lot of others in the same boat who aren't on public assistance."

The lack of adequate rental housing often hinders attempts to relocate families into better living facilities.

Some of the rental units available are owned by Hoke Oil and Concrete and located near the plant just off Main Street.

The unpainted wooden houses were built for mill workers more than 50 years ago, according to Clyde Upchurch. Generally rundown, they are, however equipped with water, plumbing and lights. They rent for \$3 a week to plant workers and \$5 a week to others.

"I'd love to tear them down," said Clyde Upchurch. "The tenants always move out before they pay the rent and there is nothing I can do to get the cost out of the houses for repairs."

Upchurch has made a study of public housing, partly in connection with his business. He has visited public housing authorities in Richmond, Atlanta, Maxton, Laurinburg and Rockingham among others.

He is convinced that private ownership of homes is the only answer. "I was interested for awhile in trying

City Sued - Water Squabble

A Raeford woman who has been battling city hall in an effort to have a water line extended to her home has filed a lawsuit against the city, in District Court it was learned Tuesday.

Mrs. Agnes M. Campbell, a St. Pauls Drive resident, states in a petition filed Tuesday that the city has denied her water service for a period of over twenty years and willfully and wrongfully refused to construct a water line to her property.

Mrs. Campbell is represented by Raeford attorney Philip Diehl, who said the city has thirty days to file a written response to the allegations.

Mrs. Campbell's suit requests the city be ordered to provide water service, and a fire hydrant a reasonable distance away. The suit also requests Mrs.

to get some kind of public housing here but I would rather see low cost loans made to individuals so that they can have a pride in ownership. That's the only way they'll take care of things."

Many of the substandard units are occupied by the elderly.

Mrs. Estelle Shaw of McCain, is 63 and lives on a small social security check. Her tiny home, which she shares with her brother, once belonged to her father. Other members of her family live nearby.

She cooks on a tiny oil stove and heats with a wood stove. She has electricity but no indoor water. The floor is patched with plywood, as are the walls. She would, she said, welcome a home in a housing project.

Mrs. Ruthie Willis, 77, pays no rent for the three room wooden house she lives in near the Cumberland County line. Her son and grandson share the home with her.

The house has electricity and an outdoor pump and privy serve for plumbing. Mrs. Willis lives on social security payments. She has lived in the house about ten years.

Many of the houses in the county that were once available have been torn down. Most were tenant houses on farms.

"We used to have 20 families living on the farm," Upchurch said. "Now we don't have a single family."

At the meeting, the city council asked if there was a need for public housing. The five families-all either elderly living on social security or on public assistance-answered yes.

Mrs. Pate, who has been working on housing for several months, would like to hear from anyone who is interested in the project.

The housing meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20 in the court room.

Campbell be refunded that portion of her taxes and assessments which are used to finance the municipal water system.

Mrs. Campbell's last go around in the long standing disagreement was before the city council in January. At that time she requested her property, located just inside the city limits, be removed from the city. The request would not be possible, she was told.

Estimates of the cost to the city to extend a water line to Mrs. Campbell's property range from \$7,000-\$11,000. Diehl declined to estimate the amount of money in taxes which the city could be ordered to repay.

Diehl said the case may be heard as early as May.

Jessie Nicholson, the health worker shot and left for dead at an isolated cabin near McCain after thwarting a break-in, was removed from the intensive care unit Tuesday at Cape Fear Valley Hospital, a spokesman said.

Mrs. Nicholson's condition is now listed as fair, and she is out of danger, the spokesman added.

Mrs. Nicholson had been termed in a "guarded" condition, after undergoing surgery to remove a bullet in the head.

Four suspects were arrested and are being held under \$50,000 bond in connection with the attack on the 46 year old woman. Several others are being sought, Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Sheriff Barrington said Mrs. Nicholson was able to give a statement to deputies Wednesday in the emergency room.

Mrs. Nicholson had driven to an area about five miles from McCain, looking for an address where she was to pick up children for a dental appointment. Apparently lost, she turned onto an unimproved road and drove up to a cabin.

According to the sheriff, three or four men ran from the cabin and fled into nearby woods. Another man went to a 1966 white Chevrolet parked in the driveway and brought out a gun and advanced toward Mrs. Nicholson.

Mrs. Nicholson rolled up the window and locked herself in, and the man pointed the gun at her and threatened to kill her if she did not open the door.

Mrs. Nicholson complied and the man forced her into the cabin where he attempted to rape her. The woman resisted, and was pistol whipped in the face. The man then placed a pillow over her face and fired several shots in the room before firing a shot which struck the woman in the right side of the head.

The assailant drove off in Mrs. Nicholson's car, and the woman managed to walk to Highway 211, about a half a mile away, and flagged down an unidentified truck driver who picked her up.

Trooper C.A. Bennett, who was patrolling the highway, was stopped by the truck driver. Bennett transported her to Raeford Medical Clinic and she was taken from there to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

Barrington said the white Chevrolet left at the scene was filled with property removed from the cabin. The vehicle has been impounded and SBI agents conducted an examination for fingerprints and other evidence.

Charged with felonious breaking and entering and larceny are James F. McNair, 28, Bruce Leonard King, 19, Curtis A. Hills, 21, and Dwight Graham, 23, all of Rt. 3, Raeford. The sheriff said an investigation is underway for possible other charges.

More arrests are imminent in the case, the sheriff added.

Bids Opened

Bids were opened Tuesday by the Board of Education for the work on some of the additions planned at Hoke High and Scurlock and West Hoke Schools and officials were pleased with a total cost figure lower than estimated.

Superintendent Raz Autry said the low bids on actual costs of media center for each of the three schools and another nine classrooms at Scurlock were \$1,054,126. Fees and other contingencies will add another \$105,000, bringing the total to \$1,159,526.

Autry said these improvements are to be financed by state funds channelled to the county, and are not related to the revenue from the upcoming sale of the \$1.25 million school bonds.

Because of the reduction in the anticipated costs, the school will have an extra \$89,000 left over of the state money for use on the next project, he said.

Autry noted the timing of these expenditures is resulting in considerable savings.

"A year ago, this would have cost \$250,000 more", he said.

The bids accepted by the school board were announced as general

See BIDS, page 11

Council Meets Monday Night

The next regular meeting of the city council will be Monday at 7:30 P.M.

Bids for the roofing of the city hall building are scheduled to be opened.

The council members are expected to pass a resolution recommending a merger of regions H, M, and N to support the formation of a joint health region.

Also on the order of business is a discussion of the Powell Bill allocation.