

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The directors of the Hoke County Historical Association met last week and this writer was in attendance. Of the nine directors, seven were at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to set the date and select a program for the annual Spring meeting. Palmer Wilcox, president of the association, presided.

After a short discussion the date of the meeting was set for Tuesday, April 29 in the Fellowship Hall of the Raeford Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Carson Davis, Jr., co-chairman of Hoke's Bicentennial Committee will give the program and it will relate to the history of Hoke County.

There was also discussion about the Fall meeting and what would be the program at that time. It was tentatively decided to have a tour of historic places in the county. Some mentioned were Bethel and Longstreet churches and some of the older homes in the county. More will be coming on this meeting at a later date.

The April meeting will also be an organizational meeting and dues will be paid for another year. The association has at present approximately 50 members and has set a goal of 100. So if you are interested in Hoke's history attend the meeting April 29 and become a member.

Once again U.C.L.A. is top dog in the basketball field with a fine win over Kentucky Monday night. But with the young players on the Kentucky squad don't be surprised to see them around next year when the finals are played.

The Class of 1935 at Raeford High School moved closer to a reunion when a meeting was held Monday and committees named to work toward the goal.

Members of the Class of 1934 were also in attendance and formed committees and the two classes will sponsor a joint reunion either the last of May or the first of June. The date will be announced soon.

Clyde Upchurch, chairman of the '34 class, asks that all members send in names and addresses as soon as possible. He said to send them to him or to Mrs. Graham Clark or Mrs. Tom McBryde. The address for all is Raeford.

The traffic on Elwood Avenue is mostly running one-way now, but occasionally someone will forget and head the wrong way. The police still whistle at wrong doers but not as often as the first week. The flow of traffic is smoother and congestion is not as bad as before the street was changed.

Of course some still complain about it, but in my opinion it is doing the job that it was intended to do. A few may have to go around the block but the majority will benefit.

Most of us have hobbies and we also think about things we will do after we retire. Some are golf, fishing, gardening, etc. I understand that Sheriff Dave Barrington is writing a book on Wildlife and hopes to finish it when he retires.

Storm Victims Aided

Seven families left homeless by the tornado that hit Hoke County last week have received a total of \$2,204 in disaster aid from the American Red Cross, county chairman Clyde Upchurch reported.

Field directors from Ft. Bragg, Tom Bojanowski and Clyde Howard, met with family members at West Hoke fire station on Monday to distribute disbursement orders to give to Raeford merchants for food, clothing and other items.

Meetings Are Planned

Public meetings scheduled next week include the Raeford airport committee, the city council, board of county commissioners, board of equalization and review and a public hearing on the proposed planning ordinance.

The county commissioners will open their meeting at 9 a.m. next Monday in the courthouse annex conference room and then will adjourn to reconvene at 9:30 as the board of equalization and review.

Appointments are being made now for persons dissatisfied with taxes to complain to the review board, according to county manager T.B. Lester. The

Brief Deliberations Clear Deputy

By Marty Vega

After less than five minutes of deliberation Thursday night a six member coroner's jury ruled no finding of criminal fault by Hoke County deputy George McGuire in the death of Angus Thompson.

Thompson, 48, died of gunshot wounds March 16 at the home of his sister, Ila Evans of Turnpike Road.

After the verdict was announced at 11:40 p.m., McGuire's wife, Nancy, came forward and embraced her husband, followed by her sister, Ethel Gordon and her mother, Ila Evans. A number of other well wishers thronged around the deputy to shake his hand.

The deputy, who had been under routine suspension with pay, was reinstated and returned to duty this week.

A total of eleven witnesses was called to the stand by Assistant District Attorney Coy Brewer, Jr., who represented the state's findings. District

Attorney E.W. (Ed) Grannis, Jr., and Assistant Duncan McFadyen were also present.

Coroner G. Franklin Crumpler selected six jurors from a list of fifteen persons before convening the proceedings at 7:30 p.m. Serving as jurors were Robert L. Long, P.O. Box 182; Robert L. Conoly, Rt. 1; Marshall Parks, Rt. 3; Mrs. Ida T. Wright, Rt. 3; William A. Smith, Raeford, and Mrs. Christina McB. Howell, 212 E. Central Ave.

McGuire, 25, was represented by Raeford attorney Phillip Diehl, and Sheriff David M. Barrington remained seated alongside his deputy throughout the four hour - long hearing.

Mrs. Ila Evans, McGuire's mother - in - law, was called to the stand first and described the events which took place at her home, speaking softly.

Mrs. Evans told the jury she had a telephone conversation with her brother, who told her "he (McGuire)

better look the other way if he sees me driving". Thompson, whose driver's license had been revoked, was required to turn in his limited driving permit for medical reasons, and he surrendered the permit at the sheriff's office on the day of his death, testimony disclosed.

Mrs. Evans continued that she told her brother that "Mac", referring to McGuire, would not look the other way and he would have to arrest Thompson for driving without a license. Thompson stated he "was going to drive as long as I have a damn car", Mrs. Evans said, and also told his sister he had a gun.

Thompson said "either him or me is gonna get killed", according to Mrs. Evans testimony, while they continued to discuss the possibility of Thompson's being arrested for driving under revocation.

Mrs. Evans related she was "upset" over the phone call, as she felt her brother had been drinking. She asked her daughter Nancy to phone McGuire

and ask him to come to the house.

Mrs. Evans continued there were a number of relatives at the house, including Thompson's children, and when McGuire arrived, she asked him to step outside so they could talk privately.

While they talked, she continued, Thompson drove up in his Mercury Comet, got out and entered the house. He came out shortly and McGuire, who had used his portable radio to request assistance, Mrs. Evans testified, approached Thompson and advised him he was under arrest for drunken driving and driving without a license.

Thompson then drew a knife from his pocket, and McGuire stepped backwards and again requested another deputy over his radio, she said.

Thompson then went to his parked Comet and McGuire called to him, "Leave the gun where it's at", she testified.

Mrs. Evans continued she saw her

brother reach into his car and bring out a shotgun.

"He took the gun out, aimed it, and fired it", she testified.

Mrs. Evans estimated the distance between her brother and the deputy when the shot was fired at about 35 feet. She stated the shot "was fired at him (McGuire)" and McGuire "kicked for cover behind a car and began firing from his service revolver.

Mrs. Evans saw her brother fall. "He grabbed his side, and half turned and fell. When he fell, he carried the gun down with him", she said.

Testimony by Dr. William Anderson, pathologist with the state medical examiner's office, revealed Thompson was hit by three bullets, the fatal wound caused by a bullet which first struck Thompson's right index finger traveled to his abdomen, striking a main artery and causing massive bleeding in the abdominal cavity.

Anderson estimated Thompson could have survived for no more than "five to six minutes" after the entry of the fatal bullet.

Anderson also testified Thompson's blood alcohol level at the time of his death was equivalent to a .16 reading on the Breathalyzer device.

Martin Strickland, 30, Thompson's son - in - law, testified he was in the house. Thompson came in and spoke to Mrs. Evans husband, George, briefly and went out.

Strickland continued he ran out when he heard shots fired.

"I hollered at him (Mac) to stop the damn shooting, let me talk to him", Strickland told the jury.

Strickland described how he ran around the parked cars looking for his father - in - law, and when he found him, he picked up the shotgun and threw it so McGuire could see it, Strickland continued.

Strickland further testified he accompanied his father - in - law to the county jail earlier in the day for the purpose of driving him home after he surrendered his permit.

Thompson spent time later that day repairing a shotgun, Strickland stated, and Strickland thought the shotgun, described as a .12 gauge, single shot Winchester, belonged to Thompson's son Mark.

Strickland's wife, Theresa, testified she looked out the kitchen window and had a view of the parked cars in the yard.

Mrs. Strickland told the courtroom at the time Thompson fired, the shotgun was not aimed at the deputy.

Mrs. Strickland said she "was scared" and couldn't remember whose gun was fired first.

Cynthia Thompson, 16, took the stand and her version differed substantially from the previous testimony.

The first shot was a soft shot, then I heard my father's gun, then more soft shots", she testified.

Miss Thompson said she ran out of the house, even though she heard a warning to "keep everyone inside".

"I screamed at him (McGuire) I was going to see him in hell and put him there", she told the jurors.

Lisa Thompson, 10, took the stand briefly and testified she heard "loud noises", but was unable to remember anything further about the noises.

Ethel Gordon, Mrs. Evans daughter, testified she heard the gunfire and looked out the window.

"I heard the blast, I heard somebody screaming, and then pistol fire."

"Angus looked like he was going down and Mac hollered 'Keep the children' inside' and I grabbed as many as I could. I saw Martin grab the shotgun and throw it out and he hollered at Mac", she testified.

Mrs. Gordon replied it "was very obvious" Thompson had been drinking when asked about what she observed of him that day.

"Whenever he wasn't drinking, he was just as good a man as you'd want", she stated.

Lee Sampson, a mobile crime lab operator with the State Bureau of Investigation, identified photographs and diagrams made of the position of the parked cars which were introduced.

Sampson testified his investigation disclosed five bullets were fired from McGuire's service revolver, two of which hit the Comet. One bullet struck the windshield, and another one was recovered from the interior, after penetrating the right rear quarter panel, the agent said.

Sampson further testified a knife and two .12 gauge shotgun shells removed from Thompson's pockets by Deputy Alex Norton were turned over to him.

Sampson told the jurors he also examined the shotgun and recovered a spent shell from the breach.

Ray Davis, assistant supervisor of the

Hoke Seeking \$138,728 In Title XX Grants

Plans for projects totaling \$138,728 have been filed by the Hoke County Department of Social Services as part of the new federal law, Title XX of the Social Security Act.

Ben Niblock, county DSS director, explained the act at a sparsely attended public hearing last Thursday at the courthouse. The coroner's inquest going on upstairs in the courtroom the same night drew a far larger crowd, as only four persons showed up to discuss the new law. A good deal of citizen participation in planning the local program is called for by the law, thus the lack of interest was particularly disappointing to social services officials.

Title XX, which was signed into law in January and will go into effect Oct. 1, will take over the funding for many of the services provided by the DSS.

Federal matching funds will pay for up to 75 per cent of approved expenses. Fifty per cent of the services must be utilized by persons receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children payments, Niblock said.

County Saves

Child welfare services, now paid for entirely by the county will be funded under the new program. Niblock explained that in Hoke this would not be a large savings since child welfare services the child welfare caseload was small.

A formula using 80 per cent of the

state median income will enable 68 per cent or about 12,700 of Hoke's 17,000 residents to qualify for assistance under the new act.

Niblock explained that a family of four making less than \$8,904 would be entitled to services under the act at no cost and a family of four making up to \$12,700 would be eligible for services by paying an as yet unspecified fee.

Services include such things as adoption, foster care of children removed from the home, homemaker services for the ill or disabled, Niblock said.

Legal Aid

In his planning proposals, Niblock said he has placed a high priority in

providing legal aid in civil cases. Consumer protection is one of his major goals in this program. Niblock said.

Proposals also include services for day care for children, health support programs, maternity care, counseling for alcoholism, drug addiction, and disturbed children. He has increased plans for foster care, Niblock said, and has included a request for a raise in the subsidy to foster parents.

Future plans are being discussed for a receiving home for children, which social services workers agreed at the meeting was needed. This would provide temporary care of up to 30 days for children removed from their home with no other place to go, such as youngsters whose parents are jailed, abused or runaways.

A halfway house for persons returning to the community after hospitalization for mental illness is another need, Niblock said.

Five Goals

To be eligible for funding, the services must be directed toward one or more of five goals listed in the law:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self - support.
- Achieving or maintaining self - sufficiency.
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their interests.
- Preventing or reducing

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Baked Items Are Needed

Baked goods are needed for sale at the Raeford Woman's Club auction April 12.

Persons wanting to contribute items for the bake sale are asked to contact Mrs. June Johnson or Mrs. Julian Wright.

Forrest Lockey Retires As President Of A&R

By Cliff Blue

Forrest Lockey, a longtime "mover and doer" stepped down as president of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad on Monday to take life a little slower and to do some of the things that in his busy railroad and public service activities he never found time to do.

While retiring as president of the "A&R", he will remain a member of the board of directors and will have his usual office in the A&R office building.

Following the close of World War II in 1945, under the leadership of Forrest Lockey in 1947, his good and close friend, Wm. P. Saunders, was encouraged to locate a Robbins Mill plant in Aberdeen.

Reminiscing about the Robbins Plant, Lockey recalled that Saunders asked that 100 homes be built to take care of plant employees. This was a mighty big order and Lockey recalled that when some were pessimistic about the housing project, the late G.C. Seymour spoke out firmly that they would be built, if he had to build them himself. Lockey was the spark plug in getting ready for the Robbins Mill, which started operating about 1948.

Saunders located the plant in Aberdeen but he didn't like not being able to locate it on the A&R Railroad, which Lockey operated, so a few years later, when the Robbins Mill was ready for another big plant, larger than the one in Aberdeen, Saunders located it on the A&R Railroad in Raeford, where the company already had a small operation.

Lockey was happy to have a Robbins



Forrest Lockey

plant located in Aberdeen where it provided hundreds of jobs for the people of the area, and also in Raeford where Lockey's parents lived when he went to work for the A&R in 1918. While the operation of the plant in Aberdeen and the plant in Raeford have changed ownership, these buildings still provide far more jobs than any other plants in the two communities.

Lockey was appointed to the Highway Commission in 1952 and arranged to have the division office moved from Asheboro to Aberdeen, where it is still located.

Following his tenure as a member of the State Highway Commission, Lockey was named in 1965 by Governor Dan Moore as a member of the N.C. Sanatoriums for the Treatment of Tuberculosis Board, now called the N.C. Specialty Board, on which he still serves.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Lockey was a member of the Page Memorial United Methodist Church where he has served as chairman of the board of stewards and also as a trustee. He and Mrs. Lockey, his son, Forrest, Jr., and family have been strong workers in the Methodist Church.

EARLY DAYS

Born in Shelby, North Carolina, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lockey, his father being a textile plant superintendent, they moved to Laurinburg where he attended grammar school. Later while his father served as plant superintendent in Raeford he

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Easter Sales 'Good'

Most Raeford area retailers reported doing a good business with Easter shopping, though some indicated many women shoppers are getting away from the idea of buying a complete new outfit for the big day.

Hubert Tally, manager of Macks Variety & Fashions, said his store did not stock a big line of dresses this year.

"That's about over with," he said, referring to a traditional Easter costume with all the accessories.

Tally said overall business was good, and Saturday was their biggest day of

the week. Children's clothes sold well, and sales of yard goods in double knit fabrics were brisk. Apparently more women are sewing their own, he said.

Theresa's Dress Shop owner Theresa McBryde agreed that less and less women are buying complete ensembles just for Easter.

"Ladies shop for the season, not for an Easter outfit," she observed.

Charles Davis, assistant manager at B.C. Moore's, reported the store had a big increase in overall sales this year.

"This was a payday weekend for the military, you know, and this brought in a lot of business," Davis pointed out.

"If anything, people are buying more. They're not concerned with price, all they want to know is if it's on sale. The key word is sale."

Davis reported Easter lay-away sales were big, but more boys' outfits were bought than girls' dresses.

More mothers are sewing girls' dresses, he said.

Betty Harris at the Family Dollar store said she noticed "a tremendous increase" in volume of sales.

"People are choosing less expensive things, but they are buying more," she said.

George Martin, at the Raeford Department Store, said some Easter shoppers were checking prices closely and some weren't. "Our business was comparable to last year," he said.

Martin felt shoppers were putting more emphasis on children's outfits.

DeVane's Department Store reported they did not stock as many dresses as last year.

Daniel DeVane said they are phasing out most of the dresses and will carry a greater selection of sportswear and pants for women.

Joe Sugar's Paul Solomon said his sales volume was as good as last year's, but indicated his shop does not really attract any special Easter shoppers.

"We don't follow the trend, you know, the season brings in our regular

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meeting is expected to last about an hour.

A public hearing is set Monday at 11 a.m. in the courthouse annex conference room to consider the proposed ordinance to establish a county planning board.

The commissioners first reviewed the ordinance prepared by Lumber River Council of Governments planner Larry Stamm at a special meeting March 10.

The city council will meet at city hall Monday night at 7:30. Among items expected to be on the agenda are matters concerning the lease of property

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