

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The storm Sunday night caused the lights on the east side of Raeford to be out for approximately 30 minutes. This is the second time this year that I have been without power for that length of time or longer.

This seems to me to be the longest the power has been off in some years, I mean just from an electrical storm.

I can remember years ago when every time a dark cloud came up that someone in the house would bring out the candles or the kerosene lamp. And of course you didn't think too much about it because all you were deprived of was light or lights. Now when the lights go out, the air conditioner goes off, the television, cook stove, etc. So, it can almost work a hardship on a family without power.

The cause of the failure is certainly out of control of the power companies and I know that crews go to work immediately on the matter when brought to their attention. I guess some things that are controlled outside human hands cannot be made foolproof.

Mrs. Rose Sturgeon, secretary to the Hoke County Board of Elections, was by the office last week showing me the dates that candidates must file for election to the City Council.

This is a non-partisan election and the five high candidates are declared the winners. The mayor also runs in this election.

Filing dates are between September 12, 1975, at noon until noon, October 3, 1975. The election will be held the first Tuesday in November.

So, if you don't have enough problems, go by the election office and file for the council. I can assure you that it will give you a rude awakening as to what goes on at city hall.

A picture that appears in this issue of the paper was brought into the office by Mrs. Crawford Thomas, Jr. On the back of the picture is the name Hattie Thrower and she is related to Mrs. Thomas. The caption under the picture asks that anyone knowing anything about the picture to get in touch with The News-Journal.

From information obtained from H.R. McLean, the picture is of students at old Raeford Institute and was taken in the late 1800's or early 1900's. Mr. McLean said that he was a small boy at the time and could recognize only a few in the picture.

The ones he named are Rufus Dickson, Dan McKeithan, William McFadyen, Sterling Currie, Will Keith and Walter Campbell. Now some of these names will not mean anything to some readers of this column, but they all are relatives of folks living here now.

According to the date of the picture, Rufus Dickson, an uncle of Paul Dickson, was graduated from Davidson College in 1903, according to Paul, so it must have been taken in 1898.

This also brings to mind that when a picture this old is found and turned into the office to aid in identification, it is almost impossible to get done, because most of the people are dead that could help.

For future generations it would help them with old pictures if each of us would go through our photo albums and list names and dates on all pictures we have. It will take a little time and some work but think of the memories it will bring back and the help it will bring to children and grandchildren.

Sunday Storm Damages Car

High winds that accompanied a rainstorm Sunday caused some damage in the city.

A tree was blown across a car at 320 Wooley Street, causing an estimated \$1,000 damage to the 1974 Chevrolet. According to the police report, the owner of the car, Robert M. Witherspoon of Pinehurst, was visiting in Raeford when the storm struck.

A limb was blown onto a power line near McLaughlin's Chapel and city street crews cleaned up broken limbs and debris from city streets following the storm.

No damage to crops was reported in the county, according to farm agent Wendell Young.



SWEARING IN - Clerk of Court Juanita Edmund administers the oath of office to the re-appointed members of the Board of Elections Tuesday. Left to right, are Harold Brock, Lee Strother, and Scott Poole.

91-Year Old Cleared

Patterson Killing Ruled Accident

By Marty Vega

A coroner's jury of two women and four men returned a verdict of accidental death in the shooting of Barbara Jean Patterson, South Hoke mother of three who was found dead at her home May 15.

The jurors, Gladys F. Gatlin, Sylvester Melvin, George J. Lovett, Rosa M. Chavis, Ernest R. Sutton, and Richard Ferguson, Jr., deliberated about a half an hour.

The woman's grandfather, Caesar Patterson, 91, who had told deputies he and his granddaughter were struggling over a rifle when it went off, was cleared of any criminal fault by the jury's ruling.

The state's principal witnesses, thirteen year - old Phyllis Pleasant, and eight year - old James Earl

Patterson, gave conflicting accounts of how the shooting occurred.

Miss Pleasant, who identified herself as second cousin to Barbara Patterson, told the jurors she was in the house with James Patterson, and the woman's other two children, David, age four, and Maurice, age three, when Barbara and her grandfather began quarreling over biscuits on the stove.

"She went in (a bedroom) and got the gun, and when she got the gun, I went out of the house", Miss Pleasant testified.

Miss Pleasant stated James Patterson left the house when she did, and was not in the house when the shot was fired.

Miss Pleasant described seeing Barbara die in the front yard of the home.

Morrison To Stay

Board Okays \$20,000

Airport Panel Tells Pilots: Put Complaint In Writing

The airport committee recommended registration of aircraft based at the airport and asked that all complaints of safety violations be filed in writing with the airport manager.

The actions were taken last week

at an airport committee meeting at city hall. Committee recommendations are submitted for action by the city council.

If approved by the council, the motion to register aircraft, made by Ed Brown, will require owners to list their planes by make, model and serial number with the airport manager, John Gaddy, who is also city manager.

In a second motion, also put forward by Brown, the committee recommended that the city council require all complaints of safety violations be reported in writing to the airport manager.

Safety was one of the major topics at the meeting attended by a number of spectators. Several pilots complained of safety hazards at the airport, saying that federal aviation rules were being broken by some of the airport users.

However, Gaddy said Monday that he had not yet received any written complaints.

Gaddy reported to the committee on tie down rental and told the panel that one of the fixed base operators, Paul Rose, planned to install gas tanks on his leased property.

Rose reported to the committee that a toll free weather information line would be installed at the airport by July 15.

The city's negotiations with fixed base operator, Gene Thacker, on a new lease were discussed and Bill Moses, who presided at the meeting in the absence of committee chairman Joe Rackley, agreed to contact Tom Cameron about the removal of an old hangar at the airport.

Gaddy asked the committee to draft specific rules for him to enforce in the operation of the airport.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 9 at 7 p.m. in city hall.

SBA Okays Open Arms Expansion

The proposed expansion of the Open Arms rest home in Raeford into an intermediate health care facility moved forward last week when approval of a Small Business Administration loan was received, Open Arms owner John Leandro said.

The SBA loan will fund 35% of the development, which is expected to cost about \$350,000. 55% of the project will be financed through local lending institutions, and the remaining 10% from local investors.

Leandro said construction bids will probably be let this week, with a tentative date of late July or early August for start of construction. Plans call for the addition of a dining room, day rooms, arts and crafts areas, and a physical therapy room.

The present bed capacity of 25 patients is expected to triple, with a professional nursing staff on a 24 hour a day basis.

Area Incidents

Tape Players Stolen

Tape players were stolen from five cars in the city last Thursday night, Raeford police reported.

Three cars were broken into while parked in the Knit-Away lot. The tape player, two speakers and \$200 in clothing were reported stolen from the car owned by Burney Creech of Fayetteville. The loss was valued at \$305. A tape player, two speakers and one tape, valued at \$75 were taken from a car owned by Debra Jean Caulder of Parkton and a tape player and two speakers valued at \$65 was reported stolen from the car of Shirley Jerniga Brown of St. Pauls.

The thefts were discovered about 7 a.m. Friday morning, according to Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins.

At least one earlier tape theft was

reported Thursday night at the Tex-Elastic parking lot. Joyce Floyd of 703 Forest Street reported that two speakers and a handbag, valued at \$25 was stolen from her car. Another theft was reported by Archie Monroe Crowder of 415 West

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Jumper Hurt At Airport

A parachutist was injured Sunday at the Raeford airport when a malfunction developed in his main chute.

Raeford Aviation owner Gene Thacker said the man, Joseph A. Snell, 34, of Fayetteville, experienced a partial opening on the canopy when the deployment device

After a long discussion Tuesday morning, the board of commissioners voted to boost funds for Danny Morrison's ambulance service to \$20,000, with the increase to be appropriated out of the interest earned on revenue sharing funds.

Morrison was originally appropriated \$12,000 in the budget for the coming year, and at a special meeting with the board June 11, he requested \$24,000 to keep the service in operation.

Morrison, who did not appear in person, conferred with chairman Ralph Barnhart by telephone after the commissioners discussed the possibility of purchasing Morrison's radio equipment, but rejected the idea.

Morrison had proposed the county purchase his radios and equipment, and take over the ownership of the ambulance service.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington reported to the board the sheriff's office would be able to accommodate a base station for the ambulance service, but he would be unwilling to act without authority of the board because Morrison is also the operator of a wrecking service.

"I would publicly announce the board instructed me to do so, and when the other wrecker services start calling, I'll refer them to you", Barrington stated.

Barrington said a Piedmont Communications worker came to the jail Friday to install an antenna for Morrison's Wrecker Service, and the sheriff related he would not allow the installation because he had no authority from the county.

"Morrison told me he was buying two radios for the rescue squad and two for himself, but the rescue squad didn't seem to know anything about it", Barrington said.

County attorney and county manager T.B. Lester informed the members it would be very unlikely to receive approval from the region council of governments for the county to buy out Morrison's equipment, because of a requirement for competitive bids.

The motion to increase Morrison's subsidy was carried unanimously, but commissioner James A. Hunt expressed misgivings about the quality of service for the coming year, and commissioner John Balfour urged the county take a closer look at Morrison's records detailing his costs and income for the ambulance service.

A motion made by commissioner Tom McBryde to appoint a study committee to examine the ambulance service and report their findings was carried unanimously. It was suggested the committee could report their results "early next year".

An amendment to the budget ordinance passed last Wednesday in the late morning, is expected to be drawn up to cover the shift in funds necessitated by Tuesday's action.

The board scheduled a meeting at 10 A.M. June 26 before adjourning Tuesday, for the purpose of meeting with farm agent Wendell Young about the job vacancy for an assistant agent.

Morrison Eyes Robeson Area

Ambulance service operator Danny Morrison hinted Tuesday he may be negotiating with Robeson county officials in an effort to obtain a contract for ambulance service there.

"I'd rather not comment on that now," Morrison replied when asked if he had been in contact with the Robeson board of commissioners.

Morrison did acknowledge he specifically sought and received an agreement from Ralph Barnhart Tuesday that his contract with Hoke County would not bar him from servicing Robeson county in the future.

Morrison said, "I made sure of that before I told him I would take it."

failed to clear completely.

Snell was transported by the Hoke County Rescue Squad to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville where he was admitted with a fractured vertebrae, Thacker said.

Snell is a former president of the Raeford Parachute Club.

C Of C Directors Plan Membership Drive

Chamber of Commerce board of directors met Tuesday and most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the membership drive

and dues, and status of the doctor and dentist search plans, according to minutes released by Harold Gillis, manager.

About 30 members have renewed membership, the board was told, in a report on the responses to the dues notices recently sent out. One member voluntarily increased their dues, but C of C president Dick Lovett declined to elaborate.

A membership drive with a story follow-up was decided on, and Lovett said all of the directors will be taking an active role in contacting chamber members.

A report was received from the medical committee on the status of the doctor and dentist recruitment efforts and the trips made to Winston-Salem and Chapel Hill.

Medical committee members Harold Gillis, and Gene Carter, with Walter Coley and Dr. R.G. Townsend made the out - of - town trips, Lovett said.

It was also reported to the board the application to the National Health Service has been up-dated by the county health department, and the board agreed to assist the health department in any way possible, Lovett said.

A dental student who will be graduating next June visited Raeford and expressed a strong interest in locating here, the board was told. The board also agreed to continue a follow-up on the proposal for a dental clinic here, in light of the interest shown by McCain dentist Joel Pastore.

In other business, the board requested outgoing manager Harold Gillis to compile a full report on chamber finances and project standings and submit the results at their next regular meeting July 8.

The board approved the establishment of a community calendar in cooperation with the Junior Womens Club, but no details were set.

Suspect Bound Over

Bertha McLean Hollingsworth, jailed since June 2 in the stabbing death of James Edward Purcell, was ordered bound over to the grand jury for murder following a preliminary hearing Friday before Judge Joe Dupree.

Dupree ordered a \$25,000 bond set for Mrs. Hollingsworth.

Testimony was given by Mrs.

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Hoke Man Is Killed

A Rockfish man was killed Saturday returning from the beach when the car in which he was riding overturned several times on NC 87 about six miles east of Elizabethtown.

Roy M. Wright, 22, of Rt. 2, Raeford was pronounced dead on arrival at Bladen County Hospital. Treated at the hospital following the 1:30 p.m. accident and released were Raymond Shepley Jr., 18, the driver of the car; his brother, Clyde David Shepley, 16; and Harold Aubrey Tillman, 18, all of Rockfish.

According to the investigation report, Shepley ran off the right shoulder of the highway, lost control of the vehicle, skidded back across the highway and overturned several times. The car was damaged beyond repair, according to the report.

The accident is still under investigation but no charges have been filed, a Highway Patrol spokesman said Tuesday.

Dress Code Suit Ends

Litigation in the much - debated high school dress code controversy halted last week when a consent agreement to permanently drop enforcement of the code and dismiss claims for damages was entered as final judgement by Superior Judge James Pou Bailey in Fayetteville.

William Moses, attorney for the board of education, said the consent agreement bars school officials from enforcing the dress code, which had already been ordered in a temporary injunction issued May 22, but does not prohibit the adoption of another dress code.

"It (the ruling) has no effect on any future dress code, as long as it is reasonable. Reasonableness would be the test", Moses said.

The consent order ends all claims for damages requested by high school student Joseph Thompson, Jr., who was suing each member of the school board and Allen Edwards, Hoke High principal, for \$6,000 apiece.