

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Did you hear about the gift to school Superintendent Raz Autry from Hoke High Principal Allen Edwards and his friends? They gave him a tee-shirt emblazoned with the pictorial markings of two ducks depicted in the manner that Autry had earlier assured a superior court judge he would have found objectionable. You'll have to ask Raz what he did with the shirt.

This old country boy was away from the office last week touring Canada. Mary Alice and I left from Goldsboro last Sunday morning, June 22, and returned Monday night, June 30. The trip was very rewarding as far as education was concerned, but I need a week now to get rested for another year of work.

We spent the first night in Williamsport, Pa., and this brought back memories of the baseball team from that town that trained here in the 1930's. The hotel was not crowded and no meals are served on Sunday night, so we had to leave the hotel and find a place to eat. Most small restaurants are also closed on Sunday.

The next day was spent at Niagara Falls. The hotel where we stayed was on the Canadian side, but we had to go to another hotel for breakfast.

Ottawa, the capital of Canada, was the next stop and many things of interest were observed. The ride around the city and seeing the homes of the ambassador and other foreign officials were very interesting. The changing of the guard was very impressive and was witnessed by a large crowd. The guide said that the ceremony was done just for the tourist attraction.

Then on to Quebec, where most of the people speak French. It is the working language of the people and is also required in school, by law.

Many places of interest were visited including cathedrals, outdoor ovens where bread is baked and a large copper business where all types of designs are made from copper.

If you have been to the French Quarters in New Orleans, then you can picture the old section of Quebec that is situated inside the walls.

Then on to Montreal for two days' stay. This is the largest city in Canada and the second largest seaport in North America. Many bridges span the St. Lawrence River to reach the city, which is on an island. The city is very clean and most vacant lots are lawns with flowers planted. This is true of most places in Canada that we visited.

The last night was spent in New York City. Riding down the streets made you feel bad seeing the trash and garbage in the city, after noticing how the cities of Canada were kept. I was glad to leave Monday morning for home.

I met many fine people on the trip and, after being with them for nine days, they seem to grow on you. Some were acquainted with people you knew and this would give you an opening for conversation. Two ladies from Havelock were well acquainted with Eugene Smith, and a gentleman from Fremont knew all about J.W. Turlington.

Mary Alice ran into a lady that she finished East Carolina with. They didn't know each other's name, but recognized one another.

Tours are nice, but getting back to the routine of work will be fine for me.

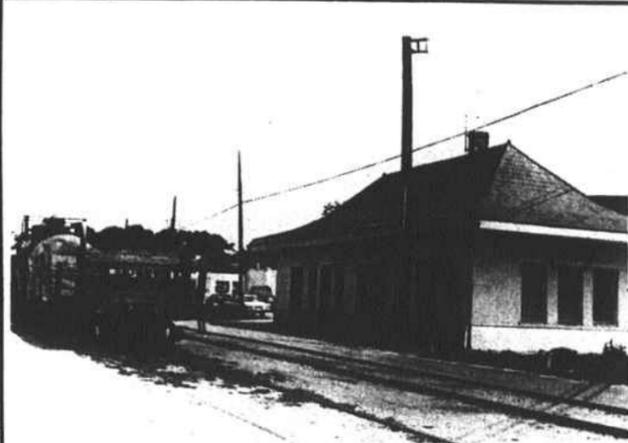
Singers To Perform

The New Heritage Singers from Midway Methodist Church in Davidson County will perform for county youth groups on July 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Raeford United Methodist Church.

The special appearance by the group is being sponsored by the Raeford Methodist youth.

The New Heritage Singers have performed at Disney World, Six Flags Over Georgia and many churches throughout the Southeast. The singers are high school and college students.

Dinner for the singers and their youthful audience will begin at 6:30 p.m., following the performance. All Hoke County young people are invited to attend, but organizations that plan to attend as a group are asked to call Miss Ethlynde Balance at 875-2111 by July 6 for reservations.



Early History Of A&R Depot Recalled

News of the closing of the Raeford depot of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad brought out old family records of Mrs. Kate Blue Covington, whose uncles John Blue and Neill S. Blue were the owners of the line. Blue's Railroad became the A & R. The first depot was the red building, which stands next to the tracks behind the present station facing Main Street.

"It was the winter of 1895", Mrs. Covington related, "John Blue, Hector Smith, the surveyor, and Dan McLaughlin came down on an engine from Aberdeen. Max Folley, the first engineer and railroad had, was with them."

"They laid out Main Street, and I believe the very same day, they laid out where the depot was to be."

"The railroad had reached Raeford, as far as the J.W. Johnson lumber plant, and they needed a depot."

Years later, Mrs. Covington recalled, she learned the site of the stationhouse, Central Avenue and Main Street, was the geometric center of town, hence the name Central Avenue.

The first A & R agent for Raeford was Walter Freeman. He married Miss

Agnes Gatlin. "Paul Dezerne, and his wife Annie, they were real well-known, too, when they were there. She worked right along with him", Mrs. Covington said.

Mrs. Covington was unsure of the date the present depot, facing Main Street, was erected, but she remembers well when it was put to use during World War II.

"I asked Henry Blue, John Blue's son, if we could use it for a soldiers center, since it wasn't being used, they had gone back to the old building."

"Mrs. J.W. Currie, Miss Flora Voice, Miss Josephine Hall, and Louise Blue, I can't think of them all, but, oh, they ran it so nice. There was always food for the servicemen, and magazines and a place to write", she remembered.

"Miss Rena Smith was the NYA supervisor, and they made a lot of furniture for us. Robert Cox did most of it, he was so good at it."

"We were right in the center of all the camps, there were trains going back and forth all the time with them."

"It was wonderful to have it for that."

County Okays Ambulance Contract, Ties Up Loose Ends In Budget

The county commissioners approved the ambulance service contract, okayed seven fire district budgets but nixed an eighth, recommended a new task for the recently named county planning board and tied up the loose ends in last year's budget during a special session Monday morning.

The contract with Danny Morrison's Ambulance service was described as essentially the same as last year, except the county subsidy paid in quarterly installments was raised to \$20,000 by action of the board last month.

Terms of the contract provide 24 hour service with two ambulances, a private telephone number for ambulance requests only, and a qualified attendant on call on a 24 hour basis.

The contract also requires Morrison to answer all ambulance calls whether fee arrangements are made in advance or not.

The amount of liability insurance and the maximum allowable fees for ambulance runs, both necessary parts of the contract, are to be filled in when Morrison signs the contract, county manager T.B. Lester informed the board. The fee schedule remains the same as last year.

The board voted to accept 1975-76 fire department budgets: North Raeford, \$9,625; Puppy Creek, \$20,731; Rockfish, \$6,188; Hillcrest, \$44, 556; West Hoke, \$4,900; Stonewall, \$15,894; and Pine Hill, \$5,400.

Each fire district will have a ten cent fire tax levy, with the exception

Drugs Seized

The Associated Press reported this morning a 65-foot boat bearing the name 'Miss Aylor' with the marking 'Raeford, N.C.' on the stern was seized near Dover, Del., carrying about 12 tons of marijuana estimated to be worth \$8,000,000.

At least 30 persons have been arrested, authorities said. No further details were learned.

of Rockfish Fire District, which is six cents, Lester reported.

Tylertown, which submitted a budget based on \$1,600 in anticipated revenue, was refused approval after the commissioners agreed "there's no way they can operate". Tylertown District was not appropriated any subsidy from revenue sharing funds by the county.

Lester reported to the board he urged Tylertown's directors to consider a merge with the Hillcrest Department, and he expects them to appear at the next board meeting July 7.

After determining all eight members of the recently named planning board have accepted, commissioner John Balfour suggested

Youth Hurt In Dive

A Hoke County youth was badly injured in a swimming accident Friday at Rockfish Creek near Prospect Avenue.

Larry Jacobs, 15, of Rt. 1, Shannon, was listed Tuesday in fair but stable condition in the intensive care unit of N.C. Memorial Hospital. He is the son of Mrs. Nellie Jacobs.

Jacobs, an Upchurch student last year, was pulled from the water by two other boys after he failed to surface following a dive.

Ronald Bealer, who was swimming with Jacobs and a group of younger children, located the youth in about ten feet of water after Jacobs dove from a tree and did not come to the surface. Bealer shouted for help and Tim Frahm, who was at the creek to pick up his younger brother and some friends, jumped into the water and helped pull Jacobs to the surface.

Frahm, 16, said Jacobs was not breathing when they got him to the bank. They began to push on his chest, Frahm said, and the boy began to breathe again.

Mark Morgan, who was fishing with Andy Frahm and Eric McGee, ran to his house nearby to get his father and call an ambulance. W.K.

Off To Russia

Kathy Makes Team



CLIMB TO VICTORY - Kathy McMillan mounts the podium after winning second in the AAU national senior championship meet in New York last week. With her is veteran long jumper Martha Watson of California, who won the long jump, and Ralph Boston, former U.S. Olympic team member in the long jump. (Photo by Mrs. John Buchholz)

Seventeen-year-old Kathy McMillan left Tuesday for Russia as a member of the United States national women's track team.

The Hoke High athlete overcame jitters that have plagued her in earlier meets to take second in the long jump at the AAU national senior competition last Saturday in White Plains, N.Y.

Her jump of 20-6½ was not the best she has ever done, but by then, the emphasis was on making a legal jump. She had disqualified on all three jumps by overshooting the mark in the national junior meet on June 23-24.

"I think Kathy was psyched out," her coach, Billy Colston, said following her disqualification in the junior meet. "She's worked so hard, too hard, maybe, and it's a big meet - I think it all got to her."

Kathy scratched (disqualified) in three of her six jumps for the senior meet, Colston said. Because there were only 13 competitors in the long jump, AAU officials allowed them all to jump in the finals Saturday.

Kathy missed the mark to disqualify on her first jump and then jumped too early on her second to cut nearly a foot from her distance, Colston said. Her third jump was 20-6½ and another jump was 19-6. She scratched on her last two jumps, Colston said.

"We have her counting to jump now, and that's not good," Colston said, to try to correct her overshooting the takeoff point. Colston said Kathy now counts four and a half steps from a selected spot and then jumps.

"That isn't good, because your mind should be blank going down the runway," he said. She practiced Friday, which Colston said may have tired her for competition on Saturday.

The winner was veteran Martha Watson of Lakewood, Calif. International track club with a 21-3 leap. However, Watson turned down the invitation to compete in the Russian-American meet and third place winner, 19-year-old Sharon Walker of Seattle, Wash., took her spot on the team.

The national team left New York for London and then on to Kiev, a city in the northwestern Ukraine. Kathy and Walker were left behind waiting to complete passport arrangements and took a later plane. The meet will be held July 4-5 and is to be televised later on by CBS.

The team will then go to Prague, Czechoslovakia for a meet July 7-8. Kathy will return in time for the Pan-African meet in Durham on July 18.

Monday, Kathy's family was delighted with her success and concerned over her traveling so far. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McMillan. Kathy only packed clothes for the New York trip, her mother said.

As a team member, Kathy was outfitted with a pants suit for traveling and a track suit and sweat suit for competition, Colston reported. She had competed in the national meet in her Hoke High uniform.

Sunday, she went shopping for other essentials in White Plains with Mrs. John Buchholz, who had accompanied the Hoke group as chaperone.

Colston said they stayed with Kathy until she joined the team Sunday afternoon, then he and the Buchholzes drove back to Raeford. Kathy will room with the other long jumper, Sharon Walker, on the trip, he said.

Making the national team will almost guarantee her an invitation to compete in the Pan-American trials in late August, he explained. Colston thanked the Hoke Countians who donated money toward Kathy's travel expenses to White Plains.

Council Okays Budget

The city council backed off from any tax rate increase at their final budget session Thursday night and approved the 1975-76 budget totaling \$1,212,549.21, with a tax levy of \$.55 per \$100 valuation.

The council rejected including any cost-of-living raises for city workers in the final budget, but promised to

recommend raises of 5% or more Jan. 1, if the routine audit indicates there will be sufficient funds to do so.

City manager John Gaddy reported hiking the tax rate to \$.57 would increase revenues by \$13,000, and a \$.58 rate would bring \$20,000. The cost of an across the board 5 percent salary increase was put at about \$16,000 by Gaddy.

The final budget, carried unanimously by the council with one member absent, is comprised of general fund appropriations of \$633,259.84; water and sewer fund of \$477,121.37; and revenue sharing funds of \$102,168.00, which includes interest.

The council also voted unanimously to follow the recommendations of city engineer Lacy Koonce and pay most of the cost overrun to the Crowell Construction Co. for the paving and gutter project.

Pointing out the dispute should be settled by the end of the fiscal year, Mayor John K. McNeill told the council the \$15,000 offered to Crowell Co. as settlement was not acceptable to Crowell, McNeill said he was told.

The city already had paid some \$7,000 toward the overrun, and Koonce's recommendation was to pay all but \$3,400.

The motion to pay Crowell Co. was made by councilman Robert Weaver, who warned "we better watch it from here on out" regarding future contracts.

A letter from the state treasury department suggesting a plan for consolidating city and county tax billings and collections was discussed, but little interest in the idea was shown by council members.

The council routinely approved the fire department roster for the coming year and approved a city tax permit for Willie McNeill before adjourning.

The next regular meeting of the council is July 7.

Investigation Continuing

Assistant district attorney Duncan McFadyen confirmed his investigation begun last week into charges of thefts and misappropriations at the city garage is continuing, but he declined to elaborate further.

McFadyen, accompanied by State Bureau of Investigation agents Ray Davis and Ken Coats, were at city hall most of the day, Friday,

interviewing several persons.

City officials generally refused to discuss any of the allegations made by ex-city employees which prompted the probe, and city council members declined comment at their meeting Thursday night.

The SBI agents were in Raeford Tuesday still interviewing city employees.