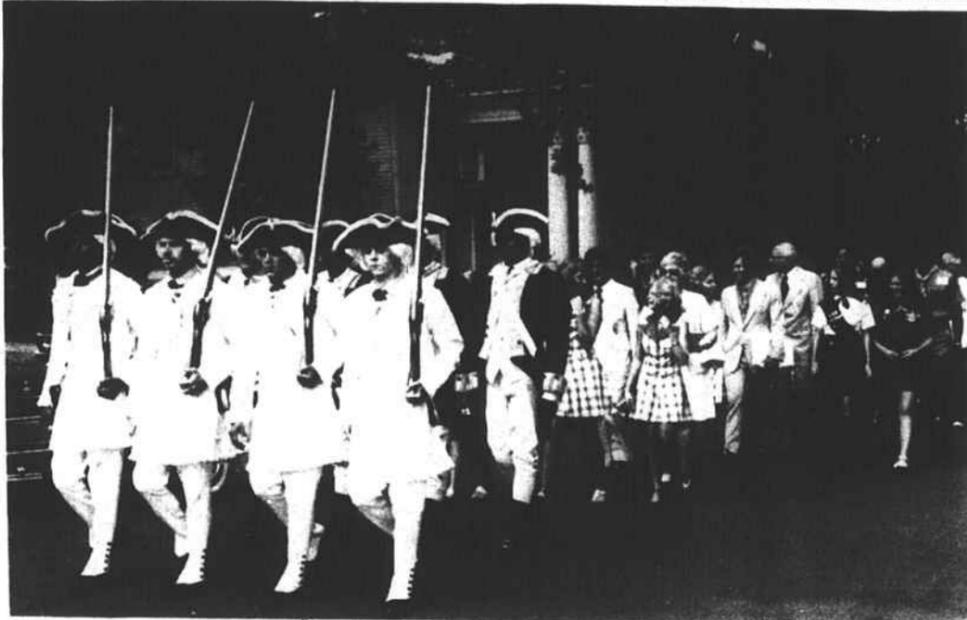


Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Ex-foreman Also Charged

Gaddy Under Indictment



PARADE-The N.C. Bicentennial Brigade color guard, dressed as typical Continental soldiers 200 years ago, led off the parade down Edinborough Avenue to the courthouse. (Paul's Photography Studio - Photos by Paul Morgan.)

Library Contract Awarded

The county commissioners approved the building contract for the Bicentennial library after dipping into revenue sharing funds for another \$25,000 but urged the library officials and architects review the furniture needs after hearing the low bid on furnishings is \$53,800 at their Monday meeting.

The general contract was awarded to Chisolm Construction of Rockingham.

The high costs on furnishings, announced late because only two bids were received, dismayed commissioners and supporters of the project by boosting overall costs now to over \$350,000, if the furniture bid from Institutional Interiors is accepted.

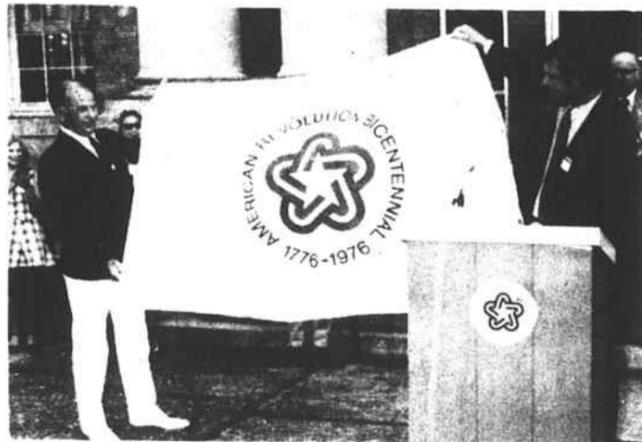
Chairman Ralph Barnhart said he hoped some of the furniture costs could be trimmed, as the bid was submitted on line items and "you only pay for what you take".

Costs on the rest of the project were put at \$302,311, calculated as \$270,349 for the building, \$7,000 contingency fund, and \$24,962 for architects fees.

The board, with commissioners J.A. Webb and John Balfour absent, voted unanimously to allocate the additional \$25,000 after hearing the library's financial report from building fund treasurer R.B. Lewis.

Lewis said the fund would top \$91,000 if a \$10,000 grant from state Bicentennial funds is approved, and would go over \$100,000 when

See CONTRACT, page 15



IT'S OFFICIAL-Ralph Barnhart (on left) accepts the official flag of the Bicentennial, designating the county as a Bicentennial community, from state administrator Dick Ellis. (Paul's Photography Studio-Photos by Paul Morgan.)

Bicentennial Day Draws Holiday Air

Called the most outstanding Bicentennial project in the state, the Bicentennial library had its groundbreaking Friday amid a parade, flag raising, colonial costumes in a holiday atmosphere attended by state officials offering congratulations to the county.

Crowds lined Main Street by 10:30 a.m. as the celebration began with a parade of the N.C. Bicentennial Brigade color guard, dressed as Revolutionary War soldiers, who led the procession down Edinborough Avenue to the courthouse lawn.

U.S. Representative Charles G. Rose, along with state representatives Joy Johnson, Henry Oxendine, and David Parnell were on hand as a crowd estimated between 350-400 thronged around the courthouse lawn.

Caron Davis, Jr., co-chairman of the local Bicentennial commission, welcomed guests, noting the occasion was "not only calling attention to our county, but celebrating the heritage of our citizens."

Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., declared the library building "will give a real and lasting meaning to the Bicentennial effort" and recalled the first library ever built in America in his remarks, also observing that special knowledge is needed to meet the special problems ahead.

Dr. Larry Wheeler, community Bicentennial consultant, introduced Dick Ellis, new state administrator, and congratulated Hoke county on "meeting the challenge...You found resources to make the library a reality because of your commitment to yourselves."

Ellis announced the state Bicentennial commission recognizes

the library as the most outstanding project in the state, with \$100,000 of the \$300,000 plus cost promised by local fund raising.

"You have worked hard to earn it," he said.

Ellis also presented the first book for the library, "A Chronicle of N.C. During the American Revolution."

The official national flag of the American Bicentennial was unfurled, marking Hoke as a national Bicentennial community, with chairman of the county commissioners Ralph Barnhart accepting.

Rev. John Ropp gave a dedication prayer, asking that "this flag become a symbol of even more dedicated service, may our library become a symbol of our nation's history."

Congressman Rose extended congratulations and cited the accomplishments of self-government in the past 200 years and the important role of education.

"I've always respected the self-confidence you in this county have," he said, "it is characteristic of you to do this...the library will be the cornerstone of higher education," he added.

State representative Joy Johnson declared he is "proud to be an American and a North Carolinian on such an occasion."

"You are to be commended for what you have done, and we are grateful to represent you," he said.

Rep. Henry Oxendine said the library was a fitting tribute as "the greatest freedom we have is freedom to think and to express those thoughts."

Rep. Parnell arrived late and was

See BICENTENNIAL, page 15

City manager John D. Gaddy and the ex-foreman of the city garage were charged with felonies Tuesday as the grand jury returned indictments growing out of the seven weeks long investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation.

Gaddy, named in two counts, and Billy H. Barefoot, named in one count, were indicted under the statute involving embezzlement by public officials and charged with misapplication and misuse of city monies related to operations at the municipal garage, allegations which became public following an investigation by The News-Journal began nine weeks ago.

Gaddy was released under personal recognizance bond after appearing before a magistrate at 2 p.m. by prior agreement with the district attorney's office.

Barefoot, now employed as a mechanic with a Fayetteville auto dealership, was also released under personal recognizance earlier Tuesday.

The presentation of the bills of indictments, kept secret until Monday, caught officials and members of the city council by surprise when the actions were disclosed by assistant district attorney Randy Gregory just prior to the convening of the grand jury Monday morning.

Gaddy is charged with authorizing a \$333.58 payment out of the city treasury in February, 1974, for the personal use and benefit of his son, Chris Gaddy, on repair work for a 1963 Chevrolet pickup truck purchased by his son after the city council declared it surplus city property the previous October, according to the bill.

The second indictment, involving the same vehicle, charges Gaddy with authorizing a \$46.98 payment out of city funds to Red Springs Motors, Inc., to pay for work done on the vehicle in September, 1974.

Barefoot, who worked for the city from February 1970 until April of this year, is charged with ordering \$137.50 worth of parts in March of this year for his personal car, a Ford Mustang, and having the city billed for the purchases, according to the indictment.

The charges brought against Gaddy Tuesday closely follow the details of the accusations Barefoot told a News-Journal reporter on June 19.

Records which were described as falsified to reflect repair and maintenance work was performed on a city-owned truck were shown to the News-Journal during an inquiry which resulted in a request from city council members for an official investigation by the district attorney.

Gaddy, who denied any part in misappropriations when the allegations were made in June, could not be reached for comment late Tuesday, but his attorney, Philip Diehl, said Gaddy would maintain his innocence and request a jury trial.

"He will definitely plead not guilty, and he denies any criminal involvement," Diehl said.

Diehl said the Chevrolet pickup which the indictments center around was turned over to the city by mutual agreement, pending the outcome of the trial.

"Chris voluntarily relinquished control (of the vehicle) and turned the keys over to Palmer Willcox this afternoon," he said. Willcox is city attorney.

"Until these questions are resolved, we felt possession of it should be returned to the city. As far as the purchase price Gene Thacker paid for it, that can be resolved later," he continued.

Gaddy, who faces fines and imprisonment of up to ten years on each count if convicted, will not go to trial before November, Diehl

See GADDY, page 15



ESCAPE FOILED-Jim Bullock, assistant superintendent of Sandhills Youth Center, (on left) is pictured with Ricky Oakley and Joseph Martin after the pair made an unsuccessful dash for freedom Monday afternoon from the courthouse.

Escapees Collared

Two teenaged prisoners, both convicted escapees, made a break for freedom from the rear door of the courthouse and were captured by a city policeman within minutes of the escape Monday afternoon.

The two, Ricky Oakley, 17, and Joseph Martin, 17, both inmates of Sandhills Youth Center in McCain, were being escorted down the rear stairs of the courthouse at 5 p.m. to a waiting van in the parking lot when they bolted out the door and fled east toward Stewart Street.

Both were handcuffed in the front with waist chains. Jim Bullock, assistant superintendent at Sandhills, who was

escorting Oakley and Martin out of the building along with three other prisoners, gave chase and fired a shot from his service revolver.

Juvenile officer C.E. Campbell of the Raeford police took up pursuit and collared the pair in a ditch at Donaldson Ave. and Jackson Street. Before the escape attempt, both men had been sentenced after pleading guilty to charges in Superior Court.

Oakley had drawn a five year term for escape and assault on an officer, and Martin was sentenced to six months suspended for escape.

Both men were lodged in jail and Bullock said they would be charged with escape in the episode.

All-Stars Meet Aetna 7:30 Tonight

The Aetna Life and Casualty softball team, 1974 World Industrial League Champions, will play the Raeford All-Stars tonight (Thursday) in a best of three series beginning at 7:30 P.M. at Armory Park.

The Aetna team, all former college and professional players, is managed by Tom Carpenter. Joe Upchurch is manager of the All-Stars, comprised of three players from each of Raeford's seven teams.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, proceeds will go to athlete Kathy McMillan's expense fund. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

See AROUND TOWN, page 15

The assignment of pupils to classrooms usually takes parents a little time on the opening day trying to find out where his or her child goes. Also pupils in other classes have a hard time finding out which classroom to attend. This year it is somewhat harder for some pupils as grades are changing from one school to another. For instance South Hoke and Raeford Elementary.

J.W. Turlington, principal at Raeford Elementary School, is trying to make it somewhat easier for pupils at that school by posting the class rolls at different schools in the county.

A note from Turlington is as follows:

"Beginning Monday, August 11, the class assignment rolls for Raeford Elementary School will be available at Scurlock, West Hoke, South Hoke and will be posted on the west (parking lot end) of Raeford Elementary School."

This should make it more orderly on the opening day of school. Thanks for the note Jim.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam:

Please help us thank all those who made Friday, August 8th possible, by printing this letter in your column. For several months committees have met, letters have been written, phone calls have been countless but they all came together in perfect harmony for the first event in Hoke County's celebration of this nation's 200th birthday.

We do thank everyone for their cooperation; those who came to the ceremonies, those who wore costumes, the invited honored guests, the Hoke County elected officials, chairmen of County Organizations, representatives from churches throughout the County, the Sandhill Regional Library Staff, the Library Board and Library Committee, the Raeford Woman's Club, the Junior Woman's Club, the Musicians, the Frot Bragg Color Guard, also the Raeford Police Department, the Highway Department, the Bicentennial Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Presbyterian Women of the Church, those Merchant's and individuals who flew their flags, the Pages, the children who participated in the ceremony, the Scouts, our Sons, the News Medias who gave such excellent coverage, the Aberdeen Coca Cola Bottling Plant, the Pepsi Cola Bottling of Fayetteville, and the many individuals who gave so many hours of work. Thank you.

For those of you who missed the affair, we are sorry. There will be planned festivals throughout the year celebrating the 1976 Birthday Year. They are planned for everyone. Be a part of something great and join us when we have the opening of the New Hoke County Library as our next Bicentennial Festival.

Sincerely, Iris and Carson Davis Co-Chairpersons for the Hoke County Bicentennial Commission

W.B. Lunsford was by the office this week and had a 1918 Hoke County tax receipt that was made out to A.B. Faircloth. He said that Faircloth lived in the Arabia - Dundarrach section of the county and that G.G. Faircloth was of the same family.

The receipt was different from the ones we receive now. It seems that they broke down almost everything that the taxes went for.

The receipt was as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Real & Personal property | 6.68 |
| State | 1.94 |
| School | 2.84 |
| County | 1.68 |
| County Pension | 19 |
| Road Bond | 48 |
| Road Maintenance | 1.94 |
| CH & J Bonds | 47 |
| Old County Debt | 20 |
| Special School | 1.46 |
| | 11.48 |
| Special School and Bond District 8 | 1.94 |
| | 13.42 |

Maybe someone can come up with what all this means. I do know that each county maintained roads and schools at that time. Maybe the CH & J Bonds were for the courthouse

See AROUND TOWN, page 15