

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Mrs. Bob Gentry called me last week to say that she had received a "thank you" note from Kathy McMillan for a donation in helping send her to the track meets in Europe. Eleanor commented that it really took her by surprise as it was unlike the every day happenings. Most people take things like a donation as a matter of everyday living. But not to Kathy.

She must have asked for the list of contributors and then taken time to write each of them. This speaks very high of her and to the upcoming generation.

Those kind of deeds are very seldom brought before the public, only the deeds that put a black eye on the young generation.

She is not only a leader in track but also for her generation.

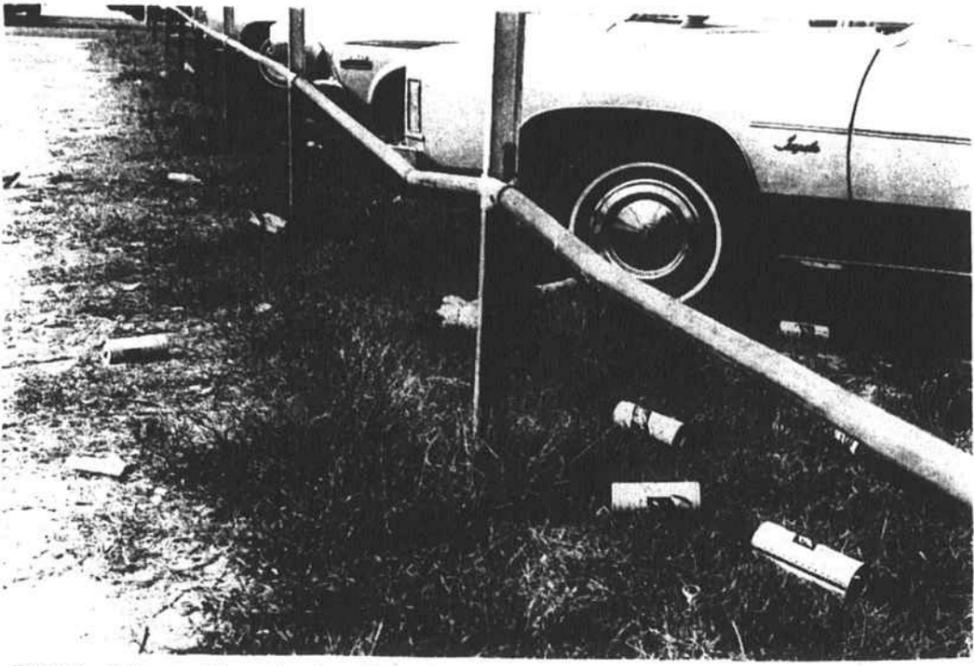
Thanks Eleanor for bringing this to my attention.

The Open Arms Rest Home that operates here on Campus Avenue is now getting ready to expand from 25 beds to 75 beds. They have received a grant from the Small Business Administration for approximately \$354,000.

For the Rest Home to get this grant they must be funded by a local corporation for so much money. A corporation has been formed known as the Campus Avenue Development Corp. They are selling stock and the minimum share price is \$100. So far the corporation has over \$20,000 of stock sold and need to sell \$35,490 to meet the requirements of the SBA.

This is a much needed facility for Hoke County and from all reports is doing an excellent service to the community to aid the older people of our county. As we well know some place must be provided for these people and with good management they are well looked after.

So if you can spare a few dollars, that will pay you interest of course, look into the project. For further information contact Benny McLeod or Walter Coley. They can give you complete details.



TRASHY - Police are taking a dim view of beer cans and other litter thrown in a car lot on Elwood Avenue. Litterers are facing arrest.

Teens Blamed

Litter Draws Ire

"The kids say they have no place to go, nothing to do, then you see something like this," police chief Leonard Wiggins grumbled Thursday as he eyed a collection of beer cans tossed along Elwood Avenue opposite a recreation center patronized by teenagers.

Wiggins, under pressure from businesses along the street, was announcing a general crackdown on beer can throwers.

"There's a state law against putting litter on another's property and starting immediately we will begin making arrests," he said.

Although there are two city trash barrels within a few feet of the recreation center, Wiggins said cans, bottles, and other trash are discarded in the lot of Hoke Auto Co. and the

customer parking lot for Southern National Bank.

"We get about two cases every morning," Younger Snead, Jr., of Hoke Auto said. "I am sick of it. I don't want to prosecute anyone or get anyone in trouble, but this has got to stop."

Wiggins said he had asked the manager of the center several times to send someone out with a box at night to clean up the trash.

"It's only about ten percent that are doing this, and it's hurting the other 90 per cent," the chief continued. "Somebody sees this and they say that's teenagers."

"I've got nothing against the teenagers, but 99 per cent of the people sitting out on this lot at night are teenagers."

Widow Flim-Flammed

House Painters Speedy Workers

Her knitting basket put aside, Ethel Melver sat on the front porch of her small, one story house gazing over the once green lawn and shrubbery now covered with white spray paint. Her eyes rested on the front windows, tightly closed against the hot afternoon sun, the glass ringed with white paint since last week when four "painters" reportedly conned the widow out of \$575.

Barefoot: 'No Regret'

Billy H. Barefoot, the ex-foreman of the city garage indicted along with city manager John Gaddy for misapplication and misuse of city monies, said Tuesday he does not regret making the allegations which prompted the investigation, even though he faces a possible jail term if convicted.

"Everything is about like I thought it would be. If I had to do it again, I would", Barefoot said. "It was a big decision on my part, but I couldn't sit back and be responsible for what was going on. If I hadn't brought it up, I'd be responsible. Now I don't feel that I am responsible anymore", he said.

Barefoot, who is free on personal bond awaiting trial on a charge of billing the city for \$137 worth of repair work for his personal car, said Fayetteville attorney Carl Barrington, Jr. is representing him.

"I've cooperated in every way I can with the SBI. I've been honest, and I've answered every question. My lawyer told me not to talk to them without him being present, but I went ahead anyway and told them everything I knew," Barefoot said.

Barefoot said he has been under a lot of pressure in the past ten weeks and has had some unfavorable reaction to his statements.

"I have lost a lot of so-called friends."

"The said they'd do it cheap", Mrs. Melver, 78, said, sitting quietly, her folded hands moving from her lap only to swish at an occasional fly.

Mrs. Melver had her house painted last summer and remembers the price as \$300.

"These fellows came and made out they didn't do a good job last time, they said they'd do a better job. They said they'd paint the whole house and do the window sashes".

"They even asked what color do you want the sashes. I said blue", she continued, her voice rising.

She related how she began moving the furniture off her back porch while the four men got to work in the front.

"The tall one, he said for me to go ahead and fix the check now and they'd finish up with the window sashes. He said they would trim the hedges, too, and include it in the price."

Mrs. Melver gave the man a blank check after he told her they never cashed her check last year and they would "figure it up" for the work.

"I was moving things out back,

School Begins Monday

Classes will start Monday, Aug. 25 in all of the county schools with only a morning session scheduled, the board of education announced.

All schools will open at 8:10 a.m. Classes at Hoke High, Upchurch, and Raeford elementary will dismiss at 11 a.m. Classes at McLaughlin elementary, Scurlock, South Hoke, and West Hoke will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.

The regular schedule of classes for the school term will begin Tuesday, Aug. 26.

Scurlock, South Hoke, West Hoke, and McLaughlin elementary schools will end classes at 2:30 p.m. The high school, Upchurch, and Raeford elementary will dismiss classes at 3 p.m.

and they hopped in the truck and left right quick", she said disgustedly.

The "paint" job took less than one hour.

Mrs. Melver tried to have her bank stop payment on the check, but it was too late.

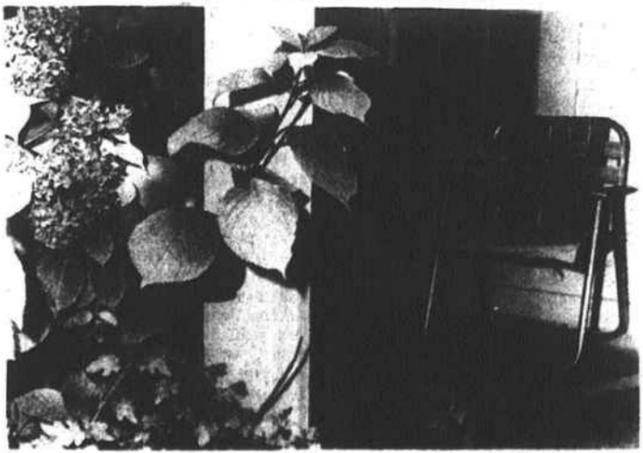
The sheriff's office investigated and inspected the painting, but since the name signed to the check was not forgery the matter was referred to the consumer protection division of the district attorney's office.

Mrs. Melver is not hopeful anyone can get some of her money back.

"They oughta, but I don't know if they can. If they come back next year and try it out, I'm going to get the law," she declared.

"I saw that truck going through town. I was in the hardware store and I saw one of them then. I said to him 'Aren't you one of the men that painted my house?', and he says 'No, I haven't done any painting in a long while'."

"That big fat fellow", she continued, her eyes flashing, "he had paint all over his cap!"



THOROUGH SPRAYING - The windows, floor of the porch, and foliage surrounding Mrs. Ethel Melver's house got a thorough spraying to the woman's dismay.

Council Cuts Gaddy's Duties

Judge Refuses Defense Bid

After meeting for more than two and one half hours behind closed doors Thursday night, the city council voted to strip city manager John Gaddy of all duties dealing with disbursement of city finances until criminal charges pending against Gaddy are disposed of.

The action came barely two days after the Hoke County grand jury indicted Gaddy on two counts of misapplication and misuse of city monies connected with about \$385 worth of repair work said to be done on a city-owned truck which was allegedly secretly sold to Gaddy's son, Chris, in 1974.

On Monday, Superior Court Judge Henry A. McKinnon denied a motion made by Gaddy's defense attorney last Thursday to quash the indictments in a hearing held in Fayetteville.

The council, who went into executive session at 8:30 P.M. Thursday and closed the meeting to the public and press, conferred until shortly after 11 P.M., after meeting with Gaddy and his attorney Philip Diehl for part of the time.

The resolution adopted by the council and carried unanimously read "in view of indictments now pending against city manager John Gaddy, all duties involved in disbursement of city funds shall be delegated to the city's administrative assistant, Andrea Garrison, who will in the interim co-sign all city checks with the finance officer, Helen Huffman. The interim being until all indictments against the city manager have been resolved".

Gaddy, who has denied he is guilty of any wrongdoing since allegations were made in June against him by the ex-foreman of the city garage, Billy Barefoot, said after the council meeting he "is satisfied with the council's decision".

"I think it's a fair thing, it's agreeable to me," he said.

Gaddy said council members questioned him about the charges. "We discussed the matter thoroughly", he said, but declined to elaborate further.

Diehl said Monday after Judge McKinnon's refusal to quash the indictments he hoped the case would come to trial before November, the next scheduled session of Superior Court here.

"I understand the district attorney will request a special court session", he said.

Assistant District Attorney Duncan McFadyen refused to comment on the possibility of an earlier trial.

The unsuccessful bid to quash the indictments, which center on a 1963 Chevrolet pickup truck, was based on the contention the vehicle was not declared surplus property according to laws governing city property. Diehl argued the subsequent sale of the vehicle was therefore null and void, and the repair work done on it was not unlawful, as the indictments charge.

Assistant district attorney Randy Gregory declined to comment on the possibility more indictments will be forthcoming, but confirmed the investigation by State Bureau of Investigation agents is continuing.

"Right now, I don't know if there are going to be any further indictments. I won't know until the SBI investigation is complete", Gregory said Tuesday.

Commissioners Frown On New Furniture

The county commissioners made committee appointments, accepted a letter of resignation, approved a contract, and took a dim view of the proposed furniture list submitted by the Department of Social Services for their offices in the new county office building during a special meeting Thursday.

Walter McAllister was appointed to the city planning board to replace J.D. McAllister, the latter having to step down since he also serves on another city body, county manager T.B. Lester said.

Hallie Blythe and A.S. McInnis were appointed to the board of adjustments, with D.S. Currie and Preston Moore selected as alternates. Alfred Leach was dropped from his seat on the board.

Hinton McPhaul was re-appointed to the jury commission.

Brenda Canady, assistant home agent, submitted a letter of resignation effective Sept. 15. Mrs. Canady is moving with her husband to Edgecombe County.

The letter was accepted with regret, and county attorney Charles Hostetler also expressed his regrets at her departure.

The board voted unanimously to approve a contract at a cost of \$175 per month for the police information network (PIN) unit installed last year at the jail under a grant award. The city will pay half the costs, Lester said.

The board examined lists of furniture for the extension agent office and the Department of Social Services for use in the new office building and the DSS list drew sharp criticism as too costly.

T.B. Lester said the 19 desks requested cost \$200 each, and commissioner John Balfour questioned the need for 25 new wastebaskets, 25 desk chairs and 100 chairs for waiting room areas are also requested.

"I don't see how we can afford all this," chairman Ralph Barnhart said

and then requested commissioners Tom McBryde and Balfour act as a committee to inspect the agency's furnishings and appraise their needs.

The board approved a \$978 bid from J.E. Odom Co. of Fayetteville for renovations in the courthouse to enlarge an office for the clerk of court.

The board took the action after hearing Hostetler's opinion the award would be okay since it is under \$1,000. Only two bids were received.

The recent Title IV child support enforcement which requires the establishment of an enforcement program at the county level was discussed, but no decision was made

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CofC Names Manager

The Chamber of Commerce met Monday afternoon and selected Julian H. (Buddy) Blue Jr. as the new manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, according to Chamber President Dick Lovette.

Lovette said that the members of the Chamber of Commerce will receive a letter stating that Blue has been named. He will begin his duties in the full time position Sept. 1.

Lovette said Blue would primarily be working in the areas of industrial recruiting and would actively take part in the drive to attract medical and dental doctors to our community.

"He will handle community, industrial, and business affairs for the Chamber," said Lovette.

He said projects such as a new county map and brochure will also be on the new manager's agenda.

"He will also be needed to revitalize the interest in Chamber activities by asking about and checking on new ideas the Chamber might have," he said.

UF Budget Meet Tonight

The budget and admission committee of the Hoke county United Fund will meet tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the courthouse annex.

Anyone who plans to present a budget to the fund must attend, president Ashwell Harward said.

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