

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Elwood Avenue from Magnolia Street to Stewart Street has now been a one-way avenue for over six months. Occasionally someone will come down it the wrong way, but most of the time they are out of town drivers.

It has worked out real well as far as I am concerned. It is very seldom now that traffic is backed up to Magnolia Street and the congestion is not as bad late in the afternoon in front of the Raeford Kindergarten.

The local law enforcement officers have given out a few tickets for going the wrong way but most of the time warnings have been passed out. From rumors getting to my desk, this is now over, and everyone will be issued a ticket.

In case you don't know what the ticket will cost, this will explain. The court costs are \$25 and a fine could also be put on the driver up to \$25. So it could cost you \$50 in court. Besides the money according to the Highway Patrol you could accumulate two points toward losing your license.

So think before entering the wrong way on Elwood Avenue.

The Hoke High Bucks were defeated by Sanford last Friday night and have another tough battle in Rockingham Friday night. They will return to the local stadium Friday, October 10 when they will host the Lumberton Pirates.

The United Fund drive will begin next week and workers will be around for your donation. So have your donation ready, so the drive can come to an early conclusion.

I received the following letter this week from Whiteford Jones, a native of Hoke County who now lives near Washington, D. C. The letter is a reply to the item in the column last week about the theft of Robert Gatlin's station wagon.

Jones now works for the government and should know what he is writing about.

The letter follows:

Dear Sam:

I read with interest the article in your column pertaining to Robert Gatlin's stolen vehicle and the consideration his predicament was afforded by Raeford City officials.

I have always known the people of Raeford and Hoke County to be generous and considerate of people in need and this is certainly another example of how they respond on such occasions.

With all the corruption in government we read and hear about these days, I was also pleased to note the safeguards built into Crawford's suggestion regarding how and where Mr. Gatlin could ride to his pond. If his suggestion is followed there should certainly be no criticism from the taxpayers.

Raeford is lucky to have public officials who are interested and concerned in the welfare of others. I am sorry the car was stolen and for inconvenience it must have caused, but my hat is off to Buddy Blue and Crawford Thomas for their efforts to make the best of a bad situation.

I enjoy the NJ and look forward to receiving it each Thursday. Hope to see you sometime when I am in town.

Whiteford Jones
An X Raeforder

Mayor Seeks Fourth Term

Council Candidates Now At Five



John K. McNeill



Graham Clark



Sam C. Morris



Carlton E. Niven

Mill Re-opening

Rockfish House To Be Sold

County commissioners met in special session Friday and unanimously approved the sale of the Rockfish Community building at public auction after hearing a report from chairman Ralph Barnhart that a potential buyer of the old Continental mill in Rockfish wants the property.

Barnhart informed the board that Hadley Peebles, a Siler City textile manufacturer, will be the likely purchaser of the old Continental operation and that the firm insists on acquiring the property the community house is situated on.

The board agreed on a motion from Tom McBryde to advertise the sale for four weeks and sell it at public auction at the courthouse on Oct. 28.

The land involved is about one third of an acre and the appraised value, including the house, is listed at \$6,600.

Barnhart was sketchy about details of the proposed re-opening of the mill, but said his information was that about 100 persons are to be employed.

County attorney Charles Hostetler, who briefed the board members on steps involved in selling county - owned property, explained the county is not necessarily required to sell to the highest bidder.

According to Hostetler, the board of commissioners must meet after the auction to confirm the sale, and they may reject the bid if it is not deemed to be high enough.

In other business, the board unanimously okayed a new contract for nine months for service on the Motorola communications equipment in the sheriff's department. The cost is \$803.

Also carried unanimously was a motion to re-paint the garbage dumpsters at a cost of \$4,368. The expenditure had been put in this year's budget.

The board received notification of a \$16,000 allocation for creation of public service employment jobs under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Title II funds.

Commissioners were unable to come up with any suggestions for use of the grant, and the matter was ordered tabled until the school

system and the Department of Social Services could be contacted to see if any jobs could be created within those agencies.

Under the grant, Vietnam veterans

must be given first priority, then unemployed and then under-employed and economically disadvantaged in the order of hiring. Commissioners meet again Oct. 6.



NEW RADAR -- Trooper C.A. Bennett adjusts his new radar device which catches speeders through an electronic beam.

New Radar Looking For Hoke Speeders

A new radar device which gives the highway patrol greater flexibility in catching speeders is now in use in Hoke county on a permanent basis.

The moving radar units, more sophisticated than the Vascor equipment, were recently purchased by the state, enabling the Hoke patrol to have one assigned here.

Moving radar can replace the stationary radar system of checking speeders and frees the patrolman from having to park and wait for traffic to passby.

Air Crash Takes Life Of Soldier

Authorities are probing the cause of a plane crash that took the life of a young Ft. Bragg soldier sometime Sunday.

The body of Joseph Harmon Wood, about 23, of Fayetteville, was found in the wreckage of a Piper Cherokee plane in Chesterfield, S.C., according to Paul Rose, owner of Rose Aviation in Raeford.

Rose said that Wood left Raeford Airport Friday enroute to Columbus, Ga., and was to return Sunday night. He said Wood was the only passenger in the four-seat plane owned by Page Ashwell of Ft. Bragg.

Rose said he notified the FAA when the plane failed to return to Raeford and a search was initiated. He said Wood had not filed a flight plan.

Rose said South Carolina officials called him Tuesday morning and notified him of the wreckage, but officials gave no further details.

UF Drive

Division chairmen and canvassers for the 1975 United Fund campaign will be named this week, UF co-chairman Gene Carter announced. The kick-off to the annual drive begins Oct. 6.

Area Incidents

Snipings Reported

Sheriff's deputies are investigating two apparently unrelated snipings that occurred recently.

Charles Ray, of 602 Riley Road, Fayetteville, reported that he was shot with a shotgun Sunday Sept. 28, about 1:30 a.m., as he was sitting in his car at Virgil's Drive In. The shooting occurred sometime after he had an argument with a man about the way his car was parked. Deputy G.S. McGuire reported that Ray was hit with four birdshot pellets. One pellet went through his right cheek, one hit him over his left eye, and two more lodged in his left ear.

Bobby Jean Locklear, Rt. 1, Red Springs, reported that he was shot in the foot and the leg with a .22 rifle while he was at Clemmie Miller's place Sunday, Sept. 21. According to reports Locklear said he did not know who shot him.

In other incidents, James Heit, Rt. 1 Raeford, reported that several items worth \$4,590 were taken from his home on Airport Road sometime between 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, and 6 p.m., Sunday Sept. 14. Among the items taken was a .22 rifle and a .410 shotgun, rings valued at \$1,470 and china worth \$3,000.

Thomas McMillian, Rt. 4, Raeford, See AREA INCIDENTS, page 15

Deputy Resigns

Chief deputy Harvey Young has resigned from the sheriff's department, Sheriff D.M. Barrington announced Tuesday.

Young, 51, had been a deputy for ten years. He was also a Raeford police officer for four years.

The reason for the resignation was Young was unwilling to accept a demotion and a \$800 yearly pay cut, Barrington said.

J.E. Lamont was named to the post of chief deputy.

\$43,000 Powell Funds For Raeford Streets

Raeford's 1975 Powell bill funds allocation is \$43,171.04, according to the Department of Transportation annual report.

The annual allocation is to be used for the maintenance, construction, and reconstruction of local city streets.

The amount is based on relative population and the non-state system local street mileage. The law requires

that a sum equal to the amount produced by one cent tax of the regular eight cents per gallon state fuel tax be apportioned.

The 1974 estimated population for Raeford is 3,370. The total of certified non - state system miles is given as 19.64.

The total funds for this year for distribution to municipalities is \$29,360,012.61, according to the report.

Gulledge Rites Held

Funeral services for Joel Ellis Gulledge were held Saturday at 11 A.M. at the First Baptist Church with Rev. Jack Mansfield officiating. Burial was in Raeford cemetery.

Gulledge, 73, died Thursday in Moore Memorial Hospital.

Gulledge served as Hoke county register of deeds for 25 years. He was a Mason and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Murriel Williamson Gulledge; one son, Joel Ellis Gulledge, Jr., of Greenville, S.C.; two daughters, Mrs. Thomas C. Wilson of Hertford and Mrs. H.C. Fisher of Winston - Salem; two brothers, J.N. Gulledge of Raeford and William L. Gulledge of Kansas City; one sister, Mrs. H.R. Long of Raeford; nine grandchildren.

Pallbearers were George Wood, Dave Barrington, Robert Townsend, Palmer Willcox, Charles Hostetler, and William Lester.



Joe Gulledge

The field of candidates for the city council race grew to five with the filing of two more incumbents and a one-time councilman while the mayor announced for a fourth term still unopposed.

Incumbent councilmen Sam C. Morris and Graham Clark filed to run for another term, joining previously announced candidates Hector Garrison and incumbent councilman Robert W. Weaver in the Nov. 4 election.

Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., also filed for re-election with no challengers as yet.

Businessman Carlton Niven, appointed to the city council in 1961, is the fifth person to seek a seat.

Clark, 59, is the owner and operator of Clark's Gulf in Raeford. He is making a bid for a fourth term.

"I think my six years experience qualifies me", Clark said. Clark declined to speculate on his chances in the election, saying it "was up to the public".

Clark refused to discuss any effects of the upcoming trial of city manager John Gaddy on the campaign or the election.

Gaddy is scheduled for trial Oct. 13 in Superior Court on charges of misusing funds.

"I have no comment on that", he said Tuesday.

A Hoke county native, Clark resides with his wife Marion at 101 Highland.

Morris, 57, general manager of The News-Journal, is seeking a second term on the city council.

"I would like to stay there until the whole matter is cleared up", Morris said, referring to the probe into misuse of city funds and other criminal charges which began in June.

"As far as I know, the investigation is not over, and I would like to stay on the council until the final outcome. An investigation is like a physical examination. If there's nothing wrong with you, it can't hurt. If there is something wrong, you need a cure", he declared.

"I made a promise when I first ran that there are two sides to any issue and I would listen to both sides before reaching any conclusion, and I feel I have done this on the council. I've weighed every decision, and I've been on the wrong end of a vote sometimes, but I still feel this way", he said.

Chairman of the Hoke county Democratic party, Morris is also chairman of the Selective Service Board and treasurer and past president of the United Fund. He is a director of the Raeford Savings and Loan and a past president and ex-director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Morris, an inactive deacon of the Presbyterian Church, lives with his wife Mary Alice at 110 N. Jackson Street. The couple has two children, Sarah of Virginia Beach, Va., and John of Fayetteville.

Carlton E. Niven, 53, announced his candidacy for a city council seat. He is a Raeford native and has been owner and operator of Niven's Appliance and Furniture Company on Main Street since 1955.

"Being a lifelong resident, I feel I can serve the town and do a lot of good for the town", Niven said.

Niven declined to comment on any aspect of the criminal allegations surrounding the city manager's office. Niven, who lives at 118 Donaldson Ave., is a next door neighbor to Gaddy.

Niven was optimistic about his chances. "I feel like I'll go in, I'm confident", he said Monday. He said his campaign would be a word - of - mouth effort for the most part.

Niven served on the city council once, filling out the unexpired term of Angus Currie who left the post in 1961. Niven was defeated in a bid for a permanent seat in the next election.

Niven and his wife, Hazel, have two children. Carlton, Jr., is a high school teacher in Brevard and daughter Caroline is a junior at Appalachian State University.

Niven is a lifelong member of the Methodist Church and a past president of the Lions Club. The only candidate to file for the mayor's race is incumbent John K. McNeill, Jr., who was first elected to public office in 1952 as a city councilman.

McNeill won re-election in his post until 1967 when he sought the