

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Last week in this column I had an item about the last snow in November was in 1938. It was also stated that if the date was not correct please correct it.

Now Mrs. Betty Wood, assistant clerk of court for Hoke County, states that it snowed November 25, 1950. The reason she is so positive of the date is that she was married that day. So if anyone has an earlier date, please come forward.

Thanks, Betty for the information.

The Bicentennial celebration of the USA will be next year. The 50th anniversary of the Raeford Fire Department will also be next year.

The Raeford Fire Department was organized in 1926. This came about after the big fire of December 30, 1925 when about one-third of the business district was destroyed by fire.

There was a volunteer fire department here at the time, but after this fire the town and citizens of the town decided that bigger and better equipment was needed, so the department was organized in 1926.

Maybe someone could give us a history of the department between now and next year.

The Christmas decorations have been put up on Main Street and the lights within them were turned on this past weekend. It certainly adds to the looks of the city and should help to get each of us in the Christmas spirit. It is about time, for it is only three weeks until that old man will arrive.

Everyone that donated or helped with the lights should be complimented, but special praise should go to Theresa McBryde and James Wood. They have done much begging and asking to get the project to a successful conclusion, and it is a success. Thanks, Theresa and James, for a job well done.

Now for something that was not a success. A phone call Tuesday morning told me of a project that was not successful.

About a year ago the Home Life Department of the Raeford Woman's Club undertook to beautify one of the entrances to the City of Raeford. It was at the triangle where North Main Street extension runs into US 401.

The city aided by grading and leveling the strip and preparing it for the planting of shrubs and flowers. The department recently spent 2 1/2 days planting six shrubs in the plot. It was an improvement to the site and the ladies were proud of their work. But in a few days only one of the plants were still on the plot. Person or persons had stolen all but one of the plants and it could be gone now.

So these ladies have seen a project turn out to be a failure because of someone who should spend Christmas in jail.

It takes only one hour to tear up a year's work of planning and beautification.

J. C. Wright Succumbs

John Crawford Wright, a farmer and member of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department for 32 years, died Monday night. He was 74.

Funeral services were scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 3 P.M. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. John Ropp.

Burial was scheduled for the Raeford Cemetery.

Wright was a member of the Raeford Presbyterian Church and Masonic Lodge 306 of Raeford.

Surviving are his wife, Ida Tapp Wright; a daughter, Mrs. Geraldine Wright Wall of Knightdale, N.C.; a brother, Julian Wright of Raeford; a sister, Mrs. Verna Stanton of Raeford; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Favorable Auditor's Report

City Gives 5% Salary Hikes

UF Drive

The Hoke County United Fund drive has reached 62% of the goal, up from a previous 56% total. The current figure is \$13,738.70.

Recent contributors are: McCain, \$50; individuals, \$25; commercial businesses, \$208; Carolina Telephone, \$165; and A&R, \$15.

Figures have not come in from Knit-Away, Tex - Elastic, Raeford Turkey Farms, and various other sources at this time, according to chairman Gene Carter.

No Charges In Accident

No charges have been filed in an accident which hospitalized a Raeford area man with both legs fractured Nov. 22.

Stewart Smith, 36, was listed in fair condition at Moore Memorial Hospital after being struck by a vehicle near the North Raeford Fire Department station.

Trooper C. A. Bennett gave this account:

Smith left his car improperly parked while at a turkey shoot near the fire department and a car operated by Wilbert L. McQueen struck the auto which was partially on the travel part of the road.

While Smith was inspecting the damage to his car, he was standing in the roadway and a vehicle operated by Carl Lee Odums of High Point struck Smith, and then hit Smith's vehicle.

Bennett said Odums told him he slowed down when he saw the crowd but could not avoid hitting him when he suddenly appeared in his lane of travel.

The Hoke County rescue squad assisted at the scene, Bennett said.

\$59,000 Bid

Southeastern Asphalt of Rockingham was low bidder on the Title X storm drainage project by submitting a \$59,066.80 proposal, acting city manager Bill Sellars said after bids were opened Tuesday at 2 P.M.

A total of 13 bids was received on the Harris Ave. - Bethel Rd. drainage project, ranging up to \$87,807.16 from W.E. Garrison Grading Co. from Garner, N.C.

The city council is expected to meet to act on the bids, but no date for a meeting was given.



IMPACT AREA - The shaded area in the uppermost part of the square outlining Raeford details the low income neighborhoods picked for water and sewer extensions on the community development application for federal funds.

Commissioners, Council Decide On Tri-purpose Application

By Mike Steadman

After much deliberation and many suggestions, the Hoke County Commissioners got the backing of the Raeford City Council and passed a motion to apply for funds through the office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and divide them so that there would be an extension of sewers, rehabilitation of existing housing, and the construction of a multi-purpose neighborhood center.

Commission chairman Ralph Barnhart explained the purpose of the meeting to the crowd of 23 and then read some of the comments and suggestions made at the two previous citizens meetings.

Barnhart said he thought there were three things that should be considered in their effort to put together an application that would be as acceptable to HUD as possible.

He said sewers, rehabilitation of existing houses and something in the form of recreation should be considered.

J.H. (Buddy) Blue, Jr., pointed out that rehabilitation of houses could get "hairy" and offered a suggestion of condemning houses to be rehabilitated instead of buying them.

Acting city manager Bill Sellars then asked what was to be done with the people who were living in the houses.

State Department of Natural and Economic Resources senior planner Susan Cheek mentioned that loans could be made to the owner-operators of the houses to be rehabilitated. She said the money could be put out through the city and county.

"HUD would rather see an area concentration rather than going county-wide because of the inexperience in rehabilitation," she said.

She said the rehabilitation project carried a three point value. Mayor J.K. McNeill, Jr., brought up a fee that would need to be charged for the tap-on of the sewers that would be charged like the water bill.

He said the David Jones Hill area would reach more people if there had to be a decision made on which area should receive sewers if the rehabilitation project was done also.

"The county commissioners are going to decide which of these projects to take," said McNeill.

He pointed out that one of the problems would be to get the people to tap on.

"We could include the price of tapping on to the rehabilitation

price is the same area was involved," he said.

"We've talked about sewers and we've talked about rehabilitation. Let's talk about the multi-purpose centers," said Barnhart.

County commissioner James A. Hunt expressed the need to help the people out in the county. He said if all the money was spent for sewers, it would not help too many people.

"Sewage is a good project, but I think we should think about some of the people in the county. I feel we should maybe purchase some land out in the county and make use of it for recreation for the rest of the people besides just these sewage people. If we go all the way with the sewage, it's not going to help that many people," he said.

Barnhart said he saw three possibilities for a motion for the project.

"I personally see three possible

motions that we could consider. One is to apply for all sewer extensions and the extension of water to the Shawtown area. The second is to include the rehabilitation project and cut out the needed amount on the sewer extension. The third is to take out two sewer extension areas and include the rehabilitation project and one multi-purpose neighborhood center in a high point area of the county," he said.

After Barnhart asked for suggestions from the city council, the two groups went into separate caucus sessions for about fifteen minutes.

After the groups returned, McNeill requested that if the sewers were approved, a tap-on fee could be collected by the city and a monthly fee for the use of the

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Barnhart Still Chairman

County Funds Yule, Garbage

County commissioners got into the Christmas spirit and donated \$500 for Yule decorations in the downtown area but agreed with less enthusiasm to pay an additional \$4,425 for more garbage containers during their regular monthly meeting Monday.

The 9 A.M. meeting began with the election of incumbent chairman

Ralph Barnhart to another term along with vice-chairman Tom McBryde getting the nod for another term in his post. The choices were voted in unanimously with only commissioner J.A. Webb absent.

A motion from commissioner James A. Hunt to give \$500 to the Raeford Merchants Association for their outdoor Christmas lights carried

unanimously after Association representatives Theresa McBryde and James Wood asked for \$700.

"We've paid \$1,080 so far, the town gave us \$1,200 and we've gotten donations from the merchants. We've had to do all new wiring, nothing has been done since 1968. With another \$700, we could finish our wiring and that would fix us up for next year, too," Mrs. McBryde said.

Funding for the purchase of more garbage containers came after Clyde Leach, operator of Pick-up Sanitation, the county franchise holder, told the board he was facing "a hardship".

"I need to know what action you plan to take, with Christmas coming, it isn't going to get any better. We've already moved some of the containers to try and cut down on the spillover," Leach said.

County manager T.B. Lester quoted the additional cost on service to the 15 containers as \$160 a week, and Leach estimated the total servicing costs including the new ones to be more than \$8,000 a year.

"We can't afford it," Barnhart said.

Commissioner John Balfour said "we'll buy them, if you dump them for free as a Christmas present", drawing laughter.

A motion from McBryde to okay the purchase of the containers carried unanimously after some more discussion.

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Rose's Office Here Dec. 5

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Friday, Dec. 5 from

10 A.M. to 3 P.M. The van will be parked in the post office lot.



J.C. Wright