

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

As I wondered what to write in this column just before Christmas Day, 1975 I came across an item in a column written 15 years ago. I think it will be useful this year too.

The item follows:
"Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, is on Sunday this year and may each of us celebrate it in the true spirit. The holiday will extend more than one day for most of us and from the looks of the front page of this paper it seems to have already started. I am speaking of the automobile accidents that have occurred in this county during the past week. There has been more damage to vehicles and injuries in one week than any other month during the year. The operation of the highway patrol, whether it be checking stations, wolf pack patrols or any other project can't stop these accidents unless all of us cooperate with them and with other drivers on the highway.

"The best Christmas present we can give to the motoring public today is the courtesy of the roads, observing traffic laws and using common sense while under the wheels of our automobiles. Stop and think of the suffering that it will bring to someone because of a death in a family during the holidays. Consider, it might be in your family. Give a present to all the people this year so that each of us will have a Merry Christmas."

After 15 years I still pass this along to everyone. Drive Safely and let's all have a Merry Christmas.

This issue of the paper is our Christmas edition and carries greetings from the industries and businesses in Hoke County. Take time during the holidays to read the messages in these ads. This is the way these firms have of expressing to you, their thanks and good will for the past years.

The article in last week's paper about the booming Christmas sales is good to read after the spirits of last year when unemployment and short work hours was on everyone's minds. This comes on top of what was written here last week about the bright outlook of two of the county's industrial plants.

This, of course, makes us all feel good at this time of year but let's not forget the following thing.

The true spirit of Christmas is not in trees, money, job security or decorations, but in the Light that gives us eternal life. So try to get the true meaning between now and Christmas Day.

The Class of 1966 Group Pictures may be purchased by calling Alice Glisson 875-4508 or Jane Strother 875-4570 after 5:00. The cost is \$3.00 for a color picture.

To all the readers of this column another year has passed and Christmas is with us again. I want to wish to each and everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Cards are coming in from former employees and to each of you I wish a big Christmas and holiday cheer.

Also to Lucy Gray, Lib. Geri, Venetia, Carol, Margaret Ann, Jama, Kay, Elaine, Jane, Cheryl, Laura, Deborah, Mary and Bill McFadyen, just to name a few, and to all employees working now the best to all of you at Christmas time.

Report To New Office For Jobless Claims

All workers who are filing a claim for unemployment benefits for the first time are required to report to the job service office located in the Employment Security Commission office on W. Elwood Ave.

Under the new regulation, new claims will not be processed at the Employment Security Commission

Mills Close Dec. 23-28

Both Burlington Industries Raeford plants will close down Dec. 23-28 for the Christmas holiday, company officials announced.

Burlington wage employees will receive about \$11 million in vacation pay for 1975, with about half of the amount distributed during the summer vacation periods and the remainder during the Christmas operating schedule, according to the announcement.

Christmas bags for employees' children age 12 and under were distributed last week.

County Board Met Friday

County commissioners met briefly Friday morning in a special meeting with four items on the agenda and a letter from a protesting taxpayer.

The board agreed unanimously to submit a letter of intent to take part in a state program to study juvenile delinquency prevention. A local task force will be named and county planner Lester Simpson was directed to head up the project.

Philip Diehl, James A. Hunt, and Arlie McPhatter were appointed representatives on the regional mental health board. Diehl and Hunt were re-appointments.

The board received notice of the final distribution of 1975-76 secondary road funds. Hoke County's remaining allocation is \$6,700.

Budget amendments, approved earlier, were unanimously okayed by the commissioners: \$500 for telephone and postage and \$500 for machine repair and maintenance (finance dept.), and \$4,425 for purchase of new waste containers (environmental).

A letter from A.T. McLean, Jr., protesting payment of a late listing penalty for 1974 taxes was read by chairman Ralph Barnhart. McLean claimed he paid under protest and requested detailed information regarding number of persons who filed late and what action was taken against them.

Bus Driver Acts Swiftly

A quick thinking young school bus driver who detected smoking coming from the bus was credited with getting some 36 children out of the bus and moved to safety off the highway Friday afternoon.

Shirley G. Loyd, 25, of Rt. 3, Raeford was operating bus number 38 packed with second and fourth graders on RPR 1207 when smoke began pouring out from under the dash.

Mrs. Loyd immediately stopped the bus and activated the warning flashers and then quickly got the children off the bus through the rear emergency exit, highway patrolman K.W. Weston reported. She led the youngsters off the roadway and kept them on the shoulder.

Weston blamed the smoke on wiring and estimated about \$50 damage to the vehicle.

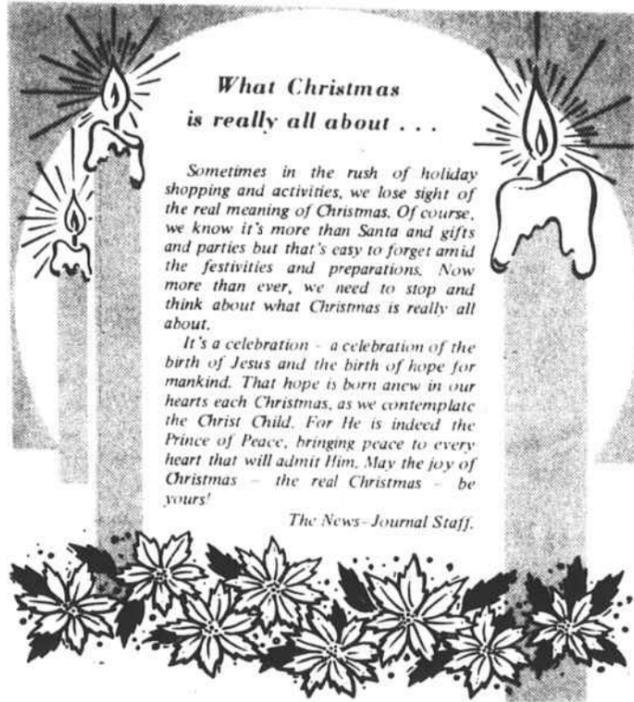
Clerk's Office Closes 24-26

The Clerk of Court's office and all other offices within the courthouse will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holidays.

Regular schedules will resume Monday, Dec. 29.

office within the Armory building on Tuesdays, unless the worker has first reported to the Elwood Ave. office, according to S.J. Benkosky.

Claims books and claims folders will be prepared at the Elwood Ave. office to be taken to the Armory office on the following Tuesday.



What Christmas is really all about . . .

Sometimes in the rush of holiday shopping and activities, we lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas. Of course, we know it's more than Santa and gifts and parties but that's easy to forget amid the festivities and preparations. Now more than ever, we need to stop and think about what Christmas is really all about.

It's a celebration - a celebration of the birth of Jesus and the birth of hope for mankind. That hope is born anew in our hearts each Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ Child. For He is indeed the Prince of Peace, bringing peace to every heart that will admit Him. May the joy of Christmas - the real Christmas - be yours!

The News-Journal Staff.

Kiwanians Aid Needy

Five needy families will benefit from the generosity of Kiwanians who are contributing nearly \$1,000 in their annual Christmas project this year to aid the less fortunate.

Committees averaging about seven or eight members donated money for their "families" and the Kiwanis Club treasury authorized \$10 for each committeeman, making a total of \$975 for the project, publicity chairman Robert Gatlin said.

"The families were very well screened to determine need," Gatlin said. Food, clothing, household items, whatever was most desperately needed was chosen for the family at Christmas, and Kiwanians are making the deliveries this week.

Burlington Industries and House of Raeford Farms donated toys and turkey for use by the Kiwanians.

Vardell Hedgpeh is coordinator of this year's drive.

All Families Are 'Adopted'

The "adopt" a family for Christmas appeal made by the Department of Social Services met with success, with 75 needy families taken by groups or individuals, caseworker Dayna Pate reported.

"Frankly, we were overwhelmed. The response from the community

was just great. We were so pleased with the generosity of people, everyone who called mentioned the families described in the newspaper and they all have been taken."

Mrs. Pate said the cash contributions increased 600 per cent

Driver Unhurt After Kidnap

Dems To Nominate Successor

The county Democratic executive committee is expected to meet sometime early next month to choose nominees for the vacancy on the board of county commissioners created by the death of J.A. Webb Sunday.

According to law, the present county commissioners are required to name a successor within 60 days after a vacancy occurs. If the board fails to do so within the allotted time, the Clerk of Superior Court is empowered to name the successor.

The board of commissioners is required to consult with the executive committee of the political party to which the commissioner belonged, but it is not required to follow their recommendations.

Sam C. Morris, Democratic committee chairman, said Monday the full committee will meet but no date for a meeting has yet been scheduled.

Once a successor is chosen by the county commissioners, the new member will fill out the remainder of Webb's term, which expires next December.

A Fayetteville City Cab Company driver was kidnaped in Cumberland County early Saturday morning and was later found and released from the trunk of his cab by local deputies when they found the cab in a ditch near the caution light off North Main Street and 401 By-Pass, according to a report by Hoke County Sheriff's deputies.

It was reported that Ronald J. Hamilton, 221 Davis St., Fayetteville had been locked in the trunk by the kidnaper and \$15.30 had been taken from him along with a tear-gas pistol.

Hamilton told deputies here he picked up a fare about 2 A.M. at the Greyhound terminal in downtown Fayetteville and after driving away from Fayetteville, the passenger seized a tear-gas pistol from him and took command of the cab.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington said deputies on routine patrol checked the taxi about 3:15 A.M. and heard noises coming from the trunk. Hamilton was let out of the trunk, apparently unharmed.

Hamilton told deputies here his assailant was a white male, about 20-25 years old, with long blonde hair, wearing a grey stocking cap, blue denim trousers, and green jacket. The description was 5'4" in height and about 165 pounds.

Deputy George McGuire and a SBI agent picked up Bobby L. Stone, of P.O. Box 1323, Sanford, near the abandoned car after the description of the kidnaper was given by Hamilton, according to the report.

Deputies here reported that Hamilton said "he's the one who robbed me" after viewing Stone at the Hoke sheriff's office.

Hoke County Sheriff D.M. Barrington said Stone was later turned over to Cumberland County authorities.

Major C.C. Kiser of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department said Monday that Stone had been released after Hamilton had failed to identify him.

Kiser indicated he thought the person who did it was either from the Hoke County area, or knew someone from the area.

He said Hamilton was not injured, but said the kidnaper had some kind of weapon.

"The case is still open," said Kiser. He said the case is still under investigation by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Barrington said the assailant will probably be charged with armed robbery and kidnaping when he is caught.

The tear-gas weapon has not been found, Barrington said.

Area Incidents

Shoplifting Try Made

City police are seeking a man believed to be from Fayetteville in connection with the reported attempted theft of a coat from a Raeford department store Saturday.

Police chief Leonard Wiggins said the manager of Macks Variety on Main St., H. Talley, reported a black male about 30 years old was seen leaving the store about 5:45 P.M. with a coat valued at \$17.95. Talley told police the man gave him the coat outside the store and then

left in a burgundy 1973 Oldsmobile.

The incident is under investigation, Wiggins said.

In other city complaints, Thomas (See AREA INCIDENTS, Page 9)

Bar Association Meets

Cumberland Pair Choice For Judge

Coy E. Brewer, Jr. and William Geimer were chosen yesterday by the Hoke and Cumberland Bar

Association for consideration by Gov. Holshouser as District Court judge for the 12th Judicial District. Brewer is the son of Resident Superior Court Judge Coy E. Brewer who died Dec. 12. District Court Judge D.B. Herring, Jr., was named to the Superior Court post last week.

Brewer, Jr. is an assistant district attorney. Geimer is in private

practice in Cumberland County.

It was reported before the 4 P.M. meeting that others under consideration were Don Grimes, Sylvia Allen, Elizabeth Fox, and Neill Fleishman, in addition to Brewer and Geimer.

A Hoke spokesman said here before the meeting that no Hoke County attorneys were actively seeking the post.

Webb Rites Wednesday

John Alvis Webb, longtime member of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, died Sunday night at St. Joseph's Hospital in Southern Pines following a long illness.

Funeral services are scheduled for Wednesday at 2 P.M. at Ashley Heights Baptist Church with Dr. Robert Denton officiating.

Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Webb, 85, was reelected a county commissioner in 1972 after serving 14 years. He previously served as county commissioner from December 1958 to 1960.

A retired farmer, he was a deacon of the Ashley Heights Baptist Church for 25 years.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Julia P. Webb; five sons, Franklin Webb of Wallace, N.C., John Allen Webb of Southport, and Reuben Webb, Clarence Webb, and Otis Webb, all of Raeford; three daughters, Mrs. Ida Lee Vanhoun of Lorain, Ohio, Mrs. Erma Saunders of Reidsville, N.C., and Mrs. Mary Harris of Fayetteville; a brother, Will Webb of Wintworth, N.C.; 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and three

great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Charlie Pendergrass, Billy Lucas, Ronald Webb, Howard Webb, Harold Webb, and Martin Green.

Honorary pallbearers are the past and present county commissioners.



CHRISTMAS GATHERING--Santa Claus (Ashwell Harvard) treated workers at Burlington Friday with Cokes and other refreshments.



J. A. Webb