

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The Super Bowl Sunday in Miami was a game that everyone should have enjoyed very much. The defensive line of the Steelers finally prevailed and Pittsburgh came out on top by the score of 21-17.

The weather was perfect for football, but being in the 50's was not the warm Florida weather that most people were expecting.

The television people went all out to make Super Bowl X a Sunday afternoon that everyone should remember. Over five hours was devoted to the pre-game show, the game and the post-game show. I understand that the cost of advertising was over \$100,000 per minute. With over 70 million people looking, I would say that they got their money's worth.

So the network can start now planning for Super Bowl XI for next year.

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Basketball has also taken over prime time on the tube this winter. With the ACC having seven teams that are about the same, a good game can be expected from any pair that they put on the court.

So if your wife doesn't like sports, do as yours truly did, get a second set for sports.

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During the time of the writing about the National Guard unit J.H. (Buck) Blue passed away. I mention this because Buck was the battery commander of the local unit when it was called into active service in September of 1940. Most of the men of 1938 were still in the outfit at that time.

At the funeral many of the men that were listed in this column last week were standing around the graveside. Buck was a good commander and will always be remembered by the men that served under him.

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Marion Gatlin had the program at the Kiwanis Club last week and had members of Troop 401 present a program on knot tying. It made me feel good to see the interest that the four young Scouts were taking in showing Kiwanians how to tie these knots.

Also it is good to see that the United Fund money that goes for Boy Scouts is being put to good use.

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The old Charlotte Observer received from a reader last week is very interesting. It was dated June 3, 1928. The sports section brings back boyhood memories with the names of Ruth, Ruffing, Seawell, etc. who played during those days.

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The weather for the past two or three days has been below normal. The temperature for Monday and Tuesday mornings was around 10 degrees and this is too cold for me.

As I write this, Tuesday morning, the sun is shining and the reports are that it will get into the 40's today.

Most people are looking forward to warmer weather and hope that it will soon be here.

# Crowd Swells Courtroom To Hear Ex-deputy's Firing

## Sheriff: 'Not Racial' 12 Allegations Listed

Sheriff D.M. Barrington addressed the Hoke County Board of Commissioners and outlined a list of 12 allegations against his ex-deputy Elisha Dial, although not responding directly to Dial's specific charges, also outlined to the commissioners earlier at the Monday night meeting.

Speaking from a prepared text, Barrington said: "I have prepared this written statement for the County Board of Commissioners. This concerns the firing of Elisha Dial. I feel that although I do my own hiring and when necessary, the firing of deputy sheriffs within my Department; that since I have been requested to attend this meeting and I feel that as a matter of courtesy to this County Board and to the citizens of Hoke County, I will give my reasons for Elisha Dial's removal from the office of deputy sheriff. I regret having this task to perform because I feel that it will be embarrassing and detrimental to Elisha Dial and I personally feel that departmental problems should be resolved within the Sheriff's Department without embarrassment to anyone, but if it must be done, it must be done."

"I relieved Dial from his office and duties because of facts and circumstances, which in my opinion, was conduct unbecoming a Police Officer and for failure to carry out the Policy's and procedures of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department. None of these reasons are of a racial nature or have racial overtones."

"After Elisha Dial came to work with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department in March of 1974, I received a complaint that one of my deputies was working during off duty hours at a store in the county where beer was being sold and that he was selling beer during off duty hours. I called Dial into my office and advised him that he would have to make a decision, that I could not allow him to work at this place of business, because I would receive more complaints. Dial told me at that time that he would resign from the place of business, which he did."

"During early 1975, I received a call at my home and was advised that Elisha Dial had gone into the Rockfish Creek area and had contacted a 16 year - old girl and had taken her to a lake in the Hope Mills area. I called Mr. Dial into my office and advised him that I had been contacted by the people of this girl, and that I had talked with my chief deputy who is no longer connected with the Sheriff's Department, and he had confirmed what I had been told on the phone by the people of this young lady. The Chief Deputy had informed me that he had not told me about this because he thought he could talk to Dial and not have to make me aware of what had taken place. I advised Dial that he was a married man and that this could cost his job and I further advised him that even though he was off duty at the time, it would cause complaints and problems within the Department and also public opinions. He advised me that he knew that he had made a mistake and that it would not happen again."

"The next complaint that I received was a report that Dial after the hours of 1:00 A.M. went to the trailer home of a young lady in uniform and driving a police cruiser, had advised this young lady that he was investigating a case and needed to interview her. He then carried her away from her home in the Patrol Car and kept her for approx. three hours before returning to her home. During this time, the girl's sister, called the radio dispatcher on duty and wanted to know where the officer had carried her sister and if she was in jail."

"I received a complaint about this incident the following day. I again called Dial into my Office. His explanation was that he had contacted the girl about some information in an investigation he was conducting. I advised him at that time never to go to the home of a female and place her in a police cruiser alone without another deputy present or without informing me. I further advised him that statements and information should be taken in the Hoke County Sheriff's Office and not in a police cruiser, and that I did not expect to receive any more complaints of this nature. He advised me that he had made a mistake and that it would not happen again."

"My next complaint was from the husband of another young lady who advised me that while he was away from home and after midnight, Elisha Dial had come to his home and had made a pass at his wife and that she had asked him to leave her home, which he did. I again called Mr. Dial into my office and his explanation was that he was investigating an auto larceny and that he had contacted this woman to ask where her husband was and to attempt to obtain information from her. I asked him if he remembered what I had previously told him about having a witness (Deputy Sheriff) with him. He advised me that no one would help him. I then advised him that I was going to expect him to patrol with one of the veteran deputies until further instructions from me."

"About this same time, Dial's sister and brother - in - law began having family problems and he was becoming involved in their problems. I advised Dial that another deputy would have to serve warrants or perform the investigations when it involved his family and in - laws, and explained that if not, it would lead to problems. I instructed him not to become involved. He did not follow these instructions."

"The next complaint was from the Auto Theft Bureau of the Department of Motor Vehicles. An investigator came to me and advised me that Dial was being

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Neil W. McPhatter

## McPhatter Is Choice

Rev. Neil W. McPhatter was the unanimous choice of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Monday night to fill out the vacancy on the board created by the death of Commissioner J.A. Webb.

The vote, taken by secret ballot, was announced by clerk T.B. Lester as four votes for McPhatter.

McPhatter, 52, was one of three nominees submitted by the Democratic executive committee earlier this month.

McPhatter, who was sworn into office Tuesday morning, is a building contractor and pastor of St. Andrew's Holiness Church in Tylertown. He is a member of the county planning board and serves as treasurer of the Hoke County Civic League, a ministerial association.

"I am gratified, and I do plan to run (for a permanent seat) in the next election", he said Tuesday.

An Allendale township resident, McPhatter has been active in Democratic policies and is interested in public schools.

Mrs. McPhatter is employed by the Hoke High School as an attendance counselor.

The couple has four children. Mrs. Johnnie Mae Moraven, a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, is employed by the Hartford (Conn.) public schools. Mrs. Betty Redmon, also a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, is employed as a secretary in Oakland, Cal. Wesley O. McPhatter is a graduate of A&T University in Greensboro and is an insurance adjuster in Norristown, Pa.

Another daughter, Mrs. Helen McNeill, is employed by Burlington Industries here.

## Stalemate On Armory

A joint meeting of the Raeford City Council and Hoke County Commissioners to discuss the construction of a new National Guard Armory ended Monday night without any decision after both groups could not reach an agreement on who will bear the greater share of the costs involved.

City council members agreed during a brief caucus to pay 25 per cent if the county pays 75 per cent, while the commissioners announced they had agreed on a 50-50 split.

"We appear to be at a stalemate", chairman of the commissioners Ralph Barnhart said after some discussion with neither side yielding.

Local costs were estimated to be about \$58,000, not including land purchase, according to Col. Elbert McPhaul, of the engineering office of the Adjutant General's office of the National Guard.

Under a federal assistance program designed to replace older and outdated Armory facilities, localities are required to provide a minimum five acre tract of land on water and sewer connections and assume 12.5 per cent of construction costs.

McPhaul described the new unit as 18,000 total square feet at a cost of \$464,000. Under a "reversion clause", the old Armory building on

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## County Commissioners: 'No Jurisdiction'

A crowd of over one hundred people, mostly Indians, packed the courtroom in the courthouse Monday night and heard ex-deputy Elisha Dial outline charges of discrimination and wrongdoing within the sheriff's department concerning Sheriff D.M. Barrington, while Barrington countered with a list of 12 charges, including suspected criminal activity, against Dial.

The crowd, which began forming about an hour before the scheduled 8:30 P.M. meeting, was orderly, but police sources said earlier they were prepared in the event of any incidents.

County commissioners, who had scheduled the ex-deputy matter at Dial's request as part of a special meeting, had to move it to the courtroom because of the swelling crowd.

Dial, 26, who was fired from his job Jan. 8 and immediately charged that he was fired because he is Indian, distributed copies of a two page letter to the commissioners after the crowd was told the commissioners had no jurisdiction in the matter, they were only there to listen.

County attorney Charles Hosteller read from the statute, at Barnhart's direction, and told the crowd the sheriff can hire or fire anyone under the law, and the county board has no power to overrule him except through budgetary matters.

"No questions or statements will be heard from the audience", Barnhart warned before Dial began speaking.

Along with his letter, Dial provided each commissioner with a photocopy of a traffic ticket issued in August, 1974, to Claudine K. Hodgins, the then - 37 year - old daughter of the late Sheriff D.H. Hodgins.

"My troubles started in August, 1974, when I arrested the wrong person. I arrested the daughter of the last sheriff for drunk driving. She blew .22. Sheriff Barrington ordered me to release this woman because he owed it to her father", Dial told the courtroom.

A photocopy of the Breathalyzer reading, dated Aug. 18, 1974 and signed Off. C.E. Campbell, was also given each commissioner.

"If you check the records in the courthouse, you will see this woman paid a \$16 fine for driving on the road side of the road", Dial continued.

"From that time on, they wanted me gone from there. I just made up my mind I wasn't going to quit", he said.

Dial told the commissioners that he had been discriminated against because of his race, not because of his work, chiefly on the part of another deputy, J.E. Lamont, who became Chief Deputy following the resignation of Harvey Young last year.

"He came to work last Thursday morning and said good morning to everyone, but he doesn't speak to me. He asks me why I don't give him information about stolen merchandise from Robeson County. I said, I did, and I gave the information to (deputy) Norton". He cursed me and said it was a lie... told me to get the hell in the other room and sit down. I said 'Maybe I don't want to sit down', he said, 'Go the hell home'." Dial said.

"I said I'm not going home until the sheriff gets here, he was going to come in 20 minutes. He cursed me again so I went out and left. I was called back in and that's when Sheriff Barrington fired me", Dial said.

"Lamont has been working to get me fired since he has been there. He has said that I was stealing, he told the Sheriff I was stealing, he has told the sheriff things about me and women that are not true", Dial said.

"Yet when Lamont wrecked a police car in Robeson County with a girl in the car with him, nothing is said about it", Dial said.

In his written statement, Dial said there were several instances when Indians living nearby his home were picked up and questioned about Dial's part in any crimes.

"I went to the sheriff about this and he said 'I can't say anything to Lamont because it will make things worse'. In the meantime, things got worse. I called Lamont and (deputy) Riley to help me get a man out of a house in Antioch, and they refused", Dial stated.

Back in November 1975, the sheriff was getting ready to send me and (deputy) James Peterkin to pin (Police Information Network) school, and Lamont jumped up and said, 'If Dial is going to be around long enough to go to pin school, I am', because this man won't speak to me", Dial continued.

"On Jan. 1, 1976, I was working on a case where some batteries were stolen...I asked Lamont to help me on the case, he refused, but a short time later he jumped up and cursed me out because I asked Riley how to fill out a paper to show that I turned the batteries back to their owner", Dial continued.

Dial said after the meeting that a suit against the county will definitely be filed, charging racial discrimination in his firing.

State Representative Henry Ward Oxendine, who was in the audience, said

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## New Medical Bldg. Slated

Raeford physician R.G. Townsend confirmed plans to build a new medical building and move his office from its Campus Ave. location, but no date for the anticipated move has been set.

Townsend said he also hopes to attract "one or two" other physicians for a group practice in the new medical arts building.

"I am planning to build an

office, but no plans have been finalized," Townsend said Monday.

Townsend said he has acquired a one acre tract on S. Main St. near the Kait-Away plant. No purchase price was disclosed.

Townsend said architectural plans for the building have not been finalized yet.

## Voter Registration Ends Feb. 23 For Primary

The deadline to register to vote in the presidential preference primary March 23 is Feb. 23, the Hoke County Board of Elections announced.

Voters must register as either Republican or Democrat in order to cast a ballot in the primary. All voters, however, will be able to vote on the constitutional amendments and the state bond referendum.

Executive Secretary Rose Sturgeon advises anyone who has not voted since 1968 to check with the elections office to see if they are still

registered. Also, anyone who has had a change of address since registering must notify the office of the new address.

"In order to vote, you must be registered in the correct precinct according to residency", she said. Deadline for applying for absentee ballots is 5 P.M. Feb. 23.

The Buchanan precinct polling place will be changed, Mrs. Sturgeon also announced. Location of the new polling will be given at a later date.

All other polling places will remain the same.



A SATURDAY SNOW - A light blanket of snow fell in Raeford Saturday, but did not last long as most of it had melted by 5 P.M.