

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Jonah Brown, who now lives in Charlotte, was by the office last Wednesday afternoon. He was with Robert Gatlin, a classmate of Jonah's in the twenties at Raeford High School. He was a star athlete at the high school playing in all sports. His class was in 1927.

His health is good and he left the office with Gatlin to look up old high school buddies.

It is always good to see old friends and recall many events of the past years.

Furman O. Clark, head of the Hoke County Soil Conservation Service office, is retiring after over 29 years of service. "Shorty" as he is known to most of us here was in the office last week and asked if I would print the following letter.

Dear Sam:

In the past, when it came time to prepare an article for The News-Journal, I found it to be a rather easy task. Now, with retirement staring me in the face, I find it very difficult to express my feelings.

To summarize the several attempts I have already made, I would like to say to everyone in Hoke County and neighboring territory which I have worked, Thanks! for the wonderful memories that remain after an all too short career of our twenty-nine years with the most wonderful people in the world.

Furman O. (Shorty) Clark

It doesn't happen every year but ever so often Thursday will be a special day and a special writer will appear in the columns of The News-Journal. This week we have a couple of articles by Sloof Lirpa which we hope the readers will enjoy.

The Raeford Kiwanis Club was entertained by a belly dancer last Thursday night. Lawrence Bounds was in charge of the program and he had invited the ladies to also come for the program.

The cultural dance was performed by a minister's wife from Laurinburg and the mother of four children. She stated that she had taken up the dance while living in Atlanta, Ga. and she found it very enjoyable. According to her the minister also enjoyed the dance.

The program was well received by the club members and their wives.

The club also needs a few more members to replace some who have moved away. So for the best programs, join the Raeford Kiwanis Club.

The weather man was in fine form again this past weekend and I believe most folks in Hoke County were enjoying the nice weather. With Easter over two weeks away it is almost impossible to think that this will continue.

Someone told me Saturday that lightning bugs were out last Friday night and that he also heard a whippoorwill calling. Now this is certainly a sign that warm weather is here.

Let's hope so anyway.

April Week Begins Celebration

A week-long festival to celebrate the Bicentennial in advance of the Fourth of July holiday has been announced by the Hoke County Bicentennial Commission and the Raeford Womens Club and Junior Womens Club.

Dates for the "Hoke County Festival Week" are April 26-30, Monday through Friday. Each day has been given a special designation and activities will focus on a separate facet of community life.

Souvenir tiles with sketches of the county seal, the old Dr. McLean house, Bethel Church, the old Raeford Institute building, and the county courthouse will be ready for sale at \$2 each by the April week, publicity director Dayna Pate announced.

Robert Gatlin, chairman of the Heritage part of the Bicentennial celebration here, will present his extensive slide collection detailing the history of the county during the Festival Week. The slides, along with the taped commentary, will become a permanent part of the new library now under construction, which is Hoke's official Bicentennial project.

The complete schedule for the festival is:

Monday, April 26 Industry Day

Businesses in the community will be planning tours and exhibits to show their products, and in some cases, their production techniques. Businesses which have been contacted are Burlington, Knit-Away, Hoke Concrete, Tex-Elastic, House of Raeford Farms, Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing, Ratley's Honey, Carolina Turf, Tarheel Hatcheries, and Goza Breeding Farms.

In instances where exhibit space is needed, the Commission will need to rent. (Civic Center or Armory)

Tuesday, April 27 Government Day

Emphasis on citizenship will be spotlighted by the Kiwanis Club. There will be an essay contest with cash awards for junior high school students on "What It Means To Be An American".

There may be tours of local government buildings, the new county offices, the courthouse, or the jail. Also planned are special visits to the schools by law enforcement personnel and firemen with their equipment.

A "Citizenship Night" will be sponsored by the Kiwanians with readings of winning essays, patriotic speeches, and the presentation of a special citizenship award.

Wednesday, April 28 School Day

Each school is making special plans for celebrating this day ranging from a greased pig chase, physical education contest, and dancing to the viewing of a mobile museum. The museum has American costumes and weapons depicting the nation's past, particularly the War Between the States conflict. Costumes and contests will be the order of the day.

Thursday, April 29 Old Timey Day

The senior citizens and local merchants will team up to give the community an air of "days gone by". There will be an exhibit of crafts of yesteryear planned by the senior citizens in the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church during the day. Visitors will be able to watch quilting, candlemaking, soapmaking, woodcarving, and weaving.

The merchants have been asked to wear Revolutionary era clothing, fly their flags, and dress store windows with a Bicentennial theme. On this day beards and costume contests will be appropriate.

The Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad and the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad

Accident Brings Suit

City, School Board Named Defendants

The City of Raeford and the Hoke County Board of Education have been named defendants in a suit resulting from an accident which occurred last October when a Raeford youth on a motorbike

collided with a fence erected by the Hoke County school system on Bethel Road and narrowly escaped serious injury.

The youth, Steven H. Wilburn, of 317 W. Third Ave., Raeford, suffered head injuries and lacerations and was admitted to Moore Memorial Hospital following the accident.

The suit, filed by Mrs. Norma Wilburn on the behalf of her son, alleges that the defendants are guilty of negligence.

It contends that the defendants failed to maintain the streets of the municipality in a safe manner, erected the fence across Bethel Road, maintained the fence without adequate supervision and control, and did not provide reflectors or warning devices that could serve

as a warning to the public of the danger of the fence.

It also contends that the defendants failed to secure the fence when it was not in use.

The suit alleges that due to the negligence of the defendants, the motorbike was destroyed and Wilburn was knocked unconscious and suffered injuries that may be permanent.

The suit asks for \$5,000 for personal injuries, and \$300 for damages to the motorbike.

Hoke County School Supt. G. Raz Autry said that he had checked the situation out very thoroughly from the school's standpoint.

"I didn't find any negligence on the part of the high school," he said.

Rates Jump 69%

Phone Merge Halts Pending Study

The State Utilities Commission balked at the proposed merger of the Raeford-Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg telephone exchanges after Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. suggested rate increases which would hike Raeford phone bills by 69 percent under the plan.

The commission ordered a cost study prepared on the merger after CT&T Monday proposed the sharply increased rates, using a formula recently devised by the commission.

The proposed new rates for the toll-free link included:

A \$4.05 monthly increase for single-party residential service in Raeford;

A 70-cent monthly increase for single-party residential service in Fayetteville;

An \$8.40 monthly increase for single-party business service in Raeford;

A \$1.30 monthly increase for single-party business service in Fayetteville.

A CT&T spokesman said last month the company would propose only a flat 50 cent hike for

"I feel that someone either deliberately or accidentally removed the chain on the gate," he added.

Autry said a committee sent from Raleigh in 1974 made a survey of the situation and stated that the open road was "not desirable from an educational and safety point of view".

He added that the committee suggested that the road be closed permanently, or at least during school hours.

"It's been a real sore spot for a long time," he said.

Autry said reflectors and bolts have been put on the gates since the accident.

"I feel very strongly that the road should be closed," he concluded.

Fayetteville subscribers and a \$1.15 increase for Raeford subscribers, based on distance between the two exchanges.

The company did propose those amounts, however, a second factor, the size of a telephone network, created the jump.

The commission sets telephone rates based on the size of the network and adding Raeford's

Royalty Visiting

Raeford will be host today to Queen Akhisar Bahr el Ghazal, ruling monarch of the Republic of Ynasa, and the royal party during a stopover here on the Queen's 11 day tour of North and South Carolina, it was announced Tuesday.

The Queen's party is scheduled to land at Raeford Airport at 11 A.M., where she will be greeted by city and county dignitaries. A group of Girl Scouts will present with a bouquet.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten and first grade will be held April 5, 6, 7, from 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., at West Hoke, Scurlock, and J.W. McLaughlin Schools.

A child registering for kindergarten must be five years old.

A child registering for first grade must be six (6) years old.

A complete shot record and birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration.

A child who is presently enrolled in public kindergarten does not need to be re-registered for first grade.

For more information call the school in your district.

Beards Unite

If you would like to join the Brothers of the Bush and wear a name tag while growing a beard or mustache for the Hoke County Bicentennial Celebration, there are 500 membership cards available at the office of Carson Davis, Jr., 501 Harris Ave. for \$2 each.

The money will be used to pay for the name tags and the balance placed in the H.C. Bicentennial Treasury for expenses of the Celebration.

City, County Boards Meet Next Week

The city council will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday at 7:30 P.M. in the conference room of the municipal building.

A public hearing on the proposed rate hike requested by Raeford Cablevision is scheduled as part of the meeting.

County commissioners will also hold their regular meeting Monday beginning at 9 A.M. in the courthouse annex.

They will also sit as the Board of Equalization and Review to hear requests for adjustments in tax appraisals.

All sessions are fully open to the public.

Tax Totaled

Local sales and use tax collections in Hoke County for February amounted to \$19,040.06, according to state revenue officials.

Statewide total for the month was \$9,492,782.42.

New Armory Building Eyed At Three Areas

The five member land search committee appointed last month to screen prospective sites for the construction of the proposed new National Guard facility here has come up with three locations, member Tom McBryde said.

The area of the old airport north of Robbins Heights, a parcel on Hwy. 211 south, and a section on Hwy. 401-bypass opposite the school bus garage are under construction by the committee, McBryde said.

Verbal promises to sell were given by T.B. Upchurch and Agnes Johnson Campbell, who own sections north of the Robbins Heights development, McBryde said.

"We haven't got any options, and we haven't discussed price," he said.

The rest of the committee, county manager T.B. Lester, city

manager Robert Drumwright, city attorney Palmer Willcox, and county commissioner John Balfour, is expected to meet with Col. Elbert McPhaul of the Adjutant General's office of the National Guard for an inspection of the proposed locales.

Raeford is one of the cities with outdated Guard facilities which may become eligible for a share of state and federal funds for construction of a new Armory. Local costs of the project, which will be shared 75-25 by the city and county governments, respectively, were estimated at \$58,000 earlier this year, not including land acquisition and utilities outlay.

Under the plan, the old Armory on Central Ave. will be turned back to the county for use.

A minimum five acre tract with city water and sewer located on a paved roadway is required.



The McLean house, the home of the Edinborough Medical College, is one of five scenes chosen for the souvenir tiles to be sold in April.

A large meal is planned so that the entire community can be welcome to eat and socialize together. The food may be prepared by several groups and efforts will be made that everyone will get a meal. Individuals should pay a nominal cost, but plans are that the meal will be underwritten so that the cost would not be prohibitive for large families.

During the meal, and into the evening, fiddlers will be playing for entertainment and dancing. The Swingers of Hoke County will perform square dancing.

July 3-4

The second part of the county celebration is scheduled July 3, when Hoke will be represented in the state parade at Raleigh.

The Raeford Fire Department has agreed to send the 1926 LaFrance fire truck if necessary funds can be found for making repairs needed.

The final celebration is planned for July 4 with the dedication of the new Bicentennial library in the afternoon and a countywide festival in the evening.

Each of the 56 churches in the county will be asked to observe their own religious heritage on the day.

A song extravaganza, a movie, and a display of fireworks put on by the Raeford Fire Department will cap off the day.