

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The much needed rain came to Raeford and Hoke County last Friday and Saturday. From all reports anywhere from 1.5 to 2 inches of rain fell here. This helped crops and gardens very much but some more is needed.

The weather forecast doesn't predict any rain for the next several days but this could change.

Robert Gatlin, treasurer for the Hoke Bicentennial Commission, was by the office last week and showed me a check that was turned in to him by a committee worker for the Commission. It is hard to believe but the check was for \$17.76. Stranger things have happened.

Ashwell Howard of the Raeford Lions Club said Monday that they had to yield to the rain the past weekend. The Lions golf tournament was postponed Saturday morning when the welcomed rain came and some golfers were ready to tee off.

The tournament will be played Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23. The tee times that were designated for last weekend will be respected according to Harward.

There are still openings for players who could not play last weekend. So if you want to play May 22 and 23 in the Lions Tournament get in touch with Raz Autry or Ashwell Harward.

Jesse Gullidge came by the office last week with a Postmaster's Account and Record Book for the Raeford Post Office for 1909-1910. The office was listed as Cumberland County, this being before Hoke was formed. The postmaster was D.J. Currie and the clerk was J.C. Currie.

Jesse wanted to know who these people were related to and where did they live in the county. I would like to know where the post office building was located in 1909.

Someone said the Postmaster Currie could be related to Mrs. Scott McFadyen, Nee Hattie Currie, now of Fayetteville. I believe Mrs. McFadyen takes the paper and I would appreciate hearing from her about this matter.

The book is in good shape and gives the number of stamps sold each day, names of people who had mail returned, etc. It is very interesting and history buffs will enjoy looking at it.

Anyone who can answer the questions concerning the office and postmaster, please write or call.

Bicentennial Week was very successful and the following letter is from the co-chairman. The letter follows:

Dear Sam, The Bicentennial Commission would like to thank all those who participated in making the Hoke County Festival week a success.

When one reflects on the week and estimates the hours and efforts so many individuals, organizations, businesses and schools put into making the festival possible, it gives us the real meaning of Bicentennial.

For the past several months we have seen people of different races, different religions, different ages, men, women and children working together to honor our Country and the people who made it possible for us to be one of the 100 counties in North Carolina.

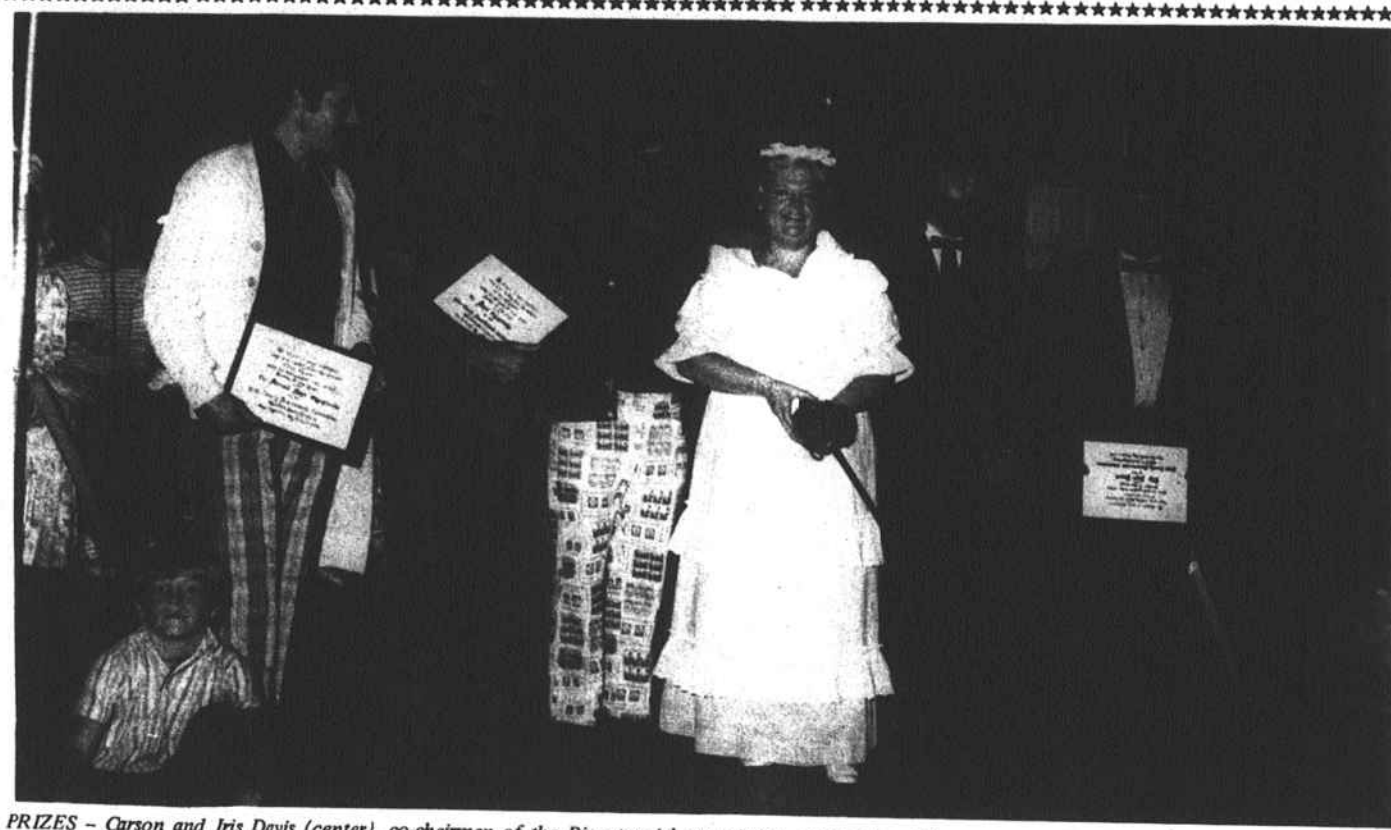
The Commission encourages each citizen to join in the final celebration on Sunday, July 4th, 1976 through church services, the dedication of the new Hoke County Library and the county-wide celebration on Sunday night.

Most sincerely, Carson and Iris Davis

The Bicentennial Committee still has tiles left and they can be purchased at the library or by contacting Mr. or Mrs. Carson Davis, Jr.

## New Firehouse, Offices

# \$200,000 Bond Issue Looms



PRIZES - Carson and Iris Davis (center), co-chairmen of the Bicentennial commission, presented certificates to winners Friday night. On left are Dale Hari (second place mustache) and Jerry Goza (first place mustache). On right are Danny DeVane (second place beard) and Jessie Lee (first place beard).

A \$200,000 bond issue to finance a new fire station and re-modeling of city hall offices on Main St. will be put to the voters, the full city council unanimously agreed during their Monday night meeting.

A proposed sketch of the city hall expansion prepared by Austin Associates of Southern Pines was shown to councilmen with cost estimates given as: \$144,000 for new fire station, \$12,000 for tearing down present fire station, \$131,000 for remodeling and enlarging police department and municipal offices, \$25,000 for parking area and landscaping, and \$29,000 architect's fee.

City manager Robert Drumwright estimated the costs to the city on \$200,000 worth of bonds at a five per cent interest rate on a 20 year FHA loan at about \$16,000 per year, principal and interest. Yearly cost on a 25 year loan would be about \$14,000.

For a municipality to incur debt, the issue must be voted upon by the people, and Drumwright explained if the amount of debt exceeds \$150,000 both proposals, the new fire station and new city hall offices, would have to be approved separately.

"I'd say you can get \$200,000 passed just as easy as \$150,000," councilman Graham Clark said.

Next step for the city is to notify the Local Government Commission about proceeding with the proposed bond issue.

In other matters, the council heard a report from city attorney Palmer Willcox on procedures for condemnation and removal of sub-standard dwellings, and then gave verbal approval to Drumwright and building inspector Bill Sellers to go ahead with plans, since the city council is not directly involved except in cases issuing an order to demolish a structure.

Under the city code, the building inspector may give notice to an owner of condemnation and then schedule a date for a hearing before the board of appeals, or five citizens may petition for condemnation.

"If you don't have any objections, we're going to start looking around," Drumwright told the council.

"All you got to do is start getting cussed, the council doesn't have to act," councilman Sam C. Morris told Sellers.

"Don't come hollering to us," Clark said.

"If we get into this, and apply it equally, we'll tear down about 15 to 25 per cent of Raeford. I'm talking about everything, buildings, businesses, warehouses," councilman David Lovette said.

"There's a whole block that's going to be decimated," councilman Benny McLeod said.

In other business, the council heard a report from Drumwright on the estimated costs of beginning commercial garbage service with a dumpster system and then agreed

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## Young And Old Enjoy Festival Days

Rain showers Friday lessened the number of visitors to the Armory grounds for an agricultural fair but failed to dampen the week-long Bicentennial spirit of young and old alike as Hoke County Festival Week wound up with old-fashioned music and entertainment Friday night.

An estimated 500-600 persons

gathered at the Armory in the evening, the highlight of which was the long-awaited beard and mustache judging.

Jesse Lee and Danny DeVane won first and second place honors, respectively, for best looking Bicentennial beards, and Jerry Goza and Dale Hart received first and second place prizes for their mustaches.

Industries, local government, schools, senior citizens and agriculture all received special focus during the week, which was organized through the combined efforts of the Hoke County Bicentennial Commission and the Raeford Woman's Club.

Joining local officials for the Citizenship and Government

evening program Tuesday were State Representatives Joy Johnson, David Parnell and Henry Ward Oxendine, who delivered brief remarks to a crowd of about 150 people.

A special Citizenship Award was presented posthumously to R.B.

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## Monthly Agendas 'Too Long'

# County Board Opts For Two Sessions

County commissioners agreed agendas for their monthly meetings are becoming too long and decided to begin holding regular meetings twice a month during their Monday meeting.

The five member board agreed to continue with 9 A.M. meetings on the first Monday of every month and also hold an evening meeting on the third Monday of every month.

"Most of the other counties have gone to it," county manager T.B. Lester told the group. The change in schedule is to go into effect beginning this month.

In other business, the operator of a city rest home requested payment from the county of the special assistance for adults funds which were increased twice by the state but have not been paid.

Open Arms owner John Leandro appeared and requested payment

of a \$30 per resident increase and a second increase of \$14 per resident, monthly hikes approved by the state last year, and distributed copies of an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding counties' obligation to pay this increase.

"Other counties are trying to hold it back, but it can't be done," Leandro said. He requested \$1,008 retroactive from six months ago to cover his eligible patients.

Director of Social Services Benjamin Niblock disputed Leandro's claims.

"The important thing is, Mr. Webb, the man in the Attorney General's office, didn't go into it deeply enough. It is not mandatory (to pay)," Niblock told the commissioners.

"The Attorney General's opinions are just that, opinions, they're not legally binding...I'm not argu-

ing about the merits of the increase, but I got the word along with other departments to hold the line on expenditures. This would be more like \$1,200 to implement," he said.

"How do you arrive at that?" Leandro asked.

"Administrative costs, people taking time to do it," he responded.

Another increase in the assistance program, which are ordered due to cost-of-living increases, is slated for next Jan. 1, and Niblock acknowledged he had provided for that expenditure in preparing his coming year budget.

"They should have been planned in the present budget," Leandro said.

"The legislature likes to sneak in the last day and give an increase which has nothing to do with minimum wage increases. I'm not here to argue, I still contend it's optional," Niblock said.

Commissioners took no action on the matter Monday. County attorney Charles Hostetler, who arrived late, was not present during the discussion.

Also during the meeting, commissioners voted to appropriate \$2,500 to each of the rural volunteer fire departments out of the coming year's federal revenue sharing funds allotment of \$163,651.

In other action, the commissioners:

Approved a \$11.75 per hour contract with A.K. Lovin Co.,

## C of C Ousts Manager

Chamber of Commerce manager J.H. (Buddy) Blue Jr. turned in his resignation as manager at the request of the Chamber's board of directors following their meeting last Thursday night.

Blue's termination as manager was ordered effective last Friday, an action which Chamber President Dick Lovett termed "in the best interests of all concerned".

"He was requested by the board to resign", Lovett said Tuesday. The reason given by Lovett was "incompatibility with the job".

"At the time he was hired, it was understood to be probationary employment. Buddy had varied and diversified interests in the community that could result in a conflict of interest with the overall objective of the Chamber of Commerce," Lovett said.

"Credit should be given to him for his fact-finding work on the extended area telephone service, medical health care services for the county, and his assistance and

interest in the community development funds application", Lovett added.

"The major shortcoming, in my opinion, was promotion of Chamber membership. He devoted time to big projects and the board's feelings were this year's efforts should be directed toward image-building and communication among the members. Not enough was done", Lovett said.

Lovett also announced ex-Chamber manager Harold Gillis, who left the job last year, has been called in to assist with Chamber affairs and help with the annual banquet planned for May 17, until June 1.

"Under no circumstances is he to be considered a temporary manager, or anything. He is definitely not a replacement, he doesn't want the job", Lovett said.

Contacted Tuesday, Blue declined to be quoted in remarks concerning the firing.

## Band Concert May 11, 8 PM

The Hoke High band will present their spring concert Tuesday, May 11 at 8 P.M. in the Hoke gymnasium. Admission is free and the public is invited.

# Board Approves Tri-diploma System

A high school tri-diploma system that would divide the school curriculum into three areas, was approved by the Hoke County Board of Education at their regular meeting Monday night.

According to Hoke High Principal Allen Edwards, beginning in 1978, graduating seniors will receive either an honor, career, or general diploma.

He said the honor diploma will require 12 honor courses (college prep English, chemistry, etc.) in 1978 and 14 honor courses in 1979. He said about fifteen percent of the seniors would probably receive this diploma.

He said the second diploma would be called a career diploma and would require ten career courses in 1978 (bricklaying, electricity, textiles, etc.) and 12 in 1979.

Edwards said the general diploma will be the same as it is now with 18 units required to graduate.

He stressed that the ultimate decision would be left up to the

student as to which course he would like to take.

The board also passed the use of a quality point system to begin at Hoke High next year.

Edwards said this would be used to "equally compare students in the senior class for rank purposes".

In other action, the board approved the 1976-77 school calendar, which has school starting for students Sept. 7, and finishing June 10.

The board accepted a low bid of \$29,602 for replacing the windows at Raeford Elementary School.

The board also approved a policy that would not allow a person to become a bus driver until he has had his drivers license for a full year. A provision was made for the present drivers who would not qualify under the policy.

Jane Brookshire, Ellen Harris, Eva Mae Carpenter, Rhonda Cameron, and Shirley Gibson were approved by the board as teachers for the 1976-77 school year.

In final action, twenty-two teachers were approved for career status.