

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather still hasn't become normal as far as I am concerned. These cool nights are not the best for growing crops and it would seem that the rain could let up for a few days.

Of course this is wishful thinking because Mark Twain said years ago "that everybody talks about the weather but can't do anything about it."

Enough said.

The once rained out Raeford Lions Club Golf tournament was played the past weekend and the weather was perfect for it.

Ashwell Harward stated Monday that the tournament was a big success with 146 golfers playing in the event. He thinks it is next to the largest group to play in a Lions tournament.

Pictures of the winners by flights can be found elsewhere in the paper.

Congratulations again to Kathy McMillan for a successful track meet. She placed first in the Martin Luther King games in Atlanta, Ga. over the weekend.

Kathy was also on television and many here in Hoke County tuned in and saw her talking to Herb Cross the CBS announcer.

Now on to the Olympics, Kathy!

The new Hoke County library will be dedicated on July 4, 1976 and a big day is planned for this event. The library is the Bicentennial project for Hoke County and many days of hard work by many has made this project successful.

The News-Journal will print a Bicentennial issue on July 1, 1976 and the history of Raeford and Hoke County along with history of industrial plants and businesses will be included.

Work has already begun on this issue and someone will be calling on you before long to give you a chance to participate. We don't want to leave anyone out so if you haven't been contacted in a couple of weeks give us a call.

This issue will take time, both yours and the newspaper, but it should be well worth the effort. So be on the lookout for Ann Webb, Marty Vega or Mike Steadman.

A telephone call last Sunday night at home concerned the false alarm that was called in to the fire station. The caller was somewhat irritated at being interrupted from a program but was more peeved at the number of non-firemen that answered the call.

When the firemen arrived at the house designated by the caller and found it to be a false alarm it was impossible to return home because of the people who blocked traffic between the house and the fire station.

The hard way to stop this ever happening is to give tickets to all followers of the fire truck if they are not firemen. This may seem harsh but did you ever stop to think that the firemen you get in the way of could be going to save your house. Think about this!

Sunday, of course, is a bad time for a fire when about everyone is off work but it is hard for the firemen to do their job with onlookers being in the way.

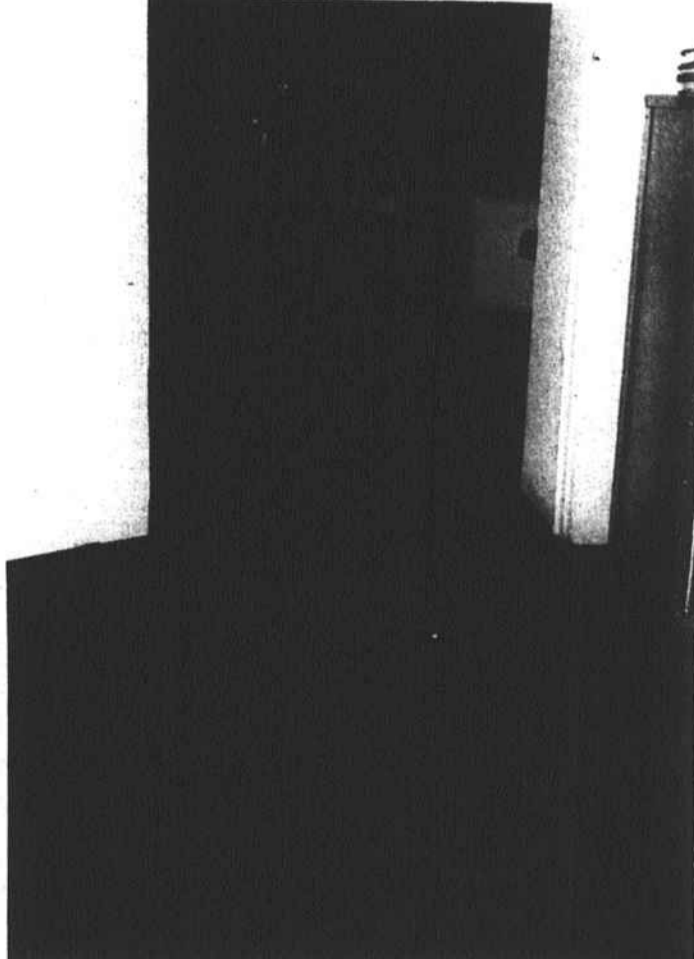
So next time the whistle blows just run the TV up and forget about it if you are not a member of the fire department. If given a ticket it could cost over \$25.

## Sr. Citizens Meet June 1

The Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club will meet at the Raeford United Methodist Church on Tuesday, June 1 at 2:30 P.M. senior citizens coordinator Josephine Hall announced.

W.P. Phillips will give a demonstration on rooting shrubs. Members are asked to bring plants to exchange.

Members who have not yet signed up for the discount program may do so at the meeting.



NEW CARPETING-Workmen labored over the weekend to install carpeting in courtroom offices so business would not be disrupted. The county accepted a \$1,483 low bid from Heilig-Meyers for carpet for the highway patrol's office, the probation and parole office, and the main area of the clerk of court's office.

## Barrington's Removal Sought, Judge Hears Action Tuesday

A group of seven citizens, including ex-deputy sheriff Elisha Dial, has filed a civil action in Superior Court here charging Sheriff D.M. Barrington with misconduct and seeking his removal from office.

A special session of Superior Court is calendered for next Tuesday, June 1, here with Judge James H. Pou Bailey to hear the proceeding.

The action, entitled "State of North Carolina vs. David M. Barrington," was filed last Wednesday with the Clerk of Court under a law which allows any five qualified voters of the county to petition for removal from office certain elected officials.

The document, with notarized signatures, alleges "the undersigned... has a probable cause to believe that on or about the 18th of August, 1974, at 1 a.m. the defendant did unlawfully and willfully breach his oath of office, to wit: the while in the duty of Sheriff of Hoke County, the defendant did order a traffic citation issued by a deputy sheriff to be reduced to a lesser offense, that was from driving under the influence to careless and reckless driving, this being in violation of G.S. 128-16 (2)."

## Economic Growth 'Priority', O'Herron Tells Lions Club

Declaring that the state can no longer "sit on the sidelines", Democratic candidate for Governor Ed O'Herron pledged to establish a special economic development office which would be a top priority in his administration in an address to the Raeford Lions Club Monday night.

"North Carolina is now ranked 41st among the 50 states in per capita income. Despite the fact that less than a year ago the General Assembly found 'there exists in the state a critical condition of unemployment and a scarcity of employment opportunities', North Carolina's top leadership has responded very poorly," O'Herron said.

"My administration will be dedicated and designed to lift North Carolina from the economic doldrums and elevate the quality of life for people here," he said.

"There must be renewed emphasis on sound economic development," he told the crowd of about 45.

O'Herron outlined a nine-point

program of economic development, including creating a privately financed Governor's Economic Development Foundation to assist in programs. He said he intended, if elected, to find the best qualified director to head up the development office and give the office top priority.

O'Herron, a Charlotte businessman, announced his candidacy last February and officially filed May 20 for the gubernatorial race. He served three terms in the General Assembly in the 1950's as a representative of Mecklenburg County. Later he was a member of the State Advisory Budget Commission and more recently was a member of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission.

O'Herron spent the day campaigning in Robeson County before the Lions Club speech here.

## 17 Year-olds May Register

Seventeen year-olds who will reach age 18 by the November election may register to vote beginning June 18, the board of elections announced.

Seventeen year-olds may register June 18-July 19 as long as the birthday falls on or before Nov. 2, 1976. Proof of age is required to be shown.

The elections office also announced the filing period for candidates for soil and water conservation district supervisors closes at noon on July 2.

## Armory Site Gets OK, Land To Cost \$40,000

## GOP Challenger In County Race

J.H. (Buddy) Blue, Jr., a real estate broker and ex-Chamber of Commerce manager, filed last week as a Republican candidate for county commissioner in the August primary.

Blue, 44, is the only Republican candidate so far in the contest for two seats on the county board up for re-election this year. Democrats Neil McPhatter, an incumbent, and challenger Charlie Pendergrass have already filed as candidates. Incumbent Tom McBryde is not seeking another term.

Blue grew up in Hoke County and graduated from Hoke High School. He attended N.C. State University and the University of Georgia. He had been employed as manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce from last year until this month when the Chamber directors requested his resignation, citing differences of opinion.

This is Blue's first bid for public office. His father, the late J.H. Blue Sr., served as a Democratic county commissioner in the 1950's and '60's.



J.H. Blue

Blue expressed concern over the county's financial future in announcing his candidacy.

"Hoke County is entering a financial crisis. The demand and costs of services are rising much faster than our tax base is expanding. For example, last year our tax base was \$152 million, this year it is \$150 million," Blue said.

"The increases requested in the budget, if granted, would raise the tax rate to \$1.20 - we're already in the top 30 counties as far as tax rate. In all probability, by the end of this year, we'll be in the top 20," he said.

"We need to examine the budget very carefully. We've got to expand our tax base, essentially, we've got to have more industry here," he said.

Although no Republican candidate has ever been elected a county commissioner here, Blue said he feels he has a good chance.

"In this day and time, people don't make the judgment as much on party as they do on candidates themselves. I expect to win. I feel the overwhelming majority of people here in Hoke County want a progressive county commissioner. Party is not that big a factor," he continued.

Blue has been active in Republican party affairs for about 15 years. His wife, Alice, is employed by the Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health Services. They have one daughter, age five.

Deadline for filing is noon on Friday, May 28. If Blue has no opposition, no Republican primary will be necessary.

## Field Now At Four In School Race

The field of candidates vying for two seats on the board of education grew to four last week with the filing of two incumbents and the wife of a city councilman.

Incumbents D.R. Huff, Jr. and A. Wilton Wood Jr. both officially filed with the board of elections for places on the November non-partisan ballot. Huff, board chairman, has served 23 years. Wood has served for 15 years.

Catherine (Kay) McNeill Thomas, 30, a native of Hoke County and a graduate of Hoke County High School, said Monday that she has "a point of view that the Board of Education might profit from".

"I'm the parent of a child just leaving public kindergarten headed for the first grade and I want her school to be the best possible," she said.

Mrs. Thomas attended East Carolina University and received her BS degree from Pembroke State University in 1968. She majored in psychology.

She previously worked as a social worker with the Hoke County Department of Social Services. She is past president of the Raeford Womens Club.

Mrs. Thomas presently is an administrator on the board of the Raeford United Methodist Church and serves as conservation chair-

A ten acre site adjoining U.S. 401-bypass received tentative approval from National Guard officials as the location for the proposed new Armory and officials here are awaiting written notification so they may proceed with the land purchase, said to be \$40,000.

County manager T.B. Lester, chairman of the five-member land search committee formed earlier this year, said last week Col. Elbert McPhaul from the Adjutant General's office in Raleigh approved the location, which stretches west from 401-bypass to College Dr., opposite Clark's Gulf Station.

Lester said the committee had been negotiating with builder Julian H. Wright, owner of the land, and had reached an agreement to pay \$6,000 per acre, or \$40,000 for the whole parcel.

Guard officials require a minimum of five acres for any new facility, and also city water and sewer connections and main highway accessibility, under the special federal assistance program outlined last January to replace outdated Armories.

Local costs of the project are 12.5 per cent of the total, with the balance paid out of state and federal funds. The city agreed to pay 25 per cent and the county agreed to pay 75 per cent of the local cost after county officials were unsuccessful in reaching a 50-50 compromise.

The tentative arrangement worked out by the committee, subject to formal approval by the city council and county commissioners, calls for the 25-75 split on the first five acres, with the city paying the full costs of the additional five acres. A spokesman for the city said the additional space may be used as a park.

Raeford is one of 23 localities in the state with sub-standard Armory facilities, according to McPhaul. Under the special assistance program, the city would come up for funding in fiscal year 1979 if a suitable location has been acquired.

The new Armory would contain 18,000 square feet. Estimated construction costs were put at \$464,000.

Under a "reversion clause", the old building on Central Ave. would revert back to the county.

Although no option has yet been obtained on the land, it is expected the full committee will recommend the purchase.

"My personal belief is to buy the whole package", committeeman Tom McBryde said last week.

Other committee members are city manager Robert Drumwright, city attorney Palmer Willcox, and county commissioner John Balfour.



Mrs. Crawford Thomas, Jr.

man for District 9 of the North Carolina Federation of Womens Clubs.

She is also on the Hoke County Recreation Commission, chairman of the Citizens United for Improvement of Reading, a member of the Hoke County Literacy Council and volunteers in the schools one day a week as a reading tutor.

She has been an active Democratic party member for the past five years and is secretary-treasurer of the Hoke County Young Demo-

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