

Nationwide Insurance Company Celebrating Its 50th Anniversary



Vardell Hedgpeth

Nationwide Insurance Co. is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. According to Vardell Hedgpeth, Nationwide came to North Carolina in 1946 and is now the largest auto and homeowner writer in the state. An \$80 million office building, Nationwide Plaza, will be opened in Columbus, Ohio to commemorate the celebration.

Locally, Nationwide's first agent was J.S. Canady who set up office in Dundarrach about 1951. Later J.W. McPhaul took over the agency.

Vardell Hedgpeth was licensed

with the company in 1964 and took over the agency in 1968. In 1969 the agency moved to Elwood Ave. in Raeford.

Hedgpeth said, "The agency has grown. More than tripled in the last seven or eight years." Ruby Nichols works with Hedgpeth's wife, Carolyn, in taking care of the office secretarial duties.

Hedgpeth is director of the Kiwanis, a member of Chamber of Commerce, vice president of Hoke Swimming Association, and a member of First Baptist Church. The Hedgpeths have three children.

Gentry's Tire Shows Changes In Business Since Purchase

Gentry's Tire on S. Main St. occupies the building that was formerly Carter's Tire, operated by Bobby Carter.

Carter used to run the business from a building where the Edborough Shopping center is now. He completed the facility on S. Main St. in '73 or '74.

Bob Gentry bought the business and it became Gentry's Tire on March 3, 1975. A Burlington Industries worker for 16½ years, Gentry had made many changes since opening his own business.

Self service Exxon gasoline pumps were installed in the spring of 1975 and the store also started providing oil and lubrication service. Gentry added a road service truck equipped to go into fields for tractor service.

Gentry's Tire offers new and recapped tires for all passenger autos, trucks and tractors. He features the B.F. Goodrich and Armstrong lines. The firm specializes in front end work, wheel balancing and alignment and all types of brake work.

Carl Brock is service manager. He has nearly 20 years of experience, having worked previously for Carter and before that, in Fayetteville. Vernon 'Butch' Brown works part-time, along with Gentry's sons, Gary and Mark. Gentry's wife, Eleanor, and his daughter, Marsha, help out with bookkeeping.

The store is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Saturday from 7:30 to noon.



Bob Gentry

Buie Funeral Home Was Hoke's First Black Funeral Home

Buie's Funeral Home, established in 1938, was the first black funeral home in Hoke County and remained so for over three decades.

Edward Buie opened the business on what is now Vass Rd. on a hill just north of the city limits. He was operating a small store at the same location. Buie entered the funeral business in 1922, working for undertaker Mac McDiarmid. When McDiarmid purchased a new hearse in 1938, Buie bought his old one and started Buie's Funeral Home.

During the late 30's and into the 40's, a complete funeral might cost as little as \$200. Many funerals were conducted in family homes, and Buie, who also farmed cotton, would often return from the fields, put on a suit and go off to hold a service.

Buie died in 1955 and his wife, Pauline, took over the management of the business. In 1956 the facilities were enlarged to take care of the increasing business the Buies had built up among the county's black families.

In 1970, Buie's son Tony joined the business after working for a



Ed Buie

Long Island, N.Y. undertaker and today he and his mother manage it together. Buie's wife, Elsie, also assists.

A new chapel adjacent to the present building is now under construction and is expected to be

completed this year. Buie's operates two funeral coaches and early this year added Buie's Ambulance Service to the business.

Associated with Buie are George Hightower, embalmer, and Ralph Watson, licensed funeral director.

Remember

The Dedication Of:

Hoke County Library

Sunday, July 4, 1976

4:00 P.M.

Lawyers

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ship continues today. This firm gave two young lawyers their start in Raeford: R. Palmer Willcox and Warren Pate.

Hostetler is a member of the N.C. State Bar, N.C. Bar Association, and a former member of the Board of Governors of the N.C. Bar Association. He has represented the County of Hoke as County Attorney since 1956, and is a past president of the County Attorneys' Association, and was awarded the Outstanding County Attorney award by the Association in 1973. He served as attorney for The Board of Education from 1956 to 1966. He represented Hoke County in the General Assembly of North Carolina in the 1957 and 1959 Sessions.

He has been active in the business community. He serves on the local Board of Managers of Southern National Bank, the Board of Directors of Southern National Bank of North Carolina and its Executive Committee.

He has served on Wake Forest Alumni Counsel, and an eight-year term as Trustee of Pembroke State University. He is a past president of Raeford Kiwanis Club, and a charter member of the Raeford Jaycees. He was instrumental in having the Hoke Civic Center and

the High School Tennis Courts constructed.

He is active in the First Baptist Church of Raeford as a Sunday School teacher, and he is currently serving as Chairman of its Board of Deacons.

He married Anne Gore of Raeford in June 1953, and they have three children, C. Anderson, Jr., Henry, and Dorcas.



H.D. Harrison, Jr.

H.D. Harrison, Jr. was born in Martin County, North Carolina on March 19, 1922. He was married to the former Gladys K. Baucom of Raeford, North Carolina. They have two children, David and Martha Jane. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Atlantic Christian College and graduated from Wake Forest Law School in 1950. He was in general law practice in Raeford, North Carolina for fifteen years. He was a member of North Carolina Bar Association; Past President of Twelfth Judicial District Bar, and served on the North Carolina Bar Association Committee to improve "Criminal Law and Procedure", he was also a member of the North Carolina State Bar.

He was a Mason, a member of the American Legion, Past President of Raeford Lion's Club, a Veteran of World War II, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Wake County Bar Association since 1970, and was a member of the Wake Community Lion's Club, North Hills, Raleigh, N.C.

He served for ten years as Attorney for the Town of Raeford.

He served for ten years as general counsel for Lumbee River Electric

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1976

AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL YEAR

Happy Birthday America



People who believe in their country, support it, defend it, influence it with their ideas and initiate change when necessary make a nation strong. America has had the strength of her people for 200 years! We are proud to be Americans and to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of this country

Buie Ambulance Service

and

Buie Funeral Home

Serving Raeford & Surrounding Area for 45 Years
Vass Road

Telephone - 875-2614 - 875-4784



America... Land of the Free for 200 Years!

"...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Abraham Lincoln



These words spoken on the battlefield at Gettysburg in 1863 say all that is necessary. During our Bicentennial year, we should pay a great tribute to men such as Abraham Lincoln who made such great sacrifices so that our nation could long endure. We are proud to be celebrating our 200th Anniversary.

AMERICA - ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD..

NATIONWIDE IS ON YOUR SIDE

See Us For Insurance
AUTO — FIRE — HOMEOWNERS
LIABILITY — LIFE — CROP

Nationwide Insurance

Vardell Hedgpeth, Agent
ELWOOD AVENUE