

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The Bicentennial celebration the past weekend had some interference from the rain but it all turned out to be successful.

The street dance went off on schedule Friday night.

The dedication of the Hoke County Library took place Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Due to the rain it was held inside the new building and everyone seemed to enjoy the speeches very much. The problem of hearing the speakers was explained by Mayor John K. McNeill when he stated that noise wasn't supposed to travel in the building. All in all it was a great afternoon and the library will be used for many years to come by all people of the county, young and old. In other words, it is something for all of us.

The tribute paid the many people that worked so hard was certainly well deserved.

The Sunday night event at the high school stadium had to be postponed until Monday but it was a success too.

Everyone that had a part in the Bicentennial celebration by Hoke County deserves a big congratulations.

The Bicentennial issue of The News Journal that came out last week brought forth mostly favorable comments. We knew when the work was started on the paper that some things would be overlooked and that some mistakes would be made, but we wanted to try the project anyway. Some mistakes were made and some things left out that should have been in the edition but we believe that these were at a minimum. We hope so anyway.

Also, some articles that were supposed to have appeared in the issue never came forth from the people that were supposed to have furnished them. This is understandable but it would have helped make the edition more readable if they had been written and included.

We want to thank everyone that helped with the issue and for giving of your time to assure it of making the deadline.

A project like this takes the cooperation of all concerned to be a success and everyone did their part. Thanks a million!

The following letter was received concerning the edition and I pass it on to you readers.

Dear Sam:
We've just read through your Bicentennial issue. It really looks great (including our ad and plant story). You folks have done it again, and we're most appreciative of your role in the community.

Best regards to you and all of the hard-working staff.

Sincerely
Dick Byrd.

Dick is the Community Relations Manager for Burlington Industries with offices in Greensboro. He was with Carolina Power and Light Company before joining the Burlington staff.

Thanks for the note Dick and drop by when you are in Raeford.

The following letter was received last week and we think it is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam:
Mon, June 28, we, the Gifted Class of Hoke County, met for our first trip. Mr. Robert Gatlin gave a most interesting slide show of historical and old places of Hoke County.

We would like also to express our appreciation to Miss Josephine Hall for arranging our tour of Hoke County. Without her help and guiding our tour would not have been successful.

We would also like to thank the following ladies for giving their time to meet us at designated places to give us the historical information concerning the places visited.

Miss Carolina Parker gave a very informative talk about the old Medical College. Mrs. Hallie Blythe gave an interesting talk on the history of Bethel Church. Mrs. Laurie McEachern was most interesting in her talk about McPhaul's Mill and Tavern as well as about the Tory and Whig conflicts thereabouts, and lastly Mrs. Sarah

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Highlight Of Holiday

Ceremony Dedicates Library

City Changes Trash Pickup

The city sanitation department announced a new, four and a half day a week trash collection schedule due to a change in work schedules.

Monday and Tuesday pickups will remain the same. The second pickup schedule for the week will begin approximately one half day earlier and pickups usually made on Thursday mornings will be made on Wednesday afternoons.

The new schedule is effective immediately. Any questions about the new schedule and pickup times for certain neighborhoods should be directed to city hall. The telephone number is 875-3789.

Don't Forget Extra Copy!

Need extra copies of the Bicentennial edition of The News-Journal to send to out-of-town friends and relatives? Or just want to have an extra newspaper to keep for yourself?

The News-Journal still has a supply of the July 1 Bicentennial edition. Stop by the office anytime during regular business hours for a copy.

County To Retain Ambulance Service

County commissioners agreed to negotiate a new contract with Harris Ambulance Service to provide emergency service in the county for this fiscal year, but nixed the idea of granting an exclusive franchise to Harris during their regular monthly meeting Tuesday morning.

Discussion of the ambulance service, which was not on the regular agenda, came up after county attorney Charles Hostetler told the board the county had no current contract for ambulance service, as Harris' expired June 30 with no automatic renewal.

Chairman Ralph Barnhart told the group he understood the sheriff's office was rotating calls between the Harris service and Buie's Ambulance Service and Hostetler said this procedure was not prohibited because Harris did not hold franchise rights.

Harris, who was allotted a \$27,000 subsidy from the county in the 1976-77 budget, has held a contract since January of this year when he purchased Morrison's Ambulance Service. Buie, who operates Buie's Funeral Home, started his own ambulance service early this year.

The board rejected any proposal to consider awarding a franchise at this time and directed Hostetler to draw up a new contract with Harris Ambulance Service.

In other business, the board:
Appropriated \$22,500 as the county's share of the cost of five acres of land for the new National

Dupree Endorses Commitment Hearing Change

The Administrative Office of the Courts has announced that as of July 1 it will be possible to hold initial involuntary commitment hearings at North Carolina's four mental health facilities at Butler, Goldsboro, Morganton and Raleigh. In the past such hearings could be held only in a person's home county. The change will reduce the person's discomfort as well as save time and taxpayers' money.

Previously, a person facing the



LIBRARY CEREMONIES—Mrs. J.M. Andrews, chairman of the Hoke County Library Board (at podium) welcomed the crowd which turned out in rainy weather for the July 4 dedication of the new library. Seated to the left of Mrs. Andrews are Mrs. Susan Barclay, public library consultant from Raleigh, Mrs. Marion Johnson, chief librarian consultant from Raleigh, and William Bridgeman, Sandhill Regional Library System director.

'Destroying Sidewalk'

Police Charge Library Supt.

With the official Bicentennial blast still four days away last Wednesday, fireworks of a different kind went off early as the city manager and the construction

superintendent at the new Bicentennial library got into a snit and the superintendent was arrested and charged with destroying city property.

William W. Stewart, 42, of Hamlet, superintendent for the Chisholm Construction Co., contractor for the library building, was released under a \$200 unsecured bond after appearing before a magistrate Wednesday.

According to the warrant brought by Police Sgt. K.B. Griffin, Stewart is accused of "unlawfully, willfully, and wantonly injuring real property... sidewalk and storm sewer, property of the city of Raeford, after being told not to by the city manager, R. G. Drumwright".

The skirmish started when Stewart and his crew began digging up a portion of the sidewalk in front of the building to connect the roof drain of the building to the storm sewer at Donaldson Ave. and Main St.

Drumwright said he denied permission to the Chisholm firm to do any further digging in the sidewalk until they reached an agreement on who would pay the costs of repairing the sidewalk.

"I rode by and they were tearing it up. I told him (Stewart) to stop it right now or I would take out a warrant. He told me his boss told him to do it", Drumwright said Thursday.

The city manager said Chisholm Construction Co. had already damaged parts of the sidewalk with heavy equipment and trucks going back and forth.

"I realize it was cracked before, but it was usable. We are asking them to replace approximately 250 feet of sidewalk, and if we can get them to agree, we will allow the digging to resume on the drain pipe", he said.

Drumwright said he had met with Ed Chisholm, president of the firm, a day after Stewart's arrest and Chisholm offered to replace 100 feet of sidewalk, an offer which

Drumwright said was unacceptable to him.

Drumwright said the city would be willing to pay a portion of the costs of a brick sidewalk, which would match the brick design put in the entranceway to the new building.

Stewart was back at work Thursday but declined to make any comment about the incident. He is scheduled for trial in District Court on the charge on July 16.

City Board Meets 12th

The city council will meet Monday, July 12 for its regular monthly meeting, a week later due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Meeting time is 7:30 in the conference room of city hall.

Craig Phillips To Speak

Dr. A. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be the featured speaker at the Thursday night meeting of the Raeford Kiwanis Club.

The public is invited to hear his address at 7 P.M. in the Raeford Civic Center. Ernest Sutton, assistant superintendent for Hoke County schools, is the program chairman.

Phillips, a native of Greensboro, is seeking his third four-year term as State Supt. in the election this year. He received his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from the University of North Carolina and was awarded his doctorate degree from the same institution in 1955.

He previously served as superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and superintendent of the Winston-Salem Schools. He was administrative vice-president of the Richardson Foundation at

Despite a steady downpour of rain which began early Sunday afternoon, the long-awaited Hoke County Bicentennial Library building was officially dedicated in ceremonies which attracted a crowd of nearly 400 persons.

The continuous rain forced the ceremonies to be moved from the grounds to indoors and the throngs swarmed inside for a first look at the \$350,000 building which is expected to be fully completed within a few weeks.

Many people had difficulty hearing the speakers, as no microphones were set up, but Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill joked that the building was acoustically designed to keep sound from traveling.

Mrs. J. M. Andrews, chairman of the Hoke County Library Board, presided over the occasion. Bill Bridgeman, executive director for the region, introduced the main speaker, Lewis E. Bambaauer, after an invocation led by Rev. Neill McPhatter.

Bambaauer, chairman of the Sandhill Regional Library System, told the crowd the building of a new library was a great accomplishment for the community.

"Here you have the tools to educate and inspire every citizen of Hoke County. Here you have not a library, but a media center - a place to learn and study, and a place where you can get your nose out of the television set and read about success as well as failure", he declared.

Along with the mayor, D.R. Huff Jr., chairman of the Hoke County Board of Education and Ralph G. Barnhart, chairman of the board of county commissioners, spoke.

Special guest R. F. Hoke Pollard, grandson of Gen. Robert F. Hoke, presented a copy of Gen. Hoke's farewell words to his troops to the library.

Barnhart paid tribute to the late R.B. Lewis, who as treasurer of the Hoke County Library Fund until his death this spring devoted his time and energy for several years toward meeting the \$100,000 goal needed for the project.

Carpeting and most of the bookshelves are in the new building now. Chairs, desks and some other furnishings are expected to arrive in 45-60 days. Officials have not yet announced a date for the opening of the new facility, however.

Although the rain failed to spoil the July 4 library ceremony, it did force postponement of the evening program and fireworks display to Monday night, although a steady

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Greensboro before his election to the state post in 1968.

A former Winston-Salem Young

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Dr. Craig Phillips

Dupree said Friday "I have advocated this change all along. The old method was just punishment for the sick. I've seen people come into court strung out on drugs or on tranquilizers. There is no way of telling on how they would normally be. This change is much more humane."

From now on the officer will transport the person initially to the mental health facility. Within ten days the hearing may be held at the

facility. The county clerk in Granville, Wayne, Burke and Wake Counties will appoint special counsel to represent indigent persons. Any witnesses involved in the matter will travel to the regional facility to provide testimony.

If the person is committed he will remain at the institution. If he is released he will be transported home by the law officers. The new method will cut out one or two of the round trips, depending on the outcome of the hearing.

No one will be forced to have the hearing at the regional facility. If there is objection by the person's attorney the hearing will be held in the home county as has been the practice in the past. The new system is an option aimed at reducing the person's discomfort and to carry out the procedure more efficiently. The change will not affect those counties where facilities now exist for holding the respondent locally pending the ten day hearing.

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