

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

As this is being written on Tuesday morning the sun is shining and the forecast for sunny weather all day. This is Primary Election Day in North Carolina and the weather shouldn't be any excuse for not voting.

According to reports some sections of the state received much needed rain over the weekend. It seems to me that some parts of the state are in need more than others. So far we have been lucky in Raeford as far as water is concerned.

Most television viewers have missed many of their regular programs this summer because of special events. The Bicentennial brought forth many hours of special shows and then came the Democrats and their convention for a week.

Next came the Olympics from Canada for two weeks and last night the fourth special week will be taken up with the Republican Convention from Kansas City.

Maybe after this week the reruns will be on the tube until the new shows start in September, of course some folks don't like these special shows, but maybe if everyone took a few weeks off from television, we would be better off.

The editor and his wife have returned from a trip to Maine and on into Canada. They report that the weather was cool and that one night they slept under a blanket.

One thing that happened on the trip that might be of interest to some of the coffee drinkers and patrons of Gentry's Tire and Carter's Produce Stand, is that Dickson says he had a flat tire near the Canadian border and had to change the tire on the hottest day while on the trip.

Dickson didn't bring back a picture of this so it is hard to imagine him changing a tire. Maybe stranger things have happened!

Several weeks ago an item in this column was about political signs being put up on poles and trees and on highway right - of - ways. We have noticed that many of these have been taken down during the past few weeks.

This writer does not take credit for this because it seems that rival campaign workers are taking care of this.

When this happens, we don't know, but one of the workers said that the signs he puts up in the afternoon are down the next morning. So maybe it would be better to leave the signs down in the first place. It would save energy on both sides.

If you haven't been out to the Arabia Golf Course lately it would be well worth your time to do so. They have changed the layout somewhat on some of the holes.

The par four second hole has been turned into a par three and with the carry over the water it is one of the hardest holes on the Course at the present time.

Hole number three is now longer and has been made a par five and number one is now a par four.

The seventh hole has been turned into a par five which most of the players thought all along. With the fairways being narrowed by letting the rough grow up it has made the course harder than it was before.

The new sprinkler system has helped keep the greens in good shape and it makes for an enjoyable afternoon for most local golfers.

See you there this weekend.

McPhatter Goes In

Hoke Vote Follows State Trend, Local Run-offs In Both Races



BALLOT BOXES—Jack Bray was among the early voters at the County Court House. Run-offs will be held in September.

Repeal Of Beer Ban

Board Deadlocks 2-2

With one member absent, county commissioners deadlocked 2-2 in a surprising vote to repeal the ban on Sunday beer and wine sales after a crowd packing the small conference room Monday night argued that holders of state brown bagging permits can legally sell beer on Sundays anyway.

The action came on a motion made by James A. Hunt, seconded by John Balfour. When chairman Ralph Barnhart called for the vote, vice - chairman Tom McBryde cast a no and then Barnhart cast a no vote. Neil McPhatter, who was expected at the meeting, was absent.

About sixteen persons, mostly grocery store owners, turned out for the third time commissioners have discussed the Sunday beer issue since a petition signed by nearly 40 was presented to the board two and a half months ago.

"What it amounts to is, there's a monopoly here. You have three establishments here that can sell it", Don Peterson, a city convenience store owner, said.

"I haven't been staying open on Sundays, but I would if I could sell beer, too", Billy Parks, another grocer, told the board.

"I think every one of you men here would rather go into a decent, clean grocery on Sunday than to some greasy spoon. We can't get the beer if these other places are getting it all. The other fella is driving a Lincoln Continental and I'm working seven days a week beating my brains out", Faye Howell of Faye's Grocery argued.

Several others in the audience argued that the three establishments with brown bagging permits were getting so much beer from the distributors that the smaller places couldn't stock enough, but county ABC officer J.K. Riley disagreed.

"They've been delivering according to the percentage they delivered before the strike", Riley said, referring to the recent nationwide Budweiser strike. "I've been checking these beer places, some have ten cases, some maybe get 20 cases".

Others in the crowd argued that most of the Sunday sales made at the brown bagging spots had nothing to do with the restaurant, many people just drove up to get beer only.

"They oughta put it in a white bag, it's got nothing to do with brown bagging", one man said from the crowd.

County attorney Charles Hostetler said unless the law was changed by the state legislature, the brown bagging spots can continue to sell for off - premise consumption, and the county has no jurisdiction.

"Isn't it the county, though, that won't let us sell it?" one man asked.

"I guess it is", Barnhart responded. "I've come to the conclusion that this group is pro - beer on Sundays".

Following the tie vote, Balfour voiced criticism of how beer was sold.

"I'd like to point out that when it (beer) was voted in it was to be at room temperature and no less than a six pack. Now, who changed that and when? For a mile from three groceries, the whole road is covered with beer cans and my personal feeling is that that wouldn't happen if it was sold warm", he said.

(The split vote with Barnhart causing the tie caused some confusion momentarily, as at one time state law did not permit a chairman to make motions or cast votes, except to break a tie. However, the law was amended in 1971 to allow chairmen to vote on all matters. Hostetler explained)

Ambulance Subsidy

In another issue which came before the commissioners earlier this month, the four commissioners agreed to deny Buie's Ambulance Service any subsidy and to request the sheriff's department to remove his name from the rotation list after hearing that Buie's service did not meet state requirements.

"On April 29, I visited Buie and made an inspection. He did not meet minimum standards for state requirements and I sent him a letter and so informed him. Last week, I visited again, which is not

my concern but the county's, and he has purchased several items since April. However, he still needs about five items to become certified". Al Minor, emergency medical services (EMS) officer for inspections, told the commissioners.

"Buie is a certified ambulance attendant. I don't know about his help. Mr. Buie's ambulance is not satisfactory and therefore he is not licensed. Because I put a sticker on only means that he meets requirements, not that he is authorized to provide service to the county", Minor said.

James Harris, owner of Harris Ambulance Service, which holds a contract with the county to provide 24 hour - a - day service with \$27,000 annual subsidy, argued against appropriating Buie any funds.

"I signed a contract, assuming I would be the only one. What you'd be doing is paying somebody to compete against me. Two can't do it, and I think everyone in this room agrees", Harris said.

"Another thing I'd like to say is that this has been dragged out for four months and I am certainly

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Hoke County voters followed the rest of the state closely in most primary races Tuesday and also forced local candidates into run-off battles in the county commissioners and register of deeds contests.

With all thirteen precincts here reporting by early Wednesday morning, Lt. Gov. James B. Hunt polled 1,783 votes in the Democratic gubernatorial primary with challenger Ed O'Herron trailing with 710 votes.

Howard Lee drew 1,117 votes on the Democratic Lt. Governor's slate with Jimmy Greene running second with 863 votes. On the GOP side, county Republicans gave the nod to David Flaherty on the gubernatorial ballot with 46 votes, beating second place Coy Privette by 31 votes.

Incumbent county commissioner Neil W. McPhatter won his place on the November ballot by polling 1,431 votes but the rest of the field failed to draw more than half of the total votes cast, forcing a run-off.

Charlie Pendergrass ran second to McPhatter with 1,016 votes and Danny DeVane came in third with 916 votes. Mabel Riley trailed fourth with 891 votes and W.D. (Danny) Morrison finished last with 257 votes.

In the register of deeds race, no candidate in the field of six tallied a majority. Della Maynor ran highest with 1,292 votes, with Frances W. Greene finishing second with 590 votes. Third ran Beatrice H. Harris with 353, Hazel Niven followed with 297, and the two men in the race, Glenn Maxwell and William Altman, trailed with 165 votes and 154, respectively. The run-off election will pit Maynor and Greene together.

Turnout was light to moderate in most precincts with less than half of the voters balloting. The final tally showed 2,851 Democratic votes cast and 82 on the GOP side.

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There were some surprises in the state contests, as Jessie Rae Scott, who was drawing a heavy vote statewide in the labor commissioner's battle, was outpolled here almost 2-1 by John Brooks who picked up 1,228.

Lane Brown, who lost to Harlan Boyles for state treasurer, beat Boyles here with 1,482. Boyles polled 1,044 votes.

Fayetteville's George Breece outpolled Thad Eure locally. Breece received 1,731 votes to Eure's 1,061 tally in the secretary of state race.

In the rest of the state contests among the Democrats, the final tally here showed:

Commissioner of Insurance - John Ingram, 1,750, Joe Johnson 803.

State auditor - Lillian Woo, 1,165, Henry L. Bridges, 1,120. Superintendent of public instruction - Craig Phillips, 1,949, Ben Currin, 716.

Federal Probe Begun At Ex-deputy's Urging

The U.S. Department of Justice civil rights division is investigating the Hoke County sheriff's department at the request of an ex-deputy fired last January to check allegations of possible violations of federal equal employment laws.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the investigative arm of the Justice Department, is conducting the probe through its Charlotte office with the resident agent in Rockingham.

Guv Cox, special agent in the

Charlotte FBI office, said "The only thing I can tell you is the investigation is underway and the results will be furnished to the civil rights division of the Justice Department. It's a civil rights matter, and I really don't know any of the details. I can't comment on the extent of the investigation, or even when it will be completed", Cox said.

Last January, Elisha Dial, an Indian, was fired as a deputy

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MEETING—County attorney Charles Hostetler (at table) listens as an unidentified man in the crowd at the Monday night commissioners' meeting makes a point while arguing for a repeal of the Sunday beer ban. Hostetler later explained under the law, counties have no jurisdiction over establishments with state-issued brown bagging permits.

Three Hurt In Crash

Three persons were admitted to Moore Memorial Hospital with serious injuries following a two - car crash on N.C. 211 early Monday morning near Ashley Heights.

According to highway patrolman K.W. Weston, William Leon Miller, 19, of Raeford, was heading west about 6:50 A.M. operating a 1969 Nova when a 1963 pickup truck heading east attempted to make a left turn onto a driveway. The pickup, operated by Rufus (Bear) Clarence Wilson, 61, struck the Nova.

Miller and a passenger, Allen Montgomery, 19, of Fifth St., Raeford, were hospitalized. Miller sustained broken ribs and a punctured lung. Weston said, and Montgomery received head lacerations and a neck injury.

Wilson was also admitted with unknown injuries.

Damage to the Nova was put at \$1,500 and damage to the pickup was estimated at \$600.

Wilson was ticketed for making an unsafe movement.