

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The turnout for the primary last Tuesday was approximately 47% of the registered voters in the county. This was somewhat better than the state as a whole but still is not good.

When over half of the registered voters in the county don't care who looks after the state and local business, that is bad. We have another primary coming up in September so be sure to mark September 14th on your calendar and vote that day.

A letter from Ralph Huff, county manager for Ed O'Herron, should be self-explanatory:
Dear Sam:

Please take a look at the paragraph below. I think the Highway Department should get some recognition for a job well done. You can put this note in your column, in the letters to the editor, or leave it out entirely if you think best.

On behalf of the O'Herron for Governor Committee in Hoke County, I would like to express my appreciation to the State Highway Department for removing the obsolete campaign posters on Wednesday. My committee was prepared to do this promptly, but the Highway Department's quick response riddled Hoke County of these eyesores more quickly and efficiently than the various candidates could have done.

Again, many thanks for a job well done!

Sincerely,
Ralph Huff

Thanks Ralph for the letter and I will add that over the weekend my wife and I were in three or four other counties in the state and signs were still on poles and trees along the highways. So once again, the highway crew of Hoke County, as when the snow and ice were removed from the roads, is once again No. 1 in the state.

Thanks Bill Southern and all your crew.

The Open House at the Open Arms Rest Home several weeks ago was well attended by the people of Hoke County. Many favorable comments were made about the new facility by these people. We also made the same kind of comments after attending the occasion.

Last week someone brought to my attention how dedicated Mr. and Mrs. John Leandro are to the old folks that live at the home. In talking to persons that have relatives at the home or people that visit there, they all mentioned how fine the Leandros are and how they take to heart each of the residents there.

Of course this is a business just like a garage, grocery store etc. but instead of dealing with things you are dealing with humans. These two people are certainly an asset to this community and the home doubly so with them running it. In this day and time when money seems to be the God of us all, it is good to have someone looking after the elderly who put loving kindness before material wealth.

So to Mr. and Mrs. John Leandro we wish for you many successful years in Raeford and know that you will continue the fine work you are doing in this field. The kind of dedication that you show to your clients is hard to find this day and time. So keep up the good work and your reward will come.

Don't forget that Hoke High School opens its football season tonight at home against Southern Durham. The team is under a new coach, John Harris, and should have a new look about it.

The Hoke High Booster Club would also like to have you as a member. So if you haven't joined be sure to do so this week.

Be a Booster and attend the game Friday night.

Rose's Office

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford today (Thursday) from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. in the parking lot of the post office.

Administrative assistant Rip Collins will be on hand.

Four From Hoke Attend State Meet

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners held their annual convention in Pinehurst last week and additional sources of tax revenue for local government was the chief item of discussion.

County Manager T. B. Lester, who attended the convention with Hoke County commissioners John Balfour, James Hunt and Neil McPhatter, said the meeting was aimed at informing commissioners on topics like the Title XX grant, personnel taxation and health programs on the county level.

Lester said, "the main purpose was to discuss things that the association needs to change in legislation."

The commissioners voted unanimously Saturday to ask the state government to share part of its income tax revenue with counties to avoid further increases in ad valorem property taxes.

The ad valorem property tax, now the source of 80 percent of local revenue, was not originally meant to finance the growing list of county services. And, the steadily increasing ad valorem tax has become a problem for poor, elderly and the unemployed.

Meeting in the Pinehurst Hotel, commissioners representing 90 of the 100 state counties also adopted

a resolution supporting a bottle bill which would require deposits on all beverage containers. This resolution is aimed at cleaning up the state's highways.

The association also endorsed a resolution to change the date of the North Carolina primary election from August back to May.

The North Carolina Sheriff's Association submitted two resolutions to the commissioners which were approved. The first called for no reduction by probation parole or suspended sentence in the sentences for armed robbery, and persons convicted of breaking and entering.

The second resolution called for increased death benefits for law enforcement officials and for increase in the immediate benefits.

The commissioners voted unanimously for the state to assume 100 percent of the nonfederal cost of the food stamp program.

Lester noted that Hoke County commissioners were not appointed to any of the committees in this year's convention, but with the election of Sam Nobles of Lumberton as president of the association they hope to be more active next year.

The four-day conference concluded with a ball Saturday night in the hotel and a prayer breakfast held Sunday.

Second Ambulance Firm Receives Certification

Buie's ambulance service, the county's only black-owned ambulance service which has been seeking funds to subsidize its operation, was inspected Tuesday by the state and was granted a conditional certification.

Al Minor, of the office of inspections for the emergency medical services (EMS) division, authorized the certification, which is a temporary permit which must be renewed every 60 days, after Buie's firm acquired additional equipment.

Earlier this month, Minor appeared at the county commissioners' meeting and reported that Buie's Ambulance Service was not certified because it lacked certain pieces of equipment which are required under state standards.

The only other ambulance service in the county, Harris Ambu-

lance, also operates under conditional certification. The Harris firm is also re-inspected every 60 days for renewal because it does not have certain required items, Minor said.

At the last commissioners' meeting, the board refused to authorize

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No Definite Date Given On Start Of Flu Shots

Local health officials do not yet know when the swine influenza vaccine will arrive for the mass immunization program being undertaken nationally in the hopes of preventing an epidemic of the killer flu this winter.

Susan McKenzie, acting director of the Hoke County public health center, said last week the health center is awaiting notification from the regional office.

"It is still a matter of confusion. When we did receive some information earlier, it made mention of school-age children getting the shots. Then I see in the national news that they will not be given to anyone under 23. So, at this point, we don't know just what all of the procedures will be until we get something official from the regional office," she said.

Mrs. McKenzie said the plan now is to have a mass immunization day with flu shot centers set up in four places around the county. Special "jet injector guns" designed for mass immunization will be made available for only one day.

Because the vaccine is expected to be distributed sometime next month, the health center is now busy trying to line up the extra help which will be needed.

"There is no way five public health nurses can do it. We need to recruit retired nurses," she said.

Despite the substantial support the flu vaccine has gotten from health experts, there may not be as

great a demand for shots, Mrs. McKenzie said.

"We may not have that many people coming in because there is so much misinformation about the vaccine. Our visiting nurses who go out in the county have learned that many people are fearful and don't understand the shots because of something they have heard. There's no way we can correct all of this misinformation in time. I'm afraid," she said.

The flu vaccine is being made available free of charge. If a person visits his personal physician, the shot is free and the only charge will be the office call. No fee will be charged at the county public health center.

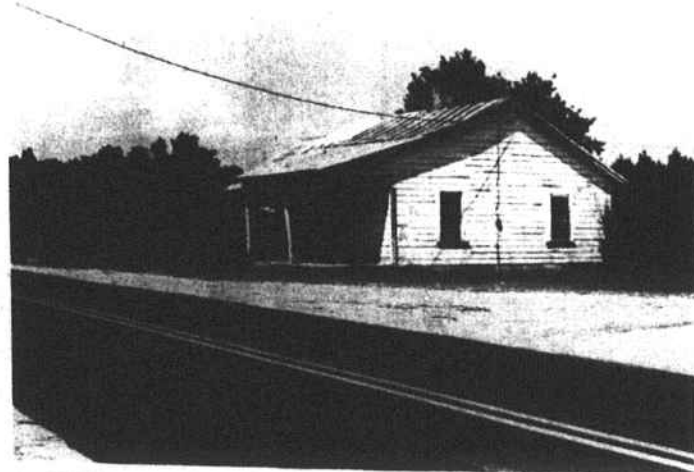
Reminder To Drivers, School Days Next Week

The City of Raeford begins its annual drive to alert motorists to drive with extra care in school areas and near school buses next week and during the weeks to come.

Colorful "School's Open" posters are being displayed throughout the community as part of the national effort by the American Automobile Association and the Carolina Motor Club to reduce the death and injury of our children.

Citing national figures revealed in a recent AAA nationwide survey, Chief of Police V.L. Wiggins pointed out that each year some 500 school children aged 5-14 are killed and

Housing Chief Resigns



BLIGHT-A thirteen acre wooded tract north of Robbins Heights was turned down as a location for a public housing development because it bordered Stephen St., an area of dilapidated homes and abandoned buildings.

Now short one member, the city's housing authority after several months is at a standstill in plans to construct low and moderate income public housing here after another possible site was ruled out as "blighted" by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), proposed lenders.

The chairman of the authority, Neill McFadyen, submitted his resignation this month, citing personal family reasons. No replacement has yet been named and Vice-chairman Gerald Wright is temporarily chairing the committee.

A thirteen acre wooded tract north of the Robbins Heights community had been tentatively chosen by the panel as a site for a 40 unit housing complex, but the FmHA specialists turned it down because the section adjoined an area of dilapidated and abandoned buildings and would be considered too close to a blighted neighborhood.

The FmHA, which earlier this year announced the housing project could qualify for a low interest loan as high as one million dollars, must approve any site first. Under government requirements, the agency cannot loan on public housing if it is located in an economically disadvantaged area. It also cannot fund any public housing outside of the central city, developments have to be built on the edge of the community.

The FmHA refusal was the latest in a series of setbacks for the authority. A few months before, another tract near the Robbins Heights area, closer to the playground between E. Seventh and E. Sixth Ave., had initially been picked, but one of the six owners of the property refused to sell. Ken McNeill, one of the five who agreed to sell, resigned his seat on the housing authority in order to avoid any conflict of interest before negotiations began. Duncan McFadyen, an attorney, was named to replace McNeill.

This spring, the authority received a promise of an option on a tract west of the Holly Park subdivision on the south end of the city, but the members of the authority decided not to go ahead with plans after being told homeowners in Holly Park would have strong opposition to any low income housing development nearby.

Dayna Pate, secretary of the housing authority, said last week the group is now checking some property on 401 - business near the House of Raeford Farms plant to see if the owner is interested in

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Flat No Comment On Rape Complaint

Local law enforcement officials and the District Attorney's office flatly refused any comment late Tuesday on a rape complaint made by a Hoke County woman last Wednesday night to the sheriff's department in which she named two N.C. highway patrolmen.

Mrs. Roxanne McGee, 19, a mother of two, confirmed that she reported she was raped at her Old Trail Mobile Home Park home last Wednesday.

"Yes, I reported it. I was assaulted by two highway patrolmen. I would rather not say anymore until I talk to my husband", she said Tuesday.

Sheriff D.M. Barrington confirmed that he requested the State Bureau of Investigation to assist in an investigation but refused to

confirm it was related to the reported rape complaint.

"I have been involved in an investigation of an alleged criminal offense for the past several days. Until such time that this investigation is complete and any warrants are issued, I have instructions from the District Attorney not to make any comment whatsoever. Upon completion of the investigation, and if warrants are issued, a complete disclosure will be given", Barrington said.

Patrol spokesmen at both the Raleigh headquarters and the troop command office in Monroe also refused any comment on Mrs. McGee's accusation.

Dist. Atty. E.W. Grannis, Jr. could not be reached for comment on the matter.

Open House This Sunday

Sunday Aug. 29 will be open house day at all seven of the public schools, the Hoke county Board of Education announced.

All parents and interested citizens are invited to visit any of the schools from 3-6 p.m.

First day of school for pupils will be Friday, Sept. 3.

Run-offs Official

Greene, who ran second in the primary.

By law, a run-off election must be held if no candidate receives a simple majority (one more than half the total votes cast) and the next highest vote getter requests it.

Neil W. McRatter, an incumbent, won last Tuesday's primary for county commissioner with 1,431 votes unofficially, but because two seats are up for grabs this year, a run-off count is necessary between DeVane and Charlie Pendergrass, the second highest in the tally.

In the register of deeds battle, Della Maynor polled 1,292 unofficially, short of the required majority, and Miss Greene finished second, with 590 unofficially.

Meetings

Re-scheduled

The first regular meeting of county commissioners in September will be held a day later, on Tuesday, Sept. 7, because of the Labor Day holiday. Meeting time is 9 A.M. in the conference room of the courthouse annex.

The regular monthly meeting of the city council will be held a week later, on Monday, Sept. 13, because of the holiday. Meeting time is 7:30 P.M. in the municipal building.



SCHOOL'S OPEN -- Raeford Police Chief V. L. Wiggins tucks up a reminder that summer is nearly over and school will be opening next week. Hoke County youngsters will have a half day session next Friday, Sept. 3.