

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

It was 36 years ago this week that the two North Carolina National Guard units of Raeford left for service before World War II. The units were called to active duty September 16, 1940. One week was spent at the local armory where physicals were given and each unit was given time to enlist men to fill up their units.

It was on September 23 that Battery 'F', the unit this writer was a member of, and 1st Battalion Headquarters Battery left Raeford. Battery 'F' went to Fort Moultrie, S.C. and the Hq. Battery to Fort Scriven, Ga. We were called in for one year of active duty but it was almost six years before most of the men returned.

When these units left Raeford approximately 200 men left Raeford and Hoke County. Almost every family in the county had folks that left with the group.

Most of the officers that were with these units and many that were in other headquarters are dead and the men have found homes in other parts of the country or have also passed away.

In the old Battery 'F' outfit Younger Snead and T.B. Lester are still around. Paul Dickson was an officer in another unit at that time. Those who are not around now are R.B. Lewis, W.L. Poole, William Lamont, John Walker, John McPhaul, J.H. Blue, Graham Dickson and others that don't come to mind as this is being written.

Of course you can't write anything about the old national guard units without mentioning our old First Sergeant Alfred Cole, who has also passed on.

The units that formed the 252nd Coast Artillery were all from North Carolina and came from Raeford, Wilmington, Whiteville, High Point, Lumberton, and Greensboro.

The men that were in the units from Hoke County after 36 years have only memories left for those days.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Morris:

If possible, I would appreciate you printing the following:

Last week, the Raeford Jaycees made it possible for two classes of exceptional children to visit their annual carnival here in Raeford without cost to the children. Not only is such a trip sheer fun for the children, but they profit so much from interacting as a group outside the classroom.

It is my understanding that this is the main fund-raising project of the Raeford Jaycees and that most of the money is channelled directly back into Hoke County. In view of this, I particularly appreciate the club arranging this trip with the carnival personnel since this meant approximately fifty tickets used that could have been sold.

Hoke County individuals, businesses, and civic groups such as the Jaycees have and continue to express their interest in exceptional children. We need this type of support. From the children, their teachers, (Mrs. Larry Phillips and Miss Phyllis Jones), and myself we extend our sincere appreciation for this type of community involvement.

Sincerely,

Rhenda Cameron, Coordinator
Programs for Exceptional Children

The fall weather is still with us and the nights are fine for sleeping. Some rain has fallen over the state and the water problem for a number of places has eased some, but more rain is needed for the problem to be solved.

Voters stayed away from the polls in the September 14th primary and less than 40 percent voted. This is not good for government.

Next Tuesday, September 28 the voters of Raeford go to the polls to vote on a \$200,000 bond referendum. This money, if approved, will be for a new fire station.

Vote or be satisfied with the results of those that do vote.

Federal Census To Examine Minorities Voting Pattern

Library To Move

The Hoke County Library will be closed to the public the week of Oct. 4-10 in order to move into the new building, head librarian Dorothy Cameron announced.

The new library is expected to be ready for business on Monday, Oct. 11. The \$350,000 building with its furnishings has more than triple the amount of space. It contains a study lounge with tables and chairs and a separate reading lounge, a 75 seat capacity conference room with adjacent kitchen and two sound-proof listening rooms.

Carrels for private listening will be available, along with use of a 16mm film projector and a slide projector. A microfilm library is planned.

The new library, the county's official Bicentennial project, was dedicated in ceremonies July 4, but the building was not completely finished until this month. A special "open house" will be held later this year after plaques are hung in appreciation of donors of memorial gifts, Mrs. Cameron said.

The Hoke County Library currently has about 26,000 volumes. Since joining the Sandhills Regional Library System a year ago, the library has doubled the amount of books shipped.

Bloodmobile Is Monday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Raeford next Monday, Sept. 27 from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

This is the first time the regular quarterly visit of the Bloodmobile has been scheduled on a Monday, which has caused concern about turnout.

"We'll just have to hope, we have never tried a Monday before. As usual, we are below our quota and we need a good many donors," county Red Cross chairman Clyde Upchurch said.

According to Red Cross figures, 27 pints of blood have been taken from the county's reserve in just a little over a week. 22 pints were needed at Moore Memorial Hospital, two at Duke Hospital and three at N.C. Memorial Hospital.

Hoke County needs at least 100 pints at each quarterly Bloodmobile visit in order to keep up with its needs.

Medical personnel from McCain Hospital, along with local volunteers, will man the Bloodmobile set up in the basement of the church.

New Officer

\$200,000 Fire Station

City Dwellers Vote Tuesday

City residents will go to the polls next Tuesday, Sept. 28 to decide the fate of the \$200,000 bond issue proposed for construction of a new fire station.

The bonds, if approved, will enable the city to tear down its 50 year-old fire station and construct a new facility large enough to meet its present needs. A site on E. Prospect St., used as a lot by the city, has been chosen.

In order for a municipality to incur debt, voters must approve. A tax increase to finance a new fire station would be excessive, requiring a 35 cents increase in the present \$.55 per \$100 valuation rate, city manager Robert Drumwright estimated.

If the measure wins passage Tuesday, the city expects to put out construction bids as soon as possible.

The actual cost of the firehouse may not be \$200,000. Bids will be received before the Local Government Commission sells the bonds so the exact cost will be known. Drumwright estimated the cost more in the range of \$175,000.

The present fire station was termed inadequate by the League of Municipalities earlier this year. The cramped space, along with hazards in the electrical wiring, were noted.

Architectural plans for the new facility show a building 88 feet wide, with three doorways for exit of the fire trucks. The present station is approximately 18 by 70 feet with only one truck able to exit at a time.

The \$200,000 bond referendum is for the fire station only; however, the project is tied to the proposed

remodeling of the municipal building.

The city council approved plans to renovate sections of the building and construct an addition to give the police department and water and sewer department more room and create a larger meeting room for the council. The total cost of the re-modeling is estimated at \$140,000.

Commissioners 3 - 2

Sunday Beer Defeated

With all members present Friday morning, county commissioners rejected any plan to allow county-wide sale of beer on Sundays on a 3-2 vote.

Chairman Ralph Barnhart, vice-chairman Tom McBryde and Rev. Neil W. McPhatter voted 'no' on the motion introduced by James A. Hunt and seconded by John Balfour to rescind the ordinance which bans the sale of beer or wine on Sundays. The action was the first time that all five commissioners were present to vote on the matter, which has been an issue for nearly three months.

About nine spectators in favor of beer on Sunday, less than the number present at the Aug. 16 meeting when the board split 2 - 2 on the question, showed up for the Friday morning meeting, some of them jeering as they left.

"I voted no the last time and I'm

voting no today", McBryde said. Neither Barnhart or McPhatter gave their reasons.

Chamber of Commerce manager Dayna Pate distributed a report of a recent poll made by the Chamber on the beer question. Out of 400 questionnaires, 35 responses were received, with 21 opposed to allowing Sunday beer sales and 14 in favor.

Hunt and Balfour shared the opinion that it wasn't fair for a few places to be able to sell beer on Sundays under the state brown bagging law, and said they felt either everyone should have the privilege or no one.

"I don't like it, I understand some of them are selling a six-pack for \$2.75, or more", Balfour said.

Under the state law, a grocery with a Class A cafe may sell beer for take-out on Sundays. Currently, there are three such establishments in the county doing so.

Troopers' Hearing Postponed

A District Court hearing for two ex-state troopers charged with kidnapping, rape and crime against nature last month has been postponed to today (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m. in Raeford.

The preliminary hearing for Jimmy D. Thigpen and Wiley W. Snow, who are accused in the alleged assault of Mrs. Bobbie R. Magee on Aug. 19, was originally set for last Friday.

Thigpen, 24, of Raeford, and Snow, 24, resigned from the Highway Patrol following their arrests. Both are free on bond.

Mobile Homes

In other business Friday, the board adopted a "get tough" attitude toward mobile home owners who don't list the homes with the tax supervisor. The board agreed to order plastic decals which will be displayed on the outside of the mobile homes to identify those which are listed for tax purposes.

The sale of the parking lot at the highway department office off W. Prospect St. to Raeford Oil Co. was approved. Raeford Oil Co. submitted a \$4,500 bid.

The board also approved an application to the Law and Order Division, a state agency, for the purchase of seven portable radios for the sheriff's department. Local cost, if the application is approved, would be approximately \$455 for each unit.

In a related matter, an amend-

SAMPLE

OFFICIAL BALLOT

SPECIAL BOND REFERENDUM

City of Raeford, North Carolina

September 28, 1976

INSTRUCTIONS

1. To vote in favor of the order make a cross (X) mark in the square to the right of the word "YES".
2. To vote against the order make a cross (X) mark in the square to the right of the word "NO".
3. If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.

YES []

NO []

Shall the order adopted on June 23, 1976, authorizing not exceeding \$200,000 Fire Station Bonds of the City of Raeford, North Carolina, for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, for erecting and equipping a new fire station to replace the existing fire station in said City, and authorizing the levy of taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said bonds, be approved?

Harold Black
Chairman of County Board of Elections
of Hoke County

Under the plan, the old fire station would be torn down and a parking lot put in.

If the bond measure is passed, bids for both projects may be put out at the same time, Drumwright said.

The last bond vote, several years ago, was water improvement bonds, which were approved.

ment to the budget to authorize the purchase of electronic sirens for sheriff's patrol cars was approved. The cost, which will come out of a surplus in the salaries budget, is \$210.

The board approved the insurance coverage amounts on all eight county-owned buildings after ordering an increase in the amount on the new library. The total coverage for all buildings and their contents is \$1.66 million.

A request from the Chamber of Commerce for funds to pay for a tourist's brochure was approved. The Chamber plans to order 5,000 brochures at a total cost of about \$2,000. Commissioners agreed to have the county pay half of the cost after hearing that the city of Raeford will pay the other half.

With little enthusiasm, commissioners authorized an increase in the cost of garbage collection (See BEER, Page 13)

Out For A Nice Stroll? Fine - Splatter! Splash

BY MARTY VEGA

When police detective Harvey Young mounted the steps at the front entrance to the county courthouse on a recent morning, he removed his hat before entering the building. Like any courteous gentleman. And, an unthinking one. For as Young doffed his hat, he lingered too long at the door -- splat! splash! oozy, gooey, ugh!

A naughty schoolboy having a lark with water balloons? Or rotten tomatoes or eggs? Hardly. As Young said later, or rather the only thing that Young said that could be quoted in a family newspaper, "there were so many of them" he couldn't spot his assailant.

Young had become the latest

Hoke County is among seven North Carolina counties scheduled for a special federal census in November under the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to determine the number of eligible voters.

Announcement of the special count was made last week by Joseph R. Norwood, regional director of the Charlotte U.S. Census Bureau. It will start immediately after the Nov. 2 election and should be completed by the first week of December, he said.

The purpose of the census is to determine the number of eligible voters, the number registered, and the number who voted in each political sub-division. Sub-divisions under the jurisdiction of the Charlotte office included in the announcement are Camden, Gates, Greene, Jackson, Perquimans, and Washington Counties, and Charles City County, Va.

Unlike the regular census every ten years, questions on the special census are brief. Each household member will be asked name, sex, relationship to household head, race, date of birth, marital status and national origin. For household members 18 years or older, questions will be asked on: U.S. citizenship, whether or not the person voted in the November, 1976 election, (if 'no', was the person registered to vote?) and if the person either voted or was registered to vote in the named jurisdiction.

No questions will be asked on how a person voted, his or her political affiliation, or like matters. Norwood emphasized.

As required by federal law, no information identifying any individual will be released and only statistical totals will be published.

A Census Bureau supervisor, assigned by the Charlotte office, will hire, train and supervise the census takers, who will be local residents. Each census taker will be assigned to a relatively small area, called an "enumeration district".

Requirements for census takers, in general, only require: U.S. citizenship, 18 years of age or older, high school education, car available full time during the census period (15 cents mileage paid), able to work day and evening hours and able to pass a written examination.

According to Norwood, about 28 people will be hired locally as census takers at a wage of \$3.41 per hour. A local census office will be opened in early October.

Norwood pointed out the advantage to local jurisdictions in having a special census done.

"The county will have, at no cost, an up-to-date official population count, which otherwise would not be available until after the 1980 U.S. census. The last official population count is over six years old", he said.

Ordinarily, between national censuses, a special federal census is taken only at the request and expense of local government and local costs would run into several thousands of dollars.

The census supervisor will release a preliminary population count to county officials, as well as for any incorporated places, on completion of the census. The final and official count will follow some time later.

victim to what courthouse workers and regular visitors have been keenly alert to-step lively as you enter or exit the courthouse or you may be the unlucky recipient of a pigeon's scorn. Airborne.

Quite a sizeable pigeon population has taken over the stately courthouse, setting up housekeeping on the roof and finding comfortable resting spots on the window ledges, which prove to be handy locations for bombing targets below, and it has become too much for county manager T. B. Lester.

"We've got a terrible pigeon problem", Lester told county commissioners at their most recent (See SPLASH, Page 13)