

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The Thanksgiving holiday was a quiet day in Raeford and Hoke County. The weather was what one would ask for a November day. From all reports there were not any serious accidents reported on the highways.

The only thing missing was a worship service on Thanksgiving Day. It is now being held on the night before Thanksgiving. Maybe we will go back to the old time way of observing this day in a few more years.

The picture of Longstreet Church on the front of *The News-Journal* brought forth some favorable comments from readers. One reader from Fayetteville wrote and asked where she could get some history of the church. We gave her an address of someone who should be able to help her with this.

This was the first color process picture for the paper and we hope to have another one for the Christmas issue.

Bill Johnson and Cindy Johnson of Senator Robert Morgan's office were in town Monday and talked to all who came by City Hall. Some dropped by that had business to discuss with them while others, like yours truly, just went by to say hello. This is the first visit in my memory of someone from a Senator's office coming to the county to discuss matters with the people.

It was nice to talk to Bill and Cindy and hope they will return again.

In August of 1946 a redhead from the Rockfish Community started writing a column in this newspaper under the headline *Rockfish News*. After a little over 30 years the last column appeared last week and all of us here at *The News-Journal* office will miss this writer. Next to this writer, Mrs. A.A. (Mary) McInnis has worked longer for the paper than any of the present employees.

I know that many readers will miss the *Rockfish News* because over the years many of our readers, that are not from that community, have informed me of things that have appeared in the column.

Mrs. McInnis is 91 years young and like Mr. D. Scott Poole, who also was writing for this paper after his ninety-first year, will be long remembered. Comments are used now in the twenty-five years ago items and someone will be using it for 25 more years.

I won't say that it is easy to work with a redhead that is over 90 but I will say that Mrs. McInnis will be missed by this writer. She kept me on my toes if something was wrong with her column, and it has made me a better newspaper man.

Thanks Mrs. McInnis for a job well done.

The shopping season for Christmas is with us again and we want to call attention once again to people not to leave packages in unlocked cars. It would be better for all concerned to lock your packages in your car trunk. By leaving them even in a locked car where they can be seen is a temptation for someone to break into the car and steal the packages. Don't give them the opportunity!

Things cost too much now to have someone remove them from your car. It will take only a few minutes more to lock them in the trunk.

Another thing, traffic is heaviest during the Christmas shopping season and children are also out and around. Drive carefully and then everyone will have a happy holiday.

The weather Monday night became winter once more. Many records have been broken this year and if it keeps on, many more will fall. This has been the coldest October and November that I can remember. What I mean is, the most cold days during this time.

Of course if this is like the 'good old days', they can go back to that time.



MAKING A SALE -- Vardell Hedgpeth (on right), ticket chairman for the Kiwanis Club's annual pancake supper Dec. 9, closes a sale of another ticket with Charles Davis. This year's supper will be a chance to eat and shop, as the Music Booster Club will have a bazaar with Christmas gift ideas in the cafeteria.

Noel Fun To Aid Needy

A children's Christmas party is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 11 in the Raeford National Guard Armory beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Besides the fun for the youngsters, the party will give everyone a chance to help out some less-fortunate people at Christmastime. Admission to the party is a can of food. The canned goods will be given to needy families in Hoke County through the assistance of the Armory staff.

Singing, prize drawings, and of course a visit from St. Nick will highlight the afternoon's festivities. Children of all ages are invited.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Commission office at 875-5603.

Flu Immunization Campaign Ending

The swine flu immunization campaign, which has fallen far short of its goal here as well as elsewhere, will end with a weekend clinic Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5 at the public health center.

The two clinics will be the last opportunity to get a free shot. Private physicians are expected to have ample quantities of the vaccine for some time, but although the shot is free, physicians may charge for an office call.

Susan McKenzie, acting health center director, said a full staff will be working both days so that as many people as possible can be immunized. The Saturday clinic is scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday's clinic is 1-4 p.m.

Since the health center began giving swine flu shots nearly two months ago, less than 1,000 Hoke Countians have been vaccinated, a very disappointing number to local health workers.

Mrs. McKenzie announced flyers have been made up to distribute to the public and posters will be placed in various businesses around the county in an effort to persuade more people to take the shot.

Publicity last week concerning the first reported case of swine flu since last winter, which was found in a Missouri man, did prompt renewed interest. Mrs. McKenzie

Physician Relocating

Raeford physician R.G. Townsend announced he is moving his offices from Campus Avenue to a

said the health center received more calls last Wednesday about the shot than in the past two weeks.

Phone Merger Vote Reportedly 2-1 Against

Results of the voting here on the proposed merger of the Raeford and Fayetteville telephone exchanges has not been announced but reportedly the idea was turned down by a 2-1 margin.

The voting, which was done by mailed ballots, was completed Nov. 23. Fifty nine per cent of the subscribers eligible to vote did so. Carolina Telephone & Telegraph announced last week.

Bob Marbert, business manager of the Fayetteville CT&T office, refused to comment on the outcome of the survey, however an informed source said Tuesday that the final tally showed the merger plan was opposed by customers 2-1.

Adoption of the proposal which would end long-distance charges between Raeford and Fayetteville exchanges, would bring stiff

The State Utilities Commission, which has the power to authorize the merger, is expected to announce action on the matter at its meeting scheduled next Monday in Raleigh.

new location in the city effective Dec. 31.

Townsend, one of only two general practitioners in Raeford, has been in the Campus Ave. medical arts building since 1964. The reason for the move is that his lease has not been renewed, he said.

Townsend said Monday that he is in the process of choosing a building in the downtown area to move into, but that no final agreements have been made.

Dr. R.M. Jordan, who owns the Campus Ave. medical building, said Townsend's lease was terminated "by mutual consent" and said he had no definite plans as yet for the space being vacated.

"As of this moment, there are several things under consideration and I really can't tell you anything now," Jordan said.

Airport Expansion Gets Go-Ahead

Kiwanis Supper Dec. 9

The Kiwanis Club annual pancake supper will be Dec. 9 in the Gibson cafeteria at the high school from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets, priced at \$1.75, may be purchased from any Kiwanis Club member or Key Club member.

Proceeds from the supper, the biggest fundraising event of the year for the Kiwanians, will go to support youth activities. Fifty per cent of the proceeds will go to the Key Club, the Kiwanis Club of high school youths, and the remaining 50 per cent will be given to other local youth groups, such as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

The Kiwanis support of youth is keynoted this year by a quotation taken from Abraham Lincoln, club member Robert Gatlin said. "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important...the fate of humanity is in his hands".

The Raeford Kiwanis Club, whose motto is "We Build", is in its 52nd year of continuous service. Membership is in excess of 45 men.

Ticket chairman for the pancake supper are Avery Connell and Vardell Hedgpeth.

The planned expansion of the Raeford Municipal Airport got a green light from the state with the approval of the \$10,700 grant from the N.C. Department of Transportation, funds tied to a federal grant which is expected in excess of a quarter million dollars.

The state money, part of the North Carolina State Airport Aid Program, will be matched by \$10,700 in city funds. City manager Robert Drumwright said a decision should be made this week on the application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the rest of the funds. FAA will pay 90 per cent of the project costs.

Christmas Mail Dates Moved Up

The deadline for mailing Christmas packages within the United States is Friday, Dec. 3, for guaranteed delivery.

The mailing date was moved up a week early by the U.S. Postal Service because of the continuing strike by United Parcel Service and the increased load on parcel post. The deadline for cards and letters was also moved up a week. That date is now Dec. 10.

Joseph Carver, Raeford postmaster, said this week that people seem to be cooperating with the situation and are mailing early.

"We're not running too far behind. Right now, parcel post is only two days later than normal. And, of course, first class delivery has not been affected at all," Carver said.

Carver said that parcel post handling is running 200 to 250 per cent more now than at the same time last year.

For overseas packages, the deadline for surface mail has already passed, so customers will have to use air mail if they want gifts to arrive by Christmas.

"According to all forecasts, we will have everything delivered by the close of business on Dec. 24. We are now getting into the heaviest period for parcels but that should peak about Dec. 20," he said.

Drumwright said the estimated cost of the entire expansion and improvements is \$269,000.

The project calls for acquiring some 15 acres to be used for additional aircraft parking areas. Apron space would be doubled. Also, the dirt parallel taxiway will be paved and lighted.

Drumwright said a tentative agreement has been reached for the purchase of the 15 acres. He described the price as "in the neighborhood of \$20,000".

Presently there are 41 planes based at the airport and because of the safety factor involved the FAA has given a priority to the Raeford project, the city manager said.

An estimated ten million dollars in funds are expected to be distributed from the FAA for a total of 14 different grants. Presumably, the state would not award its share unless the FAA acts favorably.

Drumwright also said that the city expects to receive \$7,000, the last part of the federal grant awarded in 1972 for the original paving and lighting of the runway, shortly. The paving was completed in 1973, but the final installment of the FAA grant has been held up.

UF Drive Near 75%

The United Fund campaign for Hoke County has approached 75 per cent of its goal. UF co-chairman Danny DeVane announced Tuesday.

Cash and pledges so far amount to \$16,718. This year's goal is \$22,811.

DeVane said he was "extremely pleased" with the success of the drive but added that many pledge cards have not yet been counted.

"If you have a card that hasn't been picked up, please send it through the mail or drop it by DeVane's on Main St. We do have a number of cards that were missed in the pickups, so not all businesses have been fully counted. And, of course, there are individuals who may have been missed," he said.

"I am confident that with the generosity of so many people here we can look forward to meeting that goal very soon," he said.

Music Boosters Set Bazaar

The Hoke County Music Booster Club will sponsor a fund raising bazaar Dec. 9 from 5 until 9 p.m. at the Hoke High Gibson Building.

The bazaar will be held in conjunction with the Kiwanis Pancake Supper.

Parents and friends of the Music Booster Club have donated a number of hand made items to be sold like applique pillows, crochet hats and mufflers, Christmas tree ornaments and stockings. Baked goods will also be offered and three hand made afghans will be raffled. A few items will be donated by local merchants.



BOOSTER'S BAZAAR -- Displaying some of the many items to be sold Dec. 9 at the Music Booster Club Bazaar are Mrs. Ralph Barnhart, Mrs. Richard Coker and Mrs. Bill Niven. The bazaar will be held in conjunction with the Kiwanis Pancake Supper in the Hoke High Gibson Building from 5 until 9 p.m. Three afghans will be raffled during the event.

Deck the halls and then call *The News-Journal* office.

Between now and Christmas N-J photographers will be looking for outstanding home decorations to print.

So, if you think your decorations or those of a friend are noteworthy, please give us a call at 875-2121.