

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past week has been on the cold side. Today (Tuesday) it is raining but from all reports it will fair up and turn colder. Some people are asking for a white Christmas but I guess as you get older you don't look forward to a white any day.

Mrs. A.A. McInnis called last week and said that one mistake was in the writeup about her in last week's paper. She said that the Aunt Becky referred to in the article was not any kin to her but was the pen name of some lady that wrote for the Maxton paper. Mrs. McInnis said that someone might take it the wrong way if it wasn't corrected.

Sorry Mrs. A.A. about this, just a misunderstanding.

A lady called this week with the following human interest story:

Sunday morning between Sunday School and church at the Raeford Presbyterian Church she went to her car to put away some materials. She said a car stopped driven by a young man and he asked her if she would take a potted plant he had and put it in the church.

The lady said it was an amaranth, a red blooming plant, and was really beautiful. The young man asked, if after the worship service, would she give it to someone sick or someone who was a shut-in.

She asked the young man his name, but he said that he would like to remain anonymous, of course this is the way most good samaritans want to be known.

The caller said that she took the plant after church to Bill McFadyen and that he was all smiles at getting it.

She didn't know the young man, but thought he might read this column and know that the potted plant did what he wanted it to do. That is, bring joy to someone else.

Thanks for the telephone call and maybe we should all put this to use for the upcoming Christmas season.

The Post Office Department receives many complaints from people who say that the mail is late or that things are lost.

A letter arrived this week in The News-Journal box that could have been pitched in the dead letter file.

The letter was addressed as follows:

M.B. Jones
Box 550
Raeford, N. Georgia 28303.

This letter was for Becky Jones of the newspaper staff. It had gone to Dunn but from there it came to Raeford.

So you people that complain about the postal service must hear only the bad instead of the good. They have a hard time too.

Don't forget the Raeford Kiwanis Club Pancake Supper tonight (Thursday) beginning at five o'clock at the Gibson Cafeteria. Besides the meal, that will benefit local youth projects, you can enjoy a time of fellowship with your friends. So make plans to attend.

Also at the same time the Music Booster Club will hold a Bazaar at the school. This would be a fine time to pick up some Christmas gifts and save you from fighting the crowds of some shopping center. The proceeds from this bazaar will also go to a worthy cause.

An article brought into the office concerning the stopping of religion on the airwaves will be taken up in this column next week.

Rose's Office Here Dec. 15

The mobile office of Congressman Charlie Rose will visit Raeford Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the post office parking lot.

Administrative assistant Rip Collins will be available.

Balfour New Chairman

County Board Reorganizes

City Wells Blamed For Water Deficit

The city council agreed to have state authorities re-check the city's six deep water wells in the Turnpike Road area after a group of about 20 landowners appeared before the councilmen and complained their wells were running dry.

Steve Hedgepeth, representing the homeowners, told the board that people in the area were having trouble getting enough water from their wells and blamed the presence of the city's six wells. The city well,

which are 150 feet in depth, have been in operation about a year.

City manager Robert Drumwright explained that both state officials and the city's engineering firm conducted extensive tests before the wells were put in to insure they would have no effect on the private, shallow wells serving homes. Some of the private wells are as shallow as 24 or 30 feet, he said.

Drumwright, as well as some councilmen, suggested the increase in new homes and more wells in the area may be the cause of any water shortages.

Several years ago, when the city began drilling the Turnpike Road wells, 28 persons signed a petition voicing concern that the deep water wells would affect water supply in the community. Drumwright said this was the first such complaint made to the city.

Drumwright said that officials with the Division of Health in the Department of Natural and Economic Resources would be requested to conduct tests as soon as possible. Moore-Gardner Associates, the city's engineers, would also be asked to investigate.

Lovette Resigns
In other business Monday night, the council accepted the resignation of councilman David Lovette, effective Dec. 6.

In a letter, Lovette cited business obligations as interfering with the time needed to devote to city affairs and said he was resigning regretfully.

Lovette was elected to the council in 1975.

Drumwright said the council is expected to discuss naming a

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538 More Get Shot

Five hundred and thirty eight persons here received a swine flu vaccination during the special two weekend clinics at the county health center.

The number was by far the largest immunized at one time since the campaign began here Oct. 11, but health department workers were still disappointed.

The total number of county residents who have been inoculated is under 2,000. Most of those who received shots Saturday and Sunday were in the under - 65 age group.

The health department announced that children age three and older will be able to get a swine flu shot. A limited supply of the vaccine will be made available on a "first come, first served" basis.

No date has yet been scheduled for the children's immunizations. Only healthy children will be given the vaccine. Chronically ill youngsters should see their family physicians for the vaccine.



OATH OF OFFICE - Clerk of Court Juanita Edmund (on left) administers the oath of office to the newest members of the board of education Monday night, Ruth McNair (center) and Mina Townsend. The two are the first women ever elected to the school board here.

Townsend, McNair Join School Board

Newcomers Mina Townsend and Ruth McNair were sworn in as members of the Hoke County Board of Education during its meeting Monday night.

Mrs. Townsend, 39, and Mrs. McNair, 55, became the first women to serve on the board. Mrs. McNair is also the first black elected to the body.

According to minutes of the meeting, the new board elected Robert (Bobby) Gibson chairman on a 3-2 secret vote. Gibson's name was placed in nomination by Mrs. Townsend. Riley M. Jordan was also nominated for chairman by Mrs. McNair.

Jordan was nominated as vice-chairman of the board by Mrs. Townsend and elected by acclamation.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of Wendell R. Branch, assistant principal at Scurlock Elementary School.

Branch was among several county men arrested last summer in connection with a tobacco theft in Robeson County.

The board approved Robert Gatlin as consulting engineer to the schools at an annual fee of \$1,200.

Teachers will be authorized to leave school at 3 p.m. during the last week before the Christmas vacation in another decision made by the board.

Mary Alice Morris, a West Hoke teacher, was named to head the special migrant education program in remedial math this year. Charlotte Kelly was appointed as clerk-recruiter for the program.

The board also approved new personnel, directed the superintendent to write a sick leave policy, agreed to turn over Armory Park for recreation use and reviewed the yearly audit report before adjourning.



SWEARING IN - Newly elected county commissioners Neil W. McPhatter (on right) and Danny DeVane take the oath of office Monday morning before the Clerk of Court. McPhatter and DeVane are beginning four year terms.

Scabies Noted Among Schoolchildren

Scabies, widely known as "the itch", has been detected among Hoke school children but only relatively few cases have occurred.

School Supt. G. Raz Autry said Friday that 50 cases of scabies have been confirmed involving pupils at six of the county's seven schools since the first of November. Only McLauchlin Elementary School had no reported cases.

Scabies is a contagious skin disease caused by a parasitic mite that burrows under the skin to deposit eggs, causing intense itching.

State health officials announced earlier this year that an increase in the disease was noted in North Carolina.

Autry said that school nurse Eleanor Harward has made checks at all of the schools and every student who is found to have scabies has been taken home with

an explanation given to his parents. The policy of the schools is not to re-admit a student unless the student has received medical treatment.

"Unfortunately, some parents have not sought treatment for their children and we are presently working on this problem," Autry said.

Autry added that all principals in the system have been instructed to make all parents aware of the situation.

M.R. Mills, chief of the environmental section of the Hoke health department, said scabies is highly contagious and somewhat difficult to cure.

"The parasite must be killed by heat, not just ordinary washing. The clothing, bed linen, everything has just about got to be sent to a commercial laundry, most home laundry won't do it," he said.

Hoke Gains In Census

Preliminary population figures announced this week by Census Bureau officials show Hoke County has increased its population since the last census in 1970 and the city of Raeford has experienced a slight decline.

The county population as of Nov. 2, the date of the special federal census here, was 18,406, a gain of 1,970 over the 1970 census, county manager T.B. Lester announced Monday.

The population for the city on

the same date was 3,139, a loss of 61 compared to the latest available figure, city manager Robert Drumwright reported.

The new figures released this week are considered preliminary and will not be official until published by the federal government. Drumwright said Monday he was concerned at the city's loss in population, if the figure is accepted as correct.

"It's not the (small) amount that bothers me, it's the trend," Drumwright said.

The city's federal revenue sharing award, along with state road funds and other forms of aid, is figured according to size of population, so any reduction in population can lead to reduced revenues.

Lester indicated he was generally pleased with the population increase, but added that it would not greatly affect any projected revenue right now, since the county has been using a figure of 18,000 persons, a revision made by the state, for some time.

Teacher Charged In Killing

A Hoke High teacher is free on \$20,000 bond after she was charged in Cumberland County with the fatal shooting of her husband early Sunday.

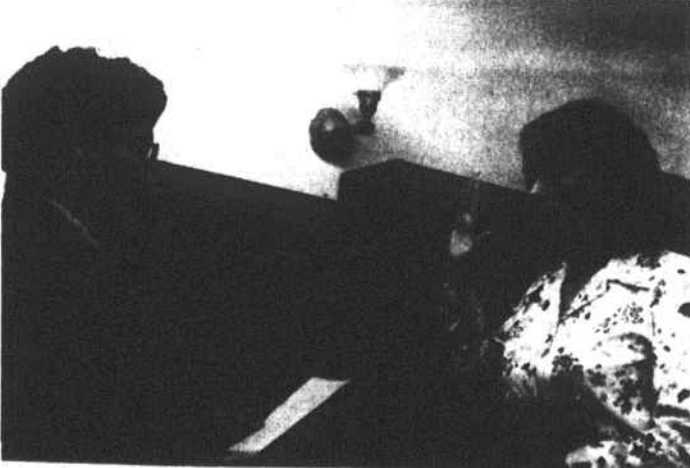
Mrs. Carrie Lowery Hampton, 29, was arrested and charged with first degree murder by Cumberland County sheriff's deputies following the death of her husband, Herbert J. Hampton, 29.

The shooting occurred in the couple's home at 2231 Delta Drive about 5:30 a.m., deputies said. Hampton had been shot through the heart by a bullet from a small caliber pistol and was pronounced dead on arrival at Cape Fear Valley Hospital, according to deputies.

Hampton was employed by the N.C. Department of Correction. Mrs. Hampton is a Spanish teacher at Hoke High and has been employed by the Hoke school system for the last six years.

A spokesman in the school superintendent's office said the Hamptons were married last August.

Mrs. Hampton was released on bond Sunday pending a Jan. 5 court hearing.



SWEARING IN - Della Maynor takes the oath of her new office Monday morning from Clerk of Court Juanita Edmund. Miss Maynor, 21, marked two firsts - she is the first Indian elected to the office and she is also the youngest.