

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather seems to have settled down and turned into a regular winter. The weekend was about normal and many got out for the first time this year. The forecast is for nice weather the remainder of the week.

According to a couple of cartoons in papers last week, forecasters were giving the weather report and signing off with the remark, "This forecast has a 70% chance of being wrong."

The Hoke High School Booster Club is sponsoring a golf tournament at Arabia Gold Course on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 & 20. This will open tournament play at the course for this year.

The price for competing in the tournament is \$12.00 and all proceeds will go to aid the Booster Club with their projects at Hoke High and Upchurch School.

If you would like to be a participant in this event, get in touch with Raz Autry at the Board of Education building, Don Steed at Hoke County High School or Noah Hendrix, president of the boosters. You could call the Arabia Golf Club and leave your name and one of the above will get in touch with you.

Ronald Baxley of the Raeford Lions Club was by the office Monday and handed me the following note:

"The Raeford Lions Club will have their annual Eye Will Drive Saturday, February 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Location for the Eye Will Drive will be at the Edenborough Shopping Center."

Now if you are not familiar with the Eye Will; it is a project of Lions International to remove your eyes at death so that they can be placed in a blind person and restore sight to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crumpler of the local funeral home have passed courses and are certified to remove eyes for the Hoke County area.

So if you would like to make someone see after your death, go by the shopping center for complete details.

The forms must be filled out correctly or you will be wasting your time.

Last week in this column Mrs. Archie Walters asked that I mention about the Class Reunion for the Hoke County High School Class of 1952. She called this week and said all but five of the class had been located, but would like to try through this column to locate these five people.

This we will try to do by putting their names below. They are: Billy Ray McCormick, Gordon L. Adams, Douglas Dixon, Irene Lane, and Betty Jean Culbreth.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these, please contact Venetia Walters at telephone number 875-2683.

Robert Gatlin, rain chart expert for this paper, was by the office last week and told a joke, which he said he heard at the coffee session. Becky Jones and Marty Vega were the audience for Gatlin and Yours Truly was keeping a close ear in case it was too rough for mixed company.

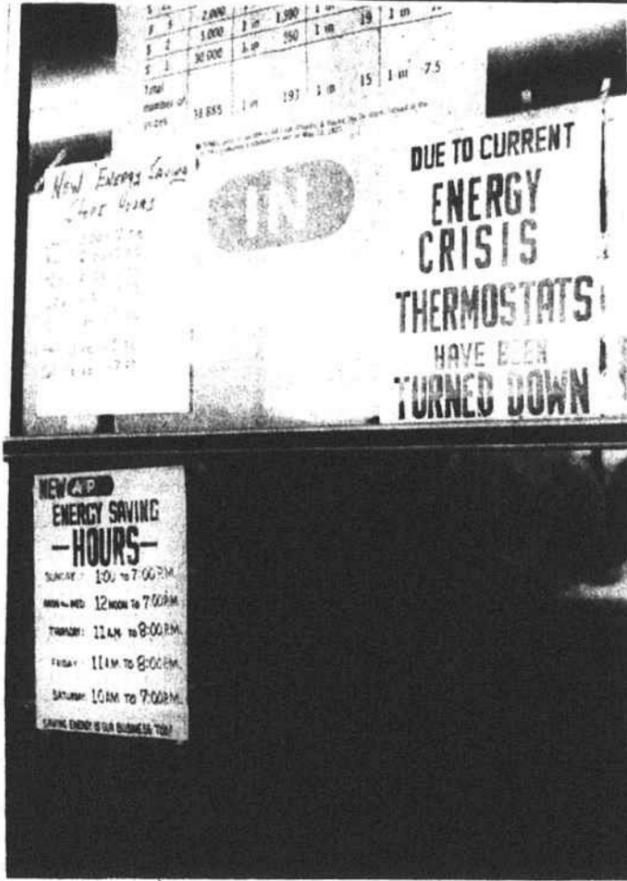
After a couple of interruptions of people coming in to buy papers, Gatlin finished the joke. Becky looked at Marty and no laughter came from either. One of them did say they would grade the joke C-minus.

I don't know the rule of thumb for grading jokes, but as someone said on television, "Gatlin, you laid an egg."

Sr. Citizens Meet Mar. 1

The Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club will meet Tuesday, March 1 at 2:30 p.m. in the Raeford Methodist Church.

The program on house plants will be given by a speaker from Sandhills Community College.



FAMILIAR SIGNS -- Notices of lowered thermostats are becoming familiar signs to shoppers these energy-conscious days. It is now mandatory for stores to keep the heat down.

Next Year, It Will Be Different!

Weary workers at the Raeford Division of Motor Vehicles Office are enjoying the rest after last week's madhouse and plans are being made to avoid a repeat of the frenzy next year.

People were still waiting last Wednesday morning, a day after the deadline, to renew their automobile registrations. Some of them were unwilling to get in the endless lines of the past days, or were in them and still couldn't get served before closing.

On both Monday and Tuesday last week, the DMV office took in \$29,000. The previous Friday transactions totaled \$24,000. Saturday, the office was closed to the dismay of many.

Chamber of Commerce manager Dayna Pate (the Chamber operates the local office) estimated that 85-90 per cent of the business was out-of-county residents.

Mrs. Pate pointed out that the Bordeaux DMV office was permanently closed last year, leaving Cumberland County with only one licensing office and hundreds of Cumberland residents descended on the Raeford office.

"We are just not equipped to handle that many people. We had four girls working but the office is

so small they were getting in each other's way, trying to work around the counter. A lot of people couldn't understand why we weren't open on Saturday. You can't just decide you're going to open Saturday. You have to get permission from the state to change hours, it has all got to be approved in advance," she said.

The Chamber manager said next year the office would be open on Saturday and possibly the hours may be expanded. She said opening at 7 a.m. and closing later in the evening would help working people.

The Raeford office processed nearly 3,000 more transactions since Jan. 3 this year than during the same six week period last year, but the total amount of money taken in was nearly the same. Total sales from Jan. 3 - Feb. 16 this year have totaled \$290,000. Last year through Feb. 16 it was \$289,000.

Mrs. Pate explained that last year there were more customers with higher licensing fees, such as truck owners.

The Chamber receives forty cents on each transaction, so the office will make at least \$1,200 more this year.

Extended Day Program Offers An Alternative

BY SUZANNE APLIN

It's 8 p.m. and school's out for the day.

For the thirty-plus students in Hoke High School's Extended Day Program, the school day may last from two hours to six hours and fall any time between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

According to John McMillan, program director, the Extended Day students are those young men and women who for economic, psychological, academic or various other reasons cannot attend or respond favorably to the regular school program.

Harold Gillis, director of occupational education, noted that this is both a vocational and academic program and is in essence a part of the regular High School, maintaining all the privileges that normal day students have.

"We attend all the school pep rallies," said teacher Mrs. Geraldine Munn, "and, we have one student who has expressed and interest in the tennis team. The only full-time Extended Day instructor, Mrs. Munn went on to explain, "these students are in this program because they can't attend regular school hours. For example, many of them do night shift work

and just can't get up to make to morning classes. Consequently we don't have many participate in extracurricular activities."

As class projects the program has organized occupational field trips to study horticulture, for example. Plans are now being made to visit Grannis Field.

McMillan explained that these students come together to study for various reasons. He estimated that 60 percent of them work. Some are recommended to the program for discipline reasons. Occasionally pregnant girls prefer to attend the afternoon-evening sessions rather than keep the regular schedule. Some are on scholastic suspension from the regular classes for various reasons. And some have missed too much school to be able to keep up with normal work for their grade.

However, admittance to the program is not easy. A student may apply for the program or be recommended by his teacher and then the application must be approved by Principal Allen Edwards or Miss Emma Mims, assistant principal. Edwards then evaluates the student's academic needs for graduation or requirements to keep up with his class. One of the aims of the program is

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Moore Water Plan Opposition Growing

Fish Fry Cancelled

Because of the energy crisis, the fish fry sponsored by the Hoke County Law Enforcement Association scheduled Saturday, Feb. 26 has been cancelled.

Anyone who has already purchased a ticket may obtain a refund from the officer who sold the ticket.

Want A Flu Shot?

Swine flu shots for the elderly or chronically ill are again available from the county health department beginning this week.

Revised consent forms, which spell out additional risks associated with the vaccine, were received from the State Department of Health. Only the bivalent vaccine, which protects against both swine flu and Type A-Victoria flu, will be administered. The moratorium on the monovalent vaccine, which is given to healthy persons under age 65, is still in effect.

No special times have been scheduled for the shots, acting health center director Susan McKenzie said, because there is little likelihood that many people will ask for the shot.

The health center is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed on Mondays due to the energy crisis.

Trooper Leaving

Highway Patrol trooper C.A. Bennett has been transferred to Jacksonville, N.C. (Onslow County), effective Mar. 1.

Bennett, 33, has been in Hoke County for the past eight years. He will be joining Troop B, District III. He had requested the move.

Bennett will be replaced by Louis Rector, who will graduate from the academy Mar. 4.

The trooper said he would be sorry to leave Hoke County because of the excellent working relationship he had with the other law enforcement agencies and the rescue squad.

"The people here have been very nice and I just can't praise the work the rescue squad does enough. They have been a great help to the Patrol," Bennett said.

The new assignment will put him closer to his home town of Aurora.

County commissioners agreed to request a full report from Moore County officials on the impact of the new sewage disposal plant and the proposed water treatment plant in the southern portion of that county after representatives of a citizens' group argued Tuesday that the plans could threaten the environment in Hoke County.

Warren Pate, a Raeford attorney, and Jay Carter, a biologist and Sierra Club member from Moore County, told commissioners that they were representing the Committee of Concerned Citizens, a group of private citizens in Moore, Hoke, Scotland and Robeson counties, who are alarmed that the two projects may harm communities downstream on Drowning Creek.

The sewage disposal plant, which is nearing completion, has been constructed south of Pine Bluff near U.S. 1 at Drowning Creek. On March 29, Moore residents will vote on a water bonds issue to finance a water system for Aberdeen, Southern Pines and other communities in the southern portion of the county.

Carter said that because the sewage plant was approved in 1973 before the stricter Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations went into effect, a complete study should be done now. He said the sewage plant has a capacity to treat 6.6 million gallons of sewage a day. He said the new water plant, if approved, will take seven million gallons of water daily out of Drowning Creek when in full use.

"The flow of the creek has been measured at 37.5 million gallons on low-flow days. The engineers used data from 1946 to 1967. Yet the flow got down to only 15 million gallons in 1968. There may be enough water to dilute the sewage but if they take out that much water for the water treatment plant it could become a serious ecological concern," Carter said.

Pate said that many people who use the creek for fishing and recreational purposes are worried about the long-range effects.

"It's right frightening, the prospect of changing the Ph of the water and fish kills. I'm not saying that these things will happen, but we're saying there hasn't been enough study," he said.

"We find it amazing that two projects of this size with their obvious intent to cause changes in the land use have been able to circumvent the preparation of an environmental study," Carter said. He told commissioners there were alternatives to the water plant at Drowning Creek -- the present system could be expanded or a creek at Whispering Pines could be

developed as a water source.

Both men expressed concern that present water quality control regulations are difficult to enforce and the stream could suffer damage downstream. They also argued that any harm would affect other counties, not Moore.

All four commissioners present (James Hunt was absent) agreed to request a report from Moore County officials, as well as make inquiries with the N.C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources Water Division and the EPA.

Inspection Fees

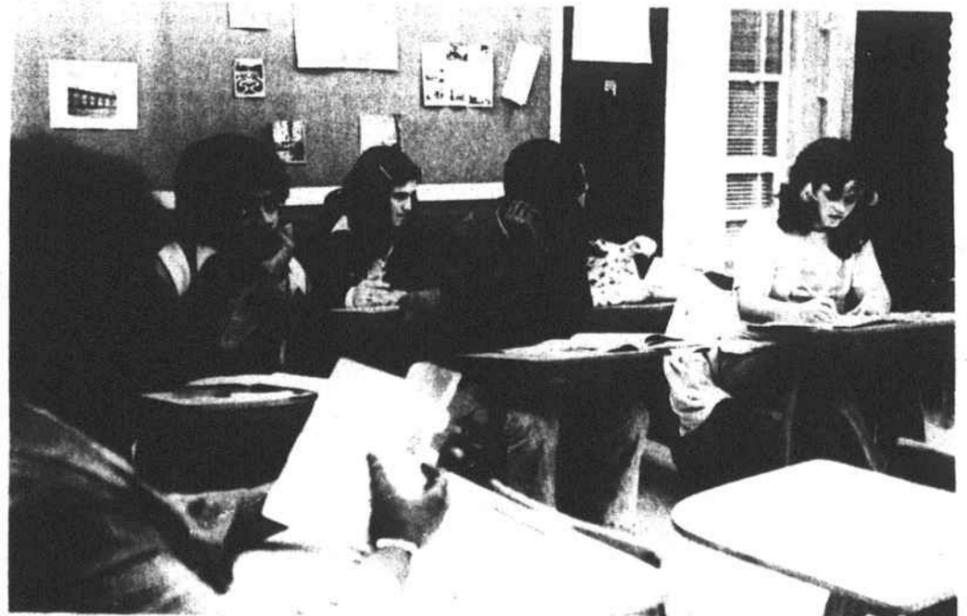
In other business Tuesday, commissioners refused to reduce the inspection fee to \$5 for the special switches to be installed on water heaters and air conditioners in Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative customer homes.

Ervin Currie, a LREMC representative, requested an adjustment so that all four counties within the system would set the same fee. Two weeks ago, the Hoke board agreed on a \$7.50 inspection fee after electrical inspector Jack Ellis explained that they would have to hire an additional worker to get it done.

The co-op is installing the switches with the consent of the customer to cut peak load demand during the summer months and thereby decrease the wholesale power demand. The switches are activated by a high frequency radio signal and will automatically cut off air conditioners for seven and one half minutes during high demand periods. Water heaters may be automatically cut off for 2-3 hours.

The co-op estimates about 1,500 homes in Hoke County will be equipped by this summer. By law, the water heater switches must be inspected within 48 working hours

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EXTENDED DAY -- The Hoke High School Extended Day Program was started to help students who for various reasons could not meet the more rigid requirements of the normal day classes at the high school. The main objectives of the program are to help students keep up with their scholastic requirements and eventually to move them back into the regular classroom if possible. [Photo by S.H. Aplin]