

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather seems to have adjusted to the season and it was warm for the past weekend. If we can get by the Easter holidays without a cold snap, maybe we can look forward to summer.

It is raining as this is being written early Tuesday morning but the temperature is going up and it should be in the 70's during the day.

Well, things can get back to normal with the basketball tournament over and the Tar Heel teams coming in two and four in the tournament. The games Monday didn't go down to the last shot like the others, so it didn't take as long to wind down as the previous games.

Now you can get ready for your routine show or see reruns for the next few weeks until baseball rolls around.

I did see one sign on the TV screen that said, "we will be back." I wonder when this sign was printed?

The "Lundy Fund" has certainly been a success and it shows that the Hoke County people have a heart. It also shows that the folks that were raised here and moved away are still like 'Brer Rabbit'. They are still from Hoke County.

This letter proves the point:

Dear Sam:
Just a small contribution to the "Lundy Fund" and with lots of love and appreciation. Yes, they are very much a part of the Raeford I know and remember with much gratitude. On my last visit to Raeford, after I spoke with you, I stopped in and had such a warm visit with Mrs. Lundy. What a great couple, and what a tremendous expression of appreciation from the Town of Raeford. I'm really proud to be a "Raefordite" — you can ask anyone in Springfield, Pa.!

Sincerely,
Mary Shaw

(McDiarmid) Montague
(you don't have to print this — just wanted to be a part of a wonderful tribute.) Give my love to Ann Webb!!

Thanks Mary Shaw, the check has been turned over to the proper authorities. Letters like yours bring back many memories of high school days. Stop in to see me the next time you are in town.

The "Get Up and Go" poem does have more verses than were in this column last week. The first to come in was Mrs. Rachael Stevens with a copy of the poem. She said that her aunt had it and she remembered it when she read it in the paper last week, so she dug down in her aunt's belongings and came forth with it.

Next came Betty Smith and she had found a copy in her grandmother's things that had been stored.

Then the following letter was received:

Dear Sam:
Part of the poem you had in your column last week sounded familiar and it sent me browsing thru my poetry file and sure enough, there it was! The wording is a little different but I'll copy it for you as it is on my clipping.

Incidentally, it is from the *News and Observer*, Raleigh, N.C., Sunday Morning, July 15, 1962 in a column titled "Chatter."

Thanks for our paper each week; it helps keep in touch with friends and families, happenings, plus the progress of a place where many happy memories were shared. We are so happy for the Lundy's, which is typical of Raeford's concern.

In looking thru my poetry clippings I also came across this "goodie."

"The measure of a man is the size of the thing it takes to get his goat!"

--James Schneider

As ever,
Barbara Hiser
Thanks Barbara and from the three copies received, the poem below seems to bring an end to "Get Up and Go."

How do I know that my youth is all spent?

Well, my "Get up and Go" has got up and went.

(See AROUND TOWN, Page 14)



HONORED CITIZENS -- Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. congratulates Allen Lundy and his wife Wimzy after signing the proclamation declaring next Sunday to be 'Lundy Sunday' in Raeford. (Photo by S.H. Aplin)

'Lundy Sunday'

Sunday, April 3 has been proclaimed Lundy Sunday in honor of Wimzy and Allen Lundy and the big event will be the presentation of the tickets for their dream vacation at 3 p.m. at the civic center.

The fund drive has now gone over \$2,500 and contributions continue to come in.

Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. signed the official proclamation of Lundy Sunday, which says "The couple has operated Lundy's Shoe Repair Shop in the city of Raeford since 1929 and continues to serve our community. We in the city have continually benefitted from their loyalty and service."

Leonard Miller, one of the organizers of the fund drive, said he was delighted the goal had been reached so far ahead of the trip (April 25) and said the extra money would go toward a car for the couple.

"We feel it would be appropriate to help the Lundys fulfill another long-standing dream, to replace their 12 year-old car. So contributions will still be actively solicited and used as a down payment on a newer car," he said.

The special open house at the civic center to celebrate the couple's 50th wedding anniversary is open to everyone.

Fire Station Bids Fall Under \$200,000

Bids were opened last Thursday on the city's planned new fire station and officials were pleased to find that the total figures are well below the \$200,000 originally estimated.

DWC Contractors, Inc. of Fayetteville submitted the low bid on the general construction contract, \$149,439.

Raeford Plumbing and Heating was low bidder on both the plumbing and heating and air conditioning contracts. Its bids for plumbing was \$11,150 and \$8,300

for heating and air.

Townsend Electrical Service of Lumberton turned in the low bid on the electrical work with \$14,700.

The total of the four low bids amounts to \$183,589.

The city council is expected to award contracts when it meets Monday night at the regular monthly meeting.

Raeford voters approved a \$200,000 bond issue last fall to finance the new construction. The new facility will be built on E. Prospect Ave.

Dog Day Afternoon Sets Off Growling

By Marty Vega

Sherry the dog is only one foot tall but the pint-sized pooch has brought on a king-sized headache since he disappeared and was found after his owners advertised a reward through a radio station and the newspaper.

The four-year-old Mel-Mar Bichon, which is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Peterkin, wandered away from her E. Sixth Ave. home March 20 and was found near the cemetery later that day by twelve-year-old Mary Beth Wilkes who brought the dog to her E. Donaldson Ave. home.

Peterkin notified the police and had Radio Station WSHB broadcast announcements that there was a reward offered for the dog. Mrs. Wilkes said a friend told her about the radio announcement and the following day she contacted Peterkin and he came to fetch the dog.

Peterkin, who was thrilled to see

his pet, gave Mary Beth Wilkes \$7 and thanked her and took Sherry home.

But there wasn't a happy ending to this. There hasn't been an ending since Mrs. Wilkes saw an advertisement published in The News-Journal last week offering a \$200 reward, not \$7, for Sherry.

"My daughter wanted to keep the dog, she begged me to let her keep it, but I am trying to teach her right from wrong -- that you can't keep something that doesn't belong to you. The dog was hurt, he was bleeding and I told her we'd keep it with us until we found the owners. For a full-grown man to take advantage of a little child! When the man came and got the dog he said 'how much do I owe you' and I told him just whatever you were going to give. So he gave her \$7. I didn't know at that time about the amount of the reward," she said.

The advertisement which ran in the newspaper on Thursday was placed the previous Monday by

HUD Application Slashed By Half

Officials here were notified Monday that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has cut by half the county's application for community development funds -- scrapping three of the four projects -- and will accept a final application for \$235,000 for housing rehabilitation instead.

Announcement of the decision was made by Rep. Charlie Rose in Washington. A spokesman in Rose's office said the HUD action means the county has an excellent chance of receiving a final award for the \$235,000.

HUD has tentatively approved the housing rehabilitation project for two low-income neighborhoods, North Raeford and Tylertown. The county may

now submit a final application for \$150,000 for North Raeford and \$85,000 for Tylertown.

The county had requested a full \$250,000 for the two neighborhoods.

The \$85,000 figure for Tylertown includes \$10,000 for the repair of the community house in that township.

The other three projects sought that were rejected in the HUD review were a neighborhood community center for Rockfish, extension of city sewer lines to Shawtown and repair of all seven county-owned community buildings. A total of \$220,000 was asked for these projects.

Although officials were disappointed that all four pro-

grams would not be funded, they were pleased to learn that the housing rehabilitation plans have cleared the first hurdle. Rehabilitation of sub-standard dwellings is rated highest in the point system used by HUD in the determination of awards.

The county received \$464,000 in community development funds last year which included \$90,000 for housing rehabilitation. Target areas for those funds are Jones Hill, Cameron Heights and Cockman Hill, all predominantly black neighborhoods north of the city limits.

Twenty-eight homes have already been selected to receive the aid and actual work in those areas is expected to start sometime next month.

City-County Merger Proposal To Be Eyed In C of C Study

A feasibility study to examine a merger of the city and county governments received the unanimous endorsement of county commissioners during their meeting Monday.

The proposal was made by Gib Bernhardt, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who emphasized that he was not endorsing the merger idea itself, only the study. He told commissioners that the Chamber leadership had explored the plan with St. Andrews Presbyterian College, whose political science students would prepare the report.

Bernhardt said the students would do the study at no cost to the county and the Chamber would pay for any incidental expenses.

"Some of the residents have asked that this study be made," the Chamber president said. "We would like your endorsement."

"I think this is good, I just hope the public doesn't misunderstand," board chairman John Balfour said. "We are not endorsing the idea of merging."

Bernhardt requested that one commissioner be designated to work with the students, but the board agreed that county manager T.B. Lester should do that.

In other Chamber business, the board unanimously authorized payment of \$1,922 as the county's share of the cost of the new tourist's brochure after Chamber manager Dayna Pate explained that some changes were made which made it more expensive. The full cost of the 5,000 copies was \$3,845. The county and the city governments agreed to pay half.

Beer Legislation

Commissioners agreed to seek the support of the state ABC (Board of Alcohol Control) in the continued attempt to ban Sunday sale of beer from restaurants here.

Hostetler told the board that he

had received an opinion from the Attorney General's office that a local measure enacted by the General Assembly would be unconstitutional. He suggested that the local delegation could introduce an amendment to the state-wide act, which would accomplish the same thing if it is passed.

He also advised that the county obtain the support of the state ABC first.

The beer question, which has

been a controversy for nearly a year, centers on the several restaurants in the county may legally sell beer on Sundays under their brown-bagging permits, although the county has a general ordinance against Sunday sales. The restaurants are selling the beer for off-premise consumption since Hoke County does not allow on-premise sales.

Commissioners directed Hostetler (See COMMISSIONERS, Page 14)

Foster Home Need Critical In County

Some are just babies, while others are teenagers. Some have been raped, beaten, starved, and neglected by their own parents. Many are perfectly healthy, while others are handicapped, either physically or mentally. Not all have these problems. Some need a temporary home because their parents have become incapacitated for a while because of health or other reasons. Others have become delinquent or unmanageable by their own parents. A few have been released for adoption and are awaiting adoptive parents.

Who are these children? They are the same 6,000 troubled youngsters who are dependent on county Social Services Departments monthly across the state to provide them with a temporary home and a better way of life.

In turn, the County Departments of Social Services are

dependent on people who are concerned enough about the plight of these youngsters to take them into their own homes temporarily to provide them with the loving care they so desperately need. Some will need this care for just a short time while others will need it until they become adults.

The people who provide this care are called foster parents and most County Social Services Departments are having difficulty in finding enough foster homes to place these children. Currently, there are approximately 2,800 licensed foster homes across the state. Ben Niblock, director of social services for Hoke County, said that there are currently 10 licensed foster homes in the county caring for 17 children. According to Niblock, "the situation in Hoke County is critical. Our homes are full, and if we must place children in unlicensed facilities, there is an increased financial burden levied upon the county. The tri-racial make-up of Hoke County makes it extremely important that the different races be represented. We are desperately lacking in white and Indian homes at this time", he stated.

"People become foster parents because they have a sincere desire to help these troubled children", Niblock continued.

Foster parents are paid \$100 per month to reimburse them for the cost of each child's care. In addition, if they are eligible, each child receives Medicaid labels each month.

Niblock said persons interested in becoming foster parents and sharing their family life with these youngsters are urged to contact the Services Unit of the Hoke County Department of Social Services in person or by calling 875-3772.



Peterkin and his nephew, James Peterkin, a deputy sheriff, who put his telephone number in the ad since his uncle would be away at work all day.

Mrs. Wilkes said she feels her daughter is entitled to the \$200, even though the dog was returned before the newspaper ad was published, but the Peterkins disagree.

"I don't have to pay her anything. The radio station didn't tell what the reward was and I got

the dog back Monday, two days before the paper came out. She was satisfied with the \$7," Mrs. Peterkin said.

Mrs. Peterkin said she never contacted the newspaper to have the ad cancelled because she was at work and the office was closed when she finished working.

"If she had had the dog when the paper came out I'd have given her the money with a smile. This is a very valuable dog, my husband and I got her up in New York and you won't find another one like it in North Carolina. But I'm not giving her a dime and I'll go to court if I have to. My lawyer said I wasn't liable and if she don't quit aggravating me, I'll sue her for aggravating," Mrs. Peterkin said.

Mrs. Wilkes said that she was willing to settle the matter for \$100 and that Peterkin agreed, but that his wife refused.

"If it costs me \$200 to take it to court I'll do it. It's the principle of the thing," Mrs. Wilkes said.