

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past few days has been like summer with the temperature in the high 80s. The forecast is for the same kind of weather for the remainder of the week. I can't remember any Easter Sunday that was any nicer than last Sunday.

At church Sunday morning someone said that he thought he would be there by himself after seeing all the traffic that went down NC 20 last Friday.

From the news it would seem that it was a sane and happy Easter holiday for everyone.

Robert Gatlin brought a program by the office recently and was commenting about the number of businesses that were advertising in the program that were not in Hoke County any more. The program was of the March of Dimes Benefit Concert given at Hoke County High School in the 1950s.

There were 33 businesses that advertised in the program and 16 of them are no longer around. So in 20 years even in a city as small as Raeford things change and most of us don't think about the changes that take place.

A letter that was received by Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Lundy recently is typical of the many that have touched their hands in recent weeks. It also tells about the experiences of a Hoke County man since leaving here. We will publish it in this column because we think it will be of interest to many friends of the writer.

The letter follows:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lundy,
I have been reading with interest the recent articles about you in *The News Journal*, to which I am still subscribing after all of these years away from Hoke County. In today's *Charlotte Observer* there is a fine article about you and your upcoming trip to San Francisco and Hawaii. I am sure you will enjoy your long-deserved vacation from repairing shoes. I was stationed briefly on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay while in the Navy back in 1945. There was a lot to be seen out there back then and I am sure there is even more today.

You may have trouble remembering me. I am Zane Grey Norton, a son of the late Manley Norton of Bowmore and a brother of Alex Norton a Deputy Sheriff in Hoke County. I am in my 25th year as a Methodist minister in the Western North Carolina Conference. I was in school with Kelly Wilson, the present pastor of the Raeford Methodist Church. I have served churches at Shelby, Lincolnton, Hickory, Winston-Salem, Huntersville, Gastonia, and I am now in my fifth year in Mooresville.

I remember well the many visits I made to your shop as a boy. I also remember that you had a son and daughter younger than I. I believe the boy's name was 'A.J.' and the girl's name was 'Louise.' I have often wondered where they are now and what they are doing.

May God continue to richly bless both of you and to give you a safe and happy journey. You are living proof that 'those who cast their bread upon the waters find it after many days.' (Ecclesiastes 11:1).

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Zane G. Norton



RABBITS -- This happy trio spent a sunny afternoon playing with a hoppy duo of Easter rabbits. The girls are Elizabeth Ragsdale, Dorcus Hostetler, and Kim McNeill. [Photo by S.H. Alpin]

Antique Aircraft

Old Fleet Finch To Fly Again

By Suzanne H. Aplin

"The only thing we need now is an exhaust system since the last one was almost demolished when the plane crashed," the man said as he held the piece of mangled metal in his hand.

The speaker is no aircraft mechanic, but a local businessman, William Poole. Along with his family and friends, A. J. Furches, Jim Williamson, and Bill Niven, Poole is building, or rather rebuilding, an antique plane.

The crew has been hard at work every Saturday, Sunday and most Friday nights since Christmas fitting together the parts of a Model 16 B, Fleet Finch.

Powered by a Kinner five cylinder horsepower radial engine, the aircraft is actually two fuselages welded together. Poole noted that one wing carries a date of 1937, one 1943 and one 1947. Designed in 1928 by Rueben Fleet, the father of Consolidated Aircraft Co., the Model 16 B is being constructed according to an old instruction manual copy.

Consolidated Aircraft originally built 600 of this model plane and less than 50 models are now known to be in existence.

Poole found the Fleet plane through an advertisement in an airplane trade magazine. "A man named Walter Schiebe of Warwick, R.I., brought it down here in a pick-up truck. Schiebe also rebuilt the engine on it," Poole said.

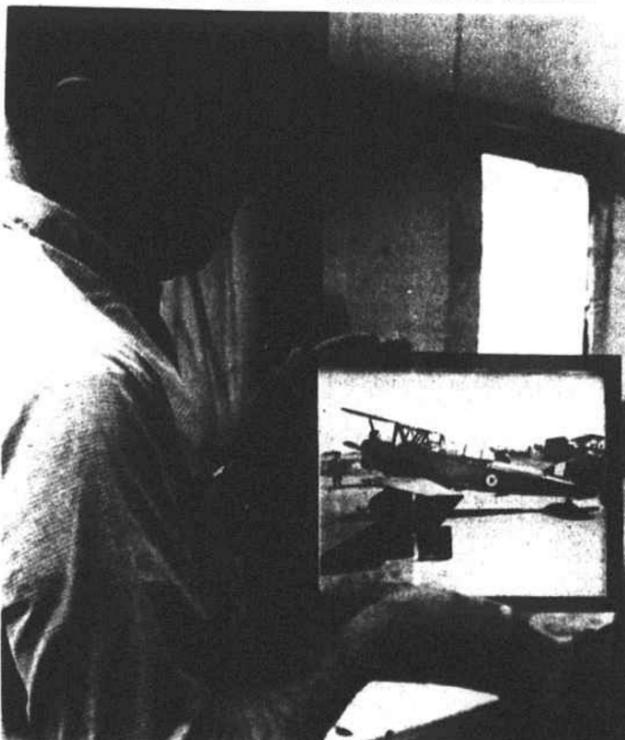
"I first heard about the Fleet back in 1951," he continued. "It's a good plane." The 16 B was used by Canadians from 1940-43 as a training unit for cadets. We are

going to paint it like the Canadians did," he said.

Poole contacted Consolidated, which now produces only airplane parts, the Fleet Club in California and Schiebe to authenticate the plane. "Of all the sources I checked," he said, "I got my best information here locally. A lady in Aberdeen, Page Shamburger, who has written many aviation articles gave me more information on the Fleet than all the others combined."

The work has progressed slowly since many of the ribs in the wing were badly damaged when the plane's former owner crashed it. The crew has painstakingly straightened the twisted metal and reinforced where necessary. "We've done everything according to FAA regulations, but when it comes right down to it, we all want it done right if we're going to be flying in it," Poole said.

The tubular steel body and the wings are covered with long staple grade A fabric. The fabric is attached to the frame then treated with four coats of clear dope, sanded, then painted with four coats of dope containing aluminum powder and, last of all, sprayed with four coats of yellow color.



MODEL -- Using a copy of an old instruction manual for the Model 16 B Fleet aircraft and old photographs, a crew of local aviation buffs is helping William Poole restore the project to its original form when it was used by the Canadians as a training craft in the early 1940's. [Photo by S.H. Aplin]

City Tax Dollars In CofC Queried

School Board Undecided On Principal's Slot

No decision has been made yet by the Board of Education on whether Allen Edwards will continue as principal of the high school next year, board members said last Thursday.

Edwards' name was not included in the list of faculty members approved for tenure, or career status, passed by the board during its April 4 meeting. By law, a teacher or principal automatically receives tenure at the beginning of the fourth year unless the board acts otherwise.

Superintendent G. Raz Autry said a special meeting of the board is scheduled tonight, (Thursday), at 7:30 p.m., but he refused to say what the agenda for the meeting was.

Autry made no mention of the matter last week when discussing the business at the April 4 meeting. Board chairman Bobby Gibson said Edwards' position was discussed, although the board did not vote to go into executive session.

"We did discuss his situation but I would hate to get into that, out of courtesy to Mr. Edwards," Gibson said. "We directed the superintendent to have a conversation with Mr. Edwards but it was of a personal nature."

Edwards said Tuesday that it would be inappropriate to make any statement about the matter at this time.

Under the law, schoolteachers must receive notice at least 30 days prior to the end of the employment period if a contract will not be renewed.

Jobless Rate Shows Dip

The unemployment rate in Hoke County dipped to 7.8 per cent in February, according to the latest figures released by the Employment Security Commission.

The January rate was put at 8.5 per cent.

The number of persons actively seeking work was estimated as 600 during February. Estimated number of employed persons was 7,070.

Hoke Gets Road Funds

Hoke County has been awarded \$14,866 for repairs to roads damaged by this winter's severe weather, the North Carolina Board of Transportation announced last week.

The state allocated nearly \$6.1 million in funds which had been marked for emergencies and held in reserve contingency funds for primary, secondary and urban roads across the state.

Estimated damage to county roads was put at \$84,490.

Chamber Orders Study Of Licensing Office

Chamber of Commerce directors agreed to delay any decision on closing down the Division of Motor Vehicles licensing office and instead appointed a fact finding committee to study the matter.

Frank Teal, Frank Baker, Ivery McNair, Younger Snead, Jr. and William McDonald were named to the committee, Chamber manager Dayna Pate reported. The committee expects to complete its study and report back a recommendation within a month to either close the office or continue it.

The action came during the board or director's regular monthly meeting Tuesday morning. A group of local businessmen, led by Snead, an automobile dealer, argued against closing down the office, a recommendation made earlier by Mrs. Pate.

In other business, the directors approved a ten per cent dues increase to become effective June 1 and agreed to ask the county government to increase its annual contribution from \$5,000 to \$7,000, Mrs. Pate said.

The new dues, which were put into the bylaws, range from \$14 for an individual membership to \$53 for a major business firm. Some

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Elections Board Closes Registration On May 4

Voter registration books will close Wednesday, May 4, 30 days prior to the special election in Antioch township for the creation of a fire tax district, the county board of elections announced.

The fire tax election for residents of Antioch township will be Saturday, June 4. Voters will decide on a tax levy not to exceed 15 cents per \$100 valuation for rural fire protection.

An opinion from the Attorney General's office in Raleigh received last week by the city manager may end the city's annual contribution of taxpayer's dollars to the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

The opinion written by James F. Bullock, senior deputy attorney general, was turned over to city attorney Palmer Wilcox for study. City manager Robert Drumwright requested the opinion last month after a city council member, Sam C. Morris, requested it.

Although Bullock stated he was unable to make a definite determination because he was unfamiliar with the particular circumstances, he said the North Carolina Supreme Court has ruled that municipal corporations may not use tax dollars for any private enterprise.

Cities may use funds other than ad valorem tax revenue for the purpose of attracting industry if certain conditions are met.

The opinion reads, "A municipal corporation has those powers prescribed by statutes and those necessarily implied by law and no other. In the case of *HORNER v CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*, 235 NC 77, the Supreme Court stated that the Burlington City Council made an absolute gift of the tax moneys to the Chamber of Commerce without specifying how they were to be spent and without reserving the right to direct or control their use and that the Chamber of Commerce comingled the tax moneys and all its other revenues and indiscriminately used the resultant funds to pay rents, salaries and other expenses incurred by it in carrying out its corporate functions."

"The Court further stated in the case of *DENNIS v RALEIGH*, 253 NC 400, that that State Legislature can neither compel nor authorize a municipal corporation to expend any of its funds for a private purpose and since practically every undertaking of a municipality does or may require the expenditure of money, a municipal corporation cannot, even with express legislative sanction, embark in any private enterprise or assume any function which is not in a legal sense public. If there is any restriction implied and inherent in the spirit of the American constitutions, it is that the government and its subdivisions shall confine themselves to the business of government for which they were created, and the expenditure of money by a municipality for private purposes does or may result in the taking of property of individuals under the guise of taxation for other than public uses."

"The Court stated that a municipal corporation, when authorized by statute, has power to appropriate for a public purpose, available surplus funds not derived from taxes or a pledge of its credit, and that where the statutory power exists, courts have permitted municipalities to advertise advantages to attract trade and industry to the community."

"We would suggest that your question be presented to the town attorney so that he may consider it in the light of *DENNIS v RALEIGH*, since your letter does not permit us to make a definitive determination and the city attorney would be in a better position to advise you in this matter."

Wilcox declined comment last week, saying he had not yet been officially asked by the council to review the matter.

In 1975, the city council increased the annual allotment to the

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The 'Catcatchers' To The Rescue

Eight year-old Sue Bennett and her mother are very grateful to the Hoke County Rescue Squad for tracking down the stray cat which bit the child two weeks ago.

Sue was playing outside her home in Ponderosa Mobile Home Park when she got the bite. Her mother, Mrs. Ann Bennett, was unable to find the cat and it looked as though Sue would have to undergo the painful series of rabies shots.

Although it is a little out of their line, three members of the rescue squad searched the area the next day until they spotted the cat and captured it. The cat was placed under observation and Sue needn't worry about having to get the shots now.

"I didn't get the names of the three squadmen so I don't know who they are. But I want them to know that we are very appreciative," Mrs. Bennett said.

The three squadmen were Jim Wade, Sammy Ferguson and Chris Gaddy.