

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rain last Saturday afternoon did settle the dust but we are in need of a good steady rain. The cold front Monday had the temperature in the 40s Tuesday morning and most people had to bring out the jackets again. The forecast is for the weather to warm up, beginning Wednesday.

All in all it was a fine weekend and it seems from the traffic through town that many mothers had a fine day with their families.

Harold Stone had the program at the Raeford Kiwanis club last Thursday night and when he introduced the speaker he had words to this effect. I understand that the man I introduce to you could be a rare one as he is the new doctor in the city and it seems you don't have new doctors to speak here regularly. He then presented Dr. Ramnik Zota who gave an interesting and well received talk on his arrival and time spent in this country before coming to Raeford.

Most of us don't realize the trouble a newcomer to the country has when he can't speak English. There are so many of us who can't speak anything but English, but not having been around any other language, we can't even make heads or tails out of what a newcomer is trying to tell us. The experience of Dr. Zota on his arrival at Chicago gave the Kiwanians a few laughs but it wasn't funny a few years ago to the doctor.

He also told of how strange some things were here, compared to his native country of India and that it took awhile to become accustomed to them. The doctor was very high on the way people in this country are so friendly and helpful to a newcomer. (of course he had heard many tall tales about Americans.)

The talk was well received and the community has a fine citizen to come here and wants to do a good job for everyone. Welcome to Raeford and Hoke County, Dr. Zota.

From all reports most of the precinct meetings went off as scheduled last Thursday night. This is the making of the party organization and from these meetings come the party leaders. The county convention will be held Saturday, June 18 at 12 o'clock noon at the courthouse. Be sure to attend.

Last week George Pittman finally got me to go out to the Landfill with him. George is in charge of operations for this project and he had been telling me of all the work that was being done there, and that I wouldn't believe what I would see. So out to the landfill this writer went.

It must have been a couple of years since I was out there and I must say it was somewhat different than my last trip. George was complaining about some paper on the grounds but if a landfill can look all right, then the Hoke - Raeford one is tops in my estimation.

This day and time most of us just want to make our time and leave and care less about the job we are doing, but George is proud of what he is doing and seems to always make things a little better. Maybe you have never been to the landfill and care less, but a trip out might change your mind and you can see where some of your tax dollars are going.

Thanks George for doing a fine job for the public.

Don't forget the annual meeting of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce Monday night. The speaker will be Hector MacLean of Lumberton, chairman of the board of Southern National Bank. See you there.

Ann Webb, advertising manager for The News-Journal is now selling ads for the graduation issue and we don't want to leave anyone out. So if you are not called on in the next week or so, please get in touch with this office and we will let her know and she will get in touch with you. Call 875-2121.

Extra Jurors Called

Smith Murder Trial Underway

School Unrest Spawns 2nd Citizens Group - PTA Unit

The continuing controversy over the local school situation has spawned another organization, a Hoke County Parent Teachers Association, which has received the support of School Supt. G. Raz Autry.

Temporary president of the new

group is Danny McCollum, a West Hoke parent, Duncan McFadyen, a Raeford attorney, is acting vice-president and Charlotte Kelly, a migrant education recruiter for the schools, is acting secretary.

McCollum's group met April 26 in the conference room of the county office building. No public

announcement was made until this week. Autry attended, along with county commissioner Neil McPhatter, the Rev. W.K. Mitchell, and about eight other persons, assistant extension service agent Willie Featherstone Jr. said.

Featherstone said he was not active in the new association, but that he had been asked to research the procedures for setting up such a chapter of the P.T.A.

Hoke County has not had a local P.T.A. chapter in a number of years.

Mrs. Kelly said the group plans a public meeting June 7 at the Board of Education offices and hopes to have the district director of the P.T.A. here.

McFadyen said he did not intend to hold permanent office, saying that he felt it was better to have a parent or a teacher as vice-president.

McFadyen also said that the purpose of the P.T.A. was to serve all people concerned with school problems and that it should not be construed as an attempt to "counter" the recently formed Citizens in Support of Education in Hoke County.

Citizens in Support of Education in Hoke County, led by Richard Coker, formed last month as a result of disapproval over the board of education decisions and the handling of the attempted dismissal of Allen Edwards, the high school principal. That group has used newspaper advertising to protest the board's actions.

Gerald Sappenfield, the C.S.E. treasurer, announced that a public meeting open to anyone will be held May 20 at 8 p.m. in the courthouse. He said the purpose of the meeting is to give an opportunity for citizens to express their views on the school system and to become more active in the issues.

He also said that a permanent slate of officers will be chosen at the meeting.

The superintendent, contacted Monday, said he felt he and the board of education members could give their blessing to the P.T.A. group. He said he had no opinion on whether the existence of two, separate parents' organizations would be confusing or disruptive, as both groups share some of the same objectives.

Principal's Daughters Get Free School Trip, Legality In Question

By Marty Vega

An official with the U.S. Office of Education in Washington said the legality of the free trip to Florida for the daughters of a school principal and one other youngster whose parents are schoolteachers is "in question".

The matter centers on the high school band's three-day trip to Florida last week. Eight of the youngsters who made the trip are Indians and their expenses were paid wholly out of this year's federal award of Indian Education Act funds, assistant superintendent J.D. McAllister said. The other students were required to pay the \$95 cost themselves.

The group of eight who did not pay anything included the two daughters of Upchurch School principal Earl Oxendine and the son of Betty and Winfred Rogers, both high school teachers, according to McAllister.

As Upchurch principal, Oxendine draws \$19,884 base salary plus a local supplement.

Mrs. Rogers is a member of the Parent Title IV Committee, the

local body which decides how the Indian Education Act funds are to be spent.

Robert Taylor, the chairman of the Title IV committee, said this week that there was nothing improper in paying the expenses of the principal's daughters or the Rogers' son.

"The guidelines simply say the program is designed to meet the educational needs of Indian children with no stipulation whatsoever as to financial condition. Therefore, the parent committee feels it would be gross discrimination to limit participation because of the financial standing of any Indian student's family," Taylor said.

The chairman also said that Mrs. Rogers, secretary of the committee, did not vote on this issue when the trip expenditures were approved.

However, Lloyd Elm, education program specialist responsible for North Carolina grants, was out of his Washington office but was reached in Lumberton late Tuesday and he said the legality of the expenditure would have to be investigated.

"As far as the program application was written and approved, unless they prepared a revised request, the trip wasn't in the application. This doesn't mean it was illegal," he said.

"However, it could be considered an item in which economic need has to be established. There are some programs that have a component of economic need. Whether this field trip would be considered

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Band Concert May 19

The annual spring concert of the Hoke High Band will be held May 19 in the school gymnasium. The performance begins at 8 p.m.

The band is under the direction of Jimmy James. The concert is free, James said.

Robeson Community Center Lends A Hand

By Marty Vega

Like most elderly residents living on fixed incomes with ever-present inflation, Mrs. Maggie Brown thought she would probably never be able to repair her sagging kitchen ceiling or windows around her South Hoke home.

replace the weatherbeaten Today, she is getting both jobs done, plus a new roof and a rebuilt porch, thanks to the Robeson County Church and Community Center, Inc.

The Center, a non-government agency which operates a wide range of programs to improve the quality of life for

low-income families, was able to do the work on Mrs. Brown's home at no cost to her through a special grant designed to help people "weatherize" homes and save costly fuel. Besides Mrs. Brown, three other Hoke County residents, all elderly, have had free work done on their homes.

Although only a relatively few number of families will be able to get free work done, there is a "self-help" project available to families who qualify, also.

A six-man construction crew can furnish quality labor at no cost to households that can supply the materials or the money for the materials.

The Center will also assist homeowners in a 504 loan. The 504 loan is offered through the Farmers Home Administration to repair or improve privately-owned dwellings to make them safe, sound and sanitary. Repairs may include roofing, porches, floors, installation of a bathroom, the addition of a room, insulation work and other improvements.

The interest rate on a 504 loan is only one per cent. The loan cannot exceed \$5,000.

The Center counselors will also assist in arranging new

home loans for eligible families under the FmHA 502 program.

A family with an adjusted income of approximately \$6,000 may qualify for this loan with an interest rate ranging from one per cent to eight and one-half per cent.

The Robeson County Church and Community Center, Inc., operates within a four-county

region and has counselors who will help clients complete applications and any necessary forms at no cost. Mrs. Bertie Harden is the Hoke County counselor for the housing programs and can be reached at 875-3849, or by contacting the Center office, Rt. 4, Box 845, Lumberton, 28358, telephone 738-5204.



KITCHEN CEILING -- The unsightly and dangerous ceiling here will be repaired at no cost to the elderly homeowner, thanks to one of the housing assistance programs operated by the Robeson County Church and Community Center. Besides improving the appearance, the repair will greatly bolster insulation, often a problem with substandard homes.



HOUSE REPAIR -- James Billinger, contractor, and helpers James Hammond and Lorenzo Murchison, are at work finishing the new roof at Mrs. Maggie Brown's residence near South Hoke. The work was made possible through a grant received by the Robeson County Church and Community Center, Inc.

SNB Head To Address Annual Chamber Dinner

The Chairman and chief executive of Southern National Bank of North Carolina and Southern National Corporation will address the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Monday night.

A former mayor of Lumberton and former state senator from Robeson County, Hector MacLean will speak to the group in the Gibson Cafeteria at the high school.

A lawyer, banker and farmer, MacLean is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in International Commerce and Industry.

He is also director of North Carolina Zoological Society, Inc., a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Lumberton, president of the Medical Foundation of North Carolina, chairman of the North Carolina Bicentennial Commission, director of the N.C. Natural Gas Corp., and president of Lumberton Implement Co.

The son of former Gov. Angus MacLean, he spent his early years in the executive mansion in Raleigh meeting notables like Charles A. Lindbergh and Will Rogers. MacLean finished school however in Lumberton and later earned his BS. from Davidson College. After being discharged as an Army Major after WWII, MacLean married the former Lyl Warwick and decided to follow his father's footsteps and

become a lawyer. He earned an LL.B. in 1948 from U.N.C. Chapel Hill.

The MacLeans have one daughter, Lyl MacLean Clinard, whose husband is a law student at Wake Forest University.

The banquet program will also feature entertainment provided by the Hoke High Chorale and by harpist Olive Jenkins.

New chamber board officers will be introduced to the group. Earl Fowler has been elected president, Bobby Burns McNeill, first vice-president, William McDonald, second vice president, and Frank Baker, secretary-treasurer.

Three new members have also joined the board of directors, Robert Gatlin, Julian Johnson, and B.B. McNeill.



Hector MacLean