

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rains are still with us and when the weather man says scattered showers that is the way the rains have been coming. Sunday afternoon playing golf at Arabia dark clouds were all around but the rains didn't come. On returning to Raeford water was standing in the yards and approximately 1/2 inch had fallen that afternoon. So the rains are scattered.

I don't know how much rain fell during May as this is being written on the 31st but Gatlin should have his chart in by next week and then the magic number will be revealed.

Anyway most folks would be glad for the rain to cease for awhile.

Last Saturday afternoon, Harvey Warlick, Neill McFadyen, J.H. Austin and this writer played golf. Harvey was driving to the course that afternoon and we went by to pick up Jake. As we backed out of Austin's driveway his neighbor Ken McNeill was taking life easy in a lawn chair under a shade tree. I asked Ken what he was doing and his reply was, "I am farming."

Now was this a typical Ken answer or is this the way farmers work in the computer age?

Last week in this paper was an article and picture concerning the newly organized club called The Antler Club. It is to raise money for the sports program at Hoke High School. Any former athlete at Raeford High or Hoke High are eligible to join. The fee for joining is \$25 and should be made out to the Hoke Booster Club. It is tax deductible and should be mailed to Dale Teal, Box 160, Raeford, N.C. 28376.

A check to this club in memory of John Dunc McNeill, who passed away recently, would be a tribute to a former star in all sports at Raeford High. There have been other stars that have passed on that are older and younger than John Dunc that you could send the check in memory of.

Think about it and help the program at the school.

Don't forget that the graduation exercises are at Hoke High this weekend. Commencement is Sunday afternoon at four o'clock and the speaker for the occasion will be Congressman Charles Rose. Be in attendance.

Don't forget to look through the graduation section in this paper. Notice the congratulation ads and the pictures of all the honor seniors.

Some folks come by the office and tell us about the large tomatoes or other vegetables that are growing in the garden but never show us the end results.

Monday morning the weather prophet, Robert Gatlin came by with a bucket of squash and asked everyone to help themselves. Now this is the proof of the pudding.

Don't come by and brag about your garden unless you have proof.

Becky Jones, secretary at the office, returned to work Monday after being out of the office for over a week. She had four wisdom teeth removed and it must have been a painful ordeal. Everyone welcomed her back as you don't realize what a person does until they are out for awhile.

The talk about the Post Office closing on Saturday is a bad thing as far as this writer is concerned. Most of the time now mail is not put up on holidays and Sundays which is not the best service that could be offered.

What if the newspapers, radios, and TV stations all took the days off and closed down. No, they must give service to the people and we feel the Post Office should do the same thing. Enough said.

Tax Hike Eyed

Commissioners Receive Budget



AWARD -- Ronald Baxley (left) is pictured with the Lions Club's recipient of the first Clyde F. Knox Scholarship. The winner, Marilyn Gay Barnes, is a rising senior at UNC-Charlotte, and is the daughter of Mrs. Julian P. Barnes and the late Mr. Barnes. (Photo by S.H. Aplin)

Knox Award Presented

The Lions Club Annual Scholarship Award, recently renamed the Clyde F. Knox Scholarship, has been presented to a nursing student at UNC - Charlotte.

Marilyn Gay Barnes, daughter of Mrs. Julian P. Barnes of Rockfish, and the late Mr. Barnes, is a rising senior at UNC. She is a member of the Honor Society in Nursing and the Student Nurses Association. Miss Barnes' leisure interests include tennis, volleyball and needlework.

The Lions Club plans to place a

plaque at Hoke County High School in memory of Clyde F. Knox and in honor of the scholarship winners. Miss Barnes' name will be the first to be inscribed on the plaque.

The Knox Award is named for the late Clyde F. Knox who served as club secretary for the past four years. Knox was cited by club members for his last act of "lionism" in which he donated his eyes so that someone else might see. Knox also received the Lion of the Year Award in 1975 and 1976.

Timber Firm Owner Sets Record Straight

Disturbed over the new account of the May 23 city council meeting which reported that councilmen objected to a proposed lumber yard downtown, John R. Callaway said Monday that he wanted to set the record straight on incorrect information reported.

Callaway said it is Crossroads Woodyards, Inc., not Callaway Land and Timber Sales, which plans to use the railroad area. Also, he said that the firm will not be using the area for storing lumber, but rather as a log storage area.

He said that the city manager's statement to the councilmen that the city would need an easement from him for a sewer line was in error. Callaway said that he had given the easement on May 9 to county attorney Charles Hostetler.

Graduation Is June 5

Principal Allen Edwards announced that children under six years of age will not be permitted at Sunday's Hoke County High School graduation exercises scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. in the stadium.

Graduating seniors will be limited to two guest passes for seating in the reserved section. Other guests will be accommodated outside of the reserved section.

In the event of rain, the ceremonies will be held inside the gymnasium.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Rose will deliver the address.

Chamber Sponsors Free Film

The Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce invites all interested citizens to a free showing of the CBS documentary "The Second Battle of Britain" at the meeting room of the Hoke County Library tonight (Thursday) June 2 at 7:30.

Hector MacLean, chairman of the board of Southern National Bank, was guest speaker at the Chamber's annual dinner on May 16, and recommended the film as important to those who value the heritage and responsibility of the free enterprise system. Morley Safer narrates the color film which runs approximately 45 minutes.

"After the dinner, several citizens expressed interest in seeing this film which outlines the plight of Britain's current economic situation," said Earl Fowler, Chamber president. "In many ways it is a warning to Americans of the dangerous path an economy can follow when government is allowed to regulate the marketplace and thus stifle competition which is essential to a healthy economy. The Chamber is glad to give all interested citizens in our community the chance to view this important film."



ARTS COUNCIL -- Anne Wright, a local artist, was elected May 20 as one of 12 board members of the North Carolina Association of Arts Councils. Officers elected during the meeting included President Charles Dalmbach of the Greensboro United Arts Council; Vice President Reid Cone of the Stokes County Arts Council; Treasurer Halsey North of Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council; Secretary Carolyn Carlson of the Arts Council of Fayetteville.

Local Opposition Missed By Figures In Annexation Bids

Seemingly overlooked by the figures involved in two continuing controversies over the proposed annexation of the Ft. Bragg military reservation by the cities of Fayetteville and Spring Lake is resolution opposing the plan passed by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners last year.

Last month, Ft. Bragg officials announced that annexation of the reservation by either of the two municipalities is unacceptable to the Army because of a policy disapproving annexation when it is opposed by a political subdivision in the vicinity.

Fayetteville has scheduled a public hearing June 13 on a proposal to annex the entire 130,000 acre reservation and Spring Lake will proceed with a public hearing on its proposal June 15. The Spring Lake proposal calls for annexing about 40 per cent of the reservation.

Hoke County officials have not outlined a similar plan to annex

any of the reservation, but the commissioners last January passed an official resolution opposing both the Fayetteville and Spring Lake efforts.

Lt. Col. Ron Davis, public affairs officer for Ft. Bragg, said Tuesday that if Fayetteville and Spring Lake should work out a compromise and settle their differences, the Hoke County officials' position would "make a whole new ball game out of it."

"It would still be a situation of two municipalities in conflict and a whole new study would have to be made," he said.

Officials here voiced objections to the Fayetteville annexation bid because approximately 92,000 acres of the reservation was carved out of Hoke County. Opponents claim that it would be unfair if Fayetteville succeeds in annexation and gets the additional state and federal aid which would be generated by a larger population base.



ROUND -- Dancing in a circle, kindergarteners at McLaughlin School perform Stop and Go while Mrs. A.M. McKinnon, class assistant, narrates a program designed to show some of the things studied by the children during the year.

A tentative 1977-78 county budget which proposes a 2.8 cents increase in ad valorem taxes was presented to county commissioners Wednesday of this week.

County manager and finance manager T.B. Lester, who finished the budget recommendations last week, declined to release a copy of the budget until the commissioners received it, but he gave an overall view of the package.

In his written message to commissioners, Lester noted the areas in which costs are rising most rapidly -- garbage collection, Medicaid, mental health treatment and juvenile offender care. Additionally, extra deputies in the sheriff's department and the increased cost of utilities and repairs will contribute to a higher budget.

The 1977-78 budget proposes a pay raise for county workers with most of the increases in the six and one half per cent range, Lester said.

Expenditures in the General Fund are projected to be \$153,530 higher than in the current year but Lester attributed part of this increase to an increase in expected revenues. The increase in the General Fund for the 1976-77 year was \$182,560 higher than in 1975-76. A \$200,000 fund balance on June 30 is estimated for the current year.

The school system requests were fully recommended in the proposed budget, Lester said. \$668,344 for operating expenses and \$61,900 for capital outlay were put in, making the school current operating expense fund \$72,000 higher in the coming year, if approved.

In the federal revenue sharing fund, Lester has proposed \$431,274 in expenditures out of an anticipated \$574,164 in available monies. The estimated entitlement for the coming year is \$363,393 and a \$231,462 surplus is anticipated in the current year. Due to the uncertainty of the exact award, however, Lester said a figure of 10 per cent less than the expect award is used in making up a budget for that fund.

The Parks and Recreation budget was rolled back from earlier requests. Lester has drawn up a \$41,040 operating budget for that fund with grants, fees, concessions and other expected revenues estimated at \$24,710, making the county tax dollar contribution about \$16,000. The Parks and Recreation Commission had requested an overall budget of \$105,000.

Lester indicated that the .918 cents per \$100 ad valorem tax rate suggested may be reduced if the county received a greater share of federal anti-recession funds, and the county may be able to go without a tax increase at all.

He noted that the current estimated total tax base is about \$160 million. Last year, the tax base was underestimated by about \$2 million and the recent \$5 million equipment expansion at Burlington Industries also increased the tax base.

A public hearing to receive comments on the proposed budget will be held June 21 at 8 p.m. in the courthouse. By law, the county commissioners must adopt the budget ordinance and set the tax rate by July 1.

Commissioners will meet this Friday at 9 a.m. in the courthouse annex to review the revenue sharing budget. A public hearing on that budget will be included in the June 21 meeting to receive comments.