

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

As this column is being written Tuesday morning, it is the first day of summer, but from the hot weather over the past few days it seems that the calendar was wrong. The rain Monday night was welcomed as it had become dry in many places in the county.

I am not sure it rained all over the county, for it was reported a difference of from 4 to 5 tenths of an inch in Raeford alone Sunday afternoon. It was according to what side of the city you lived at as to how much rain you received.

Anyway the forecast is for continued warm weather. Yes, summer is here.

The following letter from J.W. Turlington, principal of Raeford Elementary School is appreciated. Dear Sam:

Let me again express our appreciation to you and your staff for the continued support and cooperation with us here at Raeford Elementary School.

It is so good to know that when we ask you for help, in any way that you can, that we will get it.

This cooperation has been going on for years. If anything, it gets better rather than deteriorating as so many of these associations do.

Let me again thank you and the staff of The News-Journal for your working with us. Have a delightful summer, all of you.

Yours truly,

James W. Turlington

Principal

Thanks Jim for the nice letter and we hope that this type of association will continue for years to come.

Dick and Jessie Neeley returned last week from an extended trip to the western part of the United States that included Salt Lake City and the Canyons of Utah. They reported a fine trip except for most motels were full and Dick said if you were going on a trip to make reservations ahead.

Neeley was also telling of an experience that happened while on the trip. He and Jessie had stopped at a lookout spot at Canyonland, Utah and were admiring the scenery when they noticed that the small car parked next to them had North Carolina license plates on it.

According to Dick, a young man soon approached the auto and noticed that his car had N.C. plates and stopped to talk with Jessie and him. The man asked them where they were from in North Carolina and Dick replied, "a small town that you wouldn't know about." Then Dick told him Raeford and started to say as we all do, "next to Ft. Bragg."

The young man said he had been to Raeford many times and asked if Dick knew Bubba Dickson. Of course you know what Dick's answer was, Yes!

The young man was Leslie Todd, a free lance photographer who roomed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with Bubba Dickson and John Morris, both of whom are from Raeford.

I told Dick that this young man certainly knew where Raeford was, and after living for a year with Paul's son and my boy, he might know more than we did about the town.

Anyway, Dick said this was a small world.

While on the subject about the Neeleys, John Ropp asked Jessie if Dick came back with her last Sunday morning. I believe he meant to say would she let him come back with her.

The Democrats met last Saturday and elected new officers for the next two years. The meeting was very orderly, and everyone left, still Democrats and awaiting the next election.

Cotton Blooms

County commissioner John Balfour produced the season's first cotton blooms Monday night.

Balfour said they were picked on his farm one day last week. He apologized for not showing them sooner so they could be photographed.



SHADE -- Wendy Wood seeks a bit of cool shade in a concrete pipe. She apparently thought the cross ventilation was fine. (Photo by S.H. Aplin)

7% Pay Raises Slated For City

The proposed 1977-78 city budget contains seven per cent pay increases for nearly all city employees except the mayor and the city council members.

Listed below are the proposed annual salaries for city department supervisors with the current salary in parentheses. (The higher figure also reflects a Christmas bonus)

City manager -- \$16,830 (\$15,000)
Public works supervisor -- \$12,096 (\$10,800)
Municipal garage supervisor --

\$9,243 (\$8,403)

Chief of police -- \$12,179 (\$10,972)

Full-time fire chief -- \$10,882 (\$9,984)

Streets department supervisor -- \$11,659 (\$10,599)

Tax collector -- \$8,244 (\$7,496)

Water and sewer department supervisor -- \$12,210 (\$11,000)

A public hearing on the proposed new budget is scheduled June 27 at 7:30 p.m. in city hall. The 1977-78 budget will be formally adopted at that time.

Planning Board Nixes Central Ave. Rezoning

After receiving a petition with 20 names in opposition, the Raeford Planning Board turned down a request to rezone a piece of property at Central Ave. and Bethel Rd. from residential to commercial.

Meeting June 14, the board's action nixes an application from Bobby Carter to make offices out of an existing building.

According to the minutes, W.B. and Eula Lunsford, the Rev. P.O. Lee and his wife Helen, Berder and Margaret Niven, Louise Wright, Bennie Kelly, Joe and Helen Dupree, Julian Wright, Hugh Lowe, Bobby Smith and Harold Gillis were present. Niven presented the petition to the board members.

Opponents of the rezoning cited noise, decreased property valuation

and parking and traffic problems in arguing against the change.

Carter said that when he purchased the lot, litter was a problem and the grass needed cutting. He said that offices in the area would be an improvement and that property values should not be affected.

In other business, the board approved plans for a new subdivision requested by Tom Cameron. Cameron plans to construct homes where the old airport was located north of the city with minimum prices at \$24,000, according to the minutes. Name of the housing development is Oakland.

The board agreed to change its regular meetings from the second Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting time is 8 p.m.

Executive Committeeman Calls For More Party Support

The newly elected representative to the state Democratic executive committee caused somewhat of a stir during Saturday's biannual county convention at the courthouse as he began attacking party apathy and pointed out to the assembly that only two of the county's elected officials were in attendance at the convention.

Longtime Democratic partyman, Ralph Plummer had begun what appeared to be an acceptance speech for his executive committee post when he began to harangue on

the dwindling interest on the part of registered Democrats.

"It's a shame when we can't get enough people to hold a precinct meeting without going out and having to recruit people to bring the total to ten," he said.

Pointing out that for many years the general consensus had been that no Republican could ever be elected senator or governor of the state of North Carolina, he said that lack of interest on the part of Democrats in the state paved the

Buie Firm Awarded Ambulance Contract

Pilot Sues City In Hanger Dispute

The owner of a flying school at Raeford Municipal Airport which closed for business last month has filed a lawsuit against the city in District Court here.

The suit, filed June 15, was brought by Paul Rose, owner of Raeford Aviation, and requests \$15,000 for the market value of a hanger which Rose alleges belongs to him and the city has refused to let him move.

The complaint alleges that the city terminated its lease agreement with Rose for the airport property on June 2 because the plaintiff defaulted on the agreement. The following day, the complaint alleges, Rose notified the city he would move the hanger and at that time the city told him the hanger constituted real property of the city and he could not take it.

The plaintiff contends that the hanger was built with the approval of the city under the provisions of his lease and therefore is not a permanent part of the property.

Rose signed a three year lease

with the city in 1974 to rent a section of the airport for \$60 monthly for a fixed base operation. City manager Robert Drumwright said Rose was four months behind in the rent as of the end of May and the city decided to terminate the lease.

The city manager said that Rose had not received prior approval for the construction of the hanger and that in his opinion it belongs to the city.

Rose, who is represented by Raeford attorney Warren L. Pate, is one of several figures in the highly publicized Fayetteville pornography and prostitution case.

Rose was charged May 16 by Fayetteville police with transporting women for the purpose of prostitution in connection with a flight made to Syracuse, N.Y. He is scheduled to be tried on the misdemeanor count this month.

Rose and three other men were arrested following an investigation into the activities of a modeling school which allegedly was used to recruit women for prostitution.

The county awarded the ambulance service contract for fiscal year 1977-78 to Buie's Ambulance Service which submitted a low bid of \$25,000.

County commissioners opened the bids Monday night. The current contract holder, Harris Ambulance Service, put in a bid of \$36,300. The Harris firm received \$27,000 in this fiscal year.

Tony Buie, who is an owner of Buie Funeral Home on Vass Rd., told commissioners that even with the \$25,000 subsidy, he expects a loss of \$29,000 in the ambulance operation, but that he has been in the business for many years and he figures the ambulance service will help his funeral business.

Commissioners agreed the Buie firm will begin the county service July 1 provided his ambulance meets all necessary state standards and is radio-equipped. Commissioners directed county manager T.B. Lester to make arrangements to have the county-owned radios on the Harris vehicles turned over to Buie.

Board members also opened bids on the garbage disposal service but failed to officially award a contract Monday night. Low bidder was Brenner Industries of Winston-Salem. Its bid was 92 cents per cubic yard. Pickup Sanitation Service of Raeford, which currently holds the contract, bid \$1 per cubic yard. Other bidders were Liebers Sanitation of Fayetteville, 95 cents per cubic yard, and Mid-East Services of Dunn, \$1.05 per cubic yard.

C of C New Budget Still Hinges On City

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce has drawn up a \$30,000 operating budget for the coming fiscal year which includes a \$4,000 subsidy from the city, although the continued participation of the city is still in some doubt.

The proposed Chamber budget was presented to city council members last week. On a 3-2 vote, the council refused to authorize the funding without knowing how the \$4,000 would be spent.

The Chamber estimates \$30,000 in revenue -- \$10,000 from membership dues, \$9,000 from auto licensing fees, \$7,000 from the county government and the \$4,000 from the city government.

On the estimated expenditures

side, the total amounts to \$29,450. The Chamber manager's annual salary has been raised from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in the proposed budget.

Chamber officials announced that the Chamber will continue to operate the Division of Motor Vehicles licensing office and a five-member study committee will make recommendations on increasing efficiency.

Earlier this year, the Chamber directors considered a suggestion to close down the office when the current contract expires June 30.

The county commissioners unanimously approved the \$7,000 request last week. The city council is expected to make a final decision on the city's share during the next budget meeting on June 27.

Board OK's Log Loading Yard

The Zoning Board of Adjustments authorized a conditional use permit to allow a timber loading operation at the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad yard after deciding that a fence must be built to block the view from Main St.

According to the minutes of its June 13 meeting, the application requested by John R. Calloway and the A&R was approved for a period of 18 months providing that a fence eight feet high and approximately 150 feet in length be constructed.

No existing streets would be blocked by the operation, Calloway told the board.

According to the minutes, the board members and a group of interested citizens went down to the railroad yard for a first-hand look during the evening.

In other business, the board approved a request for a mobile home sales office on Harris Ave. over the objections of one citizen.

Lud Hales, operator of Bargain Motors on Harris Ave., requested permission to sell mobile homes and maintain a mobile office on the Bargain Motors property. Mrs. Iris Davis spoke out against the plan.

The application was approved subject to the city ordinance of that district (C-2).

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m., according to the minutes.



PARTY CHAIRMAN -- Hoke County's newly-elected Democratic party chairman Ken McNeill shows how he keeps a cool head under the pressure of political life. McNeill, 51, a farmer and businessman, was chosen by acclamation to lead the party here for the next two years during Saturday's county convention. (Photo by S.H. Aplin)

Hoke County commissioners formally adopted the 1977-78 budget Tuesday night on a 4-1 vote.

Only commissioner Danny DeVane voted against the budget ordinance, arguing unsuccessfully that the recommended pay raises within the Department of Social Services were too high.

DSS Director Benjamin Niblock, one of about 16 citizens attending the budget hearing, sparred with DeVane in an exchange at one point which ended when Niblock told him "he knew nothing about the Department."

The adoption of the new budget means that county taxpayers will pay 92 cents per \$100 of property valuation next year, an increase of three cents.

Also Tuesday night, the board formally awarded the solid waste disposal contract to Brenner Industries of Winston-Salem on a bid of 92 cents per cubic yard. The firm currently services Robeson County.

The board voted to hike county manager T.B. Lester's salary by \$1,225, instead of the \$750 he requested, at the urging of DeVane.

Lester will now receive \$16,975 yearly.

Lester said the board agreed to delay the award at the suggestion of commissioner Danny DeVane, who felt the firm should be checked out first, since the board had ordered a check on the Lieber firm, also.

In other business, the board heard a revised budget request from Sandhills Mental Health Center regarding a plan outlined earlier to establish a mental health clinic in Raeford separate from the public health center.

V. Paul McDonald, unit director of SMHC, said the agency could rent office space in the Campus Ave. medical arts building owned by Dr. Riley M. Jordan for \$6,000 a year.

McDonald said the agency could also use C.E.T.A. funds for a full-time secretary, which would reduce the budget request by another \$8,000, and he had also deleted \$6,000 from the proposal for equipment outlay.

The new total requested in county contributions is \$28,950, an increase of \$1,950 over this year's contribution.

Commissioners directed Lester to make the change in the budget to cover the Sandhills request.

The SMHC original plan had been to rent a home on Palmer St.

Massage Parlors
County Atty. Charles Hostetler, who delayed the meeting nearly 45 minutes by his late arrival, presented a six-page ordinance regulating

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