

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is the typical summer weather. It is hot and then comes the thundershowers and this keeps the humidity high.

The forecast is for the weather to continue this way until the weekend and then maybe it will be nice for all the golfers and beach goers.

Maybe it would be better if the weatherman forecast a bad weekend. This could mean that the church would be filled during the summer. From the looks of the pews at the Raeford Presbyterian Church last Sunday the golf courses and beaches must have done a booming business. (or would you say the devil!)

William Poole was in charge of the program at the Raeford Kiwanis club meeting last Thursday night. He had as his guest speaker, General (retired) William Yarborough of Southern Pines.

General Yarborough, who was a leader in the first Airborne troops before World War II, gave an interesting talk on the beginning of the paratroopers. It is always a pleasure for me to listen to a speaker who knows his subject matter and is sold on what he is talking about. This I will assure you; the General was completely prepared.

Being a veteran of World War II, it brought back memories when he was describing the youth of the late thirties and early forties. Some of the things he talked about had slipped my mind but what he said was certainly true in those days. Young, tough, patriotic and love for wine, women and song could be what the General was talking about. He ended up by saying that these same young men were now lawyers, doctors, judges and you name it.

A fine talk to a well-listening audience.

Talking about the small world and Dick Neeley and his wife running into a roommate of my son in Utah, this week Ashwell Harward called and said that he was a cousin of the Todd boy's mother. He went on to give me the low down on another of the boys that roomed with John and Bubba. This was Chris Sears, now a lawyer in Greensboro.

Yes this is a small world after all.

This office will be closed next Monday, July 4th. This will be another long weekend and the highways will be filled with cars and of course some of the drivers will not be up to par at all times, so please be careful if you are taking a trip.

Most of the businesses and offices will be closed and it should be two Sundays in a row.

The state lawmakers are getting ready to end another session. What they have accomplished will come out later and it will either aid us or hurt us according to what you do in life.

Two pieces of legislation that came before the assembly will be acted on by the people at the polls but the lawmakers sometimes don't think they have sense enough to get in out of the rain except at election time.

The insurance bill to strip John Ingram of his powers and liquor by the drink were taken up in elections and the people spoke with an overwhelming majority on how they felt.

The liquor issues finally died but they are still after John Ingram.

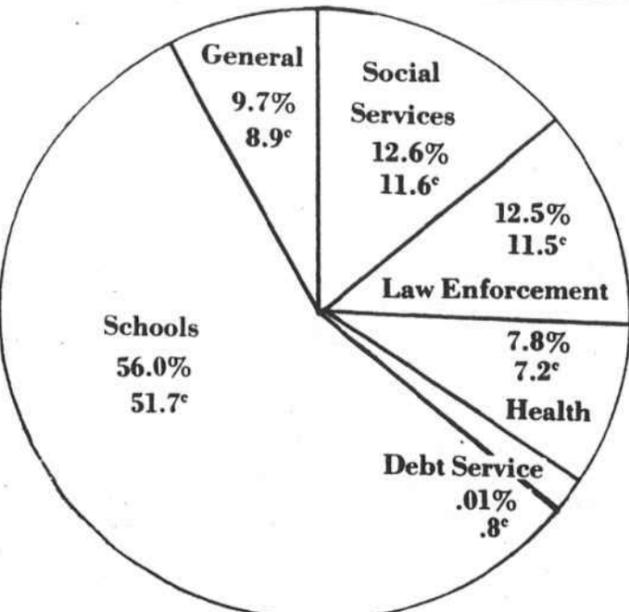
Read Cliff Blue's column about this!

Offices Close For Holiday

All city, county and state offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

The post office will observe a holiday schedule and suspend mail delivery.

The News-Journal office will be closed July 4. All news items and



YOUR TAX DOLLAR -- The diagram breaks down how the 92 cents tax rate will be used next year in the Hoke County budget. The pie shows the percentage of tax money used and also the amount in cents taken from every 92 cents collected. Percentages do not add up to 100 and cents have been rounded off.

Funds For Ambulance Radio To Be Deducted From Supplement

County commissioners met Tuesday morning with Tony Buie, owner of Buie's Ambulance Service which has been awarded the county contract for 1977-78, and agreed to pay for radio equipment for Buie's ambulance with the money to be deducted from the \$25,000 Buie will receive from the county next year.

All commissioners were present except Ralph Barnhart.

Buie told commissioners that the radios used by Harris Ambulance Service, which has held the county contract for the past year, are not county-owned equipment as he had thought originally. Buie said he intends to purchase a base station and one mobile unit at a cost of \$3,500 from Danny Morrison. Morrison operated an ambulance service under contract to the county for several years.

Buie said the equipment will give him radio contact with the sheriff's department, but not the hospital emergency rooms. He said perhaps later he might acquire radios tied to the hospitals, and also second mobile unit to be used on his second ambulance.

Buie said that the radios used by Harris Ambulance Service have contact with both the sheriff's department and the hospitals.

The board also ordered that the \$1,284 worth of county-owned

Chamber Manager Resigns

Dayna Pate has resigned as manager of the Chamber of Commerce, effective Aug. 1, it was announced Friday.

The announcement was made by Chamber President Earl Fowler, who said it was made for personal reasons.

"Let me assure the people of Raeford and Hoke County that Mrs. Pate's decision to resign is her own and reasons for her resignation are totally unrelated to her job as manager of the Chamber," Fowler said.

"Her performance is superior," he said.

Fowler said no replacement for Mrs. Pate has been chosen yet and applications for the position are now being accepted.

Mrs. Pate, 30, was named the Chamber manager in June 1976, replacing J.H. Blue Jr. She plans to move to Georgia.

announcements must be turned in by noon on Friday, July 1, for publication in next week's issue.

The regular meeting of the Raeford City Council will be held one day later, on July 5, and the Hoke County Board of Commissioners will meet on July 5, at 9 a.m.

medical equipment acquired under a state grant be turned over to Buie. The equipment had been on loan to Harris.

The contract with Buie's Ambulance Service was signed but later some confusion developed. The contract requires that two ambulances be operated but does

20 Deaths Predicted On Roads

Twenty people could lose their lives and about 1,000 injured in traffic accidents in North Carolina over the long Fourth of July weekend, the N.C. State Motor Club has estimated.

The state will count its toll over a 78-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, July 1, until midnight Monday, July 4.

Motor vehicle records for past years indicate that in 1976 there were 19 fatalities and in 1975 there were 22. Motor club officials cite improved economic conditions as the reason for there being more travelers on the highway this year and that is the reason for the estimate of 20 fatalities this year over 19 for 1976.

Excessive use of speed and fatigue coupled with the use of alcohol and drugs are two of the primary causes of traffic accidents.

N.C. State Motor Club officials stated that fatalities so far this year are lower than this time last year. Therefore, all motorists are urged to use caution and common sense so this holiday can be the safest in many years.

City OK's Budget, C of C Funds Set

Hoke Teachers Score Low On National Exam

Hoke school system teachers are ranked 132nd out of 145 school systems in the state in a comparison of average scores on the National Teacher Examinations.

The survey, made by a Raleigh newspaper, used figures compiled by the State Department of Public Instruction showing the number of

white teachers and minority teachers and their respective scores.

Hoke School Supt. G. Raz Autry, however, said the figures used in the study were not current and therefore did not reflect the scores of the newer teachers in the system.

For example, Autry said of 13 new teachers hired for next year the lowest score for the group is 1075 whereas the Raleigh survey listed the average score for minorities at 1,008. The minimum score for certification is 950.

"Our scores are definitely higher because of the teachers we have hired," he said.

The survey also lists the average score on the teachers exam at 1,178 for white instructors in the Hoke system. According to Hoke school records, Autry reported an average of 1,217 for the white teachers. The average score for minorities, according to Autry, is 1,040.

The NTE does not measure intelligence or ability, but it does measure the degree to which those tested have mastered the subject matter studied. A federal court forced North Carolina to drop the NTE in 1975 after the U.S. Justice Department filed a lawsuit alleging that the test prevented minority persons who were otherwise qualified from being certified.

After a reversal of the court decision, the State Board of Education reinstated the 950 - minimum score requirement last April.

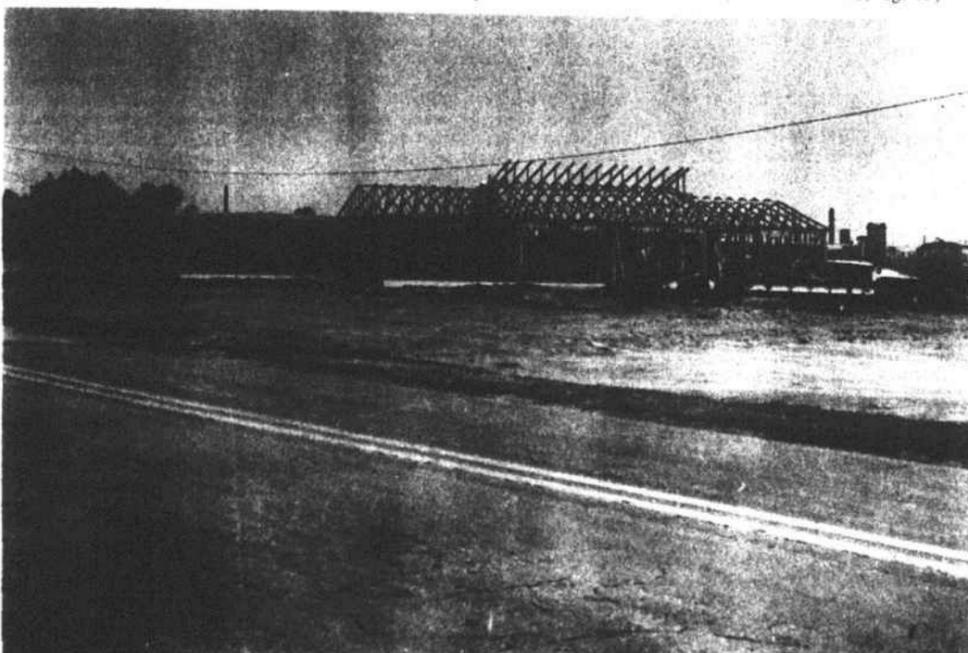
"We do not have anyone in our system now who did not pass it when it was required," Autry said.

The basic problem with the low Hoke scores, according to the county superintendent, is that "We're competing with city systems that offer good supplements. The very best minority applicants are going to be attracted to the larger systems. Any small system will be in this position."

"We do pick up some real fine teachers from Ft. Bragg," he said, "well-traveled, intelligent ones. But, we can only keep them for a year or two."

Autry does not feel that the test is culturally biased. He is in favor of the test for certifying teachers. "I feel that anyone who goes to a good institution can pass it, he said.

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APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION -- The 40 unit apartment complex, a project of Weaver Realty of Greensboro, is under construction on the U.S. 401-bypass near Cole Ave. The \$500,000 development is expected to be completed by early next year.

The city council adopted the 1977-78 budget Monday night which will bring a two cent increase to taxpayers and also ended the indecision over the Chamber of Commerce subsidy by agreeing to give the agency \$4,000 with strings attached.

The \$4.7 million city budget will raise the ad valorem tax rate to 57 cents per \$100 of property. The two cent hike is required to pay the interest on the \$200,000 worth of municipal bonds issued to finance the city's new fire station. The bond debt will be a separate levy.

The new budget also includes seven per cent pay increases for nearly all city employees.

City manager Robert Drumwright said the council agreed to allocate \$4,000 for the Chamber next year, the full amount requested by the Chamber directors, but stipulated that the funds would not be released unless the Chamber clearly set forth the purposes for which the money would be used. The council will then approve or disapprove.

The continued participation of the city in subsidizing the Chamber has been an issue among some council members since early this year. An opinion from the Attorney General's Office in Raleigh was received by city officials which noted that taxpayer's dollars may be given to a local Chamber of Commerce only if the municipality retains control over how the money is spent.

In other business, the council agreed to lease property at the corner of Stewart St. and Central Ave. from McDonald Tire Recapping Service for a public parking lot. The property is the site of the old Maultsby home which was torn down recently. Drumwright said the city will lease the land at no cost and put in gravel.

The council also discussed arrangements with Northwest Water Supply, Inc., on collections of sewer charges for the neighborhoods in North Raeford which will be getting city sewer lines under the county's community development project.

Drumwright said Northwest is requesting that the city collect 10 per cent on the first \$2,500 of bills, seven per cent on the next \$2,500 and five per cent on the balance. Drumwright said the city wants a flat 10 per cent of the total, up to a maximum of \$200.

No decision was reached Monday night.

Councilmen rejected a proposal made by Brenner Industries to enter into a contract to have the city sanitation department take charge of cleaning up the waste disposal sites in the county. The city manager said the Brenner firm had expressed interest in sub-contracting the cleanup work.

Brenner Industries was awarded the contract last week to service the county-owned garbage containers beginning July 1.

The council approved an increase in grave opening fees. The new charge will be \$50 on weekdays and \$75 on weekends. Also, city residents will be charged \$4 for hauling away limbs in excess of one truck-load.

The council also ordered an increase in water and sewer rates for homeowners living outside the city limits. The outside rates will go from 150 per cent to 200 per cent, effective Aug. 1, Drumwright said.

The council voted to go into (See CITY, Page 15)