

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for all you late sleepers seems like fall is here early every morning. The cool morning air would put more power in your steps if you would get up about six o'clock and join the coffee club for the latest news.

The rain last week which measured about five inches should have been enough for everyone for the time being. Last week the county commissioners were discussing leaky roofs and if they got through the week maybe they aren't so bad.

It seems most business on W. Elwood were hit with water running under the doors rather than coming through the roof. Maybe the water didn't know which way to go since the street was made two-way. Just a thought.

The political season will open Friday as anyone can file for city council or mayor for the upcoming election November 8. Starting at noon on that day you can file up until noon on October 10. So if you want all the things you have been complaining about to get before the public, just file for office and then you can see both sides of the coin, if you are elected.

I think everyone needs to have a turn or two on either the county or city boards to find out just how many problems you will be confronted with.

Buddy Blue was telling me this week that most of us don't know how important the highway patrol, Hoke Rescue Squad or the County ambulance service are until you are put in a position to need them. Blue said that in the wreck which involved his mother and nephew, that these people were efficient and most helpful, even "beyond the call to duty" so to speak.

So if you want to hear it straight from the horse's mouth, talk a few minutes, if you can, to Blue.

In last week's paper an article headed "Presbyterians Plan Lay Festival of Faith" could not be understood by all readers. This would not be because you are being misled or your IQ is low. Being a Presbyterian, myself, this revival is something new to me.

Of course, I can remember back to the days when the blind preacher, his name was Williams I believe, used to fill the Presbyterian Church and cause the ushers to open up what was called the Sunday School room. Now most old folks will remember the large sliding doors that separated the two rooms. Whenever the doors were opened, it was known that the preacher had a crowd to hear him.

We all know that Dr. Cortez Cooper can deliver an outstanding sermon, because he was here a number of years before going on to Nashville, Tenn. but the other part of this revival is something new to most of us here in Raeford, whether you be Presbyterian or from another church.

A team of approximately 24 lay leaders from other churches will be here to witness to us on their experiences with Jesus Christ. They come from all walks of life, both young and old, so this should certainly be something to look forward to this week.

The revival starts Thursday night and runs through Sunday morning - September 15 - 18. Everyone is invited to hear Dr. Cooper, and the lay leaders will meet with people in designated homes each night after the services. Be sure to attend and maybe the experience will bring something new in your life.

For those unable to attend, the night services for Thursday and Saturday will be broadcast over Station WSHB beginning at 7:30. All tickets for the Friday's men's and ladies' luncheons have been sold.

Hope to see some of my readers at the revival.

Jay Strickland, personnel manager of Summerfield plant here in Raeford, was the speaker at the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night. Eldon Allen was in

(See AROUND TOWN, Page 14)

City Council Orders \$259,000 Cost Ceiling On New Building



STREET FLOOD -- The one catch basin along the south side of W. Elwood Ave. couldn't handle the rain from last Wednesday's all-night storm and water was washing over the curb at a furious rate. Two clothing stores, an accountant's office and The News-Journal plant were flooded, causing caustic comments.

The Raeford City Council Monday night approved revised plans for the city hall facelifting project and agreed to hold the cost to \$259,000.

The new ceiling is still nearly \$100,000 more than was budgeted last year but it is less than the \$317,000 figure which the council faced last month when the bids were totaled.

City Manager Robert Drumwright outlined to the council members the changes which were worked out with the contractors. All of the landscaping plans were scrapped, except for grass, which cut \$45,000 from the cost, he said. Also eliminated were some carpeting, custom mill work doors, paneling, brick installation and some concrete and asphalt work.

Architects for the project are E.J. Austin and Associates of Southern Pines.

Included in the project is the demolition of the old fire station next to the police department. A new fire station is being constructed on E. Prospect Ave. which is being funded under a \$200,000 bond issue.

The new cost figure for the project, which changes the \$250,000 ceiling the council voted on last month, was approved on a 4-0 vote. Councilman Bob Gentry apparently abstained.

Cablevision

In other business, the council rejected a request from N.C. Cable TV to move its collection office from the municipal building to Wood's Furniture Store.

Harrison Daniels, general manager for Raeford Cablevision, explained that the company would save the \$75 monthly fee it pays to the city, but the chief reason for the move is that many of the customers do not like coming to the police department to pay bills.

The Raeford Cable TV office was closed by agreement with the city earlier and the company maintains a toll-free number for local customers to use.

Daniels estimated that only about one sixth of the 600 cable customers in Raeford use the collection box located inside the police station and that many more would pay their bills in person if the box was elsewhere.

A motion made by Gentry, who said he didn't want the city to lose the \$900 annual revenue, died for lack of a second, and there was some momentary confusion over the understanding of Gentry's motion.

Police Chief V.L. Wiggins urged keeping the box where it was and said people like the convenience of paying water bills and cablevision bills in the same place.

Mayor J.K. McNeill Jr. suggested that the council take no formal action on the matter. He asked Daniels to have the president of the company make the request.

Petition

Three residents of Central Ave. appeared and presented a petition bearing 11 names. The petition asked that the council pass an ordinance prohibiting chickens within the city limits.

Mrs. Sarah Branch, 313 W. Central Ave., Mrs. Bennie Kelly, 317 W. Central Ave., and Mrs. Margaret Niven, 321 W. Central Ave., said that chickens kept by Lawrence Stanton, 304 Harris Ave., were

(See COUNCIL, Page 14)

Miss Raeford Pageant Planned By Jaycees

Raeford Jaycees President Burnett Coleman has announced that the Jaycees will be sponsoring the first annual Miss Raeford Pageant, an official Miss America preliminary pageant, Dec. 30 in the Hoke County High School Gymnasium.

The Jaycees previously sponsored a similar event called the Miss Hoke County Pageant which ended during the 1960's. In reviving the tradition the Jaycees will conduct the Miss Raeford Pageant according to rules set up by the local pageant directors as well as the executive directors of the Miss North Carolina Pageant in Winston-Salem.

To enter the local pageant a girl must be between the ages of 17 and 26, be at least a high school senior, be a resident of North Carolina or be enrolled in a N.C. College and she must be of good character and beauty.

A contestant cannot be married or ever have had a marriage annulled.

She must have a certain amount of talent, voice, dance, instrument, gymnastics or dramatic reading. "The Raeford Jaycees reserve the right to audition and interview all interested young ladies who meet the eligibility requirements," said Entries Committee Chairman Ricky English.

"We will have to hold the number of contestants to no more than ten, although we would like for all interested young ladies to contact the Raeford Jaycees and set up an audition," English said.

General Chairman and Producer of the pageant Ken Koonce said "I am very excited about the possibilities of having the most prestigious and exciting event Raeford has ever seen. I have been planning and talking with leading citizens of Raeford for the past few months and am dedicating all of my time to making this project a success for the Jaycees and the people of Raeford and Hoke County."

"The decision to enter our (See PAGEANT, Page 14)

Groundbreaking Ceremony Saturday

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Antioch Volunteer Fire Department will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, on the site of the future home of the Department on N.C. 211 opposite McNeill's Grocery.

The creation of a fire protection district was approved by voters in a special election last June 4. An application for a Farmers Home Administration loan for the fire station and equipment is pending.

The board of directors of the new Department are President Lonnie Locklear, Vice-president Sam Rowell, Treasurer Clarence Dial, Secretary Elisha Dial, Henry Dial, McKinley Maynor, Lawrence Ferguson, William Gregory and James Pratt.

The Department grossed \$2,373 from a plate sale and television raffle the weekend of Sept. 3-4, making a net profit of \$1,097. Elisha Dial reported. Other fundraising activities are planned later.

Filing Period To Start

The filing period for candidates for the Raeford City Council in the November election opens at noon Friday, Sept. 16, the Hoke County Board of Elections announced.

The filing period will close at noon on Oct. 10. Filing fees are \$25 for mayoral candidates and \$5 for city council candidates, executive secretary Rose Sturgeon said.

The registration books will close at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7. Any city resident who has moved must notify the Board of Elections office of a change of address by Oct. 7 in order to cast a ballot on Nov. 8.

Besides the election of mayor and city council members, voters will also decide five separate constitutional amendments and the issuance of state highway bonds and clean water bonds.

Absentee ballots are allowed for registered voters who will be out of the city on election day.

McDonald Named Chamber President

James William McDonald was appointed new president of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning during the board of directors meeting.

McDonald, 33, the internal vice-president of the Chamber organization, was elected to succeed Earl Fowler, who was hired as manager last month.

McDonald, a native of Raeford, is a 1962 graduate of Hoke High and attended business school and Pembroke State university. He is assistant controller at the House of Raeford Farms Inc. and has been with the firm for the past seven and one-half years.

McDonald was elected a director of the Chamber in 1976 and became a vice-president last year. He has held several offices in the Raeford Jaycees and is on the board of directors of that body.

Robert Gatlin was appointed internal vice-president to take McDonald's place. Neill McFadyen was named to the board to fill out Fowler's unexpired term as a director.

Under the bylaws of the Chamber, one of the two vice-



James William McDonald



FATALITY -- A Cameron man was killed on rain-slicked N.C. 211 Friday when his pickup skidded into another vehicle in a head-on crash. One woman was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Wreck Kills One

One man was killed and two people injured last Friday in a head-on crash on rain-slicked N.C. 211 about six miles west of Raeford, marking the third road fatality of 1977 in the county.

Trooper K.W. Weston of the State Highway Patrol identified the fatality as Clester Oxendine, 62, of Rt. 1, Box 60, Cameron.

Oxendine was killed instantly when his 1972 Ford pickup skidded over the center line while traveling east and collided with a 1977 Buick.

The driver of the Buick, Brian C. Whitaker, 25, of 117 Pender Lane, Greensboro, and a passenger, his grandmother, Catherine F. Blue, 72, of 214 W. Prospect Ave., Raeford, were transported to Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst.

Mrs. Blue was placed in the intensive care unit and underwent surgery for abdominal injuries. Whitaker was treated and released with facial cuts.

Medical examiner R.G. Townsend pronounced Oxendine dead at the scene. Weston said Oxendine suffered a broken neck and massive head and chest injuries. No seat belt was in use and Weston said that may have been a factor in the mortal injuries.

According to Weston, the rear tires on the pickup were badly worn and just at the legal limit. The vehicle was estimated to be traveling about 25-30 m.p.h. at the time of the crash.

The 11:55 a.m. accident occurred on a curve near the Five Points Rd. (RPR 1214).