

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The fall weather is still with us with the morning nice and cool. Of course it warms up during the day and the first part of the evenings are warm.

Anyway this will prepare us for the winter that is sure to come in the months ahead. Let's hope that it will not be as cold as last winter.

The new shows have started on TV now and if you don't watch them the first week or so they will be gone and reruns will replace them. I guess the show people are just like most of us in business, if you don't win with one show, then come back with another until you have a winner.

Of course after watching Daniel Boone many years ago when my kids were growing up, it doesn't look right to see someone playing Daniel that doesn't favor Fess Parker. Looks and the sound of a voice soon associate you with a character.

If you are a fan that looks at sports, you can't miss the voice of Howard Cossell.

Politics will be with us for the next few weeks; that is with the city election and with the bonds and amendments elections to be held November 8.

At the present time, only the mayor has filed for re-election and not any council members have come forth to file.

If you want to hear one side of the state-wide bonds and amendments presented, you can do so by attending a seminar at the Hoke County Courthouse on Saturday, October 15 at 10 a.m. A group from Democratic Headquarters in Raleigh will discuss all the issues and a panel will also be present to answer questions you have about these issues.

If you want full details, your county chairman, Ken W. McNeill can fill you in and will be glad to do so.

It is better to be informed and vote no, rather than just go to the polls and mark the ballot yes, and then regret it later on.

Mrs. Martha C. Hollers of Cando, district highway commissioner, or member of the DOT board, was in the county last Thursday. She was here as a guest of Ken W. McNeill, party chairman and Alfred K. Leach, who was Governor Jim Hunt's county campaign manager.

Mrs. Hollers was all ears, as she talked to some of the county commissioners and other political leaders of the county.

As one person said, on being introduced to her, you are by far the best looking highway commissioner Hoke County has ever had. (This is true.)

It is almost impossible for a commissioner to do anything for a county as small as Hoke and especially when the department is under the political pressure that it is.

Of course, Mrs. Hollers said she would look into the things that were presented to her, but this is what she must tell all groups from the many counties that she has under her. It was nice for her to come and show an interest in this county and this is more than some have done for the past several years.

Also Ken and Alfred should be thanked for asking, and getting her to come here.

The Hoke High Bucks didn't fare too well in the Conference game against Sanford here last Friday night. They will be playing at Rockingham this Friday night and will return for the next home game Oct. 14 to meet Pinecrest.

Don't give up on the Bucks. They are young and should improve as the season progresses. Be a Booster and follow the Bucks.

National Newspaper Week is in October. We will have more in the paper about it during the next couple of weeks but we quote this from Walter Lippman. "The theory of a free press is that the truth will emerge from free reporting and free discussion, not that it will be presented perfectly and instantly in any one account."

No One Wants To Be First

Needed - 5 Candidates For Council

With the filing period for candidates in the city election open for nearly two weeks now no one has yet filed for the city council race.

The only candidate to file thus far has been Mayor J.K. McNeill Jr. who is running for a fifth term as mayor.

All five council seats will be open in the Nov. 8 general election. City council terms are two years.

Veteran councilman Crawford Thomas Jr. announced last week that he will not seek a fifth term.

Thomas 34, said he felt it was time "to give a new man a chance".

Thomas joined Sam C. Morris in rejecting another bid for re-election. Morris, 59, was the first incumbent to announce he would not run again.

The other three incumbents, Graham Clark, Benny McLeod and Bob Gentry, all said this week they haven't made up their minds yet about filing.

"I'll probably decide next week," Clark said. "When is the last day for filing, anyway?" Clark, 61, was re-elected to a fourth term in 1975.

Gentry, who was appointed to his seat last year to fill out the term of David Lovette, said he was "leaning toward" filing to run.

"I'm thinking seriously about running. I am interested in Raeford. But nobody's beating my door down or anything," Gentry said.

"I've never held political office before, of course, and I'm not a real good politician. I put my foot in my mouth too much. But I just throw my hat in the ring," he said.

McLeod, who polled the most votes of any candidate in 1975, also hedged when asked if he would run again.

"I still haven't decided yet," McLeod said.

The filing period for hopefuls officially closes on Monday, Oct. 10, at noon.

Registration books will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7. Anyone who has not registered by that time will not be permitted to vote in the Nov. 8 election.

Besides the mayoral and council races, voters will also decide five proposed constitutional amendments and two state bond issues at the polls.

Gov. Hunt To Lend An Ear To Local Economic Advice

Residents of Hoke County will have a chance to say how they think state government can help get better, high-paying jobs into North Carolina through an economic development conference to be held here Oct. 11.

At the request of Gov. Jim Hunt each of the 100 counties in North Carolina will hold a meeting during the month of October to discuss what citizens feel are the economic problems in their own communities and what local, state, and federal government should do to help solve those problems.

Reports coming out of these local county conferences will feed into a larger statewide gathering in January 1978, and will be used by the State Goals and Policy Board for advising the Governor on North Carolina's future economic policy.

Local chairman Earl Fowler attended the regional planning session for the governor's "Balanced Growth and Economic Development Conference" Sept. 22 where these information gathering conferences were explained. Fowler, as manager of the Chamber of Commerce, will coordinate the local conference. Location of the

meeting will be announced at a later date.

Fowler indicated that Hunt will attend 20 of the scheduled 100 conferences and may choose to visit Hoke County. "I think it is very important that the governor come down here and I am in the process of trying to contact him," Fowler said. "This is vitally important to everyone."

Other local citizens who will be working with Fowler on the planning committee include Mayor J.K. McNeill, Extension Service Housing Specialist Willie Featherstone, Agriculture Extension Chairman Wendell Young, County Commissioners' Chairman John Balfour, Board of Education Chairman Bobby Gibson and County Commissioner Danny DeVane. More committee members will be named later.

Local resource persons will join state government representatives in leading panel discussions at the Oct. 11 conference and those attending will divide into subgroups for roundtable discussions on agriculture, the manufacturing and processing industry and services industries, including trans-

portation, finance, wholesale and retail sales and tourism.

A report will be written on the conference which in turn will be incorporated into 17 regional reports, and then into reports from the three geographic regions of the state.

These regional reports will be presented at the Governor's statewide conference in January. Copies will also be given to the State Goals and Policy Board.

Discussion of North Carolina's economic status comes at a time when the state only recently moved ahead of Mississippi as 49th in the nation in average hourly manufacturing wages. The state ranks 39th in overall per capita income.

The conferences will hopefully provide ideas on how the state can best achieve quality growth.

T.B. Lester In Hospital

County manager T.B. Lester has been hospitalized at Cape Fear Valley Hospital suffering from stomach bleeding. John Balfour, chairman of the board of commissioners, said Tuesday.

Lester, 65, was taken to the hospital Sunday. Surgery is planned.

The county manager had been suffering from an ear infection and complications from medication prescribed for that condition for the past several weeks. That ailment was clearing up when he was stricken with internal bleeding.

Lester has had X-rays and a series of tests since being admitted, he said. He is being fed intravenously.

He is in Room 673.

Symphony Drive Tops \$1,000 Mark

Unofficially the Hoke Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Society membership drive has topped the \$1,000 mark. Membership Chairman Anne Hostetler said Tuesday.

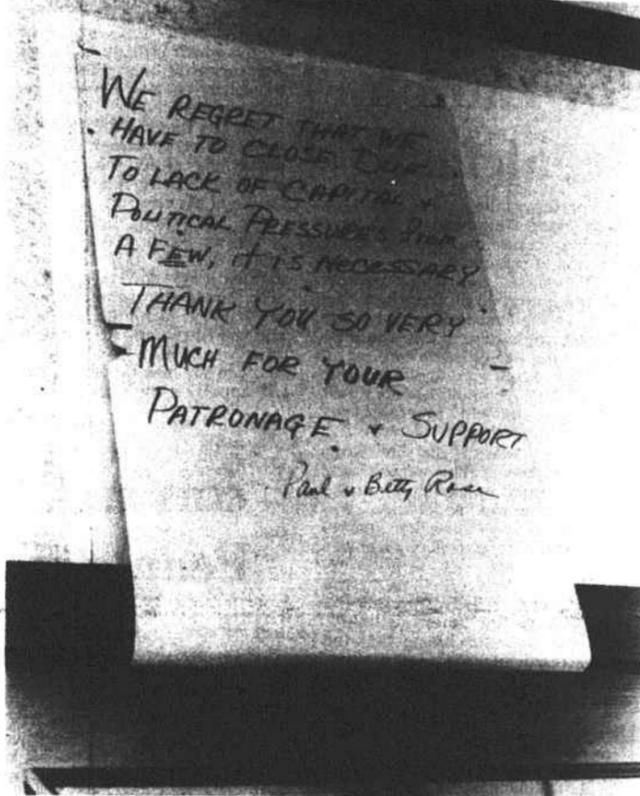
"We have sold 214 memberships," she said, "most of which are for adults."

Sales for children's memberships have been slow since children from 7 to 12 will attend a special free performance of the symphony Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. in the Hoke High Gymnasium. The adult concert is scheduled for 8:15 p.m. that same day in the Gymnasium.

The \$5 adult membership fee and the \$3 children's fee will admit the ticket holder to concerts in any community in the state having one adult concert, and, with a \$1 surcharge to concerts in cities having two or more concerts.

Mrs. Hostetler also said that the Chaminade Music Club and the Bank of Raeford have made donations qualifying them as patrons and the Arts Council has qualified as a donor.

Symphony Society board members will meet Thursday in the Board of Education Building at 4 p.m. to discuss the progress of the drive.



CLOSED -- The Uptown Restaurant, whose owner Paul Rose has been entangled in a series of legal snarls with the city, closed Monday and left this note for its customers.

Restaurateur Charges City Harassment

The owners of the Uptown Restaurant, who have been beset by financial troubles for weeks, closed the business for good Monday and charged that "pressure" from the city manager was partly responsible for the failure of the business.

A note was tacked to the front door of the restaurant which said "We regret that we have to close due to lack of capital and political pressures from a few, it is necessary. Thank you so very much for your patronage and support."

Mrs. Betty Rose, speaking for her husband Paul Rose who has been hospitalized for the past three weeks, said she felt they had been victims of "innuendoes" and harassment.

"About a month ago, the city came and shut the water off to the restaurant right before lunch for an

unpaid bill of fifty some dollars, which was for the business at the airport. The restaurant's water bill had been paid. I went and paid the other bill and they came back and turned the water back on. I checked with our attorney and he said it was probably legal to do that but it was really just a form of harassment," Mrs. Rose said.

"When we were in business out at the airport, we were the only ones who had a meter for the water. The other two businesses didn't pay for city water. I understand," she said.

Rose Aviation went out of business last spring after it failed to meet monthly payments to the city under its lease agreement.

Mrs. Rose said that her husband was working out arrangements with the city for the overdue payments when Rose was arrested and charged by Fayetteville police in connection with a widely-publicized alleged prostitution ring.

"The same day that story broke in the papers, Mr. Drumwright met us in the parking lot of our attorney's office and said he wanted to talk to Paul. The very next day we got the letter informing us the lease was broken," she said.

"I have heard from reliable sources that Mr. Drumwright was making very caustic remarks in front of others about Paul and that prostitution business and I have gotten innuendoes from other people in authority for the city. Paul was innocent and the whole thing was very damaging to our children," she said.

Rose was officially cleared earlier this month when the District Attorney dismissed the charge of aiding and abetting prostitution against him.

Shortly after Rose Aviation closed for business, Rose filed a \$15,000 suit against the city. The suit concerns a hangar which Rose

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Grant Approved

The Economic Development Administration has approved a \$285,000 federal grant to the Hoke County Medical Complex Inc. for the construction of a medical arts building. It was announced Wednesday.

The announcement was made by Younger Snead Jr., chairman of the non-profit group. The planned facility, estimated at \$357,000, will house three general practitioners and one optometrist. The balance of the cost will be paid from Farmers Home Administration funds.

Location for the planned building is S. Main St.

Ex-deputy Plans Picket Line At Jail

Ex-deputy sheriff Elisha Dial, who was fired by Sheriff D.M. Barrington in 1976, announced that he will lead a picket march in front of the jail to protest the transfer of a deputy-jailer to road patrol duties.

The sheriff announced last week that Deputy J.D. Thigpen, who has been working as a jailer for approximately one year, will be replaced this month and will later be assigned to road patrol.

Thigpen, 26, is a former state trooper who resigned from the Highway Patrol in August of 1976 after he and another trooper were charged with kidnapping, rape and crime against nature involving a 19-year-old Hoke County woman.

Thigpen and the other trooper, Wiley Snow of Raleigh, were cleared when District Court Judge Joe Dupree ruled no probable cause was found to charge them on any of the three counts.

Dial, who vigorously fought his dismissal from his job, said he has

obtained an application from the police department for the march. A date has not yet been decided on but the march will be limited to no more than six persons.

Applications for holding picket marches must be submitted to the police for approval within 24 hours of the planned demonstration by law.

"I don't feel it's fair to the citizens of Hoke County to put Thigpen out on the road. It's not safe for the women. It shows poor judgment on the part of the sheriff," Dial said.

Dial said the picketing would be orderly and the group had no wish to cause trouble, only to make their opposition to the sheriff's policies known.

The last picket line to demonstrate in Raeford was last winter when the letter carriers union demonstrated in front of the Post Office.

Sheriff Barrington had no comment to make.

Cystic Fibrosis Drive Saturday

The annual Cystic Fibrosis Drive for Raeford will be conducted all day Saturday, Oct. 1, Duncan McFadyen, city campaign chairman, announced.

The door-to-door campaign will be conducted by Boy Scout Troop 401 (George Ashley, scoutmaster, Dale Teal, assistant scoutmaster) and other young people from the churches.

The CF canvassing volunteers will be wearing special name tags to identify them.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation sponsors research, education, teaching and patient care at more than 100 CF Centers in the United States, including the Duke University Center. More than six million children suffer with chronic lung-damaging diseases, the most serious of which is cystic fibrosis. Although the average life expectancy of CF victims has increased from infancy 20 years ago to 18 years of age today, no cure has been discovered for CF.

McFadyen emphasized that despite rising costs, only 17 per cent of the Foundation money goes to fund raising and administrative expenses, with 83 per cent going to programs. He urged people to give generously to help fight CF.