

N-J Reviews Second Half Of 1977

(This concludes *The News-Journal's* review of 1977 with the last six months of the year.)

In July, vandals unleashed 10,000 gallons of gas from Raeford Oil Company's propane storage location. The state's plan to utilize the local jail met with opposition when Sheriff Barrington explained that the \$11.80 the state planned to pay was a conservative figure and that \$15 would be more realistic.

A 17-year-old Fayetteville man, Mitchell Reno Ennis, was tragically killed by a power line downed during a brush fire near Rockfish.

The County Commissioners rejected a rate hike request from Sanitary Container Service and passed an ordinance governing massage parlors. District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree saw his legislation shelved that would allow law enforcement officers to temporarily seize traffic offender's licenses.

Lester Collin's bullet-riddled body was found in Robeson County and his sister, Annie Louise Goins, Charles Goins and Buck Goodman were charged with the murder.

City Councilman Danny DeVane became the target of thieves when his home was broken into, and the state approved funding to allow the appointment of two additional magistrates.

The Sinclair home, one of the first homes built in Raeford, was bought by the city to be demolished so that a 71-car parking lot could be built. The state's share of the cost of constructing a new National Guard Armory was approved and final approval is expected to come after fiscal year 1978.

Garbage made the headlines as it piled up following the Fourth of July weekend. Sanitary Container Service attributed the mess to the long holiday weekend and their recent take-over of Hoke County garbage collection.

Another tragedy claimed the life of Raeford resident James A. Miles. He was killed in a helicopter crash in South Korea.

The Raeford Jaycees elected Burnette Coleman president to replace Ron Bullock, who resigned, and a contract to construct city sewer lines to disadvantaged neighborhoods north of Raeford was awarded to Crowell Constructors.

State figures showed that unemployment had increased in Hoke County during May to 10.3 per cent and county trash was cleaned up after the complaints of the Fourth.

On the sports scene, two young athletes, Wille Bridges, 7th grade and younger sister Tabitha placed in running events at East Carolina University in the National Track and Field Youth Program.

Late in the month, Hoke County was declared a federal crop disaster area after droughts caused an estimated \$3 million in damage. Debbie Minshew and Donna

Marie Scarboro were selected finalists in the 1977 North Carolina United Teenager's Pageant.

Orlando "Tubby" Smith was named head basketball coach for Hoke County High School in August. Mrs. J.M. Andrews stepped down as chairman of the Hoke County Library Board of Trustees after 27 years of service.

After receiving certification, Buie Ambulance service was awarded a one-year contract with the county.

Six-month-old James Robert Sturdivant Jr., accidentally suffocated while playing with a plastic garment bag in his South Hoke home.

A new deputy, Donald G. Baker, joined the Sheriff's staff.

School opening was delayed one week to allow tobacco farmers to get their crops in, and the Hoke Mental Health Center opened.

Also in August, Kay Thomas was appointed to the Council on Volunteers for the Criminal Justice System by Governor Hunt and the City Council put a \$250,000 ceiling on the planned renovation of city hall.

A sewer project contract was signed with Crowell Constructors for lines inside the city to include the 40-unit apartment complex that opened in mid-Dec.

Sherriff Barrington was named officer of the Year by Hoke County Law Enforcement Officer's Association, and Earl N. Fowler was named president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Superintendent Raz Autry announced a free lunch program for

all students. W.S. Crawley was appointed to a magistrate position and Mary Lu Moore was hired as a probation officer.

A break-in at Hoke Drugs netted thieves a large cache of drugs.

Labor Day weekend was quiet and Highway Patrol Sgt. D.L. Minshew reported that no traffic accidents occurred during the holiday.

An out-of-the-ordinary duo, Texas Two Wheeler (Jesse Kelly) and Popsicle (James "Pop" McKnight) rested their motorcycles in Raeford on their way to a motorcycle rally in Buffalo, N.Y.

Low bid for the planned neighborhood center at South Hoke was \$113,000, \$26,000 more than the grant award. McCain received a grant of \$3 million during Sept.

Rep. Charlie Rose asked F.A.A. officials to block the new plan for an operating area over Raeford for jet fighter exercises.

The Board of Education approved the establishment of the renovated Glen Echo School as a memorial to K.A. MacDonald. The decision was later reversed and the older portion of the High school was designated the K.A. MacDonald Building.

Four local residents were named to task forces for the 15 county Cardinal Health Agency, and James William MacDonald was appointed new president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce. Heavy rains flooded businesses on Elwood Ave., and the Raeford Jaycees announced the first annual Miss Raeford pageant, which was won by Jane Sellars Dec.

Garbage continued to be in the news as the Sanitary Container Service refused to make house pick-ups. Ex-deputy Elisha Dial, who was fired in 1976, announced that he planned a picket of the jail.

Uptown Restaurant owner Paul Rose charged harassment by the city when his restaurant closed, and the month of Sept. ended on a sad note as County Manager T.B. Lester was hospitalized.

An establishment owned by Lena Mae Locklear was in the news when Eugene Locklear was shot and killed there and Carl Oxendine was later bound over on a charge of second degree murder.

Hoke County held the highest unemployment rating in the state as the jobless figure climbed to 10.8 per cent for Aug., and city worker David Latham was found dead next to a curb on Crawford St.

The Raeford Woman's Club brought home five district awards.

Two school bus accidents made the headlines in Oct., and Guy Hardman III joined the Sheriff's department.

In Nov., South Hoke teacher Arlicia Raye was suspended from teaching duties after being charged with driving under the influence. The incident touched off a controversy that ended in Mrs. Raye being taken off tenure and placed on probationary status.

The Puppy Creek area established a neighborhood watch, and two new reporters joined *The News-Journal* Staff.

An audit claimed Hoke County owed the federal government \$10,508 in C.E.T.A. money for improperly hiring three employees.

With November came the election of Vardell Hedgpeth, Graham Clark, James McLeod, Bobby Gentry and Sam Morris to the Raeford City Council and the re-election of Mayor John K. McNeill.

The county mourned the death of long-time manager T.B. Lester, and Les Simpson was named interim county manager.

Marty Vega led write-in candidates for mayor with seven votes, and the county began a search for a new manager.

An early-morning fire wiped out the County Line Plaza, and the Bank of Raeford planned a move to the Upchurch Milling Site.

Lewis Duncan Buoy was selected Morehead candidate, and hundreds of supporters turned out for a hearing at McCain Hospital to determine the need for the three

respiratory facilities in the state.

The last month of the year found the United Way drive falling short of its goal by 13 percent.

Police Chief V.L. Wiggins was named president of the Hoke County Law Enforcement Officer's Association, and *News-Journal* Publisher Paul Dickson received a plaque in recognition of his 14 year's service on the Board of Trustees at Sandhills Community College.

City Council approved a Cable T.V. rate hike only after the company adds two channels to its service, and the county approved an ordinance requiring insulation in new houses to meet minimum current standards.

The Board of Education named Don Steed co-ordinator of the Community School Act Program and Milton L. MacDonald was named to fill the assistant-principal slot left open by Steed.

Nathaniel Watkins was charged with the Christmas morning slaying of his brother, Edward Lee Watkins.

As the new year approached, controversy over the airport continued. After voting to try to purchase a hangar owned by Gene Thacker and then lease it to him and also renting a second hangar to Gene Vance, as the second fixed base operator, the city council rescinded all action involving new airport leases late in Dec. and called for a study to be made.



C.D. Shepley Elected President

Clyde David Shepley of Rt. 2, Raeford, has been elected President of the Freshman Class at Wingate College. It was announced this week.

Clyde is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Shepley of Raeford. A graduate of Hoke County High School, Clyde was a football player, a bus driver, and was active in the Future Business Leaders of America club. At Wingate College, Shepley is active in the Student Government Association and the school's Literary Club.

Lt. Davis Steers Navy Missile Ship

Navy Lt. Commander Ernest Davis serves as officer of the deck (OOD) on the 8,000 ton guided missile cruiser USS Fox, homeported in San Diego, Calif.

Davis, a Hoke County native, is the son of Ernest and Bonnie Davis, Route 1, Lumber Bridge.

"Shipboard duty is the only way to go," said Davis. "I'm hard pressed to find any other job -- military or civilian -- that gives a man so much responsibility so quickly. Take maneuvering the ship, the crew's lives are in the OOD's hands. That's a pretty tall order, but I derived a great deal of satisfaction from it."

Davis graduated from Hoke County High School in 1961. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Campbell College in Buies Creek in 1965. Davis received his OOD training by serving as a junior officer of the deck (JOOD) aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Conyngham. According to Davis, a JOOD takes an active role in learning the responsibilities he'll eventually assume as an OOD.

An OOD not only "steers" the ship, but he also handles routine tasks for the commanding officer. In the absence of the skipper, the OOD takes charge of all of the ship-board evolutions. In port, the OOD becomes a quarter deck watch officer.

Davis also serves as the Fox's engineering officer. As engineering officer, he is responsible for the upkeep and repair of the ship's propulsion plant.

Davis is a 12-year Navy veteran. As for shipboard life, he says "Something new is always happening. The changes keep you fresh."

4-H Corner

The Hillcrest Junior 4-H Club sponsored a Community Christmas Party in December. It was a very cold night, however, 19 individuals were there to enjoy seasonal music and activities. Refreshments were served.

Club officers presented "thank you" gifts to Debbie McNeill and Ronald Kirkley in appreciation of their past leadership.

Door prizes were awarded to the oldest and youngest guests present, and, of course, there were Christmas gifts for each member and his guest.

Regular monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday night of each month, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Station. New members are accepted at any meeting. Girls and boys age 9 - 18 can join.

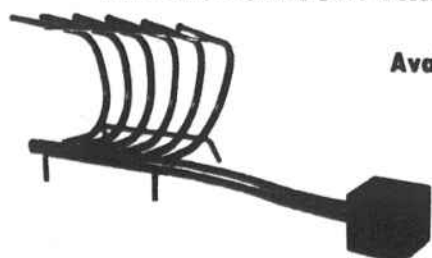
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