

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

It is impossible to do anything that will please everybody. Last week to satisfy a reader I said that the weather would not be mentioned in this column, because he said I couldn't do anything about it. That is correct.

After the paper hit the streets some of the readers wanted to know if Robert Gatlin had stopped coming by the office and giving me information on the weather and was this the real reason I had stopped writing about the weather.

Now for all you folks that don't know and to get the record straight, Gatlin does not say he is a weather prophet. In fact he says he only keeps records on the weather and doesn't predict at all. And for you "Doubting Thomases" I will inform you that this writer has an indoor - outdoor thermometer, a gift from the Dickson Press employees and also a barometer that keeps him informed of the degrees of the temperature and the high and low pressure systems over Hoke County.

What all these things mean is something else, so that is why I listen to the radio and watch TV to see what the weather forecast will be.

To make a long story short, it is cold in Hoke.

\*\*\* This is the time of year for people to start thinking about Class Reunions. Ed Hasty of the Class of 1943 of Hoke High School was by the office last week and left a list of names of members that he would like to know the addresses of, as they prepare for a reunion.

The names are as follows: Pauline Fuller, Donald Harvey and Gilbert Lilly. If you know the whereabouts and addresses of any of the aforementioned, just call (919) 875-4334 or write to Ed Hasty, c/o DeVane's, Main Street, Raeford, N.C. 28376.

\*\*\* Last Thursday night the Raeford Kiwanis club held its annual Ladies' Night and one of the features of this event is the naming of the "Man of the Year." The award this year, as is written elsewhere in this paper, was given to Mrs. T.B. Lester in memory of her husband, T.B. Lester.

After the award is announced and for a couple of weeks afterwards, many people ask how many awards have been given, when did it start, and who else have received the awards.

The award was first given in January 1950 and has been given every year since that time. Twenty nine people have received the award and this includes 28 men and one woman. As happened this year, the award has been presented posthumously three times.

The list includes people from all types of businesses and both natives and newcomers to Hoke County.

The list of award winners with the year they won the award is as follows:

1949, C.L. Thomas; 1950, Lewis Upchurch; 1951, J.L. McNeill; 1952, Robert Gatlin; 1953, Paul Dickson; 1954, Truman Austin; 1955, Harry Greene; 1956, T.B. Upchurch, Jr.; 1957, K.A. MacDonald; 1958, W.B. Heyward; 1959, Josephine Hall; 1960, R.B. Lewis; 1961, Israel Mann; 1962, John Manual; 1963, Neill A. McDonald; 1964, Harold Gillis; 1965, Clyde Upchurch, Jr.; 1966, W.L. Poole; 1967, W.T. Gibson, Jr.; 1968, Charles Hottel; 1969, Tom Cameron; 1970, John K. McNeill, Jr.; 1971, Leonard Frahm; 1972, Raz Autry; 1973, Benny McLeod; 1974, Ashwell Harward; 1975, J.W. Turlington; 1976, Sam C. Morris; and 1977, T.B. Lester, Jr.

Most of the readers of this paper know these people, but if you are a newcomer to Hoke County and don't know who a person is just ask about and someone will fill you in on why they received the award.

\*\*\* If you pass someone on the streets these days and he smiles at you and speaks, then you can almost bet 2 to 1 that he is running for office. That's right, the political pot is boiling and before the filing deadline is over, the pot will be running over.

To the voters that don't care about running for office, just remember if you have moved in the past few months, you must register in your new precinct. You must be registered to vote. Remember this.

# Coverage For Firemen Studied

## Raeford Kiwanis Club Names T. B. Lester Man Of The Year

T.B. Lester was named Man of the Year by the Raeford Kiwanis Club at the annual Ladies' Night Program held at the Captain's Place last Thursday night.

Lester, who died Nov. 8, 1977, served as the first county manager for Hoke County. He began his career in county government in 1961 when he was employed as county accountant, tax supervisor, purchasing agent and clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

Bill Moses, local attorney, presented the award to Lester's wife, Mrs. Lorena Lester.

Other awards given at the dinner-dance were Best Program and Attendance awards. Best Program was won by Frank Crumpler for a program featuring Earl Yarborough, former Raeford native, as guest speaker. Attendance awards went to Marion Gatlin, 34 years of perfect attendance; Dr. Julius Jordan, 25 years and J.H. Austin, 24 years.

Speaker for the occasion was LaFon Vereen of Lumberton. Music was provided by D&L Music Makers.

The presentation of the Man of the Year Award by Bill Moses was as follows:

"Tonight we honor the memory of a man who served us all well for many years.

"He was born in Florence, S.C., on February 13, 1912. His father, the late T.B. Lester, Sr. was a dairy operator and bookkeeper for Hoke Oil & Fertilizer Company, and also served as a county commissioner.

"T.B. Lester graduated from Raeford High School and attended N.C. State College. He worked as a bookkeeper for Raeford Gin Co. and later was office manager for Edinburg and White-Tex Mills here in Raeford.

"He was first sergeant and a lieutenant in Battery F 252nd C.A., North Carolina National Guard. He entered Federal Service with that local unit when it was called into active duty in 1940 during World War II.

"During World War II, he served as instructor in the Anti-aircraft School at Camp Davis, N.C. He also served overseas in Belgium and Germany. By the end of the war, he had attained the rank of major. He then became executive officer of the local National Guard Battalion. He further attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the 2nd Battalion, 252nd Armor. He served in the National Guard in an administrative capacity for about 15 years. He retired from military service on February 12, 1972, upon reaching the age of 60.

He was employed on February 16, 1961, by Hoke County as County accountant, tax supervisor, purchasing agent, and clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. Later as county government became more complex, he became Hoke County's first County Manager. He served in this capacity



AWARD -- The late T.B. Lester, Hoke County's first county manager, was named Man of the Year by the Raeford Kiwanis Club. Presenting the award to Mrs. Lester is local attorney Bill Moses.

until his death on November 8, 1977.

"T.B. Lester was a dedicated church man. He attended regularly, served as Chairman of the Administrative Board of Raeford Methodist Church, and served on its committees, including the Commission on Finance.

"Col. Lester served Hoke County and its citizens well all his life.

"I enjoyed working with him on many occasions, and especially in church work. His wisdom, advice, experience, and understanding of problems were always appreciated.

"His was a quiet determination, dedicated to purposeful living. If I had to come up with a statement of principle of his life, it would probably be as follows:

I will do more than belong-- I will participate.  
I will do more than care-- I will help.

I will do more than believe-- I will practice.  
I will do more than be fair-- I will be kind.  
I will do more than forgive-- I will forget.  
I will do more than dream-- I will work.  
I will do more than teach-- I will inspire.  
I will do more than earn-- I will enrich.  
I will do more than give-- I will serve.  
I will do more than live-- I will grow.  
I will do more than be friendly-- I will be a friend.  
I will do more than be a citizen-- I will be a patriot.

In recognizing T.B. Lester tonight as Man of the Year, we also honor his wife, Mrs. Lorena Lester, and his daughter and her husband, Andrea and Jack Scarborough.

"If the firemen think they need both (kinds of insurance), I'll recommend to the council that they have it. If we can't get it through Vardell, then we'll do it through another agent," Raeford City Manager Robert Drumwright said Tuesday in reference to insurance coverage for the city's 35 volunteer firemen.

Last week it was learned that disability insurance with Nationwide Insurance Co. for the firemen was cancelled Jan. 7 by the company after the city

failed to renew the policy. The coverage had been in effect since 1967. It provided \$15,000 in life insurance and \$80 a week for disability, the city manager said.

Drumwright said he didn't renew the insurance because he felt it might constitute a conflict of interest for the city to buy it from Councilman Vardell Hedgpath, the local Nationwide representative, who was elected to the board last Nov.

A preliminary check with the state Attorney General's office indicated that it was a conflict of interest, the city manager said. However, he said that another letter, explaining the situation in more detail, has been sent to Raleigh and might elicit a different opinion.

In any event, he said that the firemen are eligible for workmen's compensation benefits under the state and might not need additional coverage.

Through workmen's compensation, volunteer firemen can draw disability payments if injured on the job. The weekly payments would amount to two thirds of the fireman's average 12-month salary, according to the city manager.

Last year the state came up with a \$25,000 automatic death benefit for any volunteer fireman killed in the line of duty.

Because of the increase in state life insurance, Drumwright said the city reduced its life insurance with Nationwide to \$1,000 and upped its weekly disability coverage to \$100.

"I believe that the workmen's compensation is a broader type of coverage," Drumwright said Tuesday. "It includes a death benefit to the family. And I believe if a fireman got pneumonia while fighting a fire, he would be eligible for disability payments under workmen's compensation."

The city manager said he has talked with Raeford Fire Chief Crawford Thomas, Jr. and arranged to have an insurance specialist meet with firemen at their next training session to discuss their coverage. If the firemen think they need both kinds of insurance, Drumwright said he would recommend that the city provide it.

## Listing Deadline Tuesday

The deadline for listing personal property taxes in Hoke County is next Tuesday, Jan. 31. Penalties will apply after 5 p.m. Tuesday unless individual extensions have been granted. Tax Supervisor Les Simpson said.

Military personnel, although they may be exempt from the tax, must list even if legal residence has been established in another state, he said.

## Local Political Pot Begins To Boil

With the deadline just 10 days away, the local political pot began to boil this week as six more candidates filed with the Hoke County Board of Elections.

The first three hopefuls declared for the board of education, and two more candidates entered the race for seats on the board of commissioners. A sixth candidate filed for the position of county coroner.

### Board of Education

Rose W. Sturgeon, supervisor of elections, said that Walter N. Coley, D.R. Huff, Jr., and William L. Poole, Jr. filed this week for the Hoke County Board of Education.

Three seats on the school board are up for election this year. They are currently held by Robert Gibson, W.L. Howell and Riley Jordan. Mrs. Sturgeon pointed out that the school board race is non-partisan, and the candidates names

will not appear on the primary ballot. School board members will be elected in November's general election, she said.

### County Commission

In other local races, Younger F. Snead, Jr. and Wesley Miller filed to have their names placed on the ballot in the May 2 Democratic primary for seats on the Hoke

County Board of Commissioners, Mrs. Sturgeon said.

Two incumbent commissioners, J.A. Hunt and John Balfour, filed last week for re-election. A third incumbent whose seat is up for grabs, Ralph Barnhart, has not yet declared his intentions.

### Coroner

Tony Buie filed this week for the

position of county coroner, a position currently held by Frank Crumpler.

Two candidates have entered the race so far for Hoke County Sheriff. They are Harvey Young and J. Robert Saunders. Sheriff D.M. Barrington said that he will file for re-election on Feb. 1.

The deadline for filing in the (See POLITICAL POT, Page 11)

## Highway Plan Calls For Widening 401

U.S. Highway 401 from Seventy - First High School to the Raeford Bypass will be widened from two to four lanes under the state Department of Transportation's latest seven - year highway plan.

The 10.6 mile section is set for right - of - way purchase in fiscal 1983 and construction in fiscal 1984. The cost has been estimated at \$15 million. No other projects are scheduled for Hoke County.

The board adopted the plan Jan. 13. It represents the projects for which the DOT anticipates obtaining funds during the next seven years.

"Based on the best information we have now, we will have the money to do it (the

projects listed)," said state Highway Administrator Billy Rose.

Unlike previous seven - year plans, this one includes only those projects for which funding is expected, he said, so projects listed should be funded for the work that is planned.

Urban projects in the plan are centered on the Fayetteville area and include the completion of the All - American Freeway from Raeford Road to Reilly Road on Fort Bragg. Parts of the highway have already been opened to traffic.

The highway plan also includes widening of the U.S. 401 Bypass around Fayetteville from two lanes to five lanes with curb and gutters.



Wesley Miller



D. R. Huff, Jr.



Tony Buie



Walter Coley



Younger Snead, Jr.



William Poole