

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was perfect this past weekend for folks who wanted to be out - of - doors. The temperature was in the sixties Saturday and close to fifty on Sunday. It was somewhat windy, but it didn't seem to bother most people.

I got on the golf course both days and this was only the second weekend I have played this year. It seems as if every golfer in eastern North Carolina found their way to Arabia over the weekend. I would venture a guess that some that were out on the course hadn't played much golf before, as there was right much waiting between shots.

My group finished both days about the same as patient as the foursome I was playing with and quit after several holes.

Anyway the weekend was the first in a long time that people could get outdoors.

The Hoke County Music Booster Club has started to work again and it was a pleasure to have a visit from Joyce Jameson last Friday. She filled me in on most of the details for the Membership Drive and I will try to pass them along to you.

The drive will be during the month of March and will be kicked off with a free concert at the MacDonald School Gymn at 8 p.m. on March 9. It will be a joint concert composed of the Upchurch Chorus and Band and the Hoke High Chorus, Chorale and Band. Now who could ask for more, even if it was not free.

Last year the club had 90 members and they would like to have many more this year. If you are a member you are entitled to attend all concerts for one year from March to March.

The membership fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Also, memorial gifts can be given in honor of or in memory of any individual or group.

You can join this group the night of the concert or if you will call Nora Scull or Joyce Jameson and leave your address, someone will come by to pick up your money.

So be a music booster and help the music groups at the school.

Jesse Gullledge brought an old picture by the office last week and left it on my desk. I was out of town at the time and didn't get to talk to him about the picture and about what year it was taken.

It is a picture of the National Guard outfit that was in Raeford before World War II. It was the outfit known as the Combat Train or Headquarters 1st Battalion 2nd Coast Artillery.

The soldiers seem to be lined up for chow and I can recognize a few of the men, but since I was in battery "F" some of the faces and names don't come to my mind.

I know Harris Parker, Clyde Gillis, Jay Lunsford, a McDowell and a Pittman are in the picture, but that is about as far as my memory will let me go.

So some of you old combat men come by and help me identify the faces and if we can't get them all, maybe we can run the picture and complete the list.

Thanks Jessie, for bringing the picture by the office.

As this column is being written and I look out the front of the office, the work on the parking lot is coming down to the final stages. The curb and gutter has been installed and the lot has been leveled. Now sand clay is being put on the lot and it will be spread over the lot and then the asphalt will be poured.

When the parking places are marked and lights put up, this will be a much needed lot for downtown Raeford. To aid the local merchants, it would be nice if the employees of businesses would use the parking lot.

Think about this!

Citizens Voice Skepticism

Military Air Zone Proposed



MILITARY OPERATIONS AREA -- Federal Aviation Administration representative Leon Harrison explains the workings of the Military Operations Area (MOA) proposed for the Raeford area. Local citizens met with federal and military officials at the airport here last week to discuss the proposed military zone. Some voiced their opposition to it, saying that it appeared unnecessary.

Former Manager Receives Pardon

Former Raeford city manager John D. Gaddy, who resigned his job in 1975 after being indicted on three counts of misappropriating city funds, received an executive pardon of forgiveness from Gov. Hunt Monday.

Gaddy was charged with the felonies in August of 1975. He entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) to two of the indictments, and the third was dismissed, a result of plea bargaining.

He was given a four-year suspended prison term in an October session of superior court in 1975, and was placed on probation for three years. He was also ordered to pay the city restitution of \$500 and was fined \$1500.

According to an article in the *Fayetteville Times*, an aide termed the signing of the pardon a "rare move."

John Hemming, a Fayetteville attorney, filed the petition for pardon. After the petition met with delay in the governor's office, Gaddy contacted Alfred K. Leach, Leach said he called the governor, whom he termed a "good friend," and requested that he review the petition. An aide to the governor located the petition and, Leach said, the governor granted the pardon as "a special favor to John Gaddy based on information received from me."

Gaddy needed the pardon in order to get a better job, Leach said. He is currently working for a water construction company based in Sanford. "There was no opposition to the pardon," Leach said. He said he thought Gaddy should be pardoned because "he has paid for his mistakes and is entitled to a new chance in life."

Following a seven-week-long investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation, Gaddy and Billy Barefoot, ex-supervisor of the city garage, were charged with the mis-use of city funds. The S.B.I. investigation was spurred by *News-Journal* inquiries into alleged wrongdoings.

The Hoke County Grand Jury indicted Gaddy on charges of paying from the city treasury a bill of \$333.58 for repair work on a truck owned by Gaddy's son, Chris, and for authorizing city funds to be paid to Red Springs Motors for work done on his personal car in Sept. of 1974. In March of 1974, the city was billed for \$137.50 for car parts for Gaddy's personal car.

Two days after the Grand Jury indicted Gaddy, the city council voted to strip him of all duties dealing with disbursement of city funds.

Following the trial, Gaddy resigned as city manager. A citizen's group circulated a petition to try to reinstate Gaddy, but the council

rejected the move and appointed Bill Sellars acting city manager. Robert Drumwright was hired as the new city manager and assumed his duties in Feb. of 1976.

Although Gaddy was placed on probation for three years in Oct. of 1975, he was released from his probation May 6, 1977. According to William Lester, Gaddy's probation officer, it is not unusual for the term of probation to be shortened when the probationer has complied with all the terms of probation.

Lane Trial Begins Here On Monday

A special session of superior court will convene in Hoke County Monday for the trial of a man accused of slaying Cumberland County special sheriff's deputy R.G. Smith.

Late in November of 1977, Judge Giles Clark ruled that news coverage of Smith's death Sept. 14 was so extensive that it "could be prejudicial" to the right to a fair trial for Lloyd S. Lane, 25, accused of murder.

Following the judge's ruling, the trial was shifted from Cumberland County to Hoke County. District Attorney Ed Grannis opposed the change of venue and said, in his opinion, there had been "no effort by the news media to inflame" the citizens in Cumberland against Lane.

Lane's lawyers, Ms. Karen

Drumwright To Attend Meet

Raeford City Manager Robert Drumwright said Monday that he will attend next week's meeting of the city council, but he said he has made no decision beyond that.

Drumwright tendered his resignation to the board last month, asking that it be made effective March 1. He said at the time that, as far as he knew, he would be available after that date if the city needed him.

His resignation was tabled by the board.

The day after announcing his resignation, Drumwright denied reports that he was leaving because of personality conflicts within city government. He said he might further his education.

On Monday he said that he had had several job offers and will make a decision about his future in the next 10 days or so.

The 30-year-old city manager assumed his duties here in Feb. of

Found

An amount of money was found near the Bank of Raeford last Saturday morning, according to Margaret Lane of the Raeford Post Office.

A check book cover was found close to the money. The cover had no checks or deposit tickets inside, but did have a name imprinted on the outside. Mail carriers from the local office did not recognize the name as a Raeford resident.

A bag of clothing with a sales receipt from DeVane's is also being held at the post office. To claim any of the items, stop by the post office during business hours and describe the lost articles.

Galloway and Tom Loflin failed in a request for a publicly funded scientific study to determine if blacks, women, young adults and working class persons are under-represented on a 15,000 member prospective juror pool from which the grand jury which indicted Lane was drawn.

Smith had been a member of that grand jury until his death, as a result, Lane's attorneys attempted to get the indictment overturned, but they were unsuccessful.

The Honorable James M. Baley, Jr., will preside when the trial calendar is called at 10 a.m. Monday. Court will reconvene at 9:30 each weekday thereafter.

Lane is charged with first degree murder and two counts of armed robbery and will be the only case on the docket for this special superior court session.

Rose Office

Congressman Charlie Rose announced that the 7th Congressional District Mobile Office will visit Raeford March 3 and March 31.

The mobile office will be in the parking lot of the Raeford Post Office from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on those dates. Rip Collins, Congressman Rose's representative in the District, will be in the mobile office to talk with area citizens.

Skepticism about the need for charting a Military Operations Area (MOA) in the skies over Raeford was expressed by a group of local citizens who gathered at the airport here last Wednesday for a meeting with military and federal officials.

City officials may try to block the proposal. Raeford City Manager Robert Drumwright said Monday that the proposed military zone will be on the agenda for discussion at the city council meeting next week.

Drumwright said he is personally opposed to the idea because there is no guarantee the MOA won't eventually become a restricted zone.

Federal Aviation Administration representative Leon H. Harrison said the MOA is primarily a safety measure and would not restrict civilian flying. He said the zone would have no effect on Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations.

Military spokesmen at the meeting said there would be no increase in activity in the area. Their airplanes will still avoid Raeford, Col. Jay Hargrove said.

The planes fly ground support missions for troops at Ft. Bragg and won't be doing aerobatics or air combat maneuvers in the area, according to Hargrove.

The MOA will allow military planes to exceed speeds of 250 knots at altitudes below 10,000 feet. Advance notice must be given to private aircraft when the area is in use by the military.

The proposed zone extends from the southern boundary of the Ft. Bragg reservation to about four miles south of Raeford, covering several miles east and west of town.

"You'll never notice the difference," Harrison told the group. "The MOA is to let pilots know that something unusual is going on in the area."

He said there was no guarantee that a jet pilot wouldn't fly low over the town.

"There's always someone who's going to do a low buzz job," he said. "We can't say absolutely that it won't happen."

But he said complaints could be lodged with the military if it ever happens. Military spokesmen said the appropriate disciplinary action would be taken.

Gene Thacker, who operates a parachute school at the local airport, said military aircraft in the area have never presented a problem, and he questioned the need for the MOA. The city manager agreed.

"Raeford is the only heavily populated area in the county, and according to the proposed zone, military aircraft will be able to fly right over it," said Drumwright. "It seems like you could move it away from Raeford."

Thacker said he'd heard a rumor that officials didn't dare move the zone toward Southern Pines "because there are too many big wheels over there."

Maj. Dave Skilling pointed out that the flight lanes have been charted in relation to impact zones on the Ft. Bragg reservation that cannot be moved. Pilots practice dropping bombs in these impact zones as part of the exercises in support of ground troops.

Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, said Hoke County residents were a little suspicious of the MOA because of past dealings with the military. He said the county lost 92,000 acres to the reservation and later lost another 20,000 when the military reneged on a promise.

Fowler said Little River Township was cut off from the rest of the county when the Ft. Bragg reservation was formed. At that time, he said the military promised to keep a road through the reservation open so residents of Little River could get to the county seat, but the road was later closed, and Little River was eventually annexed by Moore County.

"People are often influenced by what they suspect rather than what they know," Fowler said. "We're in an economic decline right now. We fear anything that might have an adverse economic impact."

Harrison said the MOA would be reviewed annually by the FAA. "There's nothing permanent about air space," he said. "Citizens can write the FAA at any time and complain if they don't like the way things are going."

If objections are raised, Harrison said a public hearing would be called before a final decision on the MOA is made. However, he said they would have to be valid objections relating to aviation to influence the FAA.

Representatives from Ft. Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C. attended the meeting here last week. Hoke School Superintendent Raz Autry was also among local citizens who attended.

Buyer Being Sought For Local Industry

Efforts continued here this week to find a buyer for the financially troubled Summerfield Industries, Inc., a local textile firm that ceased operations last week, laying off 600 workers.

A spokesman said the company found itself without a market for its primary product, double knits, and could no longer continue in business profitably. Efforts to reorganize or merge with another company were in vain, he said.

Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, said Monday that officials with the N.C. Department of Commerce are working to help find a buyer.

"Two state officials met last Thursday with Mayor J.K. McNeill and myself to conduct a complete analysis of Summerfield's operation," Fowler said. "A resume was compiled to present to major companies so they can see what the operation has to offer."

"Contacts have been made," Fowler continued. "And we are

receiving favorable reaction. We hope that within the next two or three weeks representatives will come here to look over the facility. We are encouraged that someone will buy and reopen the plant."

Fowler said he has been instructed by chamber president William McDonald to take whatever action he can as quickly as possible to help in this critical time.

About 250 of the jobless are Hoke County residents, according to the local Employment Security Commission. Most of the employees did not know the plant planned to close until they went to work last Monday morning. About 100 workers had been laid off the week before when the knitting and dye departments closed. The lay-off was expected to be temporary, according to one employee.

Summerfield has its headquarters in Greensboro. It bought the Raeford Plant less than two years ago from Knit Away, Inc. The firm made knits for apparel and home furnishing markets.