

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Spring arrived on Monday at 6:34 p.m. and the weather was fitting for the occasion. The past weekend was an outdoorman's dream and the forecast is for the same kind of weather for the upcoming weekend.

Of course, as usual, the weatherman says that it will rain on Wednesday.

So if things hold out we can say goodbye to the oil man and wait for summer and vacation time.

While on the subject of vacations, you should remember that schools will be out next week for the Easter or Spring break and the students will be out and about in this fine weather. So as you drive around town, be careful and watch out for these students.

Clyde Upchurch, head of the Red Cross chapter for Hoke County and the Bloodmobile, was praising the work of the people at Hoke High School at the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night.

He stated that over 100 pints of blood were donated at the school Friday, March 10 when the bloodmobile was there. Upchurch said many of the donors were high school students and that it was very helpful to get new donors in the county as the need for blood comes every week.

Sunday is Easter and with the forecast for a beautiful day, everyone should arrive at the church of their choice early, so that they will not have to sit on the front row.

Will I see you there?

Don't throw away your old papers or magazines because many organizations are picking up these items and using the money for worthy causes.

More will be said about this later and names and numbers will be given so that you can get rid of the paper. Watch this column later for this information.

A call from Congressman Charlie Rose informed me that he had read my column last week and would be in Hoke County before long to "keep in touch" with the voters.

He also said he would bring some copies of the book I mentioned last week. If you want one, let me know.

Archie Byrne was by the office recently, and had a map that he had found at the home place of the late Edgar Hall. Mr. Hall was the first sheriff of Hoke County and later was Clerk of Court.

The map was for "proposed County of Hoke, formed from portions of Cumberland and Robeson counties, N.C." On the map were the existing lines for Cumberland and Robeson and the proposed lines for Hoke.

Also much information as to size of counties, property values, etc.

The thing that struck me was what was on the back of the map. It is as follows:

"If the proposed County of Hoke is formed:

"Cumberland will remain the 10th largest county in the state.

"Robeson will remain the 3rd largest county in the State.

"Hoke will be larger than 53 of the present counties and will have more taxable property than 23 of the present counties.

"The Democratic majority in Cumberland will remain 448 by actual returns 1908.

"The Democratic majority in Robeson will remain 1,562.

"The Democratic majority in Hoke County will be 649."

From the above information, it seems that property and the majority for the Democratic Party were the points that were most important, as to if the County of Hoke would be formed.

As we all know now Hoke was formed in 1911, so the old map with the information on the back must have helped at the end.

If you would like to see the map, come by the office and we will talk about it.

Lane Found Guilty Of Murder Here

City Hall Gets New Numbers

If you need to call the mayor, the water department, the city manager or any other city offices, dialing the old number, 875-4441, will get you nothing but an operator who asks, "What number were you calling?"

The listing in the new 'phone directory under "Raeford, City of," is incorrect. Rhonda Holt of City Hall explained that they have recently acquired new numbers. To get city hall, you now dial 875-8161, 875-6162, 875-6163, 875-6164 or 875-6165. But these numbers don't belong to anyone in particular -- yet. Mrs. Holt said that eventually each office will have its own 'phone number, but for the time being, dialing any of the five numbers will connect you with Mrs. Holt. She can then connect the call with the water department, the finance officer, bookkeeper, city manager's office, home visitor, personnel office, or even the mayor.

For police matters, or to register a complaint with the dog warden, call 875-4251 or 875-4252 as those numbers have not changed.

Confusing? Not really. Just keep in mind that by dialing 875-8161 Mrs. Holt can connect you with most of the city offices. The real confusion will come when the numbers are allotted to individual offices, and that may involve as many as eight lines!

But even if you forget about the new numbers, the operator you get when dialing 875-4441 will set things straight. If you can remember what number you dialed, she will tell you what number you will have to dial to get City Hall.

Transmitter Proposed For Raeford

A special legislative committee this week proposed a \$6.3 million expansion of the state's educational television network that would carry public television to all of Eastern North Carolina and would include construction of a new UHF transmitter for UNC-TV in Raeford.

New transmitters would also be built in Robeson County, Jacksonville, and Roanoke Rapids, according to the proposal. The new transmitters would reach about 566,000 more people throughout the eastern part of the state and would improve reception for about 370,000 more.

The proposed funding is three times the amount the university has asked for in the May 31 session of the General Assembly. It would mean roughly doubling the state's capital investment in the educational system since it was started in 1955.

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LIFE SENTENCE -- Lloyd Stephen Lane was convicted of first degree murder and armed robbery by a Hoke County Superior Court jury last Thursday and sentenced on Friday to life imprisonment. He was convicted of the shooting death of a Cumberland County special deputy during a holdup at a convenience store last September. The trial was moved to Hoke County because of publicity surrounding the case. Lane is shown above being escorted to the courtroom by a deputy.

Wisconsin Students To Visit Here In Exchange Program

On Sunday, April 2, 30 students from Hartford, Wisconsin, will roll into the parking lot at Hoke High School.

The visitors are part of a domestic exchange program under-

taken this year by Hoke High School. In February, 30 Hoke High students visited Hartford Union High School to learn about the midwest and to attend classes at the Wisconsin school.

County Participates In Juvenile Program

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to participate in a program that will help them provide for the county's juvenile offenders.

As of July 1 this and other counties in North Carolina will have to take care of juvenile offenders at home. The state is phasing out its training school program for those youngsters who commit misdemeanor crimes.

The Hoke board decided Monday night to participate in a program that provides mini-bikes to juveniles ages 10-17. The bikes will come from the National Youth Program through the N.C. Depart-

ment of Human Resources. The county will get 10 of the motorized bikes to begin the program here.

The program has been in effect for about six years. George Holden told the board. Holden is regional coordinator for Community Based Alternatives, under the Department of Human Resources.

The county will own the bikes and the youngsters will be supervised while using them, Holden said. He said safety would be foremost in the use of the bikes. Programs of this kind have been underway for a number of years in Shelby, Asheville and Fayetteville. Holden told the board.

The program was endorsed by the county's juvenile advisory committee, established two years ago to study the problem of what to do with juvenile offenders instead of sending them to training schools.

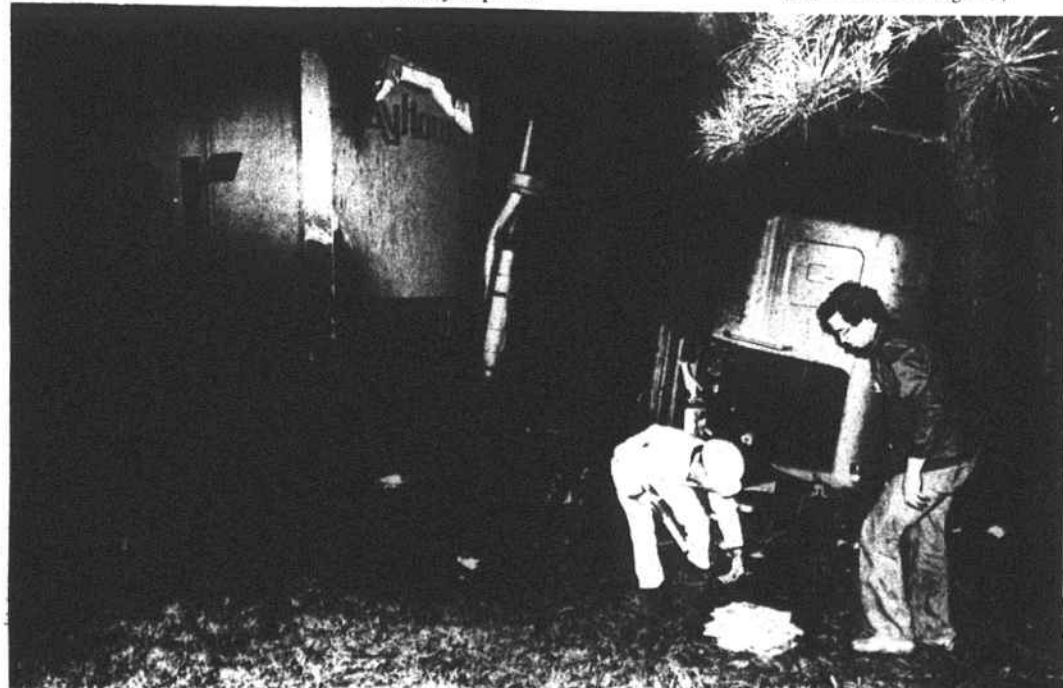
Committee members Richard Alligood and Bill Altman attended the meeting Monday night and voiced support for the program.

In other business, the board approved the purchase of an x-ray machine from C.T. Harris and Son for \$13,680. The machine will be used at the Health Department for

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Offices Close

City, county and state offices will be closed Monday, March 27, for Easter holidays. The public schools will close at the normal time Friday, and spring vacation will extend from March 27 until March 31. Students are to return to classes Monday, April 3.



FATAL COLLISION -- Truck driver Thomas Decourcy, right, and Hoke County Rescue Squad member Jim Wade pick up truck loading records that were scattered when the cab of Decourcy's truck rolled over after colliding with a passenger car early Saturday on Highway 401 North. The driver of the car, Arian Testamarian of Ohio, was killed instantly in the crash, according to the Highway Patrol.

by Cassie Wasko

A Hoke County Superior Court jury last week found Lloyd Stephen Lane guilty of first degree murder and two counts of armed robbery and sentenced him to life imprisonment in the shooting death of special deputy R.G. Smith.

The jurors deliberated for only an hour Thursday before returning the guilty verdict, and on Friday, after deliberating 1 hour and 25 minutes, they returned a sentence of life imprisonment shortly before 6:30 p.m.

Lane, 25, of Fayetteville, was accused of murdering special deputy R.G. Smith in a convenience store robbery last Sept. 14. He entered a plea of innocent to the charges. The trial was moved from Cumberland to Hoke County because of publicity surrounding the case.

A new law, enacted last June, provides for a two-part trial in which the first part is used to determine guilt or innocence. The second hearing is devoted to determining sentence. Defense attorneys are also allowed to present two closing arguments, the first and the last, in lieu of presenting a defense.

In the first portion of the trial, Lane's attorneys, Tom Loflin and Karen Galloway, of Durham, opted to present no defense, and chose, instead, to present two closing arguments.

Loflin, in his closing summation, admitted that his client was in the store and shot special deputy Smith, but he argued that the shooting was accidental and Lane should be found guilty of second degree murder. Galloway, in the second argument, attacked testimony given by Ruby Lee Hall, the convenience store manager and key witness for the state. She told the jury, "Mrs. Hall's testimony should be taken with a grain of salt."

Earlier in the trial, Mrs. Hall testified that Smith identified himself that night by saying, "Halt, Police officer," to which Lane responded "Like hell I will." Galloway argued that testimony given by Betty Moore, clerk at the convenience store, did not corroborate Mrs. Hall's testimony.

District Attorney Ed Grannis, Jr., explained that when a murder takes place in connection with a felony, no pre-meditation is necessary to bring about a verdict of guilty to murder in the first degree.

Superior Court Judge James A. Baley instructed the jury to return a verdict of guilty or not guilty to the charges of first degree murder and two counts of armed robbery. Attorneys for the defense had entered a motion requesting the jury be given the option of finding the defendant guilty to second degree murder and common law robbery.

Lane sat quietly beside his attorneys as the jurors returned from deliberation. For the first time since the trial began, the tables were cleared of the middle of paperwork and brief cases. Lane's grandmother, Viola Hill, sobbed quietly as the jury foreman announced the verdict of guilty to the charges in the Thursday

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Car-Truck Collision Here Fatal To One

A head-on collision early Saturday morning on Highway 401 North about eight miles from Raeford resulted in the first traffic fatality in Hoke County for the year.

Arian S. Testamarian of Dayton, Ohio, was killed on impact when the car he was driving crossed the center line and struck a tractor trailer rig a quarter of a mile inside the Hoke County line, according to State Trooper Lewis Rector.

Testamarian was pinned inside his vehicle, and Hoke County Rescue Squad members reported they detected no signs of life when they arrived on the scene. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

Testamarian had been living in Wagram and was employed by The Pantry convenience store chain in Laurinburg, according to reports. The car was so badly damaged, it was some time after the accident before the victim was identified,

Rector said.

Thomas J. Decourcy, III, of Creel, Ind., the driver of the tractor trailer, was uninjured in the crash, according to the trooper.

The 1972 Chevrolet driven by Testamarian was a total loss. The tractor portion of the moving van was also totaled. There was no damage to the trailer.

Rescue personnel averted further disaster at the scene when they used bolt cutters to sever battery cables as a small electrical fire began in an area where diesel fuel had spilled.

Although the accident occurred around 12:45 a.m. Saturday, the highway patrol and rescue squad were on duty at the scene until daylight.

Trooper Rector praised the efforts of the rescue squad.

"The rescue squad was instrumental," he said. "I don't know what I would have done without their help -- they are first class all the way. They stayed on the scene assisting me until sunrise."