

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Congressman Charlie Rose was by the office last Friday and elsewhere on this page you can read what he has to say about the MOA. Words mean a lot, but if you had seen the expression on his face when he was talking, you would have known that he meant business.

It seems as if about every 25 years the people of Hoke County have trouble with the military about a takeover. If this project is stopped - and we certainly hope so - then the next generation had better prepare for a take-over below the surface, only time will tell.

The books that were mentioned in this column last week are at the office and if you want one, come by and get it.

They will soon be turned over to the school, and then you can contact Raz Autry for them.

Ken McNeill, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Executive Committee, was by the office this week and asked that the people be reminded of the convention to be held at the Hoke County Courthouse at noon on April 29.

McNeill said that delegates to the district and state conventions would be elected at this meeting.

Also at this meeting the members of the different state committees will be elected. These include judicial, senatorial, etc. These committees become important when someone dies or resigns his post. So make plans to be at the courthouse at noon, Saturday, April 29.

According to all reports and rumors work should be started to complete the parking lot across from *The News-Journal* by the time this paper hits the streets.

This writer has been asked many times how the savings and loan lot could be finished before the city lot. The only reason I could give was that Bob Drumwright, former city manager, said he could get the work done cheaper by another contractor.

When one person heard me say this comment was: "Yes, dirt cheap." What they meant, maybe you can figure out.

If you haven't registered to vote, be sure to do so before the deadline, Monday, April 3rd.

This column usually starts off with weather news. I received a letter last week from a former Raeford resident and a classmate in high school, and she was telling me about the weather in Massachusetts. The letter speaks for itself.

Dear Sam,

Hello, from snow country to golf country! I noticed a couple of weeks ago you said something about playing golf - we are still slip-sliding around. Had several inches of snow again last night. Several weeks ago when we had the "big" blizzard, I had a paper to send you, but never got out of the house to send it. Anyway it is in the mail now - the pictures are mild - the actual scenes are terrible. I was lucky - my damages only came to about \$5000. My basement was completely flooded by high tide. (I live right on the water.) Lost my furnace, washer, dryer, refrigerator, freezer, stove - and lots of other things - back and front steps were badly damaged - I'm still lucky.

Thought you might get a kick out of the pictures, now that spring is almost here.

Hope to be in Raeford first of May.

Sincerely,

Anne Langis
(Annie Ruth Alexander)

Thanks Annie Ruth for the letter. The paper hasn't arrived as yet - maybe it went by San Francisco. For you readers that don't know, Annie Ruth is the daughter of Mrs. W.L. Alexander who lives on N. Stewart Street. She is a sister of Mrs. Truman Austin.

Come by to see me when you are in town, Annie Ruth, and we will talk about our next Class Reunion.

Congressman Rose Says

He'll Start Suit To Stop MOA

by Charles Blackburn

Congressman Charlie Rose said Friday he will help the City of Raeford initiate a law suit against the government if necessary to stop a Military Operations Area (MOA) from being charted in the skies over Hoke County.

The Congressman's comments came a few hours after Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Manager Earl Fowler told a special joint meeting of the city council and the county board of commissioners that excessive noise created by the military air zone will cause "severe losses" for Hoke County turkey farms and might discourage some new industry from locating here.

The boards voted to ask the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to take no further action on the proposal until after a public hearing is held in the courthouse here on April 13. They also requested a copy of a report that details the environmental effects the MOA will have on the county.

Safety Measure

FAA, Army and Air Force officials met here in February with a handful of local citizens to discuss the proposed zone. The FAA described the MOA as a safety measure and said it wouldn't restrict civilian flying. Military spokesmen assured those present that air traffic would not increase in the area.

Fighters flying ground support missions for infantry troops at Fort Bragg circle in holding patterns over Hoke County. As it was explained, the MOA would concentrate these patterns into a defined area around Raeford. The zone would appear on aviation charts to let pilots unfamiliar with the area know that "something unusual is going on."

Public Concern

Public concern has been mounting here because the proposed zone includes the town itself and will allow jets to fly over Raeford at altitudes as low as 500 feet. But military spokesmen said in February that, as in the past, their jets will be ordered to avoid Raeford.

"You won't notice the difference," said FAA representative Leon Harrison. Harrison said the MOA was the brainchild of the FAA, which has charted over 50 of them in the country.

Charges Made

At Friday's meeting, one resident accused the military of trying to take over Hoke County airspace "as quietly and with as little public interference as possible." And Earl Fowler read from a report which said current industry and agriculture within the proposed zone would suffer because of noise.

Letter of Protest

A letter of protest from local citizens was sent to the FAA last week under Congressman Rose's signature. He was in town Friday and told *The News-Journal* he will do everything he can to help Raeford block the proposal.

"I have been made aware of certain regulations which would allow armed aircraft to fly at low levels over Raeford," he said in speaking of the MOA. "If I have to help Raeford start a law suit to stop this, I will. There's no excuse for our government to ask the people of Raeford to endure that potential noise and risk. Who's to say that some of these weapons won't come loose, or be accidentally discharged?"

"Hoke County has never been adequately compensated by the government for all the land that was taken to form the Fort Bragg Reservation," Rose continued. "I will do everything within the power of my office to stop this attempt to intrude upon the airspace of Raeford and Hoke County."

History of Intrusion

The letter sent to the FAA by the Congressman's office reads in part:

"Hoke County lost 92,000 acres to the United States Government when Fort Bragg was developed in 1918-1923. At that time, the military promised that a road through the reservation would be kept open to connect Little River Township with the county seat. The road was later closed, and Hoke lost another 20,000 acres when Little River was annexed by Moore County.

"In 1953, the government proposed to take another 63,000 acres from Hoke County to create a corridor between Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall (a training base for gliders in World War II, located in Scotland and Richmond counties). This proposal was blocked at a cost to residents of much time, money, effort and anxiety.

"The monetary benefits of Fort Bragg have gone to Fayetteville and Cumberland County, while Hoke has borne the economic burden of supplying most of the land for the reservation. Repeatedly the government has asked Hoke County to make sacrifices for the good of the military, without giving anything in return. For example, efforts over the years to have U.S. Highway 401 four-laned in the county have been futile.

"The economic growth of Hoke County has been severely limited by the intrusion of the military. Citizens here feel they should not be made to bear the added economic hardship that might be caused by an increase in noise in the skies above Raeford if the Military Operations Area is established. They strongly oppose the charting of an MOA in Hoke County because of its unforeseen economic impact."

Economic Impact

"This (the MOA) was in motion for 15 months before we knew about it," Earl Fowler told the city and county boards Friday. "I feel this is one of the most important things that will happen in the county."

Fowler read from a report about the effect military air zones have had in other parts of the country.

"Some new industry will not move into the area due to excess noise caused by the MOA," Fowler read from the report. "Turkey farms in the county will experience severe losses during the proposed MOA's operation due to the birds being scared by the noise. Many of these operations will be forced to relocate to another part of the

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EGG HUNTERS -- About 100 Easter Egg hunters braved the rain and cold Saturday to search for 2,700 eggs hidden by the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department at McLaughlin Park. What they lacked in numbers, they made up for in enthusiasm. Just about everyone went home with a full basket.

Critics Say Bikes Reward Juveniles For Delinquency

Many people here are saying that a program using mini-bikes to teach responsibility to juvenile offenders comes mighty close to rewarding them for their mischief.

Not so, says Bill Altman, who is on the local committee that studied the problem of what to do with the county's delinquents.

"The first time I heard about the program, I had my doubts," Altman admitted this week. "But once I got into it, I saw there was more to it than I thought."

Last week the Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted to participate in the National Youth Project Using Mini-Bikes (NYPUM) which was developed in 1969 by the YMCA to "change the conditions that foster alienation, delinquency and crime." Over 400 communities across the nation are involved in NYPUM.

Hoke is getting into the program

because after July 1 the county will have to take care of its own "status offenders." Status offenders are juveniles who have committed non-criminal offenses. They have either been truant, disobedient, or run-aways.

According to legislation, these youth cannot be sent to the state's training schools after July 1. Consequently, North Carolina counties have had to come up with alternative programs for keeping them from getting into more serious trouble.

It means added expense for the counties, but the state is helping to pay the bill. Altman said this year Hoke County got \$5,300 of the \$1 million voted by the N.C. General Assembly for community based alternatives to training school. Hoke's share was determined by the number of 10 to 17-year-olds in the county, he said. Some counties

got more, others got less.

A supervisor will be hired to give the kids a strong dose of counseling as they are learning about the bikes.

"We're not just talking about letting kids have fun with bikes," Altman said. "I don't know that NYPUM is the best idea, but it will get their attention. We want a good man to supervise the program. We hope to get a CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) position for the job."

The county will retain possession of the bikes. Altman said they hope to be able to let the kids ride them at the local fairground. Initially, NYPUM will involve 29 youngsters here, he said.

Safety will be emphasized, Altman said. Liability insurance is being provided to the county free of charge. Juveniles will be referred to the program through the schools and the Department of Social Services.

The county will order 10 bikes to start the program. The bikes cost a total of \$4,500. The county will have to put up 10 percent of that and is doing so by providing equipment for the program, such as a desk, filing cabinet, and a typewriter. The county has also agreed to pay freight costs and maintenance, Altman said.

He said the committee would have liked to have seen a foster home built for these youth, but the cost -- estimated at \$75,000 -- was prohibitive. Other programs suggested by the state were already in progress here, he said.

"The mini-bike program was really the only one Hoke could participate in," Altman said. "We can switch to some other program later if we get more money. But there's only so much you can do with \$5,300. They tell us that NYPUM will divert 50 percent of these kids from getting into more serious trouble."

The idea for NYPUM started late in 1969 at the Northeast Branch of the Los Angeles YMCA. It was a project with 15 junior high school boys, most of whom were referrals from the schools and youth authorities for problems of delinquent behavior. The idea was to use the mini-bike as an attractive tool for development of a small club program with these so-called hard to reach youth. Six months' experience showed a phenomenal drop in delinquent behavior, such as drug experimentation, truancy, and petty crime.

Since then American Honda Motor Company, Inc. has donated 14,000 mini-bikes and \$142,000 to the program, which has spread nationwide, serving more than 8,000 youth.

Mitchell Royal May Come Home This Week

Following surgery for leukemia, a 15-year-old Vander youth may be able to return home from Seattle, Wash. this week.

Mitchell Royal received a unique bone marrow transplant from his twin brother, Michael, almost a month ago for treatment of acute lymphocytic leukemia. The operation was done at the University of Washington Medical Center because doctors there had the most experience with bone marrow transplants. Before the trip to Washington, Mitchell had been treated at Duke University Hospital.

The trip was made possible by contributions from individuals, civic clubs, churches and other organizations. Mitchell, Michael and Mrs. Nadine Lockey, the boys' mother, all had to be in Washington for several weeks for the surgery. Mrs. Lockey supported her family by working at Summerfield Industries, and the trip also meant lost wages for her.

Following the surgery, checks of Mitchell's bone marrow have shown no signs of cancer cells, his grandmother, Mrs. Hazel Jordan, reported. The family hopes to be at home by March 31.

A bone marrow test was scheduled for Monday and a spinal tap was done Tuesday. If the tests showed no cancer cells and Mitchell's appetite improved, they should be able to come home, Mrs. Jordan said.

Doctors plan to cut down on intravenous feedings, hoping it will improve Mitchell's appetite. He

was dismissed from the hospital more than a week ago, although he has been making daily visits to the hospital for treatment.

"He called Wednesday and said he is feeling fine. He's been out to a bowling alley and went for a ride in the countryside," Mrs. Jordan said.

Doctors said that because Mitchell received the transplant from his twin, a cure was probably more likely. The cancer was first detected in mid-December and Mitchell began receiving treatment at Duke University. Doctors there encouraged Mrs. Lockey to try to overcome the financial obstacles and send Mitchell to Seattle for the surgery.

In early February, fund raising efforts to aid the family in making the trip began. Initially, Duke officials estimated that \$3,000 was needed for the trip, but that amount would only cover the cost of the trip and housing. Mrs. Evers, a family friend, reported, Mrs. Lockey would also lose several weeks of wages while in Washington.

Following publicity in *The News-Journal* and a Fayetteville newspaper, donations began coming in. Civic organizations and churches worked to raise money. Although efforts to raise the needed funds began only about a week before the trip was made, residents of Cumberland and Hoke counties successfully solicited enough funding to make the trip possible. Over \$14,500 was raised to meet the expenses of the surgery and the trip.