

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

As this column is being written on Tuesday morning July 4th everything is peaceful and quiet on West Elwood Avenue. The sun is shining and the forecast is for hot weather and maybe thunder-showers. I will say the same was true for the past weekend because it rained on the Arabia Golf Course. For some reason you don't seem to get as wet when you are at Arabia. When you read this I hope everyone had a safe and happy Fourth.

While on the subject of the Fourth, I was watching a TV show the other day and a newscaster was at shopping center asking people that passed about "Patriotism", since it was near the 4th of July. Now you would be surprised at the answers this person got about the word. I believe that most people thought they had been asked about "Civil Rights" or something like that.

The word patriotism means: "devoted love, support and defense of one's country; national loyalty." This is the reason for celebrating the Fourth and maybe it would be a good idea if this theme was pounded into the minds of all of us.

Jim Turlington retired last Friday and the reception and dinner went off in a grand style. It was fitting to honor Jim in this way and the schools have lost a fine educator. But on the other hand he will remain in Raeford and we have kept a good citizen.

Donald D. Abernathy, former superintendent of schools here and now an administrative assistant to Congressman Stephen Neal sent the following telegram to Earl Fowler when it was impossible for him to be here.

It read:  
"Mark Hopkins owns one end of the log, the farm boy owns the other."

Jim Turlington took similar personal interest in his pupils and his school. He helped provide stability to a perfection that rushes from one idea to another and then returns to some basic form already proven by the master educator. Thanks Jim, my best to you.

Amen. Don, you hit the nail on the head.

A letter to the editor that came in last week will be run if the writer will come by and sign his or her name. "Anonymous" is not good enough.

A wallet has been turned into the office that was found in the parking lot in front of the office. The owner may recover same by coming by the office and giving proper identification.

A letter was received at the office last week which I think will be of interest to most of the readers of this column. I will in part print it here:

Dear Sam and N-J crew:  
Just a note to say how much I enjoy the N.J. I keep up a bit with Raeford that way and really appreciate it. I've moved across town now, though, so please change my address.

I've enclosed a copy of our flood issue so you can see I've been working, at least occasionally. This is the biggest thing that has happened here in decades. It made a mess of a story, but it sure made a mess of the area. People are still digging out and they never have found one body—a woman who was driving between Canyon and Amarillo.

I took the N.J. over to the high school here to a social studies teacher to show her the stories on the exchange program between Hoke and the Wisc. school. That was a nice program and some good stories. I hope they can do something like that here.

I also try to keep up with Kathy McMillan through the N.J. I have the book I've done on her about 3/4 finished but have not started trying to get it published.

Well, it's Monday and I'd better

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# City Accommodates Industry



**NEW CITY MANAGER** - Raeford's new city manager, Ronald Lee Matthews, was officially sworn into office here Monday night at the regular monthly meeting of the Raeford City Council. Administering the oath of office is Juanita Edmund, clerk of superior court.

## Child Support Program Decreases Welfare Rolls

The local Child Support Enforcement Program is helping to decrease the number of mothers who are receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Hoke County Board of Commissioners was told at its meeting Monday by Bob Coats, state coordinator for the program.

A Child Support Enforcement agent here, Roxanna Lowery, tracks down absent parents and takes them to court, where the judge often orders them to contribute toward the support of their children.

The support payments go to the clerk of court, who in turn sends them to the state AFDC fund. The state pays the money back to the county along with an

incentive. Out of every \$100 in support that's collected, the county gets about \$10.

Director of Social Services Ben Niblock feels the county will make a profit of \$10,000 from the program this year.

"It's a fine program," Niblock said in an interview. "Its best feature is that it keeps people off the AFDC program and may prevent more from coming on it. Judge Dupree is clamping down pretty hard on these fathers. It's one of those programs where you look back and say 'Why haven't we been doing this for years?' It's a good way to save costs. The program gets the papas to pay their share."

Coats told the commissioners the county wasn't having to put

any local funds into the program. He said a special day of civil court has been established during the summer months to handle these cases.

County Attorney Charles Hostetler pointed out that judges can now order the garnishment of a man's wages in order to insure his support payments.

Coats praised Roxanna Lowery for her work here. "She can squeeze blood from a turnip," he told the board. "I wish I had her working in other parts of the state."

In other business, the commissioners appointed a five-member Fair Housing Board of Appeals to satisfy the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The board will hear complaints regarding discrimination in the sale or rental of housing financed with HUD funds. The county has built no public housing and doesn't plan to build any in the immediate future, but failure to create this board would kill the county's application for \$500,000 in community development funds, Bill Altman told the commissioners.

Altman administers the

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## Jobless Rate Drops

The unemployment rate in Hoke County for May dipped more than a percentage point from the previous month's rate, according to statistics released by the state Employment Security Commission last Friday.

Unemployment figures dropped from 11.3 percent in April to 10 percent in May, the lowest figure for the year.

Of the 8,740 persons that make up the labor force in Hoke County,

870 are estimated to be unemployed, the report said. Two other counties had an unemployment rate of 10 percent with only one county, Harnett, exceeding the ten percent mark.

Although the local rate reflects a drop, Hoke County's rate is still more than double the state rate of 3.8 percent unemployment for the month of May, according to the statistics.

At its regular meeting Monday night the Raeford City Council approved an amendment to the city zoning ordinance allowing the production of drugs, cologne, perfume, antiperspirant, body lotion, essence and scent, and aerosol products in light industrial areas.

The amendment was passed "to accommodate the people who are considering buying the Summerfield Plant," according to City Attorney Palmer Wilcox.

The amendment was seen as the last hurdle in the sale of Summerfield, which closed in February, to Raeford Manufacturing Corporation, a firm whose origins remain a mystery.

Nothing much is known about the new industry, other than it will produce cosmetics and hire about 300 employees within 12 months of production. The plant is expected to open by early fall.

In a special meeting June 7, Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Manager Earl Fowler announced the sale of the Summerfield plant to Raeford Manufacturing. Since then, all information about the new company has been released through the chamber of commerce.

Fowler has said in past weeks that those involved in the purchase of the plant wished details of their operation to remain sketchy in order to protect negotiations.

Local zoning regulations allow the production of cosmetics, but the definition of "cosmetics" does not include perfume.

"The zoning amendment clears up the definition of cosmetics for the industry," said Mayor J.K. McNeill, Jr. "I'm sure they are aware of the environmental regulations of North Carolina and are coming here with that knowledge."

The aerosol they propose to manufacture is not the ozone-damaging type," said Wilcox. "Obviously they can't make that. It (the amendment) expands what has already been put in as permitted use. I don't see that it's out of line. They are anxious to have some answer by Wednesday."

The planning board unanimously recommended to the council that the zoning amendment be approved.

Summerfield was the second largest employer in Hoke County at the time of its closing, and unemployment here has risen to as high as 11 percent in its absence.

### New Manager

Ronald Lee Matthews, 37, former director of the Goldsboro Redevelopment Commission, was sworn in as new city manager here Monday night.

Juanita Edmund, clerk of superior court, gave the oath of office to the Winston-Salem native, and the city council officially welcomed him to Raeford. The city agreed to pay Matthews \$21,000 per year, cover his moving expenses and provide him with a car.

He and his family will be living at 812 East Donaldson Ave.

Matthews served as director of the commission in Goldsboro since 1971. Prior to that he served with the Housing Authorities of Statesville and Winston-Salem.

He graduated from Guilford College, where he majored in sociology. He has also done post graduate work at Appalachian State, Winston-Salem State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Active in civic clubs and community affairs, he is a member of many professional organizations.

He and his wife, Barbara, have two sons, Ronald Lee, Jr., 17, and Donald Steven, 15, and a daughter April Dawn, 7. Barbara is a licensed practical nurse.

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Cecil Bond

Jack Bradford

## New Plant Manager Named At Burlington

Cecil G. Bond has been named plant manager at Burlington Menswear's Raeford plant.

He succeeds Jack A. Bradford, who has been promoted to greige manufacturing group manager with Burlington Menswear in Clarksville, Va.

Bobby C. Kilby, formerly on special assignment with the division staff, has been named plant manager at Halifax.

The appointments were announced by M.J. Pinson Jr. of Clarksville, division manager.

A native of Seneca, S.C., Bond received his bachelor's degree in 1957 from Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C. He was a member of the National Guard and served seven years with a South Carolina textile firm prior to joining Burlington in 1964 at Halifax, Va.

He held numerous supervisory and management positions at Halifax before being named a plant manager at Clarksville in 1973.

In 1976 he returned to the Halifax plant as plant manager. Bond formerly served as a member

of the Halifax County School Board and was a member of the Lions Club board of directors in Halifax.

His wife is the former Nancy Williams, also of Seneca. They have two children.

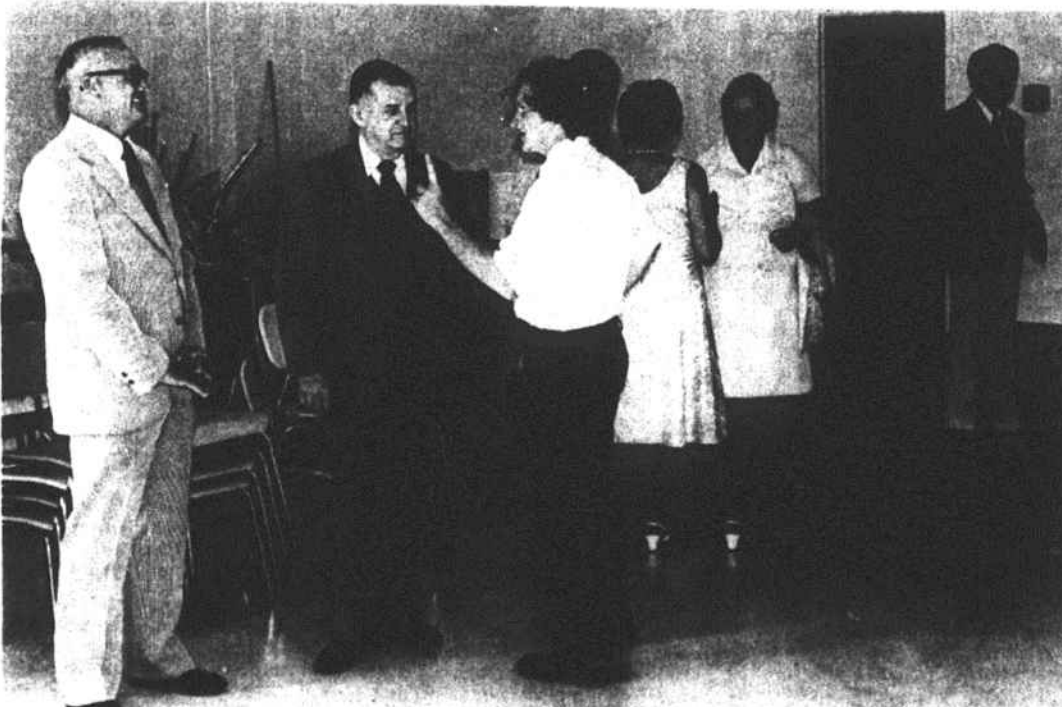
In his new position, Bradford will have responsibility for the Raeford, Halifax and Oxford plants of Burlington Menswear.

He succeeds Thomas G. McClure Jr., who has been named area product development manager with the company's Klopman division.

A native of Greenwood, S.C., Bradford served four years with the Army and received his bachelor's degree in 1949 from Clemson (S.C.) University. He served 16 years with North Carolina textile companies prior to joining Burlington in 1965 at the Halifax plant.

He served as a plant manager with Burlington since 1967 and spent the past eight years as plant manager at the division's Raeford plant.

His wife is the former Helen Williams of Anderson, S.C. They have two children.



**TURLINGTON HONORED** - J.W. Turlington was honored last Friday afternoon at a reception given by the Hoke Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club and the Hoke Board of Education. He was presented with a resolution re-naming Raeford Elementary the J.W. Turlington School at a dinner that night. Turlington retired this year after 38 years of service as a teacher, educator and principal in the Hoke County schools. Pictured here are (L-R) Raz G. Autry, superintendent of public schools, J.W. Turlington, and Steve McNeill, a reading teacher at South Hoke school.