

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The forecast for the next couple of days is for cooler weather with a chance of rain. The temperatures have been between 95 and 100 degrees for the past week and any relief would be welcomed.

So far, we have had only the heat and have not been bothered with tornadoes like in other parts of the country. So look on the bright side because it could be worse.

Recently the Rev. Bill Heyward, former pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church was by the office. He now lives in Dunedin, Fla. and is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church there. He was in the best of health as far as I could detect and was the same preacher that was here several years ago except he has to take more time with his hair so as to cover all the bald spots.

He stated that only one of his children was married and that he was like the rest of us. They were scattered far and near in the United States. It was good to see and talk to Bill again and we will look forward to the next meeting.

Last Thursday afternoon, if you happened to be on Main Street in Raeford, maybe you thought that the army had been called out to protect the two banks in Raeford. It looked that way as soldiers were lined up in front of each bank.

This was not the reason for the soldiers. They were National Guardsmen from Alabama that were on their two weeks encampment at Fort Bragg and they had been paid off and were cashing checks. Of course this was new to me because when I was in the guard many years ago they paid off in cash, but this is the "new" army.

Anyway they were taken care of and departed for the State of Alabama early Friday morning.

From comments made to me since last week's paper hit the street, we were not the only ones that had noticed the flags missing from poles on the Fourth of July.

You know that most of us make mistakes, but we are usually taken to task if we make the same mistake twice. Let's remember this next year.

I received a post card Saturday, July 8th and it was cancelled by the post office department on June 24. Now this is not too bad for a post card to come about two-thirds of the way over the U.S. The thing that is bugging me is that the writer dated the card, July 1.

Now I know for a fact that the writer of the card was not that far west on June 24th and that the July 1 date is more likely to be correct.

So maybe the increase in stamps now have the postal department cancelling mail before the sender has mailed it. Anyway it is good to know that they are working on some kind of a new system even if the mail takes a long time.

Ronald Matthews, the new city manager, started work last Monday, July 3. He was at the council meeting that Monday night, and when asked what his first day was like, he had the following to say.

"I have worked so hard today that I am going to take tomorrow off." After thinking for a minute it finally dawned on me that the next day was July 4th. I hope that this humor will continue as he tackles the tasks ahead.

Welcome to the city, Ron.

I mentioned in this column several weeks ago about the National Guardsmen that left here in 1940 were planning a reunion. Since that time several of these men have contacted me for further details. Plans are now being worked out and it is hoped that the reunion can be held at Fort Moultrie, S.C. in October.

At the present time some of us are trying to get the addresses of

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Hoke School Board Considers Travel Expenses For Top School Officials

by Cassie Wasko

The Hoke County Board of Education heard arguments Monday night for and against adding the amount of money set aside for travel expenses of the superintendent and assistant superintendents into their salaries.

Assistant Superintendents J.D. McAllister and Ernest Sutton would receive a salary boost of \$3,000 each if the proposal is accepted. Autry explained to the board that he has ruled himself out of the picture. But, he explained, when they travel on school business, only \$29 per day is reimbursable according to state regulations.

"If you stay in a reputable hotel, it costs about \$35 per night," McAllister explained. The \$29 allotment is supposed to cover food and shelter expenses.

Autry said he had contacted the state Attorney General's office and the retirement program administrative offices about the legality of the matter.

"I was told that it was unethical," Autry said.

"I see nothing wrong with it," Bill Moses, board attorney said. If the board agrees to allow McAllister and Sutton to include the travel expense allowance in their salaries, then records of the travel would no longer have to be kept. The increased salary would up their retirement benefits as well as increasing the amount the county has to pay into the state retirement fund for the men.

"It would be about 9.8 percent of the total new money," Sutton said. That would mean an increase of about \$588 that the county would have to pay to the retirement plan.

"Retirement is not the basis on which this decision should be made," McAllister said.

Autry said McAllister would benefit most from the new plan as he works with federal programs, such as the migrant program. Because of the extensive amount of travel involved in these programs, he loses the most financially through the shallow travel reimbursement plan. Autry said.

"It is a wide-spread practice," said Autry. Board member Mina Townsend said she would like to know just how wide-spread the practice is before making a decision.

Sutton is paid through local and state funds, while McAllister is paid totally through federal funds.

The board tabled discussion of the plan until the next monthly meeting. Autry explained that he would ask other superintendents at the upcoming conference in Wilmington if this is an accepted practice in other areas.

The board also initiated action to begin work toward the accreditation of Upchurch Junior High School by approving a study that is expected to take about one year.

Hoke High School received final approval for accreditation two years ago. Long-range plans include working toward accrediting all of the county's elementary schools, according to Autry.

The board also deferred action on the selection of driver's education cars for the coming school year.

The cars, given to the county at no cost, were provided by the Ford and Chevrolet companies until a few years ago when Ford dropped out of the program.

Younger Snead, manager of Hoke Auto, argued against dividing the business again.

"I stuck with you in the crunch. When times got hard, during the recession, Ford pulled out and you came to me for all of the cars. I helped you then, and I believe you have let me down now by considering including Ford into the program again," Snead said.

The high school utilizes about six cars, now. When the program was offered only during the summer months, the number of cars needed was about 10.

The board is expected to make a final decision next month.

A bid of \$13,000 was accepted by the board for the house constructed by the occupational education groups. A bid of \$10,400 was rejected after the original auction, but a second auction held July 1 left Ardell Clark with the high bid. Autry told the board that Clark has 30 days to move the house.

"We have \$12,000 invested in the house," Autry said. He recommended to the board that the bid be accepted.

In other business, the board approved the hiring of Nancy Martin, wife of the county manager James Martin, for a reading position at South Hoke school.

The board voted to award a contract to Youth Guard insurance company, a subsidiary of Central Insurance, for school accident insurance policies.

Youth Guard submitted the lowest bid, although the move will

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RAEFORD SURVEY -- Bob Barkhau asks Annie Little, who lives on State Road 1302 north of town, a series of questions about Raeford in a survey of local citizens that was conducted here last week. The survey was part of a downtown revitalization study contracted by the City of Raeford. The first phase of the study should be completed by September 1.

Survey Conducted On Main St.

Two young men conducted a survey along Main Street, Raeford last week to find out what people here think of their town--what they like about it, and what they think it needs.

The survey was part of a study on downtown revitalization contracted by the City of Raeford for \$11,000. Bob Barkhau and Kevin Utsey stopped people on the street and asked them a series of questions

about Raeford. They also took photographs of the downtown area for use in the study.

The two work for Townscape Inc., a Raleigh based firm headed by Peter Bachelor, an instructor in the N.C. State University School of Design. Barkhau is a graduate of the school and Utsey will return there this fall.

"Small towns are beginning to feel the pressure of shopping

centers in nearby communities," Barkhau said. "People realize they need to do something to preserve their downtown business areas."

He said the firm is mapping the business district and will construct a model of a two-block area of Main Street to use in making proposals for redesigning the section and improving facades.

"We expect this phase of the study to be complete around September 1," Barkhau said.

Some who participated in the survey said entertainment was needed here, such as a movie theatre and other recreational facilities. Others pointed out a need for a greater variety of stores.

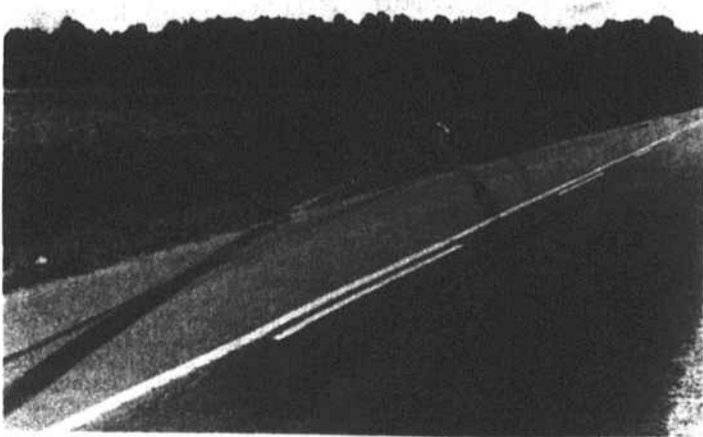
"Some say it doesn't need anything. They think Raeford is just fine the way it is. Others laugh and say, jokingly, that it ought to be burnt to the ground."

Of the 70 responses the two had collected by last Thursday, surprisingly no one had mentioned the need for a motel or hotel here, or the need for rental housing.

Asked how he liked the town, Barkhau said:

"I like it. Things seem to move at a slower pace here. If I were in Raleigh, I'd feel hesitant about stopping someone who was rushing from store to store, but here people don't seem to mind taking the time to answer the survey questions. A few have said they were in a hurry, but many have stopped to chat, and just in conversation they've answer-

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ACCIDENT SCENE -- Skid marks on Rural Paved Road 1409 six miles north of Raeford show where a pickup truck driven by Lawrence McCollum ran off the road last Wednesday overturning several times. McCollum, 59, of Rt. 1, Raeford, died of injuries sustained in the wreck. He was reportedly chasing someone who had taken corn from a neighbor's field. Ronald Keith Lyle, 20, of Rt. 4, Raeford, was charged this week by both the highway patrol and the sheriff's department in connection with the incident.

Charges Made

High Speed Chase Fatal To Local Man

A Raeford man died following a one-vehicle accident about 5 p.m. July 5 on RPR 1409 six miles north of Raeford. It was the fifth traffic fatality for the year in Hoke County.

Trooper K.W. Weston said Lawrence McCollum, 59, and four young passengers were thrown from McCollum's pickup truck after it struck a curve at a high rate of speed. McCollum was found unconscious at the scene with critical head wounds, according to rescue squad members. He was pronounced dead only minutes after reaching the emergency room at Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

McCollum was reportedly chasing someone he had seen taking corn from a neighbor's field.

Later charged by the highway patrol with reckless driving at a speed and in a manner that endangers property and lives was Ronald Keith Lyle, 20, of Rt. 4 Raeford. Lyle was also charged by the Hoke County Sheriff's Department with the larceny of 10 to 15 ears of corn, according to reports.

Injured in the accident were Tony McCrae, 12; Michael McCrae, 10; Tracy Lee, 11; and Mark Keith McLeod, 5, all relatives and friends of McCollum. Weston said.

Michael was hospitalized with broken ribs and the other children were treated and released, according to a rescue squad spokesman.

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Burlington Vacation Pay

Vacation pay totaling close to \$7 million will be distributed to Burlington Industries production employees in 10 states to coincide with the week-long holiday this month.

H.L. Quintana, corporate vice president for personnel, said the amounts are determined by the employee length of service and earnings.

The local plant will shut down at midnight on July 28th and will remain closed for an entire week. Harry Williamson, local personnel manager said.

Summer vacation payments are comparable to similar payments of about \$7 million made during the winter vacation period in December. More than 45,000 employees receive the payment. Williamson explained that checks totaling \$198,000 for the Raeford plant will arrive July 25th, shortly before the vacation period begins at the end of the month.

Summerfield Sold

Negotiations for the sale of the Summerfield plant here, idle since February, were completed Monday afternoon, and the new tenant, Raeford Manufacturing Corporation, is expected to begin production by early fall, employing about 100 workers initially.

"It was confirmed Monday afternoon that we have a new tenant in the old Summerfield plant," Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Manager Earl Fowler said. "The purchase of the facility was finalized Monday."

"The Chamber of Commerce is excited. We're delighted," Fowler continued. "Because we know this is going to be a tremendous asset to the area."

The company will produce cosmetics, primarily. "Rapid expansion of the facilities will start immediately," Fowler said.

There is still no official word on who is behind Raeford Manufacturing. At the company's request, further announcements about employment at the new industry will be made through the local chamber of commerce.

"On behalf of the chamber, I'd like to thank city and county officials, all the people who assisted in making this possible," Fowler said, referring specifically to an amendment in the local zoning ordinance approved last week by the Raeford City Council.

The amendment allows the production of drugs, cologne, perfume, antiperspirant, body lotion, essence and scent, and aerosol products in light industrial zones.