

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Only one week until Thanksgiving and then it will be Christmas just around the corner. According to the weather forecast we should have nice weather for the next couple of months. It has been above normal so far this winter and from all reports it shouldn't be as cold as the past few years.

Outside of the early morning fog, for those who arise at that time, the weather has been almost perfect for the past few days.

Let's hope it will continue.

The concert that was given here recently by the North Carolina Symphony was a success from all reports received by this writer. Last week a letter arrived from the secretary and I will pass it on to the readers of this column. As you know most of us like a pat on the back occasionally but it's usually the other way around.

The letter follows:

Dear Sam:

The directors of the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony missed you on the board this year. However we do want you and all *The News-Journal* Staff to know we appreciate all you did through the paper to publicize the concert. Also, we were very pleased with the programs.

Thank you
Lorena Upchurch, Sec.

If you will read the column 25 years ago you will notice that the editor in his column "Addenda" had a comment about the traffic in Raeford on Saturday afternoon.

Now this will show you how much times have changed because the backup of traffic is not only on Main Street but also on Elwood Avenue. Also it is not on Saturday but Thursday and Fridays. Yes, times and habits have changed.

Last Thursday night Gen. Volney F. Warner, commander of Fort Bragg spoke to the Raeford Kiwanis Club. A write up of his speech is elsewhere in the paper but from the comments of people who heard him, he made an impression on them. He was shooting "straight from the shoulder" so to speak and was very forceful in his remarks.

In a question and answer period after his talk he didn't try to evade anything that was asked of him.

Someone said that if he had been present at the Courthouse the first night of the MOA meeting, that it wouldn't have dragged out so long.

It is good to know that we have men like this in charge of our fighting forces.

Monday I attended a luncheon at Fort Bragg of the Public Affairs officers and their workers. This is a monthly affair but I went because of the speaker for the occasion.

The speaker was Sarah McClendon, a free lance writer that lives in Washington and covers the White House. She has written a book entitled "My Eight Presidents." This is about the eight presidents that have been in the White House since she started covering that beat.

The talk was very interesting and informative. There was never any doubt about where she stood on the ERA and what she thought the capabilities of the weaker sex were.

It was hard to tell if she was a Democrat or Republican, because she had something good and bad to say about both.

She was born in Tyler, Texas and when talking to her after her speech, I told her that a brother of mine lived in Gilmer, Texas. She said immediately that she had attended the Yamboree there many times. So it is a small world after all.

If the book is as well written as this lady talks, it will be worth your time to read it.

A letter from Senator Robert Morgan had a paragraph that I thought would be of interest.

It follows:

"As you may have seen in the papers, the Second Session of the 95th Congress was concluded by the Senate with a 34 - hour and 16 (See AROUND TOWN, Page 13)

Gen. Warner Talks About Hoke MOA

Raeford Gospel Trio Returns From Jamaica

It's good to be back, according to the Raeford Trio, three gospel singers from the Church of God of Prophecy here who recently returned from a nine - day missionary tour of Jamaica.

The church raised a little over \$900 in a rock - a - thon to send the singers on the trip. They left October 23.

Brenda Kellis, Karen Hinson and Earnestine Hinson sang about a dozen times in different churches on the island. They were impressed by the numbers attending the services. At the first one they attended, over 1,200 people were there, and 200 came to the altar, seeking salvation.

The country is one of contrasts, said Brenda Kellis. The area around Montego Bay is fairly prosperous, but out in the country, the people have nothing.

"There are many poverty stricken areas," she said. "We saw some of the worst living conditions you could dream of. People out in the country have nothing, so they dedicate themselves to their churches and to God. We were impressed by the number of children that attended the services."

Travel in Jamaica is strenuous, she said. For example, a train ride from Montego Bay to Kingston, a distance of only 128 miles, took nearly seven hours. Due to heavy rains, many of the roads were blocked with debris and boulders,

and on one occasion, when a bridge was washed out, they had to go two hours out of the way, proceeding with caution down a foggy mountain road, to get to their destination.

"We were on the go all the time," she said. "There are long distances between the churches."

The island economy was somewhat inflated. Eggs cost 20 cents each, a 10 ounce Pepsi sold for 50 cents, gasoline was \$3.80 a gallon, and a jar of peanut butter went for \$3.20.

The trio was well received everywhere they went. The islanders were familiar with many of the newer songs and sang along with the group. Of course, the Jamaicans talked rather rapidly and had heavy British accents.

The Holiday Inn in Montego Bay was about the tallest building in the city. A room there went for \$68 a night. The local trio stayed in a less expensive hotel, and the manager gave them a special rate because of their missionary work.

The group went to Jamaica at the invitation of evangelist Jack Cates, who has a mission there. He has invited them to come back next year. The group described the trip as highly successful and said they might accept the invitation to return. The trio and the church extended thanks to all those who helped make the trip possible.



RAEFORD TRIO -- Members of the Raeford Trio recently returned from a trip to Jamaica. They were told not to trust the local cuisine and carried a variety of canned foods with them. However, they did sample local fruits, including papaya. Members of the group are, left to right: Karen Hinson, Brenda Kellis, Earnestine Hinson, evangelist Jack Cates and his wife, and Harold Kellis.

N-J Deadline Comes Early

The *News-Journal* will publish one day early next week because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

All news announcements, including society news, must be turned in by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, for publication in next week's issue. The deadline for classified ads is 5 p.m. Monday.

The *News-Journal* office will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Davis Named To State Task Force

Iris Davis of Raeford has been appointed to a State Housing Task Force, it was announced this week by N.C. Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development Howard N. Lee.

Lee has asked the task force to help prepare a housing policy for the state. Based on 1970 census reports, about one in five homes in North Carolina is substandard, which means it lacks running water or is dilapidated.

The next scheduled meeting of the task force is November 17 in Raleigh.

Ed N. Warren of Pitt County is chairman of the group. Also serving are Jesse Ray from Asheville, John Gillam of Windsor, William Cochran of Washington, Bob Jones of Raleigh, Mike Stegman of Chapel Hill, Lindsay Cox of Greensboro, and Wallace Kauffman of Pittsboro.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR -- District Governor Jimmy Edmund was the guest speaker at the Monday night meeting of the Raeford Lions Club. Shown above are, left to right: Richard Morgan (who introduced the speaker), Jimmy Edmund, District Secretary Ben Sealey, and local club president David Smith.



GEN. WARNER SPEAKS -- Ft. Bragg Commander Lt. Gen. Volney Warner talked about a proposed Military Operations Area in Hoke County at last Thursday's meeting at the Raeford Kiwanis Club. He was introduced by program chairman Sam Morris.

City Opens Door For New Industry

City and county officials met Tuesday with representatives of Russ Knits to resolve any problems that might stand in the way of the textile firm's locating here.

The meeting took place at city hall, and Chamber of Commerce Manager Earl Fowler described it as successful.

"The door has been opened to these people to come and be a part of our community," Fowler said. "The next move is up to them."

The meeting was attended by the mayor, city manager, vice - chairman of the county commission and the county manager, Fowler said.

"Any problems that appeared to exist were resolved," he said.

Two weeks ago the Raeford City Council decided to invite the industry to locate here in spite of state restrictions on the city's sewer system. The system is currently operating on a state permit which prohibits the addition of any more industrial wastes. Violation of the permit could mean a fine of up to \$15,000 a day, according to state statute.

Before the invitation was extended, it was reported that the

company was leaning toward a site in Sanford. It was hoped that the council's action might convince the industry to come here.

Russ Knits plans to build a 30,000 square foot plant and expand it to 110,000 within two years, according to a spokesman. It would employ 75 initially and up to 300 later on.

United Way Drive Here Still Lagging

The United Way Fund campaign here is still lagging behind schedule, according to co - chairmen Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fowler.

"We are still less than halfway to our goal," Fowler said. "But we are still optimistic that the county will come up with its fair share."

The goal this year is \$22,357. Fowler urged volunteers to make a concerted effort to insure the success of the local campaign.

Ft. Bragg Commander Lt. Gen. Volney Warner told members of the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday he is optimistic that a compromise proposed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in regard to a Military Operations Area in Hoke County will be accepted by the Air Force.

The compromise calls for a 3,000 foot ceiling above Raeford and a 1,500 foot ceiling elsewhere in the zone. At one time, the Air Force had requested a 500 foot ceiling.

In spite of the controversy that has accompanied the air zone for more than a year now, the general was warmly received by the club, and the question and answer session following his talk went without incident.

The general began by saying that the mission of Ft. Bragg is unique among military installations in this country. The troops there have to be prepared to go anywhere in the world within 18 hours after the President gives the command. The operation of Ft. Bragg is directed toward this mission, he said.

Air support for ground troops during training exercises at Bragg is essential if they are to be combat ready, he said. For years now Air Force jets have circled over Hoke County during these maneuvers, but only just recently has the FAA decided to enforce a law that has been on the books for many years, Gen. Warner said. According to that law, high speed fighters can't fly under 10,000 feet unless they are in designated air space, like a MOA.

For this reason, MOAs were proposed north and south of the military reservation. The southern MOA would be in Hoke County. The general said he is aware that 92,000 acres of Hoke County went into the making of Ft. Bragg. He also said he understands the concerns of local residents in regard to the air zone and assured those present that there will not be an increase in flights, nor will the planes fly any lower than usual once the zone is charted.

He said the Air Force is now requesting a 1,000 foot ceiling within the zone everywhere outside Raeford. The request comes because the cloud cover during part of the year poses problems for pilots, he said.

But he said after the meeting, when asked by *The News-Journal*, that he thought the Air Force would accept the 1,500 foot limit. He said it was a question to be resolved by the Air Force and FAA; he told the group he had referred the air zone to the Department of the Army for a decision. Since it has been a controversial issue, he said he didn't feel the decision was his to make.

During the question and answer session, Gen. Warner said there are pros and cons on the proposed annexation of Ft. Bragg by Fayetteville. He said it was a complicated issue. He said he was uncertain if annexation would bring any more federal money into the state. The general said he wouldn't oppose annexation unless the mayor of Fayetteville told him he would be fined for discharging weapons within the city limits.

In response to another question, Gen. Warner explained in some detail the operation of the new cannon that is being tested on the military base.