

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

For all the readers of this column a Merry Christmas.

Due to a misunderstanding an ad for Raeford Oil Company was omitted last week. It was to notify all its customers that they would close down Friday, December 22 at the usual time and would be closed until opening time on Wednesday, December 27, 1978.

So if you need oil from this concern, you had better get it by Friday.

A lady called this past week and said that some folks thought her pecans were FREE. She said that her pecans were fertilized and cultivated and that they cost her money, and that they were for sale. Now most people that have pecan trees feel the same way. To them they are like cotton, tobacco, or any other crop.

Of course the penalty for stealing could be some time in jail. So stay out of pecan orchards.

Earl Yarborough, a native of Hoke County who now lives in Charlotte wrote an article recently for a magazine called "Tar Heel Director." It is the monthly publication for North Carolina Funeral Directors. Earl is president of this organization.

He was born and raised on the farm in Blue Springs township that was known as Covington Farms. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dave Yarborough and his father managed the farm for many years. At the time of Mr. Dave's death, he was manager of the Johnson Farms and lived at Oakdale. The time of this article was when Earl lived on the Covington Farms.

The article follows:

CHRISTMAS... A Time for Remembering

Think back over your life for just a moment and relive the most meaningful Christmas you ever had. What year would it have been? I want to share with you one of my most beautiful Christmas celebrations.

It was autumn of 1934 and I was a big boy of twelve. I lived with my family on a farm near Raeford, N.C. I loved to hunt and I knew my dad would get me a hunting rifle for my birthday in October. I had let the whole world know how much I wanted it. My birthday came and went without the sight of the rifle. It didn't take my dad long to explain to me why he felt he should spend the little money he had on food and clothes for us children rather than a rifle for me. This ended my dreams of ever getting my very own hunting rifle.

The beauty of that fall on the farm was so peaceful and warm. When December rushed in as it always seems to do, and caught everyone behind schedule. My dad always reserved the first week of December for hog-killing time, and this was a frantic two days of activity. It was such an exciting time to wake up before daylight and look out to see the fires burning so brightly around the big wash-pots. It was hog-killing day and I could just taste the good fresh sausage, grits, eggs and hot biscuits with lots of butter. On this cold winter morning in December of 1934, I knew I was the luckiest boy in the world and I wouldn't have traded places with anyone.

As soon as the meat had been salted away for the long winter, my mother became involved in seeing how many cakes she could bake. There always seemed to be a contest among all the ladies in our community as to which one could bake the most cakes for Christmas. A beautiful memory of my childhood is the sight of those fifteen or twenty cakes all ready for us to eat. The greatest torture I ever endured or ever expect to endure was seeing all of those cakes and knowing that not one of them would be cut until Christmas Eve.

There were 18 tenant families who lived on the farm with us, and there was such great love between each family. No one had any money in those days, but we did not go without our Santa Claus. That Christmas Eve night we loaded boxes of candy, nuts and different kinds of fruit into the pickup truck (See AROUND TOWN, page 11)

County Commissioners

Mapping Grant To Be Sought

Merchants Report Business Good Here

Local merchants report that business has been good this Christmas season although a few said it is not quite up to par.

Several area merchants were polled Tuesday, and Ronnie Hill, manager of Mack's Variety Store, calls his Christmas season "real good, excellent!"

Hill says the store is showing a 20 percent increase in sales over last year's figures. They plan to be open Christmas Eve.

Greg Wilkerson, manager of B.C. Moore, says that, although business has been good so far, he thinks things will get better the rest of the week.

His store, also, is showing an increase in sales over last year.

"I would like to thank the people of Raeford. They are the ones who did it (increased sales)," Wilkerson said.

They will be closed Christmas Eve.

"We will observe the Sabbath," Wilkerson said.

"During the warmer weather, business was off, but the last few days have been good," Ed Hasty of DeVane's Depart Store said.

"It's not quite as good as it should be over-all," Hasty continued, "but as we get closer to Christmas and the weather gets cooler, it is improving."

DeVane's will be closed Christmas Eve.

Loreene Wensil, manager of Raeford Department Store, said business has been pretty good, but nothing extra.

"It comes in spurts. For a while, we are really busy, and then it slacks off again," she said.

She has had no word yet on whether the store will be open Christmas Eve.

A new face on Main Street is the Raeford Variety Store. Co-owner Millie Steen says their business has been pretty good considering they are new here.

"We are very pleased," she said. She expects that end-of-the week sales will be strong.

The Steens have not decided about opening on Christmas Eve.

"Whatever the town does, we will probably do," she said.

Betty Cummings, manager of the Family Dollar Store, was out Tuesday morning and could not be reached for comment.

Hoke People Named To State Energy Group

John G. and Joan Balfour of the Stonewall community and Mrs. Lee S. Hust of Raeford have been appointed to serve on Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.'s North Carolina Volunteer Energy Conservation Corps.

The appointments were announced last week by the governor. Balfour is chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners. Mrs. Hust is the wife of Howard Hust, director of the Hoke County office of the U.S. Farmers Home Administration.

The Balfours and Mrs. Hust were appointed after participating in the Dec. 7-9 Governor's Energy Awareness Conference, which was sponsored by the Energy Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Governor's

Office of Citizen Affairs.

The people are designated members of the Corps by the chairman of their boards of county commissioners with the agreement of the commissioners.

In accepting the appointments, members of the Corps agreed to return to their communities to encourage other citizens to become more energy aware and to work toward creating a sound energy conservation ethic in North Carolina. Each Corps member will make a minimum of three speeches to different civic organizations in his or her community during the coming year.

The 235 participants will, within the next year, make a minimum of 800 presentations regarding energy awareness across North Carolina.

Fires Plague County

Field and woods fires plagued eastern Hoke County Monday night as three fire departments were called out to quell the blazes.

"The fire got away from the farmers down there who were burning off a field," George Baker, chief of the North Raeford Fire Department, said.

"One fire was about three quarters of a mile away from the first one and it was across the road," Baker said.

At least three fires were visible in

one area about a mile east of the Antioch Community. Baker said that to his knowledge, no homes or businesses were damaged and no one was injured.

"Hoke Ambulance Service was out there, but they usually go out with us, and we appreciate it," Baker said.

North Raeford, Antioch and Stonewall fire departments answered the call and fought the blazes that extended from about a mile east of Antioch to the Robeson County line.

FD Gives Holiday Wishes, Fire Warning

The Raeford Fire Department wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year all year long.

The department reminds you to be careful. The memorandum with the holiday message issued last week says 85 per cent of fatal home

fires occur between midnight and 6 a.m. when you and your family are sleeping.

The memorandum also points out:

-- Every day more than 7,500 (See WARNING, page 11)

Government Offices To Have Long Christmas Weekend

Hoke County, Raeford city and state government offices will be closed Christmas day (Monday) and Tuesday, giving their employees a long Christmas weekend.

Federal offices, including the post office, will be closed Monday only.

In Raeford, no residential garbage will be picked up Monday or Tuesday. The pickups will be started Wednesday.

No commercial collections will be made after Friday night. After that the next will be made Tuesday night.

No commercial pickup will be made the night of January 1, but collections will be started the night of January 2.

The Hoke County Landfill will be closed Monday, Tuesday and January 1.

It will be reopened Wednesday and January 2.



It's our favorite time of year . . . when we pause to thank our many good friends for their patronage in the past. We look forward to serving you in the future. Have a Merry Christmas.

From The Staff Of
The News - Journal

Citizens Urged To Put Safety First

The N.C. State Motor Club warned motorists to be especially careful in traveling over the Christmas holidays. An estimated 29 persons may die in traffic accidents in the state during the holidays, they predicted.

Local law officers also advised Hoke County citizens to be careful and obey traffic laws as well as taking extra precautions toward home safety.

"The main thing is just to be careful," Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said about the upcoming holiday weekend.

"I would also like to emphasize the importance of Christmas shoppers keeping their cars locked or, preferably, putting their purchases in the trunk," Wiggins continued.

Hoke United Way Giving Short \$8,000

Cash given or pledged to the Hoke County United Way now are just over \$15,000, about \$8,000 short of the goal, campaign co-chairman Earl Fowler reported Monday.

He said funds would continue to be sought till the goal of \$22,357.09 is met.

Fowler asked contributions be mailed to: Hoke County United Way, P.O. Box 96, Raeford. He may be called at 875-5929, he added.

News-Journal Closed Friday, Christmas

The News-Journal office will be closed Friday, December 22, and Christmas Day (Monday).

Therefore, news and photos for publication in the December 28 edition should be placed in the office by this afternoon (December 21).

"In fact, I would encourage local citizens to try not to do anything to entice people to steal," he said.

He also cautioned motorists against having too much to drink at parties and then trying to drive home afterward.

"If you are going to travel, leave early and observe motor vehicle laws," David M. Barrington, Hoke County sheriff, said.

Due to the recent rash of daylight break-ins, Barrington encouraged citizens to be especially careful about locking their homes when they are away.

"We always have a rash of break-ins this time of year," Barrington said.

He also reminds citizens to be careful of lighted trees, especially the artificial kind.

"Turn your tree lights out when leaving home or at bedtime," Barrington said.

"And if you are going to drive, do not drink, or let a non-drinker do the driving for you if you plan to imbibe," Barrington said.

Last year, 15 persons were killed on Tar Heel highways during the Christmas holidays, statistics from the motor club said.

This year the state will count its toll from 6 p.m. Friday, December 22 through midnight Monday, December 25.

Christmas Door Contest Judged

Barbara Slaughter of 137 Chilton Drive, took the \$30 first prize Countryside Apartment's first Christmas Door contest Sunday.

Second place, a \$20 cash prize, was won by Evelyn McMillan of 140 Chilton Drive while Mr. and Mrs. Garry Frederick, 145 Chilton Drive, took the \$10 third-place prize.

"Every door out here deserves honorable mention," Edna Holcombe, president of the local

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday night decided to try to get state help to finance a \$173,000 mapping and aerial photographing of the county.

The board adopted a motion to have Tax Supervisor Les Simpson proceed with preparing an application grant.

The motion was adopted after Simpson told the commissioners applying for the grant would not commit them to the \$173,000 arrangement. He said this in replying to a commissioner's question.

Simpson told the commissioners the state would pay 80 per cent of the cost if the grant were approved. He said the City of Raeford also might pay part since about half the approximately 9,000 parcels of land in the county lie in the city.

Simpson said the company which would do the work expects to complete it in a year and a half but is asking for two years.

In giving details of what the mapping and aerial work would provide, he said the maps for one thing would show the property lines in each parcel of land.

Earlier in the meeting, the commissioners found that the county was currently budgeted about \$50,000 short of paying for the property re-evaluation required by state law to be done every eight years by independent appraisers.

A letter from the State Ad Valorem Tax Division informs the commissioners the cost of making the re-evaluation is estimated at \$8.50 to \$9 per parcel of land. Simpson said the county contains 9,100 to 9,200 parcels.

He pointed out that the estimate applies to present costs.

In other business, the commissioners and County Manager James Martin discussed the county's long range and current needs for more space for county offices and the Courthouse.

Martin said, replying to a commissioner's question, that he couldn't make recommendations till he received information from the commissioners about what they consider the priorities should be.

John Balfour, the board chairman, thereupon appointed Commissioners Danny DeVane and Neil McPhatter to a building committee to confer with Martin. He said he would participate in discussions also from time to time. McPhatter was appointed chairman.

During the discussion, Martin quoted building needs but said he was not suggesting that all be done but individual needs should be chosen on the basis of priority.

The following were on a list Martin said were needs for the Courthouse, quoting the estimated cost of each:

-- Two ramps for handicapped people, \$30,000.

-- An elevator tower for three floors, \$55,000.

-- Central heating and air-conditioning, \$75,000.

-- Additional 6,000 square feet, \$300,000.

He also said another courtroom is needed and that he visualizes a need for more space for the sheriff's department.

Martin said the commissioners should be thinking of a site for a governmental complex, which would concentrate all county offices in a single area. Now, he said, the county offices are "scattered all over town."

Balfour suggested that offices in the old county office building could be put in the new county building.

In discussing financing of future building, Martin said Dale Jones of the Economic Development Ad-

(See MAPPING, page 11)

garden club said, Mrs. Holcombe, Betty Morgan and Shirley Maxwell, all from the garden club, served as judges.

The doors were judged on originality, creativity and eye appeal. Ms. Slaughter said she had a total of five dollars invested in her first-place door. She designed her original creation with the use of live boxwood and red velvet ribbon.

Local citizens are invited to ride through and enjoy the Christmas doors.