

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

There is only one more week left for you to purchase your state and city tags. Of course many have already done so. According to an article I observed this week the sale of stickers is lagging behind last year.

Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce, said this week that if you haven't purchased your tags or sticker, to come on by as the clerks could take care of you without any waiting on your part. About all you have to do besides having the right amount of cash is to fill out the back of your registration card showing financial responsibility.

Of course the best reason to get your tags early is not having to wait in line. The weather usually around February 15 is cold, and if like the first five weeks of this year it could be raining, and there is no cover to stand under at the license bureau.

So get your card in correct order and let go of that money and get your license tags without any trouble by doing so this week. Next week could cause you problems.

The weather for the past weekend was nice and most people got out for the two days. The only trouble is that according to reports, the weather is going to be bad for the remainder of the week. An ice and rain storm is forecast to move in Wednesday and this is not for my liking. Maybe it will only be rain and the ice will stay away.

The Raeford Junior Woman's Club will sponsor a theatrical production, "Spring for Sure" in late March. This is the first such production in Raeford in a number of years. If this one is a success, then maybe, greater things can come from it. The group of players are now in rehearsal and the production is under the direction of Chris Watkins, director of music at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Maybe you have seen some men whose in the city with a growth of something on their faces. These are some of the actors in the play.

Many other organizations are cooperating with the Junior Woman's Club in many different ways. The Raeford Woman's Club is one of the organizations and we quote Mrs. Clyde Knox, president of that club.

"The Raeford Woman's Club announces its sponsorship of 'The Patron Program'. This program is in support of Raeford's first theatrical production, 'Spring for Sure' which opens March 23.

"Membership in 'The Patron Program' costs \$5.00. A patron is entitled to the purchase of up to five reserve seats at any of the performances (March 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st). Patrons may purchase these tickets February 21 - 28. General ticket sales begin March 1. Tickets will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Reserve seats are limited in number and will be sold first to patrons on a first come, first buy basis. The Patron Program drive ends February 20. See any Woman's Club member for your patron membership or call 875-2151 or 875-4565 for further information."

So if you want the best seats, join the patrons and take your pick.

I did get in a round of golf this weekend and many others were on the course at Arabia.

Last week an article with a picture appeared in *The News-Journal* concerning the county weatherman. From all reports this brought forth many unfavorable comments from the early morning coffee drinkers at the Southern Restaurant. One report I received said that besides the weather article, this man's name appeared two other times in the paper. Now this sounds like a faithful reader of the paper or someone a bit envious of the weatherman.

The article did say something about the weatherman's other accomplishments and this did bring forth the question, "What other accomplishments?"

I will not take sides in the argument and will not call any names (See AROUND TOWN, page 15)

By Hoke County Commissioners

Contracts Let For Cars, Space Study

Judge Pleads Guilty To DUI Charge

District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree, flanked by his family, pleaded guilty to a charge of driving under the influence Thursday in District Court here.

The courtroom was packed with spectators when Judge Thomas D. Cooper of Burlington ordered Dupree, who registered .15 percent on the Breathalyzer, to pay a \$100 fine and costs. Dupree requested a limited-driving privilege that would allow him to operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., but Cooper amended the document to allow Dupree to drive as required by his office of District Court judge and as necessary for family use.

"It takes a big man to admit a mistake," Cooper said. "I personally appreciate it," he continued. Dupree, who was represented by Willis Brown of Fayetteville and Phillip Diehl of Raeford was temporarily removed from his duties as District Court judge after he struck another vehicle and was charged with DUI January 11.

State Trooper Joe Stanley testified that at no time during the events of the evening did Dupree request any special privileges.

Attorneys for Dupree told the court that he wished to be treated "as any other man."

"He made a mistake. He told the man he hit that he had made a mistake and would take care of any damages," Brown said.

Diehl told the court that Dupree had no other traffic violations and would ask the court to consider a limited-driving privilege in view of his driving record.

"We simply ask that he be treated like anyone else," District Attorney Ed Grannis, who prosecuted the case, said.

Dupree returned to the bench Monday morning. Any disciplinary action against Dupree would now have to be initiated by the state Judicial Standards Commission which acts in secret. Any action taken would not be known unless the commission files a report with the state Supreme Court.

Following the trial, which lasted less than 30 minutes, Dupree apologized to the people of Hoke and Cumberland Counties in a prepared statement.

Here is the complete text of the statement.

"Your Honor, I have learned the hard way that I am not a super human being. Even as a Judge, I am subject to the same frailties and mistakes as the rest of the human race. I have erred and for this I am truly sorry. I accept your judgment with humility and I assure you that I shall abide by it faithfully.

"I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere apologies to the Judiciary, to my friends, to my family and to all of the people of Cumberland and Hoke Counties for any embarrassment that I might have caused them in this matter. I have tried to make amends by forthrightly admitting to this Court the mistake that I have made and by taking my punishment like any other citizen.

"I commend the Investigating Officer and the District Attorney for their performance of an unpleasant task in an impartial manner.

"I have learned my lesson hard and well and I assure you that this experience has instilled in me even greater respect for the Judicial System of which I am a part," Dupree said.



IN APPRECIATION - Former County Commissioner Ralph Barnhart (right) holds plaque presented by County Commissioners' Chairman Balfour (left) by the commissioners in appreciation of Barnhart's services to the county.

Former Hoke Teacher

Legislator's Daughter Indicted in Raleigh

The daughter of Fayetteville legislator Rep. Henry M. Tyson, D-Cumberland, who taught in the Hoke schools last year, was indicted on forgery charges by the Wake County grand jury Monday, according to a Raleigh newspaper.

Carrie E. Tyson was charged in December with writing 12 worthless checks totaling \$450. Those charges were dropped after Miss Tyson allegedly presented prosecutors with letters said to be from three local school officials. The indictment handed down early this week charges her with forging those letters.

She contacted the local board of education office and requested a letter verifying her employment here, Raz Autry, superintendent of schools, said. According to Autry, the letter was altered and old stationery acquired from Upchurch School, where she taught in the exceptional - children's program, was used to forge two additional letters.

"We didn't know anything about

it until stories about the worthless checks appeared in the Fayetteville papers," Autry said. Authorities were contacted, and Autry said both Earl Oxendine, the high school principal, and an Upchurch teacher, Gail Conoly, appeared in Raleigh Monday to testify in the case.

The letters allegedly bore the signatures of Autry, Conoly and Oxendine and stated that, because of an oversight, the local system had failed to deposit \$1,500 owed Miss Tyson in pay to her bank account.

Autry said that he and the other two school officials did not sign the letters nor do they deposit paychecks to employees' accounts.

Miss Tyson was hired here last October when the state approved an additional teacher for the exceptional - children's program.

"We only gave her a one - year contract," Autry said. "She was qualified, so we hired her," he continued.

February 26 has been set for the court trial.

The Hoke County commissioners Monday let contracts for a study of county office space needs and two new sheriff's cruisers, and honored six people for their services to the county government.

The board of county commissioners took the action during the board's regular meeting on the first Monday of the month.

The commissioners let to Raeford Auto Co. a contract to provide the cruisers for a total \$13,425.68 total base price not including the sales tax. The commissioners also approved of \$64.66 extra for each cruiser for tinted glass instead of conventional glass.

The bid of Raeford Auto, the local Ford agency, was the only one received to supply the cars. The commissioners had received only Raeford Auto's bid the first time they advertised for bids to be opened early last month but at their first Monday meeting for January decided to readvertise because of a technical defect: the bid bond deposit was the bidder's company check instead of a certified cashier's check, which state law requires for such a deposit.

HONORED

The commissioners expressed appreciation formally, awarding plaques for their services to the county, to Ralph W. Barnhart, a county commissioner from December 1966 to December 1978; Charles A. Hostetler, county attorney from June 1955 to December 1978; Archie C. Clark, county dog warden from February 24, 1964, till his death last January 13; Catherin McC. Brown, with the Department of Social Services from October 1953 to May 1978; Alice L. McDiarmid, with the county Agricultural Extension Service, from March 1956 to June 1978; and Laura Morris, with county Civil Preparedness, from February 1962 till last month.

John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners, presented the plaques. Mrs. Clark received the one awarded to her husband.

SPACE STUDY

The contract to make the study of the current and long - range needs for office space for the county agencies and courts was let to Jordan, Snowdon & McVicker of Laurinburg, by a vote of 3-2.

The votes against giving the Laurinburg company the contract were cast by Commissioners Mabel Riley and Danny DeVane for the reason that the bid of \$3,200 was higher than the other.

The latter was \$3,000 and had been submitted by Lee & Thompson of Lumberton, but Commissioner James A. Hunt said in making the motion favoring the Laurinburg company Jordan, Snowdon & McVicker had done work for the county previously and had done it satisfactorily.

DeVane said it would be hard to get bids on other work later if the commissioners did not award the contract to the company submitting the lower bid.

The county would save money in the long run for this reason, if the commissioners awarded the study contract to the lower bidder.

His motion to let the contract to Thompson & Lee was defeated, 3 - 2, with he and Mrs. Riley voting for it and Balfour voting against it, casting his vote because a 2 - 2 tie existed. The others who voted against DeVane's motion were Commissioners Neill McPhatter and Hunt.

Balfour also broke the tie that developed in the vote on Hunt's motion to give the contract to Jordan, Snowdon & McVicker.

GAME LAWS

The commissioners adopted a motion favoring keeping the law banning the hunting of deer in Hoke County with a rifle. The exception is on Ft. Bragg land lying in the county, over which the commissioners have no jurisdiction.

The action was taken to inform State Sen. Sam Noble of the commissioners' feelings regarding proposed revision of the state game laws to clear the books of outdated regulations and make the other

(See COMMISSIONERS, page 15)



FIRE - The Bait Bucket on Prospect Avenue was destroyed by an early-evening blaze Monday. Damages were estimated to be around \$35,000 local fire department officials said.

Blaze Destroys Local Business

A local business was destroyed Monday night when fire gutted the inside of the building. Buster Jackson of the Raeford Fire Department said.

The Bait Bucket, owned and operated by Clayton Buoyer, a native of Raeford, was declared a total loss Tuesday. Although the exterior walls of the building were still intact, the interior and store goods were completely destroyed. Loss was estimated at about \$35,000 for the building, owned by

Joe Thompson, and goods.

Jackson said the origin of the fire was probably faulty electrical wiring. No State Bureau of Investigation inspector was called in, Jackson said, because arson was not suspected in the Monday night blaze.

Firemen worked from about 8 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. to extinguish the fire, and later were called back to douse insulation that began to blaze up again.

City Tag Sales Slow

Sales of city license tags are slow this year. Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

The 1978 city tags expire on February 15 as do state tags, and Wiggins encourages local citizens to buy their tags and display them by the deadline.

"Everyone inside the city limits is required to have a city tag," Wiggins said. He explained that he

plans to hold traffic checks shortly after the deadline.

"Anyone not displaying the tags will be given a citation, and that could cost them as much as \$27. If they spend \$1 for the tag now, they may be saving \$27 in court costs later," he continued.

The tags may be purchased during business hours at City Hall.

By Raeford Council

Pool Hall, Parking Ordinances Adopted

The Raeford City Council Monday adopted ordinances affecting parking on U.S. 401 and pool halls and annexing part of the Eastwood Estates subdivision.

One new ordinance prohibits parking on both sides of Harris Avenue, U.S. 401 business, from South Bethel Road north to Main Street, N.C. 211; and on the U.S. 401 bypass between the intersection of Teal Drive and the bypass, and Cole Avenue and the bypass, including both sides of Harris Avenue.

The ordinance concerning pool halls includes game rooms, billiard halls and amusement centers. It says operation shall be unlawful between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sundays, and 6 p.m. Sundays to 6 a.m. Mondays.

It also says the windows of such centers shall be clear and shall afford an unobstructed view into the premises.

The ordinance adds an hour to the time the previous ordinance allowed them to be open.

The area the other new ordinance annexes adjoins the city limits at the Pinewood subdivision and the Raeford Power & Manufacturing Co. property on the south and Donaldson Avenue on the north and the eastern city limits on the west. Patterson Avenue runs north and south through the area, between the northern city limits and Donaldson Avenue.

The petition for annexation was signed by PSM, Inc., by William L. Poole, Jr., president; and Younger

Snead Jr., Ronald L. Matthews, Barbara A. Matthews, D. Ralph Huff III, and Linda B. Huff, described by the petition as owners of the property in the area they wanted annexed.

During the council's meeting, the councilmen viewed the uniforms prescribed for wearing by municipal employees who work outside the offices.

City Rules On Burning Are Quoted

People who want to burn trash or other material within the Raeford city limits are reminded that a city ordinance prohibits burning any kind of material outside "any house, or in any street, sidewalk, alley, lot or yard within the fire limits."

The city ordinance also requires a permit before a bonfire may be made.

The section pertaining to bonfires reads: "No person shall kindle or maintain for any such fire, or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on or in any street, avenue, road, lane or public ground or upon any private lot, unless a written permit therefor shall have been first secured from the chief of the fire department."

The memorandum about burning was issued by the city administration this week.