

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

There is only one thing to write about this week and that is the weather. About every other source of information closed down after the 9 to 10 inches of snow that fell Sunday. I hope that everyone who was hoping for snow has enough for this winter. It came as a surprise to me and I could hardly believe my eyes when it showed up Sunday morning.

It was very pretty coming down, but the thought of what is still outside Tuesday morning would keep flashing through my mind. The phone rang about 8:30 Sunday morning and L.S. Brock wanted my opinion about church and Sunday School. He and Dr. John Ropp were polling the officers of the church. There were no services Sunday at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The next problem to face the household was how John and Sarah would get back to Greenville, S.C. and Virginia Beach, Va. in time for work. This was soon solved when the daylight changed to darkness and it was still snowing and sleeting. At this time they are both still in Raeford but hope to move today (Tuesday) for their home stations.

Of course with these two in the house, Mary Alice started thinking about the amount of food she had stored in the pantry and freezer. Food can certainly disappear when four people are sitting around a television for a day or two. Of course the convenient store across the street came to the rescue Monday and that problem disappeared also.

The next problem was the employees at the office saying they weren't sure what time they could get to work Monday. Some said it would be impossible as they were out of town visiting like my children. A call from Bill Niven asking what time I would go to work Monday, brought from him that he had a four-wheel drive vehicle and that he would pick me up at seven o'clock. (This he did and may I say thanks.) A call from Chief of Police Zeke Wiggins was also appreciated, but came a few minutes too late.

After getting to the office, the phone started ringing from employees asking that they be picked up, as they couldn't get their cars out of the yard onto the highways. This we did, with the help of some kind friends with four-wheel drive vehicles. Of the sixteen regular employees, all but five made it to work during the day. Three of these were out of town and it was impossible to get here, but they did call in and let us know the conditions that faced them.

Tuesday morning I got my car out of the yard and onto the road but the streets were solid ice after the temperature dropped to about 18 degrees Monday night. It should melt the snow today (Tuesday) as the temperature is supposed to get up into the 50s. As this is being written the phone hasn't rung, so maybe everyone will be at work today.

Many businesses didn't open Monday and some opened late. The county offices closed down but the county commissioners did meet Monday night. Southern National Bank called and said they were closing Monday at 12 o'clock. The city of Raeford was almost a ghost town Monday. The schools were closed Monday and Tuesday and could be closed Wednesday unless the road crews can move the snow and ice from the secondary roads.

So let's hope all of the readers of this column have seen enough snow

Storm Delays Publication Of Courts Records

The records of the Hoke County magistrates' and District courts were not obtained in time for publication this week because of Sunday's snowstorm but will be published in next week's edition of *The News-Journal*.

The court records for the following week will be published as customary also.

The effects of the storm forced closing of the courthouse for business Monday.

Worst Since 1927

Snow Brings County To Standstill



WINTER STORM -- One of the fiercest winter storms to hit the area in recent memory dumped 8.4 inches of snow and sleet on the area and paralyzed transportation here. Digging out began Monday for many

residents. Sunny skies and high temperatures are expected to melt away much of the accumulation.

Road Priorities Hearing April 2

Priorities for Hoke County road improvements will be discussed April 2 at a public hearing with county commissioners and state

highway representatives attending. A meeting to bring priorities on road work in Division Eight up to date will be held June 6 in the

Southern Pines Municipal Building.

State law requires that road improvements priorities be rewritten every two years, and "we're just about through," Martha Hollers, of Candor, a member of the State Board of Transportation, informed county commissioners here Thursday afternoon.

The county meeting date was arranged and the division meeting date was reported Thursday afternoon during an informal discussion of county roads by State Department of Transportation district and division staff people, Martha Hollers of Candor, a member of the State Board of Transportation representing the Sandhills area, and county commissioners in the commissioners' conference room here.

The professional road people participating were District Engineer Fred Beck, Assistant Division Engineer Fred Whitesell, Assistant District Engineer Raymond Sproles, and District Supervisor N.A. Singletary, all from DOT's division and district office at Aberdeen.

The commissioners participating

were Board Chairman John Balfour, Mabel Riley, James A. Hunt, and Neil McPhatter.

During the meeting Balfour asked about arrangements for getting five to eight state prisoners assigned to Hoke County permanently to work at cleaning ditches and similar road maintenance. He said this would solve problems.

He said Jerry Cole, area supervisor of the Area Inmate Labor Commission, was receptive to the idea.

Beck replied that he'd appreciate it if Balfour could get it arranged. Balfour is a member of the Area Inmate Labor Commission.

Balfour said the use of prisoners also would be good public relations, and Ms. Hollers added that it also is therapy for the prisoners.

The commissioners were informed that prisoners cannot be used to work close to private homes.

Speakers agreed that it would be better for prisoners to work on the roads than sit around the prison camps playing basketball, and one man said prisoners preferred to work outside because it made the

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Local Man Airlifted For Kidney Dialysis

Due to the weekend snowfall, a local man who required kidney dialysis treatment had to be airlifted from Raeford to Chapel Hill Monday for treatment. Linda Hinley of the Hoke Ambulance Service said.

Duncan Thomas of Shannon, who would have been transported there by the Hoke County Ambulance Service, went, instead, by helicopter for the treatment which his doctor said he must have.

"The highway patrol told us that we couldn't get through the roads between here and Chapel Hill without a four-wheel drive vehicle," Mrs. Hinley said.

The Chapel Hill doctor put the ambulance crew in touch with Mast Assistance, the helicopter service. After arranging for the helicopter, the ambulance unit, flanked by a four-wheel drive vehicle, traveled to the Thomas home and had him in Raeford in time for his flight from the field beside the National Guard Armory to Chapel Hill.

"The helicopter had trouble getting out of Ft. Bragg, but it arrived here about 2:15 p.m.," Mrs. Hinley said.

Thomas is reportedly still at N.C. Memorial Hospital where the kidney dialysis machine will do the work normally done by the kidneys.

Commissioners Meet

Home Weatherization Program Approved

The Hoke County Board of County Commissioners decided Monday night to continue a program that would give financial aid to low income residents for improving sub-standard housing.

The weatherization program, which the commissioners voted to continue to support, would improve homes whose owners qualify, by adding insulation with a maximum outlay of \$40 per household. The program, free to those who qualify would be used to benefit rural households.

According to Project Director Charles McKoy of Four County Community Services, the agency administering the program, 75 percent of the homes approved for work in the past year were rural.

The program has a budget of \$180,000 for Scotland, Hoke, Robeson and Bladen counties. It would provide about \$39,000 in funds for Hoke residents.

County Commissioner Danny DeVane told the board that he would like to know how the money would be spent before endorsing the program for another year,

according to a report in a Fayetteville paper.

DeVane said he would like to see administrative costs cut and households in outlying areas receive the greatest outlay since the county already is receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the same work on homes around Raeford.

McKoy told commissioners that administrative costs of the program were calculated on a pro-rata basis for each county with all labor costs paid by federal funds.

The project was approved with the stipulation that the bulk of funding would be spent on homes not in the project area of the federal HUD program.

In other business, the board voted to merge the county dog warden position with the Raeford City position. A dog warden will not be named until commissioners meet with the Raeford City Council.

The position has been vacant since last month when Archie Clark longtime dog warden, died.



ROAD TALK -- Hoke County commissioners and state highway Division Eight officials talked about Hoke County road improvements Thursday afternoon in an informal meeting in the county commissioners' conference room. Clockwise, L-R, starting at the back end of the table are county commissioners' Chairman John Balfour, Commissioners Mabel Riley and James A. Hunt, District Engineer Fred Beck, District Supervisor N.A. Singletary, Martha Hollers of Candor, a member of the State Board of Transportation, Fred Whitesell, assistant division engineer, Raymond Sproles, assistant engineer, and Commissioner Neil McPhatter.

by Cassie Wasko

"This is the first time in 22 years that I can remember snow bringing everything to a standstill here," Sheriff Dave Barrington said of the snowstorm that paralyzed most of the state Sunday.

The storm dumped 8.4 inches of snow here while other parts of the state got as much as 19 inches. School closings throughout the state have been the rule, although roads are expected to improve as temperatures climb into the 60s this week.

"We've been going since 3:30 a.m. Sunday," Bill Southern of the State Department of Transportation said.

With only five snowplows and two graders working, the department has cleaned the main highways and about 50 or 60 percent of the county roads Tuesday, Southern said. No dirt roads had been cleared Tuesday, and Southern said they would get to them as quickly as possible. Work on the roadways is not expected to be complete before Thursday.

The work of the Department of Transportation and Bill Southern is to be commended, according to State Highway Patrolman Ken Weston. Weston explained that the crews had done a remarkable job of clearing roadways, considering the short supply of snow-removal equipment and salt.

"They were sitting around Saturday night waiting for the snow to begin," Weston said.

Most area businesses opened late or closed early while court-

The county schools were closed Tuesday also but classes were resumed Wednesday morning.

house employees had a day off. Burlington Industries was back to normal Tuesday after running a partial shift Monday, and Faberge was open Tuesday after being closed all day Monday.

"It was the coldest, driest snow we ever had," Robert Gatlin, official Hoke weatherman said.

Had the snow been in liquid form, it would have equalled about 1.4 inches. When the snow was falling, the ratio was nine inches of snow to an inch of rainfall, Gatlin said, although

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