

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was perfect over the weekend and most outdoor folks were outside. The wind was up somewhat but it was from the south and warm. Monday and Tuesday the rains moved in and Monday evening a storm came along with thunder and lightning. According to weather reports tornados were in the area, but so far no reports of any damage have been heard of.

I don't believe I have ever experienced so many sudden changes in the weather as have occurred this season. Hot then cold.

Anyway the water level should be up in most parts of the country.

When Jones Intercable purchased the local cablevision system from N.C. Cable TV Co., Inc., several promises were made concerning adding new stations to the system. One of the stations that was supposed to be added was Channel 17 WTCG, Atlanta, Ga. This is an independent station and is not hooked up with a major network.

At the meeting of the City Council Monday night some of the members stated that they had received numerous calls concerning this promise. The mayor and city manager stated they had also been receiving calls concerning this station and had called the regional manager about it.

The city manager had received a letter dated March 5, 1979 from the company and it is published below. We think that it is self-explanatory and should stop the telephone calls to the city officials.

The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Thank you for your interest and concern regarding the addition of Channel 17 WTCG Atlanta, Ga.

The Public Notice will go before the Federal Communication Commission the 8th of March and it usually takes two to three weeks from that time to receive the permit.

The FCC permit is required because we will be microwaving the signal into the Raeford system.

We understand the Fayetteville Times is planning to carry the other channels that are carried on the Raeford system, including the Showtime movies scheduled.

Sincerely,
Doyle Graves
Regional Manager

Monday afternoon Bill Lindau and I were in the office after everyone else had gone for the day. A young lady started past the office and then turned and came into the office. She came over to my desk and said, "You don't know me?"

Once before this young lady had come into the office after she had started wearing glasses and she had her sister's baby with her and I did hesitate before saying who she was.

This time it was different because I knew who it was when Kathy McMillan came into the office. Kathy was still favoring her hurt foot, but was in high spirits as we usually find her. I introduced her to Bill Lindau and he had one or two questions to ask her about her injured foot and the last meet she was in.

She said that she was passing up a meet or two until her foot got to feeling right again. Of course, we talked about the upcoming trials for the 1980 Olympic games in Russia.

Kathy said that the trial should be held in June and that the trip to Russia will be in August.

I can remember the first time I talked to her here in the office back during her high school days and thinking then what a fine young lady and well-mannered person she was. The fame that has come to her hasn't changed her one bit. Kathy was the same Monday as she was the first time I talked to her.

During these days of crime, drugs and so many other things that make the headlines and cross the TV screen, it is good to have an opportunity to talk to a person like Kathy and have your faith restored in the youth of today and citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

The new Bank of Raeford building on South Main Street is progressing with the tearing down of the old flour mill another landmark of Raeford has left us.

For Programs For Handicapped

Federal Share Cut, County Aid Asked

The Hoke County commissioners were told Monday the Hoke County programs for mentally and physically handicapped adults and children need a total of \$19,000 in county money to keep operating through the next fiscal year.

Ms. Judy Hendrix, director of the Hoke County Children's Center, said \$15,000 is needed for the Center's total budget of \$60,000 because the federal government, she learned only last month, will provide just 75 per cent of the budget instead of 100 per cent as it has been doing the past two years.

Ms. Ruth Pecora, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hoke County Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, told the commissioners the association also needs \$4,000 in local funds by July 1 to help pay the 1979-80 expenses of the program for the adult handicapped. She said these consist of the expenses of picking up the people at their homes, taking them to Scottish Crafts, the sheltered workshop at Laurinburg, and bringing them home again.

She said the people are paid for their work but that its great value is

the self-esteem it brings to the handicapped workers.

Mrs. Pecora said the van used for transportation travels about 45,000 miles a year, and the driver's salary is \$3,900 annually, but \$4,000 is needed by July 1 to keep the program going.

Ms. Hendrix said the center is serving eight children now, ages 2 to 5, and two more will be admitted this month, and that some can go into the public school system because of their Center training.

She said the Center is licensed, however, to serve children ages 2 to 12 and that the Center will get its license changed to authorize it to serve children from birth on up.

Four of the eight, she said, have cerebral palsy, and others the Center is or has served are deaf, blind, retarded, and have speech defects, epilepsy, or other handicaps. She said the Center gives each child a program suiting his or her specific needs, that a speech therapist and a physical therapist work with the children.

Mrs. Pecora and Ms. Hendrix Monday night asked the Raeford City Council for support in the

form of an expression of backing to the county commissioners. Mrs. Pecora said the adult program is serving 12 people.

Ms. Hendrix gave the Raeford council essentially the same information she had given the commissioners about the Center. She said the physical therapist works with the children once a month, and the speech therapist once a week.

She told the commissioners that without the \$15,000 in county funds the program would have to be ended.

At the council meeting, replying to councilmen's questions, she said she had not been able to get help from the cerebral palsy organization, and that the March of Dimes funds was unavailable because the MOD concentrates its funds on prevention of crippling birth defects rather than treatment.

The county commissioners were told by Ms. Mary Jane Farmer that her granddaughter is being helped by the Center and she doesn't know what would have been done without it. "She has improved so much," Ms. Farmer declared.

Ms. Dorothy Walker told the commissioners that, after a year and a half at the center, her son, who has cerebral palsy, is learning to talk and has been helped in other ways by the Center.

Ms. Hendrix said the Center also teaches parents how to help the youngsters at home. Without the program, she added, some parents would have to quit their jobs to take care of their children during the day.

She also said the Center services also eliminate the necessity of having handicapped children kept in institutions. From the economic viewpoint, she quoted figures showing institutional care for each child is far more expensive on the average than the Center's.

John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, told the visitors that the commissioners were going to work on the 1979-80 budget shortly, indicating the needs of the programs serving the handicapped would be considered in the budget-making process.

TAX MAPPING
In other business during its

commissioners' regular meeting of the first Monday of March, the board rejected both proposals for tax-mapping of the county.

Then they agreed to make arrangements to have aerial photography of the county done before the foliage starts appearing.

The other details of the tax-mapping are to be worked out.

The rejection of the proposals was made for economy reasons. The commissioners shortly before were informed that the County Department of Social Services will need more county money in 1979-80 for programs, specifically aid to families with dependent children, and medical assistance. Mrs. Frances Cox, acting director of the department, gave this report.

The commissioners authorized filing of an application for an \$8,000 federal 701 planning grant, which could be used for tax mapping. If the commissioners want to use it for another purpose, they were informed, they could be amending the contract even after obtaining the grant.

The federal grant would be matched with \$8,000 in county money.

As a prerequisite to obtaining the grant, the commissioners adopted a Land Use Plan, which must be certified, and the adoption is subject to the approval of the State Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The tax-mapping proposals turned down were those of John Furnage of Raeford, who offered to do the work for \$147,000; and Landmark Engineering Co. of Cary, \$173,000.

Balfour said he had the feeling the county ought to go to a less expensive arrangement.

After further discussion, the board adopted a motion made by Commissioner Danny DeVane that the board "disregard" both proposals.

After discussing aerial mapping, the commissioners adopted a motion authorizing County Manager James Martin and Tax Supervisor and Assistant County Manager Les Simpson to make arrangements with Sid Harbison of H&M Aerial Surveys, Inc., of Cary, to do the photography, provided Harbison's prices are in line.

Harbison, who attended the meeting, informed the commissioners he could photograph the county from the air in a single day. He said, however, time was getting short since foliage would be appearing (screening much of the land) soon, a good flying day was uncertain, and he had four jobs to do before he could do the county's work.

Harbison was recommended for the work by Furnage.

DOG WARDEN
The commissioners adopted by a 4-1 majority a motion by Commissioner James A. Hunt authorizing the County Board of Health to employ a county dog warden. DeVane cast the dissenting vote.

They took the action after DeVane's motion regarding a dog warden died for lack of a second. It would have had the county and city of Raeford operating a joint program trial for six months, with the Raeford dog warden also serving

(See COUNTY, page 15)

Raeford Council Acts

Aerial Photographing Of City Slated

The Raeford City Council Monday night decided to have the city and its adjoining one-mile-wide perimeter aerially photographed for future engineering purposes.

The motion the council adopted authorizes City Manager Ronald Matthews to arrange with Cardan Mapping Systems Corp. of Charlotte to do the work for \$1,550.

The photos, in color, will provide the basis for making subsequently

the base and topographic maps. The entire program will be done in the next few years. A topographic map shows the surface features of the land.

The action was taken after City Manager Ron Matthews explained that contour and topographic maps made from the photos were needed for streets and sewer lines, for example, and would save the city engineering costs.

He also said the city could apply for a federal 701 grant for \$8,000 to pay the costs of the total mapping job. The city would put up an equal amount.

The Hoke County commissioners had been considering asking the city to share the costs of the county's pending tax mapping since the city appeared to have use for the county maps made of the city area.

Matthews said, however, that what the city needed were base and topographic maps, while the county maps would be for tax purposes and consequently not suitable for the city's purpose.

He said if the photography is to be done this year, it will have to be done soon, or wait till next year because ground would be screened in a few weeks by foliage on the now-bare trees.

The council action was taken during the council's regular meeting for March.

FOR HANDICAPPED
The council also was informed that the Hoke County programs helping handicapped children and adults needed funds by July 1 to keep operating through the next fiscal year starting July 1.

Ms. Ruth Pecora, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hoke County Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, and Ms. Judy Hendrix, director of the Hoke County Children's Center, didn't ask for funds but that the council let the county commissioners know the council supported the programs.

Ms. Pecora said the program which takes 12 handicapped Hoke adults to Scottish Crafts, a sheltered workshop at Laurinburg needs \$4,000 by July 1 for transportation expenses.

Ms. Hendrix said a total of \$15,000 in county funds is needed

of the Hoke Center's total budget of \$60,000 to keep the Center operating through the next fiscal year. She said county money's needed for next year because the federal Title XX program, which has been paying all the expenses, will pay just 75 per cent of them starting with the next fiscal year. The federal agency requires \$4,000 in county funds be put up by July 1 before the money will be matched, she said.

(Other details of Ms. Hendrix's and Ms. Pecora's presentation can be found in the report on the meeting of the county commissioners. The report starts on Page One.)

OVERRUN
The council in other business were informed that the \$15,331.57 overrun of the cost of the city's waste-water project which is nearly completed was caused by the use of stone found absolutely necessary for a trench instead of the material originally planned and by use of more asphalt than was intended on the Bethel Road line from the school to the corner of College Drive. The extra asphalt was needed because the shape of the ditch was changed to prevent cave-ins.

The explanation was given by Joe Flake of Moore, Gardner & Associates of Asheboro. The firm is consulting engineer for the city.

Matthews said that the size of the overrun amounted to less than 6 per cent of the total cost of the 1 1/2-year-old project, an excellent figure for such a job.

The council adopted a motion to amend the budget to accommodate the overrun.

DRAINAGE PROBLEM
Billy Posey was told by Matthews that his suggestion for changing the outline of the ditch at Posey's (See CITY, page 15)

Social Services Director Named

A Gastonia man has been appointed to head the Hoke County Department of Social Services, the County social services board announced Monday.

Kenneth L. Witherspoon, a Gaston County native, will assume his duties here March 16. He will replace B.O. Niblock who served in the post for five years. Niblock left here in January for the post of director of social services in Johnston County.

Witherspoon holds a degree in sociology and history from Lenoir-Rhyne College and a bachelor of Social Work degree from Livingston College, Salisbury.

Prior to entering social work, he was in sales and retailing.

"I lean toward community involvement," he said. Last summer, in Gaston County, Witherspoon, who served as director of volunteers for social services there, encouraged six churches to conduct Bible School for one week. The program was aimed at underprivileged children. He also raised enough funds to take 39 low-income children for a week of camping.

He indicated that persons with immediate needs could be helped through community involvement when the social worker's time schedule would cause delay in providing services.

"Instead of perpetuating the welfare rolls, we look at ways to get people off of the welfare rolls, and we look at how to get people to be self-sufficient," he said. "I will be looking for preventative type things," he continued.

"I bring an open mind with no 'blue sky' ideas or without thinking that I have all the answers. I believe we must be honest and above board and keep in mind that the public has the right to know," he said.

Witherspoon expressed an interest in public speaking, saying that the community should be informed about the programs offered through social services. He said he would be available to speak to groups interested in the workings of social services.

He expects to move here with his wife, Jane, and sons Josh and Will in the near future.

Raeford Landmark Will Be Gone In Two Months

Upchurch Milling & Storage Co.'s four - story, approximately 35,000 - square - foot building, the most prominent landmark on Raeford's skyline the past 32 years, will be gone in two months, or even sooner.

R.B. Evans, owner of Fayetteville Demolition Service, made this prediction Thursday in replying to a reporter's question.

The tearing down of the wood steel and masonry structure was started Monday by the men of Evan's business.

The silos, feed bins and loading dock were taken down last summer.

Evans said anyone who wants brick, wood, tin or masonry blocks from the old building are welcome to take them, free of charge.

The space will become part of the parking lot for The Bank of Raeford's new office building which is under construction on the east side of South Main Street near Central Avenue.

The bank building is rising on the place where the original

Upchurch Milling's building stood after it was erected in 1914 and till it was destroyed by fire August 12, 1946.

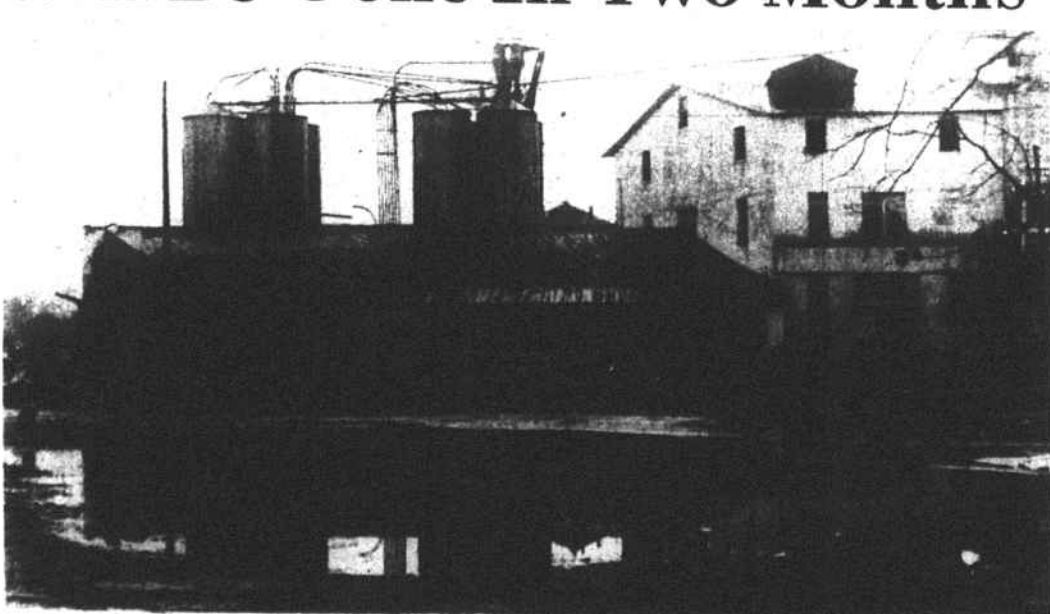
The building which is being torn down was erected shortly afterward behind the site of the original plant and is four times the size of its predecessor.

Upchurch Milling was established by H.A. Cameron and T.B. Upchurch, father and grandfather of the company's current president, Tom Cameron.

Tom Cameron said the company now is primarily in farming and real estate but it continues manufacturing feed for its farms. It shut down the commercial production of feed for sale four years ago. It was producing 2,000 tons of feed a week then, Cameron said.

The original plant was a flour and corn mill.

When people had more wheat than they needed for flour, they could put the wheat in the company's "wheat bank," drawing on it as flour when they needed it.



Demolition of Upchurch Milling's building had gotten this far by about 2:15 p.m. Monday.