

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Some readers will get this paper before the 4th of July and others will receive it after the fourth according to how you get your mail. We are coming out a day early this week so that the employees of the Jackson Press can celebrate the birth. Now how they celebrate it, will be of their choosing. With the high cost of gas it is almost impossible to go very far these days without the pinch on the budget. Anyway if you do drive off on the fourth, be careful.

A visitor by the office last week was Landon Yarborough, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Yarborough of this community. Landon now lives in Crowley, La. and is in the food distribution business. He said that Crowley was on U.S. 90 going west toward Houston, Texas. One reason he came by the office was to buy a subscription to *The News-Journal*.

We talked for a few minutes and stated that he had spent last weekend in Columbia, S.C. with his brother, Hartman, and that brother, Wilson from Savannah, Ga., was also there for the weekend. They were all doing fine according to the younger brother. Landon said that he had been with Alfred K. Leach the night before, so of course this left little for me to say to bring him up on the happenings around Hoke County. He and Leach were raised near each other in Blue Springs township and they had visited many old acquaintances the night before he was in the office.

It was good to see you, Landon, and don't stay away from Hoke so long.

Mrs. J.D. Nash who resides at the Open Arms Rest Home was by the office last week and wanted to know if we had a file on *The News-Journal* for 1929. We told her that maybe we had one and would look for her. This was done but we couldn't find the paper she wanted.

Mrs. Nash is trying to find out where Mrs. Kate McLean Fulford is buried. It seems that she died in Raeford while living with her sister, Mrs. W. P. Peele, who we wrote about in the column recently. Mrs. Peele's name before marriage was Roberta McLean. If anyone can remember this lady, would you please get in touch with Mrs. Nash. Call the rest home 395-3949.

Last Thursday night Earl Oxendine, principal at Hoke County High School was in charge of the program at the Raeford Kiwanis Club. He had with him Billy Colson, newly appointed director of athletics at Hoke High, "Soupy" Campbell, head football coach and Tom Jones, the new defensive coach from Red Springs with him.

Campbell was the speaker for the evening and everyone was prepared for a speech about the upcoming football season for the Bucks. This was not the case.

He made a very interesting talk about a new program that was put into effect at Hoke High last year. It is a federally funded program called ATC (Alternative Learning Class).

Campbell is in charge of the program and he told about how it works. When a person is disciplined at the school now, instead of being suspended from school, they are put in this program. According to the speaker no rights are taken from the student, but all privileges are taken from the student.

They are placed in a classroom where the desks face the walls and they cannot talk during the classes. They must either stare at the wall or study the assigned task given by their teacher for that period. They are not allowed to eat with the other students and must remain silent while eating.

Campbell said that to punish a student that had skipped school by suspending him was not punishment but a reward and that it also benefited the community because parents that worked knew where their kids were during the day. The results have been more than expected according to the teacher. One instance was that a student that was in the class for a few days (See AROUND TOWN, page 15)



## A SALUTE TO 203 YEARS OF FREEDOM






...and the idea  
that all men are  
created equal.

America is another year older. That's cause for celebration. Since her founding in the 18th century, she has drawn strength from the blend of hard-working, independent-thinking peoples who have reached her shores. They have come from all over the world and labored against formidable obstacles in search of an ideal — equality among men, freedom to act according to their beliefs and a better way of life. All Americans have not reached that goal, but we are getting closer. Happy Birthday America!

## The News - Journal

### Rescuer, Nurses, Happened To Be At Lake

## Boy said 'Dead' Revived At Hospital

by Joe Holt

What began as a peaceful summer afternoon's outing at a resort lake near Hope Mills was narrowly averted from turning into a tragedy for a Hoke County family Sunday.

Mrs. Spring Hughes, who lives near Rockfish on Rt. 2, Raeford,

had gone with her two young sons and several friends for a picnic on the shores of PermaStone Lake. The group was preparing the meal when everything suddenly took a turn for the worse.

Moments later, the family was gathered in the waiting annex at

the Cape Fear Valley Hospital emergency room as doctors fought desperately to save the life of Mrs. Hughes's older son, James, Jr., 5, a possible victim of drowning.

The situation was a grim one.

"James, Jr., was pronounced dead on arrival: they said he was gone," said the child's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Locklear, also of Rt. 2, Raeford.

"But they were wrong," she added, happily but guardedly. Guardedly because, on Monday, little James, Jr.'s, life still hung in the balance.

While the mother could not be reached, the grandmother, Mrs. Locklear, who answered the telephone in the child's hospital room, told *The News-Journal* that as the family had been busily preparing the picnic Sunday afternoon, a Captain Kovak (spelling unsure) of Fort Bragg, had been diving in the water nearby when he touched the still body of the child on the lake's bottom. Kovak swam to shore towing the child, and administered artificial respiration but with no apparent success.

Then, two registered nurses who happened by fortune to be in the area, attempted in every possible way to revive the boy.

Mrs. Locklear said a unit of the Hope Mills Rescue Squad was summoned and rushed the child to Cape Fear Valley Hospital. She said the two nurses also got into the medical vehicle and continued efforts to revive the child on the way to the hospital.

The *Fayetteville Observer* Monday identified the nurses as Nancy Berchtel of 6463 Freeport Road and Debbie Debolt of 6833 South-staff Road, Fayetteville.

No further details about the original rescuer, the captain from Fort Bragg, were available at press time.

### At Council Meeting

## Housing, State Study Among Topics

The Raeford City Council Monday night heard reports concerning a variety of subjects including a planned protest against planned apartment construction, a nuclear-war Civil Preparedness exercise, and a planned state study of potential areas for annexation.

The meeting, the council's regular session for July, lasted about an hour.

City Manager Ronald Matthews informed the council a member of the group protesting the planned apartments told him the opponents wanted to relay opposition to the housing to the council and at the proper time would discuss the matter with the council.

Residents of the Holly Park subdivision are opposing planned construction of 48 two-bedroom apartment units on land adjoining the subdivision by Raeford realtor Julian Wright. Wright is reported seeking a \$1,075,000 U.S. Farmers Home Administration loan and will add \$75,000 to that to finance the construction. Some of the units will be reserved for elderly and disabled people, it has been reported.

Residents of Holly Park reportedly are opposing the establish-

ments on the grounds they would duplicate other housing and would create traffic problems in the area.

Matthews told the council he had talked with Ann Webb, a Holly Park resident, about the matter, informing her that, so far, no one has sought a building permit for construction of the apartments or has discussed the project with him.

He also said, and City Attorney Palmer Wilcox agreed, that if the apartments builder meets the zoning and other requirements in the area, the city could not legally refuse to issue a building permit.

He said the Holly Park area is zoned for one-family homes and duplex apartments.

Matthews also advised the council the State Department of Natural Resources and Community Development is planning to make a study of the Raeford area to determine the potential areas for annexation, the areas which have a potential for growth and whether the areas with the potential for annexation can be provided with city water and sewer services.

The Civil Preparedness exercise is scheduled for 8 p.m. July 11 in (See COUNCIL, page 15)

### At Board Meeting

## Delinquent Tax Collections Set

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday adopted a motion directing County Tax Collector Elizabeth Livingston to "exhaust all means," including foreclosure, to collect unpaid property taxes.

The collection effort will start with the unpaid taxes owned for the longest time, which would extend as far as 10 years ago, the point where the statute of limitations expires, barring recovery of delinquent taxes before that time.

In other business at their regular July meeting Monday the commissioners adopted an ordinance setting the 1979-80 budget for the county at \$3,669,645 and the tax rate at \$1.01 per \$100 property evaluation, the same they adopted tentatively June 25 following the final formal public hearing on the budget, tax rate and proposed federal revenue-sharing spending. The tax rate is 9 cents higher than the 1978-79 rate.

The only change the commissioners made Monday was a technical one allocating \$64,000 for the National Guard Armory reserve fund. The money, part of the Army fund already in the county treasury, was made available for use, without further action by the commissioners, should the Guard take action sooner than anticipated toward construction of the planned new Armory.

The budget for the new fiscal year, which started Sunday, consists of: \$2,909,655 for the general fund; \$118,773, debt service; \$29,000 reappraisal reserve (toward the fund for paying for the reappraisal of the county's taxable private property); \$64,000 Armory reserve fund; \$435,828 federal revenue-sharing; \$13,580 facilities fee; and \$98,809 Community Development.

**VEHICLE**  
In other action, a majority of the commissioners, with Commissioner Mabel Riley voting "no," adopted a motion authorizing the Hoke Ambulance Service to use a three-quarter ton, four-wheel-drive vehicle assigned cost-free to the county from federal surplus provided that patients accommodated by the vehicle not be charged extra for the service, and that the vehicle be returned to the county on request of the commissioners and

in at least as good condition, if not better than, it was in when it was first turned over to the ambulance service, and that the county not spend any money on it.

Commissioner Danny DeVane, who made the motion to let the ambulance service use the vehicle, said the service needed it for reaching patients in rough country the regular ambulance couldn't travel in.

Mrs. Riley said she didn't want the vehicle to go to the ambulance service because the county pays the ambulance service for operating and the ambulance firm in turn charges patients for the services it provides.

She said she wanted to see the vehicle go to a nonprofit organization.

Mrs. Riley also said if the county turned it over to the ambulance service then it would provide equipment to every other private business which wants it.

County Manager James Martin explained, however, that the surplus equipment is assigned only for use of the county or one of its designated agencies (which the ambulance service is since it is under contract to the county governments in its operation in the county).

The assignment of the vehicle to the county was reported by County Civil Preparedness Coordinator William Niven.

**CROPS**  
County Agricultural Extension Service Chairman W.S. Young told the commissioners generally the tobacco, soybean and corn crops were in good condition now.

He said some tobacco had been damaged by nematode, blue mold, and chemicals, but none of the damage was caused by use of the contaminated fertilizer which had damaged tobacco crops extensively in other sections of the state. The defective fertilizer was not bought by Hoke farmers, he said. The blue mold appeared in Hoke on plants imported from Georgia, Young reported.

**REAPPOINTED**  
Lester Simpson was reappointed county tax supervisor for another two-year term.

Simpson also serves as assistant (See COMMISSIONERS, page 15)

## Government Offices, Most Businesses To Observe Holiday

Hoke County's county, city, state and federal offices will be closed Wednesday for the annual Independence Day holiday. So will most businesses.

District Court will be doing business as usual Thursday and Friday.

The Fourth of July will be no holiday, however, for law enforcement officers, firemen, and other emergency services people.

The landfill will also be open that day.

The Post Office will observe its customary holiday schedule Wednesday; no city or rural mail deliveries, and no window service, but incoming mail will be put in patrons' boxes in the post office.

At least two outdoor recreation places will be busy on the national holiday in the county.

"Everything Goes", a program of contests and other games sponsored by the Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce, will be held at Rockfish, starting at 10 a.m. It's a benefit to raise money for the March of Dimes.

American Legion Post 20 will hold a golf tournament on Arabia golf course, which will start after a breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Pond House at the 16th green.

Traffic is expected to be much lighter, because the holiday falls in the middle of week instead of the day before or immediately after the weekend starts; and people fear gasoline between here and the beaches and other resort areas may be difficult to find.

The North Carolina State Motor Club predicts holiday traffic accidents in the state will kill five

people during the holiday between 6 p.m. Tuesday and midnight Wednesday. Though traffic between homes and resorts is expected to be lighter than usual for the Independence Day holiday, the club warns drivers to be careful. Many fatal accidents happen within 50 miles of the victims' homes, the club points out, and, though highway travel continues declining, travel has increased on all other kinds of roads.

During the Memorial Day weekend in May, highway travel declined significantly from that of the same holiday weekend of 1978, a club survey found, and the 1979 holiday's number of traffic fatalities was under that of an average weekend.

The increase in the price of fuel has caused an increase, however, in the number of deaths in accidents involving these vehicles has increased correspondingly, the club reports: deaths of motorcyclists have risen 20 percent, and of bicyclists, 12 percent.

The report says the principal cause of collisions between the two-wheel vehicles and conventional cars and trucks is the driver of the larger vehicle doesn't see the cyclist or moped operator till it's too late to avoid the accident.

The club advises motorists even in the city and rural areas to obey all speed limits: as speed increases, so does the number of fatalities. It also advises: "Use your seat belt and encourage others to do so. It is effective in reducing the number of fatalities and (nonfatal) serious injuries up to 50 percent."