

Around Town
 BY SAM C. MORRIS

How who said last winter that they wanted hot, dry weather? Well it seems that they have received their wishes. About every morning when you drive to work the haze looks almost like fog.

There are many people that are mowing their lawns because of the dry weather and you can include me in the group. I noticed one lawn Monday that looked like a field of hay that had been on the ground for several days.

We in this section need rain and a week when I was in the western part of the state, the people there said that the rain in recent weeks had either drowned out or rotted their gardens. I told them to send it to Hoke County for it hadn't rained for about three weeks and now it is here.

This has happened before and we have survived.

Ed Hasty of DeVanes Store sent me a key to a Ford automobile that he picked up near the Raeford Presbyterian church last week. It is on a Raeford Auto Co key ring and can be picked up by the owners if he or she will come by *The News-Journal* office.

The president in his speeches Sunday night and Monday stated that he wanted to lead the people of this country in helping solve the energy problem. This is as it should be, but for the past several years it seems that the people don't want to be led but go their own ways. It will be too late after gasoline becomes too high to purchase or you drive up to a station and there is no gas available.

So we all must make a decision as to whether we want to help solve this problem or let things rock along until there is no solution to the problem.

Think about it?

Being out of the office most of last week is not what I am used to doing. Two trips were made by my wife and me, one unexpected and one that we had planned for several months.

The first trip was to Chimney Rock on Sunday, July 8th because my brother James had to undergo surgery on Tuesday morning. We returned to Raeford on Wednesday and then left for a trip to Charleston, S.C. for the Battery 'F' Reunion which was Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This covered about 1000 miles and this is too much driving for me.

For those who know James, he should be out of the hospital by the time you read this, but he will have to take it easy for a few weeks. I thought it would be impossible to get away from there by last Wednesday but after staying with the people of Chimney Rock for three days my faith in humanity has been restored. Maybe it is their love for my brother, but Mary Alice and I were treated like long lost relatives that had just returned after many years overseas.

Words cannot express my feelings for the folks at Chimney Rock. If any of my readers are ever through there, please convey these words to the people.

The trip to Charleston was once again a delightful affair. Again this year people were there that I hadn't seen since 1942. The crowd was smaller than last year, but everyone seemed to have a big time.

The reunion will be held again next year and will be held either in September or October at Wrightsville Beach. This is approximately 14 months away and letters will be sent early so that people can prepare for next year's reunion.

The same committee was appointed to handle the reunion next year so if you have any suggestions, please get in touch with one of the members.

The news report of the new industry coming to the Laurinburg-Maxton area should be good for this community also. If the gas situation does get too bad the trip out there should be about right for people to get jobs. You know all new industry in this section helps.

Children Survive With Injuries

Hoke Crash Kills Man, Wife

Hoke Mental Health Center Staying Open, Director Says

The Hoke County Mental Health Center has sufficient funds to continue operating without significantly changing its programs, Director George Barbour advised Monday.

The survival of the center was assured when the Hoke County commissioners guaranteed the center \$28,260 for the county's share of the center's budget for the fiscal year 1979-80, which started July 1.

The commissioners originally had provided \$22,260 for the center for the new fiscal year.

Center spokesman told the commissioners they could work with \$28,260, though they'd have to make some cuts in expenses.

Barbour said Monday he was advising that the center would continue operating, because some people apparently were still under the impression that the center would have to close.

Earlier in June, Phillip A. Diehl, chairman of the center's board, said the center might have to close because of insufficient funding.

The Hoke center is part of the Sandhills Regional Mental Health Center, based in Moore County.

In Civil Preparedness Test

Hoke Reaction Termed 'Best In State'

by Joe Holt

"It is one minute past midnight July 17, 1979. Warning has just been received that the United States is under attack by the Soviet Union. We are in Operational Readiness Condition II. All members of the EOC staff will report to the EOC on once."

These were the opening lines in a scenario given to the Hoke County EOC staff and Civil Preparedness Coordinator Bill Niven by state officials who monitored and assisted with the local action last Wednesday night in Raeford.



WAITING FOR REPORT -- Shown during the Civil Preparedness exercise of July 11 are, front, L-R, Raeford City Manager Ron Matthews, Hoke County Manager James Martin, and Joe Jenkins, radiological defense officer; and, rear, L-R, Raeford City Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth Jr., Mabel Riley, a Hoke County commissioner, and Hoke County Civil Defense Coordinator Bill Niven. [Staff photo by Joe Holt].

The occasion was a Civil Preparedness operational "simulation" exercise that presumed a nuclear attack on Fort Bragg and entailed a realistic "play like" in evacuation and other emergency procedures on the part of Hoke County's government.

While it was "all in fun," so to speak, many facets of the exercise were real enough. For one thing, the key citizens who gathered in the Raeford City Hall at 8 p.m. were the self-same "EOC staff members" who would be there in case of an actual emergency; namely, the county commissioners, city councilmen, all the heads of agencies and protective services -- law enforcement, fire department, social services, schools -- other individuals designated as EOC staff members, and of course, Bill Niven and the staff of the Civil Preparedness Office, and for another thing, "make believe" or not, the members of the EOC staff conducted themselves so seriously throughout the drill that the actual reality of an attack by the Russians was the only thing missing.

In the words of one official at the scene, the entire exercise was "so well executed that an objective observer in the EOC would have been hard put to tell the difference between this drill and the 'real thing.'"

In the course of the exercise -- in following the scenario -- all team members were aware, of course, that it was not really July 17 but July 11, and not "0001 hours" but 8 p.m. And they could be reasonably confident that the nuclear fireball that was scheduled to rise to upwards of 50,000 feet over Fort Bragg sometime during the next few hours was not really going to be there. Nevertheless, throughout the exercise they were supposed to, and did, follow rigid lines of decision-making and simulated action.

Shortly after "midnight," the alert was sounded throughout the county by loudspeaker, telephone, siren, radio, television, any way possible. Most privately owned vehicles, loaded to capacity, headed for the designated shelters. All the county's school buses were used to haul rest home and nursing home residents and others who had no means of transportation. Presumably, there were some who walked or ran, perhaps carrying armloads of clothing, food, etc. Hopefully, though, most were aware that such necessities would be available at the shelter once it could be reached, and so traveled light.

By 3 a.m., there were 728 people sheltered in the courthouse, 468 at

the Burlington plant, 174 at Southern National Bank, 1,025 at Raeford United Methodist Church, and 326 at the post office; there were 879 at First Baptist Church, 915 at Raeford Presbyterian Church, 3,148 at House of Raeford, 143 at the National Guard Armory, 6,463 at the sanatorium, and another 2,910 at the youth center at McCain.

(Coordinator Niven said there is more room at the shelters named here, plus plenty of other places that would be used to accommodate the additional 22,000 refugees Hoke would get from Fayetteville-Fort Bragg in the event of an actual attack.)

With the shelters now populated, with some people scared, most of them hungry, some requiring medical care, any personal and professional abilities of all the occupants were available to the respective shelter managers for dealing with the myriad problems. Those who knew how to administer emergency medical care, for example were busy in doing just that. And those who could drive were pressed into service for any transportation needs.

Meanwhile, back at the EOC, at 3:05 a.m. a food and bedding shortage was reported at House of Raeford. With 950 people sheltered there, it had developed that there was only enough food for 24 hours and enough bedding for only 300 people. Since the radiation level was expected to rise to and remain at plus-200 roentgens for possibly 14 days or longer, something had to be done in advance to alleviate the problem at House of Raeford. A decision was made and implemented to move 650 of the turkey plant shelter occupants to McCain, where there was a surplus of materiel and plenty of room.

An ambulance had transported an emergency case to Moore Memorial Hospital just before the alert began and was now enroute back to Raeford. The order went

out to stop the vehicle and hold it at McCain.

At 4 a.m., the sheriff was "felled" by a "heart attack." The county commissioners immediately selected a deputy and installed him as the new sheriff.

There was a report of a fire at 6 a.m. It was first determined to be too dangerous to send out firemen, but when it was learned that a large number of people were sheltered at the site of the fire, a fire fighting team was dispatched without delay.

These were typical actions of the EOC during the July 11 test. All of

the problems encountered during the 2-1/2 hours of the civil defense exercise were met and solved with equal professionalism, reported Coordinator Niven.

"The whole thing was really very well done," he said. "And this is certainly not my opinion alone."

Niven said Paul Sullivan, head of the State team monitoring the exercise, remarked to him later that the teamwork and enthusiasm he observed in Raeford on the night of July 11 was the "best he had seen anywhere in the entire state."



DEATH CAR -- Wreckage of 1976 Ford in which Bobby and Jill Davis of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge, were killed in July 13. Their two sons, riding in back seat, escaped serious injury. [Staff photo by Joe Holt].

A single-car accident Friday night at approximately 8:30 claimed the lives of both parents in a Hoke County family and hospitalized their two sons.

Pronounced dead at the scene were Bobby Jefferson Davis, 33 and his wife, Jill, 29, of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge.

Their sons, Bobby, Jr., 11, and Jefferson Lee, 9, were taken by ambulance to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, where they were admitted for treatment and observation.

Sources said Bobby, Jr., suffered a broken arm and Jefferson Lee a bruised leg. Both were released on Monday.

Investigating officer R.V. Lee of the N.C. Highway Patrol said the 1976 four-door Ford in which the family was riding had been heading east on Rockfish Road (rural paved road 1406) when it apparently swerved to the left side of the road, then crossed to the right, left the highway, and smashed into a pine tree.

Lee reported that the parents were pinned in the wreckage and could not be removed until the Hoke County Rescue Squad arrived with the "Jaws of Life" machine to open the top of the car.

Hoke medical examiner Dr. Robert G. Townsend was called to the scene and pronounced the man and woman dead after their removal from the wreckage.

James C. Clark, the second person to have arrived at the scene of the accident, said he and his wife had attempted to get the Davises out of the car before the trooper and rescue squad had arrived, but that it was impossible to do by hand. (The first person to arrive at the scene had left to report the accident.)

The Clarks said they were successful, however, in freeing the two children, who were ambulatory and vocal.

These deaths brought the number of traffic fatalities to nine in Hoke thus far for the year.

The most recent victim before the Davis couple died June 14 of injuries suffered when he was struck by a car June 10.

Bloodmobile Here July 25

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Raeford July 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Raeford United Methodist Church, Clyde Upchurch, Hoke County field director for the American Red Cross, announced Tuesday.

VFW Barbecue

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a barbecue Sunday afternoon at the VFW Hall across from Harmony Heights Trailer Park.

The barbecue is for all VFW members and former members and veterans eligible for membership.

The barbecue will begin about 2.

In Lions' Organization

Morgan Named Deputy District Chief

Richard Morgan of the Raeford Lions Club was elected deputy governor of Lions International District 31-F at the recent convention of the North Carolina Association of Lions Clubs. The district contains about 58 clubs.

Morgan served as president of the Raeford club the past year.

He is a native of Lexington and has been living in Raeford the past seven years. Since joining the Lion's Club, Morgan also has served as vice president and as chairman of committees for the local club, and was zone chairman before being elected to the district position.

Morgan is married to the former Jane Cook. They have three children: Steve, Cathy, and Holly.

Morgan also is active in other civic and in church organizations.

He is with Burlington Menswear's Raeford plant.



Richard Morgan