

## Taken By U.S. From Hoke County

## Board To Seek Pay For Ft. Bragg Land

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The hot weather seems to be here to stay for awhile. All the forecasts are for hot weather and afternoon or evening thundershowers. Still I don't believe that the thermometer has gotten up to 100 degrees this year. Of course when you are on the golf course and get on a fairway that the breeze can't hit, it seems more than 100.

Maybe we are lucky that the weather is hot because from all the reports the price of fuel oil is going to heat us up this winter. At last report it was about 86 cents per gallon.

Shut off all the rooms, Mary Alice!

Ben Niblock, former director of Social Services for Hoke County, was by the office last week. He had been to a meeting in Moore County for the directors of this area and stopped in the city to renew acquaintances with old friends.

He stated that he was doing fine in Smithfield and had a good board to work with there. But didn't say if he had a group like Sgt. Minshew, D.B. McFadyen, Buddy Blue and Clayton Buoyer to drink coffee with every day. I wouldn't even ask him if they had characters like the above in the county. That would be too much for him (yes even Niblock) to reply to.

It was good to listen to Ben and hope that he will stop by again when he is in town. Let's all hope for him the best in his new position because it is a job that you can't please everyone.

Jack Bray came by the office last week and had a clipping about Grady Cole, the late radio announcer from Charlotte. Now most of us old folks have no trouble recalling Cole, but to you younger people he was the Johnny Carson of the early 30s to radio listeners.

One of the quotes that was right amusing was when Grady Cole was offered a big job on radio in New York he said, "No, thank you, I'll just stay right here and plow."

You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy.

Thanks Jack I enjoyed the article.

The district softball tournament that is sponsored by the Raeford Kiwanis Club will be held at Armory Park beginning August 13 and will end August 18. The season tickets are \$3.50 and can be purchased from any Kiwanian. The price at the gate will be \$1.00 so you will save \$1.50 by purchasing a ticket.

There will be seven teams in the tournament four from Hoke County and three from Scotland County. Vardell Hedgpeth is in charge of the tournament for the Kiwanis Club and said that a complete report will be given in next week's paper.

Last year Bob Bullard of Wagram took pictures at the reunion of Battery 'F' and didn't have any success with them. This year in Charleston Bob took pictures again and they were first class. He brought them to the office last week and they are here for anyone to look at if they so desire.

The negatives can be used by anyone that wants to order reprints. Bob asks that everyone be careful with the negatives because they could be damaged before everyone gets the reprints.

Thanks Bullard and so far everyone that has seen them wants to order reprints.

Last week I received a post card that had a picture of a Scotchman in kilts playing a bagpipe and also two pictures of a clubhouse and golf course and the only wording on the front of the card was "St  
See AROUND TOWN Page 12

The Hoke County commissioners and the Raeford - Hoke County Chamber of Commerce are trying to get federal payment for the county for the 110,000 acres of Hoke land the government took in developing Fort Bragg.

When the government took the land, the county lost permanently money it would have gotten from the land each year from the county property tax.

The commissioners adopted Thursday night a resolution essentially urging "maximum coordination among all counties" to try to get federal payments for land in Hoke and other counties the government took for military reservations. The effort to get the payments will be made through the State Association of County Commissioners.

The resolution also provides that copies of the resolution are to be sent to the federal and state legislators for this district.

It will be presented for action by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners during the association's 1979 conference

August 16-19 in the Raleigh Civic Center. John Balfour, chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners was chosen by the board in a separate action later Thursday night to participate in the conference as the board's voting delegate.

The commissioners earlier in the same Thursday night meeting endorsed a chamber letter on the same subject which will be sent to Seventh District Congressman Charlie Rose and North Carolina's U.S. Sens. Robert Morgan and Jesse Helms.

Congress last year established authorization levels for the payments - in - lieu of taxes program of \$105 million for the 1979 fiscal year, \$108 million for fiscal 1980, \$111 million for fiscal 1981, and \$114 million for fiscal 1982; and \$7 million in additional entitlement lands for inactive military lands, among other types.

The federal Payments - in - lieu of Taxes Act calls for counties to receive the greater amount of 75 cents per acre of Entitlement Land

less deductions for federal mineral leasing, timber and grazing funds received by the county in the preceding fiscal year; or 10 cents per acre of Entitlement Lands.

Balfour said Friday Ed Regan of the State Department of Administration told him he didn't understand why Hoke County has not received any payment for sales of timber cut on the Ft. Bragg reservation from land formerly in the county. Balfour said this in clarifying for a reporter the Payments - in - lieu of taxes program. He said Hoke County is not included now in the planned distribution of the \$105 million for 1979.

He said the payments program was discussed during a workshop at the 1979 convention of the National Association of Counties. The convention was held in Kansas City, Mo. July 15 - 18, and was attended by Balfour, Commissioners Danny DeVane, James A. Hunt and Neill McPhatter, and County Manager James Martin. President Carter addressed the association the night of July 16.

Earl Fowler, the chamber manager, told the Hoke commissioners Thursday the letter, approved by the chamber's board of directors, asks Rose to find out whether Payment - in - lieu of county property taxes can be obtained from the government for the land taken for the development of the Army reservation.

The letter specifies arrangements for paying Hoke County be made if a search of the law finds payment has been made in a similar case.

Fowler later agreed in response to a suggestion made by Balfour, that copies of the letter also would be sent to the state's U.S. senators.

The chamber letter and the commissioners' resolution refer to the 92,000 acres taken by the government when the Bragg reservation was developed 1918-23; and the Little River Township 20,000 acres taken for the same development and finally transferred to Moore County January 1, 1958.

The commissioners' resolution says in its preliminary statements Hoke County was formed in 1911 of 268,000 acres, and when the government took the land for Bragg the area of the county was reduced to about 156,000 acres.

"... Hoke County has never received any form of revenues or compensation from the acreage lost to the U.S. government and ... the board of county commissioners feels that Hoke County and all other counties having active military reservations should pursue legislation authorizing compensation for the loss of the annual property tax revenue in the form of payments - in - lieu of taxes..."

The action on the chamber letter and the resolution was taken during the commissioners' mid-month meeting for July.

In other business, responding to another request made by Fowler, the commissioners adopted a motion authorizing the county manager, James Martin, to enter into an agreement with the state for county participation in the Involvement Council project. The project essentially will prepare and publish a directory of county public service offices and a map showing their locations. The state will provide the county \$5,000 but this will be a reimbursement after the county spends the money for the project.

## TAX MAPPING

The commissioners adopted a motion tentatively awarding John Furrage of Raeford, a land surveyor, the contract to make property tax maps of the county including Raeford and the land within the city's one - mile zoning perimeter, for \$42,500.

The tax maps will be used in conjunction with planimetric maps. The cost making the latter will be shared by Raeford and the county, because Raeford needs them for engineering purposes.

Furrage will make maps showing the boundaries of each piece of property.

The commissioners in a separate action adopted a motion formally accepting a grant of \$7,600 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help pay the tax - mapping costs.

## THOROUGHFARE PLAN

The commissioners postponed action on the county's proposed Thoroughfare Plan till after they meet Thursday with the Raeford City Council and a State Department of Transportation representative on a preliminary Thoroughfare Plan for the city.

The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the City Council chambers. Invited by Raeford City Manager Ron Matthews to the meeting with

the council and county commissioners are County Manager James Martin, Fowler and the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins, Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington, Raeford City Attorney Palmer Willcox and Hoke County Attorney Duncan McFadyen.

The city has been working with DOT in preparation of both a short - range and long - range Thoroughfare Plan. Matthews's memorandum on the scheduled meeting pointed out, and any plan adopted will affect not only the city but will be tied to long - range and short - range plans of the county.

He pointed out also that questions about truck traffic passing through downtown Raeford have been raised, and the Thoroughfare Study should address the truck traffic question and tie Raeford's plan to Hoke County's plan.

One question is the desirability of having through traffic bypass Raeford. Commissioners Danny DeVane and Mabel Riley said in effect during Thursday night's board meeting such a bypass would make the town "dry up." Mrs. Riley indicated that has been the effect bypasses have had on other towns.

## HOP

The commissioners postponed action on a Region N federal Housing Opportunity Plan till they had time to study it. The plan is proposed for the four counties of the region. Among other things, it identifies the federal housing available and housing assistance and types of housing needed.

## ENERGY PACKAGE

The commissioners adopted a resolution endorsing the energy proposals made in July by President Carter. The resolution urges the people also to abide by the energy policy and provides for establishment of a County Energy Council.

The discussion indicated the members of the council would be representative of all segments of the county's population.

## APPOINTMENTS

The commissioners adopted a motion appointing Smith McInnis to a two - year term on the County Jury Commission and Henry Maxwell to the Raeford Board of Zoning Adjustment for the unexpired portion of the term of J.H. Blythe. Blythe's term will end August 7, 1981. The vacancy was created by Blythe's resignation. The place on the board is for a representative of the city zoning area outside the city limits.

## MEDICAID BUDGET

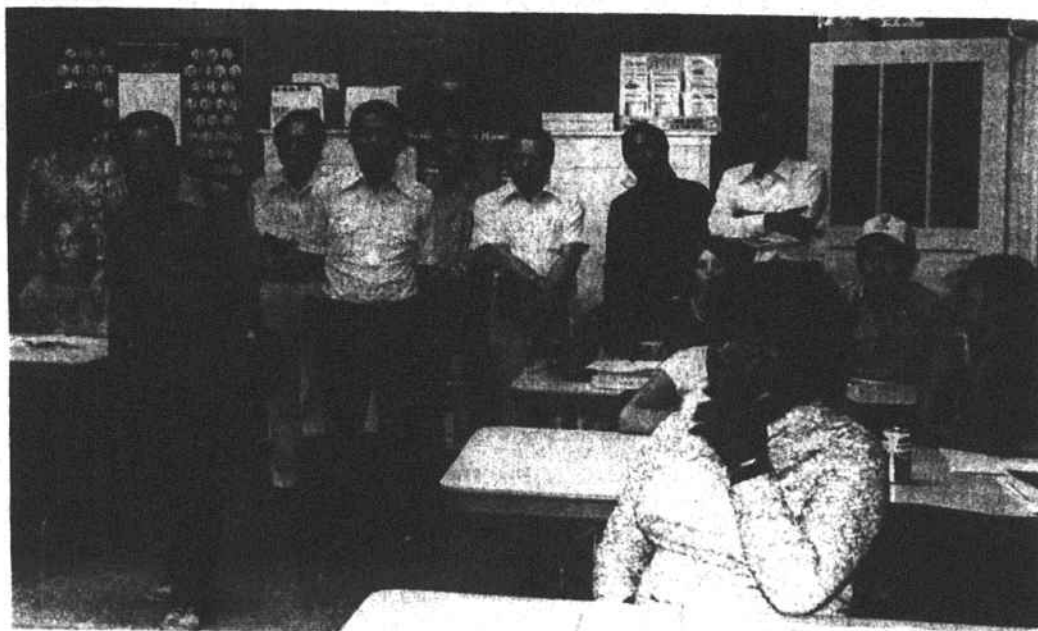
The commissioners decided to postpone till after the annual conference of their state association action on amending the county's allocation in the 1978-79 budget for Medicaid. The counties have been requested to increase their local allocations. Martin told the commissioners the Hoke Budget originally contained \$48,000 but the latest of a series of requested increases would bring the allocation to \$76,000.

The postponement was made on request of the state association.

## CERTIFICATION

The commissioners approved certification of the Pine Hill Fire Department and its roster of firemen and of firemen for the North Raeford, Hillcrest, Tyler-town, Antioch, Stonewall, West

See LAND Page 12



VISITING INDONESIANS -- Indonesian men, some carrying cameras, observe an adult education class including students and instructors in Raeford Thursday afternoon. They were among the eight Indonesian educators in the group.

## Observing Adult Education Program

## Indonesians Study Class Here

Eight educators from Indonesia studied a Sandhills Community College class in adult basic education in Raeford Thursday afternoon.

They may use for adult education classes in their home country some of the methods they observed here.

The class they visited is instructed by Mrs. Carrie Carter and is in the program headed by Eddie Coleman, the community college's director of adult basic education. The class, as other Sandhills adult education classes, is being held in the old County office Building on West Elwood Avenue.

The Indonesians were accompanied to Raeford by Tom Dudley, state director of adult basic education. Coleman helped with the visit here.

He told a reporter the visitors are among 24 Indonesians doing special study work at the University of Massachusetts. He said part of their program is to visit a state to see what the state is doing to provide adults with education in literacy, academics and vocational subjects.

North Carolina was one of the three states chosen for visits. The rest of the 24 are in two other groups, one visiting Arizona, and the other, Kentucky, the other states chosen.

Dudley said the Sandhills college class in Raeford was one of three they had visited up to then.

He said Sandhills was chosen because it has such a good over-all program for adults.

The visitors returned Friday to Massachusetts.

The 24 arrived in the United States about a month ago, some for two months and the others for six months. Dudley said.



OBSERVER, LEADERS -- An Indonesian educator (left) observes as Mrs. Carrie Carter speaks during the adult education class she instructs in Raeford in the Sandhills Community College program. The man at right is Eddie Coleman, the college's director of adult basic education. The observer was one of the eight Indonesian educators who visited the class Thursday.

## Board To Try Again To Auction House

The Hoke County Board of Education will put up its house at 705 Harris Avenue, residence for Hoke County High School principals, for sale at public auction in the next two to three months, County Schools Supt. Raz Autry said Monday.

Autry said the house was put up for auction four to five years ago, but wasn't sold because the highest bid wasn't high enough to be

acceptable.

He said the board has been wanting to get rid of the house for some time because of the expense and the necessity for computing the value as a residence to be deducted from a principal's supplement. He said the computation process has become complicated in recent times.

The newly appointed Hoke High principal, Lenwood Simpson, is

renting a house on Niven Street at his own expense from a private real estate firm, Autry said.

The superintendent said the house currently is occupied by the outgoing principal, Earl Oxendine, and his family. Oxendine is leaving the principalship to become the county school system's director of compensatory education.

Oxendine's contract for the new position doesn't provide for a

residence, Autry said.

The county pays the principal a supplement of \$2,500 per year to his salary. Simpson's total salary, Autry said, will be \$30,166 per year, and the state will pay all but the \$2,500 supplement.

Of the state salary, Simpson is receiving \$148 per month for having a degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Autry added.