

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past week has been a follow through of last week's report. Hot and humid during the days and the mornings have been foggy. From the long range forecast it seems as if the weather will be cooler for the next few days.

Labor Day has come and gone and there were more businesses open than I thought would be open. All the stores at the shopping center were open except for the drug store.

The News-Journal was open and the telephone was ringing most of the day. We had right much news turned into the office and besides that the ad department was at work and received the regular Monday advertisement as usual.

Of course it is always quiet when the government offices are closed and especially the post office.

So to those who hate to come to work on Monday morning now you had to say the same thing about Tuesday. Holidays are fine and are needed, but when you work in a time schedule such as getting out a newspaper, holidays require many hard hours ahead.

Last Wednesday Lt. General Thomas Tackaberry, post commander at Fort Bragg, was in town for a few hours. He came by the newspaper office along with Mayor John K. McNeill, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners John Balfour, Clyde Upchurch and Publisher Paul Dickson. Lt. Colonel Ron David, PAO officer for Fort Bragg, was also with the group.

The Paraglide, the post newspaper, was being readied for printing and the General took a tour of the plant.

He had also visited other points of interest in the county and city and seemed to be impressed by what he had seen.

From the indication of his appearance here last week everyone should be ready for a fine two years of working with the Army at Ft. Bragg. He was a fine gentleman.

Last week the lead story by Joe Holt in the paper has brought forth many telephone calls and it seems that funds will be raised to help the family mentioned in the story.

The telephones also were ringing wanting to know what the words "grass widow" meant. I didn't think anything about the words because they had been used around me all my life.

The words "grass widow"; a woman who is separated, divorced or lives apart from her husband. The comment that takes the top spot was the lady that said "she thought it was a woman whose husband smoked marijuana."

Of course with divorce something that is as regular today as "Cokes" or "apple pie" the expression could be lost from usage today. It certainly wasn't in my younger days. Anyway, the longer we live, the more we learn.

Last Thursday night Jim Attaway was in charge of the program for the Raeford Kiwanis Club. He introduced Willie Featherston, Jr. from the Extension office who spoke on the subject: Insulation. Willie gave an interesting talk backed up with a film strip and charts. But to have to talk really be tops, is when you are in a building that hasn't any insulation and the air conditioner doesn't work. Yes Willie made his point.

Don't forget the Bake and Yard Sale to be held Saturday beginning at nine a.m. at the Edenborough Shopping Center sponsored by the Lung Association. If you don't have anything to sell maybe you have something you would like to donate for them to sell.

Don't forget that school started Wednesday and the youngsters will be walking to school. So drive carefully when passing these school children.

At Commissioners' Meeting

Board Approves Alternate Truck Route, Juvenile Program

State Revenue Department Figures Show

Hoke Retail Sales Gross Up In 1978-79

Gross retail sales in Hoke County were nearly \$2 million greater in the past fiscal year than they were in fiscal 1977-78, State Department of Revenue figures show.

The Revenue Department report received here this week shows Hoke retail sales totaled \$35,675,439 between July 1, 1978, and June 30, 1979.

In the same period a year ago, the department report for that year shows \$33,477,147.

This brought gross collections of the state's 3 percent sales tax in Hoke to \$733,743.06 in the past fiscal year, and \$706,993.57 in 1977-78.

Of last year's gross sales, food

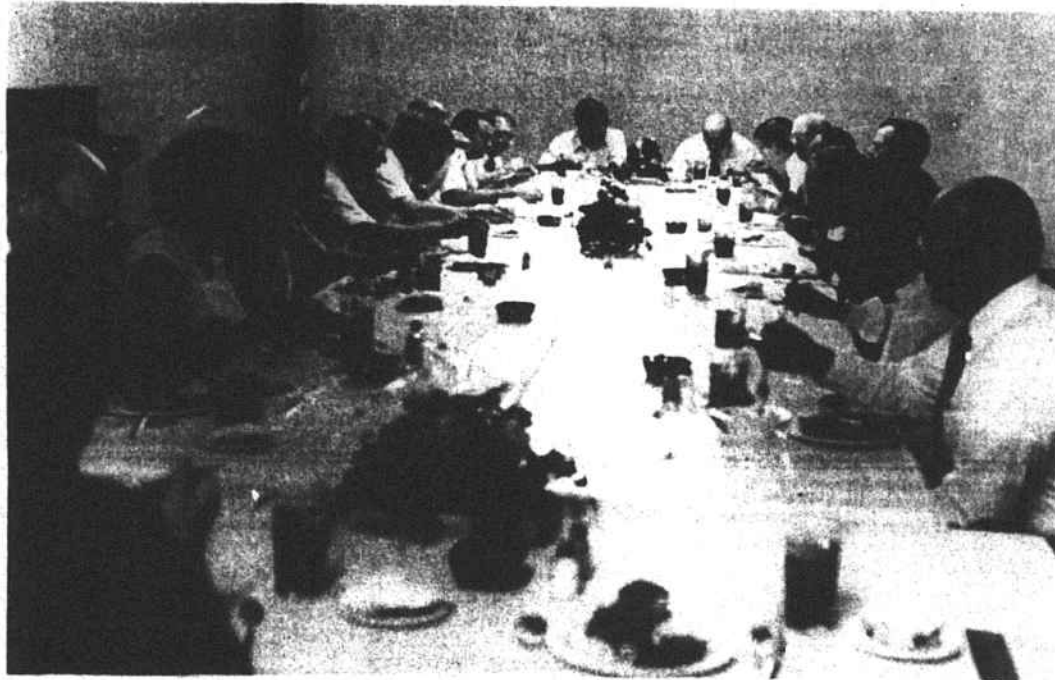
accounted for the largest single amount -- \$13,327,412, followed by \$8,064,719 for automotive products and \$5,592,958 for general merchandise.

In the previous year, food accounted for \$12,644,197, the largest single group, of the total sales, followed by \$7,669,863 for automo-

tive products, and \$5,266,135 for general merchandise.

Gross retail sales in Hoke in July were \$3,186,073, and in the previous month, \$3,455,602, a comparison of figures contained in department monthly reports shows.

Gross collections of the state sales tax were \$64,542.09 in July, and \$67,029.60 in June.



CITY-COUNTY DINNER -- Hoke County and Raeford city government leaders and guests are shown at the second of the series of periodic dinners started this year for discussion of subjects the city and county have in common. The Hoke County commissioners were hosts for this meeting, held August 28 at the Hoke County Civic Center. The Raeford City Council was host for the first, held March 27 in the same place. At the head of the table are John Balfour (left), chairman of the board of county commissioners, and Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr.

August Was Dry Furnace Here

Only 1.8 inches of rain fell and the average highest temperature was 95 degrees daily in Raeford during August, official records kept by Robert Gatlin show.

These figures make August one of the hottest and driest months Raeford has ever had. High levels of humidity increased the discomfort created by the high temperatures.

In August last year, Raeford had 5.5-inches. A total of 9.5 inches fell

in August 1977, and 3.6 inches in the same month in 1976.

No records for temperatures for August in past years are available.

Last month, the high temperatures were below 90 on only four days -- 84 on the 12th, and 86 each on the 13th, 16th, and 17th.

On four days, the temperature reached 100 and over before starting to decline. The highest was the 103 degrees recorded August 20. The other days which had highs of

100 or more were: August 8 -- 101; August 9 -- 102; and August 10 -- 100.

Rain fell on five days during the month and ranged down one-tenth inch on August 23 to eight-tenths inch on August 21. The amounts of rain that fell on the other days were .15 inch each on August 11 and 26, and .6 inch on August 27.

August 1979 faded into history Friday after the temperature reached a high of 97 degrees for the day.

TOTAL RAINFALL 1.8 INCHES SHOWN IN SQUARES			AUGUST 1979 RAEFORD, N. C.				HIGHER TEMPERATURES AVERAGE HIGH, 95 SHOWN IN CIRCLES			
FIRST QUARTER 1ST-30TH	FULL MOON 7TH	LAST QUARTER 14TH	96	98	99	98				
			1	2	3	4				
98	98	99	101	102	100	96				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15			
84	86	93	93	86	86	92				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
98	103	99	91	94	90	92				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
94	94	92	95	98	97					
26	27	28	29	30	31					NEW MOON 22ND

Chart prepared by Robert Gatlin shows the highest temperatures in circle above each August date and rainfall measure in square.

State Awards Hoke \$5,000

Gov. Jim Hunt announced last week the awarding of \$5,000 in state matching funds to Hoke County to improve the county's land records system.

Hunt said the grant was one of 10 being made this year to counties for a total of \$75,000.

"The state funds are being matched on a 50-50 basis with local dollars as a part of the state Land Records Management Program," Hunt explained.

"Hoke County has demonstrated a real interest in improving its system of land records management and these state funds will help the county in its effort," the governor added. Hunt said the county will receive the state funds at the completion of the project.

The county received \$15,100 in state matching funds in 1978 for the preparation of large scale maps for the town of Raeford. This year's project includes purchase of cadastral maps and parcel identifier numbers for Raeford.

Other counties receiving grants this year include: Ashe, Bladen, Chatham, Cleveland, Haywood, Iredell, Jackson, Nash and Surry.

The state Land Records Management Program was begun by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1977 when enabling legislation created a small staff. The 1978 session to the General Assembly allocated \$75,000 for grants to counties for improvements in records systems. An additional \$75,000 for matching grants was budgeted by the legislature for the 1979-80 fiscal year.

The North Carolina Land Records Program is a part of the state Department of Administration.

Benefit Successful

The benefit performance by the Glorybound Gospel Singers and the Gospelaires at Oxendine Elementary School near Red Springs Saturday night was a "grand success," it was reported.

The event was held to raise funds for medical costs and other expenses faced by the family of Betty Joyce Oxendine in Betty's illness and hospitalization at Washington's Walter Reed Hospital.

Betty is suffering from bone cancer, and her mother, Missouri Oxendine, is staying by her side at the hospital. With help from generous friends in the community, Betty will be fitted with an artificial leg to replace one she lost to amputation in August.

Russell Locklear, who is coordinating special fund-raising efforts to help the Oxendines, reported that contributions thus far have totaled \$714.

In addition to the offering taken (See BENEFIT, page 15)

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Tuesday approved a State Department of Transportation proposed alternate route to eliminate some of the through truck traffic in downtown Raeford.

The approval was contingent on approval of the proposal by the Raeford City Council. The commissioners adopted a related motion requesting the DOT to hold a public hearing on the proposal.

The action on the proposed alternate was taken after Commissioner Danny DeVane's motion to table the subject died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Mable Riley was unable to attend the meeting, a regular session for September.

The motion on the public hearing was advanced by John Balfour, chairman of the commissioners' board, who said the people concerned ought to have an opportunity to express themselves.

The City Council was included in the motion on the alternate because, Balfour pointed out, the roads would form the proposed alternate lie within the city's one-mile zoning area adjoining the city limits.

The DOT proposes use of SR 1149 and SR 1244 as the alternate for truck traffic using N.C. 211.

DeVane objected because, he said, the state agency made it appear that the alternate was the work of the county commissioners, and that people opposing the alternate would blame the county commissioners rather than DOT.

DeVane suggested that the resolution of the commissioners "approve the request of DOT" to change the truck route.

He also said the proposed alternate would not affect the petroleum-tanker truck traffic passing through downtown Raeford in using N.C. 20, the main concern of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, which first proposed last spring a truck route to bypass the Raeford business district.

HIGHVIEW DRIVE
In connection with roads also, the commissioners adopted a motion asking the state to consider putting into the state highway system Highview Drive, off SR 1425. Property owners have petitioned inclusion of the road, which is about eight-tenths mile long.

The commissioners also adopted a motion requesting action to improve roads on which improvements had been requested previously. The request was directed to Henry Jordan, Highway Division Eight engineer, and Tom Bradshaw, DOT secretary.

JUVENILES
The commissioners in other business approved a recommendation of the County Youth Task Force that an in-school suspension program be established for application to status offenders (runaways, truants, and other juveniles with behavior problems.)

The program approved Tuesday will be financed by the state Community Based Alternatives program. A similar program to be used at Hoke High starting this year was applied for and will be financed by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program.

The program approved this week is a replacement for the minibike program, which was eliminated by the Task Force last spring.

Mrs. Chris Guy, chairman of the Task Force, told the commissioners at Tuesday's meeting the county lost about 1,000 in its state expansion fund because no program was being operated in place of the minibike program, but said that it was better to have no program going than one of no value, even if the county did lose some funding.

In a previous meeting, the commissioners were told by County Juvenile Court Counselor David Kellum that because of the lack of an alternative to the minibike program the county was not in compliance with the state's 1975 Community-based Alternatives program act. He added, however, that the in-school suspension program did have public support,

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