

## At School Board Meeting

# Appointments Made, Graduation Discussed

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past week has been winter weather and for you late sleepers, the early birds have been wiping ice off the windshields in the mornings. The days have been nice with the temperature getting up into the 60s. I believe there was frost one morning, but when it is dark it is hard to tell if it is frost or dew.

According to the weather chart man, it was 34 degrees Monday morning. Time to get ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas and they will be here before you know it.

The Hoke High Bucks won last Friday night at Lumberton by the score of 14-9. This was the first conference win and brought their record over the 500 mark. They will be at home on Friday night and will play the Pinecrest team from Moore County. Kickoff is at 8 p.m. Go out and be a Buck Booster.

Along with many other folks from Hoke County, I was in Chapel Hill last Saturday. Now some of the folks came home happy and others found that the trip was a long ride. After the game I ran into Lawyer Bobby McNeill and he did say that it would be rough next week working with a man from Wake Forest. This is the truth, Bobby, but wouldn't it be worse if you were in the office across from the Raeford Presbyterian Church with the law firm of Moses, Diehl and Pate. So you see we should all look on the brighter side, even in defeat. Right - Ashwell Harward and Jake Austin.

The Harvey Warlicks have just returned from a trip through the northeast and I haven't had a chance to talk with Harvey about the trip. Someone told me that Harvey said there were six inches of snow in Vermont while they were there. Maybe I can get more information later on, but if you want it first hand, go out US 401 south and sit a spell with Harvey and listen to his trip through Yankee land.

Someone said that there was now plenty of parking space on Elwood Avenue. We certainly hope the new lot built by Southern National Bank will be of service, not only to the bank but to all merchants on Main Street. While the lot was being paved, it was almost impossible to get a parking place in the adjoining city lot.

To many people it may seem that we have too much parking on Elwood, but if you were on the street every day, you would see that the lots are filled during the rush hours, and they leave spaces on the street for customers who do not want to park very long.

If you don't have places for people to park these days, they will go somewhere else to shop.

A couple of pictures on the inside of the paper will show what occupied the corner before Southern National came to the city. Most of you will remember, but newcomers will be surprised.

Robert Gatlin was by the office last week and was telling me that Leo Fuller of Mt. Holly had spent the night with him recently. Leo lived here many years and finished high school here in the late 20s or early 30s. The Fullers lived in the house on Main Street now occupied by the Bill Sellars family. Robert said that Leo was amazed at the progress Raeford had made since he was in town last time.

Some of the things he commented on were the new Bank of

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### Commissioners Request Advertising

## Bids On Courthouse Ramp To Be Asked

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday night at their mid-month meeting for October made appointments to a council and a board, and authorized calling for bids to build an entry-ramp at the Courthouse for use of handicapped people.

The commissioners adopted a motion directing County Manager James Martin to request architect Sam Snowdon Jr. of Laurinburg to advertise for bids on construction of the ramp.

In other business, the board adopted motions to accept a \$5000 state Land Records Management grant and enter into a contract on the Older Adults Act.

The commissioners appointed to the Older Adults Advisory Council Willie McPhaul, W.P. Phillips, Ruby Duncan, Ken Witherspoon, Buena Melvin, and Commissioner Danny DeVane.

They also reappointed James Hunt and appointed Martin to our County Community Services board. Hunt's term runs to Oct. 1, 1980, and Martin's to Oct. 1, 1982.

The commissioners approved the report, submitted by Frank Baker of Pittard & Perry, CPA, of Raeford, of the audit of the county government's financial condition of the fiscal year ending last June 30.

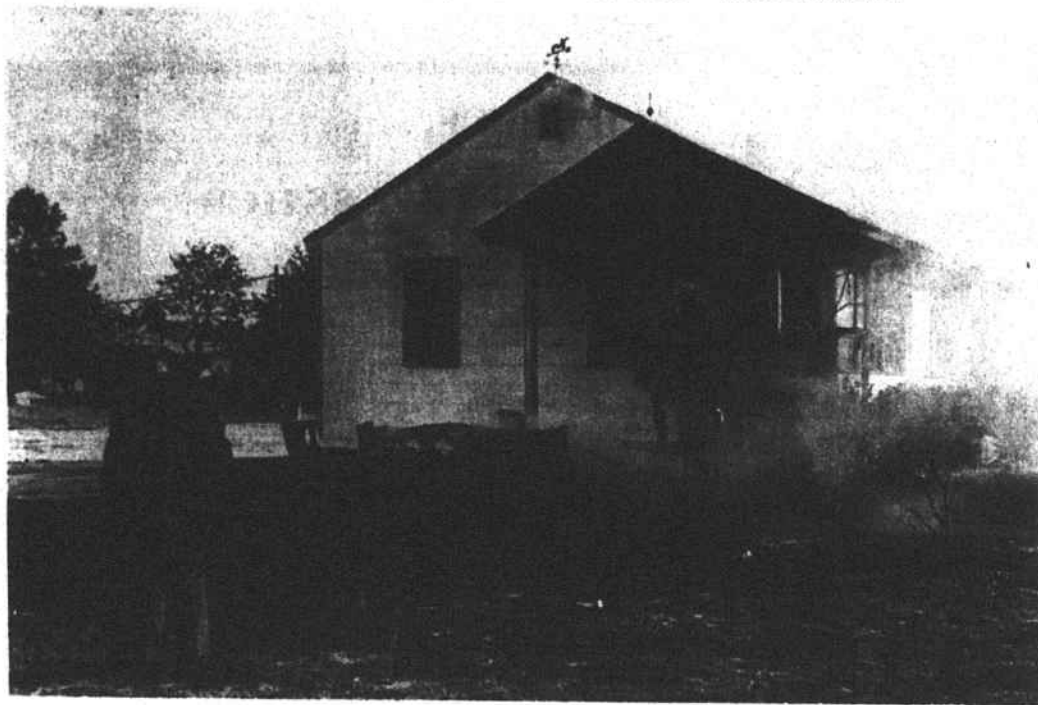
They tabled a proposal for a central depository and proposed reclassification of the County Health Department positions of Clerk III and nurse and a request for reimbursement of educational expenses.

In other business, the commissioners approved employing two

additional eligibility specialists for the County Department of Social Services. Department Director Ken Witherspoon explained to a reporter this was made possible by

redistributing of funds to take advantage of an improvement in state participation in funding and to improve services to the public. One specialist will work in the

food stamp program and the other in in-take, for income-maintenance programs, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Medical Assistance.



Raeford firemen pouring water on flames burning furniture taken from Dudley home behind them.

### Woman, Children Awakened by Smoke

## Fire Damages Home Here

Fire damaged the home of Tommy D. Dudley at 503 E. Fifth Ave., Raeford, Monday morning, but Mrs. Dudley and two small children who were asleep in the house when the fire started got out before they were injured, Raeford Assistant Fire Chief Robert Jackson reported.

He said Dudley's wife and the children "were lucky to get out" of the burning house in time.

The three were awakened by smoke, Jackson said. Dudley was away from home at work when the fire started.

He said the living room and kitchen were gutted, and windows

broken and doors burned, and most of the family's furniture and clothing damaged or destroyed. The two bedrooms and their furnishings were damaged, though less seriously, by smoke and heat, he added.

He said the damage amounted to \$8,000 to \$9,000 to the house, which was valued at \$12,000 to \$15,000. Jackson said the house was covered by insurance. Though the house wasn't destroyed, he said, it wasn't fit to live in, because of the damage, till it is repaired.

He said the fire started apparently in the electric stove and may have been caused by a short circuit. He said he was informed by members of the family that the stove hadn't been used Monday

morning. Jackson said the fire department received the report of the blaze at 8:36 a.m., and the firemen had it "knocked down" 30 seconds after they arrived. He said that was the fastest he'd seen a fire put under control in his 13 years as a fireman. He said the fire went under control as soon as water was put on it, the heat of the fire itself turning the water to extinguishing steam.

Mrs. Dudley and the children escaped through the living room door, Jackson said.

The fire was reported by telephone by Dale Norton, who lives at 505 E. Fifth Ave.

The Dudleys have been living in their one-story, two-bedroom home since 1970, Jackson said.

## Local Lions Hear District Governor

Lions District Gov. Bert Unger of Hamlet was guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Raeford Lions Club Oct. 8.

Unger's district is 31-E, which contains 58 Lions clubs. Professionally, he is associate editor of the

Richmond County Journal at Rockingham and has won several awards from the North Carolina Press Association for writing and photography. Besides his Lions Club work he has served as chairman of

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR HERE -- Lions District Gov. Bert Unger of Hamlet is shown at the Oct. 8 meeting of the Raeford Lions Club. He is third from left, with L-R, Club President Jack Kolb, and Zone Chairman Jasper Culbreth of Red Springs and, right, Deputy District Gov. Richard Morgan of Raeford.

### Off Shannon Road East of Raeford

## Deputies Harvest Pot Crops

Marijuana plants with an estimated "street" value of at least \$10,000 were found growing in hog pens in woods in two places off the Shannon road five to six miles east of Raeford about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department reported.

Sheriff's Department Detective James Peterkin and Deputy Sheriff Joshua Brown went after the plants after, Peterkin said, "concerned citizens" informed the sheriff's

department the plants were there. Peterkin said he "harvested" some of the marijuana from one pen, then he and Brown got the rest from the other. He said hogs were in one of the pens but the other was vacant.

No arrests were made at the time but the investigation is continuing.

One batch was found about six miles and the other about five miles from Raeford. Shannon Road turns off N.C. 211.

The Hoke County Board of Education at its monthly meeting Monday night discussed proposals for a high school graduation policy, heard a report on last year's audit of the county school systems' financial condition, and adopted a resolution appointing two teachers, a teacher aide, and seven people to food service jobs.

The board members also heard explanations of the teacher-aide pay situation. Board member Mina Townsend and County Schools Supt. Raz Autry's explanations indicated the reason for discontent with the 2.5 percent pay raise given Hoke aide was misunderstanding of the complainants of charges in the state's pay system. Autry indicated the complaints have come from about half a dozen of the 60 aides the county employs. He said all have received explanations through their principals.

Appointed to school system teaching positions by the board through adoption of a motion approving supervisor recommendations were Betsy C. Bailey as a language-arts teacher for the eighth grade at Upchurch Junior High School and Rachel Lee Kenion as a teacher at the J.W. Turlington School Alternate Learning Center.

Vicky McMillan was appointed a teacher's aide at West Hoke School, to replace Mary Culp.

Named to food service positions were Jerry Beatty and Connie Locklear at Hoke County High School; Bonnie Blue and Graham McNeill at Upchurch; Carolyn Jones at Scurlock; Jessie Bratcher at West Hoke; and Beverly McRae at South Hoke.

The board in other business deferred to its November meeting adoption of a high school graduation policy. The question involved is which students should be permitted to participate in the yearly graduation exercises.

Autry told the board this is the first school year the state is requiring students to pass the competency test to get a regular diploma. He said that under the state rules only students who complete requirements can get regular high school diplomas; what the others get is up to the local boards. What the others get for completing four years of high school but not meeting requirements for diplomas are "certificates of completion."

Students who would not meet requirements for a regular diploma would include mentally handicapped.

Autry, replying to a question from a member of the board, said one school system has names of students called out at graduation without statements that the students are getting regular diplomas or certificates.

He suggested that the policy could state that students who complete requirements are to receive a diploma; and, with Mrs. Townsend suggesting changes in phrasing, all others shall be awarded certificates of completion "and shall take part in graduation exercises."

The report of the financial condition audit was presented by Frank Baker of Pittard & Perry, Certified Public Accountants, of Raeford.

In other business, Autry suggested the board consider leasing vans to solve the problem of transportation of athletes other than football players but added that a regular bus will be needed also by the 1980 football season. He said three vans holding 15 people each would serve the needs of people in the other sports. Autry quoted figures he obtained and said the only catch in it was the dealer wanted payments of 12 months a year in a three year lease, but the vans would be needed only the nine months which make up the school year.

Autry said he would get figures from two other dealers and present them to the board at its November meeting.

He also suggested chartering the needed bus as an alternative to buying one.

Autry also informed the board he had accepted appointment to a State Division of Schoolhouse Planning committee for Duplin County for Oct. 22-25 and also has accepted an invitation to speak at a national meeting in Anaheim.

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