

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The Bethel Presbyterian Church annual Ingathering will be held today (Thursday starting at 11 a.m. and continuing until 2 p.m. The usual plates of barbecue and chicken salad will be served.

Besides the good food, it is always nice to see old friends and enjoy the fellowship of everyone there. Hope to see you there.

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Someone mailed me a bulletin from the First Baptist Church of Hamlet and made a notation on the front of the bulletin that an article on the inside of the bulletin might be of interest.

In the bulletin under the head, "Pastor's Word" was the following: "Sunday is 'Mrs. Bessie Nash Day'. We honor Mrs. Nash for the many years of faithful service to our church. She and her husband, Jacob Daniel Nash, Sr., through a labor of love, spent over five years compiling the information Mrs. Nash used in writing the History of Hamlet First Baptist Church. In today's 'Voice' we feature the pictures of these books. If you would like to purchase the books, Mrs. Nash will be glad to autograph your copy. This history contains a significant record of the highlights of our heritage.

"Again we say thank you to Mrs. Nash and pay honor to her on this day. She will speak to us during morning worship and the pastor will conclude the service with a meditation and invitation."

For many of you readers, Mr. and Mrs. Nash reside at the Open Arms Rest Home here in Raeford. I have had the opportunity to talk with Mrs. Nash on several occasions and a couple of times on subjects that concerned the book that she and her husband wrote. Congratulations to the writers.

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An article elsewhere in the paper tells about the honor bestowed on Ethelynde Ballance, who retired from the Raeford United Methodist Church. She has become a familiar person around Raeford and will soon have been here long enough to call a native.

Miss Ballance came here in September of 1959 and has worked with many different pastors during that time. We know that she will be missed at the church and we wish for her many years of happy retirement.

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Lester Seals of Austin, Texas was by the office last Tuesday. He and his wife were here visiting relatives and especially his mother, who resides in the local Open Arms Rest Home.

He was born and raised in Hoke County and finished high school here in 1940, just in time to leave with the National Guard unit that was inducted into Federal service in September of that year. Lester, along with my brother Spec, and this writer served together for over five years before being separated. We went overseas together and came back to OCS and then went to Texas.

When Spec and I went to the Philippine Islands we were separated from Seals.

Lester now works for the Civil Defense Office in Austin and his health is good. It was nice to see him and always enjoy a visit from old friends.

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Another visitor by the office last week was Jim Tillman of Hickory. He and his wife were on the way to visit relatives at the beach for the weekend and he was visiting a few old friends in the city.

Jim worked at the plant that is now Tex-Elastic in either the late 40s or early 50s. I can't recall right off whether it was Para-Thread or U.S. Rubber at that time. He was the plant's production superintendent and lived in the home that Mrs. W.E. Freeman lived in for many years at the corner of Prospect Avenue and Bethel Rd.

Tillman was a captain in the National Guard and served with the late Bill Lamont and T.B. Lester along with Paul Dickson and myself. His health was good and his wife was the same cheerful lady

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## Kay Thomas Clubwoman Of Year

# Raeford Clubs Win Top District Awards

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## Teacher's Dismissal Is Voted

Action to dismiss a South Hoke School teacher for "neglect of duty" was to be initiated Tuesday afternoon on motion of the Hoke County Board of Education.

The "no" vote was cast by Mrs. R.S. McNair, who said she felt it should be determined whether the teacher's problem is a health problem.

The action of the board affects Mrs. Miriam Letie, who teaches the third grade in the program for gifted children.

Specifically, the board at emergency personnel meeting Tuesday afternoon adopted a motion that "Miriam Letie be suspended without pay, under the (state) Teacher Tenure Action, for neglect of duty, and that the superintendent immediately initiate dismissal proceedings."

Supt. Raz Autry said he would send Mrs. Letie a registered letter Tuesday afternoon informing her of the board's action.

Mrs. Letie, who has been teaching in the Hoke County school system since April 5, 1973, is covered by the provisions of the state act, by virtue of the length of her service.

Autry, replying to a reporter's question after the board meeting ended, said South Hoke Principal

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L-R. Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Thomas with district trophies.

## Incumbents Unopposed

# City Election Set For Tuesday

Raeford's biennial municipal election will be held Tuesday but the mayor and the five present councilmen are unopposed for reelection.

On the ballots are mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and City Councilmen Bob Gentry, James (Benny) Mc-

Leod, Mayor Pro Tem Graham Clark, Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr., and Sam Morris.

Each is running for a new two-year term. McNeill, Clark, and McLeod are up for their sixth terms. Morris for his fourth,

Hedgpeth his second and Gentry for their third.

Gentry has been serving since 1976 when he was appointed to fill the unexpired portion of the term of David Lovette and was elected the following year to his first regular term.

## In 'This Is Your Life' At Raeford United Methodist Church

# Ethelynde Ballance Honored For 20 Years' Church Service

Miss Ethelynde Ballance was honored Saturday night by the members of Raeford United Methodist Church for her 20 years of fulltime service to the church with a covered dish supper.

The honor was the Ethelynde Ballance Celebration on the occasion of her retirement, and it came also on the eve of her 62nd birthday. The tribute was given in "This Is Your Life," with friends and present and former associates participating in telling the story of her life and service, starting with her birth.

The complete text of the program follows.

Ethelynde, tonight is your night. We are here to honor you. We and your many friends want to present this "Your Life."

It all started at Lake Landing, North Carolina, on October 28, 1917, when you were born at the home. This house was built in 1916 in Hyde County for your mother and father as a bride and groom.

These first years were happy years for you and your only sister, Bernice. The canal on the back of the house and the ditch on the side were always a source of finding fun things to do. From this ditch, protected by a fence, you caught many crabs.

You played with them, according to your mother, you even tamed them. But they were always thrown back into the ditch.

There was a favorite apple tree that you were forbidden to climb. But climb it you did, and you were unable to get down. So a limb had to be cut out of that tree to get you down. The spanking that was promised never came.

The Methodist Church became a strong force in your early life. Your childhood church, very close to your home, blew down in 1940. Your family store was used for a church building until the church could be rebuilt.

Your father's store, a stone throw from your house, was always the center of the community. That store building is still very special in your memory as you have a coffee table and a harvest table made from the weather boarding of that old store.



Miss Ballance in her church office Tuesday morning ... She'll keep working till the end of the year.

You and your cousin, Leon Ballance, started first grade together. You sat in one of those double desks. Tonight we are delighted to have with us your (that) cousin, Leon Ballance of Englehard, North Carolina. Leon would you come up and give Ethelynde a love around the neck?

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In school, I hear you were never pleased with less than a hundred on your work. You were always an avid reader and walked away with the medals and honors.

Then in the eighth grade, your life was made richer when a very special person, Jeanette Dillard moved to New Holland. You and Jeanette were great friends, and strong debaters. Jeanette is now Mrs. E.D. Robinson of Mt. Holly, North Carolina. Jeanette, would you come up, and tell us a few things about this lasting friendship?

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I hear in those days you asked to

drive the car to the post office. You were refused permission but your father would allow Jeanette to drive the family car. You wondered why as Jeanette was younger than you were.



Bishop Robert M. Blackburn [L] of the Methodist Church's Raleigh area and Dr. Paul Carruth [R] of Fayetteville, superintendent of the church's Fayetteville District, were among those who participated in the program honoring Miss Ballance Saturday night.

The Raeford Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club and Kay Thomas of the Raeford Woman's Club received top awards of District 9, North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, Thursday at the district meeting in Hamlet.

The Raeford Woman's Club received the district Cooperation and Involvement award for the next year, the most important community service award given by the district.

It also received the Elizabeth Maynard Youth Award for outstanding work with young people.

Mrs. Thomas was named Clubwoman of the Year for the past year among the members of the district Women's Clubs. Mrs. Betty Knox is president of the Raeford Woman's Club.

The Raeford Junior Woman's received the district Pinkie Jackson Art Award, the foremost honor for work and achievements in arts programs, including drama.

The club's president, Mary Stanley, placed second for the title of district Junior Clubwoman of the year.

The judges consider a woman for selection as Clubwoman of the Year on her record of activities in her community and church, and her club work on local, state and district levels.

The Junior Woman's Club also placed second for the of the district Education Department, in Conservation, and in Home Life.

The Maynard award was given to the Raeford Woman's Club for activities, including the club's sponsorship of the campership outing July 2 - 9 for 24 Hoke County children at Camp Monroe, and working with the students at Sandhills Youth Center at McCain and O'Berry Center, for handicapped children, at Goldsboro; and providing bean bags for school children. The club also recently obtained large, used tires and cable spools from Hoke County businesses for conversion into playground equipment for Scurlock School, but this work will be counted on the club's 1979-80 record of community service.

The Junior Woman's Club won the top arts award for its sponsoring and presenting the musical comedy, "Spring for Sure," acted and directed by Hoke County people; and its work in other forms of art during the past year.

"Spring for Sure," given the last two weekends in March, was a popular and financial success, and its profits are being invested in the club's other art work. Mrs. Stanley said Thursday afternoon after returning from Hamlet. She said the club also plans to present another musical comedy the last two weekends of March 1980.

The club's report for the information of the judges of the district competition follows.

Raeford, Hoke County, is a rural agricultural community of less than 5000 citizens and is essentially culturally deprived.

To emphasize the Arts, the Raeford Junior Woman's Club has worked closely with the senior high students and instructors, encouraging the students to take an active part in our local arts festival i.e., sewing, public speaking, drama, voice, musical instruments, photography, and visual arts. Last year we had students representing our club and District 9 in the "arts", they were asked to audition for parts in our musical comedy "Spring For Sure" along with other citizens of our community. Response was tremendous!

Although our club is relatively small (17 members) we have always been hard working and set our goals high. We were determined to make our first production a success. Everyone joined in to help.

We solicited the help of the Raeford Woman's Club to sell Patron sponsorships, the Senior Citizens to make the thousands of dogwood blooms, the Hoke County Youth Council to put the blooms on live trees, the Home Extension Club to make costumes, the High School Art Students to work on the set scenery, the High School Carpentry Class to construct a set (along with our husbands and other willing souls), the local newspaper and radio station for publicity, the Jaycees to usher during each of the four performances, the Juniorettes to take up tickets and pass out programs at show time, and last

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