

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather chart that appears in this week's paper shows that we had almost record rainfall for November. If the temperature was recorded on the chart I believe that it would set a record. It has been below freezing for the past five or six mornings and I can't remember this many days being this cold in November and December.

The forecast is for warmer weather the remainder of the week and then maybe the furnace will get some rest for a few days.

Someone was complaining about the temperature in the council room at City Hall Monday night and this brought forth from Commissioner Graham Clark that a state official had been by his station Monday and he had to sign that he would not turn his thermostat above 65 degrees.

I had heard about the request to set the thermostat at 68 degrees but what agency was requiring a 65 degree setting is new to me. Graham said something about service stations, but I didn't get the complete information. Maybe something will come out in the next day or two that will put some light on the subject.

Have you purchased your tickets to the Pancake Supper? That is the Raeford Kiwanis Club's annual event which will be held Friday night starting at 5 o'clock at the Gibson cafeteria.

This is an "all you can eat" affair, so if you like pancakes and sausage, now is the time to fill up. Tickets can be purchased from any Kiwanian or you can get one at the door that night.

So come out and join the fun and fellowship.

Letters were mailed from Raleigh last week concerning the membership drive of the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Society. If you received a letter and haven't sent in your check, please do so at once.

When you do send it in, please take notice of this box number - 962.

The number that is in the letter is 92 and this is not the correct number.

So if you haven't returned your check or when you get ready to do so, please send it to P.O. Box 962 and this will save time and trouble, not only to the Symphony treasurer, but to the Post Office Department also.

Please be careful of leaving a fire burning in your stove or fireplace. If you have been reading the papers lately, you will come across where a house or apartment has been burned and in many instances lives have been lost because of these fires.

Most houses of this day and age were built for central heat for the use of fuel oil and gas. Now with the cost of these heat makers, a goodly number of people are turning to wood. Many fireplaces were put in homes for looks and not for their use, like in my younger days. They are not as safe as the ones built for that use only.

So if you are going to use your fireplace, or if you purchase a stove to use for heating your home, please have your chimney checked out before you build a fire and then leave it to burn. So many of the chimneys nowadays won't draw and besides burning your home, you could smoke it up.

So remember that, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Bill Lancaster gave me an article that was joking about wood stoves, but since so many fires have occurred since then, I believe I will hold it until a later date.

Thanks anyway, Bill.

The Hoke High Bucks play Seventy - First here Friday night at the local gym. So eat pancakes and

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Commissioners OK Applying

\$30,000 Sites Study Grant Sought

Mrs. Letie Resigns As Teacher

Mrs. Miriam Letie has resigned as a teacher in the Hoke County school system.

County Schools Supt. Raz Autry said Monday Mrs. Letie submitted her resignation in a letter received last week from her by County Schools Supt. Raz Autry.

Mrs. Letie gave no reason for resigning.

The county board of education by a 4-1 vote adopted a motion Oct. 30 stating that Mrs. Letie be suspended without pay for neglect of duty and the superintendent immediately initiate dismissal proceedings.

Mrs. Letie was the teacher of the gifted - children's class at South Hoke School and had taught in the county system for the past six years.

The vote against adoption of the motion was cast by Mrs. R.S. McNair, who said she felt it should be determined whether the teacher's problem was a health problem.

The board acted after hearing a report that Mrs. Letie had been absent from her classes periodically for 20 1/2 of the first 38 school days of the current fall term.

Mrs. Letie had requested a hearing before a Review Committee, under the provisions of the state Teacher Tenure Act, and a hearing had been scheduled for Nov. 27. Autry advised a reporter that the hearing had been postponed to Dec. 13 because Mrs. Letie could not be reached to be served with official paper in reference to the hearing.

Temporary Layoffs Made

Fifty - three employees of the Raeford plant of Faberge, Inc., have been laid off for 2 1/2 weeks and at least 100 more will be for two weeks in January for inventory-taking.

August Zitzman, the plant manager explained Friday this was something done each year, saying it was nothing new.

Such layoffs for inventorying are annual occurrences in many corporations.

The Raeford plant had 350 people working following the layoffs, Zitzman also said, replying to another question.

Mrs. Cribbs Dies In Fire In North Raeford Home

Mrs. James L. Cribbs, 48, died apparently of smoke inhalation Saturday night in a fire of undetermined cause that damaged her home, 422 College Dr., north of Raeford.

Her body was found in bed in the one - story brick home about 8:30, soon after about 10 North Raeford Fire Department men, headed by Fire Chief George Baker, extinguished the blaze within 30 minutes after the North Raeford depart-



L - R, Councilmen Hedgpeth, Gentry, Morris, Clark and McLeod taking oath of office.

Start New Terms

Mayor, Councilmen Sworn

Raeford's Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and the members of the City Council were sworn into office Monday night for new two - year terms shortly before starting their regular monthly meeting for December.

McNeill and Councilmen Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr., Graham Clark, Sam Morris, Bob Gentry, and Benny McLeod were reelected November 6 in the biennial municipal election with no opposition other than from four write - in candidates who received a vote each.

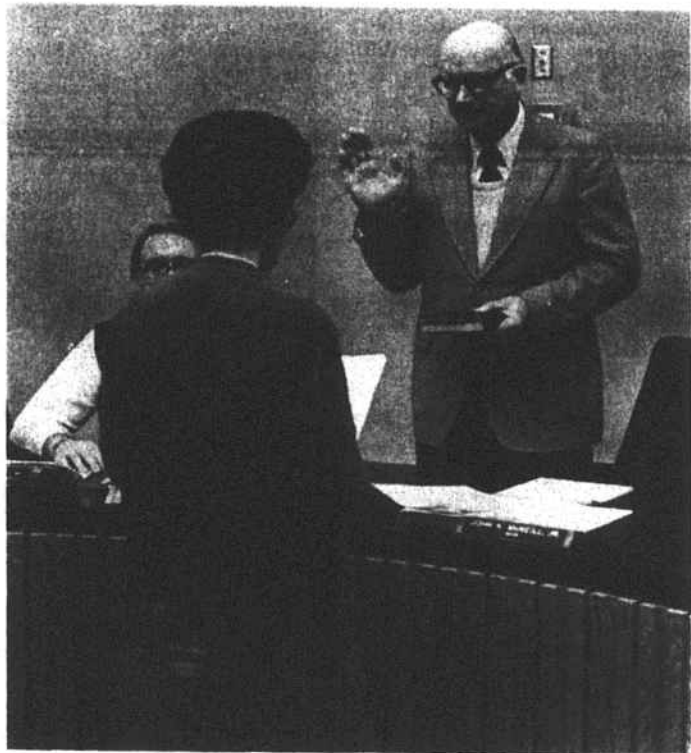
The oaths of office were administered by Mrs. Juanita Edmund, clerk of Hoke County Superior Court.

In the regular business meeting the mayor and councilmen heard City Finance Officer Helen Huffman review a financial statement prepared by computer for the period ending Nov. 30. She distributed copies of the statement to the mayor, councilmen and City Attorney Palmer Willcox.

Members of the council agreed that every six months would be sufficiently frequent for them to be provided with the financial statements.

City Manager Ronald L. Matthews said The Bank of Raeford and Southern National Bank have

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Mayor McNeill is sworn in by Mrs. Edmund.

ment received the fire call from State Highway Patrol Sgt. D.L. Minshew, who lives near the Cribbs home.

Baker said Tuesday Mrs. Cribbs was alone in the house at the time the fire occurred. Her husband, James L. Cribbs was at work at nearby Burlington Menswear.

Raeford Fire Department men and equipment stood by at the scene to act if needed to help fight the fire and to protect nearby

homes from sparks from the burning house. The neighboring homes were not affected, however, Baker said.

The kitchen and den of the three - bedroom Cribbs home were severely damaged, and smoke damaged other rooms but apparently not seriously.

The fire chief said the fire started in the den in a corner near a small table and a television set.

He said Mrs. Cribbs might have survived if her bedroom door had been shut. He said the door of the bedroom across the hall from Mrs. Cribbs's was shut and the room was not damaged. He said the heat made by the flames was so intense that it melted glass in the hall the bedrooms opened on. It takes heat of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit to melt glass.

Baker said the firemen didn't know that Mrs. Cribbs was in the house till they got there. He said someone broke a window to try to get her out but was prevented by the heat of the fire from entering.

He said he, volunteer fireman Gib Bernhardt, another volunteer fireman, and three members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad found Mrs. Cribbs's body.

Baker said Cribbs talked with Mrs. Cribbs by telephone at about 7:30 p.m. at home, and she was all right then. About a half hour later, he said, Cribbs was told his house was on fire.

He said the North Raeford department is grateful to the Raeford Fire Department, the Rescue Squad, the State Highway Patrol, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department and the Raeford Police

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday approved a proposal that an application be made for a \$30,000 federal grant to help finance an Industrial Sites Feasibility and Selection Study in connection with industrial development.

The proposal was made by Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

He said the study would include a master plan for approved sites and that the approved sites would be controlled by the county. This will allow the industry committee to be selective about what industry comes into the county. A prepared list of sites also will give the chamber people something to show prospects.

The study, which will be made by a professional, will show the best places for locations for industries.

The federal grant will be sought from the Economic Development Administration and will pay 75 percent of the cost, but the remainder, the county share, can be made up of "in kind" payments, Fowler said.

The fund sought constitute a technical assistance grant.

Fowler said the chamber will do the industrial work but under the direction of the county commissioners.

COURTHOUSE RAMP

The commissioners also at their Monday meeting approved the low bid of \$5,029.50 to build for the convenience of physically handicapped people a wooden ramp at the East Edinborough Avenue entrance of the Courthouse.

The bid was filed by Foster Construction Co. The second lowest bid was \$5,047.16, filed by Ratley Construction Co.

FT. BRAGG

The commissioners were informed at the meeting that the county is not qualified to receive federal payments in lieu of taxes on Ft. Bragg land acquired from the county because the land is "nonactive." However, Congressman Charles Rose's office is working to change the status to include active.

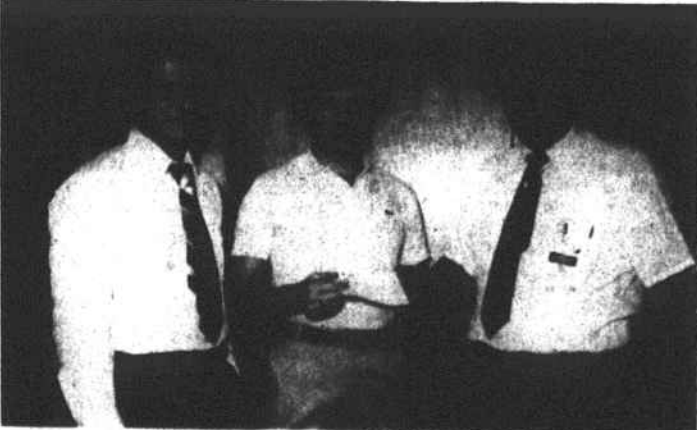
The information was provided by Jane Fonvielle of the congressman's staff. She appeared at the board's meeting.

The government acquired 92,000 acres of Hoke land for part of the development of the military reservation in 1918-23, and Hoke's Little River Township composed of 20,000 acres in connection with the same project was transferred to Moore County Jan. 1, 1958.

The reductions left Hoke County with a total area of 156,000 acres.

Congress in 1976 passed the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act.

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BURLINGTON DONATION - Tom Howell, president of the Hoke County United Fund, is shown receiving the donation of the Burlington Menswear Raeford Plant and Dyeing Plant to the 1979 United Way campaign. L-R: Harry Williams, personnel manager of the Raeford plant; Howell; and Ashwell Harward, personnel manager of the Dyeing Plant.

62 Per Cent Of UW Goal Reached

About 62 per cent of the 1979 Hoke County United Way goal of \$24,331.08 has been raised, fund raising co-chairman Steve Phillips reported Tuesday morning.

He said generous corporate pledges and contributions have been received and pledge cards distributed throughout the county. The cards will be picked up this

week by campaign workers, he added.

He advised people who want to give but have not been contacted to get in touch with United Way solicitors.

The campaign was launched Nov. 19, and the fundraising volunteers are trying to at least reach the goal by Dec. 15.

Yule Gift Idea: Smoke Detector

The Raeford Fire Department has a suggestion for a Christmas gift: a smoke detector.

Smoke detectors are available at the fire department.