

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The little rain Christmas morning wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of the youngsters as they played with their gifts. All in all the weather over the holidays was about perfect. The temperature Monday got up to 72 degrees and it was perfect for outdoor activities.

As this is being written Wednesday morning, most things are closed and it is peaceful and quiet in Raeford. The hustle and bustle of exchanging gifts will begin tomorrow.

Another Christmas come and gone, but before you know it, it will be Christmas 1980.

Correction

A letter from the members of the Freeman family asks that I correct a couple of things that appeared in the obit of their mother last week.

Quoting from the letter "After leaving the A&R Railroad Co., Mr. Freeman went into the furniture business, (not dry goods) with stores in Raeford, Fayetteville and Aberdeen. His health failed, but not his business. Also in lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Agnes Freeman Youth Fund at the First Baptist Church."

We are sorry about the errors and hope that the above will clarify the article.

Another letter was received last week and we believe that it is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Morris: Thank you for the notice, herewith enclosed also my check. I do enjoy "The News-Journal". Find your column always interesting.

I am sure that not only my gratitude, but that of the many other Senior Citizens appreciate your kindness in reducing the price of the Journal for us. That's really quite a nice gift.

A Merry Christmas and a happy 1980 to you.

Mrs. F.M. Bain

While on the subject of Christmas gifts: how about this one?

Carolyn Conoly Riddle, who lives in Kearney, Mo., received an unusual Christmas present this year from her son, Jamie Faircloth. Jamie secretly mailed his grandmother, Mrs. Ruby Conoly an airplane ticket to Missouri. When she arrived at the airport, Jamie took his grandmother to his home and put her in a very large box. He then called his mother to come and open her Christmas present. We are sure she was happily surprised to find her mother in the box. Now top this for a gift!

A cartoon in "Friends", the magazine for Chevrolet, was one that almost anyone with a telephone can enjoy. It shows a man answering the phone in his pajamas and with a look that shows it is about three in the morning. His wife is also pictured in the bed.

The caption reads, "No, I had to get up anyway. The phone was ringing."

How many times have you been awakened to the ring of the phone and from the other end someone would say, "Did I wake you up?"

A call last week came from Jim Taylor, a former editor of The News-Journal who now lives in Washington, D.C. He had seen an item in The Washington Post about the Cameron incident and was inquiring further concerning it.

He said that he was doing fine and sends regards to all his friends in Hoke County. Jim is an administrative assistant to Congressman Stephen Neal and works along with Don Abernethy, former school superintendent of Hoke County.

To each and everyone a happy New Year!

1979: Year in Hoke County In Review

Here are some of the main events that happened in Hoke County during 1979. Hoke people had their tragedies and court actions, too, but, to avoid reviving old sorrows and other painful memories needlessly, these are not recounted.

Month by month, here are principal events of the past year's first half. Those of the second half will be published in next week's edition of The News-Journal.

JANUARY

Local school officials were pleasantly surprised by the low percentage of Hoke County students failing the state competency tests -- 11 percent, and 30 percent of those who failed were identified as educable handicapped. County forecasts before the tests had run as high as 30 percent of all county students taking the tests fail. County forecasts made before the tests were that as high as 30 percent of the county students would fail.

Mrs. Susan McKenzie is leaving as administrative assistant of the County Health Department Jan. 25 after serving in the position

FEBRUARY

George Small, a 1975 Hoke County High School graduate continued starring in football at North Carolina A and T College impressively enough to be named to the Black All America team for the 1978 season. His selection was announced to The News-Journal this month.

Hoke County's rate of unemployment, the state's highest among individual counties in 1978 at 12.2 percent in January 1978, had dropped to 7.2 percent in December, it was announced this month.

Dr. Marcus Raynor Smith, a retired Raeford dentist, received

slightly more than seven years. The Hoke County Board of Education asked the county commissioners for county federal revenue-sharing funds to build a multipurpose addition each to the West Hoke and Scurlock schools.

Dr. Julius Franklin Jordan, a Raeford dentist who was a Hoke County civic and church leader and a former county commissioner, died the morning of Jan. 22 in Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst. He was 59.

the Raeford Kiwanis Club's Hoke County Citizenship Man of the Year Award for 1978 at the club's annual ladies' night dinner at the Southern Pines Elks Lodge. The report was published in The News-Journal of Feb. 1. The annual dinner was held the night of Jan. 27. It also celebrated the club's 55th birthday.

Thomas Campbell of Hoke High won his third consecutive 4-A Division IV wrestling championship. He won the 185-pound class titles of 1979 and 1978, and the 167-pound crown in 1977.

The relocation of one Hoke County business and establishment of a new one were announced at a breakfast meeting of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce. They are the current real estate, construction, and credit-reporting business to be consolidated and relocated; and the new Pilot Computer Systems, Inc., which will build computer systems and provide computer services. All will be housed in the 68-year-old building at 227 N. Main St., formerly occupied by Hoke Auto. The building will be renovated.

A storm Feb. 18 (a Sunday) dumped 10 inches of snow on Hoke

County and brought, as Sheriff David Barrington put it, "everything to a standstill here."

County Agricultural Extension Chairman Wendall Young reported this month Hoke farm income in 1978 topped \$20 million gross, about \$4 1/4 million over the 1977 total.

Lloyd P. Horne will start work March 1 as the new administrator of the Hoke County Health Department. He has been associate director for administration for the Fayetteville Area Health Education Center in Fayetteville the past four years.

MARCH

The damage from the heavy snow and high winds of Feb. 18 has caused the U.S. Department of Agriculture to name Hoke County a disaster area. This means farmers can get government loans at five percent interest to repair storm damage.

Unchurch Milling & Storage Co.'s four-story building, the most prominent landmark on Raeford's skyline the past 32 years is being torn down. Its site will become part of the parking lot for the new office building of The Bank of Raeford.

Freddie O'Neal, a Hyde County native, is leaving as an agent for the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service to join the Extension staff of Jones County April 1.

Reviewer finds the Raeford Junior Woman's Club musical comedy, "Spring for Sure," hilarious.

APRIL

A \$50 reward is being offered to anyone who aids in the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fire which damaged a backdrop stage curtain of the Hoke County High School gymnasium. The damages were about \$100.

Raeford and Hoke County will share the costs of mapping. The Raeford City Council at its April meeting provided that \$20,000 of its federal revenue-sharing funds be used for part of the city's \$35,885.98 share. The city and county need different kinds of maps, but both need the same planimetric maps. The county's share will be \$13,310.06.

The Hoke County Board of Education voted to retain Ernest Sutton as assistant superintendent and to reject his letter of resignation.

Sharon Kershaw, a sixth-grader at J.W. Turlington School, won the Spelling Bee. She will represent Hoke County in the regional contest in Charlotte April 20.

An Aberdeen man was injured in a traffic crash but this was the only serious accident that happened in Hoke County during the Easter holiday weekend.

Arabia Golf Course's third nine-hole layout was opened.

MAY

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners awarded Jim and Linda Henley of Raeford a five-year contract to provide the county with ambulance service. The county will pay a subsidy of \$50,000 a year subject to adjustments in the following years determined by the national Consumer Price Index.

Unemployment in Hoke County declined in March to 9.1 percent from 9.5 percent, the State Employment Security Commission reported.

A total of 123 people competed in the annual Raeford Lions Club Golf Tournament on Arabia Golf Course, in spite of the rain. Brian Corbett won the title in the Championship Flight.

Harold Livingstone of West Hoke Elementary School was named Hoke County Teacher of the Year.

A truck route around Raeford is proposed, to eliminate through truck traffic from downtown.

Charlie (Choo Choo) Justice and Art Weiner, All America football stars of the University of North Carolina in the late 1940s, addressed the annual dinner meeting of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

Hoke County High School's team of Jerri Finin, Delores Monroe, Sharon McMillan and Betty McCormick won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association girls' mile relay championship.

Hoke County Democrats re-elected Ken McNeill, chairman; Sara Leach, secretary; Ralph Huff, treasurer; Mildred Odom, first vice chairman; and Ralph Plummer, county member of the State Democratic Executive Committee; and elected Gladys Dockery, third vice chairman, of the county organization. They also elected delegates to the district and state Democratic conventions.

About 350 students competed in the local Junior Olympics at Hoke County High School. The competition was held in track and field events. The top three finishers in each event will compete in the sectional meet in Raleigh June 9.

The new Hoke County soil conservationist of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service is Samuel G. Warren, a native of Chocowinity. He started work in the Hoke office May 21. Thomas R. Burgess was given a farewell party May 30. He is leaving as executive director of the Hoke County U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service to become program specialist in the Tobacco and Peanut Branch of the ASCS in Washington.

JUNE

The Raeford City Council adopted a 60 cents per \$100 tax rate and a municipal budget of \$2,107,403 for fiscal 1979-80. The tax rate is 3 cents per \$100 higher and the

(See REVIEW, page 11)



RETIRING CHARTER DIRECTOR -- Walter L. Gibson (left), a charter member of the Board of Directors of Southern National Bank of Raeford, will retire from the board Jan. 1 after 16 continuous years of service. He is being succeeded by his son, Robert L. Gibson. Mr. Gibson is shown here with Gene Miller, the bank's Raeford city executive, and the plaque Mr. Gibson was presented Dec. 14 at the bank's Christmas party by Ken McNeill, a longtime associate of Mr. Gibson on the bank board. The plaque was presented in recognition of Mr. Gibson's long service to the bank. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].

Agency Manager Urges: Buy Stickers Early

Frances W. Greene, manager of the license plate agency in Raeford for the Division of Motor Vehicles for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said last week more than 20,837 validation stickers and license plates for 1979 have been sold since the beginning of the renewal period Jan. 2.

"We urge more Raeford citizens to visit our agency at 120 W.

Edinburgh Avenue and buy their stickers and plates early," she said.

She added that a new communications campaign, under the slogan "Get Yours Early," was being used this year to encourage motorists to purchase their plates and stickers prior to the end of the renewal period. Posters, counter cards and public service announcements are carrying the message to the public.

Information Leading To Conviction Of Larceny

Plummer Rewarded For Helping Case

James P. Plummer of Rt. 4, Raeford, was presented a check for \$500 by the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Dec. 18.

The reward was presented by William R. Boyles, president of the Hoke County Farm Bureau, based on information Plummer gave local law enforcement officials that led to the arrest and final conviction of James Willie Jacobs, also known as Charles Locklear, for felonious breaking, entering and larceny.

According to Plummer, he observed two men near the home of William E. Willis last April. Later becoming suspicious, Plummer investigated and upon finding that the home had been broken into, he called the Hoke County Sheriff's Department. He later identified the men after their arrest.

In presenting the reward, Boyles commended Plummer for his "keen observation and commendable effort in helping solve this case."

Under Farm Bureau's property

protection service for members, the reward is paid to the first person giving information that leads to the arrest and final conviction for arson, malicious injury to property, burglary or other felonies committed on posted property.

The reward is also paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons stealing a tractor or self-propelled farm equipment, even though not on the member's premises.

County Farm Bureau organizations make the special Farm Bureau reward signs available to members for posting on their property.

In commenting on the special program, John Sledge, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation, emphasized "our great concern over the increasing incidence of theft and other crimes in the rural areas of North Carolina. We believe this theft rewards program is a positive step that will serve as a deterrent to theft and aid in the solution of rural crime"

Santa Thanks Raeford People For Making His Trip Enjoyable

Right after making his visits with presents Christmas, Santa Claus left a note with The News-Journal.

Hoke Offices To Be Closed New Year's Day

Hoke County, Raeford city, federal and state government employees will have New Year's Day, Tuesday, off.

The county schools' Christmas and New Year holidays will continue through Tuesday, with the students returning to classes Wednesday morning.

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners and the Raeford City Council will hold their regular monthly meetings for January on Jan. 7, and the Hoke County Board of Education will, hold its regular meeting for January on Jan. 8.

The commissioners' meeting will start at 9 a.m., the school board's at 7 p.m. and the city council's at 7:30 p.m.

Extending Leaf Mart Quotas Favored In Hoke

All but a few Hoke County producers in recent referendums voted in favor of continuing tobacco marketing quotas for three more years starting in 1980, and in favor of the Tobacco Associates referendum.

The counts were 346 in favor and five against continuing the marketing quotas and 347 in favor and three against the Tobacco Associates matter.



REWARDED -- James P. [Jimmy] Plummer [center] is shown receiving a North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation check for \$500 from Bill Boyles [right], president of the Hoke County Farm Bureau, Dec. 18. Deputy Sheriff Alex Norton [left] is representing the Hoke County Sheriff's Department at the presentation of the reward, given Plummer for supplying information that led to the arrest and conviction of a man for felonious breaking and entering and larceny. The metal sign informs the public of the existence of a reward for providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone committing theft, arson, malicious damages or any other felonies on another person's property. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].