

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The only person that doesn't know how the weather is in Hoke County would be someone that is out of the state. All I will say is that it is cold.

Robert Gatlin didn't draw a weather chart for the month of January, but did come by and leave the rainfall for the month. It was 3.3 inches for the month.

Joe Upchurch found an old Fayetteville Observer in his old homeplace the other day and it was dated August 27, 1896. Paper wasn't at a shortage at that time because the page size of the paper was 21 1/2 x 25 inches compared today to the 14 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches.

One item that was of interest was an advertisement that was headed, Raeford Institute. It stated "The second year of the school will open September 2nd, 1896, under the management of Maj. M. McR. McLaughlin, of Cheraw, S.C."

"In high school departments there are two courses - classical and business. Competent teachers for art, social and instrumental music." The ad was signed: Dr. A.P. Dickson, President Board of Trustees, Vollers, N.C. More about this later.

John Pecora who has been teaching and coaching here for the past 16 years has retired and submits the following letter which he asks that I publish in this column. We are glad to do so.

Dear Sam: You may have already heard that I have tendered my resignation as teacher and Athletic Director of Hoke County High School.

This has been a difficult decision to make, but I feel that it is best for me due to health reasons.

For thirty two years I have been doing a job that I loved. This makes it so much more difficult to give up. During these years I have worked in two school systems, two school boards, five superintendents and seven principals. All these people had one thing in common: they put the students first in all of their considerations.

My sincere thanks to the school boards, principals and superintendents who have made my work enjoyable by their show of support and confidence in me as a coach, teacher and athletic director.

I would like to thank the parents of Hoke County for the opportunity to work with their children. I hope that in our encounters with each other I have conducted myself in such a way that they have received something good from me that will go with them throughout their lives.

There are so many groups that have been involved with our athletic program. Without the tireless effort of all these people it would have been difficult to carry on our athletic program. Our city police, county sheriff's department and the rescue squad have always come to our aid willingly and cheerfully; a simple thank you doesn't express my deep appreciation of their efforts.

Not many schools can boast of the fine medical care our athletes have been blessed with over these sixteen years. Dr. Jordan and Dr. Townsend have given thousands of physicals without charges and were on hand at all football games to see to the well being of our athletes. My most sincere thanks to the fine doctors. More recently, our county medical staff has been blessed with the addition of the services of Dr. A.J. Zota and two physician assistants' Nathaniel Johnson and Ulyse Hood, who have also rendered a great deal of help to our student athletes by administering hundreds of physicals at no charge to the student athletes. Thank you so much.

Our Hoke County Booster Club is a fine group; without their tireless help I doubt that we could have had the opportunity to go to the football training camps that we went to for so many years. All those great fish fries that kicked off the beginning of football each year required a lot of work. The enthusiasm showed each year with all the Booster Club membership

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## At Commissioners' Meeting

# Truck Route, Heat Trouble Discussed

## Elderly Living In Dilapidated Homes; Housing Authority Revived To Help

The Raeford City Council Monday night voted unanimously to convene the Raeford Housing Authority, after hearing descriptions of dilapidated houses elderly Hoke County people are living in.

The reactivation of the housing authority is a move toward trying to get federal financing of construction of housing.

City Manager Ron Matthews said before asking whether he should reconvene the local group, "We don't get anything done till attitudes in Raeford change." He said "we've got to have commitments" from the people who own the land that's needed for the housing sites.

Others who attended the meeting agreed later that people want better housing for the needy but they don't want it next to their own homes.

Matthews said the federal agency which makes the grants, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, wants to see plans

showing where the residences will be built and who they will be built for. He said the agency could issue a grant but not for housing for the elderly only. He said housing for the elderly is approved but only if the housing authority shows that residences for other groups would be erected later.

Mrs. Josephine Hall, coordinator for Hoke County's senior citizens, and Judy Hendrix, a volunteer, told the councilmen of the situation and asked for their help.

Some of the elderly are in dilapidated houses outside the city limits, but the Housing authority has jurisdiction over the area within and 10 miles beyond the city.

Mrs. Hall told the councilmen elderly are living in homes which are as cold inside as the weather is outside; some elderly are sick in bed in cold homes; that some are using newspapers to keep out cold air coming through broken window panes; property owners won't repair homes, for which they get \$30

or \$45 a month rent, because they couldn't get the money back; neighbors of an 80-year-old blind woman use her telephone to make long-distance calls without paying for them (Mrs. Hall said she recently paid an \$18 phone bill for the woman; another paid \$1,000 for repairing a roof, though a county commissioner familiar with charges for that sort of work said it could have been done for \$400.

County commissioners guided by Mrs. Hall visited some of the

dilapidated homes early Monday afternoon after holding their regular meeting for February.

### WASTE WATER

In other business at the Monday night meeting the council adopted a motion directing Matthews to send to Faberge, Inc., Burlington Industries, and the House of Raeford, letters stating violations of the city Industrial Waste Dis-

(See Elderly, Page 14)

## Onnie Dudley Files For School Board

Mrs. Onnie Dudley, assistant Hoke County register of deeds, filed Monday for election to the County Board of Education.

The voters will choose two of the five members of the board in the November general election.

Mrs. Dudley is a native of Raeford, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Bratcher of Raeford.

She has been assistant register of deeds the past two and a half years. Before then she served two years as a secretary at Fayetteville State University.

Mrs. Dudley was secretary to the second vice president of Chase Manhattan Bank of New York City before returning to Raeford in 1974 and going to work at Fayetteville State. She worked in New York for 15 years after graduating in 1957 from Upchurch High School.

Mrs. Dudley is a director of the Hoke County United Fund, a member of the Reading Advisory Board at J.W. Turlington School, secretary of the Hoke County Civic League, and leader of Girl Scout Troop 835.

A member of Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church, she serves as church secretary, is a member of the Senior and Gospel choirs, advisor to the Junior Choir, and is announcer and treasurer of the

Gospel Choir.

Mrs. Dudley also is a member of the church's Stewardess Board No. Two, superintendent of the Buds of Promise, an alternate Sunday school teacher, a Home Mission worker, an assistant class leader, and a member of the Progressive Club in the church.

She has two children, Jacqueline McLaughlin, a freshman at Livingstone College in Salisbury, and June, a senior at Hoke County High School.

The Hoke County commissioners were told Monday that compliance with a federal heating guideline left at least part of the Courthouse too cold to work in.

They also heard representatives of two appraisal firms which had filed identical bids and recommendations for salaries for recreation department positions, and acted on a proposal to designate a new truck route.

They adopted a motion stating in effect that no change should be made to route traffic by way of Palmer Street, an alternate proposed to reduce the volume of truck traffic going through downtown Raeford. Commissioner Mabel Riley said the alternative wouldn't help much because much of the truck traffic consists of oil tankers going through Raeford to get on N.C. 20. Commissioner Danny DeVane also said Palmer Street residents had been promised on a previous occasion that the street would not be designated a truck route. Mrs. R.V. Lee, a resident of the area, told the commissioners, "We are opposed to the change," and have said so in a petition. She said families in the area have small children, and "I think it would be a tremendous hazard," referring to the truck traffic.

John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, pointed out to the commissioners that the State Department of Transportation could designate the route regardless of the board's motion. A copy of the motion will be sent to DOT.

### HEATING

Mrs. Juanita Edmund, clerk of Hoke County Superior Court, reported on the heating problem. She said that in the recent cold spell it has been too cold in her office to work. She said at times the temperature dropped to 45 degrees.

A federal energy conservation guideline prohibits heating a public building to over 65 degrees.

Mrs. Edmund said that the other side, (where the register of deeds office is) is warm, said that the thermostat for the building is on that side.

By coincidence, Register of Deeds Della Maynor later advised that her offices would be closed the rest of Monday because a boiler trouble which left the office too cold to work in.

Balfour told Mrs. Edmund that the commissioners would try to solve her problem.

Mrs. Edmund said members of her staff have to wear coats at work, and have just one small heater to help keep warm.

### REAPPRAISAL

The commissioners heard Bill Allen of Allen Appraisal, Inc., of Laurinburg, and Jimmy Davis of Southern Appraisal Co. of Sea Level describe their work and answer questions. Each firm bid last month to do the county's property reappraisal for \$85,000.

The work required every eight years reappraises private property to bring property evaluations up to date. The reappraisal must be done by a business based outside the county in which the work is to be done, according to state law. The county property (ad valorem) tax a property owner pays is based on the evaluation of the property. The commissioners adopted a motion to table the subject till their mid-month meeting on Feb. 18.

### RECREATION

The commissioners also adopted a motion to table till the mid-month meeting a decision on recommendations by the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission has recommended the salary of the department director be set at \$14,500 per year; and of the

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## Rockfish Creek Bridge Closed

Rockfish Creek Bridge on the U.S. 401 bypass just north of Raeford is closed for repairs till Friday to through traffic. H.H. Jordan, state highway division engineer, said this week.

Traffic will be detoured on U.S. 401 business.

## Townsend Files For Reelection

Mrs. Mina Townsend filed Friday for reelection to her second consecutive four-year term on the Hoke County Board of Education. Here is one of the two positions on the five-member board up for reelection in November.

Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Ruth McNair's terms are the only ones of the five-member board which are expiring this year. The elections of school board members do not concern political party affiliation, and they are held in the November general election.

Mrs. McNair filed for reelection last month. Mrs. Townsend taught school in Massillon, Ohio, and Louisville, Ky., before coming to Hoke County.

She is a member of the Board of Region N Emergency Medical Services and of the board of Open Door, Christian Teen Center.

She has been public speaking chairman for District Nine, North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, and is a former president of the Raeford Woman's Club.

Mrs. Townsend also has served as president of the Music Booster Club and on the board of the Girl Scouting Association.

In connection with public education, she has been a member of the

State Accreditation Committee for the Hoke County Schools.

Mrs. Townsend is active in Raeford United Methodist Church also.

She and her husband, Dr. Robert Townsend, have three children. Their home is at 313 W. Elwood Ave., Raeford.

Mrs. Townsend is a native of Huntington W. Va., and earned a degree in elementary education from Marshall University.



Mina Townsend

## Julius Vanner Files For Commissioner

Julius Vanner, a 38-year-old Hoke County businessman, filed Friday for member of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners, subjects to the Democratic primary in May.

This is his first effort to be elected to a public office.

Vanner is a native of Detroit, Mich., and has been living in Hoke County the past eight years. He has been in business in the county the past five years and is co-founder of County Line Plaza on U.S. 401 south.

Vanner majored in business administration at Fayetteville Technical Institute.

He served three years in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Vanner said he wants to serve as a county commissioner because he is concerned about the future of Hoke County. He also said he was running because "I believe one of the candidates is a nonproductive member of the board, and I would like to be a full participant." He declined to name the member he was speaking of.

He is married to the former Jacqueline McNeill of Cumberland County. They have two children, sons Keith, 17, and Kelvin, 16, and

live at 232 Wrightsboro, Raeford.

Vanner was the fourth candidate to file for county commissioner. Two of the five positions will be filled in the November election.

All four who had filed through Friday are Democrats: James P. (Jimmy) Plummer, Sr., and present Commissioners Neil McPhatter and Danny DeVane.



Julius Vanner

## Morrissey Files For Commissioner Post

Jimmy Morrissey filed Monday for election of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners subject to the Democratic primary in May.

He is among five candidates running for the two seats up for election. The four others also are Democrats.

Morrissey said in a formal written statement he issued to The News-Journal after he filed with the County Board of Elections:

"If elected to the office of Hoke County commissioner, I intend to address all constructive issues and programs that affect all of the people of Hoke County, and not segmental."

His candidacy is endorsed and sponsored by the Hoke County Civic League.

Morrissey, a disabled Army veteran of World War II, said his occupational goals is: "To be employed in the capacity of helping people;" his ultimate goal: "To promote constructive programs to for the people in the community;" and his immediate goal: "To be of help and assistance wherever needed."

Morrissey has been president of the Hoke County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1968 and was given the Achievement Award of the Hoke branch for 1975.

He also received certificates from the Cardinal Health Agency, based in Lumberton, for 1975 and 1978, and a Certificate of Volunteer Service April 30, 1976, from the State of North Carolina.

Morrissey has been a member of the Cardinal board since 1975. He also is vice chairman of the

Hillcrest - Scurlock Water System, Inc., and has been president of the Scurlock Community Organization, Inc., since 1972.

He was a director of Hoke County Voter Registration in 1968, the Hoke County contact person for the Seventh Congressional District Black Caucus Leadership last year, has been serving since 1976 as first vice chairman of Raeford Precinct No. Three, and has been a member of the Hoke County Civic League since 1974.

Morrissey also is a lifetime member of Silver Grove Baptist Church.

He has been instrumental in helping young people in obtaining financial aid and job opportunities and getting motivation and education in the political arena.

Morrissey was born March 31, (See Morrissey, Page 14)



Jimmy Morrissey