

## 2 Areas 'Dead' For Public Housing

# Hoke Board Tables IHA Powers Resolution

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Elsewhere in this paper is the official weather report for August. According to the figures in the report and the forecast for the remainder of the week, summer is still with us.

Ken Witherspoon, director of the Department of Social Services, spoke to the Raeford Kiwanis Club a couple of weeks ago and his message left room for thought. The subject of his talk was "Apathy."

After much discussion on the subject, which showed that this country and its citizens are certainly under the spell of "Apathy," it was brought forth from someone that the last two things before the fall of the nation, according to history, is apathy and bondage.

Don't you think we should be trying to take steps to correct the state of our people.

An article in this issue of the paper is calling attention to an event that will take place at the Raeford Armory on Sunday, September 14, 1980.

On September 16, 1940 the local National Guard units were called to active duty for one year. Raeford had two units in the 252nd Coast Artillery Regiment, Headquarters Battery of the First Battalion and Battery 'F' of the Third Battalion.

Of course for most of us who went to the National Guard Army 40 years ago, the one year turned into more than five years. Over 150 men left here a week later and it was a long, but fruitful time. The final blow was the defeat of Germany and Japan.

Some of the men that left here stayed together, but many like myself, were separated from the unit by either going to school, being transferred because of promotions. Yes, many reasons caused the break-up of many NG units during the war.

The public is invited along with the honor guests, members of the two units that were called up Sept. 16, 1940.

This should be a gala event, so I hope to see all you old guardsmen Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Raeford Armory.

While on the subject of National Guard veterans, Graham Clark recently had a letter from Ben Braden. Braden is a (Ret) Lt. Col. and lives in Camden, S.C. He was a sergeant in the Battery "F" outfit that was called up for duty, but was transferred and promoted the first day.

He later went to OCS and remained in the Army after the war ended. I would say it has been 39 years since I have seen Ben Braden.

The Class of 1930 reunion was a success. Everyone I have talked to about the event was wondering when they would have the next reunion.

As happens when you run pictures of people you don't know and write ups come in about things, mistakes will be made that we think are excusable.

The name of William Lamont, Jr. was omitted from the list under the picture of the Class of 1930. He is the fifth person from the left in the first row and is between Patrick Johnson and William Floyd. So for the ones that have the pictures for a keepsake, add Bill Lamont's name.

Also in the program the benediction was given by Mrs. J.C. McLean, a former teacher of the class.

It was also a pleasure to see Leo Fuller and Florida Campbell Wilson, members of the class, who came by the office the Monday following the reunion.

(See AROUND TOWN, page 13)

### In Old County Office Building

## Clothes Closet Re-established

The Clothes Closet, for men, women, and children put in need for any reason, has been re-established by the Hoke County Department of Social Services in a room in the basement of the Old County Office Building on West Elwood Avenue, Raeford.

People have contributed used but still useful clothing, and the response has been greater than expected, Ken Witherspoon, director of the county department, said last week. Donations may be left at the department in the New County Office Building, he added.

Furniture and appliances also are needed, Witherspoon said.

The articles are for men, women, and children, and private donations are depended on because no tax money is available for the purpose in the department, because of the currently high prices of the clothing and other things needed, Witherspoon said.

Foster children with little suitable to wear and people who have lost their clothing and other personal property in fires are among those the Clothes Closet is set up to help. Witherspoon said. He said the Closet, for example, recently helped a family in an emergency created by a fire that damaged the family's home.

The Clothes Closet had been maintained until a few years ago when it was discontinued. This was before Witherspoon became director of the department.

Volunteers of the Baptist Young Women of First Baptist Church here have been helping sort the donations. Clothes hangers also are needed, Witherspoon said.

## August Daily High Average 97.8 Degrees

The temperatures in Raeford during August reached an average of 97.8 degrees a day at their highest, Robert Gatlin, official weather records keeper in Raeford for the National Weather Service.

Only 1.4 inches of rain fell on the city during the entire month, he also reported.

The average daily highest temperature for July was 96.3 degrees but the tally doesn't include the last four days of that month, all of which averaged at least 100 degrees.

The July rainfall totaled 2.75 inches.

### Raeford Units' Reunion

## Mobilization's 40th Birthday Fete Set

World War II veterans of two National Guard units will celebrate September 14 the 40th anniversary of their mobilization for World War II. The public is invited.



Sgt. Brown shows a Certificate of Recognition signed by the state adjutant general. A certificate will be given each veteran or member of a deceased veteran's family at the reunion. (Staff photo by Bill Lindau.)



IN CLOTHES CLOSET -- Volunteers of the Baptist Young Women of First Baptist Church of Raeford paused for picture-taking August 27 while sorting donations to the Clothes Closet in the Old County Office Building. L-R -- Anna Jordan, Barbara Rozier, Theresa Sanderson, Holly Scarboro and her mother Jenny Scarboro. (Staff photo by Bill Lindau.)

## Three Charged In Still Operation

Three Hoke County businessmen were charged Friday with two state prohibition-law violations in connection with the Sheriff's Department's discovery of a 10-gallon liquor still on the property of one of the men.

The warrants were issued by Deputy Sheriff R.S. Hart and signed by Magistrate Brian H. Thornburg against Alfred Kay Leach, 50, of Rt. 1, Box 667, Raeford; his brother, Clyde Alvin Leach, 41, of Rt. 2, Raeford; and Delbert Gordon Ragsdale, 37, of Box 490, Raeford. Alfred Leach is chairman of the Hoke County ABC Board but is not, as a daily

newspaper reported, a "former Democratic Party chairman in Hoke County."

The defendants are free on their own cognizances. Alfred Leach is scheduled for trial in Hoke County District Court September 19. The trial dates of his brother and Ragsdale were not available up to press time.

The warrants charged each with possession of a complete distillery, one wooden barrel containing 40 gallons of fermented mash, and a gas burner, "property designed for and used in the unlawful manufacture of intoxicating liquor;" and with distilling, manufacturing

and making liquor. The warrants indicate the charges are misdemeanors.

The still allegedly was on Alfred Leach's property in the Arabia community and near a cabin Leach owns. The property is near Rockfish Creek.

Sheriff's officers reportedly raided the still early Friday night.

Alfred Leach was in Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst at the time the raid was made. Hospital records show he was admitted at 10 a.m. August 27 for a lung examination and remained there till 9 a.m. Saturday when he checked out.

## Medicaid Paid \$1,654,087 Of Bills

Medicaid paid a total of \$1,654,087 in hospital and other medical bills for Hoke County during the fiscal year 1979-80, compared with \$1,454,069 the year before, figures received last week from the State Department of Human Resources show.

Of this year's total, \$87,325

came from county tax funds and the rest from state and federal. The previous year, the county put out \$71,704 for Medicaid.

Statewide, Medicaid paid bills totaling \$319.5 million in fiscal 1979-80, which was about \$50 million more than in the previous year.

Medicaid helps needy and other low-income people such as the aged, disabled, members of families with dependent children, and other children who are eligible to receive it.

Eligibility for Medicaid pay- (See MEDICAID, page 13)



Sgt. Brown (left) and MSgt. William Stone show 252nd's World War II guidon at the armory here. (Staff photo by Bill Lindau.)

Guard said last week in describing the reunion and celebration program. He said that up to Friday he had succeeded in contacting 50 of them. He asks that anyone who was a member of either unit September 16, 1940, or want more information

to get in touch with him by telephoning (919) 875-3576, or writing P.O. Drawer 610, Raeford, 28376.

The 252nd Coast Artillery Regiment has become the present 252nd (See BIRTHDAY, page 13)

The Hoke County commissioners Tuesday night tabled a resolution allowing the State Indian Housing Commission authority to exercise its powers in Hoke County in proposed U.S. government-financed public housing for low-income people because it did not provide for cooperation with a joint Raeford-Hoke County Housing Authority.

The commissioners later, following a public hearing attended by about 30 people, most of them residents of the Holly Park subdivision just south of Raeford, adopted a resolution expanding the current five-member Raeford Housing Authority to nine members. The four additional will be residents of county areas beyond the Raeford city zoning area and will be appointed by the county commissioners. The others are appointed by the mayor of Raeford. The City Council will act Monday night on the joint resolution at its regular monthly meeting.

During the public hearing, Buddy Blue, acting chairman of the Raeford Housing Authority, informed the visitors the Holly Park area and the area on U.S. South near St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church are dead as far as possible sites for public housing units are concerned. Holly Park residents have opposed construction of housing for low-income people three times. The most recent petition, which was accepted Monday night by the county commissioners by adoption of a motion, was signed by about 40 of the subdivision's residents.

The petition says the residents feel a public-housing complex "would only breed crime and violence" in the city and community" and that the area already is too congested.

The motion to table the resolution on the Indian Housing Commission powers also provides that the state agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development be notified of the commissioners' action and also of the opposition expressed by Hoke County citizens to construction of housing units on sites tentatively suggested in August by John Bullard, of the Indian Housing Commission.

Bullard at the commissioners' mid-month meeting in August attempted to have the commissioners adopt the resolution. The action would have bypassed the Raeford City Council and the proposed joint Raeford-Hoke Housing Authority.

The effort failed, however, when the commissioners decided to postpone action till their September 2 regular meeting. After the commissioners voted to table it board chairman John Balfour said the matter won't be brought up again unless someone comes to the commissioners and brings it up.

The Holly Park people became aroused after reading the newspaper report that Bullard had told the commissioners the three possible sites included one adjoining the Hoke Medical Complex on the east side of N.C. 211 and across the highway from the subdivision. The others were the one on U.S. 401 South and a North Raeford location near the North Raeford Fire Station.

Bullard said the one considered in the Holly Park area would be for 26 units for low-income elderly single people and couples without children living at home. The others

(See BOARD, page 12)

## Hot Weather Closes Schools In Hoke Early

The Hoke County Board of Education voted Tuesday night to close all county schools at 1 p.m. daily through the rest of the week because of the heat.

Supt. Raz Autry said they would wait and see how the weather conditions are next week before making any further extension of the 1 o'clock closing.