

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather over the weekend has been on the cold side. Late Sunday afternoon the rains came, and from the forecast it seems the rain will be around for a couple of days.

As of today, I haven't complained about the cooler weather, but maybe after the furnace runs for a month and I receive the oil bill, it will be another story. With the price of fuel oil almost one dollar per gallon the heating bill can become expensive. Let's hope that the winter will not be so severe that people will suffer who can't pay for fuel oil. Many people will keep the thermostats too low because of the price of fuel.

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While on the subject of the weather, it was colder at the football games last Saturday than had been forecast.

At the Duke - Carolina game, which I attended, many people came into the stadium with a light sweater or no sweater at all. When the sun went behind the trees on the south side of the stadium, it was not the 60 degrees forecast by the weatherman.

Do we pay too much attention to the weather forecast, rather than as in the old days, when winter came we dressed for it. Twice this year at football games, the weatherman has been wrong and once I got wet and last Saturday I didn't take the heavy jacket like my wife told me to take.

Well, the football season is over, so I can forget about the rain and cold as far as football is concerned.

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The street department of the City of Raeford has about finished putting up the Christmas decorations for the coming season.

As of this time I don't know when they will turn the lights on, but hope they will wait until it is nearer Christmas.

Dr. John Ropp said Sunday that Christmas was becoming so commercial, or having other meanings, that Thanksgiving now had more of his thoughts than ever before.

In other words, let's put the Christ back in Christmas.

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The annual Pancake Supper of the Raeford Kiwanis Club will be held Thursday night, December 4th in the Gibson Cafeteria. Serving will begin at 5 o'clock.

The Kiwanians will use this money for a good cause, so go out and enjoy the fellowship along with all you can eat for \$2.00. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Kiwanis Club.

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Several calls have come to the office asking if the newspaper knew anything about the government paying a dividend or interest on the insurance soldiers had during the war. We haven't received any news releases from any source on this subject.

We did find out that Mrs. Graham Clark, Veterans Service officer for Hoke County, called VA headquarters and was told they they had not heard anything about the payment.

Maybe someone is trying to obtain a mailing list and when you answer the address being circulated, it will help the person or persons to write you back to sell you something.

There are all sorts of gimmicks people work these days for their own benefit, not yours.


If we receive any information, we will pass it along to you.

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If you will have a pretty Christmas door this year, let us know at the newspaper office and we will run a picture of it in our Christmas issue.

Watch the paper for the dates that the photographer will be out taking pictures.

We will take Thanksgiving Day at the newspaper and we hope you have a happy one.



Happy Thanksgiving

Long ago on a brisk clear day in a sheltered, wooded clearing, a harvest feast, a humble meal of wild turkey and Indian corn, was shared by native and newcomer.

With this act of sharing of the harvest of a bountiful land, began the tradition of a feast of Thanksgiving, a tradition carried on through the years.

Today, in observance of this commemorative day of Thanksgiving, we shall be gathered together again in thanks for the blessings of a land bestowed upon a people and shared by a people, as it once was and is now.

We will be closed Thursday, November 27th, in observance of Thanksgiving. The Staff of The News-Journal wishes all of you an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day.

The News - Journal

Schools, Offices Closed

Hoke Observing Thanksgiving

Most Hoke County people will be starting their Thanksgiving holiday late Wednesday after their offices and schools close.

The News-Journal went to press a day earlier than usual this week so the men and women on the newspaper's staff could have Thanksgiving day for a holiday.

Federal employers and employees of most private businesses and industries will have Thursday off and return to work Friday morning. Raeford city, Hoke County and state government employees will have a four-day holiday, as will the county schools' students, and the employees, including teachers, educators, administrators and service people. The landfill will reopen Saturday after being closed Thursday and Friday.

The Raeford Post Office will be on a holiday schedule Thursday: no rural or city deliveries except "specials," and no window service in the post office building.

The exceptions will be state, county and city law enforcement officers, firemen and others in the public safety and emergency organizations assigned to duty for Thanksgiving day.

Special public church services also were scheduled for Wednesday night. The annual Community Pre-Thanksgiving Service was to be held at First Baptist Church of Raeford with the Rev. Fred Sharrai, pastor of Four Square Gospel Church, preaching the Thanksgiving sermon. The service will start at 7:30 p.m.

A Pre-Thanksgiving Service was to be held at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, also starting at 7:30 p.m. conducted by the Rev. W.K. Mitchell, pastor of Silver Grove Baptist Church.

Hoke County school students were having special Thanksgiving programs during the days preceding the start of the holiday.

Hoke County law enforcement officers are warning drivers to be especially careful traveling to and from the places where they will be

spending the holidays. The most dangerous times during a holiday period are the evenings before the holidays start and those of the last day, since those are the times when the volume of traffic is the largest.

The North Carolina State Motor Club in Charlotte has estimated 20 people could be killed in traffic accidents in the state during the holiday weekend. During last year's Thanksgiving holiday period, 17 people were killed and 1,081 others injured, though less seriously, in North Carolina traffic accidents. Traffic accidents during the 1978 holiday took 29 lives.

Exceeding safe speed continues to be the number one cause of fatal accidents, along with driving under the influence of Alcohol. Dr. John G. Frazier III, president of the statewide motor club, urges all motorists to take a deeper interest in highway safety by actively supporting the 55-mph speed limit, refraining from driving while drinking, and always using their safety belts.

To date 1,288 North Carolinians have lost their lives in traffic accidents, and with the growth of the small car population to conserve fuel, motor vehicle fatalities show every indication of continuing a relentless climb. In a collision between a sub-compact and a full-sized car, occupants in the smaller car are eight times more likely to be killed; however, lower speeds clearly reduce the risk and severity of injuries.

A weekend holiday takes 200 or more lives nationwide on highways, and yet little concern is shown, when an airliner goes down with 200 passengers, however, Americans are shocked.

Thanksgiving traditionally is a time for families and friends to gather and give thanks for their many blessings. Help keep this a happy and blessed holiday by keeping you and your loved ones out of the collision statistics. Make it your personal responsibility to drive safely and encourage others to do so.

Energy Aid For Low-Income People

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program will provide a one-time cash benefit to help with fuel costs.

This program was provided through legislation of Congress to ease the impact of the deregulation of gas and oil. Ken Witherspoon, director of Hoke County Social Services Department, indicated today that even with this limited assistance the burden of rising fuel costs on the poor or elderly will be quite severe.

The department will automatically process the applications of those individuals receiving food stamps and/or checks from Supplemental Security Income or the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. Unlike problems encountered in last year's program, only one energy allotment per household will be issued. Individuals residing in institutions will not receive allotments even though they could receive SSI.

All other individuals who do not

receive benefits of the type just discussed should make plans to apply on December 1 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the T.B. Lester, Jr., Office Building.

Witherspoon urged early applications even though Hoke County does not have a specific allocation. He said that he encourages individuals to make extra efforts to seek ways to keep warm. Utilizing plastic to cover windows, improved insulation and multiple living arrangements, are all suggested.

Intended For Emergencies; Fee Charged

Ambulance Service Purpose Explained

The Hoke County Ambulance Service is set up to provide emergency medical transportation for Hoke County people.

It is not intended for use as a fast ride to a routine appointment with a physician. The emphasis in the purpose of the service is on "emergency."

The Ambulance Service also is a private business providing a public service under a county government contract. Under the contract it receives an annual subsidy whose amount is subject to change when the national Consumer Price Index changes. (The CPI is the "cost-of-living measure). The reason is an ambulance service cannot operate in the county if it must depend entirely on the income it receives directly from its operations. The subsidy is intended to pay the portion of the Ambulance Service's expenses the service's income cannot pay.

Essentially these points were brought out from the record by County Manager James Martin in an interview with a reporter Friday morning.

The role and the fees charged by the Ambulance Service are explained here in response to reports showing some, if not many, Hoke people are under the impression that the services of the Ambulance Service are free of charge, because the Ambulance Service receives a subsidy each year under a five-year contract from the county government.

The fees charged the people using the Ambulance Service also are subject to being increased or decreased according to the way the CPI changes.

The Ambulance Service is set up to serve in emergencies only: injuries or the sudden occurrence of illness, such as a heart attack or

stroke, that require immediate medical treatment. The Emergency Medical Technicians who serve on the ambulance calls can administer first aid at the scene and en route to a doctor's office or hospital. As for costs to the patients, the contract between the Ambulance Service and the county government specifically states that the Ambulance Service "will charge" every patient it services, per mile from the point where the patient is put on the ambulance to the destination (hospital or doctor's office).

The exception to this charge is no mileage fee will be charged for ambulance trips amounting to less than one mile from the loading point to the destination.

And if an ambulance must remain at the destination with a patient, the Ambulance Service may charge a fee of not more than \$10 per hour, according to a term of the contract. The service, however agrees in the contract that it will make no charge for waiting for any part of an hour. In other words, if the wait for a patient at the destination is anything less than an hour, the patient is not charged any waiting fee. Neither is the passenger charged for any fraction of an hour beyond a wait of one or more full hours. If the wait runs 2½ hours, for example, the passenger is charged only for two hours.

As for collecting from ambulance passengers, the contract says: "All collections of fees will be the sole responsibility of the Ambulance Service which will pursue collections diligently by all legal means available."

The service is available for emergencies for Hoke County people 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The contract puts it this way: "The Ambulance Service will keep

qualified operators on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to calls for ambulance service."

It also specifies, "two ambulances will be available at all times to provide ambulance services for the people of the County."

The Hoke County Ambulance Service was awarded the contract after submitting the lowest bid. The contract is in its second fiscal year. The first year started July 1, 1979, with the subsidy set at \$50,000 for the year. This fiscal year, which will end next June 30, it is \$54,650, under the contract's provision which made the agreement subject to change according to the CPI. The first increase from \$50,000 was based on the CPI index increase which occurred during the first nine months of the 1979-80 contract year, but the next change if necessary will be based on any CPI change occurring in the full 12 months of the 1981-82 fiscal year.

The change in the amount of subsidy works both ways, under the contract: if the CPI drops, then the subsidy is reduced accordingly.

But under the contract also, when the subsidy had to be changed, the amount of the Ambulance Service's fees also have to be charged accordingly: an increase in the subsidy brings an increase in the fees.

The Hoke County people also are served in emergencies by the Hoke County Rescue Squad, an organization of qualified volunteers.

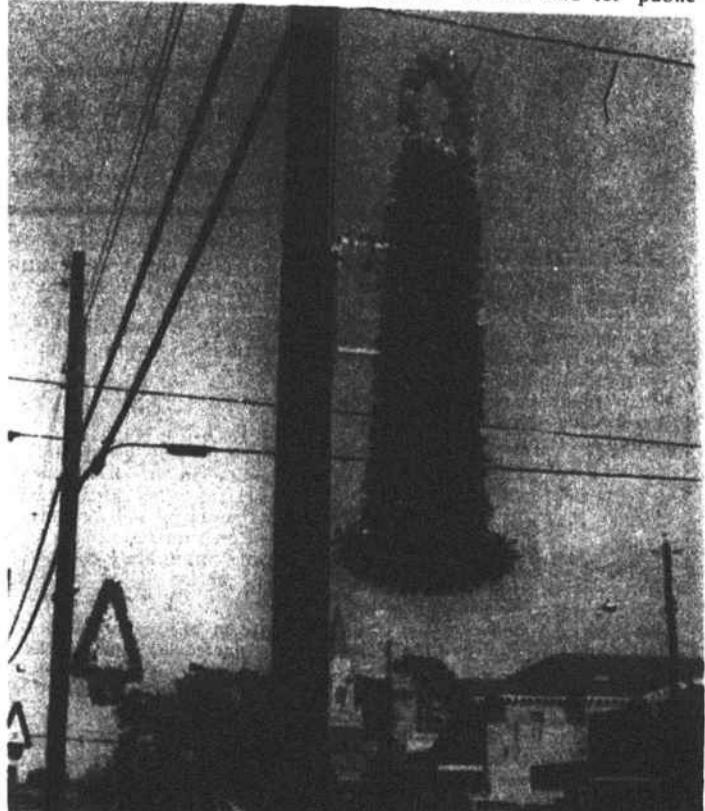
The Rescue Squad helps stabilize patients at scenes of accidents or in other medical emergencies. It does not normally provide ambulance transportation to hospitals, however, unless there are more patients than the Ambulance Service can

handle in an emergency.

The members of the Rescue Squad also provide services that the Ambulance Service isn't intended safety, help at scenes of accidents,

the traffic and pedestrians not involved in the accidents.

for. Rescue Squad people, for example, remove people pinned in wrecked vehicles and for public



SIGNS OF THE TIMES -- These large Christmas ornaments are decorating the streets in downtown Raeford now, signs that the Christmas season of 1980 is here. The decorations were put up early in the week of November 16. This picture was taken on the west side of North Main Street at West Elwood Avenue, looking north on Main. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau.]