

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Winter is here, but Monday was a nice day. We haven't received the rain information from Robert Gatlin, but we expect he will show up before we go to press. Anyway the snow in the western part of the state didn't get down this far and this was fine with me.

Thanksgiving Day was just like any Sunday in the old town. Most of the stores were closed and most folks stayed home and watched the football games.

Since church services are held on Wednesday night, most of the churches close down for Thanksgiving. That is, the staff is off, just like all the other businesses in the city. When the banks and post office close down about everything comes to a standstill.

One thing that most people have the feeling of, is that we have two Sundays and two Mondays in the same week.

From all we can hear it was a safe and sane holiday for Hoke County.

Don't forget that the Raeford Kiwanis Club annual Pancake Supper is being held this Thursday (tonight) at the Gibson Cafeteria, beginning at 5 p.m. The club advertises "all you can eat" for \$2.00. Tickets can be picked up from any Kiwanian or can be purchased at the door.

Remember, that you don't only help the club with their many civic projects, but you can enjoy the fun and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

So be on hand for the big event Thursday night. Hope to see you there.

The News-Journal photographer will be out taking door scenes for the Christmas edition of the paper on December 11 & 12. If you have a scene that you would like to have published in that edition, please call the office and leave your name and address.

The paper will come out on Tuesday, December 23 so that it will be in the mail before Christmas. This will also give the employees a half day off before Christmas.

So we urge all news articles and ads to be in a day early for the Christmas edition. Just remember to turn your calendar up one day for the Christmas issue. Thank you.

Something we write about each year at Christmastime is for shoppers to be careful of packages they buy and put in their automobile. Don't just place them on seats of your car and walk off and not lock your car. This is a golden opportunity for a crook to walk off with your hard-earned money.

The best thing to do if you must put packages in your car is to put them in the trunk of the car, where they cannot be seen by the public. If you must place them in the front of the car, be sure to lock the doors.

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing, but it is for giving and sharing to whom we want to, rather than someone that is too lazy to work for something. So be careful with what you buy, and be careful with what you do with it after you buy.

Most of the time it is good to hear someone say, "Is Sam Morris in the office?" Of course it could be a salesman, a law enforcement officer, or maybe someone you haven't seen in several years. This happened this week.

Monday morning the question was asked, and around the book cases strolled Daniel Johnson, or to many in the county, Pig Monroe of Miami, Fla. This was the first time Daniel had been in the office in four years. In a few minutes Sam Snead and Paul Dickson were also talking with him.

Johnson left Hoke County in 1933 and went to Miami and has been there ever since that time. He has worked for Southern Bell Telephone Co. up until two years ago when he retired. He seemed to

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For Feasibility Study

Industry Sites Federal Grant Sought

From Lumber River COG Counties

Visiting Officials Shown Downtown Plan

The Raeford city administration played host to city and county managers of the four-county Region N, Lumber River Council of Governments, November 26, showing the visitors photo slides made for the Raeford Downtown Revitalization project.

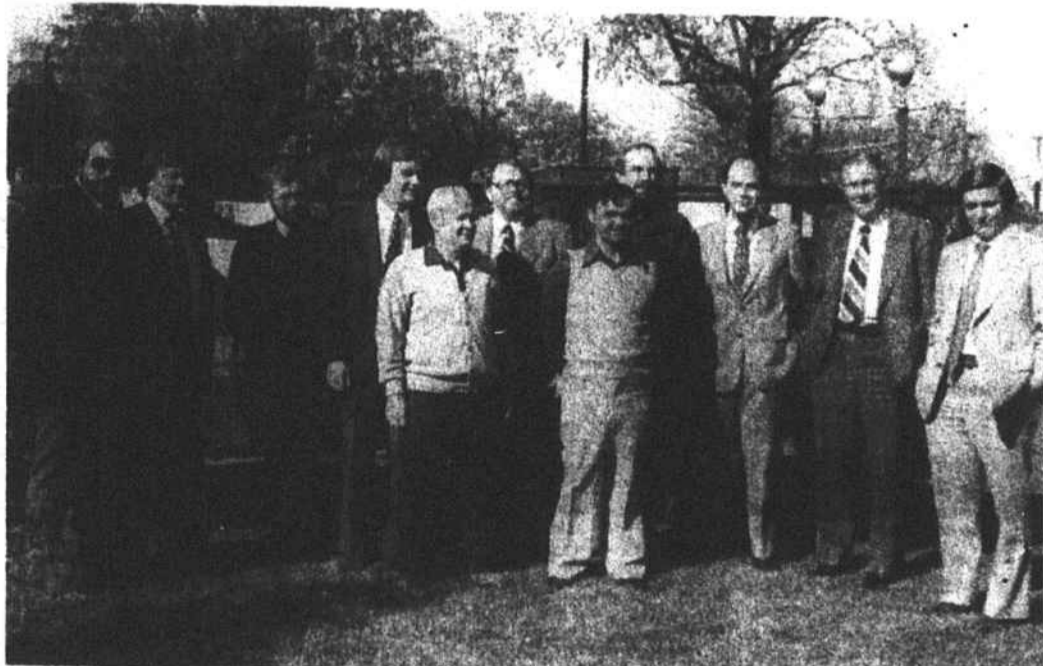
The visitors also were shown some of the city's equipment, which was put on display outside City Hall. The meeting, and the Thanksgiving luncheon which preceded it, were held in the City Council chambers. When the meeting ended, the visitors were taken on a tour of the three-year-old City Hall by Raeford City Manager Ron Matthews.

This was the monthly session of the group, which also includes city and county clerks, of Hoke, Robeson, Scotland, and Bladen counties. None of the clerks attended, however. The county managers attending included James Martin of Hoke County.

Among the other Hoke County people attending were County Commissioner Danny DeVane, who is COG chairman; heads and other employees of Raeford city government departments, and Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Clark, who also is secretary-treasurer of the COG board, welcomed the visitors. Matthews served as master of ceremonies and showed the slides, whose content was Peter Batchelor of Townscape Union Development Services, Inc., director of the study of the downtown areas. The study was commissioned in April 1978. The Revitalization project is being conducted by the City of Raeford with the Downtown Revitalization project being conducted by the city of Raeford with the Downtown Revitalization Committee of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

Charles "Chuch" Niedringhaus of the COG staff also participated



Visiting city and county managers with Hoke County Manager James Martin [right] and Raeford City Manager Ron Matthews [sixth from left] at city equipment display in Raeford just before going into City Hall for their luncheon meeting, November 26.

in the luncheon meeting.

The photos showed downtown Raeford and the commentary pointed to the defects. They also showed drawings of proposed changes the report recommends to make downtown attractive and convenient for pedestrians so they will spend more time downtown shopping.

Matthews told the audience that the city will apply for federal funds to help pay for the revitalization, but that the revitalization will be done even if the city does not get the federal grant. The amount of the grant which will be sought has not been determined. The application will be prepared by Niedringhaus for filing January 12 following

three public hearings in Raeford. The first was held the night of November 25. The others will be held December 8 and 22.

Matthews also said that the improvements that have been made in recent times to the city could not have been made without the help of the three major industries here—burlington Menswear, Faberge, Inc., and House of Raeford. He referred to the industries' heavy contributions to the city's economy.

An \$8,200 contract to complete Phase I of the Revitalization project with Townscape was authorized November 3 by the Raeford City Council. Batchelor will direct the work.

The recommendations listed in

the presentation include essentially beautification of the downtown area by landscaping and by putting overhead wires and underground; diverting non-local truck traffic from Main Street between Edinborough and Central Avenues;

The recommendations listed include, generally, among many things, beautification of the downtown area by landscaping, restoring building fronts, and removing overhead wires, which also would remove their poles; diverting non-local truck traffic from Main Street, and making other changes in the traffic pattern; and establishing a community center with

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At First Of Three Public Hearings

Revitalization Plans Described

About 40 Raeford business owners and operator's heard Raeford's Downtown Revitalization project described the night of November 24 in the City Council chambers in City Hall.

A slide presentation of photos and drawings in color was given to illustrate the project.

The presentation described the study and recommendations made for rehabilitating the central business section to encourage people to shop at leisure.

The study was made by Peter Batchelor of Townscape Union Development Services, Inc., of

Raleigh with a team of students from North Carolina State University. The project is being conducted by the Town of Raeford with the Downtown Revitalization Committee of the Raeford - Hoke County Chamber of Commerce. Earl Fowler, chamber manager, conducted the meeting.

Batchelor also participated in the meeting with Charles "Chuck" Niedringhaus of the Lumber River Council of Governments staff; Raeford city officials, and the Revitalization Committee.

The meeting was the first of three public hearings which will precede

the filing of an application January 12 for a federal Community Development block grant to help pay for the project. Niedringhaus will prepare the application. The amount the city will ask for has not yet been decided on.

Fowler said the revitalization of downtown will be done, however, whether the city gets a grant or not.

The November 25 meeting was principally to familiarize with the project Raeford people who had not been in touch with it.

The City Council at its November 3 meeting adopted a motion to contract with Townscape to complete Phase I of the Revitalization project at a cost of \$8,200. Batchelor, who will handle the work, among other things will confer with downtown property owners on recommended changes to improve appearances of buildings.

The other public hearings are scheduled for December 8 and 22, in the council chambers. Each is scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

The recommendations for revitalization include:

--Restoring fronts of buildings to their original attractive states.

--Placing above store fronts canopies that will allow light through to show display windows (eliminating darkness).

--Diverting non-local truck traffic from Main Street between Edinborough and Central avenues.

--Establishing landscaped

pedestrian walkways, shade trees, and brick crossways for pedestrians to use in crossing the streets, and repaving sidewalks with brick; also, establishing planters and a system of street furniture, the latter concentrated in a single zone.

--Building a community center with recreation facilities in the downtown area.

--Coordinating signs so they don't compete with each other.

--Removing overhead wires.

--Correcting the confusion of street signs.

--Establishing south of the railroad crossing Main a community park and landscaped walkways.

--Establishing a service lane system for utilities and vehicles, and parking lots around the system.

--Providing pedestrian walkways through buildings from Main Street to parking lots. These would encourage potential shoppers to leave their cars parked and walk in the shopping area.

--Continuing to provide pedestrian walkways.

--Extending development of the business district northward and southward on Main.

The report also recommends the Revitalization start on the section of Main bounded by Central and Elwood Avenues.

The downtown study, com-

(See PLANS, page 10)

Board To Meet December 9

The December meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education will be held December 9 starting at 7 p.m. instead of on the regular date, the first Tuesday.

Mina Townsend and Ruth

McNair will be sworn in for new four-year terms on the board just before the meeting starts.

They were reelected to the board in the November 4 general elections.

Santa House Plans Are Announced

The Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad depot building will be decorated and used for Santa House, sponsored by the Raeford Merchants Association.

The association's regular meeting for November was held November 25. The plans were announced after the meeting.

Santa will be in residence in the near future, and plans are being made to have a professional photographer make pictures of children with Santa.

A mail box for letters to Santa also will be in the Santa House.

During the meeting, Earl Fowler, manager of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, will cooperate with the association and contribute financial aid.

Merchants will offer prizes, and registration will be held in all participating stores.

Each gift will be provided in a separate drawing from the names of people registered.

Beginning December 25, most stores will remain open daily till 8 p.m.

The next meeting of the association will be held December 23.

Draft Registration To Reopen

The U.S. Postal Service announces that the local post office will continue to assist in the Selective Service registration program.

All males born in 1962 will be required to register between Jan-

uary 5 and January 10 (inclusive), 1981.

Beginning on January 5, all males will be required to register within 30 days (preceding or following) of their 18th birthday.

(See GRANT, page 10)