



Merry Christmas

The News - Journal

Hoke Observing Christmas Holiday

Hoke County people joined the rest of the country this week in celebrating Christmas.

Special Christmas programs were held at Hoke County churches before Christmas. The final one scheduled was the traditional midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church.

Among the other programs was the presentation of Handel's "Messiah" Sunday at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the 60-member Raeford Community Choir.

"Messiah" also was sung by the Sandhills Choral Society Sunday at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

The annual Christmas Cheer Services sponsored by the Hoke County Civic League were held December 10 at St. Andrews Holiness Church.

Every Hoke County school had school chorus Christmas song concerts and many classes gave Christmas plays before classes ended Friday afternoon for the holidays, with the Hoke County High School Chorus of 64 singers and Chorale of 38 giving their annual Christmas concert Thursday night.

The county schools will stay closed for their annual Christmas-New Year holiday till the morning of January 5.

State and county government offices started a three-day Christmas holiday when the day's work for Tuesday ended at the customary time. The holiday, with the regular weekend added, will continue till Monday morning. The Hoke County Public Library closed Tuesday at the end of the regular day for Christmas Eve, Christmas and Friday.

Raeford city offices are closed Thursday and Friday and will be closed New Year's day, as will federal government offices, except the Post Office.

The Post Office is on holiday schedule Christmas and New Year's. No city or rural mail deliveries except "specials" will be made, and no window service will be offered in the Post Office building.

Most businesses also will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

State, county, city and federal law enforcement officers, and city and county firemen, will be on duty and emergency medical service people of the Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad will be on call and available wherever and whenever needed during the holidays as well as all other days, as usual.

Meanwhile, Santa Claus was busy in Hoke County making pre-Christmas visits and listening to children's wishes for Christmas presents during the past week. He appeared at, among other places, at the National Guard Armory for the annual Christmas party given by Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 82nd Airborne Division for children in the Hoke County Head Start classes, at Santa House in the railroad depot on Main Street, regularly through the last days before Christmas, at the Hoke County Children's Center and J.W. Turlington School gymnasium.

He attracted his largest audiences at the Armory and Santa House. Besides the single visitors and families, about 350 children of McLauchlin Elementary School visited him at the Santa House and about 60 came to the Christmas party at the Armory, both on Thursday. The youngsters at the Armory party also had refreshments, played games and were given pre-Christmas gifts by Santa.

The News-Journal office will be closed for the holidays from noon Wednesday till Monday morning.

Downtown Plan Backed

The Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce and a petition signed by 23 of Raeford's downtown merchants Monday night expressed support of the Downtown Revitalization plan for Raeford and asked the Raeford City Council to apply for federal Community Development funds to help finance the project.

The merchants' petition was received and chamber Manager Earl Fowler expressed the chamber's attitude at the second of the two public hearings required by federal law to be held on the proposal.

City Manager Ron Matthews informed the audience the City Council would adopt a resolution at its regular meeting of January 5 to

(See DOWNTOWN, Page 8)

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The winter weather has arrived and I may see a "White Christmas" rather than hear Bing Crosby sing it. Records were broken Sunday in the state and from the forecast, it will be cold for the remainder of the week.

The cold weather will add to the burdens of some folks, because of inflation. Getting Santa Claus for the kids is going to run high this year, but the price of fuel oil is at an all time high, too.

Just remember to be careful if you burn wood and don't leave the house with a fire out of control. Also be careful of the lights on the Christmas tree if you have a live tree.

As the old folks used to say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

...

The letter in the column last week from Leo Fuller brought forth much comment from some of the older citizens of the city. Some were trying to picture where the building was located that was mentioned, that stood where the Page Trust Building is now located. Of course when one thing was mentioned, this led to something else that was not even in Fuller's letter.

When you get four or five people together that lived in Raeford in the

1920s, they will bring forth stories and events that are hard to believe. Wouldn't it be a fine project for someone to make a map of Raeford and go back and put on it everyone that had owned the property and who had a business there or lived in a certain home. The publisher has made such comments to me recently and if he could get someone to help him I believe he would undertake the task. (Think about this Gatlin?)

Robert Gatlin did mention that Leo had one small mistake in his letter. He stated that the siren was not destroyed during the big fire, but was recovered and sent off to be repaired. Gatlin said it was used up until several years ago when the new beeper was installed.

Thanks Leo, for stirring up the historians in the old place.

...

Joe Davis was by the office last week and had a letter from VA officials in Philadelphia which states that no insurance money was being handed out to veterans. So I hope this will close the issue.

...

Mrs. Russell McAllister, Jr. came by the office last week and (See AROUND TOWN, page 7)

Emergency People Get 'High' Lessons

Members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad and the Hoke County Ambulance Service took lessons Thursday in rappelling and getting patients from high places.

The instructors were men of Special Forces Seventh Group, "C" Company, Second Battalion.

The students -- two men and five women -- started learning from 50 feet up, at the top of the National Guard Armory in Raeford, all but two doing rappelling for the first time. They also learned how to rig a stretcher to bring an injured or ill person from a high place by rope.

From there they went on to greater heights -- the 120-foot-high state fire watch tower off N.C. 211 south of Raeford -- for more rappelling training.

The only people in the class who had had experience in rappelling were Jim Henley, head of the Ambulance Service, who had gotten his experience in Army service; and Brenda Tillman also of the Ambulance Service and wife of one of the instructors, Master Sgt. Henry D. Tillman. The Tillmans live in Raeford, at 102 Utah St.

The others in the class were Leatha Causey, Denise Brewster, James Cook and wife Melody, all of the Rescue Squad, and Linda (Mrs. Jim) Henley of the Ambulance Service.

Besides instruction in getting patients down from high places on buildings and from cliffs, the Hoke County men and women were

instructed in diving medicine -- what to do for injured or all Scuba divers.

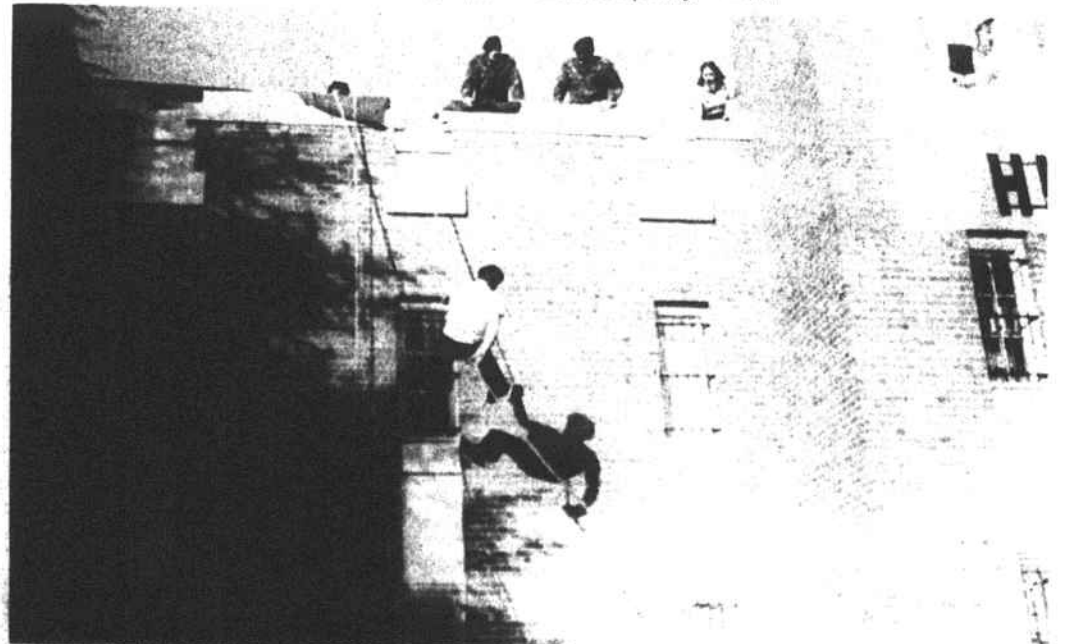
The instructors besides Tillman were Capt. George McAuliffe, First Lt. John Peska, Master Sgt. Howard Allen, Sgts. John Shimkoski and Bill Woods, and Sp4 Bill

Miller.

Tillman and Allen are in charge of the Seventh Group's combat diving detachments, and Allen and Peska, the HALO team. HALO stands for the military free-fall (skydiving) procedure, high altitude (jump), low altitude opening

(of the 'chute).

Before going to the Armory, the members of the Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad had a training session at Crumpler Funeral Home, in knot-tying and other skills connected with their emergency work.



Jim Henley rappelling down.