

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The wind and rain is with us as this is being written early Monday morning. I would estimate that the temperature is in the 30s, and according to the forecast should get up to the 50s later in the day.

The snow didn't come on Christmas day, but it did show up on Saturday. I get up early everyday and had gone out and picked up the morning paper about 6 a.m. If anything was falling at that time I didn't see or feel it. About an hour later someone at the house said that the ground was covered with snow. I couldn't believe such a thing.

This happened to me many years ago when I was operating the linotype machine early in the morning here at the office. Getting up and coming to work at about 3:30 in the morning it was fair and cold, but it was not snowing. About 6:30 a.m. the publisher came by the office with his boots on and was talking about putting chains on his car. I asked him where he was going and he said there were about two or three inches of snow outside. I couldn't believe it, but it was true.

So when the snow comes, it is a surprise after you have been up for a few hours.

The employees in the Composing room, all of the opposite sex, will be happy and willing to get down to hard work, because they left here last week wanting snow for the holidays and I was hoping to hear "White Christmas" on the TV set.

Anyway it held off long enough for everyone to get home for Christmas and cleared up so that they could return home Sunday.

It was a nice Christmas and holidays.

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I have not heard the official count for traffic fatalities on the highways in North Carolina for the holiday period but would think that the conditions on the highways because of the weather would have cut down on traffic and this would keep the death toll down from the 50 that was predicted.

We haven't checked, as yet, with the police or the sheriff departments, but haven't heard of any violence in the county so far this holiday season.

There were many houses that caught fire in the state, but haven't heard of any in Hoke County. This is good and if everyone will be careful, maybe we can get through the season without any tragic events.

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This is the last column for 1980 and what makes it easy to do is the help of all the readers. It would be hard to fill up each week if you didn't write letters and come by the office and give me bits of information for this column. I appreciate it more than you know and the readers also appreciate and want to hear from former citizens of Raeford and Hoke County, so if you have something to say or want to recall some old events that happened here in the past, be sure to write or come by the office.

Everything that we place in this column is filed and will be around as long as the newspaper and library are around.

So to keep the column going, just keep the copy coming into the office.

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The upcoming year 1981 forecasts problems for all of us, but as we look back over the years, we have come through many trying years and each time we have faced the problems and won. So keep your head high and keep the faith that this country will continue to be a leader in world affairs.

To each and everyone a Happy New Year.

## Youth Rally Slated For Sunday

The Rev. Albert Long, an evangelist of Durham, will hold a youth rally Sunday at First Baptist Church of Raeford.

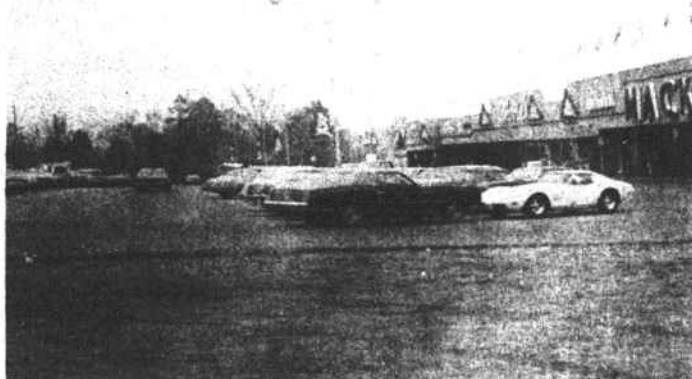
He will hold a special youth rally at 6 p.m. and will deliver the evening message at the 7:30 p.m. service.

## In Raeford Stores

# Christmas Sales 'Good' To 'Terrific'



Scene at checkout counters in a Raeford store about noon Christmas Eve. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau.]



Edenborough Shopping Center parking lot about noon Christmas Eve ... Parking space was hard to find. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau.]

## New Driver License Renewal System Set

North Carolina started the new year with a new method of licensing drivers.

The method, called the "classified driver license system," will replace the operator and chauffeur licenses issued under the old system, according to Motor Vehicles Commissioner Elbert L. Peters Jr.

Peters said last month the change will take place for driver license renewals after Jan. 1, 1981. Motorists with current valid driver licenses will not be affected until it is time for them to renew their old licenses, which occurs every four years. A driver license expires at midnight on the motorists' birthday.

Under the new system, vehicles are put in categories or classes (A, B or C) according to their weight and the number of passengers they are designed to carry. The class will be indicated on the front cover of the driver license.

Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw said, "Under the classified driver license system, North Carolina motorists will be licensed to operate only motor vehicles in the 'class' (A, B or C) shown on the

front cover of their driver licenses.

"Once implemented, we think the classified driver license system will play an important role in our department's efforts to promote safe driving on the roads and highways of our state."

Most North Carolina motorists will obtain a Class C license when they renew their driver licenses, Peters noted.

The Class C license entitles a driver to operate a car, a private truck or other motor vehicle, which weighs 30,000 pounds or less.

The Class B license entitles a motorist to:

---Drive a commercial bus, a cement mixer or any other single motor vehicle that weighs over 30,000 pounds;

---Operate that vehicle to tow another vehicle weighing 10,000 gross pounds or less;

---Drive a single vehicle designed to carry more than 12 passengers;

---Operate all vehicles under Class C.

The Class A license entitles motor vehicle operators to drive any vehicle (except a motorcycle), including all vehicles under Classes B and C.

To obtain a Class A license, the motor vehicle operator must show proof either by affidavit or by passing a written examination and/or road test that he is capable of driving a tractor-trailer.

A driver license must have the "motorcycle endorsement" on it before a motorist is entitled to operate the motorcycle with either a Class A, B or C license.

To obtain this endorsement, the operator must either sign an affidavit attesting to two years' experience in operating a motorcycle

prior to Jan. 1, 1978 or take both a written and a road test.

The fees for each class license are as follows:

A - \$10, B - \$10, and C \$4. A duplicate license is \$1.

Peters said motor vehicle operators may still be exempt from taking the written examination or road test if they have had no traffic convictions or violations within the preceding four years.

However, to receive a Class A or B license without taking the road

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## Season's First Snowfall Comes

Hoke County with the rest of the Sandhills area received its first snowfall of the new winter Saturday but a check indicates the white blanket did no serious damage. Meanwhile, Hoke people were having the New Year's holiday Thursday following last weekend's long Christmas vacation for most.

The blanket, amounting to about two inches, made driving hazardous Saturday and postponed shopping for many people at the after-Christmas sales at Raeford stores.

Nearly all the snow had disappeared by late Sunday afternoon under the combination of rain and above-freezing temperatures that prevailed during the day. None was visible Monday morning to motorists returning to work after the long holiday.

The News-Journal is returning to its regular schedule following publication of this week's edition, and the office is open for business as usual on New Year's day Thursday and the rest of the week.

## For County Office Space When Needed

# Hoke Board Votes To Buy Building Site

The Hoke County commissioners December 24 voted to buy land for a site for construction of a building to house county government offices when the building is needed.

The county will buy the property from The McLauchlin Co. of Raeford for \$50,000, according to the terms of the motion adopted.

The property is bounded by 100 feet each facing on East Elwood and East Edinborough Avenues and 288 feet on Racket Alley on the west. The line on East Edinborough is on the south side of the street across from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department. The eastern boundary runs through a vacant lot bounded by Elwood, Edinborough and North Stewart Street. The property does not include the entire lot but it does include the vacant building formerly occupied by the Raeford Motor Co. Body Shop.

The money for the purchase will come from the county fund balance.

John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, said it wasn't known what year the county would shoot for, for putting up the building. He said it could be two or it could be eight. The action, however, he said, fits in with the long-range study of county government and courts office space. The study and proposals made for meeting the county's anticipated needs for space in five and 10 years were made by Jordan, Snowden & McVicker of Laurinburg in 1979. The findings and proposals were presented to the commissioners October 1, 1979.

One proposal is for construction of a Courthouse addition, and this is what would be built on the site.

The proposal says the addition would contain present county offices now housed in the annex on East Edinborough and in the old county building on West Elwood. The East Edinborough annex would provide additional needed space for the courts and the sheriff's department.

No decision has been made by the commissioners yet on specific plans.

Balfour said after the meeting, that the first negotiations for purchase of the property for the building were held in early November, and the agreement was reached after several weeks of periodic discussions.

The meeting, held at 9 a.m., was a special one called specifically for the commissioners to decide on the property. An executive session lasting about 25 minutes preceded the action on the motion to buy. The official action was taken after the meeting was made open.



Part of land county is buying for more office space. The view is looking southwest. The picture was taken from the front of the sheriff's department building. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau.]

The 1980 Christmas sales in Raeford stores ranged from "good" to "terrific" a check with management spokespeople Monday shows. Generally, Christmas shoppers started later than last year but came on strong in the last few days before the holiday.

The "terrific" came from Robbie Carter, manager-trainee at Macks Variety & Fashions in Edenborough Shopping Center. He was queried in the absence of manager Mike Maddox, who was away at the time The News-Journal reporter stopped by.

Carter said toys were the most popular with shoppers, and of the toys the "see and say" animals were the favorites of gift buyers. He pointed to empty shelves in the toy department to illustrate his statement.

He said the sales generally were better than those of the 1979 Christmas season.

Moore's manager Greg Wilkerson reported the past Christmas season's sales were "real good... a whole lot better than last year." He said he hadn't broken down sales by items so he couldn't say what were the best sellers but sales of merchandise were good all over the store.

Along Main Street in downtown Raeford, Louella Daniels, manager of Pauline's clothing store report the holiday sales had been good, about the same as the 1979 season's.

At DeVane's department store, manager Ed Hasty said the Christmas business started late but when it got started it was good. Sales had been off in September and October, because of the warm weather, he said, but the Christmas sales were as good as last year's.

Of individual items, he said it was a "real good sweater year" last season. "In fact," he added, "I didn't buy enough sweaters to sell." The next biggest favorite with Christmas shoppers, Hasty said, were shirts.

He said one difference between the 1980 and the previous Christmas shopping seasons was "people were more careful in buying this year." They were more particular about quality, he said.

Mike Smith, owner of Michael's Men Shop across the street, said of the past Christmas sales, "I can't complain." He said people waited till the last minute but came in on Tuesday and Wednesday before Christmas day.

Sweaters, slacks and suits sold best, Smith added.

At The Shoe Chest next door, owner Cleo Bratcher said he was "real pleased" with the 1980 Christmas shopping season. Sales were "real good," and they also were good after Christmas he said.

He said the staff wrapped far more gifts of shoes this year than last year.

Bratcher said ladies' boots sold best of all, attributing the popularity to the cold weather preceding Christmas.

At Howell Drug, Tom Howell reported the past Christmas sales were "good if not better" than the 1979 season's. He said the 1980

(See SALES, page 11)