

Federal Agency Reports

Armory Building Funds Available Soon

Federal funds to help finance construction of a new National Guard armory in the Raeford area will become available within 30 days, the Hoke County government administration was advised Monday.

A letter containing this and other information and written Thursday by Lt. Col. Elbert McPhaul, Jr., of the state adjutant general's office in Raleigh was forwarded to County Manager James Martin by Warrant Officer Jesse Jones of the staff of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 252nd Armor, at the present National Guard Armory here.

The letter, addressed to the commanding officer of battalion headquarters, says the state National Guard office in Raleigh has been advised by the National Guard Bureau in Washington that federal funds to support the cost of construction of the new armory will be available within 30 days.

McPhaul also wrote that the drawings and specifications for the armory, designed to accommodate 100 troops, have been reviewed and approved by "applicable agencies" and that advertising for construction bids will be issued soon as notice of the availability of funds is received. He added that the local share of the construction costs must be on deposit with the state treasurer before contracts can be awarded.

McPhaul is chief of engineering and facilities for the North Carolina National Guard.

Martin said the information contained in McPhaul's letter would be given the county commissioners Monday night at their regular mid-month meeting for January. He said this will be exactly five years from the date (January 19) that McPhaul appearing at a special meeting of the commissioners first discussed the new armory.

Martin said the county's share of the cost is 12 1/2 percent of the cost and that Jones informed him he understands that some state money will be contributed.

The cost of the construction was estimated in 1976 at \$464,000, and the county's share, based on this estimate, would be \$58,000 of the total. But Martin said that, in view of the rate of inflation that has occurred since then, he doesn't know how valid that figure is today.

The county commissioners appropriated \$70,000 as the county's share of the total cost last June 30 for the new fiscal year but this may not be enough, in view of inflation, Martin noted.

The armory construction site is a tract of about five acres laying on the west side of Teal Drive just west of the U.S. 401 overpass and just north of the Raeford Motor Co. lot. Roughly it lies between N.C. 211 west and the U.S. 401 south bypass.

The present armory is on Central Avenue between Adams and McDuffie streets.

Correction

Burlington Industries made no verbal offer to donate land to Hoke County for recreation as was reported in a news story published last week. W.K. Morgan, chairman of the Hoke County Parks and recreation Commission, advised *The News Journal* Friday.

He said the commission initiated the effort to obtain the property as a donation. The tract consists of 6.7 acres of land at the U.S. 401 bypass, West Prospect Avenue, and Dickson Street.

The Hoke County commissioners formally pledged at their January 5 meeting support to the recreation commission to pursue the donation.

At Chamber Board Meeting

Airport Steering Committee Named

A five-member Airport Steering Committee was appointed Tuesday morning at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce.

The board established the committee to support and coordinate a joint meeting of Raeford city and Hoke County officials to determine present and future growth patterns at the Raeford Municipal Airport.

The move was part of the over-all effort to develop Hoke County's economy further.

Named to the committee by the Rev. Billy Beaver, the chamber's president, were Cecil Bond, chosen chairman, and Harold Brock, L.S. Brock, Tom Howell, Bill Moses, and Earl Fowler, the chamber's manager.

The county has applied for a federal grant of \$24,000 to finance a County Industrial Feasibility. The county will add \$8,000 "in kind," in lieu of cash. The application has been filed and is being considered by the federal Economic Development Administration.

The purpose of the project is to prepare a study to determine the location of sites develop them for industrial and commercial expansion.

Fowler said one of the potential sites which will be studied is the airport area.

The effort to get the feasibility study also is part of the general economic development campaign.

Another is the proposed improvement of the city's waste-water treatment system. The Economic Development Administration last October 14 approved a \$720,000 grant to help pay the \$900,000 estimated cost of the planned improvements. The city has budgeted \$25,000 city bonds are to be sold through the U.S. Farmers Home Administration to obtain \$65,000 more; and \$90,000 will be

sought from state Clean Water Bond funds.

City Manager Ron Matthews and Fowler personally delivered to the U.S. Department of Urban and Housing Development office in Greensboro on Monday the city's pre-application for \$500,000 to help finance the revitalization of downtown Raeford. The project aims to improve the downtown area to attract more shoppers.

Fowler has said the project also would mean job-retention and availability of jobs for lower and middle-income people.

Fowler last fall told the City Council that the airport is important for the industrial development of Hoke County.

The city is seeking county government participation in the airport's operation.

Invited By Education Board; At \$1.25 Per Lunch

Senior Citizens Eligible For School Lunches

Hoke County senior citizens starting Monday will be allowed to have lunch in the cafeterias of three of the county schools, at the invitation of the County Board of Education and with the "full support of local restaurant owners."

This was announced Friday by County Schools Supt. Raz Autry. The announcement says the senior citizens will pay \$1.25 for a lunch, the same price teachers and other adults on the school staffs.

The invitation is open to people over age 60. The lunches will be the same as those served the students, the announcement added.

The menus are published weekly in *The News-Journal*.

The lunches will be served at J.W. Turlington, J.W. McLaughlin and Scurlock schools, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day students are in class.

Autry was unavailable for questioning for further details before press time, since he was in Winston-Salem attending the winter conference of the state's county school superintendents.

Mrs. Clara Pope, county schools food services director, said, however, replying to a reporter's questions Monday afternoon that the \$1.25 per person charged allows the school lunchrooms to break even, but not make a profit. She said it covers the rate of costs of food, labor, and utilities used.

She said that exactly how many senior citizens would accept the invitation to lunch at the schools is not known now but indicated an average number would be known after the first meals are served.

The serving of school lunches to senior citizens is done in several neighboring counties.

A spokesman of The Children's Nutrition Program of the State Department of Public Instruction advised the county administration that the Hoke schools could serve the "outside" senior citizens as long as the program paid for itself and did not get into competition with restaurants.

No special meals would be arranged for the visiting people, Mrs. Pope said.

Senior citizens approached the school administration with the idea before Christmas after discussing it, and Don Steed, coordinator of school-community services for the county school system, and Mrs. Pope made the arrangements after

Autry decided the idea should be tried out.

One of the senior citizens involved in the proposal was Miss Josephine Hall, who served as county coordinator of senior citizens' programs till she retired last fall.

The schools participating in the new program are within walking distance of many senior citizens. Mrs. Pope said the program can be extended to other county schools if necessary.

Students receive regular lunches free of charge, except at the Hoke County High School sandwich line. They pay for sandwiches, drinks, crackers, and pastries on the special line if they want them.

Autry's announcement says senior citizens need not notify the schools they are coming for lunch; "just go to the school of their choice during these designated hours"; and "no one at the school will ask for identification. Their presence is all that is necessary."

Charges Against Clyde Leach Dismissed

Voluntary dismissals of prohibition law violations charges against Clyde Alvin Leach, Rt. 2, Raeford, were taken December 31 by Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell.

The statements of dismissals give lack of sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution as the reason for the dismissals.

Leach had appealed to Hoke County Superior Court from District Court judgments finding him guilty September 19 of possession of a distillery to manufacture

liquor and distilling spirituous liquor. Judge Lacy Hair fined him \$150 and ordered him to pay court costs.

The still, of 10 gallons capacity, was exhibited at the trial. Leach's brother, Alfred, was found not guilty and Gordon Ragsdale, guilty, of the same charges. Ragsdale paid the court costs and \$150 fine imposed on him by Judge Hair.

The notices of the dismissals of the charges against Clyde Leach were filed in Superior Court.

Boards To Meet Monday

The Hoke County Boards of Health, Education, and County Commissioners will meet jointly at 7 p.m. Monday in the Courthouse Annex to discuss Hoke County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board matters.

Following the joint meeting, the county commissioners will hold their regular mid-month session for January, and the health board will meet briefly in the County Health Department.

Soil, Water Conservation District

Huff Named State President

D.R. Huff, Jr., of Hoke County, has been elected 1981 president of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He was installed at the group's 38th annual convention at Asheville, last week.

The association is made up of 93 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts which serve all 100 counties of North Carolina, providing leadership and assistance in programs to retain and enhance soil and water resources. Each local district is governed by a board of elected or appointed officials, the district supervisors, who serve without salary.

The new president is himself chairman of the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District, and has 20 years of service as a supervisor. He operates a 175-acre farm in western Hoke County, growing Coastal Bermuda grass which is sold for hay. He also runs a country store and fertilizer service.

Born in Guilford County, the new president attended North Carolina State University, receiving the B.S. degree in poultry science in 1950. He married Emogene Sinclair of Hoke County, and they have five sons: Ralph, Ronnie, Randy, Ricky, and Rusty.

The association also elected two other high officials. Fernie Laugh-

inghouse of Pantego was elevated to first vice-president, having served as vice-president; and Charles R. Patton of Asheville was elected second vice-president for 1981.

More than 400 people from every county in North Carolina attended the convention.

Wade Carrigan of Iredell County, who headed the association during 1980, was in charge of the meeting.



D.R. Huff, Jr.

Brass Quintet Concert Thurs.

The Brass Quintet of the North Carolina Symphony will give a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday in Raeford Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. It is open to the public.

The concert is being sponsored by the Chaminate Music Club of Raeford and the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony.

Honor guests will be the Hoke County people who have donated the past year to the county's campaign for funds for the symphony.

Mrs. Iris Davis and Mrs. Mary Archie McNeill, county schools music supervisor, are the coordinators for the concert.

The Brass Quintet has been in the county this week giving instructional Discovery Programs in the county schools.

The last programs will be given Friday morning in Scurlock School for the school's students in the kindergarten and first three grades.

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Robert Gatlin called Monday morning and stated that the low for Sunday night was eight degrees. Now this is the second morning in a row with the thermometer getting down to around 10 degrees. I don't believe that is has been above freezing for the past two days.

The wind was blowing Monday and the chill factor must have been below zero most of the day.

Anyway the forecast is for warmer weather for the latter part of the week. I hope so anyway.

Billy Beaver, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was by the office last week and was asking me about the cold weather mentioned in this column last week. He went on to say that he and Bill Lancaster played golf on Monday, January 5 and even though it was only 26 degrees it wasn't bad because the wind wasn't blowing. He wanted to know what I had to say about that.

My reply was that Dr. John Ropp, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, had told me he and his two sons had played golf the day after Christmas when the temperature was about 20 degrees and that I was ashamed to let anyone know that I was an elder in that preacher's church. So all I could do for him was put him in the same boat as the good doctor.

All joking aside, it seems from talking to the two preachers that they had a wonderful time and didn't mind the below freezing weather.

Carson Davis, Jr. brought me an old telephone directory for the year 1936 for Raeford and it will bring forth these comments:

There were 166 phones in Raeford in 1936 and it took only two pages in the directory. The book today has approximately 3000 phones listed in the City of Raeford. The names take up 14 pages and are listed three columns to the page. Only two columns were listed on the two pages in 1936. Under the letter M there are over 400 names.

The price for the phone was \$2.50 per month. I believe that the cost today is around \$5.75 per month. Not too much of an increase compared to other items.

The sheriff and clerk of court must have been paying for their phones because they are listed in the book as D.H. Hodgen office and Edgar Hall office.

Most of the numbers were three digits with an occasional four-digit number.

With the population of the town increasing from about 1500 to 3500 in the 45 years, it would make the increase in telephones almost unbelievable.

Thanks Carson, the book is very interesting.

The Col. Patterson, whose picture was in last week's paper, is a brother of Mrs. John Peocora. He is the CO of a Wing at Pope AFB and was selected by President Carter for promotion to brigadier general.

The following letter is self-explanatory.

Dear Sam,
As a former Director and Supporter of the Hoke County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony you know how hard individuals work to bring the Symphony to this Community. Without the Donations from Citizens, Business's and the School contribution it would be impossible through just the Season Ticket Sale. The cost for the program selected for this year is \$7,500.00.

As a part of this program the Brass Quintet will be in the schools this week teaching and working with the children on a one to one basis.

On Thursday, January 15th at 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Raeford Presbyterian Church there will be a Brass Concert and Reception in Honor of all Donors

(See AROUND TOWN, page 11)