

# Freezing Or Colder Recorded 27 Days

The first month of the new year was the driest and coldest Hoke County apparently ever had on 27 of the 31 days the temperature hit lows of no higher than the freezing mark, and only one inch of rain fell.

These show in records kept by Robert Gatlin, official National Weather Service observer for Hoke County.

Of the four other days of the month, low temperatures were in the 30s on three and in the 40s on

the other.

The severe cold brought adverse financial as well as physical effects: the cost of fuel increased as the temperatures dropped, though natural gas customers were not as severely hit as people using oil for heating.

The inch of rain that fell during the month was 3.5 inches less than the average for the same month in the previous five years. In January 1980, the rainfall totaled 4.6 inches. The first month of 1978 was

the wettest January of the period -- 8.6 inches fell. The rainfall for January of the other years totaled 5.45 in 1979, 4.7 in 1977, and 4.4 in 1976.

The 3.5 inch "deficit" followed the old year that had eight inches less than the average annual rainfall for Hoke County, Gatlin's records show. A total of 48 inches fell during the year.

The Raeford area's system of deep wells is credited with guarding the community against severe ef-

fects of the dry spell, but the dry 1980 and first month of 1981 has affected surface water deposits in rivers and ponds.

Before the main 1981 planting season starts, the area has about three months in which the rainfall deficit could be made up. Approximately two inches of snow that fell on the last weekend of the month.

It takes nearly eight inches of snow to equal an inch of rain.

While January is usually the

wettest month of winter, February is comparatively dry. Precipitation in February 1980, for example, totaled 2.6 inches.

The total for February 1978 was 1.9, for 1977 it was 2.1, and for 1976, it was 1.5. The February 1979 total, however, was a departure from the "rule" -- five inches.

The lowest temperatures of last month was the seven recorded on January 11, but it reached eight on January 12, nine on January 5 and 11, and 10 on the last day of the

month. The effects of the lows of January 11, 12 and 13, however, were intensified by the chill factor created by the wind that blew on those days.

The average low for the 27 days was 21.74 degrees, and the "high" low was 32.

February started with a rare condition. On the first day of the month the temperature climbed from a low of 15 degrees to a high of 65. From that high it preceded to drop steeply again.

25°

# The News - Journal

25°

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXXII NUMBER 42

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1981

## 9-member City, County, Chamber Group

# Airport Study Group Creation Advised

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

It seems that every time the weather gets colder, the price of fuel oil goes up. The weather was bleak over the past weekend and there was very little you could do except stay inside.

The forecast is for rain Tuesday and Wednesday but the temperature is to be in the 50s. This sounds like the furnace won't run as much as it has for the past month.

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Last Tuesday night, Feb. 3, Burlington's plants here had their annual community leaders-plant management dinner. The affair was well attended and the comments made by Gib Bernhardt and Cecil Bond were very encouraging to the businessmen of the community. They were not singing the blues, but were talking about full production even into 1984.

They were bragging about the quality work that was being turned out at the two plants here and said that had something to do with their bright outlook for now and the future.

This is the kind of news you want coming from the plant with the largest payroll in the county.

Yes, it makes it brighter for all of us.

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An article elsewhere in the paper is about a meeting held Monday morning concerning the Raeford Airport. The meeting was well attended and maybe it will lead to a commission that will put the airport in the condition that it should be for the use of our citizens.

So if you are interested in the airport, be sure to read the article.

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A couple of weeks ago we ran a letter from Clyde Upchurch about the closing of the Red Cross Chapter here unless funds were obtained for operation this year. Since that time we have had many people express concern about this situation and it seems that something is being done about it.

We are running two more letters which we received this week. They are self-explanatory:

Dear Sam,

I am pleased to announce that the Board of the Hoke County United Way has voted to advance operating money to the local Red Cross Chapter. As you know our United Way campaign is now in the organizational stages and our campaign kick-off date is March 1, 1981.

The Board has decided that the small amount of emergency money which has been held in a savings account should be made available for use by the Red Cross. Clyde Upchurch has requested that this money continue to collect interest as long as possible. He seems relieved and grateful that the Hoke United Way has been able to insure the operation of his agency.

Many people have been concerned about the difficulties of the Red Cross Chapter. I hope each of them will remember when he or she is asked to contribute to the United Way. A contribution in Hoke County will help to support Girl

(See AROUND TOWN, page 13)

## Students To Sell Tags, Balloons Here

Fifth and sixth grade students will be selling tags and balloons for the Heart Fund drive February 14, 21, and 28 on Main Street and Edenborough Shopping Center, Raeford.

Miss Susan Blacman, chairman of the Tags and Balloons Campaign, will chaperone the children from 10 a.m. to noon February 14 and 28, and Mrs. Betsy Collins, co-chairman, will be in charge February 21 at the same locations.

The children have set a goal of \$100 for the three - Saturday campaign.

February is Heart Month.

## \$100 Reward Offered In Thefts

Upchurch Junior High School Principal Allen Edwards announced Tuesday he is offering a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever stole food and a percolator last weekend from the school's cafeteria.

Anyone having information about the theft is advised to give it to Edwards or the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Edwards said 10 cases of commodity chicken and a 30-cup electric, stainless steel percolator were stolen Saturday or Sunday. He said the chicken had been supplied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The stolen poultry weighed about 300 pounds and was valued at \$124, he added.

Edwards said the percolator was valued at \$50.

He said no evidence that the building had been entered by force was found.

## For Perfect Job Attendance

# 26 TexElastic Employees Honored

Twenty-six TexElastic Corporation employees were honored on Tuesday in recognition of their achievement of perfect attendance for calendar year 1980.

Of this group, nine employees achieved the two-consecutive-year perfect attendance plateau, while seven others reached the three-consecutive-year mark.

Those making up the 1980 awards group included Betty Barefoot, Therman Chavis, Shirley Gibson, Carol Jackson, Jimmy Maynor, Hattie Maynor, Donnie Monroe, Venetta Monroe, Mary



HELPING HEART FUND -- The 36 students of Miss Susan Blackman's class in the fifth grade of J.W. Turlington School will be working with the Hoke County Heart Fund campaign the weekends of February 14 and 28. The balloons they are showing will be given to people who donate to the campaign. February is Heart Month. Turlington's principal, Miss Emma Mims, is Raeford city chairman for the campaign. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau.]

## Hoke Property For Taxes In January

# 'Couple Of Hundred' Failed To List

The deadline for listing property for taxes in Hoke County came and went January 31, with "a couple of hundred" property owners failing to list.

However, Les Simpson, county tax supervisor, said Tuesday that people are coming into the Courthouse Annex office every day now to list their real and personal property.

He said about 85 per cent of the property owners had listed during January, the listing period but that some applied during the month for extension till March 31 with him and were granted the extensions when the reasons for needing them were valid. An application for extension must be made during January.

Others having justifiable reasons

for not listing can be and have been excused when they write a petition to the county commissioners and file it through Simpson. Only the commissioners can excuse people from listing their property, he said.

Asked to give examples of justifiable reasons, Simpson said that one person advised he had been out of the state most of January, and another reported he had suffered two heart attacks during the month. Flu, extensive during January, caused others to miss listing on time. "We have to consider that, too," Simpson said.

"A lot of out-of-county residents" own property in Hoke County, and that property, of course, must be listed every year, just as Hoke residents property must be.

People without a valid reason for missing the January listing time are subject to a penalty amounting to 10 per cent of the total tax due.

Nearly 10,000 individual billings for taxes are issued, but these include several to each of a number of different people. Each piece of several properties owned by the same person or corporation and in different locations is billed separately, Simpson explained.

As for the general total property evaluation which can be taxed, the increase won't be as much as the \$3 million a year in taxable improvements the county has been enjoying for the past six or seven years, he said. Last year, he said, no new business construction to speak of has been added. The total property evaluation last year was about \$190 million. It might come

(See LISTING, page 13)

## Old Receipt Would Make Grown Men Cry

Anyone looking at the high prices of everything would have trouble choking back a sob if he could see the receipt Jerry Lytle of Antioch found in a shoebox at home recently.

The receipt, made out to Lytle's

father, G.C., shows he paid \$2.50 for a pair of shoes and \$3.50 for two overalls.

Building materials cost a lot more, though -- \$27.06, for 451 feet of them. Jerry Lytle thinks the materials consisted of tar paper

and the like.

The goods were bought February 28, 1925, from Z.V. Pate, General Merchandise, at Gibson.

The receipt also notes the store handled fertilizers and was a cotton buyer.

Fowler told the participants in

(See AIRPORT, page 13)