

Struck Northeast Area Early February 11**1 Death, Damage Blamed On Hoke Tornado****Around Town**

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the weekend and the past day has been perfect. The temperature Monday was in the high 60s and the low Monday night was in the 40s.

We can't expect the weather to stay this way because the March snows are the largest we have most years. Easter is late this year being on April 19th. It seems that we always have cold weather until after Easter.

It would be fine with me if the weather continued the way it has been for the past few days, especially with the cost of heating one's home.

Don't forget that the United Fund Drive will begin around the first of March. An announcement should be forth coming soon from the campaign chairman.

The following letter was received this week and we say "Thank You." The letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Morris:

It was indeed a pleasure talking with you in regard to your article of January 29, 1981 in the "News-Journal" concerning the plight of the agencies served by the United Fund of Hoke County.

As an industry vitally concerned with the many community services provided by these agencies, we wish to pledge the continued support of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company to this fine effort by the enclosed check for \$150.

Best wishes toward you and your community's efforts to keep the United Fund alive and functioning.

Yours very truly,
J.L. Holmes
District Commercial Manager

This letter was received last week from a native of Raeford and Hoke County. He is a graduate of Raeford High School in 1932 and a brother of the late William Lamont. He graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. and from that time on worked for the highway system in South Carolina. We think the letter will be of interest to our readers:

Dear Sam,

Enclosed is a personal check in the amount of \$6.24, the reduced rate, for renewal of our News-Journal subscription.

I retired on Aug. 29 with 42 years service with the Federal Highway Administration. As structural Engineer it has been a very rewarding career.

Sam, I would like to commend you and your weekly column. It is most interesting and enlightening. I also enjoy Mr. Lindau's editorials and the editorial views of others as well.

During the summer, about July I believe, you mentioned an advertisement in an old newspaper signed by Major Murdock McRae McLauchlin teacher and principal of Raeford Institute. He was my great uncle and a brother of John W. McLauchlin of Raeford. My mother was also a teacher in the Raeford Institute. My father and mother told me stories of the Institute and of relatives.

I would like to relate a brief story about Major M.M. McLauchlin that you might find interesting. As a Confederate officer in the "War Between the States" Maj. McLauchlin was wounded by a shot through the jaw breaking his jawbone. Although painfully wounded he escaped capture and returned to his family home. This was the old McLauchlin home located to the right of the Arabia road and about a mile east of the crossing of Rockfish Creek on old Rt. 401 (Fayetteville Highway) if I remember correctly. I believe the old home is still standing at least it was a few years ago. The Yankee soldiers found out that he was there and came to capture him. As two

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Remains of Mrs. Beulah Stephenson's mobile home after it was knocked off its cinder blocks in the foreground. Mrs. Stephenson's son - in - law,

Vernon Lee, is the man in the pit helmet walking toward the trailer's floor, still on trailer's wheels.

Staff photos and text
by Bill Lindau

A tornado struck the north-eastern area of Hoke County early February 11, causing one death and at least \$66,000 damage to buildings and \$125,000 to timber.

(Other photos of storm damages can be seen elsewhere in today's edition of *The News-Journal*.)

Tree limbs were knocked down on power lines throughout the area, cutting off electricity to many homes and businesses. Much of the service was restored by noon, about 8½ hours after the tornado was reported to have struck the area.

Mrs. Beulah Stephenson 77, was in her mobile behind the home of her son, Roy Stephenson, just off SR 1406 a few miles west of Rockfish when the tornado swept the residence off its cinder-block foundation and dropped it on its wheels about 15 to 20 feet away. One report said the mobile home was turned over completely.

Mrs. Stephenson was reported to have suffered fractures of several ribs but died in Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville of shock or a heart attack caused by the accident.

The Hoke County Rescue Squad was called, but trees or limbs felled by the winds delayed the squad members and equipment on route to the home.

Stephenson, meanwhile, carried his mother from the scene to the house.

The mobile home was stripped completely of its walls, and furnishings and parts of the structure were scattered around the area as far as about 100 yards away.

A mobile home and a smaller storage trailer were knocked on their sides by the storm while Mr. and Mrs. Louis Halstead were in the mobile home, but they were uninjured and got out of the fallen trailer through a hole made in the roof.

Across the road from the Halstead trailer, the storm destroyed three farm buildings, and uprooted large trees on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood. The chimney, however, apparently was all that was damaged at the Woods' home, which is not far from the farm buildings.

The Woods lost a cattle barn, vacant at the time, a storage building, and a tobacco barn which was being used at the time to store hay.

The tornado apparently leap frogged along SR 1406 for about five miles eastward through Rockfish and about 150 yards flanking the road.

The News-Journal photographer, who went out to get pictures of the damage, saw the first evidence of the storm at the old Rockfish School building and a small unoccupied house, the latter facing 1406. Neither building appeared to have been damaged but large trees had been knocked down, one uprooted. The property is owned by Hadley Peoples Manufacturing Co. of Siler City, which once produced yarn there, but the plant is out of production.

Across a side road running in front of the old school house, three large trees in Paul Heath's front yard were knocked down by the storm.

Oscar Ray, the caretaker of the Hadley property, said the storm knocked out the windows of his house, which is near the buildings.

Elsewhere, between there and Rockfish fallen trees and limbs were on the ground in many places.

Mrs. Carl Strickland, wife of the pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Rockfish, said the tornado "sounded like a freight train" when she first heard it. She said this was at about 3:30 a.m. Mrs. Strickland was at the Woods' home when she made the comment to the reporter. Mrs. Halstead was there also but asleep at the time, a guest of the Woods, after she had been up all night after the storm struck.

The estimates of the damage in Hoke were made late in the morning of the day of the storm by Bill Niven, Hoke County director for the federal Emergency Management Administration. He had come to the Stephenson home with

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Vacancy Left By Resignation**Wright Named To School Board**

Robert H. Wright, a 40-year-old Rt. 1, Raeford, farmer, was named Thursday afternoon to the Hoke County Board of Education to fill the vacancy created February 3 by the resignation of Dr. Riley M. Jordan.

He will serve the remainder of Jordan's four-year term which will expire in December 1982. Jordan also was chairman of the board when he left. A new chairman will be elected by the board members at their regular meeting March 3.

Wright was the only person

nominated for the vacancy at the special meeting of the school board, but Mrs. Mina Townsend, the board's vice chairman who presided in the absence of a chairman, said 15 names were submitted by groups and individuals for consideration, and each of the 15 was discussed by every member of the board.

Wright will be sworn in at the board's March meeting.

Wright was nominated for the board membership by Walter Coley. Wright has never served in

public office but Coley said Wright has three children who are students in the public schools and has expressed deep interest in the schools. Coley said of Wright, "He will be a very competent and capable person on this board."

Mrs. Ruth McNair seconded Wright's nomination.

The vote was taken after Mrs. Townsend asked whether any other nominations were made. All four members of the board voted for Wright.

Citizenship Award For 1980**McBryde Kiwanis Man Of Year**

Thomas Franklin McBryde, a Hoke County native and builder, is the Raeford Kiwanis Club's Man of the Year for 1980.

He was announced Thursday night as the recipient of the honor and was presented the Man of the Year trophy. The honor is the club's Citizenship Award.

The announcement and presentation were made at the club's annual Ladies Night dinner at the Southern Pines Elks and Country Club.

Club President Wilton Wood served as master of ceremonies for the annual program.

Club members who haven't missed a club meeting for at least one year and as many as 37 also were honored. The member honored for having had perfect attendance for 37 years is Marion Gatlin. Gatlin also was announced as the recipient of the Golden Skillet award, which is given to the member who sells the most tickets to the club's annual Pancake Supper. Gatlin sold 70 to this year's event.

The award for having given the best program at a club meeting during the past year went to Dale Teal, whose program was on Jean Johnson's trip to China.

The attendance awards were given to the following in addition to Gatlin, with the number of years of perfect attendance of each listed: Harold Gillis 18, Benny McLeod and Avery Connell 17 each, Bill Moses and Frank Crumpler 15 each; Jim Attaway

12, Bill Lancaster 10, Bill Niven 8, Vardell Hedgpeth 7, Gene Carter and Dale Teal 6 each, Wood 4, and Ralph Calloway 1.

The details of McBryde's services to the community and church, his business activities and his family background are told in the following read by Harold Gillis at the meeting preceding the announcement of his selection for the honor and the presentation of the trophy.

THOMAS FRANKLIN MCBRYDE

In last Sunday's *Fayetteville Times-Observer*, there was a feature article regarding Walter Cronkite, CBS's anchorman. The writer quotes a former associate of Walter Cronkite as follows, "He's a tremendously loyal person and the friends he has made over the years when he was a working reporter are still his friends. That's a very important part of his character. He's a great human being. That's the kind of a guy he is."

The individual we honor tonight is just that same type of man.

As all of us know, the Raeford Kiwanis Club annually recognizes a person whom they consider has made a significant contribution to our county and city. This award is something very special. Thirty-two persons have received this award since it was first established in 1949. Through a secret committee, the Kiwanis Club is very careful

and meticulous in the selection of a worthy individual.

The person chosen tonight has freely served to make our community a better place without ever seeking or desiring applause or

recognition. In his quiet way, he has truly been one of our outstanding leaders over a number of years. In fact, he is not for what is happening right now. I believe I

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Thomas McBryde (left) receiving the Hoke Man of the Year trophy from Wilton Wood, Raeford Kiwanis Club president, at the club's annual Ladies' Night dinner Thursday. [Photo by Harold Gillis.]