

For Federal Rent Subsidy Project

Multifamily Housing Variance Denied

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was like spring over the weekend but the forecast is for the temperature to rise and for the summer-like weather to be with us again.

There has been very little rainfall in Raeford for the past month as you can notice in an article elsewhere in the paper. As stated here before, I don't remember an April being this dry, when you get less than an inch of rain in the shower month that is bad for all concerned.

You can read in magazines and newspapers about the pattern changing for our weather. Some of this is too deep for me, but maybe you can understand what the writers are talking about in these articles.

Robert Gatlin was by the office Monday and was telling me about his trip to Raleigh last week to attend his 50th Anniversary for the 1931 graduating class at State College. He stated that between 55 and 60 members were present for the event and that about 125 members and their families attended the final banquet at the faculty club.

Gatlin said that his wife was with him for the entire affair and that his daughters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson and Major and Mrs. Martin Beach, attended the banquet.

I didn't get to ask him how far the people had traveled to attend the function along with many other things that people want to know about a 50-year event.

Robert did say that he had a wonderful time during the celebration and had to check the mirror three times to be sure a man of his age and youthful looks was at the correct place.

The following letter was received this week.

Dear Publisher,
I regret that I do not know your name and am unable to refer to you personally. However I did want to share my most recent promotion with you. Being a Hoke High School graduate I felt it might be newsworthy for your paper. I leave this to your discretion.

I can't believe they managed to spell my last name wrong. Also, I was misquoted in the last sentence. I never played with the Nantucket but I did play in a band with several of their current members. Speaking of my music, do you remember in 1967-1968 our band in Raeford, "The Soul Set"? Ah, those were the days.

If you decide to print any of this personal propoganda, please drop me a note. I hope to meet you on my next visit.

Sincerely,
Jim Cribbs
City Circulation Mgr.

The article Jim is writing about follows:

Cribbs named manager

James L. Cribbs Jr. was named city circulation manager for *The Durham Sun*. Neal Tackney, circulation director, reported today.

Cribbs joined the Circulation Department as a district manager in March 1980. He was promoted to *Sun* assistant city circulation manager in September.

He served as band director at Carrington Junior High School and Northern High School in the 1975-76 school year after being county band director for Greensville County schools in Emporia, Va. during 1972 and 1975.

He also served as store manager for The Ranch in six cities in North Carolina and Virginia during 1977-1980.

Cribbs, son of James L. Cribbs and the late Mrs. Cribbs of Raeford, graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in music education in 1972.

As a hobby, he has played and (See AROUND TOWN, page 13)

The Raeford Planning Board Thursday night voted 6-0 to recommend that a variance requested in zoning to allow construction of eight four family two-story buildings be denied. The Raeford City Council is to act on the recommendation at its June meeting.

The board's action, on a motion made by Neill McDonald, following a two-hour public hearing on the request filed by Brown-Loving of High Point, attended by nearly 100 people. Most of the audience expressed opposition individually to establish the planned federal-government rent subsidy housing in the area, which is on an acre tract on the south side of the U.S. 401 north bypass and lying between North Fulton and North Magnolia Streets. The application for the variance had been filed by realtor Avery Connell, who has contracted for the land sale.

John Loving of the development company told a reporter after the meeting, replying to questions, that if the Raeford City Council accepted the planning board's recommendation, the company would have to build 15 two-family duplexes instead of the planned eight four-family units, which would mean it would have to buy more land for the site and extend the construction into open areas and closer to North Fulton Street than the four-family units' plan called for. Instead of a 401 project, Loving said, it would be a 401-Fulton Street project.

Though eight buildings are planned, they would contain 30 units.

He had told the planning board during the hearing that his company planned to concentrate the four family buildings on 3.7 acres at the north end of the tract.

About a dozen people raised their hands in favor and most of the audience by their show of hands expressed opposition to recom-

mending the variance, after planning board chairman Stanley Koonce asked for the show of sentiment.

About a dozen people also spoke in favor of the project, saying the housing was needed for low-income Hoke County families, particularly the elderly poor.

Ralph Barnhart, a former Hoke County commissioners' chairman, who lives on North Fulton Street, gave Koonce a petition bearing the signatures, he said, of people who live in the affected area, not merely owners of property.

After Loving explained that if the variance were denied, his company

would have to use more land to build duplexes, Barnhart said, "We're against the variance. If we're going to be covered up, we're going to be covered up." Koonce said he would pass the petitions on to the City Council.

Raeford City Manager Ronald Matthews, saying he was giving an explanation on request of McDonald, told the audience that the present zoning of the area -- R-8 -- allows one-family a duplex (two-family) residences.

If the variance is denied, however, he said, Loving can buy more from Connell and build duplexes, and he could not be denied approval of a planned subdivision. If he were, Matthews added, he could bring the matter to court.

Area residents in addition to Barnhart expressed opposition individually, saying that the proposed development would increase the flow of traffic creating hazards especially for small children; that it would lower property values; bring an increase in noise; and that such housing hadn't worked in other communities: Lumberton and Laurinburg.

Sheriff David Barrington, saying he was attending as a private citizen, recommended that the low-income housing in those two communities be looked at by local housing officials. He said, however, that if the north Raeford project would be like the Countryside Apartments, also rent-subsidy housing, "I have no objection." The question is, he said, what condition the proposed housing be in three years from now.

A woman who was not identified by name told the board she was against the project because she owns property in Robeson County that adjoins one and "the traffic is terrible."

Barnhart also said similar housing projects in other communities should be looked at.

Ken Witherspoon, director of the Hoke County Department of Social Services, said "housing is a problem" in Hoke County. In reference to criticism of other low-income housing projects elsewhere, he said that "for every project that has not worked two have." He mentioned Gastonia and Fuquay-Varina as communities in which such projects have worked.

Witherspoon said that he has contacted 40 percent of the people in Hoke County in the course of his work and that "the working poor can't buy a home." He said the population contains a "high incidence of usage of" public assistance programs.

Witherspoon said, "I am speaking of people who have worked," not the lazy. He also mentioned small children living in poorly (See PUBLIC HOUSING, page 14)



Some of the visitors to the Planning Board's public hearing on the requested variance in residential zoning.

Autry Given Discretion On Hiring, Firing

Turley Accepts Invitation To Talk

Brady Turley, fired April 3 as custodian of Scurlock School by Hoke County Schools Supt. Raz Autry, was to meet with Autry Wednesday on Autry's invitation to discuss the situation.

Turley told a reporter Tuesday night after the Hoke County Board of Education decided to leave hiring and firing of custodians to the discretion of the superintendent that he would meet with Autry.

"But I do not intend to weaken my position," Turley added. "If

these conditions are met I will be happy to go back to work."

The board adopted a motion by unanimous vote at about 10:15 p.m. after meeting in executive session first with Turley for about 40 minutes, then without him present on Turley's conditions stated in a letter written by a Fayetteville attorney for Turley; that Turley be reinstated without loss of pay and that his personnel record with the school system be cleared of certain statements made

by Autry in writing of reasons for Turley's firing.

Nearly immediately after the board adopted the motion, Autry told Turley he wanted "to sit down and talk."

Copies of the letter, written by Joseph McLeod of the law firm of McLeod & Senter, had been mailed to Autry and to the Board of Education last week.

Turley said that after talking with Autry Wednesday "I will make a decision at that time" as to

what course of action he would take. "It depends on what he says."

Turley was fired after a copy of *The News-Journal* containing a letter Turley had written commenting on a Board of Education action transferring Scurlock Principal Floyd Caldwell to McLaughlin School as principal effective with the beginning of the next school year was published earlier in the week.

Autry's statements of the reasons (See TURLEY, page 13)

6.7 Acres To County For Recreation Use

Burlington Giving Land For Hoke Park

Burlington Industries is donating to Hoke County a 6.7-acre tract of land near its Raeford plants, for use by the county to develop a recreational park.

Plant managers Gib Bernhardt and Cecil Bond noted Monday that the land donation is made on behalf of the company's employees and their families "as a means of furthering Hoke County's positive efforts to improve its recreational facilities."

John G. Balfour, chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners, said, "on behalf of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Hoke County I am most pleased and appreciative of the donation of land by Burlington Industries."

"These 6.7 acres will be used as a Community Park and will be made

available to all citizens of Hoke County for a variety of recreational activities. We here in Hoke County are certainly grateful for all the many contributions made by Burlington Industries."

Ann Pate, director of the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission, said she was "very pleased over the land donated by Burlington Industries. This land will be developed into a Community Park."

"Included in this park will be a multipurpose athletic field with all the support facilities such as fencing, bleachers, restrooms, concession stand and parking areas."

"We are looking forward to the development of these 6.7 acres and we feel the Park will be a very valuable and enjoyable addition to our County and City."

Burlington's local plants are

units of the Burlington Menswear division and employ over 1,500 persons, making the company Hoke County's largest employer. A large percentage of the employees and

their families reside in Hoke County.

The site being donated by Burlington is located on U.S. 401 east of the two manufacturing plants.



BURLINGTON'S GIFT -- Ashwell Harward symbolically turns over symbolic title to 6.7 acres of Burlington Industries land on N.C. 211-West Prospect Avenue to John Balfour, chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday morning for the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission. It will be developed into a public park when funds become available. The property is at the southern edge of the U.S. 401 overpass and across the road from Raeford Oil Co. L-R -- Harry Willamson, Burlington Menswear Raeford Plant personnel manager; Bob Garrett, personnel manager of the Burlington Menswear Raeford Plant; Dyeing Plant manager, Harward, manager of employment and community relations for the Burlington Menswear plants; Balfour; W.K. Morgan, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission; Anne Howell Pate, director of the Parks and Recreation Department; Cecil Bond, Raeford Plant manager; and Raeford Mayor W.K. McNeill, Jr. [Staff photo].

Scotland-Hoke State House District

Scotland County joined Hoke County Monday in requesting they be placed in a State House of Representatives district.

They are in the 21st District with Robeson County now. The district's three members of the State House are Robeson residents.

The Scotland County commis-

sioners voted Monday to join Hoke in a two-county district but added the alternative that Scotland, Hoke and Moore counties be put in a single district. Moore is now in a district by itself.

The letter also was an alternative suggested by the Hoke County commissioners last month.

April Rainfall Here Totaled .7 Inch

Rainfall in all of April in Raeford totaled seven-tenths of an inch, Robert Gatlin, National Weather Service observer here, reported this week.

The rainfall for the same month in previous years totaled 4.5 inches in 1980, 5.1 in 1979, 8.9 in 1978, and 1.6 in 1977.