

New Armory Seen Opening By April

Raeford's new National Guard Armory is expected to be ready for use by next April if weather is good through the construction period.

Bids on the planned 20,012-square-foot building will be opened in Raleigh at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Burley Mitchell, secretary of the State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, announced last week.

This and other information was relayed to Capt. Alvis Dickson, Jr., commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, by letter last week by Elbert McPhaul, Jr.,

director of facilities for the State Crime Control and Public Safety Department. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, composed of 136 officers and enlisted personnel, is based in the present armory and will be based in the new one. McPhaul, incidentally is a native of Hoke County. He will open the bids.

The U.S. National Guard Bureau has approved \$712,000 for construction of the new building. It will be erected on a five-acre tract lying on the west side of Teal Drive and between the N.C. 211 west

cutoff and U.S. 401 south bypass to Laurinburg. A street, named Upchurch, is to be opened subsequently between the new building and the 211 cutoff.

The new building, which will be two-story in part, will contain about 4,000 more square feet of area than the present building, on Central Avenue. The reason is, McPhaul said, it will contain space for battalion headquarters (four offices) and training facilities and equipment storage which the present building doesn't. It will be heated by natural gas, and the offices and classrooms will be

airconditioned. The rest of the building will be ventilated mechanically.

Bids have been received from 18 general contractors, and six to 10 heating, plumbing, and electrical contractors, McPhaul added.

The construction is expected to start soon after the first of July, and the contract will allow 320 working days to complete it, which would be in about eight months if good construction weather prevails. The building would be ready for use within 30 days after construction is completed.

The work would start three

weeks after the contracts are awarded, and this is expected to be within 30 days after the bids are opened. McPhaul explained that after the bids are opened they will be reviewed by the state construction office of Crime Control Department and by the National Guard Bureau.

The bids will be opened before bidding contractors and state and federal officials in the office of Maj. Gen. William Ingram, state adjutant general.

The plans show the new building will contain a 6,300-square-foot assembly hall, and offices for

officers and noncommissioned officers, library and classrooms, a rifle range, food preparation and scullery areas, as well as a locker room, rest rooms and showers.

The State Crime Control Department is involved because the North Carolina National Guard is one of its divisions.

The old National Guard building, on the north side of Central Avenue, between Adams and McDuffie Streets, will revert to the Hoke County government after it is vacated.

25°

The News - Journal

25°

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXXIII NUMBER 4

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1981

Commissioners Hit Vocational Cuts

Young Retires; Air Proposal Rejected

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The temperature got up into the 80s Monday, but the rain that had been forecast, didn't arrive. There was only a 50 percent chance Monday and it is 80 percent Tuesday. As this is being written late Monday afternoon, we will wait and see about Tuesday.

I told Jake Austin that if we could get 110 percent chance of rain, then maybe it would come the next day.

Mrs. Kerr Stevens was by the office a couple of weeks ago and was telling me about an item that appeared in *The Reader's Digest*. Rachel said that Mrs. Harry Holland had visited with her a few weekends ago and was telling her that an item in the February issue had been written by her daughter, Mrs. Charles Boney of Wilmington.

The item appeared in the "Life in the United States" section of the magazine. It was on page 80 and I would print it here except it is prohibited. If you can't find a copy I have one, but I am sure there is one in the library.

Mrs. Holland's husband was the late Harry K. Holland, who was pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church in the 1940's. Mrs. Boney was the former Betty Holland.

Younger Snead was by the office this week and brought me a copy of the May issue of "The Tarheel Guardsmen." This is the monthly publication of the North Carolina National Guard. An article in the magazine is entitled, "The Guard Is Big Business in North Carolina."

The annual payroll of the National Guard in North Carolina for weekend drills and the annual summer training exceeds \$21 million. Of course the guard has other expense like gas, repairs, maintenance, etc.

Now to get to Hoke County, the annual payroll for the Raeford guard is \$244,258.83. Now this is not peanuts.

So when you read about the construction of the new armory, just think of it as more revenue for the city and county. Don't forget that the guard is ready to defend our country. I should know because it took five and one-half years of my life during World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lancaster have just returned from a trip to Hawaii. Bill went to play in the World Left Handed golf tournament that was held on Maui Island.

Bill stated that approximately 185 golfers were in the tournament. New Zealand had 40, Australia had 40, British Columbia had 42 and some 60 or more were from the United States. The tournament was played on Waiala Golf Course.

He did real well in the tournament, as he was fourth in the first flight.

Of course all he talked about was golf, so if you want to know about the scenery, food, etc., you must

(See AROUND TOWN, page 9)

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night received the notice of retirement of Wendell S. Young effective June 30 as county Agricultural Extension Service chairman after 18 years' service in the position, also indicated the already-cut county schools' budget would have to be cut more, and opposed proposed lowering of Air Force training flight routes over the county to 300 feet from 500 feet altitude.

The motion on the aircraft proposal on Pope Air Force Base training routes says the proposal was opposed till the commissioners get more information.

Carl Miller, who appeared at the meeting in connection with a road-paving request, said he disagreed with the proposal, stating among other objectives that lowering the altitude to 300 feet would create a hazard for crop-dusting aircraft flying while the Air Force

training flights were being held.

Miller said he favored raising the minimum altitude allowed for training flights to 1,000 feet.

At a public hearing on suggested uses of the county's federal revenue-sharing funds for 1981-82, Elwood Baker, president of the Hoke County Firemen's Association, asked the commissioners to provide the association's nine rural volunteer fire departments with the same amount each they have been getting in the previous years. (The association does not include the Raeford department).

Anne Pate, director of the County Parks and Recreation Department, asked the commissioners for \$20,000 to develop for public recreation the 6.7 acres of land on West Prospect Avenue N.C. 211 that Burlington Industries donated this month to the county for a recreation park.

The hearing was held Monday

night before the regular mid-month meeting. The commissioners did not act on the requests.

In other business, the commissioners:

--Adopted a motion to table action on a petition to pave SR 1465, in Sunset Park, till the priority list for road work for 1981-82 is received by the State Department of Transportation. The commissioners agreed that efforts to get action by DOT on the paving requested by the petition should be made after the commissioners see what standing the project has on the priority list. Miller and another resident of the area, Edward Lumbley, had appeared at the meeting to ask the commissioners to push for paving of the road, which Commissioner Danny DeVane agreed with Miller and Lumbley is in bad shape. The road is scraped twice a month, the commissioners were informed.

Second Shooting Victim Died May 13

Fire Damaged Club Friday

The mass shootings of May 10 in Hoke County has claimed their second life, and someone tried unsuccessfully to burn down the Hour Glass club, whose parking lot was the scene of the shootings. The club is about four miles south of Raeford.

Ronnie Jacobs, 26, of Rt. 2, Raeford, shot in the head, died about 5 a.m. May 13 in Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

The other victim was Charles

Ray McNeill, 25, of Rt. 2, Shannon, stabbed in the neck, then fatally wounded in a volley of gunfire after he allegedly had fired one shot with a rifle, according to witnesses.

McNeill allegedly had wounded James Luther Hammonds, who was unarmed, during an argument, before McNeill went to his car and got the rifle. McNeill died almost immediately. Others were admitted to Fayetteville, Lumberton and

Laurinburg hospitals, and one, Anthony Bryant, 18, of Rt. 3, Laurinburg, was released later the day of the snooting after being treated at Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

The conditions of the other wounded have been reported good to satisfactory. They are Junior Lee Jones, 27, of Rt. 1, Shannon, Clayton Bullard of Red Springs, and Harold Gene Brooks, 23, of Shannon.

Brooks has been charged with murder in McNeill's death, and Bryant with engaging in a riot.

The attempt to burn the Hour Glass, operated by Donald Locklear, was made early Friday.

Someone threw a bottle of gasoline onto the roof, but the resulting fire did little damage, the Antioch Volunteer Fire Department reported. The bottle rolled off the roof, and some of the fuel burned on the roof but the fire didn't get hot enough to burn the shingles.

The firemen reached the club about 2 a.m. soon after receiving the fire report.

The sheriff's department investigated.

Sales Tax Collections Decline

Hoke County's net collections of its one percent sales tax totaled \$84,053.38, for the quarter ending

in March, compared with \$99,721.42 for the same quarter ending March 31, 1980, the State Department of Revenue reported last week.

The collections for the quarter through December 31, 1980, were \$78,308.61.

Of the net collected in the past quarter, \$71,970.44 went to the Hoke County government and the rest to Raeford.

Bloodmobile Due

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Raeford United Methodist Church Thursday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Hoke County blood program leaders are looking especially for donors in downtown Raeford.

Jane Pratt Served In 1946

Raeford-reared Ex-Congresswoman Dies

Miss Eliza Jane Pratt, reared in Raeford and the only North Carolina woman ever to serve in Congress, died May 13 at 5:05 p.m. in Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, after a period of declining health.

Miss Pratt was living in retirement in Wadesboro, Anson County, at 305 E. Martin St., at the time she went to the hospital.

The funeral was conducted at First Presbyterian Church of Wadesboro at 10 a.m. Saturday by the pastor, the Rev. Charles Gamble. A graveside service was conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Pratt family plot in Raeford Cemetery by the same minister.

The graves of Miss Pratt's parents, James L. Pratt and Lena Valetta Little Pratt, are in the family plot also.

Miss Pratt is survived by her brother, Lacy Pratt of Roanoke, Va.; and her sister, Mrs. Neville Smith of Silver Spring, Md.

She was born in Anson County, at Morven, about 10 miles south of Wadesboro, March 5, 1905, and came to Raeford in childhood when her parents moved here. Her father owned property in Hoke County and built the two-story Pratt Building, completed in 1911, in downtown Raeford, on the west side of the North Main Street between West Edinborough and West Elwood Avenues. In recent years the building housed Hoke Auto Co. and now is occupied by Pilot Industries, which moved in 1979. The Pilot management remodeled it.

Miss Pratt served in the U.S.

House of Representatives, filling the unexpired portion of the term of Congressman William O. Burgin of Lexington in 1946. She was nominated by the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Executive Committee on April 23 and she was elected May 25 to serve the unexpired portion of the term. Burgin died April 11, 1946, in Doctor's Hospital in Washington, D.C. He had announced he would not run for reelection. Miss Pratt was serving as the congressman's secretary at the time of his death. She served as congresswoman till January 3, 1947, when U.S. Rep. C.B. Deane of Rockingham, also a Democrat, took office. Deane had been elected in the November general election to the full-two-year term, defeating Republican

Whicker. Miss Pratt had not run for the full term.

Before joining Burgin's staff, Miss Pratt had been serving as secretary or administrative assistant to Eighth District Democratic congressmen since 1923 when Rep. William C. Hammer of Asheboro appointed her his secretary. She had met Hammer two weeks earlier while she was reporting on a Candor peach festival at which the congressman made a speech.

Miss Mary Louise Medley of Wadesboro relates in her "History of Anson County" Hammer "liked everything about her until she bobbed her hair. The representative from Asheboro warned her that it would be fatal if he found her smoking 'a cheroot.'" Miss Pratt

(See JANE PRATT, page 9)



Jane Pratt