

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is hot and even the nights are warm. This is grand for the gardens and with a forecast of rain for Wednesday this should make things grow.

The annual Athletic Banquet sponsored by the Hoke County Booster Club for Hoke High School will be held at the school on Thursday night, May 28 starting at 6:30 o'clock. The price of the tickets is only \$2.50 and can be purchased at Hoke Drug Company or from any members of the club.

Everyone is invited to join in the honoring of the athletes of Hoke High.

The following letter is from a Raeford native and I thought that it would be of interest to the readers of this column. Alex Patterson was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Martin Patterson and lived in the house now occupied by Miss N.A. Mercer of East Prospect Avenue.

Here is the letter:

Dear Sam:

I enjoyed very much the fine article on Jane Pratt which appeared in this week's issue of *The News-Journal*. As indicated below, Miss Pratt played a very active role in shaping my career.

While in prep school I became very interested in a military career and wanted very much to go to West Point. My parents objected and under their pressure I went to Davidson in the fall of 1922. I never gave up the idea of West Point, however, and I kept heckling my father to help me get an appointment.

At that time, Hoke and Randolph counties were in the same congressional district and William C. Hammer of Asheboro was our congressman. Dad had actively campaigned for him and as a consequence I saw my opportunity. Dad finally yielded to pressure and asked Mr. Hammer to give me an appointment. Soon thereafter I received a letter from Hammer's secretary, Jane Pratt, saying that she would use her influence to get the appointment for me. Thus began a correspondence and association which lasted for many years thereafter.

In early May I received a letter from Congressman Hammer telling me that he would give me a principal appointment to the Military Academy. But shortly thereafter the blow fell. Mr. Hammer informed me that he was mistaken and did not have a principal appointment but that he could give me one to the Naval Academy. I knew nothing about the navy and had never even seen the ocean, so I wrote to Hammer and said "no thank you." Right away another letter came from Jane telling me that I was making a big mistake, that Annapolis was one of the most beautiful places she had ever seen, and that I would love it. That set me thinking and soon thereafter I sent a telegram of acceptance.

To end the story, the appointment came through and on July 3, 1923, I reported to the Naval Academy to begin a life and career to which I was completely devoted. Jane and I became close friends and she was a guest in our home on many occasions until recent years when we have not had occasion to meet very often. If it had not been for her interest and assistance I probably would never have gotten the appointment.

Now for an entirely different subject: I will appreciate it if you will tell me something of your family. As you know we were neighbors and members of Sandy Grove Church when I was a youngster. As a small boy I remember your mother and Margaret coming to church better dressed and more attractive than any of the other country girls in the area. In all of the years gone by I have lost track of all of you and now I hope you will bring me up to date.

Will you please give me the names of your brothers and sisters, if any, their spouses and where they live (lived), your wife's maiden name and names of your children? Who was your Uncle Carl's wife and what are names of his children? Finally, can you give me names of Margaret Keith's children?

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At Annual Dinner Meeting

Chamber Praised, Officers Installed



Some of the people at the speaker's table at the 43rd annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting: L-R, Doris Beaver, Tom Howell, 1981-82 chamber president; and Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and wife Ruth. Mrs. Beaver's husband was 1980-81 chamber president. [Staff photo.]



State Sen. Sam Noble [left] receiving the key to the City of Raeford from Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr. Seated at left are Mrs. Neill McFadyen and Duncan McFadyen and at right the Rev. Billy Beaver, 1980-81 president of the chamber. [Staff photo.]

Agricultural Extension Chairman

Young Retiring But Won't Quit Working

Wendell Young will retire from his job with Hoke County June 30 but he's not going to quit working.

He said last month he plans to work parttime, but not fulltime, in agriculture or an activity related to agriculture, just as he has been doing most of his life, but he hasn't arranged anything yet.

The position Young will leave at the end of his regular day's work the last day of June is that of county Agricultural Extension Service chairman, which he has been serving as since April 1963.

He had been with the Sampson County Extension Service as an assistant farm agent for 10 years when he accepted the Hoke County appointment.

Before going to the Extension Service, he had worked three years for Coble Dairies as a dairy field man, working from Sparta in Alleghany County in the northwestern mountains on the Virginia border. Young joined Coble shortly after graduating in December 1939 from North Carolina State College (now University) at Raleigh with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry, in the dairy section.

In Superior Court

Break-ins, Theft Bring Active Terms

The following judgements were issued in Hoke County Superior Court last week. Judge Charles Kivett of Greensboro presided.

George Edward Long, 31, Rt. 3 Fayetteville, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury, pleaded guilty the lesser offense of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, sentenced to four years suspended for five years on conditions: defendant placed under 9 p.m. curfew; not drive after consuming alcoholic beverages while probationary sentence in effect; not associate with Clifford Stevens or attempt to communicate with Harold Koch; make \$2,022.90 restitution to Harold Koch, amount reduced by any amount up to \$1,011.45 paid by Stephens. The court's intention is each defendant pay Koch \$1,011.45 but if Stephens would not pay that, Long is responsible for the remainder up to 2,022.90.

Fund-raiser For Hoke Democrats

Meet Your Legislators Breakfast June 6

The Hoke County Democratic Party will hold a fund-raising Meet Your Legislators buffet breakfast at 8 a.m. June 6 in Gibson Cafeteria at Hoke County High School. The price of the tickets is \$5 each.

The area's legislators--State Sen.

Young had enrolled at State in March 1946, cutting about six months from the regular four years required for the degree, by going to summer schools as well as taking classes during the regular school year.

He started going to college after he had been discharged honorably from the Army the previous December. He had served since January 1943 through World War II.

Young became eligible for retirement last February on the basis of 30 years of government service, credited with his two years federal service in the Army to add to his 28 years with the state-federal extension Service.

During the war he was decorated with the Silver Star, for "gallantry in action," as the official order says, the fourth highest American award for heroism in combat. It's topped only by the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, and Navy Cross (awarded only to Navy men and Marines).

Replying to a reporter's question, Young explained he was awarded the decoration for rescuing several wounded soldiers of his Second Mechanized Cavalry platoon near the border of Germany

and Czechoslovakia. Young, then a staff sergeant, related that his platoon had gotten "tied down" on a bend of a road fire from German 88 millimeter artillery.

The Second Mechanized was part of Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third Army and earned the nickname among the other troops as "the Ghost of Patton's Army," for the work done in reconnaissance and protecting Patton's flanks. Young and his fellow soldiers "went on a lot of foot patrols" in the course of doing their duty.

The Second went into Normandy on the third day after the main Allied invasion forces landed on the province's beaches, and Young's platoon set up headquarters for Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander. One of Young's officers in the platoon was the son of Henry Morgenthau, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary of the Treasury.

From France, Young and his platoon subsequently served in campaigns in Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Young was born at Forest City in North Carolina's southeastern foothills of Rutherford County, 58 years ago. His father, Chester C.

Young, was operating the family farm then. He is now a guest in Open Arms Rest Home. Young's mother died in 1962.

Young's wife, the former Sally Gray Herring, a Registered Nurse, is Hoke County High School health occupations teacher. She originally joined the staff as school nurse. She's a graduate of Rex Hospital School of Nursing in Raleigh. They met while Young was a student at State and married in 1950 right after Young graduated.

The Youngs have two children, sons Wendell Samuel, Jr., born in June 1953, and now working in the circulation department of the *Fayetteville Observer*; and Timothy Alan, born in September 1956 and now working with Federal Paper Board in Lumberton.

Sam (Wendell S. Jr.), is a graduate of State also, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology.

Timothy Young is a graduate of Haywood Technical Institute at Waynesville, with an associate degree in forest products. He is married to the former Janice Powers of St. Pauls. They were wed two years ago.

District Court judgement, found guilty by the jury of speeding in excess of 55, 60 days suspended on condition the defendant pay court costs and a \$25 fine.

Thaddeus Jones, 35, Rt. 1, Raeford, two counts of worthless checks, pleading guilty, five months suspended for two years on conditions he make \$118.46 restitution to Teal Oil Co. and \$12.70 restitution to Leroy Miles, Rt.3, Raeford, and pay court costs in one case.

Tony Jay Horne, 21, Rt. 3, Raeford, attempted armed robbery pleaded guilty to the lesser offense of attempted common law robbery, 10 years.

Keith L. Flemming, 21, Fayetteville, two counts of uttering a forged check, pleaded guilty, three to five years, the defendant, if allowed to engage in the work-release program, make \$179.77 resti-

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cess of the effort to keep McCain Hospital open, also will attend. Also Jordan's wife is a native of Raeford.

Harold Gillis, chairman of the county Democratic executive committee, said Tuesday in announcing the breakfast, the event will give Hoke County people the opportu-

nity to meet their legislators, members of the county party's Executive Committee and precinct Democratic chairmen.

The proceeds will be turned over to the county party treasurer.

Tickets maybe purchased from local precinct chairmen and members of the Executive Committee.

The audience of several hundred people attending the 34th annual dinner meeting of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce May 19 saw the chamber's 1981-82 officers and directors installed, and heard the chamber and others thanked for helping keep McCain Hospital open and State Sen. Sam Noble talk about the economic problems the state Legislators and Gov. Jim Hunt are trying to solve.

It was Marian Moss of the McCain Hospital staff who publicly thanked the chamber, Hoke County and Raeford City officials and groups, and Noble for working to keep the hospital open for at least two more years.

Fifty-three members of the hospital's staff attended the dinner.

Noble said in his talk "I believe if we start early" another move to close McCain can be met successfully if it arises again. He was referring to the recommendation made with no advance publicity that McCain be phased out gradually to subsequent closing. The recommendation was made by a state base budget subcommittee. The hospital was on Gov. Hunt's list of programs that could be reduced or eliminated. Information on which the subcommittee's recommendation was made was shown to be wrong.

In the end McCain's total of beds was ordered reduced to 115 from its current 150 in the next two years but the hospital was to remain open.

In his talk, Noble credited State Rep. David Parnell of the Hoke area's district and State Sen. Robert Jordan or Mt. Gilead and State Rep. James Craven of Moore with providing strong support to the effort to keep McCain open. He pointed out that Jordan isn't even in the State Senatorial District which includes McCain's home county, Hoke. (Neither is Craven's home county but most of McCain's employees live in Moore and Hoke.)

Jordan does have a personal interest in Hoke County, however, he noted: Jordan's wife is a native of Hoke.

Noble told the audience that the "hottest issue" in the General Assembly now is "what to do about our roads?" He said the governor is trying to do what is right, not merely what is popular, which would be to do nothing. Noble said Hunt doesn't want to put a tax on gasoline, but he doesn't want to be known as "the bad roads governor." Noble added that the planned four-laning of 11 plus miles of U.S. 401 between Raeford and the southern end of the present four lane near 71st High School in Cumberland County would be done when the money is available.

Noble said the decline of highway revenues from the states' present gasoline tax came from the increased use of cars getting more miles per gallon than previously popular models by the public, rather than to a reduction in travel by the public.

He also said, referring to inflation and the economy, "we have to protect" the middle class.

Later, Noble said he does not favor cutting out federal programs which require state funds for supplements, that "I don't think we should pick up" federal programs with state money.

Referring to the Reagan administration in Washington, he said, "The momentum of inflation cannot be stopped by any one policy."

He added, "We are faced with the challenge of helping people who need help."

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., made the closing remarks and presented Noble with a key to the city. The key is gold-colored and mounted on a square of polished wood.

Earlier in the program, the 1981-82 officers and directors were installed by Neil McFadyen, who served as chamber president for 1978-79.

Tom Howell, a Raeford pharmacist, succeeded the Rev. Billy Beaver, pastor of First Baptist Church of Raeford, as president. Horace Stogner was inducted as first vice president; Palmer Willcox, second vice president, and Jimmy Wood, secretary-treasurer. Ruth Parish, Steve Parker, Clyde

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