

## Tax Rate Stays 60¢

### Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Last Friday afternoon I went back into the files to see when the temperature reached 109 degrees in Raeford. It was the first week of August. It seemed to me Sunday that it must have been the same, but someone in the office Monday said that the weatherman for Hoke County said it got to 102 degrees.

The thermometer has been above 90 for the past week and the nights have also been hot. The forecast is for cooler weather around the weekend.

Just think what the weather will be in August if we are in the 100s for June.

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Paul Dickson, publisher and editor of *The News-Journal*, is a man who likes to get in the "do-it-yourself" way of life. Last Friday at Topsail Beach he was using a power saw fixing something at his cottage there. Now Dickson had gotten instructions from a local carpenter, now deceased, but he didn't follow his instructions very well, because he cut the ends of two fingers off. After a trip to the Holly Ridge Clinic, and a Wilmington hospital, he is doing very well.

You can get full details by talking to Dickson the next time he is in Raeford.

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These days you can't tell what will come to the office that will make an item for this column. Bill Lindau gave me an old newspaper the other day that was given to him by Everett Bowen of the Sheriff's department. It was a page from an old *Fayetteville Observer* dated Thursday, May 24, 1962. The main article on the page was about the political races in Hoke County.

The paper was found under a house in Fayetteville by Lin Webb as he was doing electrical work a couple of weeks ago. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Webb of Raeford and works for Carolina Telephone. His wife is the daughter of the Bowsens.

The paper was well preserved and it just goes to show that when you are working around this section, something of Hoke County might show up.

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A letter from Lee Gillis was received last week along with an article that appeared in the Sunday, June 7 feature section of *The Tennessean*. Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gillis of Raeford and is now a counselor and head of the Outer Limits program at Webb School at Bell Buckle, Tenn. He worked for *The News-Journal* during his high school days at Raeford.

The article was about a two-night camping trip for the seniors at the school and gave what the reason the overnight camp was undertaken and some of the comments of the students.

Lee's letter is as follows:

Mr. Morris:  
I thought you might find this of interest. It has been our best coverage so far of the two year program. I certainly enjoy your column - it helps me keep up with home.

Thanks, Lee, for the feature story and it was really interesting. Keep up the good work, for it is always a joy to see Hoke Countians succeed in life.

...

From all reports from Raleigh, it now seems that Hoke County will be in a new Congressional and legislative district. We will go into the Eighth Congressional District and will be put with Scotland County to form a new legislative district.

Of course this is the first time we have been changed, and you can bet your bottom dollar that it won't be the last time.

...

The baseball strike is now on and (See AROUND TOWN, page 12)

# Raeford Budget \$2,345,104 For 1981-82



## At Public Hearing

### Commissioners Hear Budget Requests

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night heard final requests for 1981-82 budget requests at a public hearing in the Courthouse.

John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners, told the audience their requests could affect our decision but not the tax rate. He referred to decisions on how much to provide for specific operations and agencies and to the present tax rate of \$1.01 per \$100 property evaluation, which the commissioners have said they are determined to retain for the new fiscal year.

Requests included those from Bill Bridgman, director of the Sandhills Regional Library System, on behalf of the Hoke County Public Library, a member; Lloyd Horne, administrator of the Hoke County Health Department; and Anne Pate, director of the Hoke

County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Barbara Buie asked for funds for continuing the Literacy Project, which has been operating on \$5,000 of county money per year. She read a list of a dozen or more churches which have contributed to the project, indicating the value the project has for Hoke County people. Using a tutor system, the project teaches illiterate Hoke adults how to read and write.

Balfour in a previous meeting indicated the fund should be supplied from the county school system budget rather than from the general county treasury, since the project is educational.

Mrs. Pate asked the commissioners for \$10,000 as the county's share of the cost of a new bus for county recreation activities, particularly for out-of-town trips

for senior citizens. She and others involved in the senior citizens' program have said a new bus is needed because used buses loaned by the county school system have broken down on out-of-town trips, consequently are unreliable.

The county budget proposed for 1981-82 contains \$3,453,424 for the general fund, \$556,500 in federal revenue - sharing money, \$60,000 in the National Guard Armory construction reserve. The 1980-81 budget totaled \$3,251,064.

Monday night following the public hearing, the commissioners in their regular mid-month meeting approved \$74,754.12 as the county's share of the cost of building the new armory. The National Guard Bureau is providing the \$712,000 balance of the estimated cost.

After hearing a report on a meeting regarding the Air Force proposal to lower the minimum allowable flight training altitude, the commissioners adopted a motion asking the directors of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce to have the chamber be the contact point with the military for private Hoke County citizens to give complaints to; and to establish a better working relationship with the military.

The action came after Earl Fowler, executive vice president of the chamber, recommended that the point of contact be established and a Pope Air Force Base leader be appointed to do the same on the

military side. He also suggested the military in turn establish a contact point at Ft. Bragg and each of the Air Force bases which send aircraft on training missions over this area.

The Air Force proposes to lower the minimum training altitude to 300 from the present 500 feet.

Agricultural aviation crop-dusting service operators and poultry producers have expressed objections on the grounds the lower flights would be hazardous to the agricultural fliers and would damage trucking producing operations.

Fowler sent the written objections and chamber material to Pope officials. He said Pope responded promptly, setting up a meeting of a Pope officer and County Manager James Martin and Fowler, which was held recently. Fowler said the next meeting of Pope representatives would be with the county commissioners and the people who would be affected by the change in the flight training minimum altitude.

In other business, the commissioners reappointed Don Steed and appointed Commissioner Mabel Riley as Hoke County's representatives on the Employment and Training Advisory Committee of Region N Council of Governments.

The commissioners rescheduled their regular meeting of July 6 for July 7 because of the Independence Day holiday weekend.

## For Summer Youth Employment

### \$83,063 CETA

### Contract Awarded

An \$83,063 contract was awarded June 9 to the Hoke County Board of Education, Raeford, by the State Division of Employment and Training under the Summer Youth Employment Program of the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to provide summer employment and training for 66 participants.

The contract was signed by representatives of the agency with officials of the division, which is an agency of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. The division administers CETA programs in 91 counties in the state.

The 66 participants who have been selected are ages 14-21 and have met the CETA criterion of being economically disadvantaged. The aim of the program is to serve the in-school target group and is designed to encourage each participant to complete his or her education objectives by providing wages, work experience, counseling, supportive services and labor market information.

The project's ultimate goal is to enhance the employability of the youths through the completion of their education and by permitting them to participate in work experience.

## Temperature Over 100 Two Days

The temperature reached 102 degrees in Raeford Sunday afternoon and 101 Monday afternoon, Robert Gatlin, Raeford observer for the National Weather Service, reported.

Sunday was the first time the

thermometer reached 100 degrees this year, though it had recorded over 90 earlier in June.

Gatlin said that sort of weather is early for the year. Usually the hottest weather doesn't come till July.

## By State House, Senate Redistricting Committees

### Hoke-Scotland House District Okayed

A new State House District composed of Hoke and Scotland counties was approved Thursday by separate House and Senate redistricting committees of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The new district would have a single representative.

Both counties are part of the three-county district whose other

member is Robeson County. A new redistricting plan also approved by the separate committees would have Robeson in a district by itself with two representatives. Under the approved changes, Cumberland County also would be in a district by itself and would have five representatives.

No changes have been proposed

in the area's state senatorial district by the State Senate Redistricting Committee. Hoke and Robeson counties make up the present 12th State Senate District, which has one senator, currently Sam Noble of Robeson.

The House redistricting plan will be presented to the full State House for a decision.

Hoke, Scotland and Sampson people have informed a House redistricting subcommittee that none of their counties has a state representative who is a resident of Hoke, Scotland or Sampson.

The present Hoke-Scotland-Robeson district has three representatives, all residents of Robeson County.

## The Rev. Arthur Winstead

### New Pastor Has 23 Years In Ministry

The Rev. Arthur W. Winstead, the new pastor of Raeford United Methodist Church, has been a Methodist minister for 23 years, all of his career in the church's North Carolina Conference.

He is coming to Raeford from First United Methodist Church of Williamston, in Martin County, and is due to conduct his first service in the Raeford church Sunday morning. His new assignment is effective Thursday.

Winstead is succeeding the Rev. Kelly Wilson, who has been assigned as pastor of St. James church of Tarboro effective the same date. Wilson has been pastor here the past seven years.

Winstead before going to Williamston served as pastor of church in Littleton, Halifax County; Angier, Harnett; Hookerton in Greene; and Mt. Gilead in Montgomery.

He is a native of Wilson and studied at the University of South Carolina, Atlantic Christian College at Wilson, and Duke University Divinity School. His wife is the former Margaret

Truesdale, a native of Columbia, S.C. They have two children: Mrs. Joan Fortune of South Hill, Va., and Arthur William Winstead, Jr.

The minister is a member of the Williamson Masonic Lodge and is a former member of the Ruritan and Rotary clubs.

Wilson came to Raeford from Asbury church in Durham.

He is a native of Carthage, Smith County, Tenn., and studied engineering at the University of Tennessee before entering the Duke Divinity School to become a Methodist minister.

He was licensed as a minister on August 13, 1942. He started his ministry as pastor of Calvary church in Durham, then served as pastor of a Methodist church of Longhurst and Grace churches near Roxboro. From there he went to Littleton charge of three churches - Littleton, Calvary and Bethel.

Wilson left the Littleton charge to be pastor of Epworth in Durham, then of churches in Louisville and Washington, N.C., before returning to Durham to be Asbury's pastor.

In Raeford, he has been active in Boy Scouting. The church sponsors a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack.

Wilson also has been active with the state juvenile justice program, Community Based Alternatives. The church also was the first sponsor of the Hoke County Literacy Program, and Wilson's wife was a founder and first treasurer of the program which was started several years ago.

The congregation gave the Wilsons a farewell Appreciation Luncheon at the Church Sunday.

He and his wife, the former Jean Lowe, have four children - three of them Methodist ministers: The Rev. Kelly Wilson III, chaplain of the Methodist Retirement Homes in Durham and Lumberton; the Rev. Jim Wilson, pastor of Mt. Bethel church in Martinsville, Va.; and the Rev. Frances Rebecca (Becky) Wilson, the Methodist chaplain for a Roman Catholic school in a suburb of Rochester, N.Y. The Wilson's other child, John, is a chef in Durham. Their daughter also has served as Metho-

dist chaplain at an Episcopal school.

The older Wilsons also have six grandchildren.

The Rev. and Mrs. Wilson will leave Raeford for Tarboro Thursday.



The Rev. Kelly Wilson, Jr.

The Raeford City Council Monday night adopted a budget of \$2,345,104 for 1981-82, which is \$101,509 larger than the current fiscal year's, but without raising the city's property tax rate of 60 cents per \$100 evaluation.

City Manager Ron Matthews explained later to a reporter that increasing the budget without increasing the tax rate was possible because:

--The property tax revenue was increased by the increase in property evaluation by \$50,000 over the past year's approximately \$94 million.

--\$15,000 in new revenue from the residential garbage pickup charge of \$1 per month per household is being added. The charge will be made starting July 1, the start of the 1981-82 fiscal year. The residential charge is being made in the city for the first time but is a substitute for raising the tax rate, Matthews said. He said the costs of residential garbage pickup in the past actually has come from the property taxes.

--Two employees have resigned from the city staff and will not be replaced. The city will try to maintain the present quality of its services, however.

The increase in the city budget from last year's reflects the effects of nationwide inflation, which has raised the costs of the city's operations.

Water and sewer charges have been increased, in compliance with state law which requires that such services must be self-supporting. Matthews said the increase will mean the average household will be paying \$18 to \$18.25 per month instead of the present \$16.50.

The 1981-82 budget also provides a pay raise package of 7 to 8 per cent for city employees. The figure is divided among raises to meet increases in the cost of living, a raise based on years of service with the city, and, for some employees, pay increases for merit. The budget also provides \$20,000 for downtown revitalization, with flexibility in the uses of the money allowed, such as establishment of ramps at intersections for the convenience of the handicapped.

The total budget includes money for the General Fund, water and sewer, debt service, capital reserve and general federal revenue sharing.

The budget action was taken following a public hearing in which the council received a request only from the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission. This was that the city provide the full \$20,000 to buy a bus for out-of-town trips. The City Council earlier this spring had approved \$10,000 provided in effect that the Hoke County commissioners put up the balance.

Anne Pate, director of the recreation commission, said she was making the request for the other half because the commissioners have provided \$20,000 for development of the 6.7 acres of land Burlington Industries has given the county for a public park and consequently it was not sure the county could come up with \$10,000 more for a new bus.

The council subsequently did not add the extra \$100,000 to the city's share but did provide the \$10,000 without making the donation contingent on the county putting up the balance for the bus. Mayor Pro Tem Graham Clark also told Mrs. Pate and the people who appeared with her that the council was leaving the door open for the commission to renew the request later in the fiscal year for the other \$10,000. City Manager Ron Matthews indicated that the city may find as the year goes along that the balance may be available.

Mrs. Pate said the new bus was needed because buses provided by the county schools administration have broken down on senior citizens' trips in the past, consequently have proven unreliable. Replying to a councilman's question about the commission buying a used bus, which would cost less than a new one, she replied that a new one would not require the maintenance expense a used one would and that the condition of a used bus acquired also would be unknown.

W.K. Morgan, chairman of the

(See BUDGET, page 14)