

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather has been real fall weather, hot days and cool nights, but rain is needed.

Robert Gatlin was by the office Monday and stated that the forecast is for dry weather until the weekend. This was all that has been forecast so far. Gatlin stated that if this held true that the rainfall for September 1981 would be six-tenths of an inch.

This compares with 3.4 inches in 1980; 13.6 inches in 1979; 1.8 inches in 1978; 6.2 inches in 1977; and 3.6 inches in 1976. So you can see from these figures that the county is dry.

In riding through the county you can see that soybeans are drying up in the fields.

So maybe by publishing these figures ahead of time, it will be like leaving your car windows down, it will rain. Let's hope so!

Several weeks ago I mentioned in this column that Jean Harris of Fayetteville wanted the addresses of members of the class of 1947 of Hoke High School. A card from her this week stated that only one person had responded and she stated that members of that class must not read Around Town.

Since I don't know the members of the class I will not say whether they do or not. If you are a member of the class of 1947, please write Mrs. Jean Harris, 137 B Gordon St., Fayetteville, N.C. and this will get me off the hook with her.

A few weeks ago the following letter and clipping were received at this office.

The Editor:

Dear Sir:

Do you have the months of December 1916 and January 1917 of the *Hoke County Journal* included in your files? I am very interested in learning whether (and when) the enclosed article was included in that publication, and if additional information was printed about the death of Mrs. Clementine McNair. Could the article have been written by the editor, and if so, who was he? Any information that you can provide me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorris B. Willard
(Mrs. George S. Willard)

The article follows:

A Remarkable Woman

We saw in the *Piedmont Dispatch* last week that Mrs. Clementine McNair was dead. Mrs. McNair was once our nearest neighbor, and a mighty good woman she was. After she was seventy years of age, she planted a patch of cotton, cultivated it with a hoe, gathered the cotton, picked the seeds from it, carded it, spun it, and knitted the prettiest counterpane we have ever seen. She did this, not because had to work, but because she could not keep from it. She was one of the most industrious women we have ever known - *Hoke County Journal*.

Mrs. Willard wrote at the end of the article that Mrs. Clementine McNair died 23 December 1916. I wrote to Mrs. Willard and told her that we did not have these files, but I told her that the article must have been written by the late D. Scott Poole because it was in his style of writings. Also Mr. Poole was editor and publisher of the *Hoke County Journal*.

Last week I received the following letter from Mrs. Willard.

Dear Mr. Morris,

Thank you for your letter of September 21 in response to my inquiry about an article pertaining to Mrs. Clementine McNair that presumably was in the *Hoke County Journal*, perhaps in January 1917.

It is interesting that D. Scott Poole was publisher of that newspaper. He may have been related to Calvin Joshua Poole (called "Cap") who married Sallie McNair, granddaughter of Clementine McNair. In fact, one of Sallie and "Cap" Poole's children is named Scott.

Mrs. Clementine McNair (Mrs. John Nielson McNair) was my great-grandmother, who was born in Richmond County in 1829 and

(See AROUND TOWN, page 12)

City Seeking Additional State Funds

Low Bids On Waste Project \$784,870

Treated At Doctors' Offices

34 Hurt In Hoke School Bus Accident

A total of 34 South Hoke Elementary School students were injured but apparently not seriously about 7:45 a.m. Monday when the school bus in which they were riding to their classes ran off SR 1105 into a ditch.

The accident happened about a mile and a quarter northeast of Antioch.

State trooper Bowden said the students were treated in Raeford by Drs. R.M. Jordan, Robert Townsend and Rannik Zota at the doctors' offices, then released. He said the children suffered minor cuts and "bumps."

The bus, No. 25, was being driven south by Alfred Galloway, Jr., 21, of Rt. 1, Box 667, Red Springs, when he saw the car traveling north in the school bus's lane, causing Galloway to swerve off the road to avoid a collision, the officer quoted the bus driver as saying. The bus ran into a ditch and turned over on its side. The car didn't stop, the officer said.

Later, however, Hoke County Schools Supt. Raz Autry said Galloway's license to drive school buses was withdrawn after students on the bus were interviewed. He said Galloway reportedly "was talking with kids" while he was driving. Autry said state law is specific on bus driving and there was "no excuse" for the accident. He said the results could have been much worse, since the ditch the bus went into is six feet deep and that side windows of the bus were broken by the accident.

Autry also said 67 students were on the bus at the time of the accident. Galloway is not a student, Bowden said.

The bus wasn't moving more than 35 miles per hour when it left the road, since governors on all North Carolina school buses kept the vehicles from traveling any faster.

Galloway reportedly said he had turned to talk to some students who were making a disturbance. A rule is, however, that a driver must stop the bus before acting on a disturbance.

Monday afternoon, an anonymous telephone caller told *The News-Journal* South Hoke School's bus drivers were going to strike. The caller didn't say what the reason for the strike plan was but apparently it was the lifting of Galloway's bus-driving duties.

When classes ended, three of the seven regular bus drivers hadn't appeared at school to take the children home, but were replaced by others. South Hoke Principal Woodrow Westall said none of those who failed to appear for the



Students who were on the school bus in the accident but were uninjured are shown waiting with adult escorts for the substitute bus dispatched to take them the rest of the way to classes. [Staff photo by Pam Frederick.]

afternoon driving notified his office that they wouldn't come and no one mentioned a "strike."

Autry, questioned earlier in the afternoon, said he hadn't heard about a strike plan but if drivers did go on strike they would be replaced immediately.

The results of the failure of the three drivers to appear at the schools were delays of about a half hour and more in the children's regular departure time.

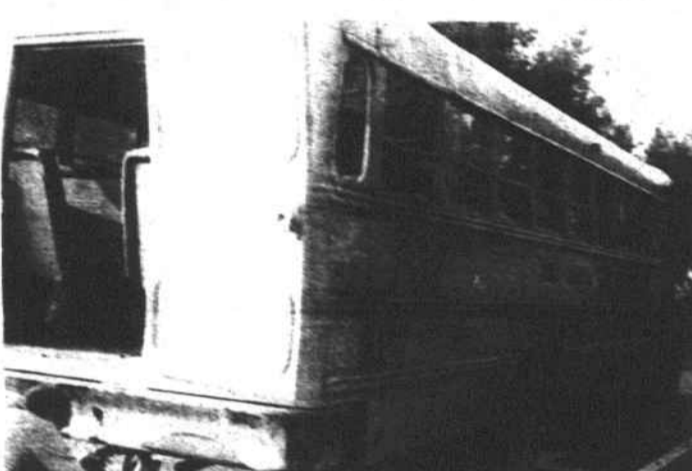
The bus accident and injuries kept Westall and his staff busy all day trying to reach parents of the children involved to notify them of the accident.

Bowden said 66 students were aboard the bus, besides the driver.

He said the children ranged from about 6 to 9 years old.

The injured students were taken to Raeford for treatment by two ambulances of the Hoke County Ambulance Service and one of the Hoke County Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad also sent two other emergency nonambulance vehicles to the scene.

Bowden expressed his thanks to people in private cars who stopped at the scene and took care of the



School Bus No. 25 shows some damage to its body following Monday morning's accident, but the damages have been estimated at \$4,000 to \$5,000. The picture was taken by staff photographer Pam Frederick as a chain was being hooked to the bus to tow it to the school bus garage.

children till the emergency vehicles arrived.

The damages to the school bus totaled \$4,000 to \$5,000, a county school bus maintenance spokesman

was quoted as saying.

The uninjured students were taken to school 45 minutes to an hour after the accident by another school bus, Bowden said.

Hit By Car Saturday Night

McCloud, 17, Hurt Fatally

A 17-year-old Hoke County man was injured fatally about 7:55 p.m. Saturday when he was struck by a car as he was lying on a road near Harmony Heights, State Trooper Bill Bowden, the investigating officer, said.

Bowden said the victim was Raymond Dallas McCloud, Jr., of

Green Pines Mobile Home Park, Rt. 4, Box 4, Raeford. He said McCloud was dead on arrival at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

Bowden reported the accident happened on SR 1403 near Circle H Mobile Home Park. He said Donald Ackerman, who lives in the Circle H park, told him he heard McCloud "hollering" and saw McCloud coming down the road, walking east toward U.S. 401.

As Ackerman approached, McCloud fell onto the road. Ackerman said he saw a car traveling west and tried to stop it but the driver failed to see McCloud in time to stop the car in time to prevent the accident.

Bowden said the driver was Nina

A. Readdy of Rt. 1, Box 541, Raeford. She was not charged, he said.

McCloud's death was the third this year in Hoke County traffic accidents.

McCloud is survived by his parents, of Raeford; his sisters, Misses Joanna Rae and Teresa Lynn McCloud of Fayetteville; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Kerns of Marietta, O.; and his paternal stepgrandmother, Mrs. Jean McCloud of Marietta.

The funeral and burial were to have been held in Marietta. Arrangements were incomplete.

Rogers & Breece Funeral Home of Fayetteville was in charge of the local arrangements.

City Sunday Beer Sales Ban To Be Viewed

The Raeford City Council will consider Monday night the city's 1966 ordinance banning sales of beer on Sundays in light of the Hoke County commissioners' repeal of the county prohibition of Sunday sales.

The commissioners' repeal of the county ordinance did not affect the

city ban because under state law a county sales authorization does not apply to municipalities having prohibition ordinances.

Consequently, sales of beer and wine on Sundays is still prohibited within the Raeford city limits despite the county commissioners' action.

Dundarrach Church Homecoming Sun

Homecoming will be held Sunday at Dundarrach Church.

Dinner will be held on the grounds at 5 p.m., and the worship service will be held at 6 p.m. The Rev. James McKenzie of Robbins

will be guest speaker at the service and evangelist for the revival services, which will be held Monday through October 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. daily. The evangelist will speak each evening.

The Rev. Ben Ferguson is pastor.

The low bids on the general construction and electrical work for the Raeford waste-water system improvements were found Monday night to total \$784,870.

The City Council adopted a resolution accepting them and decided to apply for \$22,500 more in State Clean Water Bonds on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis to pay the \$45,000 by which the total costs exceed the present funds available. The city's \$22,500 would come from the local capital reserve. A \$90,000 State Clean Water Bond grant had been approved earlier for the project. Engineering fees, legal and administrative charges, and construction contingencies bring the total cost of the project to \$945,000.

On Tuesday, City Manager Ron Matthews was notified by a state official that, in view of the council's decision to apply for the additional funds, the council action on the bids-acceptance resolution Monday night would have to be taken over again.

Matthews, in reporting this development Tuesday to *The News-Journal*, said the council would act again at its monthly meeting Monday night.

The council at the special meeting also decided to explore the possibility of obtaining standby electric power from the Lumber River Electric Membership Corp. in lieu of getting an electric generator, under a provision of a low bid. The city administration will consult with the Lumber River cooperative and Carolina Power & Light Co. on the matter. CP&L is the city's power provider.

If the alternative source can be used, the savings in the generator costs would amount to \$40,000 to \$50,000, Matthews estimated.

The low bidders and their bids are Sun States Constructors, Inc., of Dunn, \$621,441, on the general contract and Steele Electric Co., Inc., of Monroe, \$163,492 on the electrical work.

The bids ranged upward to about \$831,000 on the general contract and to about \$200,000 on the electrical.

Six bids were received for the general and three for the electrical.

On the general, the lowest was \$699,292 submitted by Myric Construction Co. of Star; and the third lowest, \$748,480, by Evans, Eller & Associates of Statesville.

On the electrical, Roanoke Electric Corp. of Pantego submitted the second lowest bid, \$200,000; and Bobby Townsend Electric of Lumberton, \$205,690.

The general contract calls for construction of additions to the laboratory building, lime conditioning of sludge facilities, conversion of existing contact stabilization units to complete mix with existing blower and air diffusion renovations; sludge drying bed modifications and appurtenances.

The electrical work will consist of installing wiring for the new facilities, rehabilitating some existing electrical facilities, installing a control panel, and providing the standby generator and appurtenances.

The improvements to the waste-water system must be made before more industry can be served, under federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Besides the low bids the costs include \$116,000 in engineering fees, \$5,000 in legal and administrative assessments, and \$39,130 in construction contingencies.

To help finance the project, the federal Economic Development Administration has granted the city \$720,000, the city has budgeted \$32,000 and is to sell \$58,000 in general obligation bonds, through the State Local Government Commission. This is in addition to the state's original Clean Water Bonds fund which would be expanded by the additional fund the city is applying for; and to the city's money matching the additional state grant.

Grass Fire Put Out

A grass fire possibly started by a discarded cigarette broke out on South Jackson Street near the Hoke Cotton Warehouse Saturday afternoon and was extinguished by the Raeford Fire Department. No one was injured and no building was damaged.



John K. McNeill, Jr.



Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr.

For Reelection

McNeill, Hedgpeth File

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr., have filed for reelection in the November 3 municipal election.

City voters will elect a mayor and five council members to two-year terms.

The deadline for filing for candidates for the offices is noon Friday

at the Hoke County Board of Elections.

McNeill filed Friday for reelection to his seventh term, and Hedgpeth filed Monday for his third term.

Unregistered, qualified people have till 5 p.m. Monday to register to vote in the election.