

To Match Funds For Restoring, Preserving 1830s Residence

\$11,000 State Grant Approved For Mill Prong House In Hoke

An \$11,000 matching grant to Mill Prong Preservation, Inc., was approved by the General Assembly last week.

The North Carolina Historical Commission recommended the grant to the Hoke County project.

Charles Hostetler is president of the non-profit organization incorporated in 1978 for the purpose of preserving and restoring the Federal style plantation house in Blue Springs township.

The house was built in the 1790s and substantial additions made in the 1830s. John Gilchrist, the original builder, emigrated from Kintyre, Scotland, in 1770 and became a leader of the large Highland settlement in this area.

He was elected to the House of Commons in the last decade of the 18th century.

The house and nearby cemetery

are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mill Prong Preservation, Inc. will hold the fourth annual meeting on Sunday, October 25, at the Graham-Matheson house located adjacent to Riverton Park near Wagram. The public is invited.

A catered picnic lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Cost of the lunch is \$4 and reservations must be made by Thursday, October 22, to Mill

Prong Preservation, Inc., P.O. Drawer 1087, Lumberton, N.C. 28358.

The Graham-Matheson house, birthplace of the late Dr. R. A. Matheson of Raeford, was built in the 1830s for Elizabeth Purcell Graham, a granddaughter of John Gilchrist, and her husband, Archibald Graham. It originally was in Blue Springs Township but was moved to the present site when

purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William S. McLean of Lumberton. Restoration of the house is underway.

A grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation enabled Mill Prong Preservation, Inc., to obtain the services of consultants Edward Turberg of Wilmington and George Fore of Raleigh for the Mill Prong house. An architectural history and evaluation have been prepared, and detailed measured

drawings of inside and exterior construction made. These will be used as the restoration progresses.

The state grant will be used for carpentry and masonry repairs exterior painting, and a permanent roof.

The meeting held following the lunch will be addressed by Thomas Wright III of Wilmington, and Bill McLean. They will discuss some of the practical aspects of historical preservation.

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The News - Journal

25¢

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXXIII NUMBER 25

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

Preceding Hoke-Pinecrest Football Game

Homecoming Parade To Be Held Friday

Around Town
BY SAM C. MORRIS

The fall weather makes one feel good, but we still need rain. The forecast last weekend was for rain, but it didn't rain enough to do any good to the crops and to the water table.

I know we have had some windy weather, but has there been enough to make most of the pecans fall from the trees? My wife picked up a basketfull of nuts last week after we returned from Wrightsville Beach. Could it be the dry weather that is causing the pecans to fall? If anyone else has this problem, please give me the answer.

The old saying is, that an abundance of nuts makes a cold winter. If so, you had better fill the oil drum for the upcoming winter.

If you are an undefeated football team, it doesn't pay to be rated number one in the polls. For this season anyway, if a team gets to the top, they are knocked off almost immediately. I believe that Southern California stayed up for two weeks before meeting defeat.

There are two undefeated teams in the ACC, Carolina and Clemson. If they maintain this pace, the game between the two teams in Chapel Hill on Saturday, November 7 should draw a record crowd to Kenan Stadium.

Last week the game between Wake Forest and the Tar Heels drew almost 52,000, which set a record. This was on a day that the weatherman had forecast a 70 percent chance of rain. Even if it had been sunny weather, the stadium was packed.

Someone asked me last week if I really wanted opposition in the City Council's race. This was because of the comment I made in this column last week.

No, I personally don't want opposition; but in any race, if people come out for the joke, then issues will be discussed.

The comment about the baseball games and the TV shows came home to roost with me. The color TV set at home went on the blink and when my other set had to replace it in the den you can rest assured who saw what programs in my house.

Of course my wife said go ahead and watch the ball games, but I could tell by the tone of her voice, that the movies would be better for me in the long run.

Maybe this wouldn't have been the case in your home?

The Hoke High Booster Club will hold a Bar-B-Q supper at Hoke High School on Friday, October 16 starting at approximately 4 p.m. They will serve until 7 p.m.

Tickets can be obtained at Hoke Drug Co. Go out and help the club and enjoy the fellowship.

I usually don't run poems in the paper, but the following letter was received this week and the poem below the letter was enclosed.

Dear Sam:
This came out recently in *Spartanburg Journal*. Thought you (See AROUND TOWN, page 9)

At Annual Dinner

Several Hundred Honor Firemen

Staff photos

Several hundred people turned out Thursday night to honor Hoke County's firemen.

The pictures show some of the people who attended.

The annual dinner was held in Gibson Cafeteria at Hoke County High School. The audience included Raeford city and Hoke County government officials.

The guest speaker was Calvin Beck, fire training coordinator for the State Department of Community Colleges. He was introduced by Elwood Baker of the North Raeford Fire Department, president of the Hoke County Firemen's Association.

The visitors were welcomed and the special guests recognized by Tom Howell, president of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce. Baker made the response.

The Rev. George McKeithan gave the invocation.

Seven of the county's businesses gave the financial support for the dinner, and they were thanked for it during the meeting. They are Farm Bureau Insurance, and Earl Rose its local representative, The Bank of Raeford, Avery Connell Insurance Agency, W.L. Poole Insurance Agency, Southern National Bank, and Raeford Savings & Loan Association.



Members of the Pine Hill Fire Department, which protects northwestern Hoke County, are shown with their guests waiting to enter the serving line. Front, L-R -- Dennis, Franklin and Frederick Purcell, Gene Blue, Ken Purcell, Chris Conley, and Daniel Shaw. Rear, L-R -- Michael Lucas and his wife Sherry, Cynthia Leach and her husband Robert [back to camera], and Jane and Bobby Strother.

Volunteers For Energy Aid Program Wanted

Ken Witherspoon, director of the Department of Social Services, today issued an urgent call for volunteers to assist with the administration of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

Particularly needed are people who have some prior interviewing or clerical skills.

The energy program is a limited effort to provide a one-time fuel assistance allotment to eligible households. It is anticipated that some 1,500 households will apply

between November 1 and December 11. Witherspoon indicated the full impact of the implementation of all of the other federal changes is causing the Department serious staffing problems.

Witherspoon indicates that he is very much aware of the mixed feelings generated by certain assistance programs. He also pointed out the serious problems generated by high energy costs for all of us. The poor and those on fixed incomes are more vulnerable to the

problems. It is with that thought that the Department of Social Services seeks to effectively and efficiently administer the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

Volunteers are needed in four-hour shifts with some fixed com-

mitment for the November 1 - December 11 time frame. Those interested in helping should call Witherspoon at 855-3772 or come by the department. A one-day training session will be provided for all volunteers.

Vass Road Brush Blaze Near Homes Killed

North Raeford Fire Department firemen extinguished a grass fire on Vass Road about a quarter mile west of U.S. 401 bypass north shortly after 4:30 p.m. Thursday before it could damage homes in the area.

The fire, whose cause was not learned, spread quickly through dry brush from Vass Road and into the front yard of Mrs. Cara Lee Patterson, 89, nearly reaching her house before it was stopped. The fire also burned grass on an

adjoining lot east of Mrs. Patterson's before it was put out.

John Patterson, Mrs. Patterson's son, said he discovered the fire as he was walking to his mother's home and called the fire department.

Raeford Getting \$48,750 In Powell Funds

State Transportation Secretary W.R. "Bill" Roberson Jr. announced last week that checks totaling more than \$31.3 million have been mailed to 461 municipalities in North Carolina for local street construction and maintenance. The monies make up the

fiscal year 1982 allocation of state street aid (Powell Bill) funds.

Raeford will receive an allocation of \$48,750.78. The allocation is based on the community's population of 3,650 and its 23.29 miles of streets not in the state system.

City Candidates To Attend PTA Meeting Monday

The Hoke County PTA's first meeting of the new school year will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at J.W. Turlington School.

make an intelligent choice at the polls. The election is scheduled for November 3.

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and all candidates for the Raeford City Council will be guests of the association. The mayor is running for reelection but is unopposed.

Everyone is urged to attend to meet the candidates to become better informed so he or she can

At Antioch

The Antioch Presbyterian Church Ingathering will be held Thursday, October 15, starting at 11 a.m., on the church grounds.

Chicken salad and barbecue plates will be offered.



Buddy Willis is pouring water on the Vass Road grass fire while Gaston Clark is holding the fire hose. Both are volunteer firemen with the North Raeford Fire Department.