

\$67,439 First Year's Costs

Board Accepts IBM Computer System Bid

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rain finally arrived Sunday night but I haven't seen the weatherman to find out how much it rained. It did rain enough to wet me as I left the church to go home after a meeting.

As this is being written Monday afternoon, the sun is shining, but the air is cool. The forecast is for freezing weather for Monday night. It is also forecast for the temperature to go again into the 70s by the end of the week.

In this column last week when I wrote about having opposition in an election, there was a typographical error made that caused the comment to seem somewhat senseless. The sentence should have read, "No, I personally don't want opposition, but in any race, if people come out for the JOB, then issues will be discussed." The word "joke" appeared instead of "job" last week.

Politics is not a joke with me, it is very serious.

Neill D. Currie of Savannah, Ga., was by the office last week to renew his subscription to *The News-Journal*. He was visiting relatives in Hoke County, including his nephews, James and David S. Currie.

He said that he had been taking the paper since 1925. It was then *The Hoke County Journal* and was published by the late D. Scott Poole. Neill said he went to State College in Raleigh in 1925 and that was the reason for his subscription.

While carrying on a conversation with him, of course the subject of dry weather came up. He stated that the well at the old Currie place, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Poole, was dry and that it didn't dry up very often. He also stated that one year while he was a young man here in Hoke County that the rainfall was about like this year, except it rained on the Norton place a little ways southeast of the Currie place. Neill said that everyone said it rained there because the Nortons were all Baptists.

Now if this be true, maybe we should all go down to Billy Beaver's church.

It was nice talking with Neill, and I hope he continues taking the paper for many more years.

The following letter was received last week and is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Sam:
I just made a visit to Raeford to attend the Homecoming at the Evangelical Methodist Church, which we enjoyed very much.
The fellowship and the good meal, what a blessing it was.

Our hearts rejoice to get to see so many of our dear friends and wish we could have seen the rest.

We rejoice to see the progress that Raeford has made, and that means, love, working together. So I will close for now.

May God continue to bless and keep each one in our prayers.

Sincerely,
Rev. W.H. Ginn
P.S. To those we didn't get to see and say hello to, hello, and God Bless.

The prolonged baseball season may mean that the game will be played on a snowy field if the cold weather continues.

Shiloh Ingathering

The Shiloh Presbyterian Church Ingathering will be held Thursday, October 22, starting at 4 p.m., in the church Fellowship Hall.

Barbecue and chicken salad plates will be offered at \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night voted unanimously to accept International Business Machine's low bid of \$67,439 to supply the county with a new computer system.

The motion, made by Commissioner Danny DeVane, also provided for the county government entering into arrangements to make payments in installments.

DeVane made the motion to "go with the low bid," in view of the fact that Burroughs specified no bid on the system's software. The Burroughs bid, minus the figure for software, was \$63,768.29.

Burroughs and IBM were among four bidders to supply the county with the system. The others were NCR and Texas Instruments.

The commissioners were informed before they acted that another agency, the County Health Department, could be tied into the system later if the commissioners wished, for a maximum additional cost of about \$6,000 and that this addition could amount to even \$3,000.

The computer will be installed in the County Courthouse Annex where the present system is being operated.

The IBM bid statement estimates the system will cost \$98,855 after five years in maintenance and other categories, based on present costs, which are subject to increase.

The total cost after three years is estimated at \$83,147. The annual recurring cost is expected to be about \$7,854. The low bid is the cost for the first year, and is not an estimate, the commissioners were told.

The low bid includes the \$50,696 original bid, \$7,000 for application software, \$2,604 system software, \$5,058 annual maintenance,

\$1,770 in modems, units in the system, \$119 for telephone installation, and \$192 for telephone line rental.

The commissioners also were informed that equipment made by other companies could be added to the system if the equipment were made compatible with the IBM system.

SECONDARY ROAD PROGRAM

In other business, the commissioners adopted a resolution approving the 1981-82 secondary

road program proposed for Hoke County by the State Department of Transportation. The motion to adopt the resolution asks the DOT for a breakdown of last year's expenditures for road improvements in the county.

The resolution notes that \$61,489 is available for rural secondary roads improvements for the coming construction season.

The DOT program proposes that \$12,298 of the total be retained for small projects, such as road additions, property-owner participation projects, volunteer fire department and rescue squad driveways, and project overruns, that may be brought up during the year.

A total of \$49,191 of the fund is to be considered for improving eight-tenths of a mile of SR 1465, Freddie Lake Road, from SR 1003 to the dead end; and \$19,191 to be considered for widening SR 1203 from SR 1202 to SR 1200, a distance of 1.5 miles.

The money is coming from Gov. Jim Hunt's Good Roads Program funds.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

The commissioners also voted to provide an hourly pay rate of \$14.50 for the three physician assistants, from the present rate of \$9.15.

Lloyd Horne, director of the Hoke County Health Department, presented the proposal. In a letter written to County Manager James Martin before the Monday meeting, Horne explains the commissioners authorized negotiating for the continuation of the PA program with local physicians. The Hoke County Medical Betterment Association clinic was closed September 15 because the federal funding which helped pay for the program was not extended.

The local physicians decided to start a similar service, however, and a 20-hour PA schedule is being provided by them, Horne's letter says.

The requested reimbursement rate was \$15 per hour, and the rate was negotiated to \$14.50.

Horne's letter adds: "This provides PA services and the supervision and coverage of those services by a licensed physician. In that we currently pay \$40 per hour for some physician services, and the current state maximum is \$55 per hour, this price represents a bargain for the Health Department."

The letter adds that the reduced schedule will not require additional funding and will leave a "small amount of money unspent in the account."

Under the Hoke MBA arrangement, PA services were provided for 32 hours weekly.

The new rate was made retroactive to September 15 in the approving motion, which authorizes the county administration to enter into a contract providing the \$14.50 rate.

BUS CONVERSION

The commissioners tabled till their next meeting (November 2) action on a proposal to allow a 39-passenger bus to be converted by the Hoke County Ambulance Service into an ambulance litter bearer.

Commissioner Mabel Riley made the motion to table to allow time to look into the expense of converting the bus.

NOMINATION

Horne was nominated for appointment as Hoke County member to the Older Adults Advisory Council of the Lumber River Council of Governments. He will succeed Ken Witherspoon, director of the Hoke County Department of Social Services.

Monday night's meeting was the mid-month session of the commissioners.

ELDERS' LUNCH

The commissioners also went on record opposing any cutback in the Nutrition Program for senior citizens at the Cameron Heights Neighborhood Center, on grounds the present program is warranted because of the size of the area's population in the program services.

Arrived In U.S. Friday With Family

Irish Minister Joins Raeford Staff

The Rev. Douglas Mark fell in love with this part of the country nine years ago when he was serving as a summer assistant at Maxton Presbyterian Church.

Last Saturday, he and his family arrived in Raeford to stay. Mark, his wife and their four children started their trip in Northern Ireland. It was the first to the United States for Mrs. Mark and the children, the third in nine years for the minister, and the second since July.

This time he came as the new associate pastor of Raeford Presbyterian Church whose pastor is Dr. John Ropp.

For the past 3½ years, Mark has served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Killyleagh, County Down, in his native country.

"We've been very warmly welcomed since we arrived," Mark said cheerfully and with enthusiasm.

He and his family are staying at Mrs. Jean Johnson's home on Rt. 1, Raeford, but "toward the weekend," he said, "we hope to move into 436 College Dr."

Then Mark said, "436 College Dr. will be the Irish Consulate," and he broke into a laugh. "I'm going to issue immigration papers to Ireland. Apply before 5:30."

How did he get to become the associate pastor in Raeford?

The trail started some time over

seven years ago. Mark, now 33, was studying at New College, the Presbyterian seminary in Edinburgh, Scotland. Also there was Dr. Douglas Kelly of Dillon, S.C. They became acquainted, and Mark went to Maxton for his temporary service. During that summer he kept in touch with Raeford, and came to love the area. "My thought was to come back some day, with the will of God," he said.

Mark was ordained seven years ago, then served as an assistant pastor in the church in Belfast, Ireland, before going to Killyleagh.

Then this year, the Raeford Presbyterian Search Committee was established, with L.S. Brock as chairman, to find the right man to be associate pastor, a new position.

Brock got in touch with Kelly, then pastor of the Dillon church, and Kelly told him about Mark.

The result was Brock telephoned Mark in Ireland last May. Mark came to Raeford in July and met the congregation.

On Friday, Mark and his family arrived by plane in New York then on Saturday flew to the Raleigh-Durham Airport, where they were welcomed by Dr. and Mrs. Ropp and Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Mark is a speech therapist by profession, a native of Lisburn, which is near Belfast. Mark's



The Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Mark with children [L-R] Olwyn, Jonathan, Andrew and Catherine. [Staff photo.]

native town is Keady, County Armagh, on the border with southern Ireland.

Asked about the violence in Ireland, Mark said the trouble is in Northern Ireland generally. There hasn't been much in the Killyleagh area, but there has been around Keady.

Also during the interview, he said he played a lot of soccer at home and was looking forward to learning "native games," meaning American.

The little Marks are Andrew, 1 year old; Olwyn, 2½; Catherine, 4; and Jonathan, 6.

Energy Assistance Plans Are Announced

Plans for providing assistance to Hoke County residents through the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) have been announced by Ken Witherspoon, director of the Hoke County Department of Social Services.

The program will provide a

one-time cashpayment to help eligible households in paying their heating bills. However, Weather-spoon noted, it is not the purpose of the program to pay all of a household's heating costs.

Methods of distributing the funds available have changed. This

year's program requires that all households must submit applications in order to be considered. Applications will be accepted by Witherspoon's department from November 2 through December 11. Daily hours for LIEAP applications will be 9 a.m.-noon, and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. If a household applies any time between November 2 and December 11 and is found eligible, the household will receive a one-time payment in early February.

Payments will depend on household income, type of heating fuel used, and how cold it is in the part of North Carolina where the household lives.

Households are eligible if they meet all the following requirements:

(1) The household's total income must be at or below the non-farm poverty level of:

No. of Household Members	Monthly Income
1	\$316
2	418
3	519
4	621
5	723
6	824
7 or more	Add \$102 for each additional person over 6

(2) The household must be vulnerable to rising heating costs; and

(3) The household's assets have a value of \$2,200 or less. All assets will be counted except household or personal belongings, cars, homes, income producing property, insurance, value of prepaid burial contracts, savings of a student under 18 who is saving his money for school expenses, re-location assistance payments, money in checking account to meet monthly needs, non-salable life estate or remainder interests, heir property and HUD Community development block grants.

Households that believe they meet the eligibility requirements should apply at the Hoke County Department of Social Services. Applicants should take information to prove their household's income, savings or checking account, property and stocks or bonds.

If anyone in the household works, the applicant should take wage stubs for the entire month of October. Each applicant should also take his Social Security card.

Witherspoon stated that further program developments will be announced as they are learned.

No Probable Cause

For Murder Count Found

Hoke County District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree Friday found no probable cause for a murder charge against Larry Wayne Brooks of Shannon.

Brooks had been charged in the fatal shooting May 10 of Ronnie Jacobs, 26, of Rt. 2, Raeford. Jacobs died of a head wound May 13. He was one of two men who

were fatally wounded by gunfire outside the Hour Glass Club early in the morning. Five others were wounded less seriously.

The other man fatally wounded was Charles Ray McNeill, 25, of Rt. 2, Shannon. No probable cause for a murder charge against the person accused of shooting him was found August 8 following a hearing in District Court.

By Burlington's Local Plant, Employees

Textile Week Being Observed

Burlington Industries' local plant and its employees are observing Textile Week October 19-25, joining other textile firms and their 250,000 employees across the state in a program to highlight the impact of textiles on the Tar Heel economy.

The Burlington operation here manufactures men's suiting and uniform material and employs some 1,600 people, with an annual payroll of approximately \$19,500,000. The plant has operated here since 1956.

Over the past year \$7 million capital projects for modernization and machinery replacements were completed or announced by

management.

Statewide, textiles alone provides employment for over 250,000 people, and the related apparel industry provides another 87,000 jobs. Textile payroll in the state exceeds \$2.5 billion.

Burlington employs 31,000 people at 57 facilities in over 40 North Carolina communities.

In addition to textile and apparel employment are the thousands of jobs in industries growing out of textiles -- fiber and textile machinery manufacturers, textile chemical products, and much of the trucking industry in the state, and the state's utilities which have

depended so heavily upon the textile industry.

Various activities are being planned throughout the state to draw attention to textiles and related industries during Textile Week -- local proclamations by cities and counties, employee recognition events, plant tours and open houses, presentations to civic groups, and a united advertising effort in the state's major media.

Locally, Mayor John K. McNeill Jr., has proclaimed this week as Textile Week. The local plants have recognized their employees for the tremendous part they have in this industry.