

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the past several mornings seems to say that winter is here at last. Reports were that the temperature was below 30 degrees on Sunday morning. One person stated that it was 26 degrees on his thermometer. The forecast is for rain in the next day or so. This is needed.

Dick Neeley, the square of Puppy Creek, brought the following note by the office Monday. It is about the Puppy Creek Watch and I believe should be of interest to Hoke County people.

Neeley says, "I was talking to a member of the Puppy Creek Watch the other day and he was saying that the watch is well into its fifth year already."

"There is no real way to know how much good it has done, but the sheriff's department says it has cut the crime rate by 75%."

"The watch was organized by Chuck Helbling with the cooperation of many others. They have monthly meetings with one general yearly meeting and fish fry and it is worth a bit to get the community together to get re-acquainted. They offer a \$100.00 reward to any person providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone breaking, entering and larceny in the Puppy Creek Watch."

Last week I ran an item about a Bake Sale for McCain Hospital and I received the following note from Mrs. Jessie Neeley.

"The committee responsible for the McCain Hospital and Lung Association Benefit Bake Sale held on Friday, November 6th wishes to thank those friends and neighbors who so generously supported the benefit with baked goods and monetary contributions. We also thank those people who supported our efforts by purchasing the baked goods. An incomplete report on it is \$470.83."

The following letter was received Monday and should be of interest to many readers.

Dear Sam:
I am at a loss to know to whom I should address this, so I suppose it is best to send it to you and hope that you will be kind enough to thank everyone for me with a few words in your News-Journal column.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Battery "F" Reunion, October 2-4, for the most welcome "get well" card. It broke my heart to miss it, but I was certainly in no condition to attend. The card may have done more good than anticipated. I was released from the hospital on the 4th and have felt fine since and in addition I gave up cigarettes (40 days without and hardly any problem). I did have to return as an outpatient on the 6th for further tests which all turned out o.k.

In spite of my disappointment over missing the reunion, I gained something that no one in attendance did. I am now the proud possessor of a beautiful card with the autographs of all of those who were able to attend.

My warmest regards to everyone. I am looking forward to being with you at next year's reunion.

Sincerely,
Jamie Stone
Thanks Jamie, it is good to know that you are again feeling fine. Hope to see you next year.

Health Center Giving Flu Shots

This is to remind the citizens of Hoke County that if they have not received their flu shot yet, to do so. The Hoke County Health Center is giving them on the following days: Monday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; and Wednesday 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. There is a \$3 charge for each shot, and the last day the Health Center will be giving them is Tuesday, November 17.

Raeftord Mayor

McNeill Elected To State League Board

Hoke Volunteers Honored By Governor

Gov. and Mrs. James B. Hunt, Jr., were in Greensboro October 28 to pay tribute to the people they have hailed as America's greatest resource -- volunteers.

The ceremony, one of three this fall, was at 4 p.m. in the ballroom of Village Green, 310 West Meadowview Rd. They presented awards in nine categories to outstanding volunteers in the 26 central counties participating.

Six Hoke County people were named for awards -- Robert Warren, Individual Human Service; Barbara Buie, administrator/coordinator of volunteers; Josephine Hall, Senior Citizen; Lawrence Bounds, Disabled Person volunteer; Jessie Neeley, Individual Community Volunteer leader; and Tonja Renee Williams, Youth Volunteer.

The categories are Individual Human Service Volunteer, Individual Community Volunteer Leader, Youth Volunteer, Senior Citizen Volunteer, Disabled Person Volunteer Administrator/Coordinator of Volunteers, Church/Religious Volunteer Group, Community Volunteer Organization and Business/Industry Volunteer Involvement.

To the group of over 600 assembled for the event, Hunt said, "Your example of giving instead of getting, caring instead of complaining, actions instead of apathy, is the catalyst which will continue to make North Carolina a good place to live and work."

The 1981 Governor's Statewide Volunteer Awards ceremony is a result of a process which began in March. Throughout the year, local



HOKE RECIPIENTS -- Hoke County award recipients are (left to right) Robert Warren, Individual Human Service volunteer; Barbara J. Buie, administrator/coordinator of volunteers; Josephine Hall, Senior Citizen volunteer; Lawrence Bounds, Disabled Person volunteer; and Gov. and Mrs. James B. Hunt, Jr. Not attending the ceremony were Jessie Neeley, Individual Community Volunteer leader, and Tonja Renee Williams, Youth volunteer.

committees identified outstanding volunteers in each county participating.

Although the categories and broad guidelines were established by the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs, local selections were made

in a number of ways. In counties with Involvement Councils, each was asked to select the top volunteers in their community. In counties without Involvement Councils, the county commissioners were asked either to make the selection

themselves or to appoint a committee to make that selection.

In many counties, volunteers were honored at local recognition events prior to this ceremony, and many are planned following this event.

Hoke NC 2000 Steering Committee Appointed

Betsy Ann McNeill, chairman for the NC 2000 planning project in Hoke County, announced this week the appointment of a steering committee to help direct the activities of the year-long effort.

Named to the Hoke County NC 2000 Steering Committee were Mrs. Joyce Griffin, Robert Gatlin, Wes Williams, Will Davis, Caroline Parker, Tom Howell, Mrs. Charles A. Hostetler, Mrs. Betty L. Rogers and Charlotte Kelly.

Serving as ex-officio members to the committee are: John K. McNeill, Jr., Sam Morris, Earl Fowler, Lesa Pegram, Raz Autry, Harold Gillis and Neill McPhatter. "I am very pleased that this

group of leading citizens from our county will be working with me on this important planning effort," said Mrs. McNeill.

"This group will be very important in identifying issues of particular interest to citizens of Hoke County between now and the year 2000. I will also be looking to the steering committee to encourage participation in the effort by other leaders and citizens."

The Hoke County steering committee is one of 100 groups named in each county of the state, as a part of the statewide NC 2000 project.

The purpose of NC 2000, according to state chairman Dr. William

Friday, is to focus the attention of top thinkers, leaders and citizens on the next two decades in North Carolina. "We will be examining where we are now as a state; where we are likely to be in the year 2000, if present trends continue; where citizens want to be; and how we can bring a better life for ourselves and our children in the years to come. We will be submitting a report of recommendations to Governor Hunt at the end of 1982," explained Friday.

"A vital part of this effort involves citizens in each county actively participating through meetings, discussion of the issues in formal and informal ways with

other citizens, and in involving as many citizens as possible in the public ballot which will take place next spring."

Hoke County citizens interested in learning more about NC 2000 should contact Betsy Ann McNeill at 875-2169 or write to: NC 2000, 116 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, 27611.

Failing To Pay Taxes Costly

Mrs. Elizabeth Livingston, Hoke County tax collector, Friday issued the following statement regarding unpaid property back taxes.

Property owners in Hoke County who have not paid their back taxes will be notified one more time by the tax collector.

They will have 30 days to pay their taxes.

At the end of this 30 day the back taxes will be turned over to the attorney. A cost of \$200 will be added to the tax bill.

If the taxes are still delinquent by the time the title search and complaint is completed, the cost will be increased to \$350 to 400 and in many cases substantially more than that.

Mrs. Livingston stated that it is not fair for some property owners to pay, while others ignore their responsibilities. She said that her department would rather have the property owners pay their taxes and keep their land, rather than pay the extra costs or lose their

land.

This new notice will not affect the 50 property owners who have already been notified by the attorney for their gross neglect of their back taxes. The attorney has already begun filing law suits against these property owners who have not come to the tax office to pay their back taxes.

Unpaid 1981 taxes, however, won't be considered delinquent till January 1982, Mrs. Livingston advised.



Mayor McNeill signs Farm-City Week proclamation. County Chairman Hostetler is at left. (Staff photo.)

Nov. 20-26 Proclaimed Farm-City Week

Raeftord Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., has proclaimed the week of November 20 Farm-City Week in Raeftord.

The Hoke County chairman for the 1981 observance is Charles Hostetler of Raeftord.

The text of the mayor's proclamation follows.

WHEREAS the prosperity and well-being of this community are dependent upon cooperation between the two great elements of our society; farmers and urban people, and

WHEREAS the complexities of their individual problems and the divergence of their activities have led to a widening gulf of misunderstanding, and

WHEREAS this gulf of misunderstanding must be eliminated, and each group must understand

the other if our American way of life is to endure, and

WHEREAS Farm-City Week provides an unparalleled opportunity for farm and city people to become reacquainted,

THEREFORE, I, John K. McNeill, Jr., Mayor of the City of Raeftord, do hereby proclaim the period of November 20 through November 26 to be Farm-City Week; and I do further call upon all citizens of this community to participate to the limit of their capabilities in the joint visits, the seminars, the pageants, fairs, civic, and social events attendant to a successful Farm-City Week in Raeftord.

Effective the 20th day of November, 1981.

John K. McNeill
Mayor, City of Raeftord

Canvass Makes No Change

The official canvass made Thursday by the Hoke County Board of Elections of the votes in the Raeftord municipal election of November 3 resulted in no changes in the unofficial tallies published in last week's edition of *The News-Journal*.

The tallies showed: John K. McNeill, Jr., mayor, 500 votes; and, for City Council (the five candidates with the most votes elected -- R.L. (Bobby) Carter 355, Councilman Graham Clark 357, Councilman Bob Gentry 366, Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr., 371, Earl McDuffie, Jr., 184, Councilman James B. McLeod 422,

Councilman Sam C. Morris 304, and T. Joseph Upchurch 377.

Clark, Gentry, Hedgpeth and McLeod were reelected to new terms, and Upchurch was elected to his first term, replacing Morris on the council. Mayor McNeill was unopposed for reelection.

The complete, unofficial returns from the three city precincts were reported election night to *The News-Journal* by the county elections board office.

The councilmen - elect and mayor - elect will be sworn into office for the 1981-83 terms the night of December 7 shortly before the council's regular meeting for the month starts.