

Business, School Holiday; Special Services Set**Hoke People Ready For Thanksgiving****Around Town**

BY SAM C. MORRIS

After watching the weather report on TV Sunday afternoon, I had thoughts of returning to the lower south. The forecast is for either rain or snow and this is not to my liking.

I hope the weather around here was like it was in Texas, because it was nice and warm out there. In the high 70s or low 80s most of the time in the daytime.

Anyway I can't say much more about the weather until I get in touch with Robert Gatlin.

It was good to see that the publisher can still use the typewriter and come forth with five items for Addenda. I was not sure he would write it when I left and I read it in Greenville, S.C. last Friday afternoon. Thanks, Dickson, and maybe you can take over the column and get all the readers to know who the writer of Addenda is.

I found the following item on my desk early Monday morning and it was requested that it be put in this column. I don't know the details, but will quote what I found. Here it is:

"An olive green megaphone (loudspeaker) was lost on Main St., Raeford, October 20. The equipment is owned by the U.S. Marine Corps, Alpha Battery 1st Bn, 10th Marines. If you have information please call the Raeford Police Dept."

Also on my desk was a letter from Mrs. Mary W. Doggett of Greensboro. She is the former Mary Norton of this county. She is writing concerning the Norton family belonging to the Methodist Church. She writes:

"I am sending you this re-about Nortons being Methodist.

"Re-Norton Genealogy (This is a copy of a page from the Bulletin of Raeford Methodist Church, Raeford, N.C. for Church Dedication Sunday, December 12, 1954.)"

The history states:
The Raeford Methodist Church was founded in 1900 with the following members: John C. Adams, W.T. Covington, J.D. Glisson, Arch Graham, John F. McPhail, B.F. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Moore, Miss Patsy McDowell, William Norton, J.C. Thomas, T.B. Upchurch, W.J. Upchurch, and W.F. Walters.

At this time the church was placed on the Red Springs circuit, and the first pastor, Rev. Eskine Pope, came over from Red Springs. For about two years services were held in the old Presbyterian Church in Raeford.

Mrs. Doggett also writes:
"Incidentally, the old church caught fire during the eleven o'clock service, Sunday morning, December 26, 1948, and Rev. Zane Norton (cousin) was conducting the service."

"William Norton's father was a charter member of Sneed's Grove Methodist Church near Laurinburg N.C. His name was John Calvin Norton of Scotland County, N.C."

"Thanks very much for sending me *The News-Journal*. It was most interesting, because I remember the year that it rained on our farm as an isolated shower."

Thanks, Mrs. Doggett, for this letter. I told someone that you would more apt call my hand on the Nortons and the Methodist Church.

Well, I am back in the same old place after two weeks away. We had a fine time and found all our folks about as expected.

I will say that there is no place like home.



Counting All Our Blessings

Great Spirit,
Hear me
While I offer the united voice
and devotion of thy people
In Thanksgiving.

For the sun
That warms our earth-house
Filling it with all good things,

For the sleep that rides
With the moon and the stars;
For healing herbs,
Fruits, nuts, grains,
Fish and meats,
For the spirit of the hunt
When the great chiefs smoke
The pipe of peace.

Keep us the children of nature...

—Samuel Harden Stille
Big Chief's Prayer

Among Merchants Association Pre-Yule Events**Christmas Parade Planned For Dec. 12**

A Christmas Parade will be a new major event this year in the Raeford Merchants Association's annual pre-Christmas activities, along with the yearly Santa House in the former railroad depot on South Main Street.

The parade is scheduled for December 12, starting at 2 p.m., climaxing with the arrival of Santa Claus, who will enter the Santa House. His arrival will end the parade.

Santa House after that will open December 14 and remain open from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays through December 23. From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

December 21, 22 and 23, local church choirs will take turns singing Christmas carols. Each will sing for 30 minutes each night, at the Christmas tree outside Santa House.

In Santa House, the visiting children can tell Santa what they want him to bring them for Christmas. Besides that, a professional photographer will be available there to take pictures of individual children with Santa if the children's parents or other guardians wish.

Another main event on the association's pre-Christmas program is the contest of Christmas decorations of store and other business windows in downtown

Raeford. Windows must be decorated by December 12 to be eligible for the judging. The judges will be members of the Raeford Junior Woman's Club. The winners will be chosen on the basis of originality among other characteristics.

Ribbon awards will be presented to the owners or managers of the winning window displays.

Preparing the details of the Christmas Parade for the association are John Howard, Michael Smith, Ed Hasty, and Kathy Daniels. Howard is in charge of organizing the parade.

High school bands, beauty queens, the National Guard,

parts and some of the people of the Hoke County Wagon Train, floats of business and other organizations, law enforcement, fire protection and medical emergency people and equipment, and school and other organizations are scheduled to participate.

Twenty to 30 floats and marching groups are expected to be in the procession, including Santa Claus.

So far, the Hoke County, Lumberton and Red Springs High Schools' bands have agreed to participate, and two to three more bands are expected to accept invitations to perform in the procession.

Schools, government offices and most businesses in Hoke County will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday this week, and for some the holiday will be longer than it will be for others. Special Thanksgiving services also were scheduled for the eve of the holiday.

Schools students were scheduled to start their holiday Wednesday with the ending of the day's regular classes. They won't re-open till the regular time Monday morning.

County school children and teachers held Thanksgiving programs, including lunches, last week, some combining them with special observances of American Education Week and National Children's Book Week. (See photos elsewhere in today's edition of *The News-Journal*).

Raeford city, Hoke County and some state government offices will be closed Thursday and Friday. The State Department of Transportation's Hoke County Maintenance office will be off Thursday and Friday. The District Court will have no sessions on its regular weekly days, Thursday and Friday.

The city-county landfill will be closed Thanksgiving Day only.

The Agricultural Extension Service offices will be closed Thursday and Friday also.

The federal offices in Hoke County, however, will be closed Thanksgiving Day only. These include the Raeford Post Office.

The Post Office will be closed for all office and delivery services Thursday and will reopen for business Friday at the regular time.

A special joint Thanksgiving service was scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church, with the Galatia Presbyterian and Aaron Lakes Baptist Churches participating with the host church.

No Thanksgiving holiday is scheduled for Thursday for many Hoke County law enforcement officers and members of the medical emergency services.

Thanksgiving day is just another duty Thursday for the sheriff's department, the Raeford Police Department, and State Highway Patrol.

Law enforcement officers issued their regular holiday traffic warning to people planning to drive during the vacation. At least a dozen deaths are expected in North Carolina holiday traffic this week.

The official count was to start at 6 p.m. Wednesday and continue till midnight Sunday.

The most dangerous periods for drivers during each holiday season are the periods after 6 p.m. the day before the holiday and in the evening of the last day. At those times traffic is heaviest on the roads with people going to or returning from holiday visiting places.

Officers also warned drivers not to drive after they've been drinking. Even though a person may "feel" all right after drinking, his or her driving ability is impaired by drinking.

Thanksgiving Service**Wednesday Night**

Galatia Presbyterian, Aaron Lakes Baptist, and Trinity United Methodist churches were to hold joint Thanksgiving Services at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Trinity church.

The congregations and ministers of the three churches were to participate.