

Downtown Sales Topping Last Year's

Christmas Business Here Termed Good

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather has been on the cold side for the past few days, so we can say that winter is here. I played golf this weekend and if the weather continues this cold, the clubs may get a rest.

From the looks of the bushes with berries, we could be in for a hard winter. Most bushes are full and the "old folks" say this is a sign of cold weather.

The weatherman, Robert Gatlin came by the office after the paper hit the street last week and said he read that I hadn't seen him to catch up on the local weather. He stated that he would bring in a full report for November on Tuesday, December 1.

One thing he did tell me was that on November 22, the low for the day was 22 degrees, and that on November 23, the low was 23 degrees. Yes, this is rather strange.

I only hope that he doesn't start on the 1st of December and come in with 1 degree. This would be too cold for yours truly.

A few weeks ago I published a note from Mrs. Sarah Leach concerning the project of the Raeford Woman's Club to handle requests and money for the needy at Christmastime.

This project would certainly be helpful to other organizations that want to aid people at Christmas. It would mean that everyone would get something for Christmas and not the way it has been, where some received and others got not a thing.

Members of the Woman's Club will be at the Hoke County Library beginning December 1 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to take the requests and to take gifts. Tuesday and Thursday, the hours will be from 2 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

So start out the Christmas season early by going by the library and giving a gift to make someone's Christmas merry.

Back some years ago when I was in school, you would remember Thanksgiving because of pictures of turkeys and the Pilgrims going to church. Also there were Thanksgiving Day services at most of the local churches.

Now Thanksgiving seems to be football and parades for Christmas that brings Santa Claus to the large cities. Of course to some people it is just another day off from work.

Maybe we should all think for a moment what the day was placed on the calendar for. It was to give thanks for what we have had during the year.

Maybe the new way is better, but it has lost the spirit of what the day was set aside for in the first place.

The paving of the streets of the city is a big improvement. Now you don't have to dodge pot holes when you ride around.

If you are doing your Christmas shopping early, don't forget to lock your packages in the trunk of your car. If you must have them in the front of the car, be sure to lock your doors.

When you leave them in sight, it is a temptation for someone to enjoy your Christmas.

Hoke Sales Tax Net \$82,689.99

Hoke County netted \$82,689.99 from its one percent sales tax in the quarter ending September 30. Raeford received \$12,509.57 of it.

The net in the same period of 1980 was \$80,673.60. The town received \$11,597.08.

The net for the quarter ending June 30, 1981, was \$83,969.31. The town's share was \$12,070.85.



Farm-City Week Dinner, Plant Tour Held

A tour of Raeford industries and a dinner was held November 24 in Hoke County's observance of Farm-City Week.

At the dinner, held in Gibson Cafeteria of Hoke County High School, certificates of appreciation were presented. Among the recipients were *The News-Journal*, WSHB radio station, and Robert Gatlin.

Mrs. Pam Frederick received the award on behalf of *The News-Journal*, and Lesa Pegram, on behalf of the radio station.

A tour of the Tex-Elastic Corp. plant on North Bethel Road preceded the dinner.

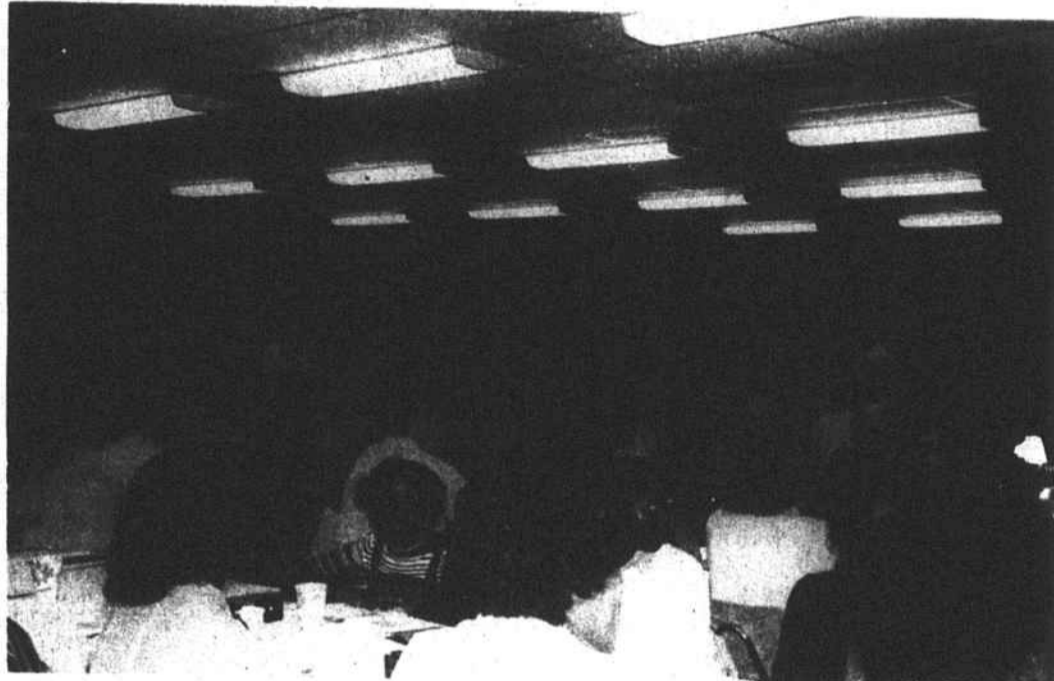
The dinner speakers included Chuck Bullins, divisional personnel manager of Tex-Elastic; and August Zitzman, corporate vice president, L.S. Brock, purchasing slash buyer, Bob Gregory, director of personnel, Diane Mercer of the accounting department, and Tom Zone, industrial engineer, all of Faberge. They spoke on the subject: "Contributions of Two Industries to the Economy of Raeford and Hoke County."

Willie Featherstone, Jr., Hoke Agricultural Extension chairman, gave a county overview.

The speakers were introduced by Charles A. Hostetler, county Farm-City Week chairman. Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., welcomed the visitors, and the Rev. Billy C. Beaver, pastor of First Baptist Church of Raeford, gave the invocation.

Hostetler gave recognition also to the Farm-City Week's sponsors: Production Credit Association, Parker Equipment Co., Federal Land Bank, Raeford Merchant's Association, Tar Heel Hatchery, Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau Federation, Southern National Bank, Hoke Auto Co., The Bank of Raeford, Farm Chemicals, Inc., Hoke County Civic League, and Raeford Oil Co.

Members of the planning committee for the week's activities were Hostetler, Featherstone, Ann Hostetler, Edward Hayes, Lawanna Hayes, Onnie Dudley, Ken McNeill, and Betsy McNeill. Featherstone was vice chairman.



Scene at the Farm-City Week dinner. (Staff photo by Pam Frederick.)



J.W. Turlington School Chorus, with director Mrs. Jeff Davis at right. (Staff photo.)

Guard Unit Yule Party Dec. 19

The National Guard Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, will hold its annual Christmas party December 19, at the National Guard Armory.

The admission charges are \$5 per couple and \$3 per stag. A buffet dinner at 8 p.m. and a dance are on the program.

People planning to attend are advised to contact SSG Brown or SFG Wolf at the Armory, sending payment for admission, by December 14.

Nov. Rainfall Totaled .95 Inch In Raeford Area

Rainfall all of last month in Raeford totaled .95 inch.

Weather Observer Robert Gatlin reported brought the total for this year through November 18 to 20 inches short of normal. This year's shortage is about eight inches less than the shortage of 1980, the figures show.

The rainfall for November 1980 totaled 2.7 inches. The highest for the month during the past five years was 6.1 inches, which fell in November 1978. In the November of the other year the rainfall measured 3 inches in 1979, 2.7 in 1977, and 5 inches in 1976.

Turlington Students In Christmas Concert

The J.W. Turlington School Chorus of 116 singers will give a Christmas concert December 10 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Before the program starts, piano students will play familiar Christmas carols.

The program will include two numbers with handbell accompaniment by nine students.

A couple of boys and girls will sing solo and small-ensemble parts, and the Honors Chorus will sing

two selections. Mrs. Jeff Davis is the director of the chorus, and Mrs. Lewis Upchurch is accompanist.

Yates, Ex-Hoke Court Clerk, Dies At 71 In Orlando, Fla.

Marion McDonald Yates, 71, formerly of Raeford and a former clerk of Hoke County Superior Court, died Thursday in Orlando, Fla.

The funeral was conducted Monday afternoon in Laurel Hill Baptist Church by the Rev. Don Malpass. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery in Laurinburg.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lucille Yates; his sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Poole of Asheboro, and Mrs. Ruth Gibson of Laurel Hill; and his brother, Harvey Yates of Cleveland, Oh.

Mr. Yates served as Hoke court clerk from Dec. 22, 1956, till 1962. He was appointed first to serve the two years remaining in John B. Cameron's four-year term after Cameron resigned because of ill health. Mr. Yates was elected to a regular four-year term in 1958 after winning the Democratic nomination of May 31 that year over Ed M. Smith. In March 1962 Mr. Yates announced he would not run for a new term.

He was a native of Richmond County and moved to Hoke County in 1932, living in Raeford till some time after he left the clerk's office. He had been in bookkeeping and other office work for 26 years when he was named court clerk.



MMH RECEIVES \$10,000 GIFT -- Ashwell Harward, left, director of community affairs for Burlington Industries Raeford plants, presented Moore Memorial Hospital's Vice President Jack Morgan a \$10,000 check last week. The gift completed a \$20,000 commitment by the Burlington Industries Foundation for the hospital's Radiation Therapy, Radiology Improvement, and Pediatric Renovation projects.

Raeford's 1981 Christmas shopping season during its first few days showed sales to be up from last year's, downtown merchants contacted by a reporter in a spot check said this morning.

Jimmy Wood reported all sales up from last year. The store he helps operate, Bicycle sales are up, he said, and the BMX dirt bike sales started getting shopper attention late in the 1980 Christmas shopping season, is "really selling well this year."

Baby dolls also are "real popular," Wood added. "We're doing well with lay-aways," he also said. Shoppers have been having gifts laid away since September, he added.

The store is expecting a lot more Christmas shopping before Christmas, also he said.

Wood, speaking of Raeford stores in general, said he hoped people will shop in Raeford first. "Give us a chance", and then if they can't find what they want here to go out of town.

Ed Hasty at a men's clothing store said Monday the last few days the store did a good Christmas business. "Last week was slow," he said, "but business picked up."

The big sellers so far, he said, have been sweaters, shirts, and pants. Some sports coats have been sold also. Compared with last year's Christmas shopping, he said, "we're a little bit ahead."

Ann Santa Ana, manager of a store selling men's women's and children's casual clothes, said the Christmas shopping has been "going okay." Men's, women's and children's jeans have been popular with Christmas shoppers, she said, and more people are buying clothing for children for Christmas this year. With the economy as it is, she said, people are going into clothing more than toys because they last longer. "I think they are spending a little more this year," she also said.

President Reagan's statement that "we are in a recession" doesn't seem to have affected people very much, she added. She said she has heard a customer say Christmas comes just one a year. Christmas is special, she pointed out: "It brings everybody closer."

Selling well with jeans also, she added, are chino pants, for boys and girls.

Speaking of Raeford merchants generally as Wood did, she said, "Our prices are a lot better than they are in Fayetteville."

"If people shop where they live," she added, "they'll come out better," considering the cost of gas used in going out of town to shop and the "inflated prices" at the out-of-town places.

Raeford prices are very good, she added.

Christmas shopping starts seriously downtown, Mrs. Santa Ana said, on Friday after Thanksgiving, and "really takes off" after the first of December. It's usually heaviest on Christmas Eve, because of the "last-minute" purchases.

Kathy Daniels, who manages a women's clothing store, said the Christmas shopping season up to late Monday afternoon, that her place was "doing fine". "We can't complain a bit," she added, and said, "It's much, much better than last year."

The big sellers at her store so far are blouses, dress slacks, sweaters, and jeans.

"We anticipate a lot better season," she said, anticipating sales continuing well this week and next week.

She said the Christmas shopping started the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the time right after.