

Raeford Bank Changing Top Executive



W.E. 'Gene' Carter

W.E. "Gene" Carter, president of The Bank of Raeford, will leave the bank by about June 1 to enter private business.

He will be succeeded in the top executive position by Robert L. "Bobby" Conoly, the bank's senior vice president. The local bank's merger with United Carolina Bank will become official March 1. When Carter leaves, Conoly will be manager and city executive of United Carolina Bank, which will be The Bank of Raeford's new name.

Carter reported his plan to leave and Conoly's pending new position Monday morning to *The News-Journal* to settle speculation which has been circulating in the community.

Carter said he would stay with the bank up to 90 days after March 1, to help with the transition. He said he has been wanting for

some time to go into business for himself and that this appeared to be the best time to do it. He declined to say which business he will join, or where it is, but that he would announce this in the next few weeks.

Carter also said he wanted it understood that he is leaving the local bank on friendly terms with United Carolina Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Carolina Bancshares.

He said that, speaking from personal experience with United Carolina, that UCB would serve Hoke County well. He pointed out that he worked for UCB from 1966 to 1973, when he moved to The Bank of Raeford as executive vice president and manager.

United Carolina has been helpful to the local bank even before the merger was agreed to, Carter said.

He said he would serve, after the merger becomes effective, on UCB's general Board of Directors and on the local bank's advisory board. The bank's name will be changed to United Carolina Bank.

Carter was born October 28, 1939, in Raeford, lived in Portsmouth, Va., from 1942 to 1946, then returned to Raeford. He graduated from Hoke County High School in 1958, then attended Campbell College till 1960.

Carter attended the North Carolina School of Banking and the American Institute of Banking in 1973.

When he was named to the local bank position he was vice president of Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co. at Chadbourn. He earlier had served with the same bank at its Tabor City and Lumberton offices.

Carter has served six years in the

National Guard, is a past president of the Hoke County United Fund and is secretary-treasurer of Advancement, Inc. He also is active in the Raeford Kiwanis Club and Raeford United Methodist Church and is a former chairman of the church's finance committee.

Carter is married to the former Eloise Upchurch of Raeford. They have one child, William, 12.

Conoly, a 45-year-old native of Raeford, has been with The Bank of Raeford 26 years and is a member of the bank's board of directors. He has taken courses at the American Institute of Banking; and a course in advanced management at the North Carolina School of Banking at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Conoly started to work for the bank August 8, 1955. He was (See BANK, page 13)



Robert L. Conoly

The News - Journal

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Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

It would be nice to put up the winter suits and close down the heaters, but I am certain this spring weather will not last. It is just the middle of February and we have always had the big snows in March in Hoke County. I like this type of weather and wish that it could stay with us.

We had about eight-tenths of an inch of rain last week, but the forecast is for rain to be with us for the remainder of the week. It is hard to realize that it could become too wet for farmers to get into the fields, but it is possible.

Anyway, let's all enjoy the weather, whichever way it may be.

A few weeks ago I wrote about the National Guard going on maneuvers in 1940 to Philadelphia before being called in to service. Last week Clarence Willis showed me some pictures that he took at the campsite and said that it was in November, 1939. I will stand corrected on the date, but I still remember that it was a cold weekend.

I have the pictures at the office and if some of you "old soldiers" would like to see them, just catch me at my desk and you can help me identify some of the people in the pictures. I can name some of them but they include, I believe, three different batteries. So come by and look them over.

Thanks to Clarence for the pictures, but we should remember to name the people on the back because our memories are not so good after 40 years.

The letter from Odell Ashburn, Jr. that was printed in this column last week has brought forth comments from many people. Most have said they wondered how the paper got to Turkey?

Last week I received a call from Wanda Clark McPhaul and she said that she could clear up the mystery for me. Wanda said that her sister, nee Vinnie Clark, now Mrs. Charles R. Baker, was in Turkey in December and that she took *The News-Journal*. Her husband is a sergeant in the U.S. Army and was on duty at the United States Embassy. Since the first of the year they have been transferred to Jordan.

Another thing is that Vinnie and Odell are cousins. Now add that to the believe-it-or-not.

Thanks Wanda and also to Mrs. Reid Childress, an aunt of Mrs. Baker, for this information.

Jimnie Neal Conoly was by the office last week and left me a copy of a 1929 *Hoke County News* dated May 17.

The thing that made it so interesting to me was that in some of the discussion about "old times" at Robert Gatlin's pond recently we talked about the 1929 Raeford High School baseball team. In this paper are two articles; one written under the heading "Raeford School News" by Jake Austin. It tells of two baseball games played by the team in the championship play-

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By County Commissioners

Vehicle Tax Certification Policy Set

An Annual Dinner

Burlington Plants Host To Hoke Leaders

Burlington Industries' Raeford Plant and Dyeing Plant management were hosts February 9 to Hoke County civic, local-government and business leaders for Burlington's local annual dinner.

The guests were brought up to date on Burlington's operations at the company's two plants.

F.G. "Gib" Bernhardt, manager

of the Dyeing Plant, reported fiscal 1981 the most successful year for the Dyeing Plant, made a large increase in capacity and substantial capital improvements.

He added running schedules for 1982 appeared good and that the plan was to make this year as good as 1981. Bernhardt also said dental

assistance had been added to the plant's medical package for employees.

Cecil Bond, manager of the Raeford Plant, reported on quality, costs, employee safety, and customer service. He said the plant reached 8 million work hours without a lost-time accident to a worker on February 8.

The visitors also were informed that the local plants' employees at American Red Cross Bloodmobile visits have donated enough blood to meet 75 percent of the needs of Hoke County patients in hospitals.

During the meeting also, Burlington officials answered questions put by visitors about the plants.

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night adopted a vehicle registration tax certification policy.

The proposal, offered by County Tax Collector Elizabeth Livingston, is for use in handling cases in which the owner of a vehicle has made an apparently erroneous or false tax certification when buying a vehicle license.

The policy provides that the tax collector shall notify the vehicle owner in writing that the county tax records indicate the vehicle has not been listed properly for tax purposes and/or that delinquent taxes are owed on the vehicle. The notice will give the owner 20 days to contact the tax collector's office to provide, for verification, the name of the person whom has properly listed the vehicle for tax purposes, or to list and/or pay the delinquent vehicle taxes.

The original proposal would have the notice give the owner 15 days to contact the tax collector's office, but the extra time was added because some of the commissioners expressed the feeling that 15 days wasn't enough time.

The policy provides also that the notice shall advise the owner of the registered vehicle that a misdemeanor warrant will be filed to pursue the proper listing of the vehicle and/or the collection of any delinquent taxes if contact is not made with the tax collector's office within the 20 days specified.

The adoption of the policy is associated with a state law effective last January 1. The new law requires every owner of a motor vehicle, when he applies for vehicle registration or renewal of registration, to certify:

--The name of the county where and the date when the vehicle was listed for tax purposes.

--That no delinquent property taxes are owed on the vehicle. The state law defines "delinquent tax" as one that is no longer payable without interest charges.

The state law provides a fine of up to \$1000, imprisonment up to six months, or both, for false certification, which is classified as a misdemeanor criminal violation.

WATER PROBLEM

The commissioners in other business adopted a motion that the county staff work with the State Department of Transportation to correct the problem of ground-water draining into the septic tank on the South Hoke Day Care Center property.

Jackie Ellis of the county maintenance department described to the commissioners a method for correcting the problem, which has been created by a high water table. Essentially, the solution lies in lowering the water table in that area, the commissioners were informed. A letter written to County Manager James Martin by Samuel Warren, district conservationist of the Hoke County Soil and Water Conservation District recommended one solution and offered an alternative solution.

Commissioners expressed the feeling that the situation constituted a health hazard and conse-

(See VEHICLE, page 13)

To Hoke County By DOT Board

\$19,883 Road Fund Allocated

The North Carolina Board of Transportation allocated the last \$10 million from funds authorized by the State Highway Bond Act of 1977 for improvements to the state's large secondary road system here at its February 12th meeting.

Hoke County's share of the \$10 million allocation is \$19,883, based on a formula established by the state legislature. According to the formula, each county receives a percentage of the total funds available, determined by the unpaved miles of secondary roads in the county in relationship to the total mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state.

Hoke County has 37.83 miles of unpaved roads, while the total mileage of unpaved state-maintained secondary roads in North Carolina is 19,000.

The \$300 million highway bond

act, approved in November 1977, directed that \$75 million would be used to improve the state's secondary road system, while \$175 million was for improvements to the primary system and \$50 million was for the state's urban road system.

Secretary of Transportation W.R. "Bill" Roberson, Jr., commented, "Again, we are glad to be able to put the highway bond funds to work for the citizens of North Carolina. It was the citizens' overwhelming support of the 1977 bond issue that made these funds a reality."

"In addition to the bond funds, the state legislature appropriates an annual amount for secondary road improvements from the state highway fund collections. We are expecting an allocation of \$40

million from the legislature by July 1, 1982.

"This allocation would not be possible had it not been for Governor Jim Hunt's 'Good Roads' program passed by the 1981 General Assembly," added Roberson.

"The \$10 million in bond funds for the secondary road system -- our 'home-to-work' transportation network -- will allow us to make virtually needed improvements to the more than 59,000 miles which comprise the nation's largest state-maintained secondary highway system," explained Roberson.

The highway bond funds allocated for secondary roads will be used for improvements to the system such as new paving, widening existing paved roads, improving unpaved roadways to an "all weather standard," repairing and

replacing substandard bridges and strengthening paved roads to relieve present weight restrictions."

"In order to utilize the \$10 million allocation most effectively," Secretary Roberson explained, "Our board members and division engineers are in the process of reviewing secondary road needs in each county. As county-by-county improvement programs are compiled, they will be presented to each respective county board of commissioners."

"Public meetings will be held in each county to give citizens an opportunity to express their views on secondary road needs. The commissioners then will review and forward recommendations to the Board of Transportation for implementation by state forces," he said.

Raeford Heritage Federal S&L Board Named

Officers and other members of the Advisory Board for the Raeford office of Heritage Federal Savings and Loan Association were appointed at the organization's January meeting by Fred Parker,

president, and the Board of Directors of the Heritage system, based at Monroe.

Wyatt G. Upchurch was named chairman and Richard E. Neeley, vice chairman, and Franklin Teal,

Sam C. Morris, Jack Bray, Palmer Wilcox, Younger Snead, Jr., Fred M. Culbreth, Davis K. Parker, and Graham Monroe, the other members of the board.

The local Advisory Board will

help guide the Raeford office.

The Raeford office is the new organization created by the merger of Raeford Savings & Loan Association with Heritage. The merger became official on January 4.

The appointments became official at the meeting. The members of the Advisory Board were the members of the Raeford Savings & Loan board when the merger became effective.

Morris, as chairman of the former Raeford S&L board, became a member of the Heritage association-wide board.

Teal, president of Raeford Savings & Loan, became vice president of Heritage in charge of the Raeford office when the merger became effective.

Raeford Savings & Loan's assets totaled about \$18.4 million going into the merger; Heritage's, with the addition of the Raeford institution, about \$185 million.

Raeford Savings & Loan was established 68 years ago. Heritage was formed in 1908.

The merger with Freedom Federal of High Point, expected to be completed this month, will give Heritage 16 branches.



SCHOOL FOR MEN -- A cooking school for men is being sponsored by the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service and taught by Mrs. Ellen Willis, a Hoke home economics agent. Six sessions are being held. Shown here on Monday night during the third session on a trip to the supermarket with Clyde Register (left), manager of the A&P, are Tony Austin, Steve Connell, Tommy Connell, and Banks Wannamaker. (Staff photo by Ann Webb).