

Water

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Cumberland County has been sought for years by Hoke people, including officials. The project's cost, estimated about a year ago, was about \$14.5 million for the approximately 11 miles. Fowler told the commissioners that Hoke should not expect support for the project from any surrounding counties. Cumberland's Joint Planning Board last year, for example, was critical of the high priority placed on the project at the time by state highway officials. In 1979 the Cumberland County commissioners also criticized the high priority.

Fowler brought the published DOT report of the Highway Improvement Program to the meeting and quoted from it.

He attended a recent State Board of Transportation meeting in Raleigh.

PENALTY CUT DENIED

The commissioners in other business adopted a motion denying a request by Willie McCaskill to eliminate the penalty he will have to pay for failing to list his property for taxes before the deadline. He informed the commissioners that illness in his family made him forget to list in time. He also said paying the penalty would cause a financial hardship for him. County Tax Supervisor Les Simpson said, replying to a question put by Balfour, that the penalty would amount to about \$50, based on last year's property evaluation for McCaskill and the \$1.01 per \$100 evaluation county property tax.

Commissioner Mabel Riley expressed sympathy for McCaskill's situation but told him that if the commissioners dropped the penalty against him, the commissioners would have to do the same for other late-listing property owners should they appeal. She also told him she had illness in her family at one time but met the deadline, and Balfour said that he would have to pay a Robeson County penalty for forgetting to list one of the two pieces of property he owns in Robeson.

Commissioner Danny DeVane made the motion to deny the request, and Commissioner Riley seconded it.

EMERGENCY OPERATING CENTER

The commissioners agreed to have an estimate of the costs of making modifications in the basement of the Courthouse to meet federal Emergency Management Administration requirements for its use as an emergency operating center in event of war. Niven pointed out that an EOC must be found 100 times safer inside than conditions in an emergency would be outside and that the Courthouse basement was the only place in the county which could meet this requirement, with modifications.

He suggested the estimate be

Balfour

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Board of Commissioners may have been approached individually about the sale of additional bonds, the county has no record of an "official" request from the Superintendent or the Board of Education to sell additional school improvement bonds.

In addition to the \$250,000 Revenue Sharing Funds appropriated in 1975-76, another \$640,000 has been appropriated to the school system from Revenue Sharing Funds, through the 1981-82 fiscal year, for construction of a school bus garage, building repairs, and the purchase of school equipment, etc.

The Board of Commissioners is aware of many additional building improvement needs, far more than funds are available for at the present time; however, the Board intends to attempt to meet those needs, as best it can, within the financial limitations of the funds available to the county.

John G. Balfour
Chairman
Hoke County
Board of Commissioners

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made by an architect already doing work for the county, Martin said a restoration specialist would be working at the Courthouse in connection on with getting the building up to standards for listing as a National Historic Site.

APPRECIATION

Mrs. Lena Mae Shaw, Hoke County Jail cook since August 19, 1968, was presented the framed resolution adopted by the commissioners expressing "grateful appreciation" ... in recognition of her many years of faithful and dedicated service to the citizens of Hoke County. The occasion was Mrs. Shaw's retirement last January 31.

She was presented the resolution by Balfour at the start of the commissioners' regular meeting for March.

RAILROAD DEFENSE FUND

The commissioners adopted a resolution approving adding \$25 to the county's share of the legal defense fund being raised by the state's counties to meet legal challenges to the county property tax.

The counties' action was started after major railroads in the state filed a federal district court suit against State Revenue Secretary Mark Lynch and State Ad Valorem Tax Division Director Doug Holbrook challenging the level of taxation of their property in 87 counties in relation to all other property in each jurisdiction for the 1980 tax year.

The trial court ruled against the defendants, and several counties on two legal points. The resolution adds that "thought the intent of the suit was to correct an inequity in the property tax treatment of railroads, the effect of the decision from the county government viewpoint has been to create another inequity by placing the railroads in an unwarranted, favored tax status and ... other annually assessed property tax payers are likely to consider similar legal challenges, and the effect could be to place an inequitable, disproportionate tax burden on residential real property taxpayers...."

The resolution urges Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., "to use his offices to secure greater financial resources either to be made available to aid the Attorney General's office in providing a coordinated legal defense or pay outside legal counsel to provide such defense both for the appeal stage of the railroads' ... lawsuit and for similar lawsuits such as the railroads' 1981 tax year lawsuit and the motor freight carriers' 1980 and 1981 tax years' lawsuit.

CONTAINER REPAIRS

The commissioners adopted a motion authorizing spending \$1,280 for repairing painting, or repainting 13 county's roadside trash containers.

PUBLICIZING AGENDAS

A motion made by Commissioner Riley to have the agendas for the commissioners' meetings published in *The News-Journal* in advance of the meeting died for lack of a second. Mrs. Riley said the main purpose of her motion was to "keep the public informed" about business the commissioners planned to consider. Commissioner DeVane, however, said that the agenda would have only items scheduled up to about noon Tuesday before each meeting, which is held the following Monday. (The monthly meeting is held the first Monday and the other standing meeting is held on a Monday night in the middle of the month. DeVane said that "so much (for the agenda) comes in between Tuesday and Monday.")

Balfour said also that listing of the items would be in danger of misinterpretation by the public, and DeVane said that it would take much time and space for the county manager to outline each item. Mrs. Riley said, however, that's not what she meant, that people could learn the details of the business items when they attended the meetings.

Balfour said that the defeat of Mrs. Riley's resolution didn't mean it was not a good one in his opinion. She replied, "I'm not going to give up on it."

(Also see separate story on Simpson's resignation.)



L-R: Denise Brewster, Jo Hudson, Harriette Mauney, Mary Lee Matherly, Melinda Smith, and Anne Hostetler. [Staff photo.]

Raeftord Women Win District Art Honors

Raeftord women won three first places, three seconds and three thirds in the Arts Festival of District 9, North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, February 20 at Sanford.

The winners of first place will compete March 20 in the State and crafts festival of the State FWC. They and their winning work are Jo Hudson, hooked rug; Harriette Mauney, counted cross-stitch; and

Anne Hostetler, poetry.

The second-place winners were Denise Brewster with a crocheted vest; Melinda Smith, a crewel picture; and Kay Thomas, needlepoint marked canvas.

The third-place winner were Mary Lee Matherly, crochet (hair-pin lace Afghan); Kay Thomas, needlepoint plain canvas; and Harriette Mauney, crewel.

100 Attend Black History Program

Approximately 100 people made their way through Friday night's inclement weather to Hoke County Civic League's annual Black History Program.

It was well worth the effort to hear Dr. A.L. Bradford challenge the community to share a deeper love for each other, and to encourage our youth to aspire for higher heights.

The theme, "Economics and Education," was discussed in a

unique way as Bradford used illustrative examples of misplaced values and goals. Dynamically, he challenged adults and older adolescents in leadership roles to help someone, to conduct themselves properly, and to be the type example youths need. Dramatically, using analogies and effective body language, he showed how young people can be taught productive methods in their daily lives, and the importance of such teachings. He stressed that once formal education has been obtained to use it wisely and to bring the benefits of that education back to the community to help someone else.

Musical arrangements, by Piney Grove Church Choir, were sung with zeal and enthusiasm. An illiterate mother's concern for her child to obtain a good education, and thus a better life, was portrayed by Mrs. Mary C. Owens. The Black man's plight of never being acknowledged as a man was dramatized by Walter Blue. A reading, "Let America be America Again," by Langston Hughes, was delivered with hope, anticipation and confidence by Mrs. Mary A. Timmons.

Barbara Buie introduced Bradford, and League President Rev. J.W. Gorham was master of ceremonies.

The event was held at Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church, where the Rev. J.L. Glenn is pastor.

Council

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years ago.

The council asked the city manager to work with Earl Fowler, executive vice president of the Raeftord-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce, downtown Raeftord merchants and the State Department of Transportation to determine how many parking spaces for the disabled people should be added and where.

Some of the merchants on the east side of Main Street also asked the city to mark on the areas they have paved at the rear of their businesses for parking spaces to get the maximum use from the lot.

Around Town

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were at the main office of the bank and were meeting the local people.

This was the last independent banking institution in Hoke County. There has been many pros and cons about mergers, but it should all work for the best interest for the business community. Only time will tell!

If you haven't filled the refrigerator with drinks and the pantry with snacks, please do so before Friday. No! the snow is not on the way again, but the ACC tournament is starting Friday and will run through Sunday. It will be on the tube and you should be prepared. Hope your team wins!

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Junior Missionaries Meet

The Nazareth Junior Missionaries held its monthly meeting recently at the home of Mrs. Ann Littlejohn.

A devotion was opened by Mrs. Littlejohn, who played a hymn. Miss Mazie Gates gave a prayer for the sick and shutins. Scripture was read by Mrs. Doris Gates.

Lessons were discussed by Miss Linda Blackmon, Rev. Lacy Lide, Mrs. Ann Littlejohn, Mrs. Ruth McEachin, Mrs. Beulah McPhatter, and Mrs. Evelyn Quick.

Hospitality chairman Mrs. Evelyn Quick and program chairman Mrs. Evelyn Thomas gave reports on the sick and on upcoming programs.

Miss Mazie Gates, Mrs. Ann Littlejohn and Miss Harriet Mason received birthday gifts from the members.

A variety of finger sandwiches, a relish tray, cake, chips, and punch were served by Mrs. Littlejohn.

The hostess for the March meeting is Mrs. Beulah McPhatter.

Migrant Staff

To Attend

N.Y. Meeting

The migrant-education staff of Hoke County will attend the 13th annual Eastern Stream Conference in Rochester, N.Y., March 7-10.

The members of the staff are J.D. McAllister, county schools associate superintendent; Ralene McCall, migrant recruiter/aide; and Loria White and Ginger Johnson, migrant mathematics teachers.

The goal of the conference is to advance the education of the migrant through parental involvement, the dissemination of successful programs, and the exploration of strategies for the future.

Deaths And Funerals



Douglas B. Nixon

Douglas Bryan Nixon, 56, died Monday. He was the owner of Nixon Gulf Service Station downtown Raeftord, at South Main Street and East Central Avenue.

The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at Shiloh Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Kemper Fitch. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Minnie Nixon; his sons, John and Berry Nixon of Raeftord; his mother, Mrs. Olla Calloway of Raeftord; his brothers, James Nixon of Aberdeen and H.B. Nixon of Raeftord; his sisters, Mrs. Lucille Pendergrass of Raeftord and Mrs. Betty Beaverman of Miami, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

Crumpler Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Edgar Pittman

The funeral for Edgar T. Pittman, 71, who died February 23, were conducted Thursday afternoon at Pittman Grove Church by the Rev. Mark Musselwhite. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Crumpler Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Mary K. McKenzie

Mrs. Mary King McKenzie, 95, died Monday.

The funeral was scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday at Antioch Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Charles Ashley officiating and burial in the church cemetery.

Survivors include six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Crumpler Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Ethel McIver

Mrs. Ethel McIver of Raeftord died Monday.

Arrangements were being made by Buie Funeral Home.

FmHA Properties

The Farmers Home Administration has for sale, from time to time, farm, residential, business, recreation and/or other properties.

Any licensed real estate broker interested in listing these properties should contact the Farmers Home Administration at 502 E. Edinborough Ave., Raeftord, on Wednesday, March 24, at 10 a.m. The telephone number is 875-4026.

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