

Add Grades To 3

Board Changes 4 Schools' Attendance Areas

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weekend was fine for the folks that wanted to be outdoors. There were many with green thumbs that were out in their gardens on Saturday. The sun and wind had dried out the soil so that the tractors could get into the fields.

Then on Saturday night and starting again Sunday night the rains came. It had rained about one-half inch by noon Monday and as this is being written Monday afternoon it is still raining. Of course as wet as the ground is at this time, it takes only a small amount to keep the farmers out of the fields.

It is expected to stop raining sometime Tuesday and then the forecast is for 70 degree weather on Wednesday. Maybe it will be so the farmers can get back to work by Thursday.

The college basketball tournament moves into the second round this week and games will be played Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The ACC still has two teams left in the event. Virginia will play at Birmingham on Thursday and UNC will play in Raleigh on Friday. If they win, the Virginia team will play again Saturday and the Tar Heels will play on Sunday.

I haven't heard if all the Democratic precinct meetings were held last week, but I do know that the ones in Raeford were well attended. I also heard that a good crowd showed up at the Stonewall precinct.

The business at the meetings was to elect delegates to the county convention. I am not sure of the date, but will find out and publish it next week.

While on the subject of politics, I see where the justice department has approved the redistricting plan for the Congressional district. That will mean that Hoke County is now in the Eighth Congressional district and will be represented by Bill Hefner.

It is my understanding that Congressman Hefner would like to attend the Hoke County convention if he can work out his schedule at that time. This would be a fine thing for him to do and it would also be a drawing card to get people to attend the convention.

Someone told me the other day that we should have the largest turnout in the upcoming primary that has ever been in the county. I hope that he knows what he is talking about.

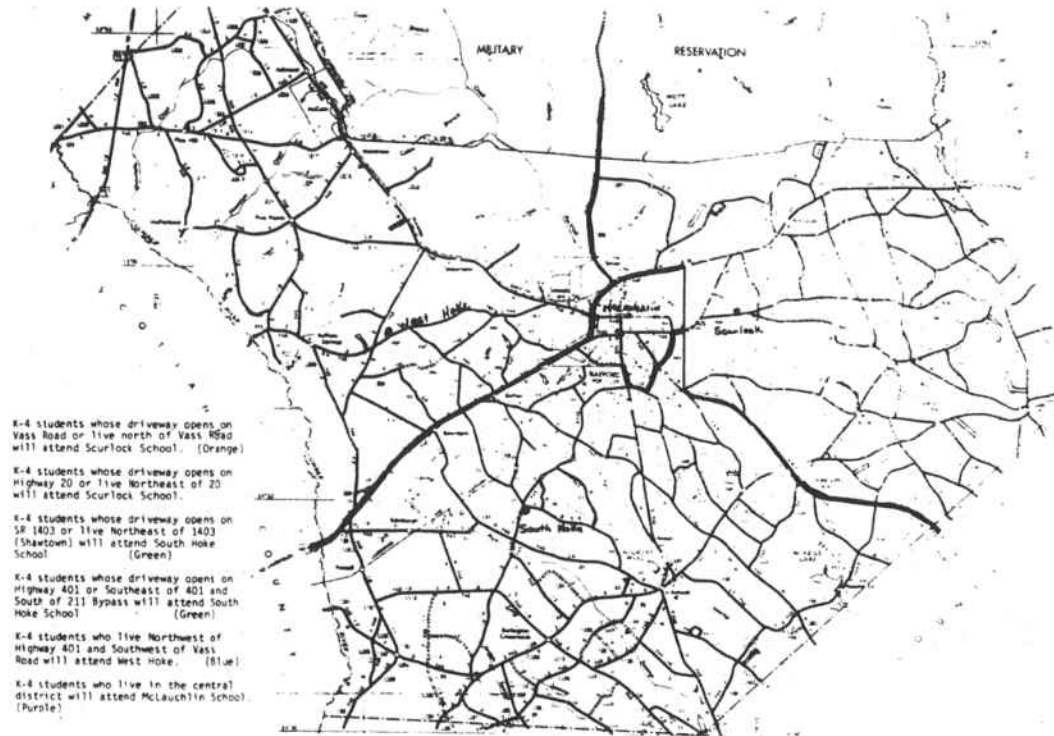
As of March 10 there were 6695 Democrats, 388 Republicans and 64 Independents registered in Hoke County. This is a total of 7147.

Now this is not all the people that should be registered in the county. If you haven't registered, do so this week.

I went back in the file to see about the vote in other elections and came across the general election of 1968. That year there were 5060 voters registered in Hoke County and 4527 voted in that election. That is almost 90% of the voters going to the polls. If that percentage of the Democrats will vote in the primary we will have over 6000 voting.

So register and vote and let's have more than 90%.

I noticed in a daily paper this week that someone was saying to



ATTENDANCE AREAS -- This map shows the new attendance areas for West Hoke, South Hoke, Scurlock and McLauchlin elementary schools which go with the changes approved Monday night by the board of education. The heavy lines radiating from Raeford mark the joint boundaries of the attendance areas. They follow highway routes. [Map by Hank Richards].

The Hoke County Board of Education Monday night in a special meeting approved making Scurlock, South and West Hoke, and McLauchlin schools kindergarten through Grade 4 schools.

The board adopted revised attendance areas to go with the change. Exceptions are available, however, for children of school employees on request to the school board in person.

Scurlock and West Hoke currently has kindergarten through Grade 4, South Hoke Grades 2-4, and McLauchlin Kindergarten and First Grade.

Frank H. Richards, director of transportation and school-community relations for the county schools, presented the plan with a map at the board's regular meeting of March 4 and went into more details at the special meeting.

He said the changes would relieve crowding and shorten rides on the school buses for the children, and free four of six buses now on one route for use in other areas where they are needed.

The board also acted with an eye toward the coming federal busing law change which will require that busing be prohibited for students living no farther than a mile and a half from their schools.

The motion providing the changes includes the exceptions for the children of school employees. The excepting provision is that employees' children may attend the

same schools at which their parents work provided that the parents request in a personal appearance before the board that their children be permitted to attend these schools.

The changes will become effective with the start of the new school year.

Classes for 1982-83 will begin September 1, according to the calendar accepted by the school board during the meeting. June 10, 1983, will be the last day of classes for the next school year.

Board chairman Bill Cameron suggested the provision for the exceptions, indicating that the attendance area rule would be a hardship on some teachers and other employees. He pointed out that one teacher has three children at McLauchlin but has classes at a school a considerable distance away in the county.

The attendance areas adopted by the school board for Kindergarten-Grade 4 students: -- Scurlock: students whose driveway opens on Vass Road or who live north of Vass Road; and students whose driveways open on N.C. 20 or live northeast of N.C. 20.

--South Hoke: students whose driveways open on SR 1403 or who live northeast of 1403; and students whose driveways open on U.S. 401 or southeast of 401 and south of the N.C. 211 bypass.

--West Hoke: students who live

Commissioners Ask County Manager

Combining Hoke Tax Jobs To Be Studied

The Hoke County commissioners asked the county manager to investigate the feasibility of combining the offices of tax collector and tax supervisor.

Commissioner Danny DeVane in his motion said the action would provide a more effective tax service at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

During the meeting, the commissioners accepted with regret the resignation of Les Simpson as county tax supervisor, effective May 31. The county tax collector is Mrs. Elizabeth Livingston.

Simpson tendered his resignation at the commissioners' regular meeting of March 1 but left the date open for the convenience of the commissioners. He gave no reason for resigning and has said he has no other job in sight at the moment.

The commissioners in other business at their Monday night meeting, the regular mid-month session, adopted a motion to repay the state \$19,950 in federal Co-operative Employment and Training Act funds spent between October 1, 1977, and September 30, 1979. An official state audit questioned costs amounting to \$35,608 of the total expenditures of \$911,482 during the contract

period. Based on County Manager James Martin's response with documentation and arguments, the state attorney-general's office has determined that \$15,658 should be allowed. This left the amount the commissioners decided Monday night that the county would repay.

The funds disallowed include \$11,723 because a participant did not meet eligibility criteria; \$46 for insufficient documentation presented to support billed travel costs; \$6,619 and \$1,562 because a contractor billed the prime sponsor and was reimbursed in excess of actual costs of workmen's compensation.

Martin said he feels the county has exhausted grounds for appeal. The county has been arguing against repaying the money for about a year.

The \$11,723 item was salary for Grace Pierce, originally employed in 1976 as a Title II worker. She changed in 1977 to Title VI and was added to the county payroll October 1, 1979, in the Department of Social Services.

Martin said she was eligible when she first started but that there is no way the county can defend Pierce's salary.

The board during the meeting agreed to provide up to \$60,000 as a loan to the County Board of Education, optimizing the money as needed and the money to be repaid by July 10.

The request was made in writing by Don Steed, the county school system's finance officer. The letter says the reason for the request was the school board "has a cash flow problem that has resulted from the Reagan Administration."

Before the president changed his policy, the letter adds, the school board could borrow funds from the contingency fund or the school food service funds to pay bills for programs funded on a reimbursement basis. But as things stand now, the school board cannot borrow from food service or the contingency fund to pay general school fund bills.

A total of \$45,000 of the \$60,000 will be used for vocational education, \$5,000 for the Alternative Learning Center, and \$10,000 for work-study, the letter says.

The commissioners also during the meeting let the contract to audit the county books for fiscal 1981-82 and 1982-83 to Pittard & Perry of Raeford. The accounting firm bid

to do the work for \$3,600, which was the lower of the two bids received. The other was \$4,000 filed by George T. Ammons of N.C. 211 east, Red Springs.

The commissioners approved a request made by Sheriff D.M. Barrington for \$1,650 in capital outlay funds to buy a copy machine in lieu of purchasing a new car for the sheriff's department.

They also approved up to \$118 for expenses for William T. Niven to attend the semi-annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Local Government Employee

Safety Officials April 1-2 in Raleigh. Niven is safety director and director of the county U.S. Emergency Management Administration office.

The commissioners scheduled the first meeting of the County Board of Equalization and Review for 2 p.m. April 5.

On Monday afternoon, the commissioners toured with members of the county school board and administration county schools to inspect needs for repairs and other improvements.

Store Can't Accept Stamps

Animal Health & Feed, of Rt. 1, Raeford has been barred from accepting food stamps for a year because of violations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service reports.

Owned by T.E. Stanton and

Carey Thompson, the store was disqualified from the food stamp program for a year, starting January 24, after being charged with selling cigarettes, motor oil, fishing lures and other ineligible items for food coupons.

Hoke Sales Tax Net

Collections of Hoke County's 1% sales tax netted \$30,077.20 last January. The net collections in December 1981 were \$14,095.88, and in January 1981 the net was \$30,327.16.

In Fog On U.S. 401 Business

Greens-laden Truck Overtakes

A refrigerator tractor-trailer loaded with frozen greens turned over on its side on U.S. 401 business near the U.S. 401 bypass intersection north of Raeford about 3:30 a.m. Thursday. State Trooper R.V. Lee reported.

The driver, Jack Bobbitt McCuiston, 50, of 215 Union St., Auburndale, Fla., traveling alone, was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville for examination and, if necessary, treatment, after he complained of shoulder pains.

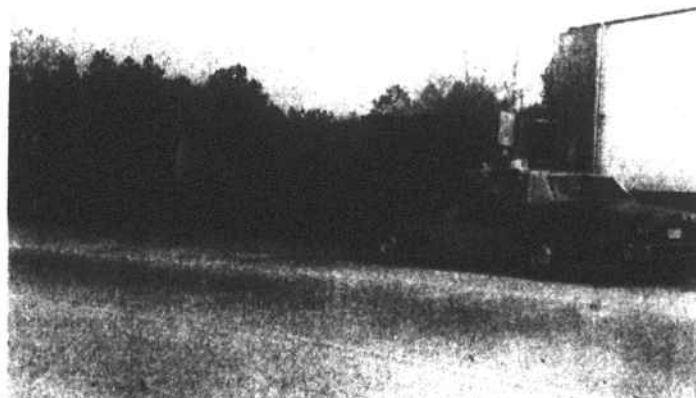
Lee said the accident happened when McCuiston braked as the truck was rounding a curve in heavy fog, the brakes locked, and the load shifted. The officer said the damages would run roughly \$18,000 to \$20,000 but that the cargo apparently wasn't damaged.

Lee said McCuiston was driving for Yellow Lake, Inc., of Auburndale, taking the produce to New Jersey from Florida when he turned accidentally from the bypass onto 401 business in Raeford and was trying to return to the bypass when the accident happened.

The officer said the cargo of the damaged truck was transferred to a truck of Dewitt of Ellerbe and one from Dowd Motor Pool of Carthage. Some employees of House of Raeford's turkey processing plant

in Raeford and on U.S. 401 business were engaged to help transfer the load.

He said the driver wasn't charged in view of the weather conditions in which the accident occurred.



The cargo of the overturned truck was being transferred to the truck at right when this picture was taken Thursday. [Staff photo].

UCB Low Bidder For Raeford Notes

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., expressed the city's appreciation of the attitude toward the community the United Carolina action shows.

"We are glad the local bank has that much faith in us," he said Monday morning, "and we appreciate United Carolina's picking up the city's bond anticipation notes." Aside from the practical business viewpoint, the bank showed the interest of the supporting citizen in the progressive development of his community.

Raeford city Finance Officer Helen Huffman said Monday also: "The city officials and staff are very pleased that UCB was able to bid and be successful bidder on our bond anticipation notes."

UCB's participation makes them feel the new bank "is interested in the community and its welfare," Mrs. Huffman added.

"We feel UCB did bid because it was interested in the economic growth of Raeford." Helping the waste-water project, she pointed

out, will help the community's economic growth.

United Carolina Bank of Whiteville was the low bidder for the Raeford municipal \$58,000 sanitary sewer bond anticipation notes sold March 9 by the State Treasurer's Department.

United Carolina's winning bid was 9% interest and an average maturity of the notes of 289 days.

United Carolina's was one of three bids made for the Raeford notes. The bank chain has a Raeford office, the former Bank of Raeford, which merged officially March 1 with UCB.

The money from the sale of the notes will be used, if needed to help pay the cost of the city's new waste-water treatment plant. The funds will be deposited to accumulate interest, which will compensate largely for the 9% interest.

The total cost of the project, including engineering, legal and administrative fees and construction contingencies, is \$945,000.

Federal, state and city funds are paying the cost.