

## Response To Reported Move To Change Operation

# Hoke Study Group On Hospital Formed

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather for the weekend was perfect for the outdoor activities. The clouds did not start rolling in until late Sunday afternoon.

According to the weatherman of Hoke County we had three-tenths of an inch Sunday night. It must have rained another 1/2 inch on Monday morning. It was needed and from weather reports we should get more before the front moves out Tuesday night.

The forecast is for the temperatures to be in the 70s for the remainder of the week.

Jimmy James, band director at Hoke High and Upchurch schools, was by the office Monday and left a note on my desk. Now Jimmy doesn't show up at the newspaper office, except for two reasons. These being an election night and when he leaves a note about a band concert.

So everyone please take notice, that the Hoke High Band Spring Concert will be held at the MacDonald Gymnasium on Tuesday night, May 4 beginning at eight o'clock.

It is hard to realize that Jimmy can, from year to year, keep coming up with an outstanding band. You know in sports you sometimes have a losing season, but it seems that the Hoke High School Band is always on top.

So go out and hear a top concert on May 4th.

The committee for the Class of 1932 of Raeford High School is moving forward to complete plans for their 50th reunion. Letters are now being prepared and when you receive yours, be sure to send it back because I will assure you that a swell time will be had by all attending.

While on the subject of reunions, my golf partner, Harvey Warlick, along with his wife, attended the 50th reunion of his class at High Point College last weekend. He stated that the occasion was well attended, but that most of his men classmates were now bald and aged. I would like to hear what some of his classmates are saying about him this week.

By the way, Harvey, according to the program he brought back, was the president of the Class of 1932 at the College. Therefore, I know he had to make a big speech at the banquet.

Yes, reunions are good to attend!

Ms. Bundy, who works at B.C. Moore's, sent word to me recently that she had registered 43 voters in the Rockfish precinct one Saturday. This is the kind of news that is music to the ears of a politician. Congratulations Mrs. Bundy, keep up the good work.

Now if you haven't registered, be sure to do so. The date for the primary could be set in the next few days and then the books will be closed 30 days before the primary. Don't wait; register today.

The legislature is now in session to try and redistrict so that we can hold the primary. I don't know whether they will try again or take the last plan to court. It seems it is impossible to please the group in Washington.

There is one thing that you must do and that is whenever the primary day is, you must vote. If you are going to be out of town on that date, then get an absentee ballot and vote. Every vote counts and yours might be the one that will win for a candidate.

(See AROUND TOWN, page 18)

A six-member Hoke County study committee is being established to respond to a reported new move in state government to change the operation of McCain Hospital, the state's only remaining facility treating tuberculosis. It also treats non-TB patients with respiratory illnesses.

The Hoke County commissioners were told this at their mid-month meeting April 20 by Earl Fowler, executive vice president of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce; and two commissioners -- Danny DeVane and John G. Balfour, chairman of the commissioners' board, volunteered to

serve as the county government members. Raeford City Councilman Bennie McLeod and Dr. Ramnik Zota, a Raeford physician, were appointed April 19 by the City Council to be the city government representatives. Betsy Ann McNeill and another person not selected up to last week will represent the

Chamber of Commerce on the committee.

Fowler told the commissioners it was urgent that action be started now by Hoke County in view of the new move. He explained that the committee would study the present status of the hospital and potential future uses -- as it is now operated,

or as a general hospital, or a mental health center -- and make recommendations to Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the State Department of Human Resources.

What changes are contemplated for the hospital by state officials were not detailed at the April 20 meeting.

In March 1981, a report was issued that McCain was on Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.'s list for closing in the ensuing two years for economic reasons. The proposal was on a list submitted to chairman of the State House and Senate Appropriations committee.

The report aroused a storm of protest in Hoke County from professionals, former patients and laymen, and a member of Morrow's staff said at a Raleigh meeting of Hoke County people later that he realized the information he had obtained and which was the basis for the closing recommendation was wrong.

The final decision was the hospital was to remain open with the number of beds reduced to 115 from the 150 being maintained at the time.

The 1981 work for the hospital was led by the Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's argument was that if the hospital was to be closed it should be closed on the basis of accurate information.

Fowler told the commissioners at last week's meeting that the idea for the study committee had been endorsed by Dennis Brewster, manager of the Hoke County Unit of the Sandhills Mental Health Center.

The regional center's administration, based at West End, Moore County, has contacted the State Human Resources Department regarding the use of part of the hospital for the mental health center's use.

Replying to a question put by a visitor at the commissioners' meeting, Fowler said the economics of employment of people on the McCain staff was not the primary consideration in the effort to keep the hospital open. He said the "Number One priority" was to see that people who need help get help. He pointed out that McCain patients could not be given by their community hospitals or doctors at home the special treatment they need, that only McCain is equipped to take care of such patients.

In another health-care matter, the commissioners voted to establish a Hoke County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council of five members, with each of the county commissioners to appoint one. Commissioner Mable Riley said that the council should not consist exclusively of professionals in health care, that it also could contain some laymen drawn from the general public.

The commissioners decided to make the appointments at the board's next meeting, which will be the regular monthly session of May 3.

The commissioners also reviewed a letter and proposed plan for building an addition and making alterations to the Hoke County Jail. County Manager James Martin reported the architect said the work would cost about \$150,000 and that he had said this was a "conservative estimate." The letter and plan were received by Martin from W. Gordon Echols of Echols-Sparger Associates, architects, of Marion, Va.

The extra space is needed. Sheriff David Barrington has advised the commissioners.

The proposal will be considered when the commissioners are working on the county's budget for 1982-83.

The commissioner's also adopted a motion to grant a request that \$3,385.70 in the County Department of Social Services in spent funds be allowed for use for Chore Services for homebound people. Under the program chores that the people cannot do anymore themselves because of infirmities are done by visiting workers.

Ken Witherspoon, Social Services Department director, told the commissioners the Chore Services are "an extremely effective way to keep people in their homes." This means that without the services the infirm would have to be sent to rest homes.

He also said that Chore Services (See STUDY GROUP, page 18)

## Redistricting Plans Approved

# State Primary Date Set For June 10

North Carolina legislators amended House and Senate redistricting plans Tuesday and quickly received tentative approval from top U.S. Justice Department officials, setting the stage for state primary elections June 10.

In setting the state's primary elections on June 10, the Legislature Tuesday altered the schedule for voters and for legislative and congressional candidates.

Like the redistricting plans approved Tuesday, the new primary schedule will have to be approved by the Justice Department under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The primaries had been set for Tuesday, May 4, but they were postponed because of the protracted redistricting difficulties.

Alex K. Brock, state elections director, predicted that federal officials would approve the primary change. He said the state would begin putting the new election timetable into effect.

The schedule calls for voters to go to the polls on a Thursday, rather than the traditional Tuesday.

Here is the way the primary schedule would work, Brock said:

•The filing period for legislative

and congressional offices would start at noon Friday and run until noon May 7. Filing for state judicial and county offices already has been held.

•Applications to cast absentee ballots by mail for local races would be issued as early as Friday at most local boards of elections. Within 10 days after the close of filing, supplemental absentee ballots would be issued to allow absentee voting for congressional races.

•Because of the longer time needed to print ballots for legislative races, absentee voting for legislative seats would not likely be

## For Gifted And Talented N.C. Students

# 3 Picked To Attend Governor's School

Three Hoke County High School students have been selected to attend the 1982 summer session of the Governor's School, for gifted and talented high school students.

They are Nadine Wadsworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wadsworth; Eric Coley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Coley; and Ashley Jones, daughter of Mrs. Kitzy Jones and Jesse Jones.

Miss Wadsworth will study English at Governor's School-West in Winston-Salem, and Coley will study natural science and Miss Jones, mathematics, at Governor's School-East at St. Andrews Presbyterian College at Laurinburg.

The Governor's School, for rising high school juniors and seniors, is operated by the State Board of Education through the director of the Division for Exceptional Children in the State Department of Public Instruction.

The Hoke students are members of the National Honor Society,

because of their high academic achievement.

Miss Wadsworth is an accompanist for the Hoke High Chorus and Chorale, a member of the Future Farmers of America and the Future Business Leaders of America, and is co-editor of the school newspaper. She also was nominated for the honor N.C. School of Mathematics and Science. She is a member of Parker's United Methodist Church.

Miss Jones is a member of the Chorale and the Spanish Club and was a semifinalist for appointment to attend the N.C. School of Math and Science. She is a member of the Raeford United Methodist Church handbell choir and Youth Fellowship.

Coley is a member of the Hoke High Marching Band and the tennis team and was nominated for admission to the State School of Math and Science. He is president of the Raeford-Presbyterian Church Youth Group.



**STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF** -- Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction, seated on a table, is giving an informal, friendly talk to Hoke County teachers at West Hoke School. He visited the school Thursday afternoon, accompanied by County Schools Supt. Raz Autry (third from left), County Associate Supt. J.D. McAllister (right, behind the partition), and Gladys Britt of the state staff, the director of the South Central Regional Center at Carthage. At left is Milton Williams, West Hoke's principal, who introduced Phillips. Phillips talked with the teachers in the school library. Refreshments were served just before the meeting started. (Staff photo).

## State Schools Chief Visits Hoke County

Cordial, personable, friendly, concerned - debonair are descriptions of the visitor who graced the halls of West Hoke School on April 22.

Dr. Craig Phillips, who was accompanied by Raz Autry, superintendent of Hoke County schools, and Milton Williams,

principal of West Hoke School, is no stranger to the teachers of Hoke County. His appearance at West Hoke School was just another example of his genuine interest in the progress of North Carolina Schools.

After being introduced by (See VISITS, page 18)



Nadine Wadsworth (left), Eric Coley, Ashley Jones. (Staff photo).

## Fayetteville-Raeford Excursion

# A&R Passenger Train Rides Again

An Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad passenger train rode again Saturday on a special run, carrying 185 people from Fayetteville to Raeford and back.

The round trip covered 56 miles and took 64 minutes.

The train pulled out of the A&R freight depot in Fayetteville at 9:37 a.m.

The trip was sponsored by the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville and the Old North State Chapter of the National Historical Railway Society to give people who had never ridden a train the chance to

ride one, and other people who had ridden trains when they were in regular passenger service the chance to relive their memories of train-traveling.

The former customers may have been riding in the cars they once traveled in on their regular trips in the days of A&R passenger service. Saturday's travelers made the trip in cars restored to their original forms by members of the Old North State Chapter.

The Lafayette Limited Excursion Route, as it was called, ran west.

(See A&R, page 18)



A passenger train takes a picture of spectators at a stop, as her picture gets taken.