

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

We had some rain, but for the most part it was a nice weekend. We didn't get the high winds and hail that came to other parts of the state.

The forecast is for the temperature to rise and stay in the 90s for the remainder of the week.

Summer is now with us, so let's all enjoy it, for the cold weather will be here before you know it.

While on the subject of weather, a phone call came into the office last week and a note was left on my desk. It was from Mary Peele who lives on North Main Street and she was telling about a telephone conversation she had with her sister, Mrs. Katherine Wirth, last Tuesday night.

Mrs. Wirth, who lives in Helena, Mont., called to tell her sister that at about 11:30 o'clock Monday night that a thunderstorm came through and that hail fell the size of grapefruit. Then at about four o'clock Tuesday morning another cloud came and dropped hail the size of tennis balls.

I have heard of large hail, but this tops the ladder for me. If you can top these sizes, please let me know.

Thanks Mary for this information and I hope that Katherine is in the best of health.

Well it looks like we will have a runoff in the commissioners' and house race on July 27. With so many candidates in the race, it was impossible for all of them to receive a majority.

The prediction by this writer on the number of voters that would turn out in the first primary was well off base. I thought after the record number to register that most of them would turn out to vote. This, of course, was not the case.

It seems to me that a little over 4500 went to the polls and we have 8260 Democrats that are on the books. This would indicate that about 55 percent voted. This is not bad for an off-year election, but in my mind it is bad with the importance of the sheriff and commissioners' races in this county.

The second primary is important, so be sure to remember to vote.

What did you do on the 4th of July? Was it just another day or did you think of what the day was set aside to celebrate?

Of course the way we have moved most holidays to Monday, it takes away the thought of the meaning of a holiday. Most businesses were closed on Monday as the fourth fell on Sunday this year. This is one holiday that hasn't been moved to Monday.

We should all take time and think of what we are celebrating. The reason behind most of our holidays have cost many people some real hard times.

Think this over!

Did you get up Tuesday morning and watch the eclipse of the moon? I didn't, so it will be December before it happens again. Of course we can all watch it on television, when the news comes on today.

If any of our readers took any pictures, how about bringing them by the office and let us look at them.

The Space Ship Columbia made another voyage into space, and after a week of floating around, returned to earth July 4th. According to reports everything went well except the pieces they lost on takeoff.

Maybe in a few years someone will sell you a ticket for a flight into outer space. I said you, not me!

Action Tabled Till July 19 Meeting

More Funds Asked For Hoke Schools



Cleo Bratcher



James A. Hunt



Mabel Riley



Tom Howell

The Hoke County Board of Education asked the Hoke County commissioners Tuesday for \$20,230 more for the 1982-83 fiscal year school budget to handle unpaid school fees and student insurance premiums.

The commissioners tabled action on the request till their next meeting, the mid-month session of June 19. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Danny DeVane was absent. He was reported in Raleigh to file for the runoff primary for state representative.

The school board can adopt the new year's budget for the school system after the commissioners act on the request for additional money.

In other action at their regular July meeting, postponed a day because of the Independence Day holiday, the commissioners also by unanimous vote agreed to lease to the National Guard Second Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 252nd Armor, the present National Guard Armory on East Central Avenue for expected organization and training of an additional tank company. The present building would be used for this purpose, if the state adjutant general's office approves a Second Battalion Headquarters recommendation that the new company be added here. Capt. Norman Dean, presenting the request to the commissioners, said the additional unit, Company D, would give the battalion four tank companies but since it would be a third the size of the others, it would use less space. He told the commissioners, the recommendation was due in Raleigh this week and that state headquarters possibly would form the new company in Albemarle, about two hours' drive for Guard members here.

He said use of the present armory would leave space in the new armory for other purposes. The new company would contain 177 regular Guard members and five fulltime people.

John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners, said the building would be leased by the commissioners at a token \$1 per year "and valuable considerations."

The written statement addressed to the commissioners says that during the Guard's fiscal year October 1, 1982, to September 31, 1983, the Second Battalion will reorganize under the new Division 86 concept. In this reorganization, Company D will be added to the present structure of a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a Combat Support Company and the three present tank companies at Laurinburg, Sanford and Southern Pines.

In the three proposals of reorganization, two would not have any adverse impact on the present Raeford unit, which will be reorganized as Headquarters and Service Support Company. In the third recommendation, the new tank company would be formed in Raeford.

The statement, issued by Second Battalion headquarters, adds: "To provide guidance for the company being placed in Raeford we included (1) shorter travel distance to Fort Bragg for Training, (2) central location to draw on filler personnel from existing tank companies and (3) the existence of the armory facility presently occupied by Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Raeford."

The statement calls the Division 86 reorganization an honor for the Second Battalion. "We will become the first National Guard Armory unit to reorganize under the new Army structure and receive the newest armored fighting vehicles presently being purchased for the active Army. This battalion will be receiving the new M1 tank and new Infantry Fighting Vehicle, plus required support equipment."

The statement says: "The new reorganization will not be without growing pains, for not only will the fourth tank company be organized and trained, but the entire battalion of over 600 personnel will be retrained in one way or another."

The Guard will move into the (See MORE FUNDS, page 13)

For Commissioners' Nominations

Riley, Howell Call For Runoffs

Hoke County Commissioner Mable Riley and Tom Howell Thursday called formally for a runoff primary to decide the Democratic nominees for two seats on the Board of County Commissioners.

The others in the runoff, scheduled for July 27, will be County Commissioner James A. Hunt and Cleo Bratcher.

Mrs. Riley and Howell become eligible for a runoff when neither Bratcher nor Hunt received majorities in the June 29 primary to

choose the party's nominees for the three seats up for election. Mrs. Riley finished fourth with 1,549 votes and Howell fifth with 1,457 in the field of 10 candidates. Bratcher ran second with 2,032, one vote short of a majority that would have

made him immune to a runoff contest; and Hunt finished third with 1,725.

John Balfour, the chairman of the board of commissioners, was the only candidate who received a clear majority. He received 2,215 votes.

Mrs. Riley was the first to file with the county board of elections for a runoff, coming in Thursday morning. Howell filed late Thursday afternoon.

Balfour and the winners of the runoff will enter the November 2 general election with Republican Evelyn Manning, who was unopposed for her party's nomination.

Mrs. Riley is completing her first four-year term on the board and is the first woman to have been elected a Hoke County commissioner.

Hunt is seeking his third term on the board.

Neither Bratcher nor Howell have held public offices but have been and are active in church and civic affairs.

The two other members of the board, reelected in 1980 are Danny DeVane and Neill McPhatter. Their terms ran through 1984.

June Rainfall 4.86 Inches In 12 Showers

It rained on Raeford 12 times in June, and the total amounted to 4.86 inches, Robert Gatlin, National Weather Service weather observer for Raeford, reported Monday.

Gatlin, an experienced gardener, called it a very beneficial kind of rainfall for gardens, since it was spread out in so many showers.

Figures for June 1981 were not immediately available, but the past month was much wetter and cooler. That month last year had a number of days when the temperatures ranged from 90 to over 100 degrees. The temperature reached 102 on June 14, and 101 the next day last year.

Sales Tax Collections Down

Collections of the Hoke County one per cent sales tax in May totaled \$27,294.48.

April collections were \$28,093.97.

Collections in May 1981 were \$27,834.14.

Hoke County collections of the 3 per cent state sales tax in May were \$75,747.87. In April they were \$73,631.56. The May 1981 collections were \$32,145.92.

For State House

DeVane Files For Runoff

Hoke County Commissioner Danny DeVane, a Raeford Democrat, will bid in the July 27 runoff primary for one of the three seats in the State House of Representatives for the 16th District of Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties.

DeVane was reported to have gone to Raleigh Tuesday morning

to file directly with the State Board of Elections as a candidate.

DeVane ran sixth in the field of nine candidates in the June 29 primary in which none got a clear majority. DeVane's unofficial vote tally was 7,019.

The other candidates eligible for the runoffs were: John (Pete)

Hasty, 8,745; State Rep. William C. Gay, 8,409; Sidney A. Locks, 8,351; and J.T. (Tommy) Wellington, 7,638.

DeVane is the only Hoke County candidate in the contests. The filing deadline for the runoffs was noon Tuesday.

One-car Accident

Hoke Crash Kills Red Springs Man

A Red Springs man was killed about two miles east of Raeford early Monday when the car he was driving went out of control, then struck a tree and a residence, the State Highway Patrol reported.

The victim was identified as Ricardo Williams, 24. The report says the accident happened on SR

116 about 12:25 a.m. It says the car was traveling at a high rate of speed when Williams lost control. The car stopped wedged between the tree and the porch of the house, and members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad had to cut away the roof of the vehicle before they could get Williams's body out. The Hoke

County Ambulance Service found Williams dead when its vehicle arrived at the scene.

The body was taken to Buie Funeral Home.

Williams was the third person to die this year in a Hoke County traffic accident.

Peterkin Challenges Primary Results

The Hoke County Board of Elections was scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday to consider a letter of challenge of the June 29 Democratic primary for the nomination of a sheriff.

The letter was filed by James Peterkin, unsuccessful candidate in the two-man race. Sheriff David Barrington won renomination by about 894 votes in a total 4,318 cast.

Peterkin's allegations were not made public pending the outcome of Wednesday's hearing, which was being held as *The News-Journal* was coming off the press.

The elections board met Tuesday and reviewed a request by Cleo Bratcher, Jr., for a recount of votes in his contest for a Democratic nomination for one of the three Hoke County commissioners' seats but adjourned for further consideration later without reaching a decision. The board was expected to act at the Wednesday meeting.

Bratcher fell two votes short of having a majority in the commissioners' races. He received 2,032. John Balfour, present chairman of the board of county commissioners, was the only candidate to receive a clear majority, receiving 2,215. [The *News-Journal* report was in error in saying, however, that

Bratcher was only one vote shy of getting a majority. The majority is determined by a formula.]

Rose Sturgeon, supervisor of Hoke County elections, said the elections board official canvass made last Thursday showed no differences from the unofficial

tallies published in *The News-Journal* of July 1.

The members of the elections board are Democrats J. Scott Poole of Raeford, chairman and Tom W. Jones, Rt. 1, Shannon, secretary and Betty Hogan of Rockfish, the Republican member.



FIRST OF '82? -- Willie McPhaul of the South Hoke Community sits by what may be the first watermelon produced in Hoke County in 1982. If it's not the first produced, at least it's the first reported to *The News-Journal* produced in Hoke this year. McPhaul harvested it Thursday and brought it to *The News-Journal* office to have its picture taken.