

25¢

The News - Journal

25¢

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

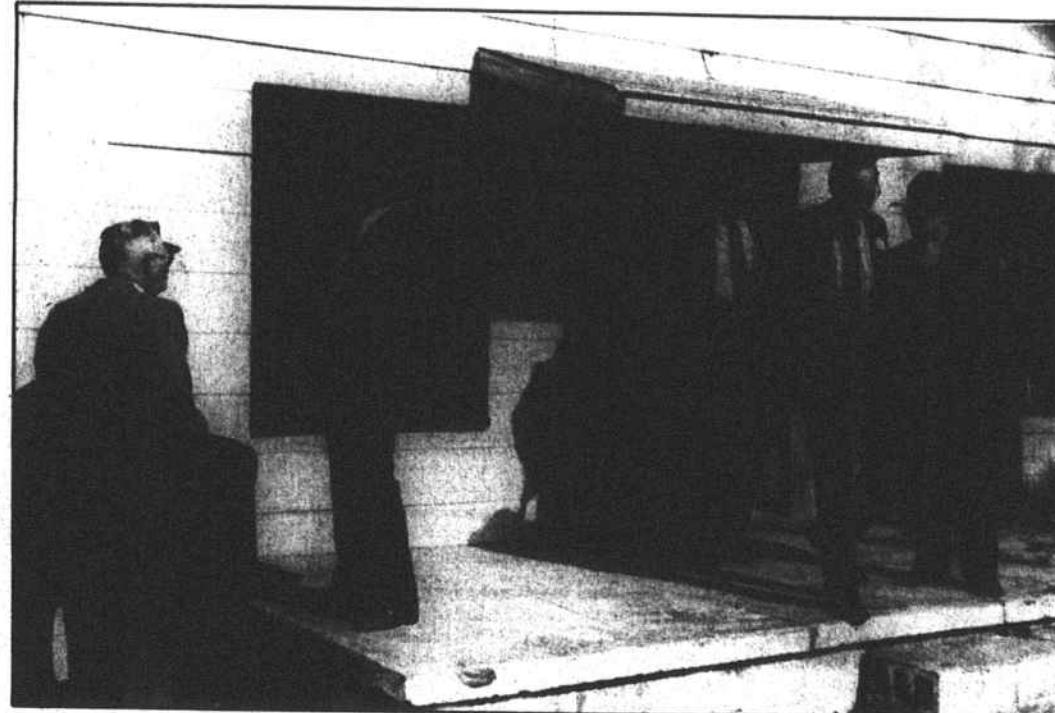
VOLUME LXXIV NUMBER 30

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1982



Investigators at the scene Sunday on NC Highway 211 west of Raeford. One man was found dead in the residence and his brother was seriously injured following an apparent malfunction of a heater.

Probe Of Man's Death Continues

Hoke County Deputy Sheriffs were investigating this week to find why a heater apparently malfunctioned Sunday at a NC Highway 211 residence leaving one Raeford man dead and his brother seriously injured.

Glenn Edward Ellington, 20, of Rt. 3, Raeford, was found dead apparently from smoke inhalation, and his brother, Benjamin James Ellington, Jr., seriously ill around 11:40 a.m. Sunday, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department reported.

Benjamin Ellington was still in serious condition Tuesday at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville where he was admitted for treatment, a hospital spokesman said.

Glenn Ellington was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Riley Jordan, a Hoke County Medical Examiner.

His body was sent to Chapel Hill for an autopsy by the State Medical Examiner's office to determine the specific cause of death.

The Sheriff's Department in-

vestigation is continuing, including the reason for the accident.

Sheriff's Deputies Alex Norton and C.E. Harris reported they found white smoke coming from a gas heater when they went into the home in response to a telephone report.

The officers found Glenn Ellington dead on a couch in the living room, and his brother unconscious but still breathing on a bed.

Benjamin Ellington was given oxygen and taken to the hospital by ambulance.

The officers didn't know whether the gas heater was burning when they saw it because they felt it was important first to cut off the flow of gas from an outside tank the deputies said.

The body of Glenn Ellington was found in front of the heater.

Ronald Ashburn, manager of Raeford Oil Co., said Tuesday that his firm installed the heating system a few weeks ago, and that he had not seen the heater since the

incident.

He said the Sheriff's Department has the house locked up and is making a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident.

The deputies went to the house in response to a report that a "shooting" had occurred there the investigation report says.

The report of the "shooting" indicates a witness heard some kind of explosion in the house and was under the impression it was gunfire.

The funeral for Glenn Ellington was to be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel of Crumpler Funeral Home by the Rev. Robert Deaton, with burial in Ashley Heights Baptist Church cemetery.

Surviving besides his brother are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ellington of Rt. 3, Raeford; his sisters, Mrs. Jean Key of Illinois, Mrs. Dornita Davis of Raeford, and Misses Linda, Beverly, Pamela and Kristina Ellington of the home.

Riley Resigns

Upchurch Appointed To Commission Seat

In a move that appeared to be a formality, members of the Hoke County Commission unanimously elected a Raeford businessman to fill the seat vacated November 1 by newly elected state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane.

Tarheel Turkey Hatchery President Wyatt Upchurch was elected without discussion Monday night following the surprise resignation of commission member Mabel Riley, who was also considered to fill DeVane's seat.

Riley's resignation left only three members to consider the appointment.

Riley was defeated in her bid for re-election in July, but had been nominated along with Upchurch and Raeford Druggist Tom Howell, by members of the Hoke County Democratic Party Executive Committee to fill the vacant seat.

In order to compete for the seat, Riley had to resign from the commission, a state Attorney General's opinion said.

Riley's term would have expired at the beginning of the commission's next meeting in December and the action to fill the seat Monday night was the last matter to be considered by the body.

She served for four years.

"This sort of takes me by surprise," Commission Chairman John Balfour said after reading Riley's letter.

The board of commissioners is not obligated to follow the recommendation of the party, however, Balfour said the board normally does.

Upchurch was the top vote getter during last week's party caucus with 43 votes. Riley received 33 and Howell 28.5.

Jimmy Plummer Sr. and David Warren were also considered in the

balloting by the executive committee.

Party leadership had favored Upchurch, and some observers said prior to the unanimous tally Monday night that the election was pre-decided weeks earlier.

Upchurch will join Cleo Bratcher Jr., who won election in November, Balfour and incumbent James A. Hunt, in swearing in ceremonies during the December 6 meeting.

Pound Fund Started

In other action during the regular meeting, commission members also voted unanimously to establish a building fund to be used toward the cost of constructing a new animal pound.

Citizen donations and contributions to the fund can be made with the money earmarked for the new pound.

Although the county will have complete discretion to determine how the funds are used in building the pound, the money will be returned to donors if the new facility is not constructed, Balfour said.

The action was sparked after a county resident said she wished to donate to the building fund and wanted to give food for the animals at the present pound.

Deon Cole told commission members that she was willing to donate to the construction of a new pound, but would not give money for renovating the present facility.

The commission voted earlier to establish a committee to determine the feasibility of building a new pound, but Balfour said Monday that he had not yet appointed anyone to serve on the study group.

Those appointments would be

made soon, Balfour said.

On Monday morning there were 45 dogs in the pound, and by the afternoon all but five had been killed, Cole said.

Dog food contributions would be made to the county health department for the pound animals, Cole said, noting that she understood that the present food is being mixed with hog feed.

"If they are going to be put to sleep, I'd like to make their last meal a good one," she added.

Other Action Taken

In still further business, the commission also approved a Christmas bonus for all county employees.

For the county's 107 workers, the bonus will amount to 1% of each employee's salary for the year, less social security and retirement allotments.

The bonus will be based on salaries prior to October 31, and will cost taxpayers \$13,522.88.

The commissioners also approved an amendment to this year's budget.

Most of the changes included items approved prior to the June 30 end of the fiscal year, which were not paid for.

A \$7,000 canopy over the new gasoline tanks being installed for the sheriff's department was also included in the budget amendment.

After a 20-minute executive session, Balfour noted that the board had discussed the purchase of additional office space for the county, but that no decision which could be made public, was reached.

The commissioners are considering purchasing the Pilot Building on Main Street from Southern National Bank.



Members of the Airport Blue Ribbon Commission at a recent meeting.

Airport Funding Hinges On Parachute School

by Warren Johnston

A management plan must be established and the hazard of parachute jumpers falling near runways must be eliminated before Raeford is likely to receive funding for improvements at the municipal airport, federal and state officials said this week.

A local "Blue Ribbon" committee is studying the feasibility of expanding the Raeford Airport and if improvements are to be made, federal and state funding would probably be needed.

Revamping the airport is being eyed, because local and state officials feel a well run facility is im-

portant for attracting industry here.

State and federal agencies could pay up to 95% of the cost of airport improvements.

"We know that Raeford can use parallel runways and taxi ways, but our big concern is the jump operation," regional Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) Director Howard Robinson said.

"We would like to see them do their jumping somewhere else," Robinson said, noting that the FAA felt parachutists falling near the runway were a hazard to airplanes.

The FAA has no problem with

Gene Paul Thacker's jumping school being run from the airport, but agency officials believe the landing site for the parachutist should be moved away from the facility, Robinson said.

Thacker, who met with committee members last Tuesday night, said problems with the jump operation could be eliminated if tougher regulations were established.

"I have never seen a situation out there which is almost life-threatening," Thacker said.

Some planes have had to circle the airport again, but there have

(See AIRPORT page 9)

This window is at the front of the First Baptist Church's new sanctuary.

1st Baptist's Sanctuary Dedicated

The new sanctuary building of First Baptist Church of Raeford was dedicated formally Sunday morning.

The services were followed by dinner for the members and their

guests.

The new sanctuary seats 437 people, compared with the approximately 250 the older, wooden building next to it seated.

(See BAPTIST page 9)

Last week I went down to Holden Beach with a group from Raeford to do some fishing. The group consisted of Palmer Wilcox, Duncan McFadyen, Dick Neely, James Martin, Earl Fowler, Frank Teal, Robert Gatlin and myself. A few weeks ago I wrote about a group going fishing at Bogue Sound and they consisted of six Methodists and one Baptist, Robert Gatlin. Now the group I went off with consisted of seven Presbyterians and Robert Gatlin.

On the trip with the Methodists, Gatlin tried to do some missionary work by pushing a fellow in the

(See AROUND TOWN page 9)