



State Highway Patrol Trooper R.V. Lee examines remains of 1978 Oldsmobile which slammed into the Rockfish Creek Bridge on US Highway 401 business early Saturday morning. A Raeford man was thrown from the vehicle following the collision and drowned in the creek, Hoke County Medical Examiner Ramnik Zota said.

Two Killed Here Saturday In Separate Accidents

The Hoke County traffic death toll climbed to nine Saturday morning as a Raeford man and a Wagram resident died within minutes of each other in separate accidents.

The deaths of Willie Edward Buie Jr., 29, of 321 Silver City St., Raeford, and Michael Wayne Locklear, 23, of Rt. 1 Box 177 Wagram, brought the county total to four more than the number killed in traffic accidents last year.

Locklear died at the scene, 8.9 miles south of Raeford, shortly after being struck by a vehicle as he walked in east bound lane of North Carolina Highway 211, state Highway Patrol Trooper Bill Bowden said.

The accident occurred around 3:35 a.m. Saturday, when Locklear was hit by a 1978 Oldsmobile driven by a Shannon man, Bowden said.

The driver, who apparently had his family in the car with him, told

investigating officers that lights from an on-coming vehicle had blinded his vision, and that he did not see Locklear, who was apparently in the middle of the lane, Bowden said.

"All he knew was that he hit something," the trooper said.

The right front fender of the vehicle sustained heavy damage from the impact.

A hat, which was apparently worn by the Wagram man, was about 30 feet from his body in the same lane of the highway.

Locklear was pronounced dead by Hoke County Medical Examiner Ramnik Zota.

An autopsy is being performed and the investigation into the accident is continuing, Bowden said.

About 10 minutes after Locklear was struck, Buie, who was apparently traveling at a high rate of speed, struck the bridge on U.S. Highway 401 Business at Rockfish

Creek and was killed, Trooper R.V. Lee said.

The Raeford man's body was recovered from Rockfish Creek by Hoke County Rescue Squad divers Kemp Crumpler and Lawrence Conolly around 6:30 a.m. after a search of about an hour and a half.

Buie's body was found down stream from the bridge.

The accident apparently occurred after Buie ran off the road about 200 feet from the bridge, lost a muffler, swerved back in the road and hit the southeast corner of the structure, Lee said.

After the collision, the car traveled to the other side of the bridge.

The impact demolished the corner of the bridge, and spread parts of 1973 Buick over a large area.

"He was traveling at a high rate of speed," Lee said.

Buie was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Zota at 6:50 a.m., Lee said.

Sheriff's Probe Of Beating Death Still Ongoing

Hoke County Sheriff David Barrington said Tuesday the investigation into the death of a man whose body, with skull fractured, was found Thursday morning in Drowning Creek at Camp Mackall is continuing.

The man was identified as James Edward McIntosh, 35, of near Carthage, the sheriff said. The body was found by two Ft. Bragg soldiers above the U.S. 15-501 highway bridge and along SR 1225.

The sheriff said several suspects have been checked but no arrests have been made yet. He said it was believed McIntosh was killed at a place other than the place where his body was found and that his body was carried to the creek.

Also found December 8 in woods on the Blue Farm about five miles away were the remains of a man identified later as James Blue, 80, of 6946 Kinston St., Laurinburg, the sheriff reported. He said, however, that the investigation showed no foul play was involved in Blue's death, but that the cause of the death was not known.

Blue had been reported to the Laurinburg Police Department September 22 as missing, the sheriff said.

Blue's car, a 1970 Chevrolet, was found at 15-501 Used Parts where it had been towed for storage.

Little Help Predicted For Hoke Co. Patrol

By Warren Johnston

When two men died in separate wrecks Saturday, the traffic death toll increased to four more than were killed in Hoke County accidents during all of 1981.

Despite the increase in fatalities, state Highway Patrol authorities see no immediate assistance for the county's undermanned patrol unit.

"We're concerned about Hoke County, but we don't have any immediate plans to ship anyone in there," operations supervisor Major L.J. Lance said Monday.

Lance is stationed in Raleigh and oversees the duties of Troop H, which includes Hoke County, as well as other units in the state.

"We have several counties that need men more critically than Hoke," Lance said, noting that Harnett and Mecklenburg counties have a greater shortage than exist here.

Hoke County troopers have been working a man short since April when Trooper Joe Stanley left to work interstate traffic going to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Stanley was permanently transferred to Richmond County after the end of the fair in October.

All of the unincorporated roads in the county are now patrolled by troopers R.V. Lee, Bill Bowden and Ken Weston, who are putting in long on-duty hours, their immediate supervisor has said.

Because of the manpower shortage, local troopers are also spending more time "on call" and must restrict their off-duty activities, Sgt. Delbert Menshew said earlier.

Another man is not likely to be assigned here unless a trooper on duty requests a transfer to Hoke County, Lance said.

"We had one request for Hoke County, but it was denied," Lance said.

The request came from Harnett County where the patrol is short by three men.

To transfer a man from Harnett to Hoke where there is only one vacancy would not make sense, Lance said.

Chances of Hoke County getting one of the 12 graduates from the highway patrol academy this January are also slim, Lance said.

Those graduates will probably go to fill the most critical vacancies, he added.

There will be another graduating class in September, and if enrollment is up then Hoke would have a chance at one of those recruits, state authorities have said.

The state highway patrol is about 200 men short statewide.



SWORN IN -- Members of the Hoke County Board of Education were shown sworn into office Thursday by Hoke County Superior Court Clerk Juanita Edmund shortly before the board's monthly meeting for December opened. L-R are Bobby Wright, Bill Cameron and Walter Coley. Cameron later was reelected board chairman. The board's other members, Ruth McNair and Mina Townsend, were reelected in 1980 to four-year terms. Wright, Cameron and Coley were reelected to the same length terms in last month's election.

Superintendent Search To Go Outside District

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education will concentrate initial efforts to replace retiring Superintendent Raz Autry by interviewing applicants from outside the school district, the board chairman said Friday.

However, applicants from within the county will not be ignored, Chairman Bill Cameron said.

"Nobody has the inside shot at this thing," Cameron said.

It was determined during a closed door executive session following the regular monthly board meeting Thursday that the consensus of the board is to go outside the district first, Cameron said.

"We want to go outside and see what is there," he added.

Autry formally tendered his resignation during the meeting Thursday, and the move was unanimously accepted by the board.

The resignation will become effective on March 17 in order to give a new superintendent time to work on a school budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1.

"I've given the job my best shot," Autry told board members. "My record speaks for itself. Time will either vindicate or condemn me for the decisions I have made," he said.

Some of the roughest spots during his service in the superintendent's job were battles with the county commissioners, primarily over budget matters, Autry said.

"I have no animosity toward anyone," he added.

Many things about the job will be missed, "but I won't miss those long board sessions and some of the publicity I have received," Autry said.

The board was to meet Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. to develop a procedure for hiring a new superintendent, as well as an application form for the job.

Application forms should be ready for distribution quickly, Cameron said, noting that the board wants to begin interviewing applicants as soon as possible.

"We hope to name someone in March or April," he said.

In other business during the meeting Thursday, members heard a presentation on the state of the arts in Hoke County schools by program coordinator Mary Archie McNeill.

"We may not be the highest academically in the state, but we have some of the best talent in North Carolina," McNeill said.

Hoke County schools offer dance, drama, creative writing, music and art, but some of the county's most talented students are being wasted because programs taper off at the high school level.

Student demand is there to warrant more teachers for the programs, particularly at Hoke High School, she said.

No action was taken by the board on the matter.

In still further action, the board voted to guarantee the purchase of a van if funding for the Indian Education Act (IEA) is suspended.

Health Board Holds Action On Waste Bill

A move to stiffen regulations governing the disposal of solid waste in the county was delayed Monday night until the next quarterly meeting of the Hoke County Board of Health.

Board members also decided to drop a plan which would require mobile home park owners to improve garbage collection procedures.

After a survey of the trailer parks in the county, health officers found that most of the owners are complying with existing regulations, Board Director Lloyd Horne said.

During the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for February, board members hope to recommend to the Hoke County Commission an ordinance which would regulate the kind of debris dumped into the county's garbage collecting boxes.

If adopted by the commission, the ordinance would prohibit the dumping of stumps, hog waste, car bodies and other material now being placed in the boxes.

By correcting the problem at the boxes, officials also hope to improve the quality of the materials being dumped at the county landfill.

The ordinance would also prohibit scavaging from the boxes, Horne said.

Scavaging poses a danger to the health of the individuals who could be injured as they climb inside the boxes, he added.

"We're particularly concerned about the kids," Horne told board members.

"The thing that bothers me is if anyone depends on that as their income, I would hate to stop it," board Chairman Sarah Leach said.

Board staffers will re-work the ordinance and present it during the next meeting.

In other business during the regular meeting Monday, members voted to send a letter to the county commission informing them about changes in the law governing medical consultants.

The board now uses the county's three fulltime doctors on a loose non-paid arrangement.

Changes in North Carolina law would require a formal arrangement to be established and contracts to be signed.

If contracts are signed, the doctors would also be liable for their work at the Health Center, board

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Around Town

by Sam Morris

Monday morning every where I went people were asking me, "why aren't you on the golf course?" This to me was a stupid question because the temperature was about 25 degrees at the time. Maybe the foursome I play golf with on Monday have the reputation of the mailman, but not this fellow. I will admit that my ball could skid across a frozen pond at the second hole, but it wouldn't be worth getting across the water to play in this type of weather.

The woolly - worm was right, winter will be cold this year. The low for Tuesday night was to be in the teens and then it was to warm up for the remainder of the week. I hope so because it is bad to miss playing golf for a week.

A call from John Howard last Saturday morning informed me that the Christmas Parade scheduled for last Saturday had been postponed and had been rescheduled for Saturday, December 18 at 2 p.m. I hope that the weather will cooperate for the day and that the parade will come off as scheduled.

So get the kids ready again and bring them to downtown Raeford for the parade. This is a special time for the kids, but remembering back 30 years, it is also a happy

(See AROUND TOWN, page 6)



Inside Today

Raeford Kiwanians raised over \$2,500 for local charities with last Thursday's pancake dinner and raffle. We take a look at some of the activity on Page 1 of Section 2 in today's News-Journal.

Yule Parade Here Dec. 18

The Christmas Parade through downtown Raeford has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, John Howard, general chairman of the Raeford Merchants Association Parade Committee, announced Tuesday morning.

Saturday's rainfall caused the postponement.

The parade will form at J.W. Turlington School and proceed on West Prospect Avenue to North Main Street, then turn south on North Main and move to the Edinborough Shopping Center where it will end near the A&P.

"It's looking good," Howard said.

Christmas Parade - 2:00 p.m. Saturday