

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

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VOLUME LXXIV NUMBER 35

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1982



These Raeford poinsettias pose a seasonal picture for those passing them at their Main Street shop location. (Photo by Bill Lindau).

Around Town

by Sam Morris

The weather over the past weekend was good old winter weather. The car windows were covered with ice and it took longer to get where you were going.

Most folks will say that they want a white Christmas, but I believe deep down they would rather have it so the kids can get out and play. The forecast is for it to warm up this week and maybe it will be nice Christmas Day.

A bulletin published December 14, 1982 that I believe came from the Board of Education office had the following item in it:

"Any newspaper articles or releases to the press in any manner should be approved by this office and Glenn Langdon's office before publication. This will only be a formality to follow. This has been requested by *The News-Journal*."

The first part of the item I will discuss in some following paragraphs, but the last sentence in the item is a falsehood. When I read the item I inquired of all *News-Journal* staff members if they had made such a request and they said NO. One of the members did say that he made a comment about it was hard to be at four places at the same time to make pictures. This was not a request to stop articles or releases from being sent to the paper.

If all releases and articles that deal with the schools must go through someone else before they can be published then this is to impose censorship on these articles and releases.

We don't think that the activities of our children should have censorship imposed upon them. The activities of the schools and the people in them are paid for with taxpayers' money and should be open to the public.

This paper last week had an editorial about too many executive sessions being held by our commissioners. We certainly wouldn't request that news articles be censored before publication. We also think that this will cause members of the schools to cease wanting to inform the public if they must go through the central offices.

We have worked well with the schools over the past 45 years and we hope that an open policy will be kept on both sides.

Enough said!

I came across the following while cleaning out a box of old (See AROUND TOWN, page 10)



Santa Claus, shown with his 'missus,' starred in Saturday's Christmas parade.

Sun Shines On Yule Parade

Raeford's Christmas parade of 1982 was greeted by cool, sunny weather and about 1,500 people Saturday afternoon.

The Raeford Police Department gave the estimate of the size of the crowd. The men, women, and children lined both sides of Main Street through the downtown business district as the parade, led by a Color Guard of Camp Lejeune Marines on horseback, moved south to the Edenborough Shopping Center.

The last colorful float in the parade bore Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Santa this week was "in residence" late afternoon and early night in the Santa House, occupying the railroad depot at the south end of the business section.

The title of the parade's Best Float was won by Raeford Salvage Co. with its rolling display which

featured the beloved E.T. of movie fame.

The Nativity scene enacted by real people, with a choir of living "angels" entered by Tabernacle Baptist Church of Rockfish placed second, and the Boy Scout Troop 404 float was given third place. Honorable Mention was awarded to the Raeford Shriners' Hillbilly float.

The contest was sponsored by the Raeford Junior Woman's Club, and the judges, members of the club, were Jane Britt, Beverly Pasternak, and Peggy Southerland. The judges inspected the floats and made their decisions in the assembly area, the J.W. Turlington School parking lot, before the parade started.

But the parade contained many other colorful floats, marching groups, and queens of local

pageants. Among the entries was the float of the Raeford Merchants Association, the sponsor of the Christmas parade.

The other visitors participating included the Red Springs High School band and some autos which were popular and new about 50 or more years ago. They were being driven, as they had been in their youth, and were entered by Pugh Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

More Parade On Page 8

The marching bands of Hoke High and Upchurch Junior High enriched the procession with their appearances and their music, with the Rifles and Flags of the Hoke High band adding their color.

The parade originally was scheduled for December 11 but it was rained out.

Local Farmers Vote With State

Of the Hoke County flue-cured tobacco growers who cast ballots in last Thursday's polling, most agreed with the majority of other state farmers that marketing quotas should be continued through 1985.

Hoke growers also joined the majorities in the rest of the state in supporting the Tobacco Associates program.

Tobacco Associates is a private, farmer-financed organization which promotes, develops and expands markets for U.S. flue-cured

tobacco in foreign markets.

John Currin, manager of the Hoke County office of the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, reported these tallies:

Tobacco Marketing Quotas: for -- 254; against -- 31. That was a 91% favorable majority.

Tobacco Associates: for -- 247; against -- 31. This was an 89% favorable majority.

Only one ballot was rejected, Currin said, and the reason was the person was not eligible to vote.

Anyone -- landlord, tenant or sharecropper -- who shared in the production of flue-cured tobacco in 1982 was eligible to vote.

Willie Featherstone, chairman of the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service, said Friday the over-all high majorities constituted a "good message to Congress that farmers are willing to continue both programs."

He said the high percentage provided anti-tobacco program congressmen "no ammunition to fight it."

Green Light Given To 401 Bypass Lane

The State Department of Transportation is planning to widen 500 feet of U.S. 401 bypass to expand the road to three lanes from the present two in the area of the new Raeford-Hoke Village shopping center.

Department Secretary William R. Roberson, Jr., advised State Rep. - elect Danny DeVane of Raeford of this in a letter written Thursday.

DeVane on receiving the news commented, "I'm glad to see some action. I'm glad they recognized the problem and did something about it."

DeVane, with Martha C. Hollers, a member of the State Board of Transportation, requested the improvement. Mrs. Hollers represents Highway Division Eight, which includes Hoke County, on the state board.

The text of Roberson's letter to DeVane follows.

Dear Mr. DeVane:

Thank you for your recent inquiry concerning US 401 Bypass in Raeford.

Currently, we are planning to widen US 401 Bypass from the southern corporate limit of Raeford north to approximately 500 feet north of SR 1210 to provide for three lanes of travel. The third lane will be used to provide storage for left turning vehicles. In the review of the driveway permit for the shopping center, our analysis of the estimated traffic volumes did not indicate that a traffic signal would be needed at this entrance. After the shopping center has been opened for a time, we will have traffic counts made to further verify our initial review.

Because the weather at this time of year is usually too wet for highway construction, we plan on beginning this work in the early spring of next year. The construction of a left turn storage lane as proposed will greatly enhance the traffic operations along the US 401 Bypass in Raeford.

Again, we appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to hearing from you whenever we may be of assistance.

Students' Bad Conduct Cancels Performance

by Bill Lindau

Failure to improve conduct following a warning brought the cancellation of the public Christmas concert of the Upchurch Junior High School Chorus scheduled for the night of December 15, Upchurch Principal Allen Edwards said Thursday.

The cancellation following his warning to the singers to "shape up" was a last resort after all other methods to cure behavior problems which had been occurring periodically since the start of the school year failed Edwards said, adding that the misconduct consisted of "horse play" not performing as well as they could and failing to follow the instructions of the director, Ellen Heidenreich.

Not all the students of the 120-voice chorus engaged in the misconduct, but 96 of the students had to be punished in one way or another since the school year started, Edwards said.

Individually, all the students in the chorus are "good kids" but some are immature when participating in a group, he said.

Edwards said the punishment included: expulsion of seven students from the chorus; removal from the chorus for 10 days of 34 others, but giving them the option of returning after the removal period; paddling (by him or Assistant Principal Linwood Huffman) of about 25 others; and suspension from school, until parents came to discuss the matter with him, of others.

In reference to the latter, Edwards said he talked to about 40 parents, and the suspensions lasted only until the parents met with him. Virtually all the suspensions amounted to just part of the school day, with students returning to their classes the following morning, he added.

He said the cancellation, the first he has ever ordered in his 13 years as a school principal, did not affect the December 15 morning concert, which was held for all Upchurch students and their parents. He explained that that concert was "not as public" as the December 15 night concert, which was cancelled.

Edwards said he has informed the singers that if their behavior continues to improve, they will have the January public concert, which will be held in the latter part of the month, with the date still to be set.

Since the time the Christmas concert was cancelled, "discipline has improved greatly," he added. "I felt I needed to follow through with the members (on his warning to shape up or else, before the Christmas concert)," he said.

One of the members of the chorus, incidentally, is Allen's son Brad.

Edwards said the cancellation wasn't a popular thing, that he's gotten angry criticism from many parents, but that he would do the same thing if he had it to do over again, because he felt it was "best for the kids."

Edwards sent a letter dated December 14 to all parents of the members of the chorus notifying them the concert had been cancelled and the reason why.

Edwards said he felt Miss Heidenreich, in her first year as chorus director, did all that anyone could do to maintain order and discipline.

His action was taken after he observed personally the behaviour of students during the daily rehearsals, he added.

On December 7, he was attracted to the chorus room by the noise. The chorus room is next to the gym where he had gone with a service man to see about the wash-and-dry work on school laundry. He was in the gym when he heard the noise in the chorus room.

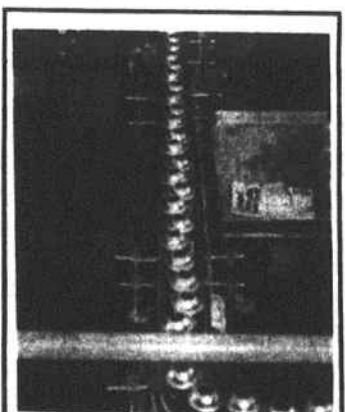
He found Miss Heidenreich had tried to start the class at 2:18 p.m. as scheduled. Order was finally restored 20 minutes later, Edwards said.

The drama and dance portions of the December 15 program were conducted as scheduled.

Changes in the chorus program were started at the beginning of this school year, Edwards said.

Fifty students were added to what had been a chorus of 70 boys and girls.

The chorus participation was (See SHOW, page 3)



Inside Today

This year the payroll at Faberge will exceed \$4.7 million. The plant now only employs 85% of its workers from Hoke County, but it makes sizeable purchases from local merchants. We take a look at Faberge on page 1 of Section II.