

**AILMENTS MINOR** -- The Hoke County Courthouse, 70 years old, is basically in pretty good shape, the county commissioners were informed at their Tuesday meeting. Defects exist and were described as "minor but important." The general condition and the specific ills were described by William K. Dodge III, and George T. Fore, Jr., both of Raleigh firms, who are doing a study of the building under a county contract. Dodge is with Dodge and Associates, architects and planners, and Fore with Building Preservation Consultants.

## Co. Mulls Costs Of Running Hoke Ambulance Service

by Bill Lindau

Hoke County commissioners Tuesday postponed action on renegotiating a new contract with the Hoke County Ambulance Service until a committee to be appointed completes a study of the financial situation and reports its findings to the commissioners.

The commissioners were informed that the service had been unable to collect \$54,000 due by individuals since July 1, 1979, when the contract period started.

The report is due at the commissioners' meeting on February 1, rescheduled from the standing first-Monday date, because Chairman John Balfour said he would be out of town on the regular date -- February 7 -- and it was not certain that Commissioner James Albert Hunt would be able to attend that day either.

Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst reported Hunt, admitted Thursday, was still in the hospital for "observation and treatment" Tuesday.

The commissioners adopted motions affecting the Ambulance Service in several ways. One provides that a committee of at least five people be appointed, to study the service's financial condition and its bookkeeping system. People are to be recommended by commissioners to County Manager James Martin by Thursday for appointment to the committee.

Another motion authorizes a \$5,500 advance to the service repayable during the year and a half remaining on the current five-year contract and the advance will be secured by a lien on one of the ambulances.

Before taking up the contract, the commissioners adopted motions asking the area legislators to include Hoke County in state laws concerning payments to the ambulance service and people's calling the service.

The laws make failure to pay an ambulance service bill a misdemeanor and provides punishment for anyone calling for an ambulance without needing it.

The commissioners discussed in an executive session of about 70 minutes the renegotiation of the contract, part of the time with Jim Henley, the owner of the Ambulance Service.

Balfour after the meeting was reopened told a reporter of the uncollectable bills, in replying to a question; why was the advance needed.

The county has been providing the service with a subsidy of \$64,000 per year under the contract.

### Extensive Service

The commissioners in other business turned down one request and tabled another made by County Agricultural Extension Service

Chairman Willie Featherstone. Featherstone had asked the commissioners to authorize advertising and hiring of an assistant agent to work with field crops production. The new assistant would fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Banks Wannamaker.

The other motion adopted, tabled the request for use for buying a \$2,000 electronic typewriter. These funds were budgeted for other purposes. The tabling was done to allow County Manager James Martin time to investigate the situation. Featherstone said the new machine was needed to cut out repetitions in typing and generally speed handling of paper work of the Extension Office.

The commissioners, adopting a motion made by Cleo Bratcher, Jr., declined to give the authorization. Bratcher explained in making the motion that they should wait till they saw what the state was going to do and to see how Featherstone and livestock Assistant Agent Richard Melton would do by sharing the field crops duties.

Featherstone had pointed out that the state, for budget reasons, had frozen vacancies in the Extension Service till July 1, the first day of the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch and Balfour said people had told them they didn't believe the county needed the second assistant, in

view of the county tax dollar situation.

Upchurch said he had received calls from people expressing the opinion, and Balfour said he had received the same statements from every farmer he had talked to.

Featherstone replied that the Extension Service in Hoke would continue providing the agricultural programs with or without a field crops assistant but that if he had to work in the programs, then he'd have no time for working with housing assistance for the low-income, and with other valuable community development projects. He pointed out that building of a new home adds to the county's property tax revenue.

### Courthouse

Two building specialists informed the commissioners that their study showed the 70-year-old Courthouse is "basically in good shape" for a building of that age but described leaking and insulation defects that should be corrected.

The specialists are William W. Dodge III of Dodge and Associates, architects and planners, and George T. Fore, Jr., architectural conservator, of Building Preservation Consultants. Both firms are based in Raleigh.

(See COUNTY MULLS, page 14)

## Antique Dealer, 83, Robbed By Two Men

An 83-year-old Hoke County antique dealer was robbed by two men last Thursday evening outside his place of business on state Highway 211.

Fred Riley 83 was robbed of \$60 and some change, his watch and a ring about 6:40 p.m. Thursday in front of his Riley's Antiques on N.C. 211 west in Ashley Heights, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department reported.

The report said Riley's coat was pulled over his head, and he was wrestled to the ground, and the two took off his wrist watch worth \$40 and his Mason ring worth \$75, then went through his pockets, getting his billfold and the change.

Riley said the two men then drove off in a car they parked near the store.

He told the investigating officer these other details.

One of the men rang the bell

outside the back door, and when Riley opened it the man told him he wanted to copy the number of a heater so his son could pick up the stove later.

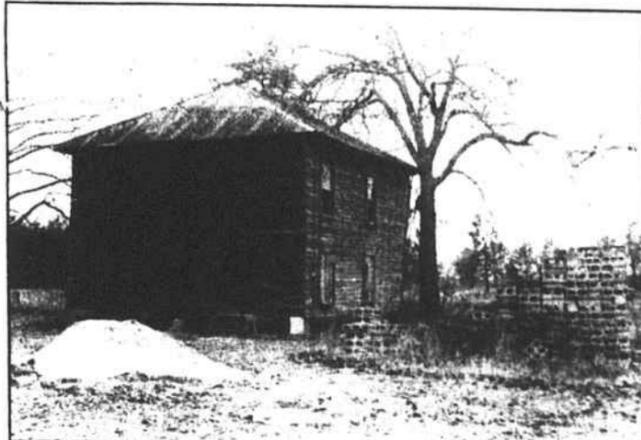
Riley agreed to let him note the number, so Riley went through the store and out to the front where the heaters stood.

As Riley was taking items off the top of the stove and bent over to see whether the stove had a grate, the other robber pulled his coat over his head.

Riley described both men as being black. One man, he said, had a light complexion, brown eyes and a heavy build, weighed about 175 pounds, stood about 5 feet 9 inches and was 20 to 30 years old.

The other man he could describe only, besides being black, as being about 6 feet tall.

No arrests had been made by noon Tuesday.



**OLDTIMER** -- This old building stands behind Center Missionary Baptist Church in the Antioch community, and some of the materials for putting up another, or maybe giving the old one a face lift, can be seen nearby. No one who could answer the questions of the purpose of the sand and blocks was around when the picture was taken.

## Public TV Gets Dumped In Cable Realignment

By Warren Johnston

North Carolina public television could be restored to local cable subscribers and to those in six neighboring cities by the end of this week, a spokesman for Jones Intercable said Monday.

The public station was removed from the system, along Charlotte's Channel 18, when the Atlanta based firm made abrupt unannounced changes in programming last week in an effort to "improve service", and as a result some subscribers are upset.

Jones hopes to borrow equipment this week from one of its sister systems in Gaston County, which will enable the firm to re-establish public television on a sharing basis with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), local manager Harrison Daniels said.

If the equipment cannot be borrowed, Daniels said it would take longer to restore the public station, but the programming would be available before the end of January.

The decision to change the programming was made from the firm's Atlanta office, and was made without informing subscribers, Daniels said.

Since the moves were made, the firm's Red Springs office has received a number of calls from angry subscribers, he said.

Initially the company had planned to show public television only during daytime hours to accommodate schools, and to show CBN at night.

However, reaction from viewers caused the company to re-think the move, and the public station will now be shown from "sign on to sign off," Daniels said, adding that CBN will be shown after the public station signs off.

In an apparent reaction to requests made by managers and mayors from the six-city franchise area during a December meeting held in Raeford, Jones bumped Channel 18 and the public station to add the Cable News Network (CNN) and a 24-hour sports network (ESPN).

The changes in programming were also made in anticipation of a rate hike for the cable company, Daniels said.

Representatives of the firm will appear before city councils this month in Raeford, Red Springs, St. Pauls, Pembroke, Elizabeth town and Fairmont to request a 60 cents a month hike, Daniels said.

Prior to last week's program-

ming changes, Jones had a North Carolina and a South Carolina public station, and many programs were duplicated.

South Carolina public television will remain on the air until it will also be removed to make room for Federal Communication Commission (FCC) required Channel 3 of Wilmington.

That Wilmington station is an ABC affiliate, and will also duplicate programming on three other stations on the system, Daniels said.

"There is nothing we can do about that. The FCC requires that we carry them," he said.

Of the 12 channels on the Jones system, seven are required by the FCC because of their close proximity to the receiving station, Daniels said.

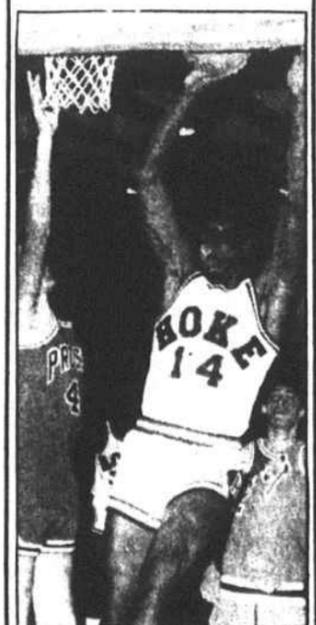
Presently, Jones has three ABC stations, one NBC and two CBS channels.

In addition, the firm carries Showtime, Fayetteville's Channel 40 and Atlanta's Channel 17 and the other mentioned stations.

One of those calling the Jones' office was Hoke County Board of Education vocational studies coordinator Harold Gillis.

A video taped presentation of (See PBS, page 14)

## Inside Today



Hoke High's Greg Hollingsworth helped the Bucks past Prospect last Thursday night for a win in the consolation game of the school's holiday tournament. We take a look at the game and other Buck action on Page 8 of today's News-Journal.

## Around Town

by Sam Morris

The weather over the New Year's holidays was cold and rainy. This meant that most folks stayed indoors and watched the bowl games. There was all kinds of weather for the games, but mostly the weather was good. The forecast is for warmer weather for the remainder of the week.

Elsewhere in the paper is a report on the rainfall for the

month and year. The rainfall ended the year at about what is expected here for a year. It was a little over 52 inches and that is what is normal for Hoke County.

There was plenty of football on television over the holidays and it (See AROUND TOWN, page 14)