



### Not just clowning around

The Franzen Brothers Circus, with colorful clowns, elephants, lions, and high wire acts, performed Friday night in front of two sold out audiences. The circus, which was sponsored by the Raeford Kiwanis Club, collected a little over \$1,900 for the Hoke County Children's Center. The money came from advanced ticket sales, as well as box office sales. The show

was so overcrowded that a third performance was held. Over 2,000 people attended the circus, which was according to Coordinator John Howard, a pleasing performance. Howard also said that he was pleased with the support that the project received.

[Photo by Terry Houston]

## County To Confer With City On Pound

By Sherry Matthews

Two county representatives will meet with Raeford officials in an effort to speed up a decision on a new animal shelter.

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted Tuesday to find out if the city is interested in participating in the construction of a new facility before a final decision is made about the proposed pound.

The first step toward the goal of a new shelter would be to see if the city wants to participate in any way with the building of a facility, Chairman John Balfour said.

The battle over whether or not to build a new shelter, which has been lingering for over a year, seemed stalled last year when the pound was removed from the budget.

However, a committee set up in February to study the issue recommended last month that the commission construct a new shelter on a 2.5 acre site on North Main Street.

At that meeting, the commissioners made no decision on the pound but did request that the donated property be looked into.

County Attorney Duncan McFadyen informed the commissioners at Tuesday's meeting that he had been in contact with the property's owner Ray Calloway and that he had agreed to donate the property directly to the county instead of to the Humane Society as he had originally intended to do.

Calloway has asked that the county honor conditions he requested upon donation of that property for the dog pound site.

The conditions Calloway asked for were that the county pay for the appraisal of the land, and the map and survey, that he be able to keep the timber that is on that land, and finally that the access road be run half on his property and half on the county tract.

Nothing was decided about the Calloway property because the commissioners felt they should first see if the city wishes to participate in the building of a new shelter.

The decision to send Chairman John Balfour and County Manager, as spokesmen for the commissioners, to meet with the city council on the dog pound situation was unanimous.

In an unrelated matter, the commissioners unanimously voted to accept the Parks and Recreation's decision to name Denise Melton as Recreation Director for Hoke County.

Melton, who has been filling in part time, has a degree in Parks and Recreation and fulfilled all the requirements requested for the job, Recreation Commissioner Walter Blue said.

The commissioners agreed with the decision and made Melton's job effective as of April 1.

In other matters of interest, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) presented its 1983-1985 Secondary Road Improvement Program with the priority list for the counties road improvements to the commissioners.

The priority list for Hoke County includes these roads:

- 1. State Road (SR) 1414, (McPhail Road),
- 2. SR 1320, (Harmony Heights),
- 3. SR 1482 and SR 1483 (Shawtown North),
- 4. SR 1240 (West Hoke),

- 5. SR 1480 (Hillcrest Dr.), and
- 6. SR 1478, SR 1484, SR 1485 (Shawtown South).

The roads on the priority list will be serving 176 homes in the Hoke County area.

In other unrelated matters, the commissioners:

--Endorsed a request by Hoke Representative Danny DeVane to join Senate Bill 377 passed by the General Assembly in 1977 protecting property owners from "road hunting".

--Voted to turn over a van obtained from the Children's Center for buildings and grounds use.

--Adopted and supported a resolution from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) on House Bill 426 allowing for additional sales tax for the county.

--Rejected a matching grant fund for the purchase of Emergency Medical Supplies, and

--Accepted a bid from O'Neil Motors of Raleigh for the purchase of a 15-passenger van for use by the Recreation Department.

## Food Stamp Lines Form At Hoke DSS

By Sherry Matthews

As a result of new federal regulations, the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) was flooded Friday with food stamp recipients trying to collect benefits.

The new federal regulation, which is part of the 1981 Omnibus Reconciliation Act passed by Congress, requires almost half the food stamp recipients in Hoke County to complete a five-page form before receiving benefits.

The law will become effective across the country in June or October, but is being tested now in Hoke and Pitt counties.

Because of the new law, DSS employees must process the five-page forms within 30 days and also evaluate all the returned forms.

Employees must also try to help those recipients who can't complete the forms by themselves, Hoke County DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said.

Of the 586 monthly reports sent out, about 100 clients need assistance in filling out the forms, Witherspoon said.

Last month, 55 county families were dropped from the food stamp program because their forms weren't filled out in time.

These people must now go through the application process again in order to get the food stamp benefits, Witherspoon said.

As a result of this and a backlog of work that has piled up on DSS employees, food stamp recipients had to pick up their food stamps rather than receive them in the mail as usual.

The flood of people, 1,393 clients, waited in line last Friday and again on Tuesday to get food stamps, including those cut off last month.

Pitt, the other test county, isn't faring much better, Pitt County DSS Director Ed Garrison said.

The new regulation hasn't wiped out the non-eligible people like Congress had hoped but it has added more paperwork for the DSS employees, Garrison said.

Pitt, like Hoke, has had to cut off 50 to 60 clients because they did not meet the regulation deadline.

According to Garrison, Pitt started testing in February, and has not seen any improvement yet.

The administrative and client related problems due to the new regulation is "staggering", Witherspoon said in an earlier interview.

According to Witherspoon and Garrison, the forms are supposed to help eliminate food stamp fraud and save the taxpayers some money.

The regulations, however, do not really cut people off, simply add more paperwork to the already overloaded stack, the DSS directors say.

Clients dropped from the food stamp list can re-enter the system by applying for the benefits again at the first of the month, Witherspoon said.

If all those clients cut from the list reapply then the benefits will be restored and the taxpayers will (See FOOD STAMPS, page 12A)

## 'Sting' Leaves Man Holding Handkerchief

An apparent flim-flam scheme with a Hollywood flair, left a Hoke County resident duped last week, without money and holding a paper filled handkerchief.

Bruce C. Morrison reported to the sheriff's department that while he was pumping gas, two men approached him.

One man offered to give Morrison and the other man \$50 to provide him with transportation.

The suspected con artist showed the two men all his money and asked that they do the same, the sheriff's report showed.

The other man and Morrison produced their money and placed it in a handkerchief.

All the money was supposedly in the handkerchief that the first man had produced, but a change took place which Morrison did not notice, the sheriff's report shows.

According to the report, the suspect told Morrison that he

would meet him at Morrison's house in about an hour.

The two men never showed and Morrison was left holding a handkerchief stuffed with rolled up paper, reports show.

The case is still under investigation.

In an unrelated case, a breaking and entering at West Hoke School led to an apparent feast for someone.

A classroom window was broken out in an apparent effort to gain entrance to the school's cafeteria, the sheriff's report shows.

The culprit's stomach was apparently the driving force behind the theft because all that was removed from the lunchroom was meat, milk and bread.

The sheriff's report indicated that the case was still under investigation but that no suspects have been found at this time.

## Around Town

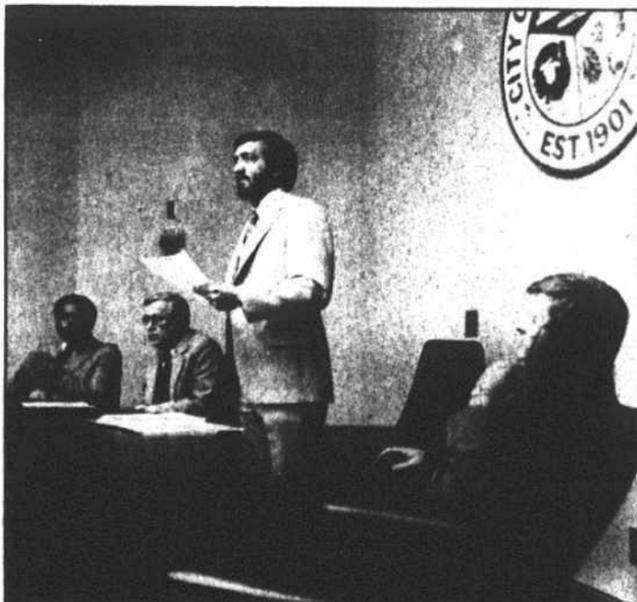
by Sam Morris

Do you think the farmers will be able to get into the fields before summer? If you haven't driven through the country lately, then you don't realize the condition of the farms. It seems that they are the wettest I have ever seen for this time of year.

Record rainfall for February and March was the cause for this condition, but also we haven't had the usual winds of March.

The forecast is for more rain Thursday and this will just add to the bad conditions of the land. Maybe it will soon stop raining every week.

The number of cars that were parked around the ball park last Friday would indicate that a sizeable crowd turned out for the circus. Cars were parked in the lot beside my house on Jackson Street for the first time in many years for an event at Armory Park. (See AROUND TOWN, page 12A)



### Prior to the vote

Rep. Danny DeVane (standing) and other members of the Hoke County Legislative Delegation met here last week with McCain supporters prior to the vote by the joint appropriations committee.

## McCain Supporters Will Keep Fighting

Members of a Hoke County committee will renew efforts to keep McCain Hospital operating as the state's last tuberculosis sanatorium despite a recent ruling from a joint Legislative Appropriations sub-committee panel to convert the facility to a 300-bed prison medical unit, a spokesman said Tuesday.

"We're unsure what our plans are, but we don't believe that it is over until the final vote in June," spokesman Tom Howell said.

Howell, along with Betsy Ann McNeill and other supporters, met Friday morning with members of the joint appropriations sub-committee in support of upgrading McCain to a 150-bed chest specialty hospital.

Within minutes of the appeal for McCain, members of joint Base Budget Committee on Human Resources voted to close facility and convert it to a hospital for the care of ill inmates in state prisons.

The measure will be brought before both houses of the General Assembly in June and must pass by a voice vote.

According to the motion that passed, McCain's closing will not affect the present staff of the facility. Those workers will be either employed at the new prison unit or at other state facilities, the measure says.

The committee also voted to approve a small tuberculosis care unit for critically ill TB patients at the Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro.

McCain supporters do not believe the Goldsboro facility will be adequate for proper care of drug resistant and "hard core" tuberculosis patients.

Rep. Sidney Locks, who serves on the sub-committee, voted against converting McCain, and along with other members of the Hoke County legislative Delegation, vowed to continue the fight for the Sanatorium.



## Inside Today

Hamburger, prime rib and roast all foods most of us enjoy, but how many of us really know how much work goes into the beef that winds up on our table. We take a look at the Hoke County beef industry and the cattle raisers, themselves, on Page 1B in today's News-Journal.