

# Editorials

## Housing Authority could be salvation

Hoke County residents have a good many things to be thankful for, and one of them is the Raeford Housing Authority. Although those who oppose publicly subsidized housing in this community may blame the group for the recent deluge of apartments flooding the Raeford market, the housing authority has had little to do with the cause of the boom in government-backed units here.

In fact, the housing authority has been somewhat of a thorn in the side of the developers who are taking advantage of good investment opportunities available in Hoke County.

It is true that authority members have seen a need here and have encouraged the development of additional housing in this county. The group has also worked with developers to make sure the projects had the basic necessities of adequate sewer, water and zoning. However, in a unique move, the authority has compelled the developers to give up the management of the new units and has obtained the right to oversee the operation of the apartments on a local level.

For some, public housing may be repugnant, but like it or not, in Hoke County it is a fact of life. It was not the Raeford Housing Authority that drew developers to Hoke County; it was the smell of money. According to the North Carolina housing coordinator for the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), towns and cities with populations of less than 20,000 have been targeted in every state for publicly funded housing.

In addition to having a need, a community must have adequate water, sewer and zoning. Raeford meets the utility and zoning requirements, and prior to the recent development boom, the only subsidized new housing in the county was Countryside Apartments.

Currently in Hoke County there are 96 new units, either recently completed or under construction. Census data updated in July shows that after the new apartments are filled, there will still be 542 local families living in inadequate housing, a spokesman for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) said.

Inadequately housed families are those who are paying more than 30% of their income for rent, do not have indoor plumbing or are living in overcrowded dwellings, HUD officials say.

If additional housing were provided, HUD estimates that 90 families would move out of the inadequate units into new dwellings.

Also, when new apartments opened for occupancy this year in Raeford, more than 200 qualified applicants signed up for the 30 units.

What all this means is that Raeford and Hoke County have not seen the end of the subsidized apartment building boom. As long as the "need" exists in Hoke County, developers who qualify, can apply to HUD or FmHA and will probably have a shot at getting funding assistance for more units.

FmHA and HUD do have safeguards for insuring that developers choose tenants carefully and that the units are maintained, but on-site inspections to verify the condition of the projects are probably conducted only about once a year, agency spokesmen say.

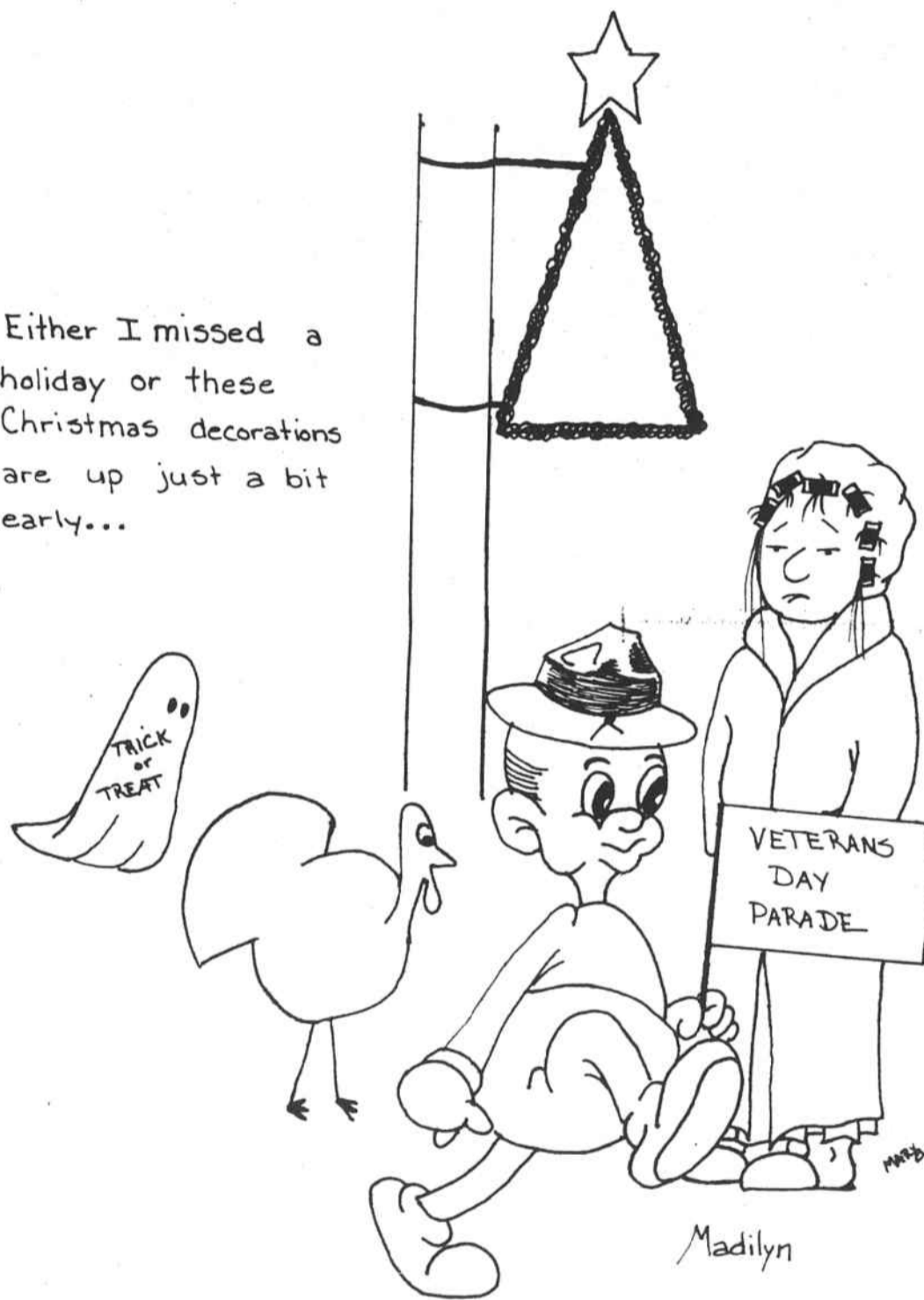
The Raeford Housing Authority deals with the units and their problems on a daily basis. Unlike the developers of the projects, authority members live in the community and can respond immediately to complaints or questions from other residents.

There is no profit motive for the authority and members serve without pay.

County residents should be thankful for the Raeford Housing Authority because they are the only group associated with the housing boom here whose concerns are entirely for the good of the community.

The authority has no other reason to exist.

Either I missed a holiday or these Christmas decorations are up just a bit early...



## No pay backed for workers taking federal holiday off

**By Cliff Blue**  
**FEDERAL DEBT...** Recently, we advocated that in setting aside federal holidays, only people who worked on that day be paid. It would be all right to pay the people if Uncle Sam had the money, but frankly speaking, he does not have the money, and is one trillion, 389 billion in debt!

We are not speaking of just the King holiday, but all holidays which are paid for.

Any considerate person thinking of the great debt that Uncle Sam has obligated the nation to pay should be glad to forego pay on a holiday on which he or she does not work!

This is the reason we felt that the Martin Luther King holiday should be without pay, unless the person worked on that day.

Senator Helms has advocated the idea that no federal employee be paid for a holiday unless he or she works on that day, and it will be necessary for a number of federal employees to work on holidays. We would feel that the number needed to work will be less than 10%. We hope that Senator Helms and others will push the idea, and also a balanced budget. This will be a constructive move in the right direction.

**FALL OF THE YEAR...** Here in Carolina this is the most beautiful time of the year for all of us who like fall colors, invigorating air and nostalgia. Whether one lives in the west among the picturesque

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mountains, the piedmont or in the east it's a time of the year to appreciate and enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature.

Just the knowledge that the days are growing shorter, that fire wood or fuel for heating needs consideration, that warm clothing is soon to be needed, and that football, hunting and cold-weather dishes are here, gives fall a certain nostalgia.

Who can smell the first burning leaves, or watch the children on their way to school again, or hear the school football band, or feel and see the first cold rainy spell of autumn and not get the mood or memory message?

**BOB WINDSOR...** Byron Gupton, editor of the *UNC Journalist* of Chapel Hill featured "Bob Windsor: the man and his newspaper," in a recent issue.

Bob Windsor established the *Landmark* in June, 1982, since which time he has gained subscribers in the 100 North Carolina counties and the 49 other states.

Windsor, who dresses in bib overalls, covers meetings of his liking, is a champion of Lt. Governor Jimmy Green, and sometimes works all night to get his paper out. His shop is located between a liquor store and a massage parlor on Hwy. 15-501 a few miles south

of Chapel Hill. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green in the days before his trial.

We quote from the Gupton article in the *Spotlight*: "Because he works very long hours, often starting early in the morning and working throughout the night, Windsor has equipped his offices with a bed, a television set, a stereo and a makeshift kitchen. He wears his pajamas when he's working late. 'This is a satisfying thing. I work hard and love every minute, I wouldn't want to do anything else, he says.'"

**The News-Journal**

**ANPA** **NOA**

Published Every Thursday by  
 Dickson Press, Inc., Paul Dickson, Pres.  
 119 W. Elmwood Avenue, P.O. Box 550  
 Raeford, N.C. 28376

Subscription Rates In Advance  
 In County Per Year—\$10.00  
 6 Months—\$5.00  
 Out of County Per Year—\$12.00  
 6 Months—\$6.00

LOUIS H. FOGLEMAN, JR. .... Publisher  
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2nd Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.  
 (USPS 388-260)

## Letters To The Editor

### Charity bazaar was successful

To the Editor:  
 The Hoke/Raeford Humane Society had a very successful two days at the recent charity bazaar at the Cross Creek Mall in Fayetteville. We made over \$350 from the items which were donated to us to sell.

Even more importantly we had

the opportunity to speak to a lot of people and help them with their questions concerning their pets. We passed out a lot of educational literature which will hopefully educate people on the proper and humane care of their pets.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to the mall and helped us sell our goods and we would like to extend a big thanks to everyone who made something for us to sell.

The donated items were beautiful and we had no trouble selling them. Of course, it would be impossible to sell everything that we had so we did have some items left over.

We will be selling these along with a lot of baked breads and cakes and cookies, etc. at our upcoming Craft and Bake Sale. These goods will be available for sale just in time for Christmas so we hope

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# Changing Atlanta is far from boring

**By Warren Johnston**

There's somebody in Atlanta who keeps moving things around. Each time my wife and I go back for a visit, something else has been moved.

I think they do it just so nobody gets bored with living in the same place, but the constant reshuffling is a little disconcerting when you only drop in every year-and-a-half.

"Didn't we eat lunch at a neat little cafe over there last summer?" my wife asked, pointing towards a multi-story boutique specializing in men's foundation garments.

Things move so rapidly in Atlanta that it is hard to tell exactly who the movers are.

Someone suggested the powerful Atlanta Chamber of Commerce could be behind it. They are always talking about moving Atlanta "forward and upwards." However, we asked some local residents during a recent visit, and they were reluctant to point a finger.

"Who's moving everything around?" we asked an Atlantan.

"We're not sure. Somebody just comes around every so often to redo things. They're sort of exterior decorators," the Atlantan said.

"Sometimes we wake up in the morning, and it's a different place than it was when we went to bed," another Atlantan added.

Ten years ago when I lived in Atlanta, I began to smell a few changes in the wind.

The first tip came as I was sitting on the front porch of our old family home. It was a beautiful fall day, and when They showed up,

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I had been resting in a porch rocker after an exhausting morning of watching pecans ripen.

"We're going to make a few changes in your lovely uncluttered neighborhood. It won't take long, and when we get through, you won't recognize the place," They said.

The next morning when I woke up, They had torn down about half of our old family house.

From then on things moved fairly rapidly, and now I hardly recognize anything.

For example, where we used to raise cows and chickens, there is a 28-story office building. There are also a bunch of shops scattered over what was our back yard.

The old branch that we dammed up to build the neighborhood swimming pool has become an underground stream running through a culvert. That memorable spot back in the woods, where Johnny Albert clobbered Little Ralph in the head with a mud clog and sent him home screaming, is buried beneath yards of fill dirt and covered with an asphalt parking lot.

That's not all. Around the corner where Little Ralph lived, They've moved the street and built condominiums.

"This is disgusting. I've lived here most of my life, and I don't

recognize a thing," I said to my wife as we wandered aimlessly looking for something familiar.

"Don't try that old shortcut down Little Ralph's street again," she said, noting that the last time, I almost drove into someone's living room.

Although new Atlanta gets a face-lift about every six months, there are still a few vestiges of old Atlanta lingering around.

There's the traffic. It hasn't gotten any worse or better in the last 20 years. It is easy to recognize the Northeast "Expressway." It is still the largest parking lot in the world.

"I've spent many good days on this road," I said nostalgically, after we entered our third hour and the second mile.

The tall and aged trees have also remained unaltered by the change in Atlanta.

In front of a new 40-story hotel in Buckhead is the same oak tree that used to stand in front of Freddy the Frog's house.

Freddy wouldn't recognize his old home place, but he would remember sitting in that tree taking pot shots at passing buses with his B-B gun. The Frog, who was six at the time, got thrown in the slammer after he hit a police car. He blamed it on the tree.

"You know. All it takes is a weekend in Atlanta to make you really appreciate small town living," my wife said on the drive back to Raeford.

When we arrived home, it was comforting to see that They hadn't found Raeford, and that we could still recognize Main Street.