

# ... Jail Below Standards

(Continued from page 1)  
renovated in the near future for the medical unit.  
Once the sheriff's department has completed its move this week into the Courthouse Annex, providing jail space for the medical unit will be considered, Barrington said in the report.

"They are the same requirements we have always been out of compliance with," County Manager James Martin said.

"I am satisfied with the jail conditions. I think we have as good a situation as any others," Barrington said.

In further county business, Emergency Medical Services Director Bill Niven was appointed to serve as county Compliance Coordinator in conjunction with the Office of Revenue Sharing.

The job requires Niven to inspect all county buildings to make sure they are accessible to the handicapped.

In addition, Niven will be the "contact person" for any services that might be available for handicapped individuals.

The new requirements are part of the Office of Revenue Sharings Handicapped Regulations that are to be adopted during the beginning of 1984.

"I think we are pretty much in compliance already," Martin told the commissioners.

"The jail may not be accessible to handicapped individuals," Martin added.

Niven and the commissioners have "between 18 months to three

years" to get all the county buildings into compliance, according to Martin.

Commissioners also approved mileage corrections for six county roads.

"We are just trying to get the county map up to date. This will not affect the maintenance of the roads at all," a Department of Transportation spokesman told the commissioners.

"We will continue to do the same as we are doing now," he added.

In addition, the commissioners allowed the DOT to abandon a portion of State Road 1240 that has not been maintained by the highway department since 1971.

Commissioners also forwarded a request by 12 residents to add White Oak, Hickory and Dogwood Streets to the state's road system.

In other matters, the county board accepted the resignation of Raeford attorney Phil Diehl, who had served 10 years on the Sandhills Mental Health Board.

"I regret his resignation. He has done a fine job for the past 10 years," County Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

Jimmy Wood was given unanimous approval to fill Diehl's unexpired term on the Sandhills board.

"I think he will do a good job for us," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

In other business, five new members were appointed to the County Health Board.

Registered Nurse (RN) Flora Alice Crowder, RN and Hoke County Board of Education member Ruth McNair, Optometrist Dr. John Southerland, Dentist Dr. Larry Bullard and Henry Dial were unanimously approved as new board members by the commissioners.

The commissioners also appointed James R. Conoly to serve another three-year term on the ABC Board.

Paul Barnes, Eddie T. Brock Jr., Mamie Bundy, Helen Frazier and Jesse Wheeler were also reappointed to serve staggered terms on the Rockfish Community Building Board of Trustees.

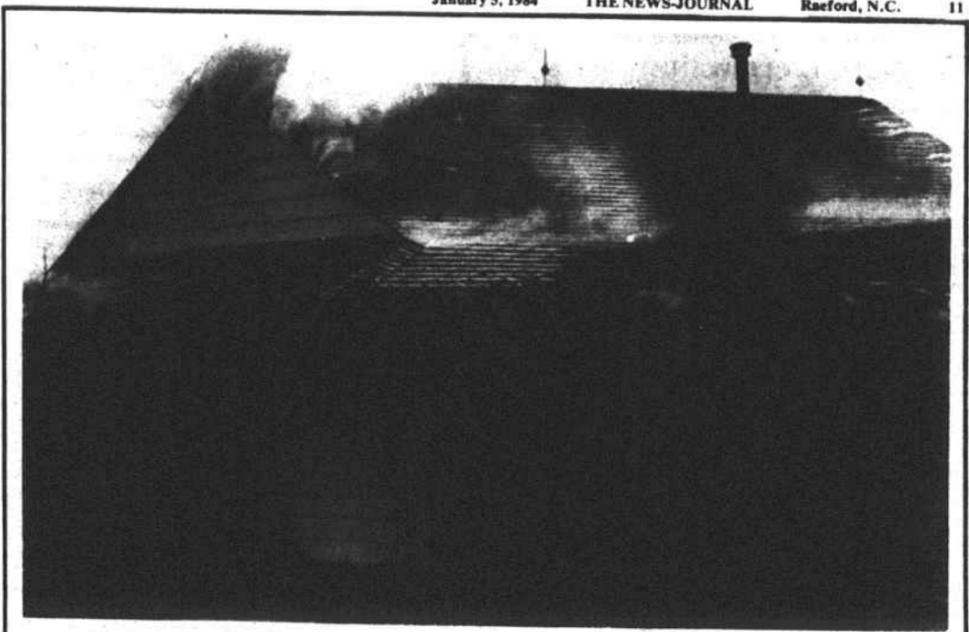
The county board also approved \$957 to be added to the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget.

The additional funds will go toward providing Chore Services to the elderly.

Commissioners also signed another contract agreement with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, which will allow DSS to receive butter, cheese and other commodities until September 1985, according to DSS Director Ken Witherspoon.

Witherspoon also told commissioners that his department would be distributing butter, cheese, honey and corn meal February 9 through 16.

"We will continue to give these things to people on food stamps or receiving AFDC benefits, unless my board changes it before that time," Witherspoon said.



**Trying to control inferno**  
North Raeford and Antioch firefighters attempt to bring the smoldering blaze under control during the Friday morning fire that swept through the home of Rosa Locklear. (Photo by Pam Frederick)

# Pot Investigation Continues

No new leads have been uncovered in the month-old probe into the ownership of a marijuana-laden airplane, which was confiscated at the Raeford Airport, investigating officers said Monday.

"We are continuing our investigation and following up on all leads," Hoke Deputy Sheriff Ed Harris said.

Harris would not comment on any further leads which may have been discovered from an "out-of-state" probe that the sheriff's department and State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) agents have been conducting.

Harris also refused to comment on any other leads that had come up in the investigation.

Although Harris remained mum, Senior SBI agent Frank Johnson admitted that authorities had "some leads."

"We have got plenty of leads to follow in this case. We are not just sitting around," Johnson said.

Johnson was vague Tuesday on when or if an arrest was planned for the near future.

"I think our leads will take us somewhere," Johnson said.

The month old probe began after U.S. Customs Service Investigators spotted the Piper-Aztec plane off the coast of Florida.

That same plane had been under local surveillance nearly three months earlier, according to Hoke Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Local authorities lost track of the plane for nearly three months, but picked it up again near Laurinburg, three days before it touched down in Raeford.

Sheriff's deputies received a call from Customs officers Saturday, November 28 around 8 p.m.

According to Barrington, Customs agents had trailed the plane from Florida with a jet and a helicopter but both had to stop and refuel just short of Raeford.

"That is when we were called in," Barrington said earlier.

When Hoke detectives arrived, along with SBI agents, the plane's occupants had fled the scene.

Officers searched the rural airport but found nothing, Harris said.

Although the pilot was not located, officers confiscated the plane and its contents.

Aboard the plane were 982 compressed bales of marijuana estimated to be worth nearly \$750,000.

"We are still looking into everything," Harris said.

# Weather In 1983 Was Filled With Extremes

By Sherry Matthews  
Hoke County had a "year of extremes" weather-wise, local National Weather Service Observer Robert Gatlin said Tuesday.

"We had a year that went from one extreme to another," Gatlin said.

During 1983, Gatlin said, Hoke had the hottest day and the coldest day that he had ever recorded.

According to Gatlin

temperatures soared to 110° on August 22 making it the hottest day of the year.

"That is the hottest day that I have ever recorded and the hottest that old natives remember," Gatlin said.

In addition, Gatlin said that he recorded an average temperature in the Hoke area at 97° for a 30 to 40 day period between July and August.

Christmas Day provided the coldest temperatures for the Hoke area this year, dropping to 4° during the early morning hours.

Like the hot summer temperatures, Gatlin said Christmas Day was the coldest he had ever recorded.

"Again, it is the coldest day most natives can remember," Gatlin said.

"This is the wettest year we have had for the past four years," Gatlin said.

The December rainfall, nearly 8 inches, rounded out the year's total to 49 inches.

"That rainfall put us within our normal range. It is the first time in four years that we have had a normal amount of rainfall," Gatlin said.

"I would say that this year has been very unusual for this county," Gatlin said.

## NOTICE

The government of Hoke County has submitted its report to the Census Bureau on the actual uses of general revenue sharing funds for fiscal year June 30, 1983. A copy of the report and supporting data are available on weekdays at the Pratt Building during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for public inspection.



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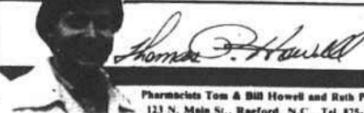
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### Tip to save yourself money

If you try to save money by buying only a dollar or two worth of your prescription medication at a time, then I've got news for you. You aren't saving. You're losing — both in dollars and in the proper administration of your drug when, for example, you happen to run out early, missing a day or two of your intended drug therapy.

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# ... Around Town

(Continued from page 1)  
I don't believe anyone else is working for the county at this time who was there when Miss Graham started in the 30s. If so please let me know.

There will be two faces missing from public offices this year who

were with us last year at this time. Raz Autry is now retired and is farming and dealing in politics. Ron Matthews has moved to Elizabeth City and will be missed at City Hall.

The best to both these men.

One thing new that happened in 1983 is all the Public Housing in the county. The houses on Fulton Street are now occupied and the ones on Wooley Street are fast being completed.

How they will do is still a question in some of the people's minds. Only time will tell.

Effective Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1983

## The Hoke County Board of Elections

will be located at  
109 E. Edinborough Ave.  
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Hours will be from:  
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