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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY

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Accomplishments were tune for '85

For Hoke County, 1985 was a year of growth and accomplishment.

During the year, county leaders put past planning into action and made great strides toward better education, land use, economic development and a better community spirit.

The first North Carolina Turkey Festival was organized and held in 1985. Crowds estimated at being over 30,000 jammed the streets of Raeford during September to make the event a statewide success.

Publicity from the festival reached a national level with coverage on NBC and on Nickelodeon.

Another large gathering was held in October, when more than 800 county residents attended a hearing of the North Carolina Utilities Commission at Turlington School to support extending the local telephone lines to Fayetteville.

The commissioners later ordered a polling on the issue to be conducted during the January billing of Carolina Telephone.

A county planning board was organized during the year, and a mobile home ordinance was passed as a result.

Members of the Planning Commission are hoping to adopt subdivision regulations and to take more steps toward county zoning.

In 1985, an economic development commission was organized and John Howard became the county's first economic developer.

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce got going again in a big way under the helm of Manager Beverly Pasternak.

During the year, membership almost doubled and strides were made to make the organization self sufficient.

Local citizens pitched in with money and hard work to remodel the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Depot in Raeford.

The building, which started as a shell and has turned into a showplace under the direction of Sandy Johnston, is scheduled for completion in January and will house the offices of the Chamber and Economic Development.

Hoke County got the doors open on a satellite for Sandhills Community College.

Over 70 fulltime students enrolled and hundreds of part-time pupils.

Raeford City Council members commissioned a group of residents to get started on downtown revitalization.

The month-old downtown commission had surveyed merchants and was well on the way to making firm plans for the future when the year ended.

As the year ended, another group was working on the problem of teenage pregnancy.

A plan for helping ease the problem was being formed.

January

Mitch Tyler was named the county's new Indian Education Affairs Director (IEA) during the first school board meeting of the year. Tyler, a former IEA director in Scotland County, was recommended for the position in Hoke County by Superintendent Dr. Robert Nelson.

Alert Cablevision was denied a rate increase by members of the Raeford City Council. It was the third time in three months the cable company had asked for a rate hike.

Beverly Pasternak was hired as the new executive secretary of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Marilyn Cribb Clark of Raeford was sentenced to five years in jail after a Superior Court jury found her guilty of shooting another woman over the price of a marijuana cigarette. Clark, also known as "Country" was charged with shooting Sherry Simmons in the arm on July 17, 1983, after an argument arose over the price of the drug.

An afternoon fire in the middle of the month destroyed an undetermined amount of property and produce at the House of Raeford. Members of the Raeford Fire Department battled the blaze in the "blast freezer" along with temperatures below zero.

County commissioners were told by a spokesperson from the Lumber River Council of Governments that Hoke County would lose funding from the federal government if they did not accept a new Affirmative Action Program. The commissioners voted to implement the program at their next meeting.

Superior Judge E. Lynn Johnson ruled that County Commissioner James Albert Hunt was to undergo regular psychiatric treatment to avoid jail and correct his personal problems. Hunt had been given a jail term for probation violations stemming from two convictions of writing worthless checks and a reckless driving conviction.

The first annual North Carolina Turkey races were scheduled for September of the year.

Firefighters from North Raeford and West Hoke fire departments battled a blaze at Larry Ray's auto shop. Ray lost about \$80,000 in machinery and engine parts in the fire.

February

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted unanimously to request that the North Carolina Utilities Commission establish direct telephone communication between Hoke County and Fayetteville.

Mayor John K. McNeill told members of city council that Raeford needs \$1.5 million in cash reserve in order to maintain its sewer and water systems.

Efforts were renewed to establish a satellite branch of Sandhills Community College in Hoke County.

County commissioners chose to apply for a \$726,000 block grant to upgrade housing in the Tylertown area despite requests from residents for public water lines. Jim Perry, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments, said grants are scored higher when they are for housing renovations rather than water. The commissioners voted not to supplement the grant application with a pledge of local money. The move later proved to be the downfall of the application.

Raeford-Hoke Airport Commissioners John Plummer and Carroll Scarborough were appointed to a committee to develop zoning recommendations for land around the airport.

Local officials were told by a spokesman from the North Carolina Utilities Commission that Extended Area Service (EAS) between Raeford and Fayetteville may result in a monthly increase of \$4.52 for residential telephone rates and \$10.78 for businesses.

Dale Teal was chosen as Hoke County's acting tax supervisor. Hoke County Commission Chairman John G. Balfour was named as the Raeford Kiwanis Club's Man of the Year.

(See 1985, page 9)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The staff of The News-Journal wishes all of our readers a healthy and prosperous new year.

Red Springs man jailed after shooting

A Red Springs Man was being held in Hoke County jail Monday under a \$75,000 cash bond on charges of shooting at a man and pointing a pistol at two sheriff's deputies.

According to a Hoke County Sheriff's Department report, Leroy Locklear, 61, Rt. 1, Box 94-C, Red Springs, allegedly fired shots at Wayne R. Chester, 25, 911 N. Jackson St., while Chester and his sister were about to leave Patterson Mobile Home Park.

The shooting occurred on December 20.

Locklear allegedly began firing at Chester while Chester was walking down a road looking for someone to help him start his car, Chester said in a statement.

Chester managed to run through the woods without getting hit and managed to get in touch with Detectives J.R. Riley and Weaver Patterson.

After taking a statement from Chester, the two detectives took

the victim back to the mobile home to check on his sister.

As Chester began walking up to a trailer located at the back of the mobile home park, he began hollering, "There he is, there's Leroy," according to the report.

The officers then observed a male running from the back of the trailer after Chester, the report says.

Locklear then allegedly raised a nickel-plated pistol and pointed it at the two officers.

The officers ordered Locklear to drop his gun, and Locklear turned and ran towards the back of the trailer.

Riley and Patterson caught Locklear, handcuffed him and placed him in the Hoke County jail.

A fully loaded .22 caliber pistol was found on the ground behind the trailer, the report says.

Locklear was charged with two counts of assault with a firearm on (See THREE, page 12)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

We didn't get a white Christmas, but we did have a cold Christmas. Christmas night the temperature dropped to around 8 to 10°. It remained cold all day Thursday. It did get up to around 50° Sunday.

The forecast is for cold weather to continue all this week.

The 1929 item that appeared in this column last week was written by Mrs. Frances W. Dickson. Mrs. Dickson was born in Cumberland County in the mid 1800s. Her maiden name was Frances Wyatt Devane. She was married to the late Dr. A.P. Dickson who practiced medicine in Raeford for many years. They lived in the home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Gatlin.

There was a post office near the home and it was called Vollers. Mrs. Gatlin is a grandchild of Mrs.

(See AROUND, page 10)

'86 to be 'good' for Hoke County

By Ron Anderson

Local community leaders and businessmen are expecting 1986 to be a good year in Hoke County.

"I'm optimistic, and I feel like everyone else should be," Raeford businessman Tom Howell said.

Howell also serves as chairman of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission and president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

"There are a lot of good things that are going to happen to keep everyone in a positive frame of mind," Howell said.

Some of those good things are the upcoming Hoke County 75th Anniversary Celebration and the second annual Turkey Festival.

"The excitement of last year's festival is still lingering," Howell said.

Howell also says he believes the new year will be good for the local economy.

"Businesswise, I look forward to doing better this year than last year," he said.

Another person looking forward to a positive 1986 is Economic Developer John Howard.

"I can foresee a number of positive activities in the coming year that will further enrich the quality of life for all our citizens," Howard said.

Those activities include goals to increase the tax base; a high potential in locating one or more industries here this year; and the positive steps occurring on the widening of U.S. Highway 401.

Also, Howard said he has high expectations that extended area telephone service (EAS) will be established between Raeford and Fayetteville.

Steps to build an industrial park in Hoke County are showing the state that "we are a rural community on the move," Howard said.

"I just sense such a great team effort happening here by all elements of the private and public sector wanting to make progress," Howard added.

A positive outlook has also been expressed by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Nelson.

"I'm extremely optimistic," Nelson said. "We've made a lot of progress in the schools and we're in a position to make a lot more."

Within the past year, all the teachers in the school system have completed "The Effective Teaching Training Program" and some of them are beginning a second phase of study.

"I think we have a greater degree of public support for our (See HOKE, page 10)

Two-vehicle crash leaves eight hurt

Eight people were injured last Saturday, when a car traveling north on Highway 401 south of Raeford, slammed head-on into a pickup truck coming in the opposite direction.

Joanne Otson, 38, Rt. 3, Laurinburg, apparently fell asleep at the wheel of her 1977 Buick approximately 2.1 miles southwest of Raeford at 3 p.m., according to a report by State Trooper B.T. Burr.

Otson's car crossed the yellow line and ran into a 1977 Ford pickup driven by Robert McCall, 39, Carver School Road, Laurel Hill.

McCall's pickup ran off the right shoulder, overturned once and landed in a ditch.

The Buick also went off the shoulder and came to rest in the same ditch.

Both McCall and Otson had three passengers each in their vehicles at the time of the accident.

McCall and his passengers, aged four, 11 and 16, were transported to Scotland Memorial Hospital.

Otson and her passengers, aged 12, 15 and 41, were taken to Moore Memorial Hospital.

Burr said Otson was charged with driving left of the center line.

(See THREE, page 12)



Restoration beginning

The Hoke County Courthouse is bright and shiny in this photograph taken around 1916, just four years after it was constructed. County officials are spending more than \$600,000 to restore and update the building in an effort to bring back the new look of 1916. Courthouse workers will begin moving from the building this week and construction will start on January 6. Renovations include a new elevator to make the building handicap accessible. The rejuvenated structure will also be air conditioned, and improvements will be made to the heating system.

Courthouse work begins

By Ron Anderson

Renovations to the Hoke County Courthouse are scheduled to begin Monday, and this week some of the offices housed in the building are moving to temporary quarters.

"On Monday, the first thing workers will do to begin renovations is to take the asbestos out of the building," Hoke County Manager William Cowan said.

Cowan described the \$610,000 project as a "complete rehabilitation" of the courthouse which was built in 1911 when Hoke County was formed from 268,000 acres from Cumberland and Robeson counties.

Work to be performed as part of the project includes painting the building (both inside and out); installing an elevator; repairing the plaster; replacing electrical wiring; laying new carpeting; and installing a central air conditioning system.

(See COURTHOUSE, page 10)