

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Around Town

By Sam Morris

The ice storm last week slowed things down in the county for a few days. It was not as bad here as it was in the northern counties of the state. We closed school for only one and one half days, but they missed the entire week in many counties. There were still some icy spots Monday on the north side of trees and buildings. The old saying is that it's waiting around for more ice or snow. Now I think we have had enough for this winter.

The temperature reached the high 50s Monday and the same is forecast for Tuesday. It is forecast for the thermometer to be in the high 40s for the remainder of the week and for rain to arrive Friday.

Don't forget that the full committee of the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke will meet Monday, March 2 at the Hoke County Library at 5 p.m. This is the first meeting since a group went to Raleigh; so many interesting things will be presented. Also many sub-committees will be appointed. So make plans to attend!

I am always interested in old papers and any other thing that relates to history. Recently a man brought a copy of a "Discharge From Draft" dated June, 1918 into the office. It was given to the late Grover C. Lytle at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The reason for discharge was for reason of "defects existing prior to draft." Mr. Lytle was drafted from Marlboro County in South Carolina. It doesn't say how long he was at Fort Jackson, but he did receive \$11.74 pay for his time.

Some more tips on "How to Know You're Growing Older:"

1. You turn out the lights for economic, rather than romantic reasons.
2. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
3. Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.
4. You regret all those temptations you resisted.
5. You're 17 around the neck, 44 around the waist and 105 around the golf course.

When I think about Raeford 50 years ago, it brings to mind the financial institutions, then and now. I can't remember the Bank of Hoke, but have heard folks older than me talk about it.

My first known banks in Raeford were The Bank of Raeford and Page Trust Company. The Bank of Raeford was a locally owned bank and was on the corner of Main Street and Elwood Avenue. This building is now owned by Bobby Carter. The bank moved to its present location in the 1970s. Then in the 1980s it merged with the United Carolina Bank with headquarters in Whiteville. UCB in Raeford is a branch of this bank.

The Page Trust Company was a branch out of Aberdeen and Raleigh and it closed in 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt closed all the banks in the nation. It did not reopen after the then called "bank holidays." It was located on Main Street and Elwood Avenue opposite The Bank of Raeford building.

In the 1960s Southern National Bank, headquarters is Lumberton, opened a branch in Raeford. It is at the same location today, Main Street and Elwood Avenue.

Another financial institution was Raeford Savings and Loan Association. It was a locally owned institution until the 1980s when it merged with Heritage Federal, with the home office in Monroe.

Last year Progressive Savings and Loan, home office in Lumberton, opened a branch office on Harris Avenue in Raeford.

So you can see that the financial institutions that had two locally owned businesses have now gone the way of most institutions in the nation. They have merged with larger banks.

The banks and savings and loans are not the only small businesses (See AROUND, page 3A)

Comments prompt second hearing

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

The Hoke County Commissioners responded to community comment last week at a public hearing for the proposed subdivision regulations and set a second hearing for additional responses to major changes which may be made to the proposed ordinance.

After the hearing Tuesday night, commissioners responded to both positive and negative comments which residents made about the ordinance. As a result of citizen response commissioners plan to make changes which will require a

second hearing on the ordinance.

Commissioners set the public hearing for March 3 at 8 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Pratt Building.

Chairman Wyatt Upchurch said he sensed that there was more of a lack of understanding than there was dissatisfaction about the ordinance.

Some of the changes may concern clarifying requirements to prepare the final plat and the cost of the final plat.

Commissioner Tom Howell said he agreed with Upchurch and added, in response to community

concern about the possible rise in land costs, that the commissioners are not "against affordable housing" but just needed to "get together on how to do it legitimately".

Commissioner McPhatter suggested the matter be studied before a hearing was held in March. The hearing is scheduled for 8 p.m., one-half hour after the commissioners meeting is to begin so that commissioner's may review questions about the ordinance which were raised at the public hearing.

Land surveyors Leland Strother and John Furgage raised several

questions relating to the ordinance. Commissioner Howell suggested County Manager William (Bub) Cowan meet with the two men in order to answer questions and receive input from them.

Cowan mentioned that it would also be helpful to compare the ordinance to those which are currently in use in neighboring counties. Cowan stressed that the ordinance should be compared to those being used in similar rural areas rather than urban areas.

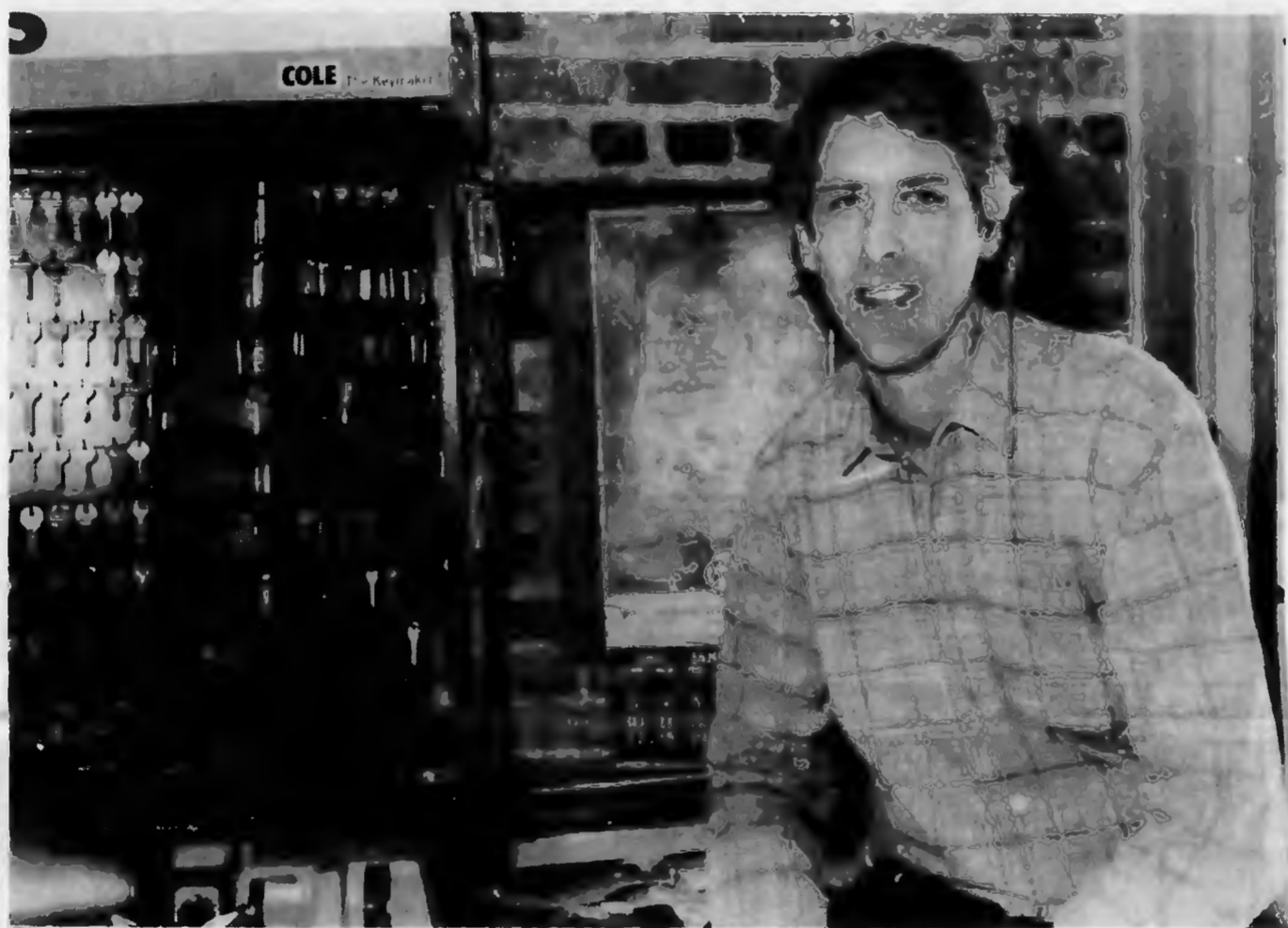
During the hearing, developers requested a 30-day extension on

the effective date of the ordinance in the event that the ordinance is passed.

Chairman Upchurch responded to this request by saying that he had a problem with people requesting this for personal gain.

The commissioners spoke of wanting to establish an ordinance which would not make unnecessary hardships on area residents.

However, Commissioner Howell said difficulties would arise regardless of what form of the ordinance they adopted due to the (See HEARING, page 3A)



Reopening

Jimmy McPhaul is the proprietor of the newly opened McLaughlin Hardware and Lock Company on Main Street. The new store takes the place of the one which was destroyed in a fire in January of last year. McPhaul says he has no plans to

build in the site where the old storefront was. "It might look good with some grass and trees, a couple of benches, maybe an old wagon," McPhaul said.

After the fire

Hardware store reopens for business

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

McLaughlin Hardware and Lock Company opened its doors again last week after seven months of restoring and preparing a store front to take the place of the Main Street building destroyed by fire in January of last year.

The business is owned and operated by Jimmy McPhaul who says that a grand opening for the store is planned for April.

"We're looking forward to it and ready for people to come in and see it."

McPhaul said much work is still going on but that by the time of the grand opening the store will be complete and fully stocked.

The building which now houses the store was previously a cotton warehouse. McPhaul has renovated the building using brick and oak counters from the destroyed building and pine wood from an 1860's house in the county owned by the Phillips family and Mill Village in Hope Mills.

The pine wood was used for floor boards. Additional counters were obtained from a hardware store in Galax, Virginia, where McPhaul's sister, Carol Sample, lives and from the Post Office in Hope Mills.

Among the vintage furniture in the store is an antique seed bin which dates back to 1928.

The ceiling has been renovated with oldstyle slatted wood which McPhaul said took 6,000 nails to secure. The wood is freshly-painted and the ceiling has six fans hanging from panels where skylights used to be.

While central heating is being installed in the store, a wood stove from the original store heats the building.

The area where McPhaul's office is being finished is flanked on one side by a turn-of-the-century vault door which was previously on the opposite side of the vault leading to an area which used to be used as an office area when the building was used as a warehouse in the early 1900's.

Opening the store in the old warehouse building may mean the hardware is returning to its original home.

McPhaul said that long-time resident Neill McFadyen states that in the late 1920's and early 30's, the hardware store was first housed in the present store building and later moved into the building which burned.

McPhaul bought the business from his father, J.W. "Buck" McPhaul, and rented the building from him in 1982.

The newly opened store will offer the same products and some of the same services which the old store offered.

Some new items will be available, including some general items. McPhaul said he wants to keep an "old-timey" atmosphere in the store.

Helping out at the store will be Vernon Hubbard of Fayetteville and Bob Colson and B.B. Smith, both of Raeford.

Family and friends are helping McPhaul get ready for the grand opening, tentatively scheduled for May 1.

Safety reduces number of fires

Fires have been less frequent in Hoke County due greatly to area residents being more safety conscious, according to a Raeford Fire Department spokesman.

Fire Chief Crawford Thomas said recently that structure fires were on the decline mainly because residents were "getting more cautious" in their treatment of heat sources.

"We are having fewer fires," Thomas said. "I think people are getting more safety conscious."

Another reason for fewer fires may be because of recent unpredictable trends.

"It comes in spells," Thomas said. "Sometimes there will be a good year and there will be a few fires. Some years there will be twice that many."

Thomas said most fires start in the kitchen. Precautions should be made to safeguard this area against the possibility of fires. A fire extinguisher is a good investment.

In order to be prepared for the likelihood of different kinds of fires in the future, the Fireman's Association just obtained new fire suppressant foam and fire-fighting equipment for the county.

The foam is made for use on petroleum products which easily catch fire, usually the result of gasoline tanker vehicles which are injured and leak gas onto highways and roads.

Several of these kinds of accidents have recently occurred in Fayetteville and the surrounding area.

Stonewall Fire Department Chief Neil McKenzie said after a recent woods fire that he thought that woods fires were still abundant in the area but that structure fires were on the decline.

"There has been a gradual decline in structure fires because people are doing a better job of maintaining chimneys, cleaning them out," McKenzie said.

In addition, old farm tenant buildings which were more frequently in use in the past are not used now and thus are not prone to burn, he said.

The tenant houses were not well maintained and many have burned in years past.

Regarding woods fires, McKenzie said people are "still being careless".

New faces at DSS

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

There are some new faces at the Department of Social Services (DSS) due to staff changes announced recently at the DSS board meeting this week.

Linda McNeill is now filling an Eligibility Specialist I position in the Medicaid area and Allison Newton is now Eligibility Specialist II.

Linda Brown now fills a Child Support Agent I position and Sheffie McLaughlin has been made Eligibility Specialist II.

The Eligibility Specialist I position in the Food Stamp area has been filled by Debbie Hamilton and the Eligibility Specialist I position for the program in Aid to Families with Independent Children (AFDC) is currently held by Gail Beasley.

These position recently opened at DSS because of re-locations of staff and a retirement. DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said that the positions are opened first to those who currently work at DSS and then to the public.

(See NEW, page 3A)

Johnson named 'Citizen of the Year'

Local businessman E. Marvin Johnson was named for the Hoke County "Citizen of the Year Award" by the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night during Ladies Night activities.

Johnson, who is president of House of Raeford Farms, Inc., was cited for providing over 3,000 jobs for workers in eastern North Carolina. He was also recognized for "his benevolence and concern for his community."

Johnson currently serves as the majority stockholder and owner of seven related businesses. One of those companies, House of Raeford Farms, Inc., is the 14th largest independently owned company in North Carolina.

An innovator in the turkey industry, Johnson owns a research facility that has established the "Johnson Great White" breed which has a higher yield of breast meat than any other breed.

During Johnson's first year in the turkey business with his father and brother, the men grew 2,000 birds. Currently, the House of Raeford Farms operation processes roughly 4 million pounds of turkey each week.

A native of Rose Hill, Johnson is a member of the North Carolina Board of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

He is past president of the North Carolina Poultry Federation, a former president of the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association, and a past president of the National Turkey Federation. He is also a past member of the North Carolina Ports Authority and a member of the Congressional Club.

Johnson is married and the father of four children. He has seven grandchildren.

The annual Kiwanis event was held at the Quality Inn in Southern Pines.

Also during the evening, Bill Niven captured awards for the most raffle tickets sold and the best program.

The award for the most pancake dinner tickets sold went to Tony Austin.

Receiving perfect attendance pins were: Gene Carter, 11 years; Avery Connell, 23 years; Frank Crumpler, 21 years; Marion Gatlin, 43 years; Terry Houston, three years; Paul Livingston, two years; John D. McAllister, two years; Benny McLeod, 23 years; Ernest Sutton, 13 years; Bill Niven, 14 years; and Wendell Young, four years.

The local Kiwanis Club was established in 1924. The "Citizen of the Year" award has been presented annually for the past 38 years.



E. Marvin Johnson