

The News-Journal

The 45th issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, February 17, 1993

After controversies, commissioners seek adjustment to board

Amid accusations of racism and a burgeoning list of requests for conditional use permits for single-wide mobile homes, Hoke Commissioners again wrestled with the county's zoning ordinance.

Alfred Locklear and his wife requested a permit to place a Class B mobile home on property they purchased. The Board previously denied the request, and last night, repeated their action.

With seven signed affidavits by neighbors (out of

13), the Locklears lost the chance to place their already-purchased trailer on their land off 211 in Antioch.

Locklear's father, Lonnie, accused Chairman L.E. McLaughlin of acting "like a white man" after the board denied his son's request in a 3 to 2 vote.

"As long as I've been on the board, race has never been an issue with me," McLaughlin said. "Any

actions (I take) are for the betterment of Hoke County."

Lonnie Locklear made the racial accusations after pointing out that two vocally opposed neighbors are white.

The commissioners and County Planner Karen Burd said they need to revamp their methods for handling the conditional use permits.

The commission began studying alternatives to

commissioners serving as the board of adjustment when the number of requests began to bog down the bi-monthly meetings.

Granting of requests seems haphazard at times, citizens and commissioners alike said, and a better policy is needed.

A study committee was formed to work out an alternative Board of Adjustment to deal with the (See ADJUSTMENT, page 4)



It's all over

A North Raeford fireman has done all he can to extinguish a fire at what was

a vacant house at Highway 211 East and Shannon Rd. The structure caught fire Monday night and again Tuesday afternoon and was destroyed.

County will resume work on compactor

Construction will resume on Hoke's newest trash convenience center in the Five Points area. Monday night, the Hoke Board of Commissioners decided not to break a \$73,000 contract for construction of the Calloway Road center.

The commissioners voted to resume the project which already cost the county \$2,500 in engineering plans, \$9,000 in labor and \$7,000 in land.

Only one family near the site protested its construction.

Brothers Franklin and Romus Stephens, who own property adjacent to the site, said two weeks ago the site would attract flies and vermin and lead to health problems for Franklin, a two-time kidney transplant recipient.

Romus Stephens said he and his brother were not told by former owner Shelby Calloway that the county previously purchased property next door to build a convenience center.

"When we bought it from Calloway, he didn't say they'd build this site," Romus Stephens said. "He didn't say nothing about no site."

County Manager Barry Reed said he discussed with the brothers a compromise with the county, allowing it to purchase their land. But, Stephens said he and his brother "don't want to sell it."

The pair said they were never told by the county or Calloway that a convenience center, which would replace "green box" dumpsters, would be built within 500 feet of Franklin's planned home.

Several frustrated taxpayers defended the stalled site.

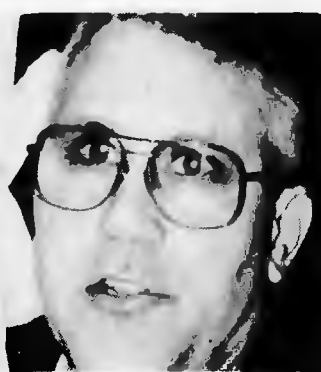
To applause from the audience, spectator Jean Hodges said real-estate law obliges the former owner, not the county, to inform the purchasers of the adjacent property's use.

The county purchased its land before the Stephens' November purchase.

"Two parties entered into a contract," Commissioner Tom Howell (See COUNTY, page 4)



Bill Helfner



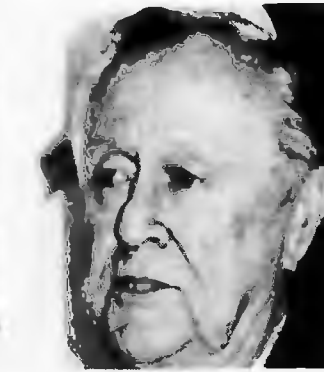
Ron Sulton



Richard Conder



Aaron Plyler



David Parnell



Frances Cummings



Danny DeVane

Legislative Breakfast: DeVane urges Hoke Commissioners to unite

State Representative Danny DeVane mounted the proverbial soap box at Saturday's Legislative Appreciation Breakfast, and urged the Hoke County Commissioners to stop fighting and get on with economic development.

DeVane said he was distressed after reading a

newspaper account of an emergency meeting called by commissioners concerning the authority of the county manager to hire an economic developer.

"It concerned me that the commission was split," he said. "You cannot progress if you're not together."

"Fire (County Manager) Barry Reed; it doesn't mat-

ter to me. It won't hurt Danny DeVane," he said.

He told Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce members gathered at the Wagon Wheel to honor state and national elected officials that the chamber "needs to step in and push commissioners to bury the hatchet."

"You've hired an economic developer and put hand-

cuffs on her," he said of newly hired Dorothy Meacher.

"If she accepts the job it will surprise me. You've not been fair to her."

Three of five commissioners — L.E. McLaughlin, Riley Jordan and Tom Howell — attended the break- (See BREAKFAST, page 7)



Angel Lee and nephew, Kaki

Entrepreneurs fleeing communism seek American Dream in Raeford

Angel Lee smiles when she speaks, and with good reason. She knows her seven-year old son will awake beyond reach of the Communist shadow.

The fear of living in that shadow drove Lee and her family to the United States to carve their own American Dream.

In 1997 Lee's motherland of Hong Kong will revert to Communist Chinese rule, placing her family's political rights on shaky ground.

So in 1985 Lee and her husband, Cheong, left Hong Kong and finally landed in Raeford to build their own business and lifestyle.

"In Hong Kong, it's a very open

city and you can do whatever and say whatever and it's very different from China," Lee said. "We don't know what will happen after the Chinese government takes over Hong Kong. Maybe it will rule Hong Kong like it does China. That's very scary."

With the wounds of the Tien-an Men Square bloodletting still smarting, the risks of going abroad paled beside the risks of staying, she said.

"They say Hong Kong will stay the same for 50 years but nobody believes that," she said. "The rich people already got out. Now over there it seems like it's getting worse."

The less-fortunate middle and lower classes face an uncertain fu-

ture, she said, and when the chance to leave came, she took it, leaving her two brothers, a sister and parents behind.

After a stay in the Bahamas, where her husband worked at a casino restaurant, and a brief stay in Miami where they found the town was too big and living costs too high, the Lees settled in Dillon, South Carolina "for a change."

Three-and-a-half years later, they heeded the entrepreneur's call and scouted locations for their own Chinese restaurant.

"If we can work hard for other people, why can't we work hard for (See ENTREPRENEURS, page 3)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather has been the kind of winter weather I like. It isn't too cold at night and then the daytimes are warm enough for outside activities. If you don't leave home too early in the morning the frost will be gone from your automobile. The rain has even cooperated by coming in at night and leaving during the morning. Also we haven't had to shovel snow from the driveways. Yes, this is my kind of winter weather.

The forecast calls for the temperatures on Wednesday to have a high in the 50s and a low in the 30s. On Thursday and Friday we will see highs in the 40s and lows in the 20s. Saturday the temperatures will rise again into the 50s and the lows will be in the 30s. No rain is predicted for these days.

The following letter was received in the office last week which I think is

interesting and I would like to share it with the other Scotchmen in this county.

Dear Sir:
I am studying the local history of REAY in Caithness, Scotland. On the map of North Carolina I noticed the place called Raeford, and thought there may be a connection. In some old papers I have I was delighted to find that about 1600-1850 the spelling was RAE. I would be pleased to find out if anyone in Raeford has made a study of the origin of Raeford. I would like to know if this letter could be forwarded to anyone interested.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas Riley
Also with the letter was a postcard of the Reay Parish Church 1739. Written on the postcard was the following:
This is the church where many settlers would have worshipped. A shipload (See AROUND, page 14)