

Around

(Continued from page 1A)

some channels it was the same way. Many years ago I purchased a television set from J.A. Baucom and it had to have a pole with an antenna to receive the snowy picture from the two channels that you could receive.

So with all the technology in the last 40 years, we still get snowy pictures — but it costs a lot more. It seems to me that something could be done to clear up the cablevision in Raeford. If this company can't, then maybe a company could be found that can give the service people are paying for. What do you think?

I listened to the inaugural address of President Bill Clinton Monday. I was glad to be sitting in my den at home. The people were all bundled up and it was cold. I agreed with most of his predictions for the next century, but I am afraid that the hearts of the American people will not change as he hopes for the future. Time will tell!

The basketball game between Maryland and Wake Forest went down to the wire. A shot at the buzzer gave Maryland a win 54-51. It seemed to me that the Wake Forest players ran out of steam after overcoming the large first half lead of the Terps. One game does not decide the race, so don't count out the Deacons!

Don't forget to get your cold drinks and snacks this week. Sunday is the Super Bowl. It will not be Dallas or San Francisco this year. The two teams are the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots. It will not be played in freezing weather, but in the warmth of New Orleans.

Getting a Super Bowl ring is something every football player seeks. To be the winner is just that much sweeter.

I read with interest the story in last week's paper about Robert Dickson becoming publisher of *The News-Journal*. I also noted that my name was mentioned in the article, as I had worked for the first two generations of publishers. I will never forget starting to work at this paper in August of 1935. There were five people working in the press and composing room and one person besides Paul Dickson Sr. in the front office. They were the late J. Minor Davis, foreman, J.C. McKenzie and Russell Lassiter. I was the printer's devil and C.H. Giles Jr. came in after school to help.

In late November or early December, Mr. Dickson died and his wife, Annie Barnes, took over the paper. She had help in the front office from Edith Pickler of the Quewhiffle Township. As stated in the article Paul Jr. came back and took over most of the editorial duties.

I will never forget the press Paul mentioned in the article because this started me on the way up, when I started feeding or running the Babcock Press. We used to print circulars for Throwers Store in Red Springs. This was a long run and Paul and I would take turns feeding the press. One day he went over to McLaughlin Co. and purchased a seat from a fertilizer distributor and placed it on the press so that we could sit down to feed the press.

After feeding the press, you had to run the papers through a folding machine. Then, of course, you would have to prepare them for the post office. I remember one week there was a big band dance in town on the night the paper would be printed. Some of my friends came by and said they would help me after the dance if I could get off. I did and we made the mail by 8 p.m..

The National Guard took Paul and

myself in 1940 and I can remember coming home on leave and Mrs. Dickson would call me at home and ask if I would help get out the paper. You could not say no to Mrs. Dickson.

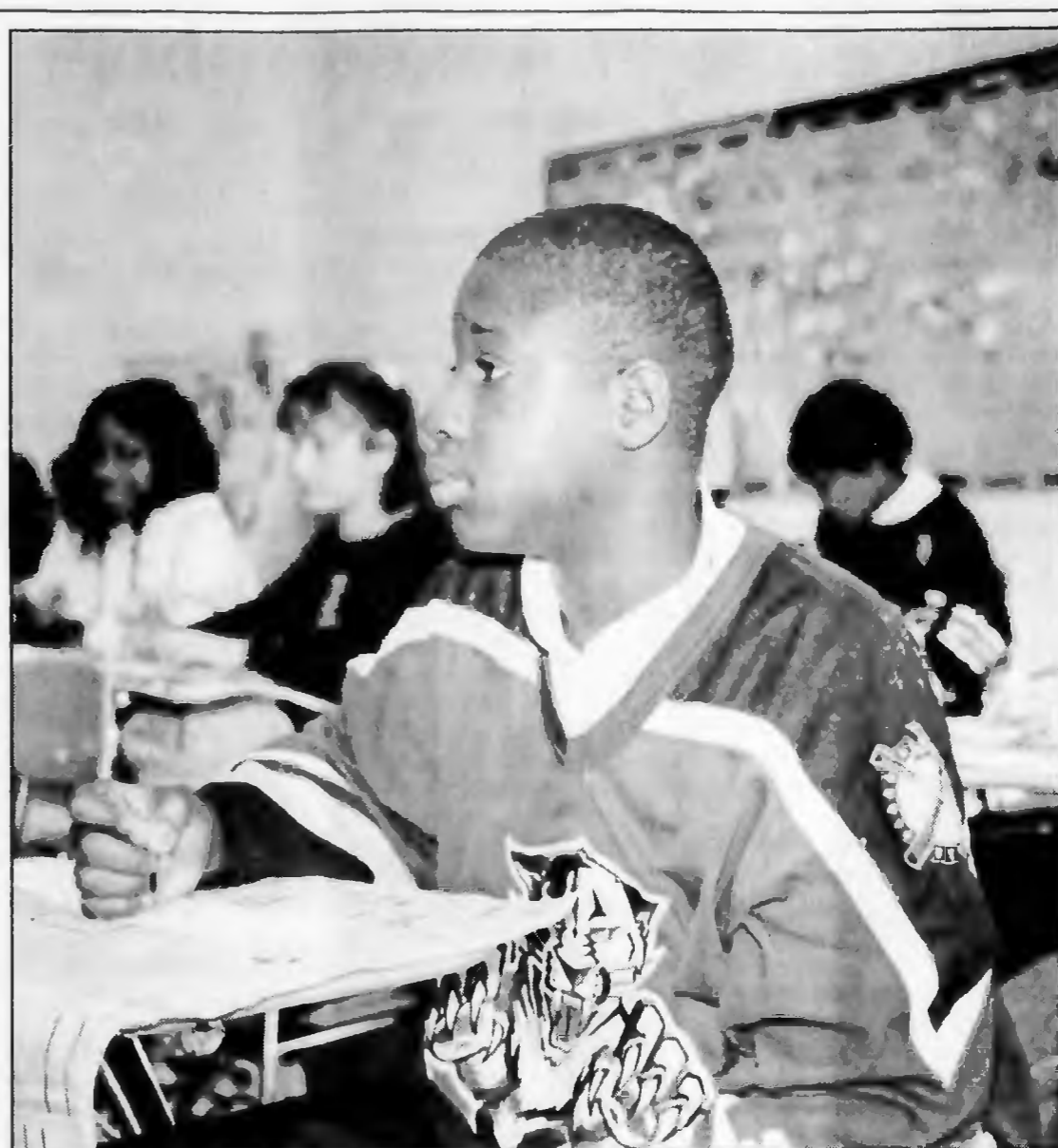
In December, 1945 I returned home from the Army and as we stopped at Lawrence Stanton's service station, I saw Paul and his wife, Margaret, across the street at another station. I walked over and I asked him if my old job was open at the paper. He smiled and said come to work anytime. So I started back at the paper in 1946.

As you reminisce from 1946 to 1981, many things come to mind. There are three jobs that we worked on that most of us went "beyond the call of duty." The first was doing work for the people that were building the plant for Robbins Mills. The second was a book of the history of the Raeford Presbyterian Church for the 50th anniversary. I believe we finished it on Saturday night before the program on Sunday. The final, and maybe the hardest and best, was stopping the Army from getting the corridor to Camp Mackall. It seemed that every week Paul would get word from Kenneth Royal, the attorney in Washington, for some map or brochure that was needed for him. Paul, Robert Gatlin and myself spent many a night getting out this item. I can still remember the headline of *The News-Journal* after Hoke County won, "NO CORRIDOR."

Next week I will try to recall some other instances after 1962.

From the old minutes of the Town of Raeford:

September 4, 1911: J.H. Campbell office 12x14' on Main St. between Hoke County Journal office and cotton platform to be built of wood covered and weather boarded with sheet iron.



Commemorating King's legacy

Photo by Kristin Guthrie

Last week, McLaughlin Elementary School student Lelo Pratt worked on an art project commemorating Martin Luther King Day.

County

(Continued from page 1A)

Howell said. "By us denying this is a breach of our public duties."

The board took about 15 minutes worth of discussion to decide on the issue, which has sparked heated debate in the past.

Bratcher seconded the motion and the board voted to allow the issue to go on the bond referendum, which should go before the voters in the April-May timeframe.

The Rev. Dallas Morales, pastor of the Hoke County Baptist Mission, asked to speak after the decision, but he was told by the board that he could not. He was not scheduled on the agenda and this was not a public hearing on the issue of liquor by the drink itself.

Jean Hodges said, "As a voter you will have the opportunity to oppose this liquor by the drink and you will have your opportunity to go out and talk to the public."

"The commissioners are not saying they approve of liquor by the drink," she added. "They are saying they approve that the voters have the right to make that decision."

Morales, who headed the opposi-

tion to liquor by the drink and started "Citizens Against Open Bars and Liquor By the Drink," said after the meeting that he will continue to rally support against liquor by the drink.

"Madame chairman Jean Hodges affirmed the direction of every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ Tuesday night at the county commissioners meeting, as she herself shared with me her belief that I should go tell the people of my heartfelt belief, which is that liquor by the drink should be kept out of Hoke County," Morales said.

Other business

The board approved the names for the initial committee members to research the county curfew issue.

Bratcher will represent the board; Chief Detective Wayne Gardner will represent the sheriff's department; Peggy Owens, county schools health education coordinator, will represent the schools; Jan Dial Smith will represent the juvenile courts; the Rev. Tony B. Hunt, Harold Smith and Shelton McCall will represent the South Hoke community. Rev. Hunt proposed the curfew for his community last year.

At the last board meeting, the commissioners voted to create a committee to research a county-wide curfew.

Leach suggested other communities should be represented on the committee, so the board decided to invite representatives from other community watch programs to attend and then expand the committee as necessary.

The board also approved waiving tax penalties found in this year's audit. Fifty-one of the 70 scheduled audits have been completed. During the audit, 25 had no discoveries, while 26 had discoveries.

The board also approved funding and additional \$1,500 for the new jail project.

According to a letter from County Manager Mike Wood, the contractors need to remove some concrete obstructions from the original jail.

A joint public hearing with the planning board on the Land Use and Transportation Plan is tentatively scheduled for March 10 at 7:30 p.m. The commissioners will not have a meeting March 3 because they will be out of town.

The board also approved a petition from residents on Spring Pine Road for maintenance on the street.

Sheriff, marshal investigate fire

By Nicole Gabriel
Staff writer

Fire and sheriff's officials are investigating a case of arson and breaking and entering that occurred in a trailer in Raeford Sunday afternoon.

According to sheriff's reports, the suspect used a prytool to break in to the back door of the trailer on Gatlin Farm Road, which belonged to Richard Doktor III.

Fire Marshal Mitchell Byrd said the suspect entered a bedroom and started the bed on fire. Byrd said the suspect closed the bedroom door as he was leaving, which caused the fire to die out before it could spread to other parts of the trailer.

Tylertown Fire Department responded to the fire. Doktor was not home at the time, but was in Florida.

Byrd said the bedroom and other

parts of the trailer sustained smoke and heat damage, which, according to the sheriff's report, was estimated at \$10,000. Damages to the rear door are estimated at \$200.

Officials could not determine if anything was missing from the trailer. Byrd said Doktor will have to determine that when he returns home.

Neither the sheriff's nor the fire departments have any suspects at this time.

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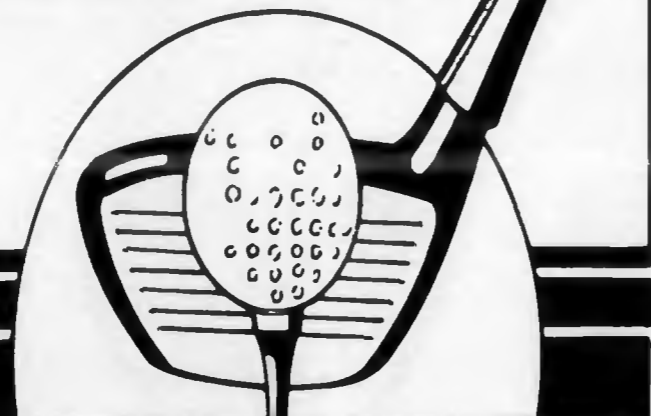
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