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Liberty Street "Strip," scene of last week's shooting. Parking lot is where concerts are held.

Assault Charges Sought In Liberty St. Shooting

by Robert Eller
Chronicle Staff Reporter

Conspiracy to commit murder and assault with a deadly weapon charges are being sought against J.T. Thompson of the Winston-Salem Police Department in a shooting last Tuesday night on North Liberty Street here.

Nelson Malloy, head of the local Black Panther Party said in an interview earlier this week, "the community wants Thompson charged with

conspiracy to commit murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. We won't rest until justice is done."

Malloy said he has handwritten statements from a number of people who witnessed the shooting.

Anthony L. Smoak, 26, of 1623 E. 23rd Street was wounded in the chest and arm during a disturbance on North Liberty Street Tuesday night August 12.

Winston-Salem Police Chief T.A. Surratt appeared before the Board of Aldermen Monday night and reported the findings of an extensive investigation to the board. The investigation's findings contend that Thompson did not shoot Smoak.

At the meeting Surratt said the mood of the area he called a place of abuses and vices had made "preservation of constitutional rights extremely dangerous up there." (on Liberty Street).

He also stated that

conditions on North Liberty Street have reached the point "where the participants are waiving their constitutional rights."

Malloy criticized Surratt's remarks to the Aldermen. He said Surratt was saying the situation on Liberty Street is one of anarchy. He is saying people who congregate on Liberty Street must waive their constitutional rights. He is saying the police will move in a military fashion even though no police officers were seriously injured. What he is saying is that the police will kill people. Witnesses said the trouble on Liberty Street started about 12:00 on the night of August 12. A fight broke out near Gilmore's funeral home between a young boy and girl.

The Winston-Salem Police Department received an anonymous phone call of trouble in the area and responded. Witnesses said uniformed officers had the

See ASSAULT Page 6

Joan Little Pledges Support For Wilson And Reform

by Robert Eller
Chronicle Staff Reporter

Joan Little returned to Winston-Salem August 18 to pledge her support in the appeal of a young black man who was recently sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of raping a white woman.

At a news conference held at the Black Panther Headquarters Miss Little said she will support William Christopher Wilson, 24, in his appeal to the North Carolina court of appeals. Wilson, a Mocksville native, was convicted July 31

of second degree rape and first degree burglary. He was found guilty of entering the home of Reba Wilson in Clemmons on November 5, 1974 and raping her.

Wilson's wife, who was present at the news conference along with his 18 month-old son, and his mother both gave testimony in the trial accounting for Wilson's whereabouts at the approximate time of the crimes. However, Wilson was convicted by a jury of 11 whites and 1 black after the victim identified Wilson as the

assailant. An earlier trial in Forsyth County ended in a hung jury.

At the conference, Miss Little said justice in North Carolina is a "dual system" designed to "convict black people."

See LITTLE Page 10

Street Concerts Blamed

Businesses Organize

The only conflict on Liberty Street's "strip" this past week has not been between those who say officer J.T.



Johnny X

"...stop concerts"

Thompson shot Anthony Smoak and those who say he was shot by a sniper.

Another matter of heated discussion centers around the concerts that have been held in the parking lot between the Dungeon Club and the Big "D" Lounge this summer. The concerts have been sponsored by the Dungeon Club's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Johnny X, operator of the Big "D" Lounge, said in an interview this week that the outside concerts are to blame for the trouble on "the strip" this summer. Mr. X said, "the concerts caused the problems because of the congestion of the area."

He said he has formed a committee of businessmen in the area who will try to get together and work the trouble out. This week it was learned that petitions are being circulated to stop the concerts from continuing.

Howard Wiley, Director of the Dungeon Club's Summer Youth Employment Program, disagrees with X. "Many people say our concert was the cause of the trouble here this week," Wiley said. But this is not true."

"The people who say this are trying to use this as an excuse to condemn the Summer Youth Program and discredit Rodney (Sumler). See BLAME Page 5

Bicentennial Not for White Only, Dir. Says

Many black citizens, both locally and throughout the nation, have recently questioned the significance of the nation's 200th birthday as it relates to them. The attitude has been one of apathy and a feeling of being "left out." Many black citizens have even voiced contempt to what they say is "the 200th birthday of slavery."

However, efforts here to include blacks into every phase of the nation's year-long birthday celebration have been sincere and concerted, according to the chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Bicentennial Commission.

"We have tried very hard to include everyone" said Mrs. See BICENTENNIAL Page 8

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