

# The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1964



FATAL AUTO--James Ronald Threatt, 20-year-old Raeford youth, died in the wreckage of this car last Friday night on Five Points Road seven miles west of Raeford. The car was driven by Billy Howard Barefoot, 20, of Raeford Rt. 1. Barefoot and another passenger, Billy A. Baker, 21, of Raeford Rt. 1, were seriously injured. They are being treated at Moore Memorial Hospital.

## Two Youths High Speed Wreck Are Charged In Break-In Kills 1 Injures 3

Two Negro youths have been charged with breaking and entering and damage to property in connection with the ransacking of an occupied house on Red Springs Rt. 3.

Sheriff's deputies said they were called to the house, owned by Mrs. Hector McNeill, Sunday afternoon.

The complaint was lodged by Franklin McNeill, who said he visited the house Sunday afternoon and found Johnny Chambers, 16, and another Negro ransacking the place.

Officers J. R. Lee and Alex Norton said the house was in a shambles. Lamps, flower pots, vases, antique picture frames and furniture were broken and scattered on the floor. They estimated damage at \$450.

Judge Harry Greene heard evidence against Chambers at Tuesday's session of Recorder's Court but delayed sentencing until he can confer further with a probation officer.

The second youth, who is less than 16 years of age, will be tried in Juvenile Court.

## CD Office Bid Rejected

The Hoke County Board of Education, meeting Monday night, rejected a proposal to make room in the Board of Education Building for the Civil Defense office.

At Monday morning's meeting, the county commissioners voted to allow Alfred Cole, civil defense director, to use an office in the education building, which they understood was vacant, provided the board of education approved. Cole asked for the privilege after being advised by the state CD director's office that he should separate his office and his communications center.

The board of education pointed out, however, that there is no vacant room in the building. The office referred to has been utilized as a library for visual aid and other special equipment.

W. T. Gibson, school superintendent, said they didn't want to appear selfish but there was no other place to store the equipment. "We have a storage room for textbooks," Mrs. Tom Cameron said, "but most of the time it is so full we don't have room to walk around in there."

In other business the school board elected Mrs. Anne Hostetler to teach at the high school for Mrs. J. C. McLean, who has been ill since January. Mrs. McLean expects to be back in her classroom in April. Gibson reported that the county commissioners had given him the go ahead on two new classrooms for Hawkeye School and that the work will be done by the maintenance crew to save expenses. They will begin construction as soon as possible, he said.

A young Raeford man was killed Friday night when two cars, allegedly traveling at top speed, crashed into a ditch on Five Points Road seven miles west of here.

James Ronald Threatt, 20, of 414 W. Sixth Avenue was dead on arrival at Moore Memorial Hospital. He reportedly suffered a concussion and a broken neck.

Threatt was a passenger in a car driven by Billy Howard Barefoot, 20, of Raeford, Rt. 1, Barefoot and another passenger, Billy A. Baker, 21, also of Raeford Rt. 1, both received serious injuries and are being treated at Moore Memorial Hospital.

Driver of the second auto was Ronnie Lee Baker, 19, of 804 Fulton Street. He was admitted to the hospital for treatment of less serious injuries.

State Highway Patrolman W. T. Herbin, investigating officer, said the two cars crashed separately about 8:30 p. m.

He said Ronnie Baker told him they left Raeford, one car following the other, and "were doing about 65 or 70 miles an hour" when they slowed to turn onto Five Points Road.

"Baker and Barefoot both said they then opened their cars wide open until they went into the curve and crashed," Herbin said.

He said both men told him they thought they were driving on an adjacent road known as "Timberland Straightaway," and that was the reason they hit the curve unexpectedly.

"It's easy to mistake the two roads at night, driving like they were," Herbin explained. "The 'Straightaway' is the drag strip in Hoke County, and I imagine that's the road they really meant to be on."

Herbin said both drivers denied they were racing and stated they were just out "riding and following each other."

Ronnie Baker's car skidded

271 yards back and forth across the highway before winding up in a ditch. The Barefoot vehicle skidded some 201 yards, went off the right side of the road and overturned four or five times.

Herbin said both drivers have been charged with careless and reckless driving. He said further charges are pending the outcome of an inquest, which Coroner Frank Crumpler said will be held, probably next week.

Funeral services for Threatt were held Monday afternoon at Evangelical Methodist Church, with the Rev. E. L. Melvin officiating. Burial was in Raeford Cemetery.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Russell Threatt; four sisters, Mrs. Billy Barefoot of Raeford Rt. 1, and Jean, Sharon and Linda Threatt of the home; one brother, Jerry Threatt of the U. S. Army; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Thomas of Rockingham; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Threatt of Rockingham, and a great-grandmother, Mrs. Ella Dees of Rockingham.

## Revaluation Move Begun

Wheels are now in motion for the revaluation of real property in Hoke County.

T. B. Lester, county auditor, produced basic revaluation data Monday at the county commissioners meeting. It will be submitted this spring to appraisers who will submit bids for the job.

All property in the 414 square miles of Hoke County was appraised about seven years ago but the law says it must be done

See REVALUATION Page 9

## SURVEY ORDERED Town Eyes Suburbs; May Seek Annexation

### Residents Will Be Consulted

Town officials will take a long look at outlying residential areas with an eye toward annexing them.

The town board Monday night appointed a three-man committee to survey thickly populated areas on the fringe of town. The committee will report to the board at its April meeting.

Named to the committee were J. D. McMillian and Fred Culbreth, town commissioners, and Ed Williams, town manager.

They were directed to determine the feasibility of annexing certain heavily populated residential areas, paying particular attention to the cost to the town and the cost to the property owners involved.

Williams said later this week the group will attempt in every case to determine the desires of property owners. "We are not going to try to force an annexation upon anybody," Williams said.

Raeford has not had an annexation since the town was chartered in 1901. The town limits encompass an area one and one-half miles square.

No general extension of the town limits is planned, Williams said. Annexation, if attempted, will be confined to specific areas in which annexation might be mutually beneficial.

Williams pointed out that suburban property owners might come out better financially by being annexed. Their current exemption from town taxes is offset by higher water rates, garbage collection fees and water tap-on fees.

Annexed areas also would receive the benefit of police and fire protection, plus reduced fire insurance rates, Williams said.

Williams said he is uncertain how the town would go about annexing outlying areas.

"I don't know offhand what the charter specifies -- whether the town can annex on its own motion, by vote of the people, or by petition," he said.

Meanwhile, the town board also discussed a letter from an Atlanta architectural firm which would like to discuss a low-cost housing development for Raeford.

See ANNEXATION Page 9



CHAMPS--These young basketball players, who call themselves The Ephesians, are current champions of the Church Basketball League. They are, left to right: Front row, David Matherly, Elliott Sullivan, Tom Howell, Gary McLamb,

Richard Rhodes; back row, Coach Benny McLeod, Edward Long, Don Norton, Donny Rose, Robert Dickson and Jeff McNeill.

## Hoke County Man Is Held In Jail On Bigamy Charge

A Hoke County man was bound over to Superior Court here Tuesday on charges of bigamy and bigamous cohabitation and was placed under \$2,000 bond.

Daniel Ray Thomas, 38 of Aberdeen Rt. 1 is alleged to have married Juanita Lester of Aberdeen Rt. 1 while still married to another woman.

Sheriff Dave Barrington said his investigation revealed Thomas and Miss Lester were married February 24 in Chesterfield, S. C. He said Miss Lester presented a marriage certificate attesting to that fact.

The complaint was lodged against Thomas by Dorothy Lee Thomas of Sanford, who told Sheriff Barrington she was married to Thomas in April, 1963. He said she, too, produced a marriage certificate.

At preliminary hearing before Judge Harry Greene Tuesday, Thomas entered a plea of guilty to the two charges. Bond was set at \$1,000 in each case. He has failed to post bail and is in Hoke County jail.

Thomas is scheduled to be tried in the April term of Hoke Superior Court.

In other Recorder's Court action, the following decisions were made:

George Marion, Red Springs Rt. 3, was bound over to Superior Court on charges of a worthless check in the amount of \$9.70. His bond was set at \$1,000. A check for \$10 also was sent to the higher court under \$1,000 bond.

Lawrence Harold Britt of Raeford was convicted of driving a car drunk. He was given

six months suspended upon payment of \$100 and costs and loss of his driver's license for one year. Britt appealed to Superior Court under \$200 bond.

Preliminary hearing was held for Willie Graham of Raeford Rt. 3 on charges of felonious assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious pain and injury not resulting in death.

Probable cause was found and Graham was bound to Superior Court under \$5,000 bond.

Grover Wilson Gaddy of Wagram Rt. 1 was convicted of reckless driving and given six months suspended upon payment of \$50 and costs. He appealed to Superior Court under \$150 bond.

Other decisions handed down by Judge Greene included: Joe Alexander Wilson, Raeford. See BIGAMY Page 9

## Court Set Two Days Each Week

Beginning next week, Hoke County Recorder's Court will be in session two days instead of one.

General misdemeanor cases will be tried on Tuesday. Traffic cases will be heard on Wednesday.

County commissioners approved the change this week at the suggestion of Judge Harry Greene and Solicitor Bill Moses.

Judge Greene made the announcement Tuesday morning, saying that traffic cases would be heard Tuesdays and other misdemeanors Wednesdays. Later in the day, the judge reversed the order, moving traffic cases up to Wednesdays. Court will begin at 9:30 a. m. both days.

"For the past several months this court has been congested with traffic, domestic relations and other misdemeanors," Judge Greene said. "We now have a docket that cannot be cleared in one day."

Moses explained that Hoke Recorder's Court operates under Article 25, which stipulates that recorder's courts shall be called into session at least one day each week and shall continue in session until the business of the court has been

See COURT Page 9

## Quilt Turned Into Blankets

Did you ever hear of a quilt turning into a blanket? Well, women of the Raeford Senior Citizens Club turned one quilt into four blankets.

It was done like this: The club adopted as a project the making of a pleated bed quilt just like old time ones. It was to be given to some needy cause.

After a quilting party which lasted two days the women came up with a piece of warm and colorful bed cover. A local resident, hearing of its beauty, wanted to buy it for a covered.

When the senior citizens learned they could sell it for enough to purchase four blankets they made the sale. Now they can be of service in four needy cases instead of one.

## WELFARE SITUATION PROBED

## Commissioners Vote An End To Handout Of Free Food

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

The surplus food program in Hoke County must go. There will soon be enough farm work for everyone and a man should work for the bread he eats.

That is the contention of Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

What to do about the whole welfare situation seemed to be a mutual problem of the county board and the county welfare department at Monday's commissioners meeting. The welfare department was in favor of continuing the handouts, but the commissioners, after lengthy discussion, squashed the plan.

According to Mrs. C. H. Giles, county welfare superintendent, more and greater demands are being made on the welfare department from every angle. The number streaming steadily down the halls of the county office building to Mrs. Giles' office increases weekly. Hospitals and doctors treating Hoke's indigent patients are pushing the department harder and harder for pay.

A recent bill sent to the county from Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill for a young Hoke woman, a minor, listed a new price of \$38 a day for room, to say nothing of doctor's and laboratory expenses racked up during the 10 days of confinement there.

The girl was a daughter of able-bodied parents. This case, together with another involving a young man, started the argumentative ball rolling.

A huge hospital bill had been sent from a Fayetteville hospital for a young man whose father, with whom he still lives, owns his home.

The commissioners, almost in unison, asked why the hospital didn't collect from the patient's family.

"We can't pay hospital bills for all who do not have the cash to pay it themselves," Commissioner Harold Gillis said.

Mrs. Giles said hospital doctors were worse about trying to collect their money than were the hospitals.

She revealed that she had been collecting what she could from the patients by telling them that if they would get up a certain amount, usually a small percentage, the county would pay the rest. She was told Monday that it wasn't her place to do any collecting. She said if she didn't it would cost the county more, "because unless the bills were paid, hospitals would refuse to admit indigent patients from Hoke."

She was questioned as to why the county had been paying a hospital bill for any patient who was not an eligible welfare case. She replied that there were always emergency cases among the jobless and the only way for them to gain admittance in a hospital was for the county to certify them.

Gillis commented "The welfare door has been opened and it swings wider and wider." Mrs. Giles agreed that there seemed to be no stopping place. Every case seems urgent, though, she asserted.

Two farmers on the board, Commissioner J. H. Blue and board chairman J. E. Shankle charged that it is impossible to get a day's work done by a person who is being helped by the welfare department.

Mrs. Giles admitted that she recently tried to get a Negro woman to take a maid's job in two different homes here. The woman refused both jobs, saying she would not be making as much as the welfare department is paying her.

Mrs. Giles told of another case in which a recipient indignantly told a field worker that she was eligible to get welfare aid regardless of whether she had a television set and the field worker was dared to do anything about it.

Commissioner A. S. Smith said he thought Mrs. Giles was "doing the best she could, and we should stick by her."

He also stated that most of the county people he had talked

with had been in favor of the surplus food program, but not as a year-around thing. Mrs. Giles assured the men that she didn't believe there was a one of the 869 families averaging about 12 children each, who hadn't needed the help.

She argued that the program was intended to help people so they can have clothes and other things they haven't had before. Shankle said, "We are taking bread from one mouth and feeding another. Small grocermen are complaining that their business has been off 40 per cent since the first of the free food was handed out in December."

Mrs. Giles, in making a last plug for the recipients of the surplus food, asked what she was going to do about those who were legitimately eligible for welfare. It was suggested that they be given food certificates the same way as before the surplus food program began.

The staple groceries, shipped here in carload lots, is given to the county without cost by the federal government. Commissioner J. S. Webb remained silent during most of the discussion as did Clifton C. Conoly, chairman of the welfare board, who accompanied Mrs. Giles.

Webb did say, however, that he thought April was too early to cut off the free food. Mrs. Giles agreed, saying that if there is no work until the middle of April, the farmers will stand by and see laborers suffer.

Blue said his workers are tenants and can get credit by then. This is not the case in many instances. Most farmers run their farms the way Chairman Shankle does, using day laborers who can expect grocery money only after putting in a day's work.

Blue made the motion that the program be stopped March 31. Gillis seconded it. Smith voted in. Webb abstained.