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The first crucial minutes

Rescue Squad member Mark Posey (center), Emergency Medical Technician Calvin Bishop (right) and Upchurch Jr. High Principal Allen Edwards attend to the needs of a victim of an

automobile accident last Tuesday. The wreck occurred on Burlington Road and involved a school bus. The victim was hospitalized.

(Photo by Pam Frederick)

Hoke history teacher center of porn probe

By Ed Miller

Law enforcement authorities were apparently centering an investigation of local child pornography around Robert Taylor, shortly before the Hoke High history teacher shot himself last Thursday.

Taylor, 38, who was a member of the Hoke County Department of Social Services board of directors and a former member of the Raeford Housing Authority, was "under investigation for what appeared to be violations of obscenity laws," Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said.

Although other adults may be involved, a further investigation will not be conducted into the use of local youths in the pornography business, Barrington said Tuesday.

The case will be closed out "unless something else comes up," the sheriff said.

According to authorities the investigation began when local police received a report from Los Angeles, California containing photographs depicting a 14-year-old Indian male, naked, on the back of a truck.

The truck was linked to Taylor after the first three letters on the license plate were identified from the photographs, authorities say.

A subsequent search of Taylor's South Hoke home turned up numerous other photographs and

material which involved local youths and at least one other local adult, authorities say.

A brown, white and orange afghan which appeared in some of the photos, was also tied to Taylor. That cover, along with other items, were found when sheriff's deputies searched the history teacher's home and car the day before he shot himself in the heart.

According to authorities, the allegedly pornographic photographs had fallen into the hands of a California anti-pornography task force when a developing company had refused to process the pictures of a male that looked too young to be 18-years old.

Taylor allegedly had a mailbox, under a fictitious name, through which he sold photographs to publishing companies, authorities said.

According to a search warrant issued by Magistrate E.G. Inman, Sheriff Barrington and Deputy Weaver Patterson performed a search of Taylor's residence on May 16 and confiscated the following items: seven mildly pornographic magazines (of the newsstand variety), 10 return letters from magazine companies, a padlocked tan metal box and some photography equipment.

Taylor was found dead the next morning at the Jaycee Hut in South Hoke. He had helped raise the funds to build the structure.

The warrant was issued pending charges of "lewd and lascivious pictures of a minor" and other persons that may have been minors at the time the pictures were taken.

After the box was discovered in the trunk of the Taylor's car, the history teacher told authorities he had left the key to the box at school. He was to deliver it to Barrington on Thursday at 4 p.m.

Taylor was found dead around 11:50 a.m. on Thursday.

Taylor had told officers that the box contained sporting equipment; however, when the box was opened after his death, it was found to contain three pornographic magazines, 237 color slides, 623 photographs and 52 pornographic playing cards, the search warrant says.

Attached to the warrant in the Clerk of Courts office was a court order signed by Judge Warren Pate ordering that the name of the minor child who co-operated with sheriff's deputies be stricken from all court records.

In addition to serving on the social services board and the housing authority, Taylor was the former president of the Hoke County Jaycees and chairman of Indian Education Association in Hoke County. He coached the freshman girls softball team and the IEA RoadRunners distance runners.

Students are 'key' to satellite college unit

By Ed Miller

Hoke County will need a minimum of four to eight classrooms and "substantial" number of students enrolled in order to get a college satellite operating in Raeford by the fall, a spokesman for Sandhill Community College said Monday.

Sandhills Vice-President George Lewis said that the Southern Pines college is "clearly committed to serving the people of Hoke County," but that "the people need to

realize that courses can only be offered if there is enough enrollment to justify them."

A recent poll sponsored by the college and the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce showed that there are at least 1,500 county residents that would be interested in taking classes here if they were offered.

The schools facilities have been the center of efforts to get the college satellite in the county, but according to Lewis, the enrollment to

support the courses is more important.

In a report issued by architects Hayes, Howell and Associates, costs of putting the facility in either the old Bank of Raeford building on Main Street or old National Guard Armory building would run between \$150,000 to \$180,000 initially.

The firm was probably using a figure of \$30 to \$35 per square foot in calculating the costs, Lewis said,

noting that many additions had to be made to those figures to meet state and federal classroom regulations.

"A lot of expense comes from having to meet codes," Lewis said, adding that fire and handicapped regulations are strict.

"Many specific items had to be added to the base costs," he said.

Lewis pointed out that a less expensive alternative may be a preconstructed new building such

as a Butler Building to house the classes.

"I would guess that a new building like we have here on campus would run between \$55 and \$70 per square," he said.

Those figures are higher than those estimated for the construction on the existing buildings but his quoted figures are for a new brick buildings.

Lewis also said that Sandhills had started in a few buildings in downtown Southern Pines.

There was a classroom over a store, some of the administration offices were in abandoned stores, and the vocational shop was in a garage, he said.

Lewis said that Sandhills has been responding to the people of Hoke County.

If the satellite gets started here, and enough people become interested in attending, Lewis said that "gradually, we would offer as many (courses) as the people want."

Around Town

By Sam Morris

We need rain but it doesn't seem to be in the forecast. It seems summer has arrived early.

Be sure to attend the basketball game Friday night at the MacDonald Gym that starts at 8:00 o'clock. It will be between the ACC All Stars and a group of local players.

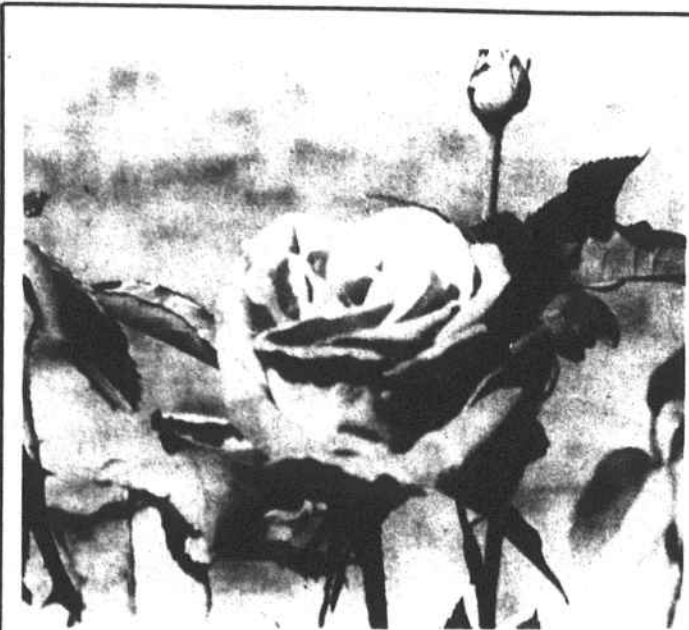
Many of the Carolina players will be playing including Michael Jordan, the college basketball Player of the Year in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Lancaster, Bill and Mary Ruth, spent from April 28 to May 12 in Barranquilla, Columbia, S.A. with a group of Baptist Church people helping with the mission work there. They report that the population of the city was about 1 1/2 million. The temperature was about 74 degrees at night and 84 degrees during the day. They also reported just a few drops of rain fell while in the country.

The following report is from the Lancasters:

"From the beginning of Baptist work in Columbia, S.A., it was felt that a medical ministry would open many doors and hearts to the gospel. Barranquilla (Barran-keh-yah) was chosen for the location of a hospital since it seemed to be the area of greatest need. Recently, a 3 story addition was begun that would serve as offices for the missionary, Chaplain and administrator, plus rest rooms, and

(See AROUND, page 2A)



Soon gone but not forgotten

The rose shown here was at its peak blooming stage about two days before the photograph was taken, but the beauty and wonderful color of this rose season will be over.

Service station operator nabbed in break-in

By Ed Miller

A Raeford service station operator was arrested last week and charged with breaking into a downtown business.

Raeford Police reports show that at about 12:25 a.m. last Friday, officers on patrol heard noises in an alley on the east side of town.

Upon investigation, they discovered that Candle Stick Crafts, on Elwood Street, had been broken into.

A subject was reportedly found in the alley with merchandise from that store in his possession.

Barry Lynn Nixon, of Raeford, was arrested and charged with breaking and entering and larceny, trespassing and carrying a concealed weapon.

Nixon is out of jail awaiting trial.

On the same night, police reports show that the Southern Restaurant was broken into and a small amount of money was taken

along with two phone books and some charge account books.

This matter is under investigation.

Break-ins continued to plague Hoke County residents last week, sheriff's reports show.

James Lewis Blue discovered that his home had been broken into and clothes and valuables were gone.

Last Thursday, Blue reported that his Raeford residence was broken into and almost \$2,000 in

food, appliances and clothing was taken.

Blue reported missing a color television, a 35mm camera, five leather coats belonging to both he and his wife, a watch, two Hoke High School class rings, a wedding band, an onyx ring and \$300 in cash after the reported robbery.

There was also \$80 in damage reportedly done to the house.

The investigation into this matter is continuing.

(See SERVICE, page 2A)

Three charged with abduction; given stiff prison sentences

By Ed Miller

Two men and a woman were sentenced last week in Hoke County Superior Court to spend a total of 68 years in jail after they were convicted of charges stemming from the rape, robbery and kidnapping of a Davis Bridge convenience store clerk.

Anthony Johnson, of Rex, was sentenced to 40 years after he plead guilty to charges of second degree rape, robbery with a dangerous weapon and first degree kidnapping.

The 23-year-old man was arrested on March 26 and has been in the Hoke County Jail since awaiting trial.

Co-defendants, Jimmie Sinclair and Daphne Childers Boyd each received active sentences of 14 years for their roles in the March crime.

They were charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon.

All three defendants were ordered by the court to pay \$36 in restitution to Little Thrift Food

Marts and \$250 restitution to the victim.

Boyd was also made to pay \$500 for her court appointed lawyer.

Charges were brought against the three following a one-week investigation into the robbery of the convenience store after which the victim was found partially clothed on a deserted rural dirt road.

Hoke County Sheriff, Dave Barrington said earlier that "a trace" placed on money orders taken during the robbery had helped the department catch the suspects.

A clerk in the St. Pauls store where the money orders had been cashed had recognized suspects Boyd, of Raeford, and Sinclair, of St Pauls, as they were trying to buy tires, Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell testified during the trial.

Powell read an earlier statement made by Johnson, in which the defendant said the three had been drinking the night of the robbery and that they had planned to "go out" later in the evening.

The statement said that Johnson had no money and that, as a joke, Boyd suggested that they rob the Short Stop as it usually had only one person in it.

There was only a woman working at the store so Johnson, donning a stocking mask and gloves,

(See DEFENDANTS, page 2A)

Inside Today



What's left of a gift.

This stone bench, donated to Flora Macdonald by the class of 1920 was almost destroyed by the tornadoes that hit Red Springs and the school during March. We examine the damage done to Flora Macdonald Academy and what efforts are being made to get the school going again on page one of this week's B section in The News-Journal.