

Harnett County News

News & Advertising
Deadline: Monday Noon

Published Continuously Since 1919

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1979

TWENTY CENTS

State Trooper Indicted in Murder of Wife

State Trooper Hollis H. Britt of Lillington was freed from \$15,000 bond awaiting arraignment on charges of second degree murder in the slaying Thursday of his pretty young wife, Mrs. Marian Stewart Britt.

Soon after the indictment was returned, Sheriff Rosser and Sgt. J.E. Byrd of the highway patrol went to the home and asked Britt to surrender himself. He did so promptly. Sheriff Rosser read the murder warrant to Britt, who was held under arrest but not jailed until bond was secured. Trooper Britt appeared later before Magistrate Claiborne Holder and posted bond.

Sergeant Byrd immediately suspended Britt without pay from the patrol. District Attorney John Twisdale, who sent the bill of indictment to the grand jury and has taken personal charge of the prosecution, said the officer would be formally arraigned Monday morning in Harnett Superior Court. A date for the trial will be set at that time. Indictment of Britt followed intensive round-the-clock in-

vestigation by agents of the State Bureau of Investigation and Harnett deputies. Newsmen suspected an indictment would follow after three days went by without any statement or decision absolving the trooper of blame in his wife's death. According to reports, she was shot to death with his pistol as she lay helpless in bed. An argument reportedly ensued after the couple had returned from a barbecue for

highway patrolmen at Buffalo Lake early in the evening. Trooper Britt summoned the rescue squad shortly after midnight and told them his wife had been wounded. District Attorney Twisdale declined comment on the case today except to say, "The grand jury action speaks for itself." Testifying before the grand jury were Harnett Sheriff's Detectives John Atkins and William Strickland, who repor-

tedly secured two statements from Britt concerning the shooting, Mr. Atkins and Mr. Strickland headed the sheriff's investigation. Also testifying before the grand jury were Miss Kaye Long and Terry Turbeville, both SBI agents. Little information was learned concerning the probe except that Sheriff Lewis Rosser said the most thorough and most intensive investigation possible had been conducted from the

moment his staff was called into the case. "We haven't left any stone unturned," he said. It was learned that various tests included the paraffin test to determine whether Britt or the victim had suffered powder burns. Scores of photographs were taken at the scene. Mrs. Britt was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neill Alex (Speedy) Stewart, popular residents of Lillington and members of a family long

prominent in Harnett politics and other affairs. Even after the grand jury indictment today, authorities were still reluctant to give out much information regarding their investigation. David Watkins signed Britt's bond yesterday so he could be released, but came off the bond this morning. The bond was taken over by Robert Sutton of near Lumberton, from the community in which Trooper Britt originally lived.

around town

by Steve Plummer

O'QUINN FAMILY REUNION

A family reunion for the O'Quinns will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church in Mamers. Family members and friends are urged to attend and bring a picnic lunch.

AMERICAN LEGION MEET

Post 28 of the American Legion will meet Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion hut. Commander Russell Thomas urges all members to attend.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

There's lots of activities planned for Halloween in the area, what with the Lillington Kiwanis Club's haunted house this week, the haunted house by Spring Hill Methodist Church and the carnival at Angier Middle School next week.

Well, we've gotten word this week of two more festivals planned for the spook's holiday.

Lillington Middle School will conduct a carnival Halloween night (Wednesday, Oct. 31) from 6:30-9 p.m. Admission is 25 cents in advance and 50 cents at the door. Games, food and fun are guaranteed, according to the people there.

Also, Shawtown will also be sponsoring a carnival this week on Friday from 6-9 p.m. Admission is 75 cents for adults, 50 cents for students in the fourth grade and older. Shawtown students get in free.

Games, cakewalks, costume parades, hot dogs and bingo featuring gifts donated by Lillington merchants will headline the activities there.

Now you know of everything going on in the area, so if you are bored anytime this week or next, it's your own fault.

SENIOR CITIZENS BAZAAR

The Anna Ferrell Senior Citizens Club of Buies Creek will conduct a bazaar Wednesday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Buies Creek Fire Department.

Gifts, toys, novelties, food and fun will be readily available. According to one spokesperson, "If you need it, we have it; if you want it, we can supply it." Nuff said.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

The Red Cross bloodmobile enjoyed a productive visit last week at Harnett Central High School in a visit sponsored by the school's Health Occupations class.

The group had 93 prospective donors appear with 16 deferred for various reasons, making a total of 77 productive donors. This more than matches most appearances made by the Red Cross in Lillington. That's something to think about, when one school can out-produce an entire town.

Of the donors at Central, 49 were first-time donors. A one-gallon pin was presented to head football coach Phil Ferrell and a three-gallon pin was presented to Earl Gray. These two men deserve to be commended for their long-time support of this organization.

The bloodmobile appeared at Western Harnett Tuesday in a visit sponsored by the bio-med class there. Reports on that visit will appear in next week's edition.

GOING TO WASHINGTON

We've gotten wind of a few political notes that should be of interest to the folks in the area.

One of the most faithful Democrats in Lillington, attorney Neill Mck. Ross, accompanied his friend, Fred Byerly of Dunn, to Washington Wednesday for a White House briefing on the SALT II treaty. The men will be guests of President Carter at a reception.

About 100 North Carolinians are invited to the series of briefings being held by the president.

Senator Robert Morgan will entertain them at a noon luncheon at the Capitol. The men will be briefed by National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and then by the president.

In some other news, North Carolina's two senators recently celebrated birthdays in D.C. in fine, down-home style, with some good, down-home sausage.

Our sister paper, The Daily Record, reports that Morgan who turned 54 Oct. 5, was honored by his staff with a breakfast in the elegant Senate dining room. Carroll Leggett of Buies Creek, top aide to the senator, bought some sausage from Robert Johnson of Lillington and had the dining room chef prepare it for the occasion.

Senator Jesse Helms, who turned 58 Oct. 18, had been invited, but was tied up elsewhere. Clint Fuller, top aide to Helms, was also a special guest and he reported that the sausage was "just great." By the way, Helms was also honored with a party and Morgan and some of his staff members attended.

Educational Scholarship Fund Set

An educational scholarship for Melissa Diane Pleasant is being set up at the Lillington United Methodist Church in response to the request of friends of the Nell Stewart family.

A check can be made out to the Lillington United Methodist church and indicate on the check for MELISSA DIANE PLEASANT SCHOLARSHIP.

SHIP FUND. The donor will receive a letter from the church acknowledging receipt of the donation. A letter will also be sent to the Stewart family informing them of the memorial gift.

The fund will be deposited at Southern National Bank. Nicky Stewart, uncle of Melissa, has been appointed administrator of the Fund.



SUMMER MIGRANT TEACHERS recognized at a recent North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) meeting at Harnett Central High School are, front row, 1-r; Frances Gilchrist, Mary Tew, Cindy McLamb, Pam Godwin, Terry Jones, Susan Byerly and Denise Knight. Back row, 1-r; Mildred Lanier, Judy Campbell, Joan Taylor, Reuben

McNeill and Harriett McCarrell. The Harnett County migrant program won the first award of excellence in the education of migrant children. The award was presented to Mrs. Harriett McCarrell, director of the program for Harnett County, by Gov. James B. Hunt during a recent ceremony in Raleigh. (Photo by Lorraine Mize).

Baptist Convention Set

The Rev. Troy C. Bennett, Southern Baptist Missionary to Zambia, will be the featured inspirational speaker Monday in the first session of the 104th annual meeting of Little River Baptist Association, beginning at 7 p.m. with the Hillmon Grove Baptist Church on Rt. 2, Cameron.

Following reports by association leaders and a message by Charles Hodges of Thomasville, editor of Charity and Children, the program will feature "Bold Missions and the Local Church," at which time local church leaders will share their personal involvement in outreach ministries in New York, to migrants, to Guadeloupe, to campers, to refugees and to world hunger. The closing session's message will be brought by the Rev. Bennett.

The sessions will continue with the Dunn First Baptist Church on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Following reports of agencies and institutions by associational leaders, special music will be presented by the Campbell University choir.

The annual sermon will be preached by Rev. Collie Rock.

Erwin First Baptist Church pastor. Lunch will be served by the host church at 11:55 a.m. The afternoon session at 1 p.m. Tuesday will feature additional reports and the closing keynote message by Dr. Jerry Wallace, chairman of the Religion Department at Campbell University. The session will adjourn at 2:40 p.m. Officers of the association are George C. Mitchell, Dunn.

Continued on page 9



REV. TROY BENNETT

CU Missionary Speaking Here

The Rev. Troy Bennett, missionary in residence at Campbell University, will speak at the Lillington Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m.

The service will also be broadcast on local radio station WLLN.

The Rev. Mr. Bennett is currently assigned to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia, where he is principal.

Since his appointment as a missionary, he has served in Magura, Bangladesh; the Arabian Peninsula and Beirut, Lebanon; Dacca, Comilla and Faridpur, Bangladesh.

He has been treasurer and chairman of the Bangladesh Mission, an organization of Southern Baptist missionaries. He has also served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Fayetteville and Chatham Road Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, as well as interim positions in several other North Carolina churches.

A graduate of Wake Forest University and the Southeastern

Continued on page 9

Frightening House Set

A genuinely frightening experience is in store for all visitors to the Lillington Kiwanis Club's haunted house this week and a suitable warning is being considered by the club.

"We thought about putting a PG rating on the tour to warn parents that it might be a little too intense for pre-teenagers," said co-chairman Ron Howell.

only half-kiddingly. "Seriously, we have put a lot of effort into this thing and it is guaranteed to be scary."

The house will be open Thursday through Saturday nights. Thursday is Group Night, with recognized groups of 10 or more from church and civic clubs eligible for half-price on the one dollar admission.

The house will be open from 7:30-9:30 Thursday and will open at 7 p.m. the other nights, remaining open until the crowds are gone. The house is located at the intersection of Harnett and Ninth streets, "next to the DEAD end sign," said co-chairman Dan Cook, rather ominously.

Howell, who has had several years of experience in organizing haunted houses with the Jaycees prior to moving to

Lillington last year, said the local effort is one of the best he has ever seen.

"These guys in our club have a lot of imagination when it comes to this type of thing," he said. "Makes me wonder about the type of nightmares they have after eating a plateful of pinto beans and onions."

The house will feature several rooms of special interest, including the Ghouls Dining Room, the Witches' Retreat, the Chamber of Horrors and more. Other special effects and surprises will also be available. Proceeds from the house will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the club's youth activities.

"We want to encourage everyone to come see us," Howell said, "But we want them to know that they are in for a scary evening."

Charlie's Angels Arrested

Harnett County deputies Monday night swooped down on three massage parlors south of Lillington and arrested five people on various charges of violating the county's massage parlor ordinances.

The raids by Sheriff Lewis Rosser's staff followed several weeks of investigation.

Sheriff Rosser sent undercover agents to the massage parlors where they observed the girls massaging members of the opposite sex.

The raid on Charlie's Angels massage parlor, about 20 miles south of Lillington on Highway 87, netted the operator and two other women.

Mrs. Ruby D. Parker, 55, was named as owner and operator of Charlie's Angels. She also owns a trailer park in the area. Mrs. Parker was also charged with the illicit sale of whiskey.

Arrested with Mrs. Parker were Miss Maritza Kent, a 28-year-old Spanish girl who listed her address as Fayetteville, and Miss May Hondle, 26, of Spring Lake.

At The Aquarias, 32-year-old Betty Gilboy of Fayetteville

was arrested. Albert Lepinsky, 55, of Spring Lake, was arrested at the massage parlor which he operates under the name of East Rest.

The defendants were released under \$500 bond each. Mrs. Ruby Parker, one of the co-defendants, signed the bonds.

Harnett Detectives Donald McLamb and John Atkins led the raids. They brought the defendants to Lillington for a bond hearing before Magistrate A.J. Stephenson.

Magistrate Stephenson or-

dered them to appear for trial in Lillington District Court on November 6.

The massage parlors are located in an area of Harnett that is near and convenient for Fort Bragg soldiers.

This is one in a series of massage parlor raids made by Sheriff Rosser's force in recent months. One or two massage parlors have already been put out of business.

It is expected that the District Attorney's office will move to have the licenses of these three parlors cancelled.

Fuel Funds Needed

The Harnett County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Community Development Office are busy trying to secure funds to help the county's aged, sick and needy heat their homes this winter.

The DSS is working to apply for a fuel fund grant from the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, but officials say the money may not arrive in

significant amounts until well into the winter.

Emma Lee West, assistant director of DSS, said county officials have discussed alternative sources of fuel such as chopping firewood from trees on county property.

But there are no specific plans yet, she said. "People are just starting to recognize that it might be a problem."

Continued on page 9

Airport Ceremony Set

After years of waiting and planning, the Harnett County Board of Commissioners will break ground on the new county airport Monday, November 5.

United States Senator Robert Morgan will be a special guest speaker at the 9 a.m. ceremony and Congressman Charlie Whitely will also make remarks.

Plans for the ground-breaking were announced today by Harnett County manager-commissioner Jack Brock and by board chairman Jesse Alphin.

Both men are hoping for a large crowd at the event. "This is one of the biggest things to ever happen here," reported Brock. "We want everyone to be part of it."

Senator Morgan was asked to speak at the ground-breaking because he played a large role

in bringing the airport to the Buies Creek-Erwin area. Morgan helped the county cut through red tape, apply for and receive federal funds.

Earlier this year, land for the

Area Ruritans Meet in Dunn

The annual Cape Fear District Ruritan Convention will be held Nov. 3 at Dunn High School. Registration for the 37 clubs will start at 12:30 p.m. and the convention will be called to order at 1:30 p.m.

District officers are asking each club to send delegates, club members and their wives. The ladies will be entertained separately during the afternoon session.

Past National President Charli Allen from Sinks Grove, W. Va. will be there representing the National office.

new facility was purchased, surveyors hired, and the planning begun.

The airport site is located one mile east of Buies Creek on state road 1769 off of highway 421.

Ed Bain is chairman of the Harnett County Airport Committee and joins Brock and Alphin in extending an invitation to the ground-breaking to the public.

The new airport is expected to give a boost to industrial development in the county by attracting new industry and businesses.

Special guests at the ground-breaking will include all county officials, representatives from the FAA and North Carolina Department of Transportation. State dignitaries and local officials are also expected to attend.



JUST PLAIN FOLKS - Welcoming the public with open arms to the Lillington Kiwanis Club haunted house this week are Frankenstein's monster [Bob Womble] and

the gorilla [Bob Garrett]. The house, located at the intersection of Harnett and Ninth streets, will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. (Photo by Steve Plummer)