

Sykes case: Questions

From Page A5

asked that his name not be used, said his warehouse in Charlotte didn't get the shirts until Aug. 16 and he stocked them shortly after that.

In Daulton's notes on the search warrant, he said that the weapon used to stab Sykes was "a knife with a blade no more than five inches long." The police confiscated from the Mitchell house three knives -- one of them a pocket knife with the point of its blade broken.

Mrs. Mattie Mitchell, Sammy Lee's mother, said the two smaller knives belonged to her and the large knife belonged to her other son, Connell.

"None of those knives belonged to Darrell," she said. "They belonged to us."

Previous Arrest Raises Questions

There also are the murky details surrounding Hunt's previous arrest, the records of which are confidential since that case will be tried in juvenile court. When Hunt was charged with the Sykes murder, he was already in jail after being charged

with taking indecent liberties with a minor.

Mitchell said that the girl, whom he identified as Brenda Crawford, was Hunt's girlfriend, a white woman who had many black friends. Mitchell also said he thought she was older.

"L'il Bit (another name Mitchell used for Crawford) was Darrell's girl," Mitchell said. "She looks older than 16. She told me she was 21."

"She's been tried as an adult before so I don't know how she got to be a child now."

Mitchell said that he and Hunt recently posted bond with the City Bonding Co. for Crawford after she had been charged with prostitution.

Records at the City Bonding Co. list no one under the name of Brenda Crawford, but they do list two bonds for Brenda Marino that were posted by Hunt and Mitchell.

According to the bond, Marino listed her permanent address as 852 Clover St. in Eden and her birthdate as July 26, 1962, making her 22 years old. She also listed Darrell Hunt as her employer.

The Forsyth County Clerk of Courts office said a Brenda Marino is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 20 for one charge of prostitution and one charge of loitering for prostitution. She again listed her birthdate with the clerk's office as July 26, 1962.

Pearlie Mae Wilson, a friend of Crawford who also didn't know her last name and wasn't sure of her age, said she would classify Brenda as a prostitute who "lies a lot."

"She told me she was 17, but I didn't believe her," Wilson said. "She is just wild. L'il Bit lie so much."

Hunt is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 21 to answer to the indecent liberties charge.

Meanwhile, Masten said that, although there is intense media interest in the case, his department has not hurriedly made an arrest to appease the public.

He also said Hunt, under the law, could be charged with premeditating the murder because he allegedly lay in wait for his victim.

"We don't feel any extra pressure to solve this murder," said Masten. The case is no more special than any other unsolved murders in the city, he said.

Black editors say it'll be Reagan

From Page A1

Charlotte Post Publisher Bill Johnson agreed with Jordan that, in the eyes of many people, Reagan has been successful.

"The Reagan-Bush team will win," Johnson said. "Number one, the condition of the economy and the fact that more people are working now than ever are the reasons they will win."

Said Grover Bailey, editor of the *The Carolinian* in Raleigh, "Reagan has the charisma and he has proven in the last four years that he has the ability to stick with his party."

But not all of the editors and publishers are as confident that Reagan will be a two-term president.

"I think (Mondale) will be able to win," said Bernard Robinson, publisher of the *Iredell County News*. "But, in light of the way things are going, it's hard to beat an incumbent."

Mondale's chances are very good if the people who have been hurt the most by Reaganomics vote for Mondale, said T.C. Jervay, publisher of the *Wilmington Journal*.

"A lot of people think that Reagan is unbeatable, but I don't think so," Jervay said. "I think the Mondale team has a very good chance of winning, providing all the branches that make up the Democratic Party ..., including blacks and people hurt by Reagan, get out and vote."

"But apathy is a problem," he added. "A lot will depend on the turnout. Jesse (Jackson) has registered more blacks than Reagan's margin of victory in 1980. But I don't know if they will go to the polls."

All agreed that if Mondale pulls off a win, black people will provide his margin of victory. But the absence of Jesse Jackson on the November ballot and Mondale's "snubbing" of Jackson may spell defeat for Mondale, the newspapermen said.

"His (Mondale's) snubbing of Jesse Jackson and his choosing Geraldine Ferraro over Jackson have hurt him," said Bailey. "Not that I have anything against Ferraro, but Mondale made a choice to choose someone white over Jackson and that looks as if he is a little racist."

Said Jordan: "I depends on whether the Democrats are willing to expand the party vision to include the people Jesse Jackson has termed 'the locked-out.' He can't win without those people."

If Mondale wins, it won't be because of something he did right; it will happen because of something Reagan did wrong, said Jervay.

"A lot depends on whether Mondale can get debates with the other team," Jervay said. "With three or four debates, there is a

chance Reagan will screw up."

As for the senatorial race between Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. and Sen. Jesse Helms, the same editors and publishers say it's too close to call.

"The same holds true in this race as with the presidential race," said Jervay. "If the governor can get enough debates, he will win. A series of debates will bring out the fact that (Helms) is really not on solid ground."

Although Helms has been labeled an ultraconservative, that doesn't mean that Hunt should take the black vote for granted, Jervay said.

"We are interested in more issues than the Martin Luther King holiday," Jervay said. "We are interested in the overall situation in this country."

Said Bailey: "Unless Hunt does something quick, Helms will win. He (Helms) has strong support from people who have supported him in the past and Hunt is in a dilemma with the (scheduled) execution of (convicted murderer) Velma Barfield. He didn't allow (James) Hutchinson clemency, and, if he gives it to Barfield, it will appear to be political."

Once again, the registration efforts of Jesse Jackson will play a crucial role, the publishers and editors said.

Twenty-four murders

From Page A1

Case is reactivated.

"Obviously, the more recent the case the more leads we have; the older the case the less information we have," Raker said.

Raker said hundreds of tips recently were received in the homicide case of 25-year-old Deborah Brotherton Sykes. Sykes, a copy editor for *The Sentinel*, was raped and fatally stabbed Aug. 10 as she was going to work at the newspaper.

When workload permits, said Raker, a new detective is assigned to develop leads in unsolved homicide cases. Investigators Mike Branscome and Don Diamond worked on the Steak and Ale murder case for 15 months before they made an arrest.

In that case, 24-year-old bartender Kim Miller and Richard Adams, the 21-year-old manager of the Steak and Ale Restaurant on Stratford Road, were shot to death with a shotgun on Dec. 23, 1982, shortly after the business closed.

John Sterling Gardner Jr., 26, later was arrested for the murder. He was convicted and sentenced to death for the killings.

Police presently are investigating three unsolved murders this year. No suspects have been arrested in connection with the death of Terrence Maurice Jefferson, owner of Jefferson and Co. Models Inc., who died of a single gunshot wound to the head in February. He was found wearing the bottom half of a jogging suit and lying on the top half with his shoes on the wrong feet, police say. His wallet and identification were missing.

Early last month, the Winston-Salem police sent a letter to the state Department of Crime and Public Safety seeking an additional \$5,000, offered through the governor's reward program, for information about the Jefferson murder. The reward will be added to \$1,000 already offered through the Crimestoppers program.

Police also are investigating the Charlene Williams Witherspoon murder. Witherspoon, the daughter of convicted drug dealer Charlie Mack Williams, was shot and killed on April 12 as she was driving from Heather South condominiums on Swaim Road. Her mother, Mary Meadows Williams, administrator of her daughter's estate, recently filed a \$700,000 suit against Nationwide Life Insurance Co. charging that the company owes the money as payment on a life insurance policy it issued to Charlene Witherspoon last Dec. 7.

Police have made no arrests in connection with the murder.

In yet another case, police are

seeking suspects in the death of LeRoy D. Fleming. Fleming, last seen around 8 p.m. on Monday, March 12, was found in a wooded area on Bowen Boulevard. He died of suffocation after a blunt instrument was held to his throat. The police department's Crimestoppers program is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the homicide.

Raker said it is difficult to cultivate information on a murder case which is more than 15 years old. Witnesses have moved away or died and evidence has been destroyed, he said.

Police usually can't solve a case more than 20 years old unless someone confesses to the crime.

One such case is the Charles E. George homicide. When he was found by two boys on their way home on May 8, 1931, the 26-year-old George had only 18 cents in his pockets. His body lay on the sidewalk in the 1200 block of North Patterson Avenue near Northwest Boulevard.

Police say a single slug that entered his left cheek killed George. It had been fired from a foreign-made, .25-caliber pistol. No one heard a shot except for one woman two hours earlier, and police theorized that George was shot somewhere else and left on the sidewalk. The case remains unsolved.

Police also still are investigating these unsolved murder cases:

•Arthur Wilson. Police say Wilson probably was killed by three teen-agers on Sept. 17, 1983 as he walked in the 1700 block of W. Claremont Avenue. He was hit with a blunt object and police suspect robbery was the motive.

•Sherby Denice Wright. Police say Wright, 18, was last seen alive around Oct. 18, 1980, after she left a store. Her nude body was found at the Kimberly Park Swimming Pool with a rope wrapped around her neck. She apparently died from strangulation. Police say there were no signs of sexual assault. The Crimestoppers program is seeking leads in the case.

•Jack Odell Grier. Grier was found on June 5, 1980 in the 1400 block of Trade Street with his throat cut. Police believe he was killed on Trade Street. They have no suspects or clues.

•Henry Lee Robinson. Robinson was stabbed to death by an unidentified assailant on July 22, 1979, police say. He managed to stagger home, where an ambulance was called, but he was pronounced dead at Baptist Hospital at 10:35 p.m. with three wounds to the face, back and abdomen.

You've got what it takes.

Salem Spirit

Share the spirit. Share the refreshment.

11 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.