

## FUNERAL SERVICES HELD TUESDAY FOR VICTIMS OF TRIPLE-SLAYING

### Alec Harris Held in County Jail Without Bond, Charged With Vengeance Slaying of Bill Family

Funeral services for Mrs. Nellie Bill and her two children, Mrs. Estelle Bill Wilson and Eugene Bill, victims of a triple murder here last Thursday afternoon, were held Tuesday afternoon at St. Andrews Methodist Church, on route 15A, seven miles from Fayetteville on the Raleigh Road.

Mrs. Bill, 5, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thrower of Bath. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. J. H. Nance of Fort Sil, Okla.; three sisters, Mrs. Junius Searles of Linden, Mrs. Laura Gaylord of Bellhaven, and Mrs. Margaret Hammond of Fayetteville; and her step-mother, Mrs. Annie Thrower of Linden.

Mr. Bill, 24, and Mrs. Wilson, 36, are survived by their sister, Mrs. Nance.

Officiating at the services were the Rev. H. R. Ashmore, pastor of the church, and the Rev. David Blue of Wade. Burial was in the church cemetery, beside their husband and father, the late E. A. Bill, son of the late M. Bill, who was widely known throughout this section.

W. Alec Harris, confessed slayer of the three members of the Bill family, is in the Hoke County jail where he was remanded by coroner R. A. Matheson, M. D., following the inquest Friday at which the jury recommended that he be held without bond for trial on first degree murder charges at the November term of Superior criminal court.

Harris, a farmer on the Crawford Thomas farm near Raeford, surrendered to special Officer W. R. Sanders a short while after the killing as he was starting into the court house. He told Sanders that he had killed all those folks. I just had to do it, he added. On being taken into the office of Sheriff D. H. Hodgins, he explained that he had killed three members of the Bill family, and that he wished officers to know that he had done it by himself, without any other member of his family being connected with the killing.

Harris' son, Johnny Harris, 22, had been shot to death at the Bill service station Sunday afternoon. According to information gathered by officers in their investigation, the man had been brooding about his son's death. On returning from a tobacco market Thursday afternoon, Harris went to his home and got a pistol, a 32-20 calibre, and drove to the Bill station, located some 2 miles north of Raeford on Route 15-A. Eugene Bill was serving two negro customers, Ernest Morrison and Irving Stevenson, at the time. When Bill went into the station to get change for the negroes, Harris followed him in, drew his pistol. Investigation showed that he fired three shots into the body of Mrs. Bill, one at Eugene Bill, which entered his chest just above the heart, and two at Mrs. Wilson. They fell to the floor behind a service counter. The negroes immediately fled to a nearby woods, but returned later when investigators arrived.

Harris is said to have then driven to his farm on the west side of Raeford, given the pistol to Philemon Carpenter, and then returned to town, parking in front of the City Hall, where he met Officer Sanders and surrendered. The gun was recovered by Deputy J. C. Wright after Carpenter had given it to a member of the Harris family.

Sheriff Hodgins stated that after the preliminary investigation he felt that due to the scheduled blackout test set for Thursday night and the fact that feeling was running pretty high as details of the killing spread widely over the county, it was best that Harris be removed from the county for the night. He was taken to the Cumberland County jail. Harris was returned here for the coroner's hearing Friday.

Members of the jury were Harry Green, H. S. McLean, H. E. McLean,

John D. McBryde, J. B. McLeod and John B. Cameron.

Eugene Bill had been released Tuesday under a cash bond of \$2,500 allowed by Superior Court Judge C. Ernest Thompson, following a grand jury investigation of the death of Johnny Harris at the Bill station Sunday. The investigation revealed that young Harris had died from two bullet wounds while en route to a Fayetteville hospital in an Army ambulance. Police testimony showed that young Harris and his two companions and two soldiers had been asked to leave the station after being told that no more beer would be sold that afternoon. They left and the screen door was latched. Harris is said to have returned and shook the door violently, demanding to be allowed back into the station. Mrs. Bill first told him to leave and then it was said that Eugene Bill fired two shots through the screen, and that Harris fell, drawing his own pistol and firing one shot into the station as he hit the ground.

The Bill station, an attractive concrete block building, also served as the home for the family. It has been known as a quiet, clean place and the family was highly regarded. They came to Hoke County several years ago, having lived formerly in Red Springs and in Cumberland County. The new station and home was built about two years ago by E. A. Bill, husband of Mrs. Nellie Bill. He died within a few days after the new building was occupied.

Harris has been a resident of Hoke County for five or six years. He also lived near Red Springs for some time before coming here, having moved to this section from Mt. Airy some 10 years ago.

## Blackout Here Thursday 100% Successful

Army observers here for the practice blackout Tuesday night reported excellent cooperation throughout the entire Raeford section of the Fort Bragg area and stated that the results here were 100 per cent successful, according to H. L. Gatlin, Jr.

The blackout warning sounded at 9:20 and within a very few seconds the entire town was completely dark. For 20 minutes there was but one streak of light that crossed the town. A Queen City bus bound for Fayetteville made its way into the bus station with full lights burning. This type of traffic is not stopped during practice blackouts.

## Loans on Soybeans Are Announced

Farmers in Hoke County who are raising soybeans for oil purposes may be in a position to take advantage of the Loan Program that has just been announced, says A. S. Knowles, County Agent. For high oil content of the green and yellow varieties, \$1.67 per bushel will be paid under the Loan Program and 31.57 per bushel for medium oil content. For the black, brown and mixed varieties, \$1.52 per bushel will be paid for high oil content and \$1.43 per bushel for low oil content.

Two cents per bushel is being offered to farmers who store their soybeans on the farm. This new loan schedule is offered to encourage farmers to store their soybeans on the farm. It is suggested that where soybeans are to be stored on the farms that sufficient wooden bins be provided.

## LOCAL PARENTS HEAR FROM SONS OVERSEAS

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Ray have been notified of the safe arrival of their son, Sam, in Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McFayden have received a cablegram from their son, William, Jr., saying he had arrived safely in Australia.

## TOBACCO BRINGS GOOD PRICES

Several farmers have sold their crops of tobacco at an average of \$500 per acre, and Mr. W. I. Culbreth of Lumber Bridge who closed out his crop two weeks ago, sold at an average of a little more than \$550 per acre.

## Productive Junk Dealers to Receive Emblem From WPB

Charlotte, Sept. 2—Want to know whether your junk dealer is cooperating fully in the national salvage program?

The War Production Board has figured out a way, H. G. Taylor of Charlotte, director of the auto grave-yard section here, announced yesterday.

Beginning tomorrow a large emblem bearing the legend, "Co-operating With the War Production Board," will be placed on the premises of each junk dealer who meets the WPB's eligibility requirements. The dealer's eligibility for the award is determined by his confirmation to conservation policies governing the operation of scrap yards, and, secondly, whether he meets his goal of delivering a third more scrap in excess of his monthly average for the first six months of 1942.

The scrap dealer's yard will be checked several times a month and his books inspected to determine whether his working force indicates he is making an extra effort to supply critically needed scrap for war production.

Should a yard continue to live up to standards of production set by conservation division inspectors, it will be deprived of its emblem. In effect, the emblem means to the scrap dealer, what the navy E means to builders of ships or producers of other materials for the U. S. navy.

## Tobacco Hits Highest Price Ever in Lumberton

Lumberton, Sept. 2—Lumberton's tobacco market hit its highest peak in history last week in selling when it ended the third full week of the season, having sold a total of 15,891,854 pounds. The market average for the season was \$39.40 per hundred.

Averaging nearly 1,000,000 pounds a day since the market opened, the warehouses have paid out to tobacco growers a total though last Friday of \$6,261,427.60.

Tobacco continues to bring top prices at Lumberton, warehouses are now clearing their floors daily and taking care of salesthe day the farmers bring in their loads.

Informed tobacco men say the crop in the Lumberton area was about 65 per cent sold at the end of last week. They report that much of the unsold crop contains high-quality leaf and that the local market will be strong for at least two or three weeks longer.

## Henry Monroe Promoted

A picture of Henry Monroe of Raeford appeared in Monday's Charlotte Observer with the following write-up:

Capt. Henry S. Monroe, who was called into active service in July, 1941, as a second lieutenant, was promoted to first lieutenant in February, 1942, and now has been promoted to the rank of captain. He has been stationed at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., since receiving orders for active duty in the Army Air Corps. A native of Raeford, Capt. Monroe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Monroe of Raeford.

## CLARK REUNION

The Clark Reunion, which assembled at the home of Mrs. Mack Clark, two miles west of Bethel church, was well attended, something like 100 of the family connection and invited guests being present. Some coming from as far away as Norfolk, Va.

The morning hours were spent in greetings. At 1 o'clock they were invited to a table loaded to capacity with essentials, bread, meats and varieties of cakes, pies, pickles etc. It was a heavily loaded table of the choicest foods, and a side table with drinks to suit one's taste.

After that table was relieved of the principal portion of its load, an enjoyable hour was spent in singing hymns. Following this, Rev. George Pickard and Mr. H. W. B. Witely made short but interesting and instructive speeches. Adjournment followed.—Contributed.

## HONEY DEMAND RISES

Wartime sugar restrictions have greatly increased the demand for honey as a sweetening ingredient, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## William Lamont, Jr., Promoted to 1st Lt.

Fort Moultrie, S. C., Sept. 2—A Raeford resident, 2nd Lt. William Lamont, Jr., has been promoted to first lieutenant by order of the War Department. Lieut. Lamont first came to duty as a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery in Sept., 1940. He returned to civilian life after a period of training, but came back to active duty five months ago and was assigned to Fort Moultrie as a battery commander in the 263rd Coast Artillery regiment. He is now executive officer at Fort Sumter, tiny fortress near Fort Moultrie where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

Lieut. Lamont is a graduate of the Raeford High School, 1930 class. He conducted a lumber business in Hoke County until his call to duty. His family consists of his wife, Mrs. Mary Morris Lamont of Raeford, and their daughter, Patsy Jean, 7.

## V-Mail Service Greatly Increased State College Hints

Designed to Expedite Mail to Soldiers Overseas; Photographed Before Going to Battle Areas

The Post Office Department announced today that the V-Mail Service, inaugurated on June 15, 1942, is now past the experimental stage, with each week showing large increases in the number of letters mailed to American soldiers overseas.

The War Department has increased its facilities to handle promptly the value expected in the future.

Facilities for photographing and reproducing V-Mail to and from the United States and the British Isles, Australia, India, Hawaii and other points are now in operation. A similar service is being planned for Iceland and other points where the volume may warrant.

Pointing out that V-Mail provides a safe means of communication with members of our Armed Forces, the Post Office Department gave assurance that film (upon which the communications are reproduced) are given the most expeditious dispatch available. Because of the small space taken up by the rolls of film, they often can be carried on ferry planes or bombers.

Every pound of weight which can be saved on air transport overseas, said the Department, means that an equivalent amount of weight can be allotted vital military material.

In recognition of this, and in an effort to insure delivery of mail to as many men as possible at overseas destinations when space is limited, the War and Navy Departments have directed that V-Mail be given priority in dispatch over all other classes—including air mail—when transportation facilities under control of those departments are used.

V-Mail letter sheets have been distributed at all post offices; and have been provided all military and naval personnel at overseas points through Army and Navy post offices and military channels.

Private firms and individuals have also been permitted by the Post Office Department to reproduce the letter sheets. The sheets also will be available.

V-Mail letters are photographed on micro-film by automatic machines at the rate of 2,000 to 2,500 per hour and the film rolls containing 1,500 letters each are transmitted to destinations. Reproductions are then made by other automatic machines and delivered to the addressee in individual sealed window penalty envelopes.

When V-Mail letters are addressed to places where micro-film equipment is not in operation, the letters are transmitted to destination in original form by the most expeditious means available. Even in these instances savings in weight and space are accomplished since there are approximately 97 V-Mail letters in a pound, whereas, ordinary letters average 40 per pound.

The War, Navy and Post Office Departments all cooperated in developing this Service, largely with a view of decreasing the volume of mail to be carried overseas and providing an expeditious service.

The public is urged to use it at every opportunity.

## Fall Garden Suggestions

Farmers should plant to have adequate supplies of vegetables for fall use, reports A. S. Knowles, County Agent. The vegetables that may be planted in the garden at this time are turnips, mustard or tendergreens, kale, winter spinaches and radishes.

## Carl Freeman Is Named Chairman Of Draft Board

Succeeds T. B. Lester Who Has Served Since Organization Formation in 1940

Carl Freeman, town clerk of Raeford, was named chairman of the Hoke County Board of the Selective Service System at a meeting held Monday night, following receipt of his appointment by Gen. J. van B. Metts, director of the system for North Carolina.

Mr. Freeman was nominated to the position vacated by T. B. Lester who resigned two weeks ago after serving as chairman of the board since its formation in October, 1940. The nomination was made by the board composed of K. A. McDonald, superintendent of schools Edgar Hall, clerk of Superior Court, and Crawford Thomas, chairman of the county board of elections.

Members of the board met with Mr. Lester Monday evening when he formally turned over his duties to the new chairman, Mr. Freeman, after his election to the chairmanship by Arch McEachern and F. L. Eubanks, the other members of the board.

## County Buys Only 95 Per Cent of Bond Quota

Hoke County citizens fell slightly under the quota of \$19,500 for the month of August for the purchases of War Bonds and stamps, according to Lawrence McNeill, county bond sales committee chairman.

This is the first time since the quota assignments system of sales was inaugurated in May that the county has not oversubscribed its quota, it was stated.

Total purchases of bonds and stamps were \$18,471.20 at purchase value, according to Mr. McNeill, or 94.7 per cent of quota. Mr. McNeill stated that the committee expected the purchases of bonds and stamps to pick up during September when a large number of people, particularly the farmers of the county, would buy the total amount of the bond pledges for the year. October purchases, too, are expected to far exceed the assigned quota for the county as many of the farmers receive a large percentage of their year's income during these two months.

## WOMAN'S CLUB SPONSORS DANCE FOR MEN IN UNIFORM

The Womans Club of Hoke County was the sponsor for a dance given on last Saturday night in the Raeford Armory for our men in uniform in this vicinity. The ten piece 67th. Armored Regiment Dance Orchestra, under the direction of Sgt. Bellman furnished music for 285 soldiers and 75 girls. Punch was served by the refreshment committee to all that attended.

Jephtha Peele for U.S.O. is now working in the place of Jack McDuffie who was called into the navy Saturday morning. Jep. was assisted Saturday night by Robert Barrington.

Hostesses for the occasion were, Mrs. H. A. Cameron, Mrs. N. B. Blue, Mrs. A. D. Gore, Mrs. Julain Johnson, Mrs. R. B. Lewis, Mrs. N. A. McDonald, Jr., Miss Josephine Hall, Miss Spec Blue, Miss Sara Connolly, and Mrs. V. R. White. Mr. J. O. Foley, the U. S. O. Supervisor will help in organizing in the place of Mr. F. Smith who was recently called into the U. S. Army.

The Kiwanis Club of Raeford will be the sponsors on next Saturday evening.

## WOMAN'S CLUB RESUMES WORK TUESDAY

The Garden departments of the Raeford Woman's Club will meet next Tuesday, September 8th. Group no. 1 with Mrs. H. A. Cameron, chairman, will meet from 9:00 to 12:00 o'clock in the sewing room of the high school and Group no. 2 with Mrs. V. R. White, chairman, will meet from 2:00 to 5:00. During these hours the members will sew for the Red Cross. The program leaders will present the program while the members sew, and timely garden topics will be discussed throughout the day.

## Expect D. J. Dalton Home Today

D. J. Dalton, manager of the Lumbree Electric Coop, is expected home from Thompson Hospital at Lumberton today after recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia. His condition is reported to be greatly improved since last Saturday.

## Nine Gamblers Caught in Rock Fish Raid

Nine negroes caught in a raid on a negro store building at Rockfish, pleaded guilty to gambling charges in county court Tuesday morning and each paid costs and were given a suspended sentence of 30 days by Judge W. B. McQueen.

The men were Thomas Campbell, John D. Campbell, Walter Leach or Leak, Fairley Jones, Roy Judd, Rowland Judd, Uzell Jones, John Leak Janderry Walker. The raid, following a tip from the vicinity, was conducted by Deputy J. C. Wright of the sheriff's department and Special Officer W. R. Sanders.

Oscar G. Williams paid costs for speeding. Russell McKeithan paid costs for drunkenness. Ida Faulks and Maggie McLeod, indicted on charges of assault with deadly weapons on a group of other negro women of the Little River Township, were found guilty and paid costs. Testimony revealed that they attacked the group with dewberry sticks.

Jerry Willis was convicted of assault on Dave Hendrix with a deadly weapon, a knife, and given a 60-day sentence. The sentence was suspended of \$19 and costs.

D. McMillan paid costs for drunkenness.

## Hoke Cotton Ginners Give Guarantee

Hoke county cotton ginners Monday became the first organized group in the nation to offer producers guarantees that cotton, ginned in their plants, will not sustain abnormal damage.

Through cooperation of the State Department of Agriculture and the State College Extension Service, the program has been placed on a county-wide basis, and placards announcing "guaranteed ginning" have been placed on all gins in the county.

Explaining this new feature of a general cotton improvement program, Fred Johnson, cotton gin specialist of the State Department of Agriculture, said Hoke is the first known county in the nation to have such a program. "It is being tried in Hoke County on an experimental basis entirely, though ginners in some other counties have adopted the plan. It is hoped that all North Carolina cotton ginners eventually will guarantee their work," he said.

Mr. Johnson said the contracts assure the farmer that the highest potential grade of cotton brought to the gin will be retained after the cotton is ginned. Ginners who guarantee their work are obligated to pay the farmer for any abnormal damage resulting from processing. Mr. Johnson and Dr. E. R. Collins, extension agronomist of State College, were in the county last Thursday studying the new protection plan.

"Under this program," Johnson said, "the ginners has the privilege of waiving his guarantee on any lot of cotton, provided he notifies the producer before ginning has begun. He merely guarantees the grower that he will take an interest in the cotton brought to him. It has been found that machinery alone cannot gin cotton satisfactorily. It takes personal supervision, and this is what the new contracts provide."

Records show that the percentage of damaged cotton in North Carolina has been reduced from 15 to 20 per cent in 1937 to 6.8 per cent last year. In addition, per bale damage has been cut from about \$10 in 1937 to about \$5 last year.

"Our goal for this year is to cut the damage to four per cent or less on the 500,000 bales estimated to be ginned in North Carolina," he said.

## RITCHIE NOW WITH REAVES

F. W. Ritchie has accepted a position with Reaves Drug Store.

