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Only 10 Jurors Chosen

Trio's Murder Trial Off To A Slow Start

BY JIM TAYLOR

It was expected that the trial of three young Negroes charged with first degree murder in the robbery-slaying of a 77-year-old Negro man would get well under way Thursday morning after the first three days of the trial was used in selecting a jury.

As of noon Wednesday, only 10 jurors had been seated and the third panel was being interviewed.

Charged in the December 18 slaying are Robert Lee Hol-

lingsworth, 19, Landon Johnson, 17, and King David Purcell, 23.

They are accused of robbing and beating to death Neill Archie McCormick of the Duffie's Station community of Hoke County.

A fourth defendant, Malcolm McCoy, 17, was sentenced to life imprisonment two weeks ago during the regular April term of Hoke Superior Court after he entered a plea of guilty to first degree murder.

Judge James C. Farthing of Lenoir is presiding at the special term of the court, approved by the state especially for the

trial of Johnson, Hollingsworth and Purcell.

Solicitor Doran J. Berry of Fayetteville indicated by his questioning of prospective jurors that McCoy may be a star witness of the state.

McCoy has been held in Hoke County jail ever since his conviction, presumably so he would be immediately available to testify in the case.

Purcell is being defended by Lacy Haire of Fayetteville. Defense counsel for Hollingsworth is Bill Moses and for Johnson, Palmer Wilcox. Both attor-

neys are from Raeford.

The four attorneys went through the regular panel of 80 jurors and a special venire of 75 Monday and Tuesday. The third group of 80 was being examined when court recessed just before noon Wednesday.

The first 10 jurors selected included six men and four women, all white. M. A. Maxwell of Raeford was the first juror approved by all three defense attorneys and Berry. Then, in order, were seated Roscoe Thompson of Stonewall, John R. Blackburn of Raeford, Mrs. Robert Weaver of Raeford, Mrs. Wiley F. Edwards of Raeford, Willie C. Odom of Raeford, Mrs. James Carter of Raeford, Mrs. D. H. Sams of Raeford and James R. Weaver of Raeford.

Berry said it was likely that one and perhaps two alternate jurors will be selected and that the court may be hard pressed to finish the case by Friday afternoon.

Berry said the state is asking the death penalty for all three defendants.

"The state charges that all three are guilty of first degree murder in the death of Neill Archie McCormick and that the crime was committed while perpetrating the crime of robbery," he said.

McCormick's badly battered body was discovered some 24 hours after the slaying by his son, Fred McCormick, who passed the house, saw no lights burning, and stopped to investigate.

A statement by McCoy, read in court during his trial by Sheriff Dave Barrington, said McCormick was slain with an ax handle and that \$67 was removed from his wallet.

A bloodstained ax handle was found in a straw field, where McCoy said it was thrown after the slaying.

Sheriff Barrington and SBI Agent Gary Griffith of Southern Pines, along with sheriff's deputies, investigated the crime.

All are expected to testify against the trio now on trial.

McCoy's statement admitted his guilt in the slaying and implicated the other three.

McCoy told how McCormick was hit from behind as he mended a fire in a wood káter and how, when he fell to the floor, he was hit again and again with the ax handle, then kicked.

McCormick's wallet was removed, McCoy's statement said, and three \$20 bills, a \$5 bill and two \$1 bills were taken.

Evidence submitted by the state at McCoy's trial indicated the money was used to buy a secondhand car. It was the car that led officers to a break in the case.



LANDON JOHNSON HOLLINGSWORTH, LEFT, AND PURCELL ... Three Face Death Penalty In Slaying Of 77-Year-Old Negro



FLAG MAKERS -- Mrs. N. B. Blue of Raeford, left, and Mrs. W. L. McFadyen of Fayetteville, president of the Raeford chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy, are shown with flags fashioned by women of the chapter for sale on Confederate Memorial Day, which was Wednesday. Women of the chapter devoted Friday afternoon to making the flags at the home of Mrs. Julian S. Johnson Sr.

Shaw Freed Wyatt Upchurch Chamber Head At Hearing

No probable cause was found against Richard I. Shaw, charged with murder, in a District Court preliminary hearing here last Wednesday.

Shaw, 46, was accused of murder in the death of Burnie McCall, about 25, on the night of April 15 at the Hawaiian Eye, a Negro night spot just north of Raeford town limits.

McCall and Shaw engaged in a shoot-out in the crowded

Wyatt Upchurch has been elected president of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Dr. Robert G. Townsend.

He was chosen at a breakfast meeting Tuesday morning. Other new officers are Neill McDonald, vice president for internal affairs; Younger Snead Jr., vice president for external affairs; Franklin Teal, secretary, and Charles Hottel,

treasurer.

Three new directors were added to the board to replace directors whose three-year terms are expiring. They were Ralph Barnhart, Younger Snead Jr. and Franklin Teal.

Other directors include Dr. Robert G. Townsend, Neill McDonald, Bobby Conoly, W. T. Howell, Paul Dickson, Bobby McNeill, Alfred Leach, Wyatt

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BLIND CORNER -- High School students "running the town" for a day complained about the many "blind corners" on main thoroughfares in town. Here, on Main Street is an example. A dead-end tree, as lovely as it is, kept this driver

blinded until he was well past the stop sign on west Donalson Avenue and about to enter Main. There are some dangerous corners on Prospect Avenue, another highway, as well as other streets scattered over town.



JUST FOR A DAY -- Girls and boys from Hoke High School student body played the part of town officials for a day Monday. Zan Monroe at the head of the table was elected Mayor. They are, left to right, John Morris, water superintendent; Betty Pope, street superintendent; Leslie Ramsey, police chief; Steve Stogner, town manager; Sarah Morris, town clerk; Ronnie Huff, fire chief; Paula Burnett, water commissioner; Susan Howard, street commissioner; Lynn McNeill, fire commissioner; Pat Hood, finance commissioner; and Ann McNeill, police commissioner.

Mayor Asks: Students Take Over Honor Mom Raeford For A Day

Mayor H.R. McLean this week issued a special appeal to citizens, asking them to attend the church of their choice on Mother's Day. He said: "Some years ago the second Sunday in May was designated as Mother's Day. On this occasion we were privileged to attend the church of our choice, and there honor in a special service our mothers, both the living and those whose memory we still cherish. Surely, we want to have a part in this service on May 14, honoring one who did so much for us when we were unable to do for ourselves. Remembering:

"It was she who went into the shadows of death in order that we might have the breath of life.

"It was she who denied herself many things in order that we might have.

"It was she who spent sleepless nights by the bedside in times of illness.

"It was she who went into the bed room with us and told of Jesus love for little children, told us Bible stories, and

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"It became increasingly difficult for us to accommodate the parents, family and friends of graduates, so we decided to move to the larger gymnasium," Abernethy said.

Chairs for parents of graduating seniors will be placed on the gym floor. A raised stage will be constructed, and bleachers will be used to seat other spectators.

Dr. Stone, a native of Franklin County, is a graduate of Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina, where he was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree.

He has served as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent in the public schools and was on the faculty at Atlantic Christian College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was executive secretary of N. C. Citizens Committee for Better

Schools, assistant director of a study of the public schools for the State Board of Education. He is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations and is active in Baptist affairs.

The senior class at Hoke High School numbers 105 students. Susan Howard is valedictorian and Sarah Morris is salutatorian. They will have a part in the program.

Hoke Girl Is Killed In Wreck

A Hoke County college girl, Barbara Ann Lindsay, 18, was killed in an automobile accident near Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines last Wednesday.

Miss Lindsay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lindsay of Raeford, was a passenger in a small foreign car driven by Gloria Lorene Murray, 19, of Siler City.

A third student, Marie Winter Clark, 18, of Red Springs and Miss Murray were taken to Moore Memorial Hospital for treatment of injuries.

The three girls were students at the college and roomed together at the home of Mrs. Blanche White in Aberdeen.

State Highway Patrolman J. F. Tomberlyn said the accident happened about 8:30 p. m. on Pinehurst-Airport Road near the entrance to the college. The car went off the road on the right and Miss Murray apparently lost control of it, he said.

Funeral services for Miss Lindsay were held Thursday afternoon at Galatia Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dewey Herring officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

She is survived by her parents; one sister, Susan Lindsay of the home; two brothers, Alex Lindsay of the home and Donald Lindsay of Fayetteville.

Supper Planned By Music Club

Chamaine Music Club will sponsor a fried chicken supper Wednesday, May 17, at Hoke Civic Center from 5 to 8 p. m. Miss Jessie Bright Ferguson, president, has announced.

The proceeds will go toward the purchase of a piano for the center. The club is also trying to raise funds to finance some programs next winter which would feature concerts and other performers.

It was announced that the meal may be eaten on the premises or it will be boxed for taking out.

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Dr. Raymond Stone Graduation Speaker

Dr. Raymond A. Stone, president of Sandhills Community College, will be principal speaker at graduation exercises June 1 at Hoke High School. Diplomas will be awarded by Principal D. D. Abernethy in the high school gym. In previous years, finals were held in the auditorium at Raeford Elementary School.

"It became increasingly difficult for us to accommodate the parents, family and friends of graduates, so we decided to move to the larger gymnasium," Abernethy said.

Chairs for parents of graduating seniors will be placed on the gym floor. A raised stage will be constructed, and bleachers will be used to seat other spectators.

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