

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 38

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$4 PER YEAR 10¢ PER COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1968



TOTAL WRECK -- This car was parked on the pavement on Shannon Road a mile east of N. C. 211 when hit by another vehicle Sunday night, according to State Highway Patrolman J. D. Robinson. The car was unoccupied, but four persons in the second vehicle were injured.

Raeford Girl Is Injured; Car Smashes Into Tree

A Raeford girl was seriously injured Saturday morning when the car she was driving left a rural paved road near Phillip Church and struck a tree after she apparently went to sleep at the wheel.

Admitted to Cape Fear Valley Hospital, reportedly in serious condition, was Linda Harrell, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Harrell of Raeford.

Miss Harrell is a third shift worker at Pacific Mills here and reportedly had worked the night before.

The crash occurred at about 11:30 a. m. in bright, clear weather on a dry road.

State Highway Patrolman E. W. Coen said it appeared the girl may have gone to sleep while driving. The car left the road after having negotiated a curve and left no skid marks in its path to the tree, indicating the vehicle was not out of control, Coen said.

Raeford Ambulance Service rushed the girl to the hospital, where she reportedly was treated for serious internal injuries. The car, a 1960 Rambler, was demolished.

Meanwhile, three persons were injured and a fourth slightly hurt when the car in which they were riding plowed into a parked vehicle on Shannon Road, a mile east of N. C. 211, Sunday night.

State Trooper J. D. Robinson listed the driver as Bailey Hanes, 18, of Shannon Rt. 1. He was only slightly hurt.

The car, registered in the name of Sarah Jane McLean, Raeford Rt. 1, according to Robinson was operated before being left on the highway by Bob Knight, Raeford Rt. 1.

Robinson said Knight told him the wheels locked on the vehicle and he left the scene to get help in moving the car off the road.

Passengers in the car driven by Bailey Hanes were his brother, Thomas Hanes, 17, Patricia McCormick, 17, and Marvin

Stubbs, 18, all of Shannon Rt. 1.

Robinson said the girl seemed to be the most seriously hurt of the three victims. The driver was slightly injured, but did not require hospitalization. The other three were taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

Robinson said his investigation indicated the parked car had all four wheels on the pavement. The driver was charged with improper parking, leaving a vehicle unattended without lights.

J.A. Webb First To File For Hoke Commissioner

Hoke County commissioner J.A. Webb filed for reelection Friday, becoming the first candidate for county office to enter the May Democratic primary.

Earlier, Rep. Neill L. McFadyen of Raeford, incumbent solon from the 24th House District (Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties), paid his filing fee. The other incumbent representatives from the district, R.D. McMillan of Red Springs and R.L. Campbell of Rowland, entered the House race. Several other county offices are to be filled in the November election, and the incumbent Democrats are expected to file.

They include Tom McBryde, county commissioner; Dr. R.M. Jordan and Bobby Gibson, board of education; and Joe Gullledge, register of deeds.

On Routine Patrol Hoke Officers Drop In While Bandits At Work

BY JIM TAYLOR

Two Hoke County officers on routine patrol about midnight Thursday dropped in at the scene of an armed robbery near Antioch, caught two men and charged them with the crime, and followed their tips in rounding up two others allegedly involved in the stickup.

In fact, when Deputy Sheriff James Adams and Hoke ABC Officer Kermit Riley went to the front door of L.F. West's place, two of the robbers were in the process of tying up West in a back room of the establishment.

Adams said he was riding with Riley on routine patrol and stopped to check the lock on West's place, where beer is sold, between Antioch and Red Springs on N. C. 211. The lock was missing, Adams said, and the front door was slightly ajar.

As they had driven up, they observed a pickup truck pulling away, Adams said, so he and Riley sped after the pickup. The truck had departed in the direction of Raeford. After a short drive, Adams and Riley met the truck, now going southward.

The officers turned around and followed the truck. Shortly after they passed West's place, they observed two other men walking along the road, according to Adams.

"When Riley turned on the blue light to signal the pickup to stop, these two fellows took off across a field," he said.

The pair in the pickup were identified as Ernest Jacobs, 16, the driver, and David Jacobs, 18, both of Lumber Bridge Rt. 1.

After taking the two youngsters into custody, Adams and Riley returned to West's place, where they found him tied to a chair in a bedroom. West lives on the premises, Adams said.

Adams said West told them he had been robbed of more than \$900 in cash and checks; that one of the bandits was armed with a 12 gauge

shotgun, and that the gunman had threatened to kill him.

Adams quoted West as saying the storekeeper heard the officers when they came to the front door, and that he was being tied up at the time. When the robbers left, they took his .32 caliber pistol.

On information supplied by Ernest and David Jacobs, Sheriff Dave Barrington, who had been called to the scene, went with Robeson County officers to where the two other men lived.

They arrested Fred Jacobs, 23, of Lumber Bridge Rt. 1, and Roger Jacobs, 18, of Red Springs Rt. 1.

Barrington said that when he and the Robeson officers routed Roger Jacobs out of bed, Jacobs went for a pistol in a nearby drawer. Barrington said West identified the pistol as the gun the bandits took from him.

All four defendants were placed under \$1,000 bond. They are scheduled to receive preliminary hearing next week in District Court here.

Meanwhile, Barrington's department has rounded up five other men and charged them with breaking into Freddie Breeden's store after midnight, January 25.

They made off with 50 cartons of cigarettes, a large quantity of beer, and other merchandise, Barrington said.

Barrington said four of the men were implicated by Charlie Lee, about 20, after he was picked up by Cumberland County officers in connection with a break-in in that county and linked to the Hoke County haul.

The other four were identified as Terry Waterman, 17, Grady Lee, 18, and Jimmy Lee, 20, all of Fayetteville, and Clayton Eugene Parks, formerly of Hoke County.

The sheriff said some 50 cartons of cigarettes were recovered from Charlie Lee's car and that 30 cases of beer were found at the home of one of the other four.

All five men were placed under \$1,000 bond.

Car-Train Crash Kills Gudmunson

A 23-year-old employee of Pacific Mills Dyeing Plant was killed five miles northwest of St. Pauls Sunday when his car was struck by a train.

Larry Eldean Gudmunson was killed instantly in the accident, according to State Highway Patrolman R. H. Newton, who said the wreck occurred at 9:22 a.m. and involved no other vehicles.

Gudmunson, a native of Minnesota, was employed in the quality control lab of the mill.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Margie Peterson Gudmunson, one son, John N. Gudmunson, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gudmunson of Lake Brunswick, Minn.; three brothers, Frankie of Oakland, Calif., John G. of Redondo Beach, Calif., and Robert.

See CAR-TRAIN, Page 11

Slayer Is Given 16 Years For January 13 Knifing

A Raeford Rt. 1 man was sentenced to 16 years in prison last week after a Superior Court jury ruled him guilty of manslaughter in the knife slaying of his first cousin.

Judge Maurice Braswell imposed the sentence upon Colon Purcell, 24, for the January 13 slaying of James Melvin, 28.

A second defendant, John Stephens, alias Boyd Stephens, was convicted of being an accessory before the fact in manslaughter. He was given a two-year prison term.

Evidence indicated that Purcell and Melvin got into an argument concerning Purcell's attention to Melvin's wife, who is Stephens' daughter. The two men went outside, where Stephens handed Purcell a knife,

witnesses said. Purcell and Melvin then engaged in a struggle in which Melvin received fatal cuts on

the head and chest. Both men were tried on charges of second degree murder, with Stephens facing

an additional charge of accessory in murder. After Judge Braswell instructed the jury See SLAYER, Page 11

Kiwanians Name Gibson Hoke's 'Man Of Year'

Raeford Kiwanis Club last week paid tribute to a former member who died in December when club members and their wives gathered for the club's annual ladies night banquet.

W.T. (Hoot) Gibson Jr., superintendent of schools, was named Kiwanis "Man of the Year" in recognition of his many years of membership in the club and his contributions to the community.

The award was presented posthumously by the Rev. Cortez

Cooper and was accepted on behalf of the Gibson family by Clyde E. Upchurch Jr. and Robert L. Gattin, close friends of Gibson.

The affair was held at Whispering Pines Restaurant near Southern Pines and drew praise of Kiwanians and their guests as "one of the best banquets we have ever had."

Principal speaker was Ray Wilkinson, farm service director of WRAL-TV in Raleigh and a heralded after-dinner

speaker. His talk was humorous in nature.

Guests included Charles Ellis of Darlington, S.C., governor of the Carolinas District of Kiwanis International, and Mrs. Ellis; Garland Pherson of Southern Pines, fourth district governor, and Mrs. Pherson, and Herb Henning, Florence, S.C., Carolinas District secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Henning.

Perfect attendance awards were presented, and Marion

See GIBSON, Page 11

Burlington Sales Up

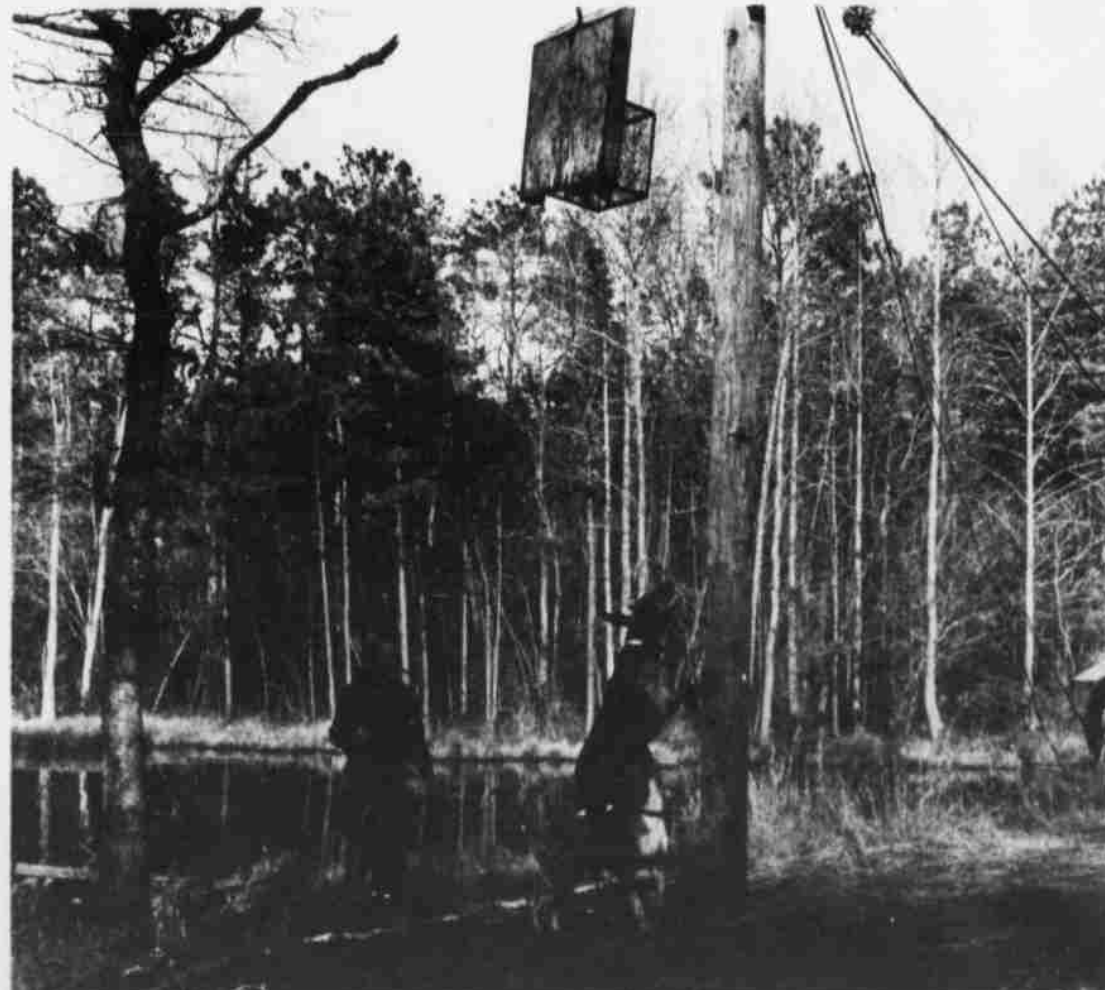
NEW YORK -- Burlington Industries, Inc., has reported consolidated net sales of \$391,715,000 for the quarter ended December 30, an increase of 18 per cent compared to sales of \$337,700,000 for the same period last year.

Net earnings for the quarter increased 24 per cent to \$20,032,000, equal to 79 cents per share on 25,322,000 shares outstanding at December 30. For the comparable quarter last year, net earnings were \$16,146,000, or 64 cents per share.

Charles F. Myers Jr., president, said the results were in line with earlier expectations that textile demand was recovering from generally depressed market conditions of last year.

"We have experienced a marked increase in business since last September in most areas of operations," he stated, "and we expect the improvement to continue in our second fiscal quarter."

The board of directors of Burlington Industries, meeting in New York, declared a regular quarterly dividend of 30 cents per share, payable March 1 to shareholders of record at the close of business February 2.



WHAT'S GOING ON--These dogs seem to be having fun, whatever they're doing -- which is treeing a coon in the water race at Saturday's coon hunt show held here by Rockfish Coon Hunters Club. The two dogs at the pole

have arrived at the "tree" after swimming across McLeod's pond and the dog at lower left is making a late arrival. Story and photos on Page 8.

Tomorrow Is Candlemas Day: Will Groundhog See Shadow?

BY LUCY GRAY PEEBLES

What great promise will the groundhog bring tomorrow?

December and January brought some extremely cold weather for Hoke County, and November set some kind of record for low nighttime readings. What February holds in store is yet to be seen. According to old superstition, the actions of that furry little animal will tell the tale.

During the past four weeks, there have been two ice storms. Although in some spots like Ashley Heights and Southern Pines, the resulting damage of last week's freeze was great, in most sections precipitation was lighter and fewer trees and utility lines went down than from the storm two weeks earlier.

In America, the groundhog tradition declares that if the animal sees its shadow upon leaving its burrow on February 2, there will follow 40 more days of winter. If no shadow is cast, spring will come sooner.

Groundhog or no groundhog, an old proverb can be interpreted to mean that there is still six more weeks of winter weather. It advises, "February, second day, have half your corn and half your hay."

The second day of February was first set aside by Romans for honoring the goddess, "Februa." This was done by the burning of candles.

In its ecclesiastical meaning, the date is called Candlemas Day. It is the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, Roman Catholics long ago adopted the ritual of burning

candles and blessed the candles to be used the next year, hence the name Candlemas.

Candles symbolize the words spoken by Simeon of the Infant Christ, "A light to lighten the Gentiles."

In modern times, many traditions claim that a fair Candlemas Day indicates a long winter. In a Scotch verse, it is expressed this way:

"If Candlemas is fair and clear, There'll be two winters in the year."

In the United States, the day is popularly known as Groundhog Day. If you have ever seen a woodchuck, you have seen a groundhog. They're one and the same, being a rodent, sometimes called burrowing ground squirrel, hedgehog and "whistle pig."

It grows to 18 to 24 inches in length, has a heavy body and a short bushy tail. It is found in temperate regions of America, Europe and Asia and is a member of the marmot tribe from which came a once popular inexpensive fur used in fashioning coats.

The pelt of the groundhog, however, is considered useless. The fur is bristle-like, long (much like a possum or raccoon), and in color is dark brown heavily flecked with gray.

The groundhog is edible -- and in the mountain ranks with possum and coon as something of a "delicacy." The flesh is coarse, stringy, and fatty.

The groundhog is celebrated in at least one song, a "hillbilly" ballad which indicates its edibility:

"Yonder comes Sally, with a big, brown grin . . . Groundhog gravy all over her chin."