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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1968

A. T. Bobbitt Slain

Hoke Grocer's Killer Believed In New York



Sheriff Barrington Wears Concerned Look

BY JIM TAYLOR

The search for the killer of A. T. Bobbitt, 68, who was slain Saturday morning, this week was transferred to New York City, where a suspect is believed to have fled following the early morning robbery-slaying. Sheriff Dave Barrington said a warrant has been requested against James Willie Watson, 19, a former resident of the McCain area, who allegedly returned there with a companion the day before the slaying. He is accused of gunning down Bobbitt at about 8:30 a. m. Saturday, apparently just after Bobbitt reached the store from

his home in Southern Pines. Barrington said Bobbitt's body was found lying behind a counter, only a few feet from a cash register, and that he had been shot in the head at least twice, apparently with a small caliber weapon and at close range. Bobbitt, who had operated the combination grocery store-service station for about 20 years, commuted daily from his home in Southern Pines. The store is on N. C. 211, just east of Leonard Training School. Bobbitt's body was discovered by Paul E. Simmons of High Point, Sheriff Barrington said. Simmons, who was

driving an empty High Point Chemical Company truck, stopped at the store to get a soft drink. Upon entering the store, saw the body on the floor behind the counter, Barrington said Simmons told him. "He said he backed out of the store and flagged a passing motorist," Barrington said, "and we were notified immediately." Two persons are being held in Scotland County Jail in connection with the slaying, Barrington said. Hoke prisoners are housed in Laurinburg while a new jail is being built here. James Lee Harris, 19, formerly of Hoke County, is being



Arrow Points To Cash Register, Near Where Body Lay

See KILLER, Page 4

Raeford Horse Show Is May 4

Raeford Woman's Club will stage its fourth annual horse show here May 4, with five performances scheduled in two rings during the one-day affair at Stanton Farms Stables on Highway 401 Bypass. The format was changed slightly this year to accommodate a change in production responsibilities. The club is lining up the show this year. In the past, it was a two-day affair with a professional promoter calling the shots. Competition this year will be between "English" mounts in Ring One and western classes in Ring Two. Saturday morning, an "English" show will be held in Ring One, with other "English" performances scheduled for 1 p. m. and 7 p. m. Western classes will be conducted at 1 p. m. and 7 p. m. in Ring Two.

Mrs. J. M. Andrews said the club hopes to attract top entries from throughout North Carolina and neighboring states. Last year, there was a good list of exhibits, but bad weather curtailed sale of tickets. Jimmy Martin of Pell City, Ala., will judge the English events, while Phin Horton Jr. of Winston-Salem will judge the western classes and games. Frank Smith of High Point will be announcer in Ring one,

with Louis K. Day, Rocky Mount, announcing the western show. Ringmaster for Ring One will be Jim Taylor of Raeford. In the western ring, Phil Diehl will serve as ringmaster. Mrs. Luther Harrell of Fayetteville will be show secretary and post entries will be taken, officials of the show declared. Veterinarians are Dr. Knox Lewis, Red Springs, and Dr. Milton Jordan, Fairmont. Admission to each performance will be \$1.25 for adults and 50 cents for children. Following is a complete list of classes: RING NO. 1 English Championships SATURDAY MORNING 10 A.M. 1. Pleasure Horses (English & Western); 2. \$50 Amateur Roadster to Bike; 3. Pleasure Ponies (English & Western); 4. \$50 Amateur Walking Horse; 5. \$50 Amateur 5-Gaited Horse; 6. Junior Equitation, Saddle Seat; 7. \$50 Amateur 3-Gaited.

Vandalism Case Set For May 8

Cases against 15 young Hoke County white boys with trespassing and damaging property at South Freedom Church, a Negro institution, were continued this week until the May 8 session of District Court. Judge Derb S. Carter granted the continuance at the request of Solicitor Charles Rose and attorneys representing the boys. Warrants were served on the youngsters last week and this week charging five of them with trespassing and property damage on March 29 and other dates and charging 10 with trespassing and property damage on February 15 and prior dates. The primary difference in the charges were: The five specifying the March 29 date charged forcible trespassing and damage to an outdoor toilet, a window, and a church sign; the warrants specifying the February 15 date charged forcible trespass and damage to an outdoor toilet only. The five charged with the March 29 incidents are: Arnold Cherry, 16, Raeford; Bill McMullan, 17, Raeford; R. L. John Morris, 16, Raeford; and David Keaton, 16, Raeford.

Raeford Citizens To Vote Saturday On Sewer Bonds

Raeford voters will go to the polls here Saturday to vote on a \$700,000 sanitary sewer bond issue which town officials and consulting engineers declare is essential to head off trouble involving an overloaded sewage treatment plant. The bond referendum was called after more than a year of painstaking study by Raeford's town board, which time and again rejected proposals which apparently would create a burden on taxpayers. The eventual proposal -- to provide some \$1 million in sewer improvements -- was decided upon when leaders of local industry joined the study and agreed to pay for the improvements through increased water-sewer rates. Private citizens will not be affected by the bond issue, according to the bond issue's planners. The issue contains -- as it must by law -- the procedure by which the bonds are to be retired. There will be no increase in residential water or sewer rates, and no raise in the tax rate because of the bond issue, town fathers declare. The biggest portion of the indebtedness will likely be paid by Burlington Industries and Raeford Turkey Farms, the town's two biggest water-sewer customers. Richard Moore, consulting engineer who also designed Raeford's present sewage treatment plant, has declared increased industrial use of the present facilities made them overloaded almost before the new plant was put into operation in 1963. At that time, the new treatment plant was supposed to have had capacity for a city of 35,000 persons and was to have filled local needs for at least 15 years. Soon after the plant opened, however, there came reports from Moore and others that the treatment plant was overloaded. Last summer, a week of testing was accomplished by three separate testing teams. Their reports confirmed Moore's estimate of the overload. Thereafter, Moore drafted a plan to raise the capacity of the treatment plant and to provide larger sewer lines from Burlington's two plants here to the treatment plant. His original plan was modified to reduce the cost to the estimated \$1 million level. The town has applied for and expects to receive a federal assistance grant for 30 percent of the total cost. That leaves \$700,000 for which the town will be liable. Only qualified voters living

See CITIZENS, Page 11

Broughton Draws 200

Mel Broughton Jr., candidate for governor in the May 4 Democratic primary, brought his campaign to Hoke County Saturday afternoon in a brief visit to the county courthouse. Although the visit was made in late afternoon -- with many people out of town for the Easter weekend and still others ogling the Master's Golf Tournament on television -- the turnout was termed "gratifying" by Broughton's campaign leaders here. Mrs. Sam Homewood and Mrs. Charles Hostetler were aided by several youngsters in serving refreshments on the courthouse lawn. They said a count of used paper cups indicated about 200 persons were served. Broughton appeared in Raeford between visits to Aberdeen and Lumberton. He came here from Moore County and later moved on to Lumberton, where he spoke at a rally Saturday night. Broughton is opposed in the Democratic primary by Bob Scott, son of the late W. Kerr Scott, who succeeded Broughton's father, Mel Broughton Sr., as governor in 1948, and by Dr. Reginald Hawkins, Charlotte dentist-minister.

See VANDALISM, Page 11

Local Guardsmen Back From Coast

Members of the local National Guard unit returned to their homes Wednesday night of last week after four days of riot duty in Wilmington, where violence flared following the slaying April 4 of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights leader. The local unit -- a part of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 252nd Armor -- was mustered early Sunday morning, April 7, and was transported to Wilmington late that afternoon, along with other units of the battalion. Other units went from Lumberton, Laurinburg, Red Springs, Southern Pines and Sanford. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Dickson of Raeford. Capt. Daniel Baker of Raeford is commander of the headquarters company. While in Wilmington, the battalion assisted state and Wilmington police in patrol during curfew hours. Also on riot duty there, was infantry battalion of the Guard, with headquarters in Wilmington. The N. C. National Guard was sent into several North Carolina cities to quell the

See GUARD, Page 11

New Hoke Registration Nearing End With 4262 Voters Signed In County

Hoke County's voter registration totals climbed to 4,262 last week as the turnout continued heavy in a new county-wide sign-up of eligible voters. With three days remaining in the new registration period, it appeared that early estimates of 5,000 potential registrants might be reached before the books close Saturday afternoon at the end of the registration day. Registrars will be at polling places in all 13 Hoke precincts Saturday to serve qualified voters. Next Saturday, April 27, will be challenge day, Saturday, May 4, is the date for Democratic and Republican primaries. In last week's activity, 1,132 Democrats registered, as did 68 Republicans and two independents. They included 761 white persons, 348 Negroes and 67 Indians. Totals for the entire new registration are: Democrats, 4068; Republicans, 177; Independents 17; White 2,194; Negro 1,300; Indian, 273. Totals by precincts included: Allendale, 106; Antioch, 334; Blue Springs, 328; Buchan, 162; McCain, 321; Puffy Creek, 277; Raeford No. 1, 572; Raeford No. 2, 424; Raeford No. 3, 286; Raeford No. 4, 348; Raeford No. 5, 583; Rockfish, 142; and Stonewall, 326.

Last Week's Registration

	White	Negro	Ind.	Dem.	GOP.	Total
ALLEDDALE	10	19	24	91	2	53
ANTIOCH	37	15	21	69	3	*73 (1)
BLUE SPRINGS	29	75	15	111	7	*119 (1)
BUCHAN	30	10	3	44	5	49
MCCAIN	48	23	0	94	7	71
PUPPY CREEK	36	37	0	87	0	93
RAEFORD #1	169	29	0	189	9	198
RAEFORD #2	144	4	0	144	4	148
RAEFORD #3	39	9	0	46	2	48
RAEFORD #4	118	10	3	116	15	131
RAEFORD #5	0	67	0	66	1	67
ROCKFISH	31	8	1	34	4	38
STONEWALL	70	28	0	111	3	114
TOTAL	761	348	67	1132	66	*1202 (2)

*Independents in parentheses.

Total Registration

Precinct	White	Negro	Ind.	Dem.	GOP	Total
ALLEDDALE	24	94	38	153	2	*186 (1)
ANTIOCH	123	81	125	318	15	*334 (4)
BLUE SPRINGS	79	182	55	313	12	*326 (3)
BUCHAN	79	78	6	155	8	*162 (1)
MCCAIN	198	121	2	292	29	321
PUPPY CREEK	128	144	1	263	14	277
RAEFORD #1	439	130	3	547	25	572
RAEFORD #2	383	41	0	411	11	*424 (2)
RAEFORD #3	132	139	33	280	6	*286 (2)
RAEFORD #4	307	37	5	318	31	349
RAEFORD #5	0	582	0	580	2	*583 (1)
ROCKFISH	114	27	61	134	7	*142 (1)
STONEWALL	163	104	4	269	15	*276 (2)
TOTAL	2194	1790	273	4068	177	4262

*Independents in parentheses.

COMPLETE LIST OF REGISTRARS IS ON PAGE ELEVEN



BUNNY BONNET--Judy Elanton is one of hundreds of J.W. McLaughlin School first graders who wore homemade Easter hats to lunch Friday. Her wide-brimmed creation features a furry bunny sitting on a nest. Bob Jordan, left, wearing his 1958 model, waves a hello.