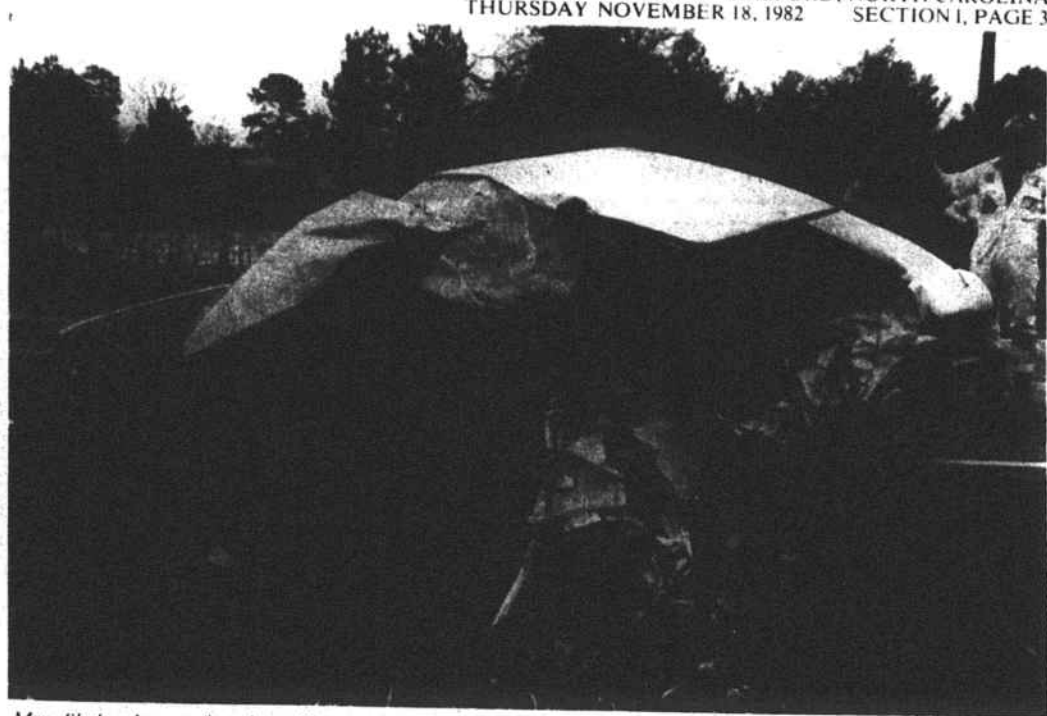


Truck with its spilled sand after fatal accident. The driver and his son escaped with minor injuries.



Mrs. Shelton's car after the collision.

# Former County Resident Killed In Crash

A former Raeford resident was killed when the car she was driving collided with a truck around 1:45 p.m. Thursday on U.S. 401, about 150 yards south of the Cumberland County border, State Highway Patrolman Bill Bowden said.

The victim was Gayle Thomas Shelton, 37, of Forest Hills, Aberdeen.

Mrs. Shelton's daughter, Paige, 9, suffered a fractured jaw and was admitted to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, Bowden said.

The driver of the truck, Edward Ray Barnes, 39, of Tar Heel, and his 9-year-old son, Edward, also were injured but not seriously and were released Thursday from Cape Fear Valley Hospital after being treated, Bowden said.

If Barnes, driving the truck, hadn't reacted as well as he did when he saw the car coming into his lane, the collision would have been head on, and Paige Shelton also could have been killed. The child was riding in the right front seat when the collision occurred, the officer said.

The late-model Toyota Mrs. Shelton was driving south turned

into the northbound lane, and, as Barnes was attempting to avoid a collision, the car struck the truck's front wheels at an angle, Bowden said.

Barnes lost steering control when his wheels collapsed. The car was sent 19 feet 7 inches farther by the force of the collision, coming to rest on the west shoulder of the highway, the officer said.

The truck loaded with sand turned over on the shoulder, dumping its load of sand on the southbound lane and the shoulder.

Dr. Riley Jordan of Raeford, a Hoke County medical examiner, pronounced Mrs. Shelton dead at the scene.

The car was a total loss and the damage to the truck, a 1974 White tandem dump vehicle, amounted to "not less than \$6,000 or \$7,000," Bowden said.

Officers of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department and members of the Hoke County Rescue Squad prevented other possible accidents at the scene by controlling traffic approaching the scene from both directions, Bowden said.

What caused Mrs. Shelton's car to turn into the northbound lane probably will never be known, Bowden said, adding that no charge has been filed.

Bowden said he has been informed that Mrs. Shelton and her husband, Lester D., lived in Raeford before moving to Aberdeen fairly recently.

Mrs. Shelton's was the seventh traffic death in Hoke County this year. The total is two more than the number killed in traffic in the county in all of 1981.

She was the fourth to die since October 5.

The funeral for Mrs. Shelton was conducted Sunday afternoon in Ashley Heights Baptist Church by the Rev. Robert L. Denton. Burial was in Bethesda Cemetery, Aberdeen.

Mrs. Shelton was born in Moore County and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elrie S. Thomas of Jackson Springs, who are among her survivors.

Also surviving are her brother, Joe Hanford Thomas of High

Point; and her sisters, Mrs. Dale Passer of Eagle Springs, and Mrs.

Carolyn Allen of Aberdeen. Powell Funeral Home of South-

ern Pines was in charge of the arrangements.

# Highway Patrol Here Short On Manpower

It is difficult to determine whether a recent increase in traffic deaths in Hoke County can be linked to an undermanned patrol force here, a top ranking state Highway Patrol Officer said Monday.

The county's latest fatality, which occurred Thursday, brought the total traffic deaths for the year to two more than all of 1981, but patrol Executive Officer Lt. Col. J.F. Cardwell says it is hard to tell if the increase is attributable to the short staff here.

Patrol officers have been working a man short here since April, when Trooper Joe Stanley left to work interstate highway traffic going to the World's Fair.

Stanley has now been transferred to Richmond County, and chances of finding a replacement here do not look bright, Cardwell said.

Cardwell said he has spoken on several occasions with the captain who oversees Troup G, which includes Hoke County, and efforts are being made to find a trooper to bring the county's compliment to full strength at four.

Hoke County might also be in line for a graduate from the highway patrol academy in February, however, there is no guarantee, Cardwell said, noting this year's graduating class is smaller than usual.

"We think we will probably find someone before February," he added.

Hoke County's problem is not

unique.

Statewide, the highway patrol is 200 men short and new graduates will be assigned where they are most needed, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety spokesman Russ Edmonston said.

Despite the shortages, efforts by the patrol to cover rural roads have paid off.

There have been 197 fewer fatalities in the state this year than last, Edmonston said.

"We'll assign troopers where the need is the greatest," he said.

In Hoke County, patrol hours have been cut, and the three on-duty troopers are working longer hours with lengthy "on call" service, supervisor Sgt. Delbert Minshew said.

Currently the county is being patrolled by troopers R.V. Lee, Ken Weston and Bill Bowden.

In addition to patrolling duties, the three officers must also follow up on license revocation cases and other administrative duties that pull them off of the highways.

And, two troopers must cover the entire county when one of the unit is on vacation.

When Stanley left Hoke County for the Asheville area, Minshew said he believed the trooper would be replaced within a few weeks.

After eight months, no replacement has yet been found, Minshew said.

"We definitely need four men. That's what we have been assigned, and we need them," Minshew said.

If Hoke County does not find a line officer to fill the vacancy, it could be September 1983 before another academy graduate is available, Cardwell said.

## Still Time To Enter Yule Parade

There's still time for entering the Raeford Merchants Association's Christmas Parade, scheduled for Saturday, December 11, starting at 2 p.m.

The forms should be mailed to the Parade Committee, P.O. Drawer H, Raeford, 28376.

**OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY**  
7 A.M. to 9 P.M.  
**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**TURKEY or HAM**  
2 Vegetables, Beverage, & Dessert  
**\$3.50**  
Children Under 10 Accompanied With Parents Or Grandparents FREE  
**THANKSGIVING DAY ONLY**

**Hours:**  
SUN. 7-3 MON. 6-7    TUES. 6-7 WED. 6-3    THURS. 6-9 FRI. 6-9    SAT. 6-3

Now Booking Christmas Parties FOR RESERVATIONS 875-2826  
Earl McDuffie  
WE CAN SERVE UP TO 100  
**EDENBOROUGH RESTAURANT**  
EDENBOROUGH CENTER RAEFORD, N.C.

Save \$3.12 a pair!

**CONVERSE® ALL STARS ... SALE PRICED THIS WEEKEND!**

CONVERSE® ALL STARS ... the world's best selling basketball shoes are sale priced. Loose-lined upper for long wear, comfort and support; toe guard for protection; vulcanized outsole for superior traction and durability. Men's sizes 6 to 12.

OXFORD REGULAR 19.99	<b>16<sup>87</sup></b>	HI TOP REGULAR 20.99	<b>17<sup>87</sup></b>
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**THIS THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY.**

**Moore's**  
of Raeford  
Edenborough Center

Shop 9 - 9 Daily  
Closed Sunday