

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

# The News-Journal



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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Thursday, February 13, 1986

## Largest cockfighting raid nets over 200 participants

By Ron Anderson

Close to 25 law enforcement officers took part Saturday in the arrests of over 200 participants at what has been called "the largest game cockfighting raid held in the state," Hoke County Sheriff David Barrington said on Monday.

The raid took place at 4 p.m. Saturday at a large metal building in the western section of Hoke County off U.S. 15-501 adjacent to the Lumber River and the Scotland County line.

Officers from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, aided by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation, surprised and apprehended 205 persons at the cockfight.

Most of the cockfighters and spectators were from the western Piedmont section of the state, Barrington said.

One of those apprehended was former Hoke County State Trooper Everette Martin Roberts, 46, of Dunn.

Also included in the list of those allegedly involved in the cockfighting were 16 residents from Randleman, a town located approximately 13 miles south of Greensboro.

Only three of those apprehended live in Hoke County, and Barrington said he believes they were working for the fight promoters.

Photographs were taken of all 205 people apprehended at the scene, and personal information was gathered from their driver's licenses.

Four juveniles and one disabled veteran at the cockfight were not charged, and approximately 10 people managed to escape apprehension by running into the woods, Barrington said.

Criminal summonses are being prepared and mailed to all persons engaged in the cockfight.

Cockfighting is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

Barrington has been quoted as saying none of those charged will go to jail.

Although local sources say, the cockfighting operation has been going on for at least six years, law enforcement officers learned of Saturday's event from an anonymous letter sent to Robert Morgan, Director of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

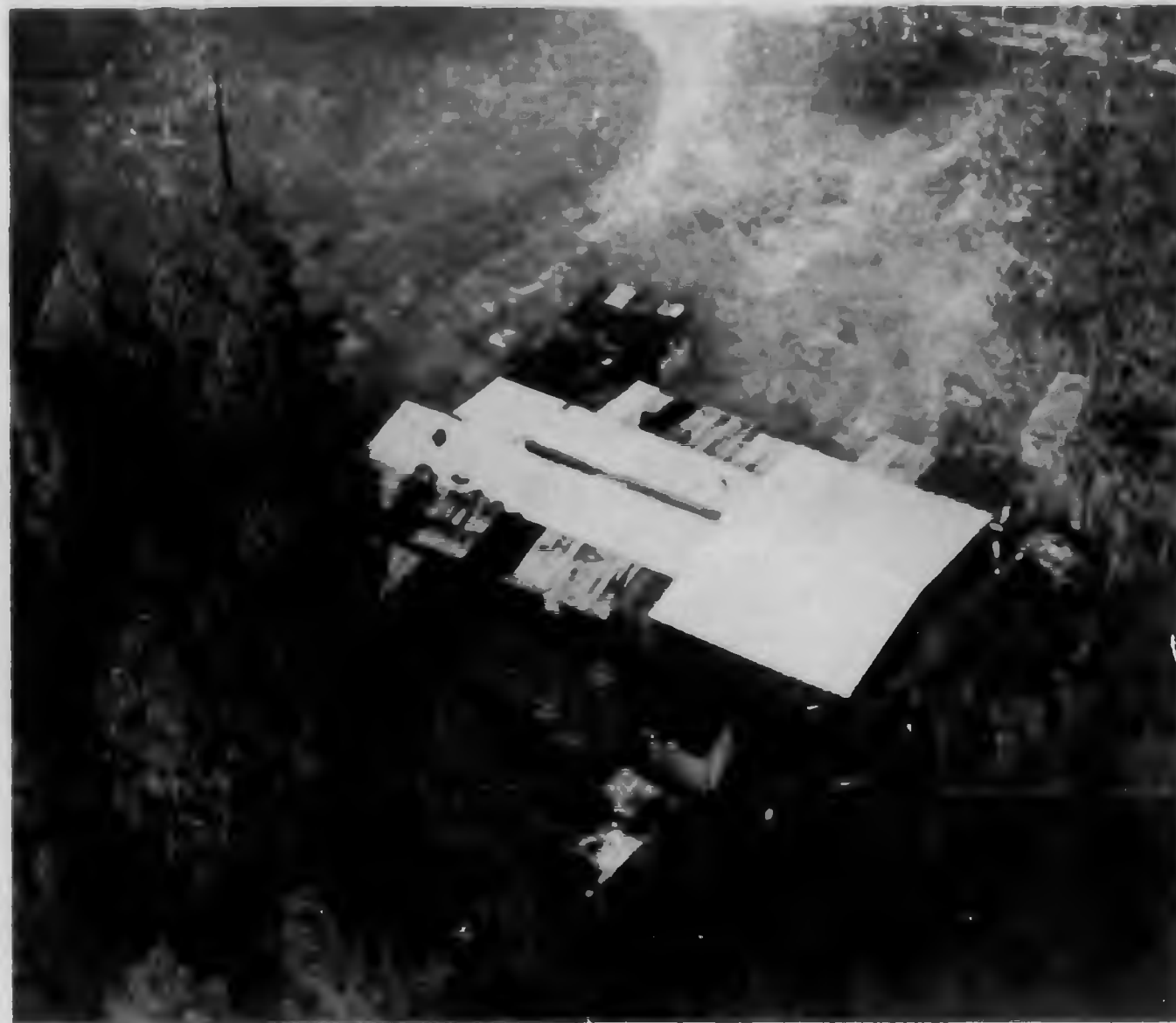
The letter, signed by "a concerned North Carolinian" from Hoke County, said there would be 300-plus people at a big dollar cockfight Saturday operated by S.T. Clark on the Van Matthews' property.

The letter also says S.T. Clark was given permission to operate his illegal business by "the local sheriff."

When Sheriff Barrington was asked Monday about the allegations in the letter, he said, "I don't know Matthews, I don't know Clark, and I don't condone cockfighting."

"My actions on Saturday showed I wasn't condoning it (cockfighting); I think my record speaks for itself," Barrington said.

(See COCKFIGHT, page 2A)



View from above

When State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) agents viewed this metal building near U.S. Highway 15-501 from the air on Saturday, the structure was surrounded by vehicles. Over 200, who attended Saturday's Hoke County cockfight, were charged following the raid on the building.

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## Carolina Telephone still seeking Fayetteville rate increase

By Ron Anderson

Carolina Telephone Company says the Public Staff of the Utilities Commission took a childish attitude when it suggested establishing Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Raeford and Fayetteville telephone exchanges without charging Fayetteville customers a rate increase.

"The Public Staff's position in this case is reminiscent of a child

who threatens to take his football every time he becomes dissatisfied with the rules," a motion filed by Carolina Telephone with the Utilities Commission on Friday says.

The telephone company's motion was in response to one filed earlier by the Public Staff, which sought to have the Raeford-Fayetteville local connection made without charging or polling the

Cumberland County subscribers.

"In every EAS case we've ever had, the Public Staff has recommended the tariff be used," Carolina Telephone Vice President and General Counsel Dwight W. Allen said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

"What they (the Public Staff) are proposing is to treat the people of Fayetteville unfairly," Allen said.

The tariff plan was approved by the Utilities Commission in 1975 and reviewed again in 1981, according to Allen.

"Essentially it's the same argument they (Carolina Telephone) used before. They're just re-emphasizing it," Public Staff Communications Division Director Gene A. Clemmons said Tuesday.

The telephone company wants

to charge a matrix fee regardless of the economic advantages Hoke County would receive by having EAS passed without levying an additional cost to Fayetteville customers, Clemmons said.

The Utilities Commission has a number of options at this time, Clemmons said.

The commissioners can approve EAS and charge Raeford subscribers an additional \$4.52 a

month without charging Fayetteville, or they can approve EAS and charge Raeford and Fayetteville subscribers a matrix fee. The commission members could also poll Fayetteville subscribers, according to Clemmons.

"I think the commission will decide in two or three weeks. That's my guess," Clemmons said.

"I hope their decision will be (See CAROLINA, page 2A)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The rain finally came Monday morning and according to the weather reports, it will hang around until Tuesday. The western part of the state is getting snow as the front moves northeast. The temperature Monday is now in the 40s and it is not expected to freeze Monday night.

The forecast is for the thermometer to start dropping Wednesday and for it to get in the teens Wednesday night. It should be sunny, but the temperatures will be in the 30s Wednesday and Thursday.

Some of the people around the office would like for it to snow, but I have seen enough snow for the year.

The filing deadline has past but the election office is still open for people to register. If you are a newcomer, or have become of age, you should go by the office and register so you can vote in the May primary. Also if you have moved from one precinct to another precinct, you must move your registration to be able to vote.

It won't be too long until the books will be closed until after the primary. So go on Monday, Wednesday or Friday to the election office to register.

As has happened many times before, the ACC basketball teams knock each other out of high places in the polls. Last week UNC knocked off Georgia Tech and on Sunday, Duke also beat Georgia Tech. Tech had been the pre-season choice for number one by most pollsters. They were tied with Duke for second in the nation before the defeat. UNC and Duke met in March and could be playing for the top spot of the nation.

David Smith, retired radio and (See AROUND, page 2A)



Preserving the past

About 75 local residents viewed the movie on the "Main Street Program" Monday during a downtown revitalization commission meeting. The program emphasizes retaining buildings, like these on Raeford's Main Street, to preserve the heritage and character of a community.

## McCain murder probe continues, judge denies bond for suspect

By Ron Anderson

An investigation is continuing into the shooting deaths of two Raleigh sisters whose skeletal remains were discovered January 13 in shallow graves in the McCain area, Sheriff David Barrington said on Monday.

"We still have some loose ends to pick up," Barrington said.

The SBI is performing laboratory tests on evidence gathered in the Raleigh area, Barrington said.

On Friday, bond was denied Edward Lee Cummings, 44, who is facing two first-degree murder charges in connection with the shooting deaths of Karen Puryear, 22, and her sister, Teresa Puryear,

who was 15 when she was reported missing in 1983.

The two bodies found near McCain were identified as the remains of the two sisters by the state medical examiner.

Public defender Paul Herzog, Cummings' attorney, asked District Judge Sol G. Cherry to set bond for Cummings, who has been held in Hoke County Jail since his arrest on January 20.

Herzog argues that if Cummings was guilty he would have tried to flee after reports were made public that Sheriff Barrington had a suspect in the case.

Cherry initially set \$50,000 bond for each murder count.

Assistant District Attorney Juan Powell opposed setting bond and

said authorities suspected that Cummings was about to flee when he was arrested.

Powell called Barrington to the stand where he stated that Wake County law enforcement officers told him that Cummings was about to flee.

It was my information that the men with the taskforce looked through the windows of Cummings' Willow Springs home before his arrest and "saw packed bags that looked like he (Cummings) was going to leave," Barrington said on Monday.

A probable cause hearing that was to have been held on Friday was postponed until February 28 pending the results of SBI lab test results.

## Downtown movie draws crowd

By Ron Anderson

A crowd of close to 75 Raeford residents attended a special meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Commission Monday night to watch the movie "Main Street" and discuss the possibilities of reviving the city's business district.

"I'm delighted to see this kind of turnout," state Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) planner Jim Dougherty said.

Local residents are "getting the idea that something is about to happen in downtown Raeford, and it is," Dougherty said.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee was described by Dougherty as "a dynamic group of people who are exciting each other."

Before showing the film, Dougherty said there are four

guidelines outlined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that will assure the success of a revitalization program.

The first is appearance. Efforts should be made to capitalize on existing downtown architecture rather than trying to change the appearance of buildings, Dougherty said.

Once the downtown area is beautified, it's important to get the word out to the public by advertising or special events such as the Turkey Festival, Dougherty said.

Next is the organization of revitalization efforts.

Most downtown areas involved in revitalization efforts obtain a full time manager, but Dougherty suggested incorporating the commission as a goal to be obtained in a short amount of time.

The fourth guideline to follow is

the economic restructuring of the downtown area.

It is important to attract businesses to the area which will enhance the downtown district, Dougherty said.

The Main Street film illustrated downtown revitalization efforts in towns across the United States.

Both the pitfalls and high points of the programs were brought out and the economic viability of the efforts was stressed.

It doesn't cost a lot of money to make buildings look good, Dougherty said.

Historic preservation works and many towns throughout the state have been successful in restoring their downtown areas, according to Dougherty.

"It's happening all across the country and there's no reason it can't happen in Raeford," Dougherty said.



Trying to find problem

These Hoke High students attempt to solve the riddle of this malfunctioning lawnmower during small engines class. The week is Vocational Education Week in North Carolina, and Hoke County schools are taking part. Turn to page one of section B in today's News-Journal for the story on the local programs.