

Reward fund established in double shooting

By FRED HILL

A group of Camden County citizens have joined to encourage the capture of the slayer of Harold and Thelma Swain.

At a press conference held Monday in Woodbine the Committee for the Harold and Thelma Swain Reward Fund announced it is actively seeking contributions.

"We hope to raise at least \$10,000," Sheriff W. E. "Bill" Smith said. Smith is a member of the committee along with Councilman Gerald Roberts of St. Marys, Roy Dowdy of Kingsland, Rev. E. C. Tillman of Shiloh Baptist Church, Geneva Lyde of the

Glynn County NAACP, and Kenneth Taylor and Kenneth Smith of the Camden County NAACP.

The Swains were killed March 11 at the Rising Daughter Baptist Church north of Waverly by a man who stopped at the church and asked to speak to someone. When Swain, 66, came to the door of the church the man shot him four times, and shot Thelma Swain, 62, one time when she came to check on the shooting. Several women in the church for Bible study hid in the kitchen after the shootings.

"Our hope," Sheriff Smith said, "is to arouse sufficient interest in

the community to bring the man who did the shootings to justice. It's a terrible situation. We have had good cooperation already, but we think the offer of reward money might bring out some additional information that could lead to the capture of the killer."

Smith said his department has received many calls about suspects and that a number of these have already been eliminated. "This includes the man who stole some gas on Highway 17," Smith said.

Smith urges anyone having information about the March 11

shootings at Rising Daughter Baptist Church in Spring Bluff to notify the Sheriff's Department and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation at 576-5628. Smith said several GBI agents have been working out of his offices since the shootings.

All information will be kept confidential, Smith said. He also said that anyone providing information leading to the capture of the suspect would qualify for reward money from the newly-formed Harold and Thelma Swain Reward Fund.

According to Councilman Roberts, Governor Joe Frank

Harris has been contacted and the state is expected to contribute \$2,000 to the Reward Fund.

Roberts said anyone wishing to contribute to the fund may do so at the Southeastern Bank in Woodbine, the First National Bank of Brunswick or at any other bank in St. Marys or Kingsland.

"After two months, money deposited in the other banks will be transferred into the main account in Woodbine," Roberts said.

A statement prepared by the committee reads: "After March

31, 1987, if no information leading to the arrest or conviction of person or persons involved in this hideous death of Harold and Thelma Swain, the money will go into United Way, the Bryan-Lang Historical Library, Brunswick Junior College, and a Memorial Fund for the Swains at Rising Daughter Baptist Church."

Roberts said the committee will have "further announcements from time to time. Anyone providing information leading to the capture of the Swains' killer will be paid reward money from the fund we are now raising."

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