

'Worst Tragedy' Leaves Three Dead Sunday

The usual serenity of Chowan County was abruptly broken Sunday night, resulting in the death of two teen-age brothers and the suicide of their apparent assailant. A fourth person's alertness saved him from death.

Sheriff Troy Toppin identified the dead as Marvin Edward Robey, 17; Bruce Len Robey, 16, both of Route 3, Edenton, and Joel Sawyer Scott, Jr., 28, of Norfolk, Va.

Scott was being sought by authorities after a Chowan County Grand Jury indicted him in November, 1969, on a morals charge involving the elder Robey.

Sheriff Toppin said if Donnie Lee Robey, 13, had not played "possum" after Scott shot at him, he too might have been killed.

Authorities theorize that Scott shot the Robey brothers, fired on the third and thinking he, too, was dead committed suicide.

Scott, who had a lengthy criminal record and had received psychiatric treatment, was employed on the Chowan Hospital construction job as a foreman until his arrest in November on the morals charge.

He was released November 10 by Judge W. S. Privott after a conference with attorneys on the condition he was to submit voluntarily to psychiatric consultation and such treatment and professional care as recommended. No disposition was made in the District Court case.

Solicitor Herbert Small then sent a bill to the grand jury and secured an indictment. Scott was being sought on

this indictment.

Records found in his position indicated he was a \$200-a-week employee of Creech Construction Company in Norfolk.

Here is the account of the tragedy, described by Sheriff Toppin as the worst he has ever seen:

Donnie Robey went to the home about six miles from Edenton about 5 P. M. Sunday from Creech Motel and Restaurant, operated by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Creech. Some four hours later Scott arrived with a .12 gauge shotgun. He tied up young Robey and forced him to search the house to see if anyone else was home.

As young Robey and Scott descended the steps the other two brothers drove into the yard. When they entered the house Scott tied them also. He and Marvin Robey began to argue and Marvin was shot in the head.

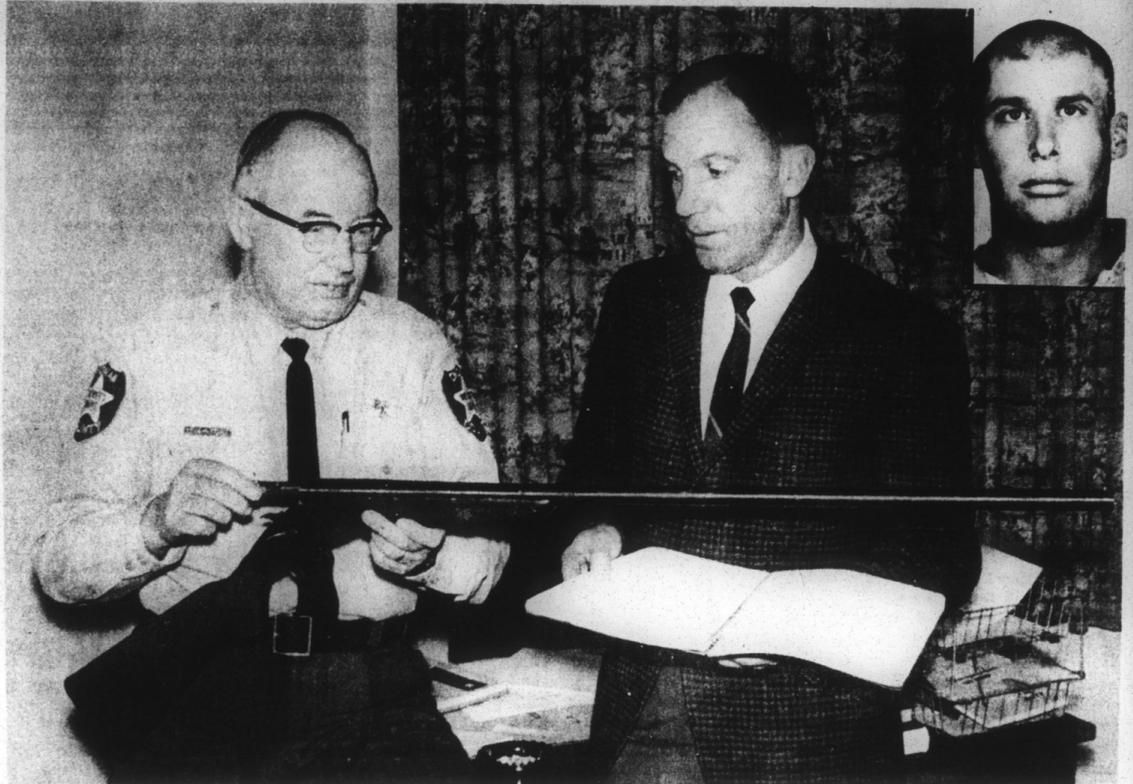
Scott then forced Bruce and Donnie Robey into the Robey car and drove approximately 500 yards to where he had parked a rental car. Sheriff Toppin said there was some signs of struggle around the spot where the cars were parked.

Scott drove to Wildcat pit where he ordered Donnie from the car. He fired a blast across the car and Donnie fell. Scott got back into the car and in a few minutes shot Bruce Robey.

He then turned the single-barrel gun on himself.

Mrs. Robey arrived home to find her son dead. The telephone had also been

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WEAPON WHICH CAUSED THREE DEATHS IN CHOWAN—Sheriff Troy Toppin hold a .12 gauge shotgun believed to have been used in the murder of two teen-age local youths and the suicide of a third person as he and Coroner Marvin Barham discuss investigation of the Sunday night tragedy. The shootings occurred in rural Chowan County and have been described by Sheriff Toppin as the worst he has seen in 14 years in law enforcement. Joel Scott, Jr., is shown in inset.



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Public Parade

In The Dead of Night

"Three Slain In Bizarre Murder-Suicide Plot; Brothers Are Victims."

"Two Brothers Slain; Man Takes Life."

"Two Of Three Brothers Slain; Killer Ends Own Life. Youngest Plays Dead To Survive At Sand Pit."

"Killer Had History Of Trouble".

These are all recent headlines in papers of general circulation along the Public Parade. They are really not too unusual for those who patronize the press.

Unfortunately, though, the dateline is not Detroit, Chicago, New York, Charlotte or even Norfolk. It is Edenton.

In any such tragedy there is always the question as to whether or not it could have been avoided. The same conjecture abounds here.

The community is saddened by the happenings of Sunday night. We offer our deepest sympathy to the families involved but their hurt will remain a lot longer than the memory of those who have seen this blemish on our community's good reputation.

Hard Work; Clean Paths

Even the doubting thomases of the anti-poverty program in Chowan County would have been impressed Monday with a report made to county commissioners.

The report showed that Community Action is working here and is headed by a spirited leader who intends to use the past accomplishments as a challenge for other communities.

Earl Jones, job developer for the Economic Improvement Council, reports eight community buildings completed during the year — one to be dedicated later in the month.

He also said there are 346 active 4-H'ers in the communities and adults are working on various self-help projects. The county took 11 certificates

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Bloodmobile Visit Witness Fails To Appear

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Edenton Monday under sponsorship of Edenton Jaycees. The bloodmobile will be at National Guard Armory from from 11 A. M., to 5 P. M.

Pete Ward, chairman, said the local quota is 185 pints for the next two visits and it is hoped a big portion of the quota can be reached next week.

Authorities are looking for a 15-year-old girl designated as a key prosecuting witness in the trial of three men on perjury counts.

The cases against Jerry Wallace Wells and Judson Curtis Wells, both of Snow Hill, and Jack Williams of Edenton, were continued until February 3 in Chowan County District Court Tuesday morning when the witness failed to respond to a subpoena.

Judge W. S. Privott ordered a capias for Debbie Jernigan, a student at D. F. Walker Junior High School, after Solicitor Wilton Walker said she is needed as state's witness. She allegedly was one of two female occupants of a car with three men when Judson Wells was arrested for drunk driving.

Wells was convicted last week by Judge Fentress Horner. Judge Horner ordered bench warrants charging perjury for the three men after one of the female occupants testified Wells was driving the car, switching with someone else when State Trooper R. H. Allen attempted to stop the car.

All have been released from custody under \$5,000 bond. In other cases called, the following action was taken: Edward Leroy Watson, drunk driving, 30 days, suspended upon payment of

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Area Event Slated

Dr. J. W. (Pete) Patterson, extension animal husbandry specialist will be guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Ten-County Albemarle Area Beef Cattle Association. Dr. Patterson will discuss the new bull feeding station at Rocky Mount.

The meeting will be held at Snug Harbor on January 13 and will start at 6:30 P. M.

All members of the association and other interested cattlemen in the area are invited to attend.



HEADED FOR TAR HEEL TERRITORY—Earl Chesson, seated center, Monday signed an athletic grant-in-aid with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The quarterback of the Edenton Aces was sought after by many colleges but chose Carolina. On hand for the activities at a luncheon were, left to right, Head Coach Bill Dooley, Chesson and his mother, Mrs. Wesley Chesson. Standing, in the same order: Assistant Coach Sandy Kinney; Holmes High Athletic Director and Coach Marion Kirby and Wesley Chesson. The Chessons have another son in the ACC—Wesley—who last year set grid records at Duke University.

Macks Stores Leases Space In New Shopping Center

Construction is now under way on another unit at Northside Shopping Center, being developed by W. D. Townson, Jr.

It was announced by V. C. McIver, senior vice president of Macks Stores,

Inc., the signing of a lease with Townson to open a variety-department type store in Edenton in early Spring. The store will contain 15,600 square feet of space.

Macks will join Sears, Winn-Dixie and Koretizing Dry Cleaners in the complex.

A fifth unit is expected to be added at a later date.

Macks' new Edenton store will be modern throughout and will be fixtured with Store Kraft fixtures, manufactured in Beatrice, Neb. The store will feature regular variety lines with special emphasis placed on ladies' and children's ready-to-wear at popular prices. The store will offer sporting goods such as fishing, camping and golf lines.

A complete pet department will feature gold and tropical fish and accessories. The most complete millinery department in Chowan County will be a highlight of the store. Other lines to be offered are small appliances as radios, stereos, TV's and lesser appliances as hair dryers, percolators, mixers, record players, vacuum cleaners, tape recorders, etc.

A complete record bar along with stereo tapes will be a feature of the store. An expanded shoe department along with infants' wear will be offered. In fact, the company will bring a com-

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State Rep. Phil Godwin

Speaker Godwin Banquet Principal

State Rep. Phil Godwin of Gates, speaker of the House of Representatives, will be keynote speaker at the annual DSA banquet sponsored by Edenton Jaycees.

Bob Weintraub, Jaycee chairman, said applications are now being taken and the deadline is January 19. Anyone between the ages of 21 and 35 are eligible to receive the Distinguished Service Award.

The banquet will be held January 22 at 7:30 P. M., in Edenton Jaycee Community Building on Base Road.

Rep. Godwin, a veteran state legislator, is one of two representatives in the First House District, composed of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

He was named speaker of the House during the closing session of the 1969 General Assembly when Earl Vaughan was named to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Bob Scott.

A lawyer, Rep. Godwin has served continuously in the State House since 1961.

Staff Expanded

E. N. (Pete) Manning, 216 West Eden Street, has been added to the staff of Colonial Funeral Home. A licensed funeral director, Manning will continue his duties as mechanical superintendent at The Chowan Herald.

Manning received his funeral director's license in April, 1968, from the N. C. State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

Marvin Barham, Colonial manager, said the addition of a licensed funeral director to the staff will broaden the services the firm can provide the community.

Manning is active in Edenton Baptist Church and serves on the board of directors of Edenton Chamber of Commerce. He directed the 1969 chamber membership campaign.

He is also manager of A-M News Agency here.



A Macks Store Similar To This Coming To Northside Shopping Center