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FORMER RESIDENT OF WILKES KILLS STUDENT AND SELF

Leon B. Smithey Shoots Self After Slaying Of Bennett

CHAPEL HILL, April 8.—Almost 18 hours to the minute after allegedly firing five bullets into the body of a student friend, Leon Broughton Smithey, 30-year-old ex-student and war veteran, was found dead, propped up against a tree near the Forest Theater here about 9 a. m. today, a bullet hole through his head.

Coroner W. J. Walker, Hillsboro and Chapel Hill undertaker, ruled it a suicide following the murder Friday afternoon of George Lemuel Bennett, Jr., 22. Walker said there would be no need for autopsy in either case.

Smithey, sought since 2:50 p. m. Friday, when he was seen walking away from his rooming house, had apparently gone directly to the Battle Park woods after killing Bennett, officers stated. The coroner said he had been dead since 4:30 or 5 p. m. Friday.

Found By Student
Ira Castles, a Monroe, La., graduate student and part-time instructor in economics at the university was on his way to a dental appointment this morning, taking a short cut through the woods from his residence near Gimhoul Castle, when he passed by the body of Smithey. He called to him several times. He then went rapidly to Raleigh Street, approximately 100 yards away, flagged a neighbor, a Mr. Wade, and immediately notified police.

Capt. Bill Blake of the Chapel Hill Police Department formally identified the body of Smithey at the scene. Smithey had shot himself in the right temple with a .38-caliber revolver, the same gun used in the slaying of Bennett, according to Coroner Walker. The bullet passed through the head and out the left side. The revolver was found clamped in his hand across his lap.

Village Tense

Discovery of Smithey's body ended a period of high tension in this Easter-quiet village. Police Chief W. T. Sloan, said he could not recall a student murder at the university since he joined the force in 1924. The police department, the state highway patrol, and SBI agents under Lee Phillips of Raleigh, did not sleep Friday night, continuing their efforts to locate Smithey. Not until the verdict of suicide came from the coroner did the officers leave their posts.

Smithey, described by his mo-

Smithey was a son of the late Sherman Smithey, of Wilkesboro, and Mrs. Naomi Hendren, who resides in Arlington, Va.

ther, Mrs. Naomi Smithey of Arlington, Va., as in need of treatment at a mental institution, had voluntarily entered Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville last year for treatment, police said. It was indicated by a psychiatrist at the hospital last night that Smithey was released "under protest" and that a university professor had "assumed responsibility" for the man.

Report Confirmed
In a brief telephone interview early this morning, Dr. Harry W. Crane of the psychology department confirmed the link for the Daily News. He said, however, that it was not a personal matter but one for the university and he would confer with school authorities before releasing a statement concerning Smithey.

Smithey was last seen by V. A. Hill, a former university professor and currently of the university extension division, owner of the fashionable house at 210 Henderson Street in which Smithey and Bennett roomed.

Flashers Begin Training Today

15 Men In First Workout This Morning With Others Expected Soon

Manager Bernie Loman started spring training for the North Wilkesboro Flashers here this morning with a squad of 15 players and more are expected late today and tomorrow. By the end of the week a squad of 30 players may be in uniform.

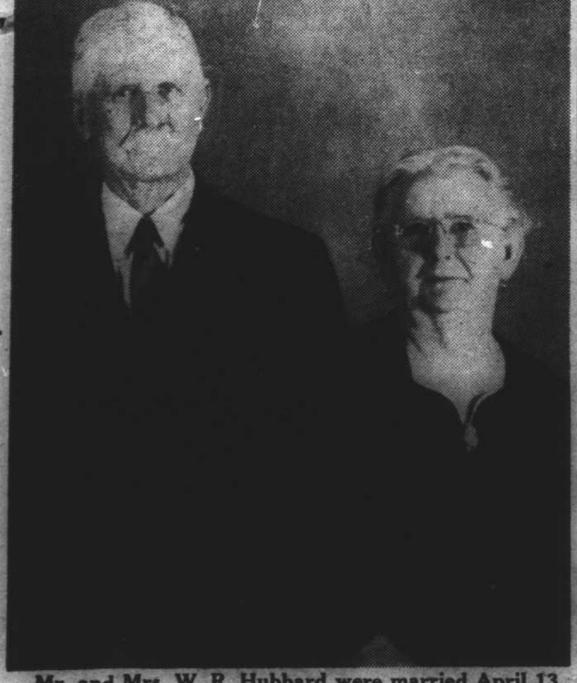
A number of last year's veterans have not reported but are expected momentarily. Veterans in the first workout were Pitchers Lee Bentley and Leslie Rhoades and First Baseman Tom Daddino. New candidates include two catchers, four infielders, three outfielders and three pitchers.

Work will reach a faster pace by middle of the week and the Flashers will open the exhibition slate at Morganton Saturday night. The first home game of exhibitions will be against Shelby here Sunday and the season will open May 1.

Complete report on players on the squad will be published in this newspaper Thursday.

Support The Red Cross

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY APRIL 13



Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hubbard were married April 13, 1890. Mrs. Hubbard is a daughter of the late James Owens and Diana Wesley Chatham, of Elkin. Mr. Hubbard is a son of the late Saner Hubbard, of Moravian Falls. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Hubbard was employed at Chatham Manufacturing Co. They moved to Moravian Falls shortly after their marriage and have lived in that community since. They are the parents of ten children, six living, as follows: H. C. Hubbard, of Salisbury; Miss Ruth Hubbard, Mrs. E. G. Critcher and Ralph Hubbard, of Moravian Falls; P. M. Hubbard, of Mt. Sterling, Ky.; and J. O. Hubbard of Houston, Texas.

WILKES MOUNTAIN STREAMS STOCKED WITH TROUT



This scene shows Game Protector Joel Bentley and members of the Wilkes Wildlife Club placing legal size trout in a Wilkes stream. The above picture was on Pike's creek near Springfield. Left to right are: representative of the Roaring Gap fish hatchery from which the fish were obtained; Game Protector Joel Bentley; L. G. Watkins, of Hayes; Troy Perry, president of the Wilkes Wildlife Club; and Joe Hamby, of Hays. Trout placed in Pike's creek, two prongs of Roaring River, Little Dugger, Bullhead and Rich Mountain creeks totaled 1,900. (Photo by S. Lane Atkinson, Jr.)

Dairying Subject Kiwanis Address Here Friday Noon

Club Votes To Sponsor Wilkes Agricultural Fair Again This Year

North Wilkesboro Kiwanis club held an enjoyable meeting Friday noon at Hotel Wilkes. One important matter of business was the club's decision to sponsor the Wilkes Agricultural Fair again this year. The club for the past several years has sponsored the fair to promote agricultural progress in Wilkes county.

Robert Morehouse announced that the Millers Creek Key Club had received its charter and that it is to be presented to the Club on Friday, April 21, at 2:00 p. m. He urged that a large number of the Kiwanians go out for the presentation.

Program Chairman Frank Blair asked Richard Johnston to introduce his speaker, L. L. Ray, chairman of the N. C. Dairy Products Association. Mr. Ray, after relating a number of stories, made a very suggestive talk on the dairy business in N. C. as a part of a great scheme of diversified development in the state. He stated that in Wisconsin there are more cows than there are people, but in North Carolina there is one cow for each ten people. The elimination of this margin of difference is being made. He says North Carolina is fast becoming a green state because of the rapid development of pasture lands. This is pointing to a finer state, he said.

Guests Friday were as follows: John E. Justice, III, with John E. Justice, Jr.; Bob Hubbard with Dr. F. C. Hubbard; Richard Johnston and L. L. Ray with Frank Blair. E. W. Smith, of Lenoir, was a visiting Kiwanian.

Mitch Reeves Rites Conducted Sunday

Mitch Reeves, 60, died Friday evening at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ray Church, in the Ronda community.

Mr. Reeves was born September 6, 1889, a son of the late Frank and Candis Eller Reeves. For many years Mr. Reeves operated a store and service station four miles west of this city on highway 421, and was well known in the county.

Surviving Mr. Reeves are his wife, Mrs. Jennie Reeves; one son, R. H. Reeves, of Lenoir, and one daughter, Mrs. Ray Church, of Ronda.

Schoolmasters Meet

Wilkes Schoolmasters Club will meet this evening, 6:30, at Hotel Wilkes. Speaker will be Nathan H. Yelton, executive secretary of the Teachers Retirement Administration in North Carolina.

Mrs. Jane Lowe Funeral Saturday At Walnut Grove

Mrs. Jane Lowe, 79-year-old resident of the Pores Knob community, died Thursday.

Funeral service was held Saturday morning at Walnut Grove Baptist church, of which she was a member. Rev. C. C. Holland conducted the last rites.

Mrs. Lowe was preceded in death by her husband, James L. Lowe. Surviving are the following sons and daughters: Spurgeon, J. A. and Fred Lowe, of Pores Knob; Dave Lowe, of North Wilkesboro; Mrs. D. S. Treadway, Mrs. James Earp and Mrs. Hubert Haun, of Pores Knob; Mrs. Mary Lou Brookshire, of Taylorsville.

Cancer Society Plans To Raise \$2,000 In Drive

Capter Holds Meeting Here And Reviews Work of The Past Year

Wilkes chapter of the American Cancer Society in meeting here reviewed work of the past year and made plans for increased educational work in the county.

W. C. Grier, chairman of the chapter, reported on the Cancer Center, which is operated every Tuesday morning at Wilkesboro for the people of northwestern North Carolina. The cancer center is operated by the State Health Department, with physicians volunteering their services. However, he cancer society does much work in encouraging people to attend the center and obtain cancer examinations.

The fund raising campaign was also discussed. The goal for the cancer campaign in Wilkes this year is \$2,000.

Forty per cent of the funds will be used to fight cancer in Wilkes county. Twenty per cent will go to the state chapter for use in counties which do not have an active organization. The remaining forty per cent goes to the American Cancer Society to finance research work in efforts to find cancer cures and preventatives and to finance cancer education on the national level.

The plan of organization calls for raising the cancer funds during the month of April. Mr. Grier stated, and efforts will be made to launch a full scale campaign here next week.

During the coming year the Wilkes chapter plans to show a number of films in Wilkes county, which will show the desperate need of early diagnosis and treatment of cancer to cut down the appalling death toll from the disease.

Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Helms spent the week-end with relatives in Charlotte.

Dave Hall Files As Candidate For Office Of Sheriff

Prominent Farmer And Business Man Seeks Democratic Nomination

Dave Hall, prominent business man and farmer, has announced his candidacy and has filed with the Wilkes county board of elections as candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff of Wilkes county in the primary to be held May 27.

Born and reared in Wilkesboro, Mr. Hall is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hall. For 23 years Mr. Hall was with R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company in the sales division and was division manager with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. After retiring from that position Mr. Hall spent three years in Florida.

After returning to Wilkes he bought from Mack Moore one of the largest farms in Wilkes county, located near Wilkesboro. In addition to operating his large farm very successfully, Mr. Hall has been active in civic and public life. He has been very active in work of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, of which he is a member. He is a Baptist, a member of the North Wilkesboro Optimist club and is a member of the Masonic lodge.

Mr. Hall is a veteran of World War I.

Doctors Will Hear Dr. Mulherin Here

Chapel Hill — Three specialist, Dr. Philip A. Mulherin of the University of Georgia School of Medicine, Augusta; Dr. Robert D. Dripps, University of Pennsylvania Hospital, and Dr. Reno R. Porter, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, will be the speakers this week at four Post-graduate Courses in Medicine being held in various parts of the State this and next month.

The courses are being held in North Wilkesboro, Salisbury, Raleigh and Edenton under the sponsorship of the University of North Carolina Medical School and Extension Division.

Dr. Mulherin will give addresses in North Wilkesboro on pediatrics at a clinic at the Hotel Wilkes at 5 p. m. Tuesday, April 11, and at a dinner at the Hotel that night at 6:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Rom H. Pearson went to Lincolnton Friday morning to attend a cake-cutting party given in the evening by their daughter, and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Killian, at their home honoring Miss Virginia Yount and Tom Wellborn, who were married Saturday evening, 7:36 o'clock, in Danie's Lutheran church. The Pearson's other daughter, Miss Beatrice Pearson, who teaches in Hickory, attended the party and remained over for the wedding. The groom is a son of Mr. Guy Wellborn, of Wilkesboro, and the late Mrs. Wellborn.

LIBRARY SEEKS FUND INCREASE

Seniors To Give Stage Production Of Beloved Classic

Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, "Little Women", was written in the mid-1800's and sold 60,000 the first year of publication. For eighty years this book has been read and loved by children and adults throughout the world. It has been adapted for stage, screen and radio, never losing its popularity.

On Friday, April 21, the senior class of North Wilkesboro High School will present a three act dramatization of "Little Women" in the school auditorium. The annual Senior Play is one of the biggest events in the school and the cast has been working diligently for weeks to make this an outstanding production of "Little Women."

Tickets are 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for students. Matinee performance for elementary students on Thursday April 20, will be 25 cents per student. Don't miss "Little Women." It is a heartwarming story the whole family will enjoy.

More Money From City And County Needed For Year

Trustees and librarians of the Wilkes Public Library, faced with an embarrassing books and hour shortage, this month appealed to the Wilkes County Commissioners and the North Wilkesboro city council for increased appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1950.

With a total income of \$5,606 for the current year, the library authorities stated that their minimum needs for the coming year will be \$8,040 if the library is to render the type of service the people of the county want and are entitled to.

For the current year the library receives from the city of North Wilkesboro \$1,120. The request for the coming year is \$2,500. For this year the county appropriates \$600 and the request for the coming year is \$3,000. This year the state furnishes \$3,586, which will be reduced to \$3,240 for next year. Miscellaneous income is estimated at \$300 yearly.

That the library is growing in popularity and usefulness is shown by circulation figures, the trustees pointed out in their summary presented with the requests for increased appropriations. Circulation of books in 1949 totaled 46,632, compared to 21,750 in 1945, an increase of more than 100 per cent in five years.

Last year the library added 814 volumes to bring the total to 6,212, which is far short of the amount needed for the population of the county, now estimated at about 60,000 people. The American Library Association sets as a standard two books per capita.

Last year the per capita income of the Wilkes library was 15 cents, which is much lower than 45 for Randolph, 75 for Alleghany, 29 for Watauga, 33 for Caldwell, 28 for Catawba, 35 for Rutherford, and many other counties cited in the report.

LOCALS

Mrs. J. E. Duncan spent the week-end at Pageland, S. C., with her son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Owen E. Duncan and two sons, Danny and Gary.

Mrs. Don Coffey and Miss Elizabeth Finley spent the Easter weekend in Chapel Hill and Durham. They also visited various North Carolina gardens which are open for spring tours.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Day and young son, James Timothy, visited with Mrs. Day's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Saunders, at Bedford, Va., during the week-end.

Mrs. W. H. McElwee and two children, Marian and Billy, spent the day Wednesday at Kings Mountain with Mrs. McElwee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Plonk. Mrs. McElwee was accompanied home by her mother, Mrs. Plonk, who is visiting here in the McElwee home.

Mesdames N. B. Smithey, Kyle Hayes, Lee Hemphill, Charles Younce, Louise Alexander, and G. M. N. Parker, and Misses Ghita Tuttle and Joyce Younce went to Taylorsville Wednesday evening for a birthday dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Kirkpatrick at their home honoring Mrs. Smithey, mother of Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

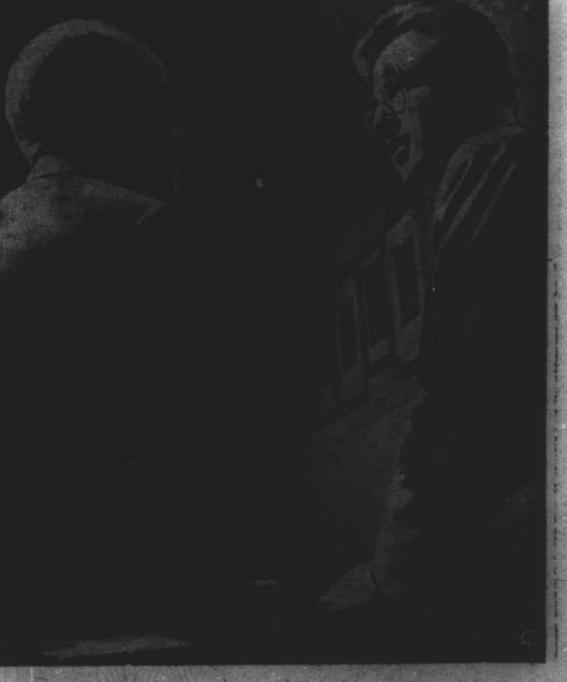
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Blatt, of Millford, Va., were here for the Easter holidays with Mr. Blatt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Finley, Mr. Gordon Finley, Jr., a student at Lees-McRae College at Banner Elk, and who had spent the spring holidays with the Blatts at Millford, returned home with them and was here also for the week-end with his parents.

Optimist Club Meets Tuesday

The Optimist club of North Wilkesboro will meet Tuesday at noon at Hotel Wilkes. District Governor Pete Rogers, of Hickory, will be present to install officers for the coming year.

Miss Jewel Howard, who teaches in the Leaksville Public school, and Mr. Jack Howard, a member of the Walnut Cove public school faculty, were here for the Easter holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Howard. Mr. Theodore B. Lupton, Jr., of Greenville, also visited in the Howard home.

STUDENT ACQUITTED OF MURDER



Robert Bednasek, Iowa University student, was acquitted of the "candlelight murder" of co-ed Margaret Ann Jackson. The above picture made during the trial shows Bednasek (right) as he conferred with his attorney, Clair Hamilton.