

Outlaw's Car Discovered



HAULED OUT. That famous red foreign-make stationwagon, found Friday following a week-long search, is hauled from a farm road in Richmond county. The Volkswagen was found concealed beneath blankets and sleeping bags in a pine thicket some distance from a rural paved road situated between N.C. 381 and U.S. 74.

Authorities may abandon the search for the .38 calibre pistol used to injure a local highway trooper and two Wilmington youths and to kill another Wilmington teenager.

Sheriff B. P. Lytch stated this morning that a search party thoroughly covered the area near the site where the red Volkswagen stationwagon was found Friday afternoon but failed to turn up the firearm.

Both the vehicle and the gun had been the object of a widespread search across three counties since Gregory Hudson Jones was apprehended Saturday, Oct. 18. Jones, 26, is charged with murder, three counts of assault (including the patrolman), and charges of burglary and assault on an officer, among others.

The red Volkswagen, thought to be the vehicle driven by the man who fired six bullets into Trooper Harry Stegall on Oct. 17, was found in a wooded area in the edge of Richmond county at about 3:30 Friday.

Sheriff Lytch said the vehicle was discovered by Randy Gibson, route 1, Hamlet, who was helping with the search. The sheriff said the little foreign car had been concealed within a pine thicket and was covered with blankets and sleeping bags. The area is located off Rural Paved Road 1615 about four miles east of Hamlet. The road runs between U.S. 74 and N.C. 381.

Found inside the Volkswagen, believed to be a stolen vehicle, were several boxes of ammunition, some clothing and a suitcase. The impounded vehicle has been stored at a local garage.

Although some reports indicate the vehicle was stolen in Spokane, Wash. and was bearing license plates stolen in DeKalb county, Ga., the sheriff said he was unable to say for sure just what the sources of the vehicle and its license are. He said the in-

vestigation is continuing.

Sheriff Lytch expressed the opinion that the search for the missing firearm will probably be abandoned. He noted that Scotland, Richmond and Marlboro counties have already been searched thoroughly and an object the size of a pistol may never be found. Officers had hoped to find the pistol either in or near the vehicle.

In the meantime Jones has been taken to New Hanover county, where he is being held without bond following trial for murder and the other counts of assault, burglary, etc. He will be returned to Scotland county for trial on charges of felonious assault and assault on a law enforcement officer.

Jones, whose parents live in Decatur, Ga., was attending Cape Fear Technical Institute as an oceanography student at the time of the shootings in Wilmington on Oct. 16.

Trooper Stegall was dismissed from North Carolina Memorial Hospital last week and is recuperating at the home of his parents in Charlotte. A full recovery is expected.



FESTIVE OPENING. Serendipity Pure Foods celebrated its grand opening Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Taking part were Chris Chay (left) and Brian Schulz, who held the ribbon while Scotland High School Homecoming Queen Sarah Page Prevatte wielded the scissors. Looking on is Chris' mother, June Chay, who, with her husband, Dr. John Chay, owns and operates the business in Brooks Shopping Center. Others who participated in the program were Chamber of Commerce president Bob Gordon (right, behind Sarah Page), Mayor Charles Barrett, and the Rev. Allen McSween Jr., pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, who gave the invocation. Special guests for the ceremony were members of the Trinity Presbyterian church kindergarten.

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