



WRECKAGE OF SCHOOL BUS IN WHICH ONE STUDENT WAS KILLED

Ashe Girl Killed As School Bus Plunges Down Mountain

A 10-year-old girl was fatally injured and five other students were injured last week when an Ashe County school bus, being driven for the first time by a 16-year-old relief driver, plunged down a mountainside.

Killed was Brenda Pugh, daughter of Lida and Ruth Pugh of Crumpler, Route 1. The elementary school girl was pinned in a window of the bus and was crushed to death in its roll down the mountain, officers said.

Admitted to Ashe Memorial Hospital were Lorraine Edwards, 14, who suffered head injuries; Steven Douglas, 16, who received an injury to the left elbow and a possible spinal injury; and Jackson Shane Colvard, 16, who suffered a broken leg.

Also in the hospital were Ruth Ann Edwards, 12, for observation of a possible head injury and the bus driver, Allen Roy Huffman, 16, of Crumpler, Rt. 1, who suffered fractured ribs.

In all, there were 18 persons aboard the bus when the accident occurred Thursday morning. Thirteen of them were treated for minor injuries and discharged.

According to officers, the bus was picking up students from the Crumpler community to be taken to the Nathan's Creek Elementary School when the accident happened about 7:30 a. m.

State Highway Patrolman Joe Stinnett said Huffman had made a stop and was starting again. He quoted Huffman as saying the accelerator stuck and he tried to shift gears to slow the bus.

The youth said that as he did, a wheel ran off the edge of the steep road and he was unable to bring the vehicle back under control.

The bus turned over four times in its plunge, coming to rest "about three or four feet" from a much steeper descent, according to one eye-witness.

Children were thrown out the open windows and scattered over the hillside. The seats and other equipment inside the bus were smashed.

The Pugh girl's arms had

been pinned by seats. Her head was caught in the window and crushed.

The children said they were laughing and singing when the bus began its plunge, tumbling 150 feet down the mountain.

Tom Cockerman, hospital administrator in Ashe County, told reporters that injuries might have been fewer if the children had worn seat belts. He suggested that the state equip the buses with belts.

Huffman was driving the ill-fated bus for the first time.

Ordinarily he drove an Ashe Central High School bus, but had been transferred to the Nathan's Creek run as a relief driver.

Stinnett said no charges would be filed pending an examination of the bus by mechanics to see if the accelerator was defective.

The Pugh girl's funeral was held Saturday at the New River Baptist Church. She is survived by her parents; a sister, Mrs. Bobby Bauguess of Crumpler; and her four grandparents.

Purple Rhododendron Hospital Week Being Observed Nearing Peak Bloom

The purple rhododendron bloom has developed rapidly in the past three days and their peak of bloom is predicted for this week end. They are going to bloom a week or ten days earlier than last year. This peak condition is expected throughout the Bluff district, according to Parkway officials.

The most attractive displays are found at Mile Posts 231-237; 240-244 (Doughton Park); and 266-267.

The pink azaleas are at present in full bloom from Virginia and North Carolina State Line to Mile Post 224. They are beginning to bloom at other lo-

cations and are expected to reach a peak in the Meadow Fork area, Mile Post 246-248, this week end.

The flame azaleas are showing some bloom and should reach a peak in a week to ten days. A scattering of flame azaleas can be expected along most of the district.

The magnolia trees are now in full bloom and should remain attractive for a week or ten days.

A visitor will find a number of ground flowers in bloom including trillium, florabane, wild iris, columbine and many others.

Hospitals employ more than a million and a half workers in some 200 different job classifications, R. A. Weger, administrator of Blowing Rock Hospital, said on the opening of National Hospital Week, May 12-18.

Theme of National Hospital Week, held annually during the week of Florence Nightingale's birthday (May 12) under the sponsorship of the American Hospital Association, is "Today's Hospital—Career Center for America's Youth."

The hospital truly is a career center. It might be likened to a small city, Mr. Weger said. The hospital requires every level of skill, profession, trade and talent needed in a city, but it also requires the specialized professional skills of the nurse, therapist, and physician.

For every hospital patient, there are nearly two and a half employees, and for every physician practicing in the hospital, seven employees assisting him, Mr. Weger said.

"These many categories of jobs require a variety of skills and interest," Mr. Weger said. "There is, literally, a hospital job for everyone. Hospital careers offer a unique opportunity; because of the wide variety of positions, a person may find a job to suit his own interests, but still gain the satisfaction of serving the community."

"We in the hospital field hope that every young person leaving high school will consider the career opportunities in the hospital field. The need for personnel is great, the potential positions are unlimited, and the satisfactions are unique."

Nichols Named Sparta Mayor

The Town of Sparta will be under the same government for the next two years, as all incumbents were named by a landslide in Tuesday's town election.

G. Glenn Nichols, who was unopposed in the race for Mayor, automatically retained his position. This will be Nichols' eighth term as Sparta mayor.

All five present members of the Town Council were re-elected unanimously. Alton Thompson received the highest number of votes with 217, Charles Castevens, 213; R. C. Mitchell, 306; Robert L. Allison, 195; Levi Shores, 190; and Robert Andrews who was seeking a place on the Town Council for the first time, received 78 votes.

Mr. Nichols serves as Justice of Peace, president of the Presbyterian Sunday School class and is a past president of the Alleghany Wildlife Club.

Visitation Day At Local School

School Visitation Day for prospective first graders at Appalachian Elementary School will be held Friday morning, May 17th, from 9 until 11:30, at the school.

At least one parent should accompany the child. Lunch will be served to both children and adults in the school cafeteria for twenty-five cents per plate.

Parents who have not turned in the required blanks for registration are urged to bring them on the above date.

Parents and children are asked to report to the first grade classrooms, located on the ground floor of the building.

ROMNEY SAYS NO

Republican national chairman William E. Miller said that he knows of no concerted drive to boost Gov. George Romney of Michigan for the 1964 Presidential nomination.

The New York Congressmen said he (Romney) is being considered as well as many other candidates.

But Gov. Romney said: "I am not a candidate for president; I am not going to become one."



Putting The Meters In Line

A spray of shattered pavement flies into the air as Boone policeman Lloyd Bentley wields a heavy sledgehammer against a spike, being held (if somewhat nervously) by officer Harry Sudderth. "Can this be?" mused one by-passer. "Policeman tearing up the city streets?" Well, not really, the officers explained. It was part of a two-day task to repair "ten or twelve" parking meters along King Street. A few of the posts, it seems,

worked their way loose from their cement embrace and began tilting precariously along the sidewalks. By Friday, all was back to normal again—the meters were ticking, the posts were standing straight, and once again the officers were strolling the streets with dignity. Shelving the sledgehammers and other tools, one of the policemen laughed, "I betcha never see Andy Griffith doing this!" —Staff photo.

Williams To Appear In Ga.

Dr. Cratis Williams, director of graduate studies at Appalachian State Teachers College, will deliver the commencement address at Gordon Military College in Barnesville, Ga., Sunday, June 2.

Approximately 170 students will hear Dr. Williams speak at the college's 111th commencement.

An unsuccessful organizer is one unable to get other people to do the work.

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