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Arson, Homicide

Suspected In Fire

Four officers with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation were called in Thursday to investigate the suspicious death of a man in Pea Ridge.

The Polk County Sheriff's office received a call at 8 a.m. Thursday about a fire at a mobile home off Hwy. 108 near the Green River in Pea Ridge.

When the first deputies arrived, they found a body in the mobile home, partially burned. Although a positive identification will not be available until an autopsy is done, Sheriff Boyce Carswell said the deceased is believed to be the owner of the home, Paul Frederick Acker.

Carswell said investigators suspect arson and homicide. Both of Acker's vehicles were missing, an '88 Ford pick-up, blue and an '85 Volvo, dark blue. Also missing were electric welders, a Honda generator, a couple of tool boxes, and computer equipment.

Carswell said investigators found evidence that some person or persons walked into the isolated property from Hwy. 108, and the tracks of Acker's vehicles leaving the property were freshly made Thursday morning, after the rain stopped.

"We feel like somebody knew him and knew what he had," the Sheriff said. He said the cause of death won't be known until the autopsy is completed.

Acker, 51, moved to Rolk Continued On Back Page

30 Thoroughbreds To Run Saturday



in Saturday's third annual Tryon Hounds Fall Steeplechase at the FENCE course in Tryon. They include top stakes and race winners from the east coast and mid-west districts running on the fall Dixie Circuit.

Outstanding entries are also bringing the owners, trainers and riders currently leading in both money and races won.

The first race, the \$10,000 Keep America Beautiful sponsored by Waste Management of North America, Spartanburg District, is a maiden race for horses three years old and upwards that have never won. It features contenders such as Aisling, a three-year-old trained by Jonathon Sheppard. Sheppard is the leading trainer in money, \$522,234 in 1990, and in total races won for the year to date.

Tripaloma is another Sheppard

thoroughbred 'chaser, placing second in this steeplechase horses are set to run cup at the Tryon Hounds 1989 Fall Steeplechase and fourth at this year's Block House Steeplechase

In the second race, Expect the Best, Coldwell Banker/ Town and Country Realtors of Tryon sponsor a \$5,000 purse for another maiden or three-year-old, "sophomore" race.

Notables include the Argentine gelding, Zelandes, leading money winner among the nine entries, with four second place credits out of seven starts for the year. Elberton Fling is trained by Janet Elliot who is second in money standings (\$260,814) and third in wins among trainers. Presale, owned and trained by Jonathan Sheppard, is ridden by Jonathan Smart, ranking tenth in races and money won to date for jockeys.

The Cleveland White Cup, for Contionued On Back Page



71, low 63, hum. 83 percent. By Thursday at 6 a.m., .87 inches of rain had fallen into Robert Dedmondt's rain guage on South Trade Street in Tryon.

Welcome to all visitors in town for the Tryon Hounds Fall Steeplechase! Steeplechases originated when, after a good fox hunt, a few of the sportier hunters would race to a church, visible only by its steeple.

The owners, trainers and riders here Saturday will be chasing large pots of money, a bit a prestige, and the satisfaction of perfecting the relationship between man and one of God's most beautiful beasts.

The rest of us use this occasion each year to chase after a beautiful day outdoors, with friends, fun and festivities.

The Tryon Hounds will not fox hunt Saturday morning, but will meet instead Monday at 7:30 a.m. at Mollywood.

David and Linda Glickstein of Philadelphia call Western North Carolina "the roof top of the Eastern United States with more than forty peaks above 6,000 feet."

David and Linda write and publish a newsletter, The Continued On Back Page