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Farmer

(Continued From Page One) May was crushed and the baby was reported drowned or frozen to death.

MISLEADING NOTE The sheriff said the accused man was taken to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping because feeling was running high in the small farming community of Rowlands Station, about six miles from here.

Investigators went to the farm after Bratcher's son, Charles, father of Charlotte Ann, reported to police that he had gone to visit

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his daughter Saturday night and found a note on the front door saying "Baby is in hospital in Nashville."

Charles Bratcher said he went to police because he couldn't understand why he had not been notified earlier in his daughter was sick.

The sheriff said that on arriving at the farm home they first noticed the body of the Bratcher's collie watchdog in the yard. Going inside they found blood on the floor of the kitchen and then began searching the premises.

INFANT IN CISTERN Bratcher's body, was found hidden in a nearby sorghum mill. The bodies of the woman and their daughter were hidden in a sink hole while the baby had been stuffed in a cistern.

A bloodstained shovel also was found in the yard and officers planned to drain the cistern, believing there may have been another murder weapon.

Youngblood said Gibbs was driving Bratcher's light truck when arrested. The sheriff said the accused man also was found to have sold some meat from Bratcher's smokehouse in a nearby community.

Gibbs denied the murder and aid Bratcher had lent him the truck and authorized him to sell the meat.

Ruby Hood's

(Continued From Page One) afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Sliam Church at Harrell. Burial will be in the family cemetery.

Surviving are his wife Mrs. Zenora Johnson of Harrell; five daughters; Mrs. Ruby Hood of Dunn, Mrs. Hazel Williams of Serecta; Mrs. Louise Jackson of Harrell; wife; Mrs. Thelma McPhail of Autryville, Route 1; one son, John Johnson of Harrell.

Bass, Bracey

(Continued From Page One) seems no doubt but what he will be a candidate again.

Aside from Mr. Bass, no other opposition has been hinted. Mayor Hanna won easy victories the past three elections and political observers, including Mr. Bass, conceded that, "it'll be hard to beat him."

Commissioner Bracey has been saying for more than a year that he would not seek another term. He has served two terms, one two-year term and is now completing a four-year term.

"I have enjoyed serving on the

Big-3 Meet Now Being Considered

LONDON, UP—The Western Big Three foreign ministers will meet next month to set an early date for top-level talks with Russia, informed diplomatic sources predicted today.

Officials said consultations among United States, British and French foreign ministers on a date and place for a Big Three meeting were about to start.

French ratification of the pacts to rearm West Germany lifted the logjam that has blocked the West's diplomatic initiative. Russia intimated its willingness to come to a foreign ministers' meeting.

The cause was now set for new Allied diplomatic talks ranging from Austria and Germany to disarmament and over-all European security problems. It could mean a shift in the whole tempo of the cold war.

Officials said the Western meetings would be arranged during or immediately after the next North Atlantic Council meetings, probably in April, when Germany will be admitted to NATO.

Foreign secretaries of the United States, Britain and France would align their policies for talks with the Soviet. Then the Big Four talks probably could be arranged for early summer.

RUSSIA GIVES HINT

If these talks succeed, the four-power meeting might be followed by a conference later in the year of the heads of government of the United States, Britain and France, the sources said.

Russia's first hint it might be willing to attend a Big Four foreign ministers' conference came from Premier Nikolai Bulganin who said he welcomed President Eisenhower's suggestion.

Some Western diplomats were convinced that Russia must show now whether it is really ready to ease world tension or to intensify the world's enormous arms build-up.

board," said Commissioner Bracey, "and appreciate the support and cooperation given me by citizens of the town, but I feel that I have served long enough."

"Is there any chance you might change your mind?" a reporter asked.

"No," he replied quickly. "I don't think so."

"You mean," asked the newsman, "that it would take a groundswelling of popular demand or something like that?"

"It would take more than that," replied Mr. Bracey. "I'm just not interested in running again."

POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Meanwhile, a number of citizens were reported as eyeing the office. Among them are S. Dewey Whittenton, local automobile dealer. Lonnie Baldwin and Cad Upchurch, both of whom operate sundry shops here; J. Edgar Black, Jr., local business man and assistant Harnett Coroner, Derwood Godwin, local contractor and realtor, Lewis Godwin, local grading contractor; and Fred M. Byerly, local insurance man.

"I predict," said Commissioner Bracey today, "that there will be no shortage of candidates."

The filing deadline ends at noon on April 11.

Benson Sure Of Contest

Benson today was assured of a contest in the city primary to be held on Tuesday, April 5, but it remains to be seen whether or not there will be a race for mayor, city judge and town constable.

Tuesday noon is the deadline for filing.

C. M. Blackman, merchant and insurance agent, so far is the only candidate for mayor. Blackman formerly served on the town board from 1945 to 1953. Major J. Roscoe Barefoot, who is completing a third two-year term, has not yet announced his intentions. Barefoot also served as mayor from 1945 to 1949.

Mayor J. Ed Johnson of the Benson Recorder's Court has filed for re-election and so far is unopposed. He was appointed to the bench two years ago when the Benson court was created.

Town Constable W. David Wood has filed for reelection and so far is unopposed. Two other candidates, Shelton Moore and C. M. Dixon, filed against Wood but later withdrew.

Five candidates have filed for the four posts of town commissioner. They are: Emory Miller, Brantley McLamb, Robert Denning, new candidates, and two incumbents, Garland McLamb and Harold Medlin.

Miller is a furniture salesman and a former member of the board; Brantley McLamb is a merchant and Denning operates a feed mill. They are seeking the office for the first time.

Two present members of the board, Bill Farmer, and C. N. Bostic, have not yet filed for reelection.

Grand Jurors Indict Agent

Carl C. Churchill of Fayetteville, Federal Alcohol Tax Unit investigator, has been indicted by the Harnett County Grand Jury on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon on James C. Raynor of Spring Lake, Route 1 while the officer was engaged in his official duties.

The grand jury returned the bill after hearing the testimony of two witnesses.

Churchill, veteran Federal agent, is accused of hitting Raynor on the head with a pistol following an argument which arose when the ATU investigator went to the Ray-

nor farm searching for illegal liquor stills.

The officer, who was represented at the preliminary hearing by Lawrence Harris, assistant U. S. District Attorney, claims innocence.

OTHER CASES PENDING

Two other charges against Churchill of assault on a female, one on Mrs. Catherine Raynor Barrett, and another on Mrs. Pearl West Lee, also of Spring Lake, Route 1, have been transferred to Federal Court in Raleigh.

The incident in which the charges arose took place last November 18 in a tobacco field near the Raynor home.

Raynor claims the officer spoke in a threatening manner to him in the presence of several people, then followed him 75 feet and hit him on the head. He says Churchill told him, "I wish I could kill all of you."

Mrs. Raynor corroborates her husband's story. She claims she was the person who twisted the pistol of his hand. Both Raynor

Tucker Freed In Fatality

Walter Tucker, young Lillington Negro, has been freed of all blame in the highway death of David Ross Stewart, 26, of Broadway, Route 1, which occurred on February 16th.

The Harnett County Grand Jury failed to return a true bill against Tucker.

A Jury impaneled by Assistant Harnett Coroner Ed Black, Jr. had ordered Tucker held for the grand jury after an inquest at which Highway Patrolman W. L. Lucas testified that Stewart met his death as the result of his car being forced off the road by a pursuing

and his wife admit numerous liquor indictments, and she denies that she and Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Lee attacked Churchill.

vehicle. Patrolman Lucas also said his investigation showed that Tucker was the first person to arrive at the crash scene on the Johnsonville road.

DENIES GETTING CLOSE

However, he denied having gotten close enough to Stewart to force him off the highway. Two other Negroes, one said he was at the store where Tucker's car was sideswiped, and another who testified his own car had been hit by Stewart's vehicle, said they were only a short distance beyond the young Broadway man when his car crashed, but said they had no part in the accident. The two men, Clarence Graham and Clyde Farrell, were cleared of any criminal implication by the coroner's jury.

J. V. (CROW) BASS

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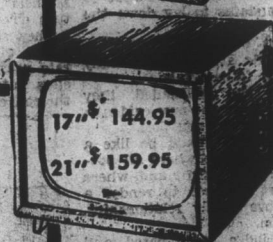
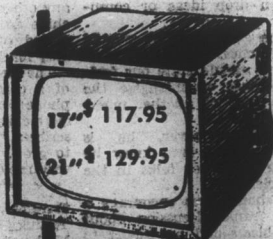
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