

May Have Been Murder

Officers Seek Clues In Death Of Negro Woman

The Warren County Sheriff's Department and Norlina police are still seeking to fix the blame for the death of a Norlina Negro woman on Monday night.

Martha Tuck, about 50, was found lying in an unconscious condition in the outskirts of Norlina on the Norlina-Warren Plains highway about 7:30 o'clock on Monday night by Sheriff Jim Hundley. She was taken by ambulance to Warren General Hospital, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Taken to Brown's Funeral Home at Warrenton, the body was examined by Dr. H. H. Foster, Norlina physician. He described her injuries as a fractured skull and two gashes around her neck and head. One of the gashes extended from the back of her head to the jaw and the other, on the same side of her head, extended about half way around her throat.

Sheriff Hundley said that Dr. Foster stated that the fracture of the skull was responsible for the woman's death. Officers lean to the view

that the woman was the victim of a hit-and-run driver, but do not discount the possibility of murder.

A coroner's jury, scheduled to meet at 2 o'clock yesterday (Thursday) afternoon had not reached a verdict when this newspaper went to press.

Sheriff Hundley said that he saw the body lying beside the road as he was on his way from Norlina to his home, a short distance away. He said as he passed the woman a man was standing nearby, but when he returned a few minutes later to pick up what he believed to be a drunk, the man was gone. He said his 13-year-old son was riding with him when he first saw the body beside the road and he took his son home because he did not wish to have him around while he was fooling with a drunk.

Hundley said that officers have not yet been able to establish the identity of the man standing beside the woman when he passed or of two other persons who are said to have seen the woman lying beside the road.



The above picture was taken shortly before a truck and tractor was pulled out of the ravine near Benton's Service Station where it plunged on Friday morning after being struck by car. (Photo by Allen King)

Man Critically Injured In Car-Truck Crash In Norlina

A white man was critically hurt at Norlina at 4:30 a. m. last Friday in a car-truck crash that demolished the car and sent the tractor-truck plunging down a 20-foot embankment at Benton's Service Station.

James Arthur Royfield, 47, of Stanley was pulled from underneath the rear bumper of his 1955 Buick, where he was thrown by the impact of the collision, and carried in an unconscious condition to Warren General Hospital. He was later transferred to Duke Hospital in Durham. His condition is not known by Norlina police officers who investigated the wreck.

Delbert Clarence Parrish, 214 Kelly Street, High Point, driver of the trailer truck belonging to the R. D. Fowler Motor Line of High Point, received minor injuries. He was treated at Warren General Hospital for a leg injury, bruises, and a cut on his left arm, and released.

The wreck occurred when Royfield, driving at a high rate of speed, crashed into the side of the truck driven by Parrish at the intersection of Highway 401 with U. S. No. 1 at Benton's Service Station.

The accident was witnessed by Dorsey Capps, Norlina night police officer, through his rear-view window. Chief Buck White said Wednesday, Capps had seen the car approaching and passing and was seeking to turn around for a chase when he saw the crash.

After being struck by the car, the truck veered from the highway, tearing down a telephone pole and 230 feet of cable before plunging down the embankment, but failing to overturn.

Parrish, driver of the truck, said the car struck the left wheel of his tractor, making it impossible for him to control the vehicle. He described his escape as a miracle and said it was his first accident in 18 years as a truck driver.

The demolished car was taken to Whitmore's Garage, where it was described by veteran police officer Buck White as "the worst wrecked car I have ever seen."

After several hours of work the tractor and trailer truck was pulled from the ravine by two wreckers, one of which was anchored to a tree and the other chocked in the yard of the Norlina Motor Lodge. Traffic on Highway 1 was halted momentarily several times while the wreckers strained on their cables strung across the highway.

In the pulling process, one of the wreckers turned over on its side and the driver was pulled through the door which was opened by fellow workers. He escaped without injury.

The wrecker was uprighted and the engine was refilled with water and chained to a large oak tree. This time the pulling was sufficient to drag the vehicle out of the ravine. From a point on the edge of the highway the truck was taken to Mitchell's Garage for repairs on the tractor and trailer. Damage to the tractor and trailer was estimated at \$1500.

Scores of persons watched the salvaging operation for hours and were on hand when the job was completed around 1 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Chief Buck White said that no charges have been preferred against the driver of the car pending the outcome of his injuries.

Science Fairs To Be Held In Warren Schools Tuesday

Science fairs will be held in white elementary and high schools of the county on Tuesday night. Exhibits will be displayed and judged and the winners selected for the County Science Fair to be held at John Graham High School next Friday night, March 11.

A number of the science fairs have already been held in the Negro schools of the county, but the Negro County Science Fair will be held at the John R. Hawkins school.

Three ribbons, blue, white and red, will be awarded in the Biological and Physical Science displays, and the judges will give honorable mention to any worthy projects.

Projects from grades 1-9 that win blue ribbons will go to the County Fair, as will the top three projects in both the Biological and Physical Science.

The science fair at John Graham will be held in connection with the Parent-Teachers Association meeting in order that members may see the projects of the local school.

Judges for the Tuesday night fair here will be Dr. Sam H. Massey, Jr., Frank Reams and Mrs. Arthur Williams.

Details of the science fair at Littleton on Tuesday night have not been learned, but they are expected to be similar to those at Norlina and Warrenton.

Norlina High School will hold its science fair in the halls of the school on Tuesday, March 8, from 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock at which time refreshments will be served in the library by the third year home economic class.

Judges for the event will be Mrs. Barker Williams, science teacher at Aycock School in Vance County, and Hugh W. Holt and Dixon Ward of Warrenton.

They will choose the three best entries from the biological science class and three best entries from the physical science class of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to be entered in the County Science Fair to be held at John Graham School on Friday.

Judging will be on scientific thought, 30 points; creative ability, 30 points; thoroughness, 10 points; clarity and dramatic value, 20 points; and technical skill, 10 points.

Also to be chosen by the judges at Norlina will be the best exhibit from the elementary grades, 1 to 5, the best from the intermediate grades, 4-6; and the best from the junior high school, grades 7 to 9.

Charles Mulchi, a senior, has been appointed Science Fair director at the Norlina school.

Mrs. Lawrence Baxter of Warrenton, science teacher in the Norlina High School, said that the senior high school winners from Norlina would go to Durham this spring as guests of Dr. Robert W. Wheat, director of the Bio-chemistry Laboratory of Duke University. At Durham the winners will inspect some of the scientific equipment in the research building of Duke University Medical Center, including the high altitude chamber, electron microscope, technical apparatus, and possibly a heart-lung machine.

In addition, the elementary schools at Wise, Macon and Afton-Eberon will each enter three of their winning exhibits.

At the county fair Friday, March 11, winners will be selected to enter the State Science Fair.

Business Men To Fight Removal Of W. P. Depot

Warrenton business men will oppose a petition of the Seaboard Airline Railway Company before the Utilities Commission to abolish the freight depot at Warren Plains.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled to be held in Raleigh on March 18.

First step in the opposition to the petition was taken on Wednesday night of last week when a group of local business men gathered at Hotel Warren to formulate a plan of action. The group decided to write a letter to the president and vice president of the Seaboard Company, pointing out the volume of business from Warrenton going to and from Warren Plains and stating the adverse effect the closing of the station would have on the business life of Warrenton and asking that the petition be withdrawn.

Should this petition not be withdrawn, a spokesman for the group said this week, it is likely that an attorney would be employed to carry the fight before the Utilities Commission.

License To Build Dam Expected This Month

By BILL PIERCE

LITTLETON — The March deadline set by the Federal Power Commission for replies to its order authorizing construction of the Gaston Dam passed with only two minor replies submitted. Neither is expected to delay issuance of the FPC order which will permit Virginia Electric and Power Company to proceed with the hydroelectric project.

A VEPCO official said Tuesday the order is expected to be issued some time during the month of March.

One reply to the proposed order was from VEPCO. The company accepted the order as an amendment to the license under which the Roanoke Rapids Dam was built rather than as a new, separate 50-year license. The other was of a technical nature submitted by North Carolina only as a matter of record in the order.

Meanwhile, survey crews are working for VEPCO to complete studies at the upper end of the reservoir area and at the dam site.

VEPCO officials have indicated that they expect to let a contract for construction of the \$50,000,000 project by June 1 and perhaps sooner.

The FPC order stipulates that construction must begin before May 1, 1961, and be completed by May 1, 1964.

Full-scale employment on the project is expected by summer, however, and the reservoir is expected to be filled with water by the spring of 1963.

VEPCO will employ some 1,500 men during the construction project, and an estimated \$20,000,000 will be put into local circulation through payrolls and expenditures for material and services during the three-year construction period.

Play-Off Games Postponed Due To Bad Weather

Basketball games scheduled to be held at Rocky Mount last night when Norlina and Weldon teams were to participate in the playoffs have been postponed to Thursday night, March 10, Coach Bob Price of Norlina said yesterday. Postponement was due to bad weather.

Norlina, winner over Gold Sand of Franklin County last Saturday night, was scheduled to meet a Jackson team in the second of the night's game. Weldon, winner over Wendell of Wake County last week, was scheduled to meet Red Oak of Nash County.

Norlina was Warren-Halifax Conference and tournament winner and Weldon was runner-up in the tournament.

Daniel Heads Methodist Men

Leonard Daniel, Warrenton Postmaster, was elected president of the Methodist Young Men's Club of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church at an organizational meeting held at the church on Monday night.

Purpose of the organization is to promote the spiritual well being of the church.

Other officers chosen were P. B. Boyd, vice president of the Citizens Bank, vice president; and Allen Tucker, local appliance dealer, secretary.

The program for the evening was presented by W. D. Payne, superintendent of Henderson City Schools and District Lay Leader, who showed the group slides of similar organizations and of the Methodist Camp at Kerr Lake. Payne also installed the newly elected officers.

Members of the Joyce Vereen Circle served dinner to the more than 40 members present.

Guests included officers of the Henderson, Providence and Macon Methodist Men's Clubs.

Humphreys Accepts Call

Levi H. Humphreys, who will graduate this spring from Union Theological Seminary of Richmond, Va., has accepted a call as pastor of the Warrenton, Littleton and Gruver Memorial Presbyterian churches.

Mr. Humphreys, who has been supplying the pulpits of the three churches once a month, will make his home at Littleton. His wife is a graduate of the Assembly's Training School for lay workers. They have one child, 18 months old.

John W. Dowling Dies At Norlina

John White Dowling, 52, died at his home at Norlina Friday night of a heart attack.

Mr. Dowling was for many years manager of Colonial Stores at Warrenton where he made his home. In 1953 he went to Norlina as manager of the new Norlina Supermarket and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death. He had been making his home at Norlina for several years. He was a member of the Norlina Methodist Church.

Funeral services for Mr. Dowling were conducted at the Norlina Methodist Church on Sunday at 4 p. m., with interment in the Collins cemetery near Norlina. The Rev. Charles Vale, pastor, and the Rev. Mal (See DOWLING, page 10)

To Observe World Day Of Prayer

LITTLETON — The World Day of Prayer Service will be held Friday afternoon at 3:30 at the Littleton Presbyterian Church, with all churches in Littleton participating.

Critically Ill

Mrs. W. L. Harris, sister of Mrs. W. D. Rodgers, is critically ill in a Charlotte Hospital. She is the former Miss Nan Rodwell of Warrenton.

Rotarians Hear Welfare Talks

The Rotary Club held its regular meeting on Tuesday night at Hotel Warren with William Baker in charge of the program.

Julian Farrar and Mrs. J. E. Adams of the Warren County Welfare Department were guest speakers and explained the various programs and functions of the Welfare Department.

Warrenton Youth Receives Keith Scholarship Award

An East Carolina College music student from Warrenton was awarded the Keith Scholarship for college piano students Saturday, it was announced by his parents Monday.

Tasker Polk, who has been cited many times for his musical skill on the piano, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Polk. Mrs. Polk is the former Ann Hunt Fishel of Vaughan.

This award entitles Polk to enter a national music contest from the southern division of seven states. Musical entries to the national event will be sent in as taped recordings for judging. Winner of the national event will receive a \$250 scholarship.

Polk also won the Williamson Scholarship by the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs. He won the 1959 student music competition of North Carolina at Greenville, sponsored by the NCFMC. In 1958 he won the musically advanced state solo contest. In 1957 he was named best piano student at the East Carolina College Summer Camp.

He will appear with the East Carolina Symphony Orchestra on May 8 at East Carolina College.

Dr. Robert Carter of the ECC faculty is Polk's teacher.



FRANK B. BANZET

Banzet Announces He Is Candidate For Senate

Frank B. Banzet, Warrenton attorney, announced on Tuesday that he would be a candidate for the North Carolina Senate, subject to the will of the Democratic voters as expressed in the May 28, Primary.

Banzet became the first Warrenton citizen to announce for public office in the May Primary.

In making his announcement, Banzet said:

"Issues of far-reaching importance will be determined in the forthcoming General Assembly. No one could, with fairness to his constituents, state his position on every question which may arise in the 1961 Legislature, for the conditions and requirements of our people change rapidly.

"However, there arises at every session one matter upon which I am resolute. I refer to the increasing demand for central authority. The Constitution of North Carolina visualizes a maximum decentralization of power to the end that local government be kept in the hands of the people at the County, City and Town level. It is my opinion that it should be kept there. I commit myself, if elected as your Senator, to favor all measures to improve the effectiveness of local government and to oppose every measure, in whatever form cast, designed to shift this power to Raleigh.

"The Third Senatorial District has been represented by many distinguished sons of Warren, Vance and Northampton Counties. If elected to this honored office, I shall endeavor to maintain this tradition and to reflect credit upon those whom I represent."

Other political news of interest to Warren County citizens during the past week were the announcements of Beverly Lake, former assistant N. C. Attorney General, that he would be a candidate for Governor, and Addison Hewlett of Wilmington that he would be a candidate for the seat now held in the United States Senate by Senator

PTA To Attend Science Fair

The John Graham-Mariam Boyd PTA will hold its regular March meeting on Tuesday night, March 8, instead of March 15, as originally scheduled.

Purpose of the change in date is to allow members of the PTA to visit the Science Fair in the Gym Tuesday night, which will make up the program for the night.

Baxter Announces Lenten Services

Lenten services will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Warrenton each Thursday night during the Lenten season, the Rev. E. L. Baxter, rector, announced yesterday.

A list of speakers and the dates of their appearance was listed yesterday by Mr. Baxter as follows:

March 10—the Rev. W. M. Latta of Louisburg; March 11—the Rev. Troy Barrett of Warrenton; March 24—the Rev. John R. Link of Warrenton; March 31—the Rev. Mr. Tucker of Henderson; April 7—the Rev. E. L. Baxter, rector.