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## Telephone Trace Brings Help From Half A State Away

By HELEN HOWARD

It is amazing that a phone call and a deck of cards could have anything in common. It is even phenomenal when the link between the two spans over 175 miles and involves more than a dozen people. Sound like a Halloween tale? It is more heartwarming than a Halloween tale.

The phone call came about 11 a.m. on Monday, October 19. Mrs. Marie Martin, a resident of Rt. 2, Warrenton, answered what she thought was the usual call in her beauty shop in Henderson. It was not the usual phone call. Upon answering, Mrs. Martin believed she heard someone or something but was not sure.

"I don't know why I didn't hang up," she said last week. "I listened again and I thought I heard a noise," she continued. She asked some of her customers to listen and they all agreed someone was on the phone and must need help.

Mrs. Martin summoned George Newhouse, an insurance agent in the adjoining offices. Mr. Newhouse agreed with the women that the garbled noise on the other end of the phone was trying to get help.

"That is when I called Carolina Telephone and asked them if they could trace the call," Mrs. Martin pointed out. "I was getting real excited then," she added.

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph informed Mrs. Martin that the other party must be kept on the line in order for the trace to be completed. Calmly, Mr. Newhouse agreed to continue talking to the party holding at the other end and reassured the person that help was coming.

Meanwhile, at the local office of Carolina Telephone

the trace began. According to Richard Barnes, supervisor for Henderson's telephone office, one man was assigned to conduct the trace in the Henderson office. A check of the area lines turned up nothing so the next step began. Without prior taps for tracing, phone calls such as the one at this time must be "traced one step at a time," Mr. Barnes pointed out, noting the time-consuming operation.

The trace further revealed that the call was not from within this general area so Southern Bell Telephone was notified.

"Southern Bell probably used one or two of their people on the area level," Mr. Barnes noted. He also explained that the exact circuit must be traced. Since the call was long distance, many more circuits had to be explored. If, for instance, a call from Raleigh to Warrenton is made and the circuits are full, the call may be routed to Chicago to Philadelphia and back. The task continued, however.

The trace pointed to the Charlotte area where Southern Bell appointed another employee to pinpoint the call.

During the tracing procedure, Mr. Newhouse was still talking to the person on the other end. "I could hear breathing," he commented. Mr. Newhouse did not know what was wrong with the other person but "I learned that when he tried to talk to me his breathing got erratic," he pointed out. "So I did everything to keep him from talking," he added.

"Mr. Newhouse was wonderful," Mrs. Martin quickly pointed out. "He deserves all the credit," she noted.

The waiting continued. "I was only really nervous once," Mr. Newhouse said. Carolina Telephone

interrupted the line. "Then I couldn't hear anything," he noted. At this point Mr. Newhouse thought his efforts had been in vain and the trace had been broken. "But then the line went dead and I knew someone had found whoever it was," he said with a slight inflection in his voice.

The time was 1:30 p.m. For over two hours the trace had gone on and Mr. Newhouse had stayed on the phone in Marie's Beauty Shop trying to help someone somewhere.

"I had the best feeling I have ever had in my life when it was over," Mr. Newhouse commented. "I'll never forget it," he added.

Around 2 p.m. Carolina Telephone and Telegraph notified Mrs. Martin that the call had come from Charlotte but company regulations prohibited revealing the name of the person.

The call had traveled over 175 miles, through several telephone networks, taken over two hours, involved Mrs. Martin, Mr. Newhouse, the employees of Carolina Telephone, Southern Bell and a rescue squad in Charlotte but someone in Charlotte was in the hospital getting the help all the time and energy had evolved.

"It was just a miracle," Mrs. Martin said about the call. "But I still do not know who it was. I'm just praying he is alright," she added.

### THE DECK OF CARDS

Think the story is incredible? Then came the cards. All week Mrs. Martin had pondered about the call. She was expecting her granddaughter for a visit during the weekend so she decided to get a deck of cards for a gift.

On Friday she called Alford's Printers to place the order. As she dialed the number she noticed that the last

digit was only one number different from hers. She commented on that fact to the employee at Alford's.

"I don't know why I did this either," Mrs. Martin explained Friday night. "For some strange reason, I asked the lady if the Alford's had relatives in Charlotte," she said.

The employee verified that Mr. Alford had a brother in Charlotte. "So I asked how he was doing," Mrs. Martin pointed out with a chuckle.

She was amazed at the response. He had a stroke on Monday and was in the hospital. The link between Charlotte and the Warren County woman was made known.

In talking with Mrs. Alford, Mrs. Martin learned that neighbors of Dr. Alford, a dentist in Charlotte, did not know anything was wrong until the rescue squad arrived. They did not know how the rescue squad had been summoned. "It was a real mystery to the Alford's, too," Mrs. Martin noted. Dr. Alford could not speak and tell them how he had reached help. He had tried to call his brother.

Dr. Alford remains in Charlotte hospital suffering from a stroke. He is paralyzed on one side and is unable to talk at present.

Since his retirement he has spent time in the area while restoring the old Alford home in Louisburg.

Perhaps as soon as he is better he will come to the area and meet Mr. George Newhouse and Mrs. Marie Martin and thank them for their help.

Halloween tales usually end in horror. This tale ends on the note that people DO still care and help their neighbors, even if the neighbor is almost two hundred miles away.

## Accidents Reported

Charlie Murphy Aycock, 19, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, was taken to Warren General Hospital for treatment of minor injuries following a wreck Saturday in Warren County, according to Trooper C. E. Lockley.

Aycock was northbound on U.S. 401 five miles south of Warrenton. He lost control of his car while attempting to avoid a collision with another vehicle that had passed him. The second unidentified vehicle was not past Aycock's car before it attempted to return to the right lane, reports show.

The Aycock car ran off the road to the right, struck a ditch and overturned. The vehicle came back up-right only to overturn again and finally come to rest on its top in a field.

No charges were placed. Damage was estimated at \$4,000 to the Aycock car.

No injuries were sustained in a two-vehicle accident Friday on State Road 1625 six miles south of Warrenton in Warren County, Trooper Lockley said.

Irvin Duval Smith, 37, of Route 3, Warrenton, was northbound on the roadway and Mary Frances Turner Gilchrist, 22, of Macon, was southbound when their vehicles collided on a curve, the trooper said.

No charges were placed. Lockley said he was unable to determine who was left of center because each driver blamed the accident on the other.

Damages were estimated at \$300 to the Smith truck and \$300 to the Gilchrist car.

A tractor-trailer rig owned by E. L. Murphy Trucking Inc. of St. Paul, Minn., was northbound on I-85 Friday when the load on the back struck the bridge at the Oline Road intersection in Warren County. Trooper W. C. Palmer said the load was 15 feet, two inches tall.

The accident happened at 11 a.m. three miles north of Norlina. The driver of the truck, Gary Lee Carlson, 33, of Winnebago, Minn., escaped injury.

There were no damages to the truck. Damages were estimated at \$200 to the tobacco air purifier on the back of the truck. The piece of equipment belongs to Philip Morris of Richmond, Va.



The Rodgers Holtzmann family has been selected as Conservation Farm Family of the Year by the Warren Soil and Water Conservation District. The Holtzmann family was cited as using the services of the Soil Conservation Service, ASCS and Extension Service in their farming operation at Ridgeway. They have implemented many good conservation practices such as grassed waterways, field borders, terraces, contour farming, conservation cropping systems, minimum tillage,

pasture management, farm pond construction and fish pond management. Rodgers and his wife, Barbara, are assisted in their farm operation by their three sons, Gary, Steve and Randy. Shown during presentation of the award are, left to right, Jim Huey, Gary Holtzmann, Leonard Kilian, Barbara Holtzmann, Rodgers Holtzmann, Nat White, John Kilian, Melvin Shearin, Travis Pulley and Cecil Pope. (Staff Photo)

## Appeal Is Taken By Vance Woman

By KAY HORNER

Mrs. Louise B. Parham of Henderson has appealed the decision by the Division of Facility Services of the N. C. Department of Human Resources to award a Certificate of Need for a 100-bed nursing home in Warren County to N. L. Williams.

The full board of the Capital Health Systems Agency, Inc. (CHSA) endorsed the Williams proposal last August and the Certificate of Need Section ruled in favor of the proposal on Sept. 21. Proponents of the proposal had considered the ruling the last hurdle to be cleared in establishment of a nursing home in Warren County.

Mrs. Parham, of Pinehaven Convalescent Center of Warrenton, Inc., whose proposal ranked second among four evaluated by a committee of CHSA, appealed the ruling Oct. 20, just one day before the 30-day appeal period was up.

Earlier, Mrs. Parham requested a reconsideration hearing on the decision. However, the hearing request was denied for lack of good cause, which would have included the "presentation of significant relevant information not previously considered by the agency in reaching its decision, or significant changes in factors or circumstances relied upon by the state in reaching its decision."

The appeals review now requested by Mrs. Parham is limited by state statute

to the following: "(1) Whether the new institutional health service is consistent with the applicable criteria, plans and standards as defined by G. S. Chapter 131 and the regulations in this subchapter; and (2) whether the state agency acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner or otherwise abused its discretion in deciding between competing applications."

It is expected that a hearing officer will be appointed and a hearing date set by mid-November.

Joe Lennon, health director for Warren County, expressed disappointment in the

"unwarranted delay which denied citizens of Warren County the urgently-needed service that would be provided by such a nursing home."

In discussions with the CHSA committee, Williams agreed to three basic considerations in establishing a nursing home: He would locate the home within one mile of Warren General Hospital; he would have a 90-day termination clause with MGR, Inc., a Spartanburg, S. C. firm that has agreed to manage Williams' facility; and he would make every effort to employ Warren County residents in the operation and management of the home.

Director of Social Services for the county, Julian Farrar, said, "This unnecessary delay will continue to deny the patients from Warren County the comfort and support of family members who are unable to travel great distances to the locations across the state where our patients are residing in the various nursing homes. And it will also continue the expense of communication and the extra effort of our staff members to locate placements for new patients outside the county at distances that are determined by the location of placements that are eventually found by our staff."



With money raised from the last barbecue chicken supper and donations from Bennett's Fire Equipment, Norlina Ladies Auxiliary and Mitchell's Auto Sales, the Norlina Volunteer Fire Department bought this 1971 Chevrolet truck from S. T. Wooten Co. of Henderson and placed it in service last April. It will carry 2,500 gallons of water and plans are being made to install a 450-gallon-per-minute pump. Proceeds from the barbecue chicken supper planned for Oct. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the fire house will go toward more equipment for that truck and the department's other trucks. (Staff Photo)

## Candidates Eye Tuesday

Polls will open at Warrenton, Norlina and Macon, the three incorporated towns of Warren County, at 6:30 a. m. on Tuesday, November 3 and close at 7 p. m.

At Warrenton, the polls will be held at the Warrenton Fire House with Anna Bullock serving as registrar, and A. H. Bryson serving as assistant registrar. Judges of election will be Lynne Grabbil and L. B. Henderson, Sr.

Voters going to the polls at Warrenton will only vote for Mayor as they choose between Beverly G. White, incumbent, and W. A. Miles, former mayor seeking to regain his former seat.

There will be no contest for commissioners as only seven candidates have filed for the seven-man board. Incumbent A. C. Fair is not seeking re-election, and seeking his seat is newcomer Melvin (Butch) Scott, an employee of Branch Bank and Trust Company. Other incumbents seeking re-election are commissioners Billy Lanier, Charles White, Gordon Halthcock, A. A. Wood, Richard Hunter and Eddie Clayton.

At Norlina, where voters will cast their ballots in the new fire house, incumbent Mayor E. L. "Bill" Perry is being challenged by Kenneth Davis.

Incumbent commissioners Ben Lloyd, W. S. Hicks, Jr., John Dore, Wallace Stallings and Jimmie Overby, are being challenged by newcomers Butch Bolton, Wayne Aycock, William Leonard and James Vaughan.

Election officers at Norlina will be Mrs. Eva Ayscuse, registrar; and Mrs. Nita Fuller and O. R. Baker, judges of election.

At Macon, where the polls will be held in the municipal building, Mayor Bill Reid decided to give up the town's top post, and his seat is being sought without opposition by M. C. Clary, a member of the board.

Filing for the board at Macon are Lucille Halthcock, W. L. Edwards,

W. R. Shaw, Glenn Riggan and newcomer Carroll Harris. Election officials are

Mrs. Essie Grissom, registrar; and Mrs. Lena Lloyd and Mrs. Myrtle Reid, judges of election.

## Norlina Drowning Ruled Accidental

Accidental drowning has been ruled in the death of a 29-year-old Norlina man whose body was found in a farm pond on Wednesday of last week.

A search party led by Norlina Police Chief Roney Williams found the body of Moses Lee Hendrick of Heaven Street, Norlina following two days of searching.

The victim's body was found in a pond on the Pete Rose farm, approximately three-quarters of a mile from where Hendrick lived.

Chief Williams said he received a call on Tuesday morning at 8:35 o'clock from Mrs. Penny Watkins, the victim's mother. She told the police chief that Hendrick had left home about 10 p. m. Monday and had not been seen since.

Chief Williams said he put out a call for help and was assisted by Deputy Harold Seaman and Chief Freddie Robinson and Officer Eugene Mustian of the Warrenton Police Department.

Williams said the search began around a pond located on the Rose farm. He said information received from Watkins led him to suspect Hendrick may have wandered to the pond and fallen in.

The officers spent Tuesday searching the area and located a cap that was identified as belonging to Hendrick. The search was then called off for the day, Williams said.

Around 20 people helped in the search Wednesday, and at 5:05 p. m., following

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## Governor's Awards Given Two Towns

Eighteen persons from Warren County attended the Governor's Conference on Economic Development in Raleigh on Tuesday afternoon and the Awards Banquet, scheduled for 7 p. m. at the McKennon Building at State College in Raleigh, which was attended by more than 1,000 persons. Governor Jim Hunt was the keynote speaker, speaking on industrial development, and presented awards to mayors and representatives of various communities.

Glen Newsome, county manager, industrial director and co-ordinator of Warren County Communities of Excellence, who represented both Norlina and Warrenton,

said on Wednesday morning that 112 communities received Communities of Excellence awards, with 25 new communities, which included Warrenton and Norlina. Governor Hunt presented Norlina's award to Mayor E. L. "Bill" Perry and Warrenton's award to Mayor Beverly G. White.

Representing Warren County at the economic conference, which began at 1:30 p. m. and the awards banquet were Mayor B. G. White, Commissioners Eddie Clayton and A. C. Fair; Pete Vaughan, Warrenton Town Administrator; Mrs. Mary Hunter, director community school programs; (Continued on page 12)