

Four Charged In Connection With Hit-And-Run Death Near Norlina

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Four men have been charged in connection with a hit-and-run accident which occurred early Sunday morning and resulted in the death of a Norlina man.

Trooper A. M. Bennett of the N. C. Highway Patrol said Tuesday that Thomas Earl Shearin, 26, of Rt. 2, Norlina, was charged with felonious hit-and-run driving, manslaughter, no operator's license and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident after a two-day investigation by the Highway Patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation and the Warren County Sheriff's Department into the 4 a.m. Sunday death of

Herman Leroy Vaughan, 46, of Rt. 1, Norlina.

Shearin is being held in the Warren County Jail under a \$10,000 bond. A hearing will be held today (Wednesday) in Warren County District Court.

A report by Bennett indicates that Vaughan had been walking north in the southbound lane of Walker Avenue (SR 1229) near the Roseland nightclub just north of the Norlina town limits when he was struck by a southbound vehicle traveling at an estimated speed of 40 mph. He was thrown into the ditch, and Bennett said Vaughan died instantly.

Deputy W. T. Winston of the Warren County Sheriff's Department was on du-

ty at the time of the accident. He reported that four persons traveling in a dark green Ford Maverick told him there had been a hit-and-run accident on SR 1229 (Heaven Street). He was also told that Vaughan was struck by a light-colored van.

Upon arrival at the scene, Winston found Vaughan's body lying across the ditch, and he then called for assistance.

Bennett reported that after the collision, Shearin drove the Ford to Roseland and parked it. He and a passenger in the vehicle, Timothy Jiggetts, walked to where Vaughan's body was in the ditch, observed the body and then returned to the vehicle and left the scene.

Trooper Bennett reported that dark colored paint fragments were found on the victim's body.

He also reported that on Monday morning, an anonymous phone call was received concerning a vehicle on SR 1232 (Bob White Road) which was reported to have been involved in the accident.

After an investigation, the car, a 1970 Ford Maverick, was determined to be the car which struck Vaughan. The automobile's front bumper and fender had been repainted in a color that didn't match the vehicle's other paint, Bennett said.

The discovery of the vehicle led to the arrest of its owner, Thomas Shearin, at

1:30 a.m. Tuesday. In addition, Clarence Anthony Shearin, 18, of Rt. 2, Norlina, was charged with accessory after the fact to a felony after he allegedly said he had driven the car. He had initially been jailed under a \$5,000 bond after admitting to being the driver of the Ford when Vaughan was struck. On Monday, he was charged with hit-and-run, manslaughter and failure to reduce speed. Although Thomas Shearin was determined to have been the driver of the Ford at the time of the accident, those charges against Clarence Shearin will have to be dropped in District Court, Bennett said.

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Farm Animal Deaths Probed; Bulldogs Blamed

Death of farm animals, believed to be caused by a pit bull, continues to be investigated this week by the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

Thomas Tucker on Oct. 8 reported that five 50-pound pigs had been injured by dogs at his Seaman Road (SR 1234) farm. The injuries were discovered by Tucker when he had come to feed the animals. In the pen with his stock were also a brown-and-white pit bull and two other brown-and-white dogs, all of whom left after Tucker's arrival.

Five of Tucker's pigs were cut and bleeding heavily. Five more were gone and were believed by Tucker to be dead in the woods.

Later, Tucker found four of the pigs, all seriously injured. According to the report, Tucker was forced to kill five of the pigs and an additional two animals will probably have to be slaughtered. One animal is still missing.

Nearby owners of dogs fitting the description of the offending animals told officers that their canines had been on their premises all day.

Deputy Stanley Rodwell is the investigating officer.

Fire At Snow Hill Was Set On Purpose

Those living in the Snow Hill community of Warren County will be pleased to know that an old frame home belonging to Albert Davis was the sight of a training fire for men from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department on Saturday afternoon, and not the culprit of an actual fire call.

Kenny Clayton, chief of WRFD, said the home, located on the No-Bottom Road (SR 1118), was burned down with the permission of Davis, who plans to put a trailer on the site.

Clayton indicated the firemen do this periodically for inside fire training practice.



Shown are a small group of the nearly 100 walkers who participated in Sunday's first annual Warren County CROP Walk. Each walker obtained sponsors who pledged their support in a monetary amount for each kilometer walked. Walkers completed a 10-kilometer, or 6.4 mile route from the Lions Den, up U. S. 158 Business, down U. S. 158 Bypass past Warren County High School,

down SR 1305 and back down Ridgeway Street to the Lions Den. Nearly \$2,500 was raised, the majority of which will assist a variety of overseas hunger projects. Twenty percent of the money will remain in Warren County to help continue the efforts of the Warren Cooperative Ministries in fighting hunger locally.

(Staff Photo by Diane Davis)

Active Prison Time Is Ordered For Pair Held On Drug Charges

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Judgment day finally came for two area residents who were arrested last month on a variety of drug charges and denied bond.

Daniel Lee "Snake" Rook, 34, and Kimberly Beth Aman, 32, on Sept. 29 had barricaded themselves in their Wildwood Point subdivision home before law enforcement officers invaded their quarters.

Found inside the Club Drive home were four grams of cocaine, a quantity of "crack" cocaine, an automatic handgun, an

assault-type rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun and more than \$6,000 in cash.

Rook, who was charged Sept. 29 with possession with intent to manufacture cocaine, possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine, felonious possession of cocaine, simple possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling for keeping and using a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of lottery tickets, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Monday by Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Brannon of Durham.

In addition, Rook was charged a \$5,000 fine and will be treated for drug addiction after pleading guilty to two felony counts of cocaine possession and two felony counts of maintaining a dwelling for the keeping of a controlled substance. He also pled guilty to two misdemeanor counts of possession of paraphernalia.

Session Is Over

The October criminal session of Warren County Superior Court ended Tuesday afternoon because of surgery scheduled for Judge Brannon on Wednesday. A complete list of judgments from this month's term will be in next week's issue of this paper.

Contractor Package Complete With Plumbing Firm Addition

The \$69,488 plumbing bid submitted by W. M. Wiggins Co., Inc. of Elm City for the planned addition to Warren County High School was accepted Monday night by the Warren County Board of Education, making complete the four-contractor package required before construction may begin.

Wiggins had submitted the lowest of three bids, but acceptance was deferred during last week's called meeting of the board. Approval had been put on hold to permit time for architects at Cogswell Hausler to pursue additional savings.

Earlier discussions with Wiggins had led the architects to

believe the firm's low bid could be reduced further. When Cogswell personnel inquired, however, they learned the savings would apply only if the board decided to approve the installation of six-inch rather than four-inch water mains.

Currently, the WCHS fire-protection system uses four-inch mains. With the addition of a new middle school at the site, six-inch water mains and their resulting increase in water pressure had been considered for better fire-protection potential.

"The door is still open for savings, if the six-inch water mains are added to the project," Assistant Superintendent of Schools

James Jordan told the board. The board accepted Wiggins' low bid for the high school addition and will consider the option for larger water mains at a later date.

Jordan also told the board that the general contractor—R. L. Casey, Inc. of Greensboro—had a 45-day limit on the option of paving the existing WCHS parking lot as a part of the high school addition project. Casey's \$1,356,146 bid was accepted by the board on Oct. 3. No action was taken.

In addition to Wiggins and Casey, the other contractors for the high school addition are H&L Electrical of Raleigh (\$298,792) and Southern Piping Co., Inc. of Wilson (\$287,191 for heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

In June, Rook was charged with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, possession of cocaine, maintaining a dwelling for the keeping of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and trafficking cocaine by possession.

Miss Aman pled guilty on Tuesday to charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling for the keeping of a controlled substance and assault with a deadly weapon. She was sentenced to serve six months active from a suspended 20-year term ordered by Judge Brannon.

In addition, she was ordered to pay fines totalling \$10,000 after also pleading guilty to a charge of possession of cocaine stemming from her June arrests on charges of trafficking cocaine by possession and possession of cocaine. She will remain on supervised probation for five years under the authority of the Halifax County Adult Probation and Parole office. She will also be treated for drug addiction.

Miss Aman was released into the custody of her lawyer under a \$50,000 bond and was ordered to report to the Warren County Sheriff's Department on Friday, Oct. 20 at 12 p.m. to be taken to Women's Prison in Raleigh, where she will serve her term.

Electrical Shortage Is Blamed For Blaze

The Ridgeway and Norlina fire departments responded to a fire Monday afternoon which was caused by an electrical shortage.

At 1:30 p.m. Monday, a fire call was dispatched for the two departments. The mobile home which was on fire was located on U. S. 158 between Norlina and Ridgeway and is owned by Mary Eaton.

No estimate of the damage was given.

Board Shuffles Personnel

New Principal Named WCHS

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

A change in principalships and other personnel decisions received the almost unanimous stamp of approval Monday night from the Warren County Board of Education.

After reconvening in open session at 9:15 p.m. from executive session, 10 new assignments were announced.

Costelle Evans, effective Oct. 26, becomes principal of Warren County High School. Last year as North Warren principal, Evans saw his school win consistently in the system's student-attendance contest. Since becoming principal at John Graham this year, attendance there has improved by three percentage points, from 93.4 to 96.4.

Effective Oct. 26, James Wilkerson, current WCHS principal, will join the central office staff as director of Chapter I and other programs.

The Chapter I directorship was left open by the transfer of Mrs. Jennie Franklin to the post of John Graham principal. That appointment also becomes effective on Oct. 26.

The remaining transfers were effective yesterday (Oct. 11):

- Tony Cozart, interim Norlina Middle School principal, was named principal at the school.

- Noel Robertson, a former John Graham social studies teacher, returned to Warren County Schools as assistant principal for John Graham and Norlina Middle schools.

- Mrs. Princine Jeffries became director of personnel.

- Mrs. Ogletree Richardson, Title V Indian Education director, also became coordinator of Family Services, a program focusing on pre-schoolers.

- Mrs. Mary Hunter, Community Education and Public Relations director, assumed responsibility for media, an area supervised previously by Mrs. Franklin.

The employment of two persons from outside of the system also became effective Tuesday. Miss Deborah Long was named assistant principal at Warren County High School. Miss Long holds a bachelor's and two master's degrees—one in guidance/counseling and the other in administration—from N. C. A&T State University. Currently, she is assistant principal at Durham High School, having served already as assistant principal at Brogden School there. Prior positions have included English teaching posts in Person County and at Durham High School.

Miss Jennifer Brayboy, who will graduate in December from Pembroke University, was hired as a teacher of third-graders at Mariam Boyd.

The motion to approve the 10 assignments was made by Richard Roddy and seconded by Dr.



EVANS

Doris Terry-Williams. Prior to the vote, however, Henry Pitchford had asked that votes be cast on each individual position.

Hearing no support for the request, a package vote was tallied: four in the affirmative and one, that of Pitchford, in the negative.

Other personnel changes were finalized prior to executive session. Resignations were accepted from Sylvia Lockett, Vaughan teacher of first-graders, who has accepted a post closer to her home, and Donna Maynard, a South Warren teacher assistant has left for personal reasons.

A leave of absence for maternity reasons was granted to Mrs. Wanda Traylor, WCHS business education teacher, from Nov. 9 until Jan. 2 of next year.

Mrs. Danylu Hundley, Hawkins teacher of sixth-graders, becomes unit-wide Child Find coordinator and teacher of pre-school handicapped students, effective Oct. 30.

Mrs. Deborah Williams, Northside pre-school teacher, on Tuesday became a unit-wide elementary art teacher. She holds a bachelor of science degree in art from N. C. Central University.

Nine new hires with various effective dates were also approved prior to executive session:

- Anna Kilmer, a graduate of the College of St. Rose, Albany, N. Y., as a North Warren EMH/LD teacher, effective Sept. 13.

- Letitia Bullock, Norlina child nutrition assistant, effective Oct. 16.

- Toney Grant, who returns as a Hawkins teacher of sixth-graders, effective Oct. 30.

- Robert L. Cheek, WCHS custodian, effective Oct. 2.

- Carolyn M. Davis, who holds a VGCC associate degree in business computed programming, as WCHS Student Information Management Systems (SIMS) clerical assistant, effective Oct. 12.

- Deloris Sommerville, a graduate of N. C. Central University, as a Vaughan teacher of first-graders, effective Oct. 9.

- Lynn Skilton, a graduate of East Carolina University, as unit-

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