

Hoke County Farmer Declared Suicide

Mental Illness and Imaginary Worries Blamed for Tragedy Near Cypress Church

Percy Brooks, 32-year-old farmer of Upper Hoke county, was found dead on a road near Cypress church Saturday morning with the top of his head blown off by a charge from a shot gun. The barrel of the gun was still held in the dead man's hand when the tragedy was discovered, and indications are that the horrible deed was a clear case of suicide.

Brooks, it is said, had threatened to take his life and a note found in his cap bore evidence that a diseased mind had caused him to seek this way out of his imaginary troubles. The note stated that he had tried to go away and could not and that "the Riggsbees," (supposed to have reference to his wife's brothers) were going to kill him. As a matter of fact, there was no trouble existing between Brooks and his brothers-in-law, so far as is known.

At her husband's insistence, Mrs. Brooks had gone to the home of her parents in the community on Friday, and the fatal shot is thought to have been fired that night, although the body was not found until the following day.

Brooks was getting along well as a farmer and had a sum of money in his pocket when found.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Warrick of Elon College at 11 o'clock Sunday morning in Mt. Pleasant church with a large gathering from the surrounding countryside in attendance.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Clara Riggsbee, and a small daughter, Janie; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brooks; two sisters, Mrs. J. B. Marks and Mrs. Janie West of upper Hoke county; six brothers, R. L. Brooks of Vass Route 2, Herbert Brooks of Southern Pines, Albert Brooks of Fort Bragg, Charlie Brooks of California, Laurie Brooks of the CCC near Southern Pines, and Zebulon Brooks of the home community.

BILLIARDS CHAMPION OF JAPAN HERE TONIGHT

Free instruction on the fundamentals of billiards will be available at Straka's Recreation parlors in Southern Pines at 7:30 o'clock tonight, when Kinrey Matsuyama of Japan, national three-cushion billiards champion and rated among the world's "first ten" ranking angle stars appears here. Women, as well as men, are invited to take advantage of these free billiard lessons, one full hour of his two-hour exhibition being devoted to instructions. During the other hour Matsuyama will offer an exhibition at all styles of billiards against the best local talent and also execute some fancy shots.

VASS TO PRESENT PLAY

Rehearsals are under way for "The Chocolate Wedding," a playlet, "Here Comes the Bride," and some stunts to be given in the Vass-Lakeview school auditorium on Friday evening of next week for the benefit of the Junior class. Price of admission will be 10 and 20 cents.

Dressed poultry at the Curb Market tomorrow.

Pinehurst Paragraphs

Miss Caroline Page has returned to Peace College, Raleigh, after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Page.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Tuck have arrived from their home in Kennebunkport, Me., and will remain for the rest of the season.

Miss Evelyn Gilliam had as guest her sister, Miss Hazel Gilliam, of Duke University over the past week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Malcolm Prior have returned to New Britain, Conn., after visiting Mrs. Prior's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barr.

Count Roland Faber Costell, Baron Rudicker von Hirschberg and Baron Fritz von Hornstein, who have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eberhard Faber, have gone to Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cunningham of Zebulon spent the week-end with Mrs. Eichel Journey.

Mrs. H. P. Hotchkiss and daughters, Misses Carol and Anabelle Hotchkiss have returned to their home after spending the past month in Florida.

Miss Mildred Osborne of Candor and Miss Frances Wilkins of Sanford were week-end guests of Miss Vesta Young.

Mrs. D. J. Ross returned Friday from Florida where she spent several weeks.

Mrs. H. D. Vail, who is spending the week in Atlanta visiting relatives, is expected home Saturday.

Dr. Haskell returned to Boston Wednesday night.

The American Legion Auxiliary met Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. C. B. Fields.

Mrs. F. L. DuPont, Mrs. Ralph Sutton, and Mrs. Jack Mulcahy spent Tuesday in Sanford.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson entertained at dinner Wednesday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Alec Innes and John Sprout of New York City.

Miss Fannie B. Gray is confined to her home with an attack of influenza.

One of the largest and most charming luncheons of the season was given Thursday when Mrs. E. G. Fitzgerald was hostess to sixty guests at The Carolina. Following luncheon bridge was played in the ballroom and attractive prizes given at each table.

Little Jacqueline Razook entertained a few of her friends at her home Tuesday in celebration of her fifth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Carter entertained at a dinner party Tuesday evening, later taking their guests to the Charity Ball. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sherrerd, Mrs. Ernest Gamache, Miss Irene Harding, Edward King and Dr. Clement Monroe.

Among others entertaining at dinner preceding the Charity Ball were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tufts whose guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. Prior Williamson, and Dr. and Mrs. M. W. Marr, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Scofield, whose guests were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hyatt and Mrs. C. A. Chandler.

The Pinehurst Parent-Teacher Association will meet in the school auditorium next Wednesday afternoon at 5:15 o'clock. W. P. Morton has arranged a splendid program to which the public is invited. The speaker will be the Rev. C. E. Ruffin of Eilerbe and a musical program has been arranged by Miss Katherine Blue.

The Amateur Night sponsored by the Pinehurst High School Tuesday evening was a great success. R. E. Denny, local attorney, acting as "Major Denny," presented his amateurs in fifteen acts. Prizes were donated by the following stores: A. & P. Tea Company, Pender's, Wallace's Store, Carolina Pharmacy and Pinehurst Department Store. These prizes were awarded to Little Miss Kay Johnson, Clarence Graham and W. P. Morton, Jr., Dorothy Westcott, Helen Fields, Gloria Veno, Clarence Thomas, the Four Roses Quartette, composed of W. L. Dunlop R. P. Shepard, Meredith Herridon and the Rev. A. J. McKelway, and the Instrumental Trio, composed of Harold Thompson, Tommie Keith and Edward Harris. The program closed with selections by the High School Glee Club. Proceeds will be used to buy song books for the auditorium and for athletic equipment.

PINEBLUFF

Jack Baker, S. H. Dibble, Mrs. Eva Reynolds and daughter Grace, Mrs. Bristol and grandson, Jimmy Kelly were visitors this week of Mr. and Mrs. William Fiddner enroute to their home in Danbury, Conn., from Florida.

Douglas Allison of Mt. Gilcat spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Hazel Allison.

John Fiddner spent last week in Danbury, Conn., with his mother, Mrs. Sadie Fiddner, returning Sunday accompanied by Joe Shack of Danbury.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Huey Jones of Red Oaks spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Suttonfield.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Suttentfield, Mrs. Clapp and Katherine Kinlaw spent Tuesday in Jackson Springs attending the annual junior meeting of the Presbyterian church.

Prof. Berg of Greensboro spent the week-end with his son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Berg.

Ho ver Adcox of Phifer College spent the week-end with his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Adcox.

W. D. Shannon left Sunday for Chillicothe, Ohio on business.

Miss Effie Crabtree and Dr. F. W. McCracken of Sanford were guests Monday of Miss Henrietta Risley.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lampley and family spent Sunday in Norwood visiting relatives. Mrs. Lampley's father, W. J. Melton returned with them.

Mrs. William Herrod and son William, Jr., of Lynbrook, N. Y., are guests at the Linwood.

Mrs. Clair Cleveland, Misses Emma and Nina Robins of Wellonsville, N. Y., and Mr. Grover V. James of Cleveland, Ohio are stopping at the Linwood this week.

Miss Florence Fowle returned to her home in Minneapolis, Minn., Saturday.

The Ladies Aid of the M. E. Church will have an entertainment at the Fireman's Hall Saturday evening. Admission 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children under 15 yrs. All are invited to come.

County Teachers Elect Morton President

Hear Interesting Address by Miss McDonald of State Board at Carthage

An address on "Art" by Miss Juanita McDougald of Raleigh, Assistant Supervisor of Schools, was the chief feature of the program of the Moore county teachers' meeting held in the Carthage High School auditorium last Friday afternoon, and the speaker was heard with interest by the large number of teachers present.

A motion was adopted to allow the principal of each school district to appoint delegates and alternates to represent his district in the State convention, with the understanding that the names be forwarded to the county superintendent by Wednesday, March 11th, and that delegates and alternates be furnished with credentials at least one week before the beginning of the convention on March 19th.

Officers were elected, as follows: President, W. P. Morton, Pinehurst; Vice-president, R. F. Lowry of Cameron; Secretary, Miss Eunice Gibson of Pinehurst. J. P. Kiser is the outgoing president and H. Lee Thomas, secretary.

FARM LIFE SCHOOL GIRLS MAKE FINE SHOWING

The Farm Life girls basketball team made a fine showing in the county tournament, defeating the strong Vass and Cameron teams to finish in the finals.

In the final game with West End they were handicapped by the loss of Virginia Ray Blue, their stellar guard who was ill. Starting with a five point lead over the powerful West End team, Farm Life suffered the irreparable loss of their prize forward, Lucille Short who was snatched out of action for fouling near the end of the first half. This unfortunate incident probably cost Farm Life the game—but it was a close contest.

As only two of the team graduate this year next year should produce a powerful and efficient machine.

REPAIR WORK ON COUNTY SCHOOLS IS PROGRESSING

The work of repairing damage done to school buildings in the county by rain, sleet and snow is coming along nicely. The Cameron and Vass-Lakeview school buildings have had new roofs and it is planned to repair the heating and furniture in the Vass-Lakeview auditorium in the near future, although work on walls of school rooms will be put off until after the close of school.

In order to make up a part of the time lost during the bad weather when impassable roads made it necessary to suspend operation, the Cameron, Vass-Lakeview, Eureka and Deep holes and all of the smaller schools in Moore county will operate on Saturdays for a while.

Don't forget to visit the Curb Market Saturday.

FREDERICK STANLEY SMITH PLAYS OWN COMPOSITIONS

Frederick Stanley Smith played two of his own compositions before the Women's Music Club of Raleigh at the Meredith College auditorium on Tuesday evening of this week. Prof. Leslie P. Spelman, the director of music, played Mr. Smith's organ piece, "Caprice." Mr. Smith played his "Introspection" on the organ and the solo piano part of his "Fantasie" for organ and piano. Prof. Spelman playing the organ part. The program was devoted to contemporary American music.

After the program the Women's

Club tendered reception for Mr. and Mrs. Smith in the ladies' parlors at the college.

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