

## Missing Girl Found Brutally Slain In Lonely Forest Grave; Man Jailed

### Discovery Climaxes Week of Intensive Search; Former Lover Maintains Silence At Graveside

Mrs. Louise Dowd McLaughlin, 25, of West Southern Pines, who had been missing from her home since Friday, November 7, was found dead Tuesday afternoon in woods one mile west of Aberdeen, her body barely covered with sand and pine needles, in a shallow grave.

There were wounds about her face and head. The body was clad in a pink dress, underwear and anklets. Missing were her coat, shoes and pocketbook.

Watching the disinterment as he stood handcuffed to a Southern Pines police officer was Melvin Morrison, 31, former sweetheart of the dead girl, who is suspected of the slaying. His composure was complete as he watched the disinterment, and he maintained the silence which had baffled police during three previous days of questioning.

#### Search Party

Discoverer of the grave was Charlie Monroe, brother-in-law of Louise, one of a party of searchers headed by local and county police officers who were fine-tooth-combing the area for the third or fourth time.

When the burial place was found, in the middle of an abandoned fire lane off a narrow road between the Linen-White and Robbins Mill plants, Chief C. E. Newton told all present to remain there, leaving it untouched. This was done, he said later, for two purposes; first, to secure necessary and wanted witnesses, and second, to keep knowledge of the find, which might serve as a warning, from spreading.

#### To Richmond County

With Deputy Sheriffs A. F. Dees and H. H. Grimm, and Officer Smith, he drove to Richmond county and picked up Deputy Sheriff Heaney. They went to the farm home of the Randolph Morrisons in the Capel Creek section near Windblow. There they found the Morrisons' son, Melvin, whom they had previously dismissed after prolonged and fruitless grilling.

Sheriff also notified Coroner Ralph G. Steed, who summoned an ambulance. Aberdeen Chief Archie Phillips was notified, and joined the group.

The young woman's body was brought to a funeral home here, where an autopsy was performed Wednesday morning.

Morrison was lodged in Moore county jail on open charges, without privilege of bond, pending action by a coroner's jury. The inquest date will be set as soon as a report on the autopsy is received, said Coroner Steed.

#### Mounting Suspense

The find climaxed several days of intensive search and days and nights of investigation by the police, also mounting suspense on the part of the general public. The certainty grew that the girl had been murdered and her body hidden. Where it was, constituted this community's first murder mystery in a dozen years.

Louise McLaughlin was the widow of Rufus McLaughlin, killed in World War 2. With their two little girls Susie and Laurreta, aged nine and eight, she shared a home on Stephens street with her mother and other members of the family.

Her mother, Mrs. Ella Mae Dowd, reported to police last Tuesday that her daughter was missing. Louise had gone uptown Friday morning, she said, to mail a payment on her television set, and had never returned.

Friday, police picked up Melvin Morrison, a janitor on the third shift at Robbins Mill at Aberdeen. In Mortal Fear

Melvin and Louise had gone together for a year. Lately, though, they had broken up. In October, the girl had Morrison indicted for molesting her, and police gave him a warning to leave her alone. Since then, it was reported to police, he had threatened that he would "get her," and the girl was in "mortal fear" of him.

They found out also that on the day of Louise's disappearance, Morrison had borrowed the car of Worth Morgan, white, of Southern Pines, also a Robbins Mill worker. He said his own car was in the shop at Aberdeen, and that he wanted to use Morgan's for "about 45 minutes" to keep a date with a girl. He did not return it as promised and Morgan recovered it from Morrison at his rooming-place in West Southern Pines some two and a half hours later. There was blood inside.

Noticing wet blood on the steering wheel, Morgan inquired what had happened and Morrison said he had pinched his finger.

Later, though, Morgan found there was blood also on the back of the seat, and flecked on the glass.

#### "Too Polite"

Other evidence piled up against Morrison, who continued to remain cool and calm under questioning at the police station. A slight, soft-spoken Negro, described as "almost too polite," he denied all knowledge of Louise's whereabouts, or what had happened to her.

He said, though, he had seen her Wednesday at the depot and she told him she was "going to Jersey."

Mrs. Dorothea Monroe of Brooklyn, sister of the missing woman, who arrived last weekend on receipt of a distress call from her mother, revealed that she had received a telegram from her sister October 23. Louise had wired to ask her to "find a room for me and my kids as I got to leave home before Monday night." Mrs. Monroe wired back for them to come, but they did not, and there was no further word.

Saturday afternoon, Morrison, during a brief respite from questioning, dashed out of the police station and ran for two or three blocks, through back alleys and streets almost to Millen park. There Officer Smith, hot in pursuit, caught up with him and brought him back.

#### Refused Lie Test

The Negro agreed at that time to take a lie detector test, and Chief Newton made arrangements for one with the SBI headquarters at Raleigh. Saturday night they drove to Raleigh but once there, the man refused to go through with it, claiming, "I had a friend who took one of those tests once and it mixed him all up, and hurt his brains."

He was released Sunday afternoon and Chief Newton gave him (Continued on Page 8)

## THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, Thanksgiving day, will be observed as a general holiday here as elsewhere in the United States, its possessions and battle-fronts.

Stores, banks, city and county offices will be closed. Local schools will close Wednesday at noon, not to resume classes until Monday morning.

The Southern Pines post office will have a partial holiday. The stamp and general delivery windows will be open from 10 to 11 a.m. There will be normal distribution of mail to boxes and despatching of outgoing mail, but no city delivery.

The Pilot will go to press Wednesday instead of Thursday.

## Accident Near Robbins Is Fatal To Mrs. Maness

Mrs. Katie Garner Maness, 48, was fatally injured Wednesday evening when the Ford car in which she was riding with her husband, Hobart Maness, was involved in a head-on collision with another automobile about a mile outside Robbins. Taken to Moore County Hospital, the injured woman died without regaining consciousness, a little before 8 pm shortly after arrival there.

Also taken to the hospital were Mr. Maness and Cpl. Reeves Black, a Negro soldier, one of the occupants of the other car. Mr. Maness was suffering from a knee injury and severe shock and will be hospitalized several days. The soldier was treated for lacerations and bruises and will be transferred to the hospital at Fort Bragg.

The two other soldiers, occupants of the second car, an Oldsmobile, accompanied their injured comrade to the hospital but did not remain for treatment. According to the State Highway Patrol, they are now in the hospital at Fort Bragg.

The fatal accident took place near the crossroads where the Robbins road joins the Carthage highway. Mr. and Mrs. Maness, whose home is between Carthage and Robbins, had started to drive to the Moore County Hospital, where their son-in-law, Claude Wallace, was undergoing emergency appendectomy. Mr. Maness was driving when the crash occurred, at about 6 p. m.

A third car was slightly involved, that of John Donald Marshall of Spartanburg, S. C., who came upon the wreck suddenly as he drove over the hill. Applying his brakes, Marshall slowed down sufficiently so that, though his car rolled into the tangled mass of wreckage, little damage was done. He posted \$500 bond and is booked (Continued on page 5)

## Voters Approve Three Projects, Turn Down Biggest

### No Okay For Jail, Police Station; Committee Named

Southern Pines voters numbering 403, out of a registration of 1,406, went to the polls Tuesday to approve three proposed civic projects, and turn thumbs down rather emphatically, on a fourth.

Approved in the \$160,000 bond issue election were the following: enlargement and extension of the sewer system, to cost an estimated \$10,000, by a vote of 224 to 146; purchase of a new and modern fire truck, \$20,000, 245 to 150; remodeling of the present fire station and the building of an annex to house the new fire truck, \$34,000, by 197 to 192.

Turned down was the combination police headquarters and jail, with space for the ABC store on the first floor and public offices on the second, by a vote of 212 to 169.

Cost of the building, to be constructed on the site of the present police station, had been set at an outside figure of \$96,000.

Defeat of one building and approval of the other (which just squeaked by) will not necessarily mean abandonment of the consolidation plan proposed by some citizens, Mayor C. N. Page gave his opinion following the vote. (Continued on Page 5)

## Union Service On Thanksgiving Eve

The Annual Union Thanksgiving service of Southern Pines churches will be held Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at Emmanuel Episcopal church.

Members of all churches, as well as those unaffiliated with any church, are invited to attend and share in the service of thankfulness to God.

Scriptures will be read by Dr. W. C. Holland, of the First Baptist church; the sermon will be preached by the Rev. C. K. Ligon, of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian church; and prayers and announcements will be by the Rev. C. V. Covell of Emmanuel church.

The offering will be devoted to CROP—the Christian Rural Overseas Program, by which churches all over the country are offering opportunity at this time for Americans to share their abundance with people of less fortunate lands. The money given will be converted to food, to be channeled through church agencies to the stricken people of Korea, India, the Middle East countries and others where war and famine are taking toll.

## Three-Day Tournament, Banquet Will Honor "King" Julius Boros

### Sandhills Events Of Next Week In National Limelight

This community is paying honor to a famed "adopted son" next week, and in so doing is giving itself a great big treat.

The occasion is the Julius Boros Testimonial Tournament, to be played Sunday, Monday and Tuesday over the Mid Pines course.

The treat is that everyone is invited, free of charge, to join the gallery, in which Boros himself, 1952 "King of Golf," will lead an all-star field.

Approximately 100 invited players, both professionals and golfers, including some of the best-known names in golfdom, will tee off in threesomes for a total of 54 holes, 18 to be played each day.

The State Highway Patrol will handle the traffic.

Plenty of parking space will be available, with members of local organizations serving as parking marshals and in other capacities as required to handle the crowds. Food and soft drinks, both hot and cold, will be served from refreshment stands along the fairways.

#### Banquet

Climax of the tournament will be a banquet to be held at the Mid Pines at 8 p. m. Tuesday, an invitational affair with some seats available to the public at \$10 each. As the tournament is planned to be a top sporting event, the banquet will be a brilliant social function.

Sam Snead, who preceded Boros as "Professional Golfer of the Year," will be the principal speaker. Last year, Snead was goldfod's top-money winner. This year it was Boros, a pro only three years and comparatively unknown until last summer.

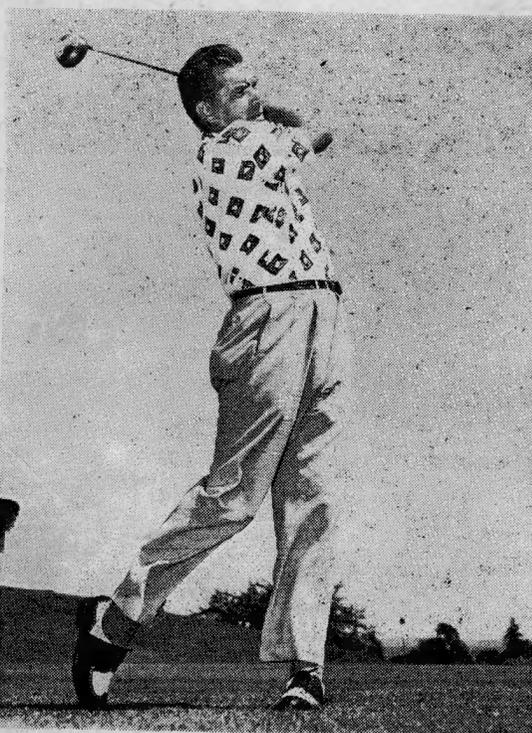
Boros will be presented a gift from the Sandhills communities in appreciation of the favorable publicity he has brought them in winning the two top tournaments of the year, the National Open in June and the Tam O'Shanter World Championship in August. Nature of the gift is a secret, well-kept by the local committee.

A reenactment of the World Championship presentation will be a feature of the banquet program, with the same trophy, same recipient and same donor, George S. May, sponsor of the Tam O'Shanter tournament.

#### \$5,000 Purse

Other awards will be the prizes for professionals, from \$1,000 on down, totaling a \$5,000 purse raised by public subscription in the Sandhills communities and trophies for the amateur winner and runner-up.

A unique presentation will be that of certificates from the State of North Carolina to the Tar Heel "quartet of champions." These are Jonnie Palmer, Harvie Ward, Dick Chapman and Boros, who among them have corralled all the top championships of the year. Their achievement is inter- (Continued on page 5)



JULIUS BOROS

## Crews Start Work On New Bragg Road

Work started Monday on the new road to Fort Bragg.

Timber crews of the Gulf Creosote Company are hard at work on the Boyd property along the route where it leaves the old road at the top of the ridge beyond the Grover and Carly lands.

The Gulf Creosote Company, of which Howard Butler is president, has the contract for taking the timber off all the property along the route, some of which is the old Butler homestead, Valhalla, first developed by Bion H. Butler, where his daughter, Helen, lives.

Rights of way have been secured by the state along the whole route which crosses the Grover property and the Boyd land and follows along the back of the Bowers and Butler holdings, skirting the edge of the Sheldon Smith property near the reservation.

It is thought that a couple of weeks will see the end of the timbering along the roadbed, marking the arrival of bulldozers on the scene. Because of the fine natural grade of the line laid out, a quick job is in sight, according to the engineers.

Carl Daniels of Sanford is in charge of the timbering operation, with Weymouth Estates' John M. Goldsmith acting as supervisor for the owners.

## Dalrymple Hurt In Car Accident Near His Home

Rupert C. Dalrymple, 64, brother-in-law of Sheriff C. J. McDonald, was severely injured when his car collided with another about 8 p. m. Thursday.

Mr. Dalrymple, who is employed in the office at Moore County hospital, had just started off from his brother-in-law's house, where he lives, near Carthage, to drive to the hospital. Mrs. McDonald, said that she saw him start off and draw to a stop as he reached the highway; she had just turned away when she heard the crash.

A violent collision had occurred between the Dalrymple car and a Dodge pickup truck, driven by Paul Matthews Nelson, 35, of Carthage Rt. 3. The car was rated a total loss while the truck was damaged to the extent of about \$400, though the driver was reported unhurt. No arrest was made but investigation is continuing.

Mr. Dalrymple was taken to Moore County Hospital, where it was found that he had suffered a fractured pelvis and probable back injuries. Patrolmen called to the scene of the accident, had hardly completed their investigation when they were summoned to cover another accident in this territory; details of both were unavailable at presstime.

## Conference Play Will Start Dec. 2

First games of the new Moore County High School Basketball Conference will be held Tuesday, December 2, it was learned from Coach Irie Leonard of Southern Pines High school.

A master schedule for all high schools of Moore county is now in process of preparation, and will be published next week.

The Conference is being sponsored by the Educo club, composed of superintendents, principals, coaches and men teachers of all the schools. They have elected Harry Lee Brown, Jr., of the Southern Pines faculty, to handle information during the conference series, sending out weekly bulletins on games, scores and team standings.

At the local high school, as elsewhere in the county, basketball practice is now in full swing, and Coach Leonard said prospects look fine for a highly interesting season.

## Ferrell H. Brown Elected Chairman Of Moore Red Cross At Annual Meet

Ferrell H. Brown, of Aberdeen, was elected chapter chairman of the Moore County chapter, American Red Cross, at the annual membership meeting of the chapter held here last Friday night.

W. A. Leland McKeithen of Pinehurst was elected chairman of the March 1953 fund drive at the meeting, which was held in the fellowship hall of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian church.

Presiding over the meeting was L. L. Hallman, Aberdeen, retiring chapter chairman who, on installation of his successor, automatically became a delegate-at-large on the board of directors.

Other officers elected were: Garland McPherson, Southern Pines, first vice-president; J. B. Edwards, Aberdeen, second vice-president; Mrs. O. D. Griffin, secretary, and Harry Menzel, Southern Pines, treasurer (a reelection). Community delegates elected were Miss Blanche Monroe, West End; Jere McKeithen, Aberdeen, (Continued on Page 8)



Melvin Morrison, suspected slayer, handcuffed to Officer Lamar Smith watches with apparent impassivity as the body of his former sweetheart is disinterred. Officers said, "His expression never changed."



As searchers pushed the pine needles aside from the lonely burial spot, they saw the face of the murdered girl. Arrow at left points to her head, arrow at right to her hand, just visible among the needles.

### ELECTED



F. H. BROWN