

Young Man Killed By Explosion

Alec Cameron Succumbs As Result Burns

Alexander (Alec) Cameron, 32, well-known young Southern Pines man and lifelong resident of this community, died about 10 a. m. Thursday in Moore County Hospital as a result of burns suffered in a gasoline explosion and fire at the Cameron Oil Co. and Southern Pines Motor Co. building on Connecticut Ave., shortly after 4 p. m. Wednesday.

Funeral plans were incomplete as The Pilot went to press at 4 p. m. Thursday.

Shocked by the accident, in which the young man's cousin, Raymond Cameron, 28, was badly, but not critically burned, residents of this area were deeply saddened when the news of his death came Thursday morning.

Officials of the Chamber of Commerce are asking all business establishments to close during the time of the funeral service.

Widely known and highly regarded in this area, Alec Cameron was the son of Herbert N. and Grace Walker Cameron, who survive. Also surviving is his wife, the former Jackie Yow of Carthage and their little son, Herbie Lee. His wife, who is expecting a child within a few weeks, was under a physician's care at Moore County Hospital after her husband's death Thursday.

The young man also is survived by two sisters and a brother, all of Southern Pines: Mrs. E. W. Small, Mrs. James I. Lawson and Robert F. Cameron.

Robert Cameron suffered burns about his arms while attempting to extinguish the burning clothing of his brother immediately after the explosion.

A graduate of Southern Pines High School, Alec Cameron was associated with his father in operation of the Cameron Oil Co., distributors of Sinclair petroleum products. He was a member of the Church of Wide Fellowship, the John Boyd Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Southern Pines Elks lodge.

A veteran of World War II, he had a notable record, having gone into France with invading forces. He was wounded and spent many months in military hospitals for treatment of his left arm and shoulder and never fully regained their use.

Dance Satirist To Open Concert Season Nov. 12

Iva Kitchell, Dance satirist, will dance at Weaver Auditorium Friday, November 12, at 8:30 p. m., in the first concert of a series to be presented by the Sandhill Music Association.

Born in Junction City, Kansas, Miss Kitchell has been a member of the Chicago Opera Ballet and has toured with the Russian Ballet Company. She has appeared in Carnegie Hall successfully and is known for her genius in impersonations. Each concert contains as many as a dozen changes of costume in which she prides herself in taking not over 90 seconds. Her accompanist, Harvey Brown creates much of the music and the pair have been acclaimed by New York critics as superb technicians.

Lawrence Johnson, who heads the Association this year, asks that all members pick up their season tickets at Barnum Realty Company in Southern Pines, this week, thus easing the confusion of assignment of seats the last week of the SMA campaign.

Committee members who are behind a campaign of subscription letters and phone calls to remind late subscribers are Tom Howerton, drive chairman; Dr. Bruce Warlick, treasurer; Mrs. William Hollister, secretary; Mrs. Jack Youns, publicity chairman; and an advertising committee comprised of Mrs. Harold Collins and Mrs. Ruth Wright, Pinehurst.



CLOUDS OF SMOKE and flame boil up from a raging fire within the Southern Pines Motor Co. and Cameron Oil Co. building on Connecticut Ave., in the Southern Pines business section late Wednesday afternoon, drawing hundreds of persons to the scene, following an explosion that took the life of Alec Cameron, 32, and seriously burned his cousin, Raymond Cameron. Firemen were busy at the site until late Wednesday night. (Pilot Staff Photo)

Fire Damage Estimated In Excess Of \$75,000

Chief Fowler Sees Gasoline Fumes As Cause of Explosion

An explosion and fire that took one life, severely burned another person, caused estimated total damages of between \$75,000 and \$100,000, gutted and wrecked the building of the Southern Pines Motor Co., and the Cameron Oil Co., Wednesday afternoon.

It was the worst fire and most destructive disaster, in terms of life and property, to hit the town for many years. Starting with an explosion of gasoline fumes shortly after 4 p. m., the conflagration was not fully controlled for several hours and firemen were on the site until 10:30 p. m., checking the wreckage later in the night to make sure there was no further outbreak of fire.

Dead as a result of the explosion was Alec Cameron, 32, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert N. Cameron, and associate of his father in operation of the oil company.

Seriously burned, but expected to recover was Raymond Cameron, son of Mrs. Estelle Cameron of Southern Pines and a cousin of Alec. After receiving treatment at Moore County Hospital Wednesday, he was transferred to Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill on Thursday.

Robert Cameron, a brother of Alec, was burned on the hands and arms as he attempted to extinguish the flaming clothing of his brother.

Estimate of damage was given by A. A. Howlett who is a partner with H. N. Cameron in operation of the Southern Pines Motor Co., Pontiac and GMC truck dealers.

The Motor Co. and Oil Co. occupy adjoining quarters in the building which is owned by Mrs. A. M. Swinnerton. The east portion of the structure in which the explosion occurred was formerly stables and was built over 30 years ago.

The damage estimate, Mr. Howlett said, figured losses to the two businesses and to the building's cash gifts this year 20 times.

owner.

Cause Explained
Cause of the fire was unknown for some time but an investigation which was not completed by Fire Chief H. B. Fowler until about 10 a. m. Thursday produced the following explanation:

Alec Cameron and Raymond were working on a truck which was loaded with gasoline, just inside the door at the north entrance to the building, installing a new pump on the truck which had been acquired recently by the oil company.

Gasoline evidently was leaking from the truck, creating fumes within the building. This leakage also apparently played an important part in the fatal burns of Alec Cameron, Chief Fowler said, as the young man had gone under the truck to get a fitting that had rolled there, shortly before the explosion, and his clothing had become saturated with gasoline.

Apparently, said Chief Fowler, (Continued on page 8)

CROP Campaign To Be Planned

Leaders in the Moore County campaign of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) will meet at the Presbyterian Church in Carthage Monday at 7:30 p. m. to plan the 1954 drive.

Prominently associated with the CROP campaign in former years have been Clyde Auman of West End, T. Roy Phillips of Carthage and A. L. Burney of Southern Pines. Collections are made through churches of the county of cash, clothing or food products for distribution overseas under church supervision.

All interested persons are invited to the Monday meeting.

See page two today for item about CROP's new program for purchase of surplus commodities, which will multiply the value of cash gifts this year 20 times.

Golf Carousel Starts With Big List Of Entries

The public is invited to attend a golf clinic to be held this afternoon (Friday) from 4 to 5 o'clock at the Mid Pines Club as a feature of the Southern Pines Golf Carousel, which opened Thursday with qualifying rounds on three local courses.

Taking part in the golf clinic will be Julius Boros, former U.S. Open and World champion, pro at the Mid Pines Club and part owner of the Pine Needles Country Club; Pat O'Sullivan, twice holder of the North and South Women's championship and former Connecticut state champion, who recently turned pro, and Richard Chapman of Pinehurst, one of the nation's leading amateurs.

Chapman and his wife, Eloise, a golfer of distinction, are playing as a team in the tournament, which is being sponsored by the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce.

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Thomas A. Kelley Succumbs At 80; Rites Wednesday

Funeral services were held in Emmanuel Episcopal Church Wednesday morning for Thomas Armsby Kelley, 80, a resident of Southern Pines for over 45 years who died Monday at Moore County Hospital after a long illness.

The Rev. C. V. Covell, rector of the church, and Dr. T. A. Cheatham, rector emeritus of the Village Chapel, Pinehurst, officiated. Burial followed in the family plot at Mount Hope Cemetery. Active pallbearers were Sherwood Brockwell, Jr., Shields Cameron, L. T. Hall and Garland Pierce, of Southern Pines, Hugh Carter of Pinehurst and Cad Benedict of Pinebluff. Honorary pallbearers were C. W. Picquet and S. B. Richardson, of Southern Pines and Paul Dana of Pinehurst.

Known affectionately to several generations of Sandhills residents as "Tom" or "Uncle Tom," (Continued on Page 8)

Emma Deane Thomas, 14, Accidentally Shot And Killed By Boy Cousin, 15

Emma Deane Thomas, 14-year-old Vass-Lakeview High School freshman and daughter of Mrs. Purvis Thomas, was killed around 5 p. m. last Friday by a blast from

a 12 gauge automatic shotgun which her first cousin, Billy Ray Thomas, 15 is said to have been unloading in the yard, 12 feet from where the girl was standing on a screened porch of her farm home near Vass.

The discharge of the shotgun struck the left side of her face, and is believed to have brought instant death. She was rushed by ambulance to St. Joseph's hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The victim's cousin and a companion, Billy Belton, had been squirrel hunting and the Thomas youth is reported to have been unloading his gun preparatory to riding a motor scooter to his home a mile away when the accident occurred.

Coroner Ralph Steed, who investigated, termed the tragedy an accident, with no inquest required. Funeral rites at the Vass Methodist Church at 2 p. m., Sunday, drew a crowd which filled the sanctuary and vestibule, with many others, unable to get in, standing outside through the service. The pastor, the Rev. Walter C. Smith, read Scripture passages, offered prayers and paid tribute to the beauty of the girl's life. (Continued on Page 8)

4,600 Vote In Moore; Democrats All Elected

HEADS CLUB

Jack M. Taylor of Aberdeen was elected president of the Sandhills Kiwanis Club for 1955, during the regular meeting of the club at the Community Church in Pinehurst Wednesday.

Other officers chosen were: R. F. Hoke Pollock, vice-president, and John L. Ponzer, treasurer. Both are from Southern Pines. New directors elected were: I. C. Sledge and J. D. Hobbs, of Pinehurst; Thomas R. Howerton, W. Lamont Brown and W. T. Huntley, Jr., of Southern Pines; and Dr. E. M. Medlin and Lawrence McN. Johnson, of Aberdeen.

The new officers and directors will be installed at the club's first meeting in January.

A story on the program at Wednesday's meeting appears elsewhere in today's Pilot.

Majorities Exceed Those Usually Won

Approximately 4,600 Moore County citizens voted in the general election Tuesday and gave larger than usual majorities to the complete Democratic ticket.

In Southern Pines 651 persons voted; in Aberdeen, 546, and 109 in Pinebluff.

The complete unofficial vote in Moore County for the contested county offices was:

State Senate (elect two)

12th District
J. Hawley Poole 3095
Robert Morgan 2922
Lacy S. Lewis, Jr. (R) 1364

House
H. Clifton Blue 3132
J. W. Rogers (R) 1393

Sheriff
C. J. McDonald 3117
Floyd T. Cole 1445

County Commissioners

District 1

John M. Currie 3056
C. A. Kennedy (R) 1420

District 2

T. R. Monroe 3016
C. H. Garner (R) 1410

District 3

L. R. Reynolds 3021
J. W. Childress (R) 1399

District 4

J. M. Pleasants 3072
A. Raymond Thomas (R) 1376

District 5

G. M. Cameron 3024
M. Hobson Tucker 1432

Unopposed Candidates

Judge J. Vance Rowe, candidate for reelection as judge of recorders court; W. Lamont Brown, candidate for a second term as solicitor of recorders court; Carlton Kennedy, candidate for a second term as clerk of the court; Mrs. Bessie J. Griffin, candidate for a second term as register of deeds; and Ralph G. Steed, candidate for reelection as coroner, had no Republican opposition, and were all re-elected.

M. G. Boyette, candidate for reelection as solicitor of the 13th Judicial District, was re-elected without opposition.

State Offices

In the State and district contests with all Moore County precincts reporting except Spencerville, where approximately 330 votes were cast with the vote running about 3 1/2 to 1 in favor of the Republicans, the vote stood:

For U. S. Senate

W. Kerr Scott 2977
Paul C. West (R) 1256

Congress

C. B. Deane 2988
Harold W. Gavin (R) 1244

Amendments

No. 1

For 1858
Against 1179

No. 2

For 2020
Against 1043

No. 3

For 1414
Against 1634

No. 4

For 1840
Against 1261

No. 5

For 1837
Against 1219

In the county, as in the State, all the amendments were carried with the exception of Amendment No. 3 which would have limited any county to one State Senator.

Sam J. Ervin, Jr., was elected to the U. S. Senate to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Clyde R. Hoey without opposition. Edwin Gill was elected State Treasurer over Rex Morton; Charles Gold was elected Insurance Commissioner over Fred G. Frick. Frank Crane was elected Commissioner of Labor without opposition. There was no Republican opposition for any of the superior court judges or supreme court judges.

In Nation

In the nation the Democrats won control of the House and Senate as well as the governorships in New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Maine, where the election was held in September.

COUNCIL TO MEET

Regular meeting of the Southern Pines Town Council will be held at the town hall Tuesday of next week at 8 p. m.

Blue Knights To Face Ellerbe In Playoffs Today

The Blue Knights of Southern Pines High School will launch their drive for the State Class A six-man football championship this (Friday) afternoon when they play Ellerbe High School's team, the Montgomery County champions.

The game is set at the neutral Pinehurst field for 3:30 p. m.

Winner of this contest will have the group championship and will advance to the district playoff Friday of next week. District winners will play for the Eastern title at the Eastern winner will play a Western N. C. winner for the state championship.

Winner of the game at Pinehurst will face the winner of the Rowland-Clarkton contest in the district playoff.

County Champions

The Blue Knights became Moore County champions last Friday night when they defeated Pinehurst 46-28, to complete their season record without a loss and with one tie.

Marley, Humphrey and Watkins each made two touchdowns last Friday and Cox scored one. Humphrey kicked two extra points.

Garry Wathen accounted for three of Pinehurst's scores and C. Garrison, one. Wathen kicked the two extra points.

Humphrey, Cox, Watkins and Cline were rated outstanding offensively for Southern Pines, with Marley and Pierce outstanding on defense.

Wathen was the outstanding offensive player for Pinehurst.

MISSING GIRL RETURNS HOME

Mrs. Lou Dorothy McCrimmon Fox, 18-year-old Negro girl who disappeared two months ago, and who has been the object of an intensive search by the sheriff's department and the SBI, returned Saturday afternoon to her home near Vass.

Sheriff C. J. McDonald said that, after learning from the girl's family that she had returned home, he went there to talk with her but found her "too upset" to be immediately interviewed.

He said he talked with her a short while but she was unable to give a connected story at that time, and until he had the full story he would rather not give details of what little she had said.

The girl was last seen Saturday night, September 11, talking with some soldiers at a Negro amusement park near Lakeview, to which she had gone accompanied by her sister.

There were several mysterious angles to her disappearance and there was some suspicion of foul play.