

Young Woman Seeks Aid Here After Relating Strange Story Of Events

Forced To Drive All Night In Rain. She Tells Officers

An attractive, well dressed young wife and mother of Richmond, Va., in the Southern Pines police station Friday sobbed out a story of all-night terror which had left her dazed, not even knowing where she was.

Mrs. John E. Wolfe, 29, said hysterically that a Negro who had hidden in her car made her drive him all night from near Richmond along back roads, in pouring rain.

She was in the police station for help, which was given to her. There were no charges of any sort. Since she said she could not under any circumstances identify the Negro, and the events she described had taken place she did not know where, but many miles away, there was no action to be taken. Police contacted her husband in Richmond and he came Friday night and took her home.

She was brought to the station by State Highway Patrolman E. Shomaker from whom she sought help. She told Mrs. Cornelia Vann, police clerk, that she "came to" in a dazed condition at a service station and asked the proprietor to call a patrolman, which he did. This was Moore's Service Station between Southern Pines and Pinehurst.

Mrs. Wolfe said she was on her way home from Lexington, Va. Thursday evening after leaving

her 11-year-old son there to visit his grandparents. Her other child, a six-year-old girl, she had left with her sister at Richmond. She had gone to Lexington prepared to drive on further and visit her other sisters at Roanoke, Va., but then decided to turn around and go home instead.

She said she became faint while driving and stopped her car beside the highway; that a patrolman came to her aid, took her to the patrol station, gave her some medicine and let her rest there for a couple of hours, when she felt well enough to resume her journey.

She estimated she was about 30 miles from her home when she stopped at a small village to telephone her husband and tell him she was on the way. Returning to her car, she had driven just a little way further when, she said, the voice of a Negro man spoke up from the back seat, telling her, "Do as I tell you and I won't hurt you."

Terrified, she said she did not answer him but went on driving, following his directions, which took her and her unwelcome passenger off the highway along country roads.

This went on all night long, in pouring rain, at times circling about as, she said, she recognized certain places she "knew they had passed before."

She spoke to the Negro only one time, to tell him, "If you touch me I'll speed up to 100 miles an hour and crash into a

Mrs. Stevens Dies In Connecticut

Mrs. Beatrice C. Stevens, long-time winter resident at Pinehurst, died Friday at her home in Greenwich, Conn. Funeral services were held Monday at Christ Episcopal Church there, with burial following Tuesday afternoon in Mount Hope Cemetery, Southern Pines.

Officiating at both services was the Rev. Adam Weir Craig, rector of the Village Chapel at Pinehurst.

Surviving are her husband, Edward Stevens; one daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Stevens Fisher; one son, Franklin Hammer; and two stepsons.

"This, she declared, she seriously considered, and at one point actually made the effort to cause a crash as she neared a big bridge but found she could not do it. However, the man did not touch or otherwise harm her.

Just before daylight, she said, he made her stop the car for him to get out. He asked her if she had any money and she gave him \$10, telling him she had more but "that was all I could give him or I would not have any money to get home." At that time she glimpsed him for the first time, but only briefly.

He left her then, at a point in the country where no houses were in sight. She continued to drive, not knowing where she was nor in which direction she was going. She thought she went through the city of Durham twice. Apparently thinking she was headed north, she was in fact driving south. She did not "come to" from her fright and hysteria until she reached the nearby service station about 10:30 a. m.

While there were several strange angles to the story, Mrs. Vann said there was no doubt of the woman's upset emotional condition, which she described as resembling a state of shock.

Reached by telephone at his place of business, the Universal Ford plant at Richmond, her husband planned to fly to Raleigh at once but could not do so. There were other phone calls, as first one plane flight and then the next was grounded because of weather conditions. He finally took a bus to Raleigh, where he was met by a Raleigh Ford dealer whom Mrs. Vann called at his request, and who drove him to Southern Pines late at night.

In the meantime Mrs. Wolfe appeared to recover somewhat from her fright and said she felt able to drive to Raleigh to meet him. Officer Rogers said he would accompany her to Highway 1 to show her the way, but as she started to step into her car she appeared all at once completely exhausted, handed him her keys and said, "I just can't do it." He took her to a local hotel where she slept until her husband came.

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