

Hunted Convict Killed By Hit-Run Car



HIT AND RUN VICTIM. Johnny Champion lies on the road on the Fort Bragg military reservation where two rangers had found him about 2:40 Tuesday morning. Pictured at extreme left is Warden Kenneth Bailey of Central Prison. Next to him is Col. Carl Turner, provost marshal at Fort Bragg, who conducted an on-the-spot investigation and determined that Champion had met his death when hit by an automobile. This picture was made just as day broke. Champion was still living when his body was found but apparently died just a few minutes later. (All Pilot photos)



THE MICKEY WALSH CABIN on Young's Road apparently served as temporary hideout for Champion between the time he escaped from prison some time Saturday night and the time he was spotted about noon Monday. Officers made a thorough search of the building on two occasions Monday. Pictured here Deputy Sheriff A. F. Dees is going in the door while Captain Moffitt Jackson, director of the State prison camps in this area, directs activities from outside. Officers were constantly armed during the search since they had been informed that Champion was also armed and was considered dangerous.



FIRST PEOPLE to learn that Johnny Champion was in this area were Frank Bass and his son, Lloyd, who operate a farm about five miles from Southern Pines. Lloyd Bass, shown here holding a flashlight, telephoned the Southern Pines police department with the information that Champion was at his house. He called about noon Monday. This picture was made about 10 o'clock Monday night after officers surrounded the house thinking that Champion might have returned.

Army authorities, together with local, state and federal officers, continued their search today for the driver of the car that ran down and killed escaped convict Johnny Champion on the Fort Bragg military reservation Tuesday morning about 2:40. Champion, who had escaped from Central Prison in Raleigh Saturday night, was the object of a widespread manhunt in the hunting country between Young's Road and Connecticut Avenue from early Monday afternoon until he was found sprawled dead on the highway about two miles east of Lake MacArthur.

It was apparent that the 24-year-old escapee, who had spent many of his early years in Southern Pines, had attended school here and had been brought up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Jonkers, on Young's Road, had, in his bid for freedom, tried to return to the scenes of his boyhood.

It is believed that Champion, attempting to hitch a ride, had tried to stop a car, perhaps with the rifle he had stolen, and had been struck down.

Only three cars were known to be on the road at the time. The driver of one, identified only as an Army officer, was questioned at length soon after Champion's body was found but was released. Col. Carl C. Turner, provost marshal at Fort Bragg, questioned the officer and later said he did not believe the officer was driving the car that struck Champion.

He ordered a search made of the Fort Bragg area and any suspicious cars were to be reported.

The car, it was reported, was probably blue. Parts of the 22 rifle that Champion was carrying were found strewn along the highway as much as 50 feet from the body. One part of the rifle butt had blue paint on it.

The rifle had also been fired one time. It was theorized at the time the barrel was found that Champion either shot it at the car, or it went off when he was hit.

Sgt. Kirk Flannigan, chief ranger at Fort Bragg, and Sgt. Garland Evans discovered the body. They had been operating a road block at ranger station no. 2 and had decided to abandon it for a few hours.

The discovery came just a few minutes after L. R. Temple, assistant warden at Central Prison, had driven out from Southern Pines to give them a more complete description of Champion. They had been maintaining the road block since about 9 o'clock when officers theorized Champion might try to hitch a ride. Every car that either was leaving or entering the reservation was thoroughly checked, they said.

After Temple talked with Flannigan and Evans, they headed back to Fort Bragg. Temple, deciding to take another look along the road, was about three minutes behind them.

Flannigan said that when they discovered the body, "we knew right away who it was." When found Champion was still living but apparently died within a matter of minutes.

His body was found 149 feet from the point of impact. Marks on the road indicated the car had applied the brakes and skidded 56 feet before striking him.

He was wearing a short sleeved blue shirt and dungarees, argyle socks and tennis shoes, all believed to have been stolen from the home of F. D. "Dooley" Adams on Young's Road. In his pockets officers found a nail clipper, reading glasses, a pack of matches and a cheap pocket-knife.

His body was badly crushed and both arms were broken.

Described by several people that knew him as "brilliant but unbalanced," the violent end for Johnny Champion was no surprise. He had a long prison record dating back to the time he was 16. When he escaped from Central Prison Saturday night, the first maximum security prisoner to do so since 1952, he was serving a life sentence for first degree burglary.

Probably no one will ever (Continued on Page 8)

Budget Proposals Lower Than Last Year; Income Down Manager Sees No Increase In Taxes

A proposed budget of \$304,115 has been recommended to the Town Council by Manager Louis Scheipers, Jr.

The proposed budget would carry no increase in the present \$1.75 tax rate, Scheipers said, though certain economies would have to be effected in order to keep the rate. Estimated income is the same as the estimated expense.

Scheipers outlined the estimated expenditures at the regular meeting of the Council Tuesday night in the library. "The plan of operation for the coming fiscal year has been tailored to meet the estimated income," he said. "The figures neither necessitate an increase in taxes nor do they necessitate any changes in the standard of services to the citizens..." he added.

Last year expenditures were some \$35,000 more than what had been estimated, due primarily to the unexpected amount of sewer work that had to be done on the new thruway and the flood of requests for curb and gutter work. A balance of \$41,579 which was on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year was whittled down to \$6,570, available for contingencies during the next fiscal year. There was no provision in Scheipers' recommended budget for increasing the contingency fund. It represents about two per cent of the proposed budget, which he termed "pitifully small."

Scheipers told the Council that the income for the year ending (Continued on page 8)

Council Session Tense On School Board Controversy

What started out as an apparently mild discussion of the appointment of the Southern Pines School Board, which many people still say they believe was pushed through in too much haste, developed into a tense situation at the Town Council meeting Tuesday night.

The Council, which had just last week adopted a resolution in which it acknowledged it acted with "too much haste" in its appointments, heard out anyone who cared to take the floor, though at first it appeared as if there would be no discussion at all.

The Rev. G. D. McNeil of West Southern Pines, in a delegation that included about 10 Negroes, told the fairly large group attending the meeting that the controversy had boiled down to the fact that a Negro had been appointed to the board, a controversy which he thought would never do the town any good. "I personally am glad the appointment was made and, like many others, feel it will do much to provide for better representation of all the people of this town," he said.

A. R. McDaniel, a frequent critic of the previous town administration, said no controversy existed. "It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. McNeil feels that way," he said. "What bothers me and others I know is merely the procedure under which the appointments were made."

McDaniel was referring to the fact that T. T. Morse, the Council's Negro member, had made a blanket nomination of the four incumbent members of the board plus P. I. York, a Negro who lives outside the corporate limits of town. Under the town's charter, one member must be appointed from outside the limits, but from within the school district.

Dr. Bruce Warlick, who lives outside the corporate limits but inside the school district, tried with several questions to get the Council to say which of the school (Continued on page 8)

BANK SCHEDULE

Starting next Wednesday, June 5, the Citizens Bank and Trust Company will close at 12 noon each Wednesday during June, July and August.

Commencement Program Scheduled Sunday, Tuesday; 38 To Graduate

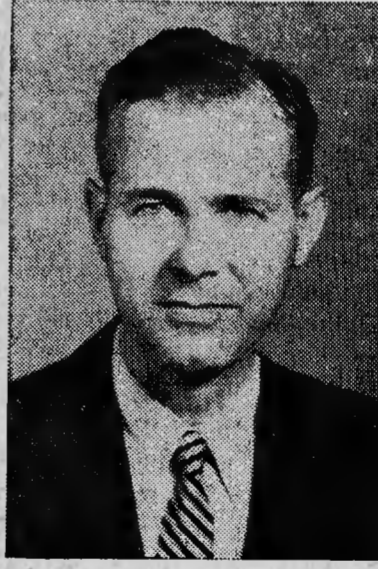


First Honor Graduates at Southern Pines High School this year are Joan Howarth, left, the salutatorian, and Anike Verhoeff, the valedictorian. Miss Howarth is the daughter of John Howarth, chairman of the school board, and Mrs. Howarth. Miss Verhoeff is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dirk Verhoeff.

Commencement Speakers



DR. W. H. CARTWRIGHT



DR. GEORGE J. GRIFFIN

Dr. William H. Cartwright, chairman of the Department of Education at Duke University and a professor of education, will deliver the commencement address when 38 Southern Pines High School seniors receive diplomas in exercises Tuesday night.

Dr. Cartwright, a native of Minnesota, was a public school teacher in Minnesota for eight years and a member of the faculty at Boston University for four years. He has also served, during the latter stages of World War 2, as historian of the military district of Washington.

He is active in the American Historical Association, the Horace Mann League, the Association for Higher Education and many other professional organizations. He is considered one of the nation's outstanding figures in the field of education and has been called on a number of times to serve on higher boards.

He was a delegate from North Carolina to the White House Conference on Education, and is presently serving as president of the National Council for the Social Studies.

His writings include articles and volumes in both education and history.

Dr. George J. Griffin, who will deliver the baccalaureate sermon

Wake Forest, Duke Educators To Speak

Thirty eight seniors will receive diplomas in annual graduation exercises at Southern Pines High School Tuesday.

Dr. William H. Cartwright, chairman of the Department of Education at Duke University will be the principal speaker at the commencement program, which begins at 8:15 in Weaver Auditorium.

Sunday, at the Church of Wide Fellowship, the baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Dr. George J. Griffin, professor of religion at Wake Forest College since 1948.

First honor graduate this year is Anike Verhoeff, and second honor graduate is Joan Howarth. Other honor graduates are Donald W. Brown, Ray Daeke, John Chappell, Lucy McDaniel, Howard Morgan, Cathryn Pollard, Marvin Samuel Self, Thomas Vann, and John Thomas Whatley.

Marshals, of which Beth Turner is chief, are Mary Louise McDonald, Nancy Traylor, Jean Franklin, George Reams, Phillip Guin, Marion Caton, Carol Staples and David Prim.

At the graduation exercises Tuesday the Rev. Martin Caldwell, rector of Emmanuel Church, will deliver the invocation. A special number will be presented by the junior high school glee club and will be followed by the introduction of the speaker by John Howarth, chairman of the school board.

Norris Hodgkins, a member of the school board, will present the diplomas, which will be followed by the invocation by Father Francis A. McCarthy.

The processional and recessional will be played by Mrs. Ina Bullock. The high school glee club will also sing during the program.

At the baccalaureate sermon Sunday, which will be held at 8:15, Dr. Wofford C. Timmons will deliver the invocation. The Rev. Cheves Ligon will read the Scripture and the Rev. D. Hoke Coon will introduce the speaker. The Rev. Robert L. Bame will pronounce the benediction.

David Paddock, organist at the church, will play the processional and recessional, and a solo will be sung by Roger Gibbs, a member of the school faculty and director of music at the Church of Wide Fellowship.

The high school choir will also sing.

Tuesday morning at 10:30, in Weaver Auditorium, the annual honors and awards exercises will be held. At that time a number of awards, scholastic and athletic, are due to be presented.

Graduates this year are Richard L. Bethea, Lillian Bullock, James R. Bowden, Donald W. Brown, Carolyn K. Bryant, John Chappell, James M. Chiricos, Mildred Lillian Clark, Kenneth (Continued on page 8)

State President Of Jaycees Will Install Officers

Jack Sharpe of Kannapolis, State president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, will conduct the installation of new officers of the local chapter Friday night.

Installation ceremonies will be held at a ladies night function at the Elks Club. The program begins at 6:30, with dinner scheduled for 7:30.

Norris Hodgkins, a former director of the club, will be installed as president succeeding James S. Baird. This is the second year of operation for the club, which has some 57 members.

Other new officers include Bob Stocker and Bob Dunn, vice-presidents; Charlie Clapp, secretary; Bill Hamilton, treasurer; and Frank Yandell, Austin Sauls, George Willcox, John Langford and Vance Derby, directors. Baird will also become a director.

Town Recreation Program Slated To Begin June 15

The Southern Pines summer recreation playground program will begin June 15, it was announced this week by Irie Leonard, director.

The Little League, co-sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Lions Club, and the Pony League, co-sponsored by the department and the VFW, have already started their schedules. The softball league will begin shortly.

Leonard said that a complete playground schedule would be announced within the next few days.