

Berserk Policeman Killed In Hospital After Holding Woman As Hostage

Ralph E. Medlin, 26-year-old policeman who had served exactly seven weeks on the local force, was killed in a corridor of Moore Memorial Hospital Monday night after he had gone berserk and tried, in the short space of 55 minutes, to kill at least a half dozen people.

The shot that felled Medlin was fired by Pinehurst police officer Rudolph Frye as they stood outside the room of Mrs. Dorothy Clippard of Southern Pines, one of those whom Medlin had fired at in his wild and rampaging romp that still has his fellow officers baffled.

An official inquest that had been called by Coroner Ralph Steed for tonight (Thursday) has been postponed until next week, Steed said, to allow him time to secure more information.

Medlin, described after the shooting by Chief C. E. Newton as "a man who appeared to me to be an excellent officer," was in an automobile accident in Philadelphia several months ago, his brothers told local officers Tuesday, and had sustained a head injury. That, plus what several of his acquaintances have said was "an insane jealousy of Mrs. Clippard," were thought to be the reasons he went on his wild spree Monday night.

Before it was over he had fired at least eight shots at people, several of whom he had never seen before. At one point he tried to kill his roommate who was attempting to restrain him, and fired wildly at Mrs. Clippard in her room as officers grimly closed in to take him dead or alive.

Movements Traced

Chief Newton traced Medlin's movements from the time he (Medlin) was relieved from his 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift Sunday night to the moment he was killed.

He was at Joe's Grill from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., and then apparently went to his rooms in an upstairs apartment at Mrs. Clippard's home on N. Ashe Street. He roomed there with Wesley Thompson, another member of the police force.

Shortly before 8 o'clock Monday night Medlin was at a tavern on N. May Street operated by Robert Yonts, a former member of the force. He had a beer, Yonts recalled if he could borrow Yonts' car. He wanted it, he said, so that he could go to Moore Memorial Hospital to visit Mrs. Clippard, who had been there about 10 days at the time with a back ailment.

Yonts loaned him the car, a 1959 Ford, and Medlin then went to Earl Walker's house just off Highway 22 in the Knollwood area. Walker, an employee of CP&L, and Medlin had grown up in Apex.

Threatens Friend

When Medlin arrived at the Walker home he called Walker outside and told him he was in trouble. "I've stolen a car," he told Walker. He also said that if anyone in Walker's house called police "he would kill Walker."

Inside Walker's house were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson, friends of theirs. Wilson recently joined the police department and, like Walker and Medlin, grew up in Apex.

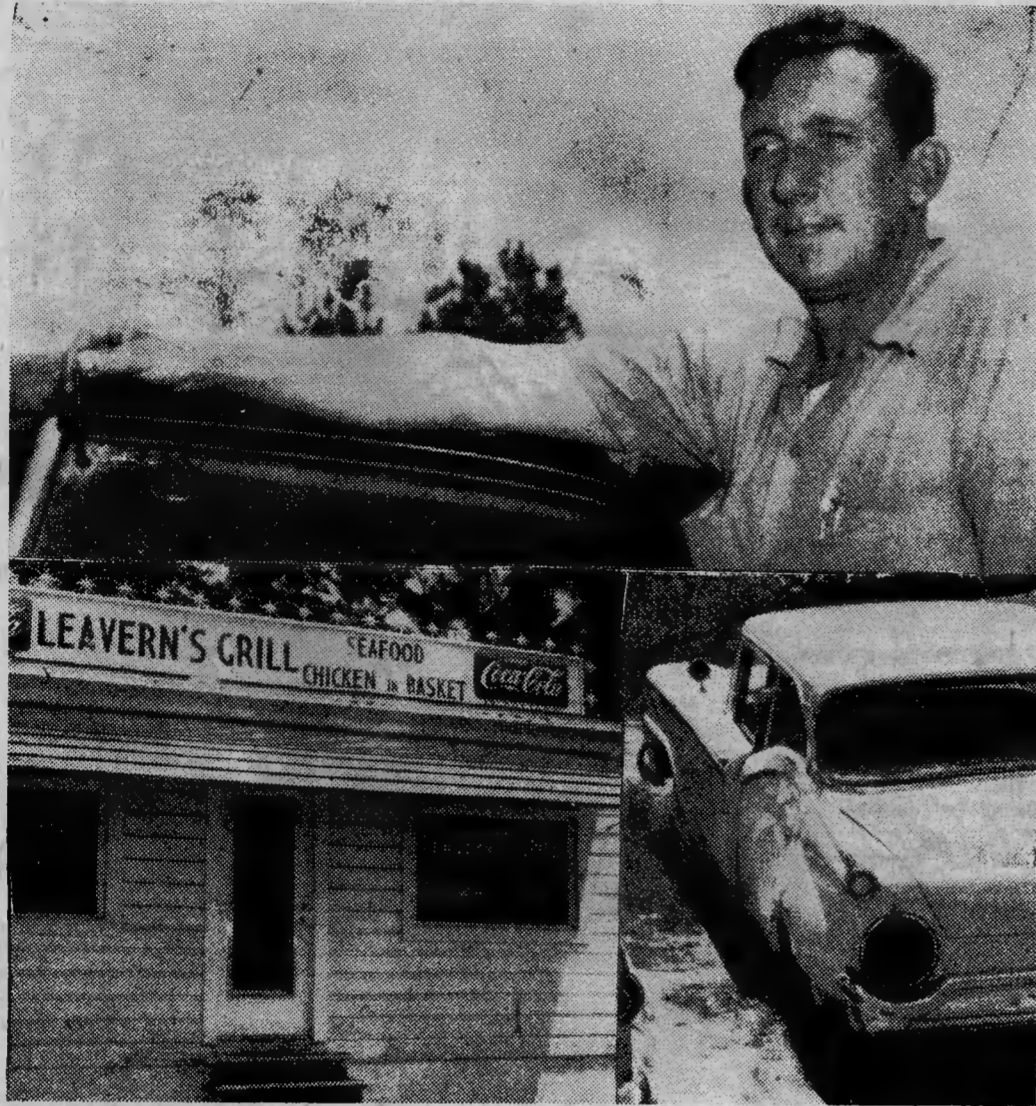
As Walker related the story to The Pilot, Medlin told him that he (Medlin) wanted to go to Raleigh "to kill his wife" and wanted Walker to go with him. (Medlin lived in Raleigh before coming here and had been divorced from his wife, who has since remarried.) Medlin, known by Chief Newton to have had family difficulties, told Walker "he had to get her."

Walker declined and tried to talk Medlin out of either going to Raleigh or doing anything else. He urged him to go into the house and calm down.

Medlin went into the house a few minutes, talked with the two couples and reiterated his threat to kill Walker if anyone called the police.

The two went back outside and got in the car and continued talking for a few minutes. Then Medlin saw Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Wilson going towards

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BULLET HOLE in the windshield of a pickup truck that Ralph Medlin tried to commandeer on his mad dash to Moore Memorial Hospital is pointed out by Leavern Maness, owner of the truck and the parson Medlin was firing at. At bottom left is the grill across from the station where Mrs. Maness was first approached

by Medlin looking for a car, and at bottom right is the car he was driving, showing the dent on the side made when he sideswiped a tree on Midland Road. Medlin drove the car to the hospital with a flat tire, leaving a trail of chewed rubber scattered all along Midland Road. The car had been borrowed less than an hour before.



RALPH E. MEDLIN

Hospital Officials Commend Staff's 'Splendid Conduct'

Members of the staffs of every newspaper in Moore County plus personnel of radio station WEEB were invited to Moore Memorial Hospital Tuesday afternoon to hear a detailed account of the events of the night before when Ralph Medlin, Southern Pines policeman, went berserk and terrorized the pediatrics wing for about 10 minutes.

John Taylor, chairman of the Board of Directors, Thomas Howerton, the hospital administrator, and Mrs. Emily Youngblood, who was the supervisor of nurses at the time of the incident, were questioned closely as were several other nurses and hospital employees who had witnessed any part of the events.

Howerton said later that he was "more than pleased with the splendid way our personnel handled the matter and the way they conducted themselves. All of them are to be commended for their efforts to protect and comfort their patients and, speaking for the rest of the staff, I hereby express our gratitude and humble thanks. What they did was in the best spirit of the nursing profession."

Mr. Taylor said that in his memory no other incident had happened at the hospital that had

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To Nurse Youngblood: A Bouquet

Mrs. Emily Youngblood, night supervisor of nurses at Moore Memorial Hospital, is what any person would call an ideal nurse. Efficient, dedicated, extremely capable, attractive enough to be a fashion model, and she's cool and calm in an emergency.

That last attribute, her associates said Tuesday, probably accounts for the fact that not one single person was harmed when a rampaging policeman went berserk at the hospital Monday night and kept a whole wing terrorized for several agonizing minutes.

Here's what she did: when she heard that Ralph Medlin was holding a woman patient in her room at gunpoint and threatened to shoot other people, she went into the room in an effort to free the patient, Mrs. Dorothy Clippard. Hit sharply on the arm and sent almost sprawling across the hospital corridor, she got up, restrained two other nurses from entering the room, and set about finding some other way to bring order back to her domain.

It was she who snatched Policeman Wesley Thompson into a bathroom, pulling him from the line of Medlin's fire.

While huddling in the bathroom worrying about her patients, she remembered that W. O. Spence of Southern Pines was directly across the hall suffering the effects of a heart attack. She dashed across, got him back in the bed and made him comfortable.

A minute or two later Medlin was killed by bullets from another policeman's gun. Almost as soon as he hit the floor Mrs. Youngblood was there feeling for a pulse, trying to the very end to give comfort to someone who couldn't use it.

When she learned that Medlin was definitely dead, she hurried down the hall, looking into all rooms and asking about her patients.

One grandmother, she discovered, had wrapped a youngster in a blanket and was huddling under a bed.

Another patient, a teenager, had heard all the commotion, locked himself in the bathroom. When

Mrs. Youngblood arrived in the room, the youngster was back in his bed watching television. No need to worry there.

She called the Hospital Administrator's house: "Let me speak to Dr. Howerton," she said. (Howerton, no doctor, thanked her next day for the compliment. He asked her again, too, if she wouldn't stay on at the hospital instead of following with her plans to go away for study in order to become an anesthetist.)

A reporter managed to get her stopped long enough Tuesday afternoon to ask her reaction to all the excitement.

"We really had it, didn't we?" she said, bustling off down the hall to look after her patients.

Annual Poultry Day Slated For Highfalls Gym

The annual Highfalls Poultry Show will be held at the Highfalls school Saturday, August 22, according to Harold Purvis, the chairman.

Purvis, who lives on Route 1, Robbins, named the following officers and committees: Mrs. Norris Shields, Route 1, Robbins, vice-president; Miss Lucy Reynolds, Route 1, Robbins, secretary and treasurer; W. F. Ritter, Jr., Route 1, Robbins, publicity chairman; Norris Shields, Route 1, Robbins, chairman of broiler show; John Chisholm, Route 1, Carthage, vice-chairman of broiler show; Willie G. Harris, Route 1, Carthage, chairman of egg show; Luther Paschal, chairman poultry princess contest and Carr Paschal, chairman of prizes committee.

This year's show will include: broilers, ages six weeks through nine weeks of age; eggs—both brown and white shelled; 4-H Club pullets; and a poultry princess contest. Free door prizes will be given.

The educational program will be on "How Poultry Auction Markets Help Growers" and "Poultry Management For More Profits."

Carthage Youth Is County's Seventh Road Death Of '59

Killed When Car Overturned Near Carthage Friday

David Wilton Powers, 16, of Carthage, was killed Friday night at about 11:10 when the 1957 Pontiac in which he was riding left the highway two-and-a-half miles east of Carthage.

He was Moore County's seventh highway fatality for 1959. A second passenger in the car, James Michael, 18, also of Carthage, was taken to Moore Memorial Hospital suffering severe lacerations, head injuries and possible internal injuries.

The car was reported a total loss after it left the Union Church Road. It went out of control, hit the right side of the road and left the shoulder to tumble down a slight embankment and overturn at the bottom according to State Highway Patrolman H. A. Hight, investigating officer.

The car was found some 20 feet from the highway on the curve, Patrolman Hight said, adding that the curve was not considered too hazardous.

Funeral rites for Powers were held Sunday afternoon at the Cool Springs Methodist Church near Glendon with Rev. Jefferson Davis, pastor of the church conducting. Burial took place in the church cemetery.

Powers is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilton Powers; two brothers, Howard Reginald and Wayne, both of the home; and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. J. A. Powers of Route 1, Carthage.

FEW DETAILS KNOWN

West End Constable Accidentally Kills Boy Near Robbins Early Today

Harold Jean Sheffield, 17, of Route 1, Eagle Springs, was found dead early this morning on Highway 27 about three miles west of the Robbins crossroads.

Sheffield had been struck by an automobile driven by Constable Oscar Bailey of West End, who told State Highway Patrolmen Jim McColman and Thomas Clark that he did not see the boy lying in the road until it was too late to stop. The accident occurred about 3:30 a.m.

A full investigation will be conducted by the Patrol and Coroner Ralph Steed.

Steed said this morning that he had not questioned Bailey at length. Cpl. McColman was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Gen. Marshall Is Reported Still Seriously Ill

Six months after suffering two severe strokes, Gen. George C. Marshall still lies seriously ill in Walter Reed Army Hospital, according to an Associated Press dispatch this week.

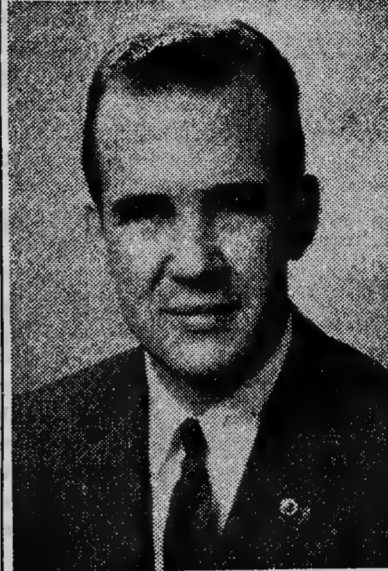
Hospital officials said the condition of the 78-year-old soldier-statesman is unchanged. The strokes early this year left him nearly helpless.

Last month when the Senate paid tribute to the World War 2 chief of staff and former secretary of state it was announced that Marshall could read and understand but that his speech had been impaired.

Last month citizens of Pinehurst had a marker erected renaming the Pine Grove in Gen. Marshall's honor. Formal dedication ceremonies have still not been set, though they are expected to be held in the fall. The marker is on the roadside about 50 yards from the Sandhills Woman's Exchange.

Mt. Pleasant Man New School Superintendent

School Board Also Approves New Principal



LUTHER A. ADAMS



JAMES E. WALSER

The Southern Pines Board of Education has elected the principal of the Mt. Pleasant (N. C.) school, Luther A. Adams, as superintendent of the local system to succeed Dr. A. C. Dawson.

The Board also announced yesterday that James E. Walser, assistant principal of the Clover (S. C.) High School, had been appointed principal here to succeed Irie Leonard.

Adams, reached at his home last night, said he planned to be in Southern Pines next week to look for housing. His election as superintendent here is effective immediately, John M. Howarth, school board chairman, said yesterday. Mr. Walser's tenure begins in August.

The school board has held many meetings and interviewed several candidates for the superintendent's position. It became vacant when Dr. Dawson resigned in June to become executive director of the North Carolina Education Association. The principal's job was also vacated in June when Leonard resigned. He has since been appointed principal of the Shallotte schools.

Adams, who is 36, has been in education since 1943 when he taught for one year at the Alhambra-Ossipee High School in Alamance County. In 1949 he moved to Mt. Pleasant as head coach of the three major sports. Appointed principal in 1951, he became what his neighbors described as a "human dynamo, dedicated almost completely to public education and the betterment of his community."

While at Mt. Pleasant, according to a resume of his career published yesterday by the Concord Tribune, Mr. Adams (1) saw his school accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, (2) directed two building programs, one for a complete high school plant and another for a vocational building and cafeteria, (3) instituted many improvements in his school's commercial department, (4) initiated a guidance program with a full time guidance director, (5) initiated the first foreign language program in the elementary schools of Alamance County, (6) instituted an elementary school library and enlarged the high school library, (7) initiated a drive for funds and built a modern football stadium for the school in 1955, (8) directed the construction of a gymnasium, the first one in Mt. Pleasant's history, and (9) started courses in band and instrumental music in the school.

His activities in civic affairs also are impressive. He is a former president of the Mt. Pleasant Lions Club, was chairman of the March of Dimes campaign there for eight years, chairman of the United Fund drive for five years, and worked closely with the Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

In educational circles he is well known. He has served as president of the Cabarrus County chapter of the North Carolina Education Association, and is a past president of the Cabarrus County Principals' Association. He holds the usual memberships in educational associations.

He is a Lutheran and served his church as a Councilman and a Sunday School teacher. His wife, the former Elizabeth Wallace of Albemarle, also was a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Adams is a native of Gaston County. He was orphaned at six and went to Winston-Salem to live in the Children's Home. He graduated from R. J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem in 1941, then spent three years in the Marine Air Corps, part of that time in the South Pacific Theatre.

He received his Bachelor's Degree from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1948 and his Master's Degree in school administration jointly from Appalachian State Teacher's College and George Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn. His bachelor's degree was in physical education and social studies.

When he moved to Mt. Pleasant (Continued on page 8)

Joe Allen Named To Welfare Board

Joe H. Allen, Carthage merchant, has been named a member of the Moore County Board of Public Welfare replacing E. H. Garrison, Jr.

The announcement of Mr. Allen's appointment was made this week by Paul Butler of Southern Pines, chairman of the board.

Mr. Garrison, who was farm agent of the county for almost three decades, has been on the board for three years.

"He was an active member of our board during his tenure of service," Mr. Butler said, "and he always had an abiding interest in the social betterment of the people in the county. He knew the county and its people well and his knowledge was invaluable. We feel that the Moore County welfare department has advanced during his service."

Allen is actually an appointee of the Board of County Commissioners. He was officially sworn in Monday by C. C. Kennedy, Clerk of Court.

Mr. Allen operates Allen's Drug and Sundry Shop across the street from the courthouse. He came to Carthage 27 years ago from Anson County, where he had operated a similar business.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Carthage and serves as the budget director and on the Board of Deacons.

He is president of the Building and Loan Association in Carthage, a vice president of the Carolina Bank, and a member of the Board of Directors of the bank's branch in Carthage.

A Rotarian, he has been active in both Boy Scout and Girl Scout work, and during the war he served on the rationing board for Carthage.

The other member of the Board of Public Welfare is Mrs. John L. Frye of Robbins. Mrs. Walter B. Cole, who is superintendent of the department, serves as the Board's secretary.