

Church youth group forced to jump to escape from train on trestle

Serious tragedy was narrowly averted on an Easter Monday Sunday School picnic near Carrboro when seven youngsters had to jump from the Bollin Creek railroad trestle to escape from an oncoming freight train.

The group of about 18 teenagers were walking southward toward Carrboro down the Southern railroad tracks about a mile north of town about 12:50 p. m. They had been on a morning hike and stopped for a picnic and devotional services a short distance northward on the tracks.

Their minister, the Rev. Rudolph Hardee of the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, left them after the picnic with the church's youth pastor and drove around to meet them at the Pleasant Drive crossing of the tracks near Carrboro. Before he arrived, Mr. Hardee said, he heard the train whistle and realized what might happen.

When he pulled up at the crossing, he said he saw the train stopped in the distance down the straight-away of the tracks, and rushed to the scene to find that seven youngsters had to jump from the trestle into the rocky gorge on the creek banks to escape.

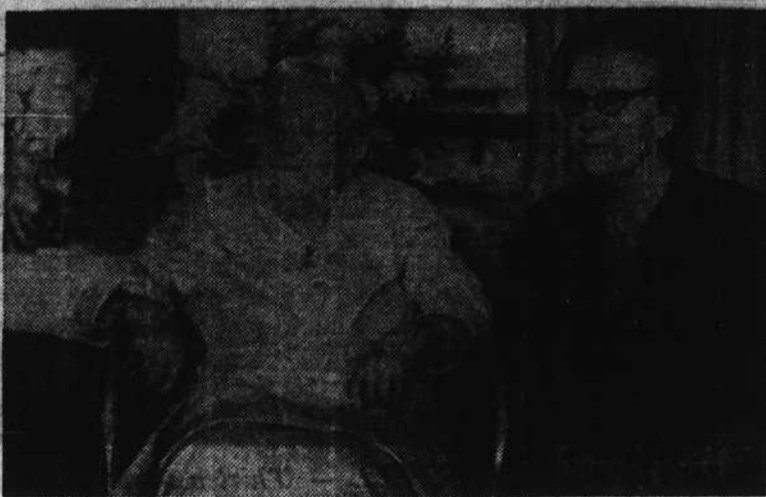
Engineer D. E. Causey said he saw the children ahead on the trestle as his 20-car freight train rounded a downhill curve in front of the trestle. He applied full emergency brakes, he said, but was unable to bring

the train to a halt until his locomotive and three cars had passed over the 300-foot-long trestle.

Of the seven who jumped three were still hospitalized yesterday. They were Elizabeth Davis, who was scheduled to undergo a head operation; Carolyn Ray of Route Three, Chapel Hill; and John Henry Watts, youth counselor for the church. Watts was credited with saving several of the girls who might

not have gotten off the trestle in time without his help. The minister said that Watts did not even realize he'd been hurt until after going to the hospital with the injured girls he found that couldn't get up after he sat down in the emergency waiting room.

Four girls were released after examination and minor treatment. They were Joan Blackwood, Sandra Harding, Carolyn Mason, and Julia Tripp.



BIRTHDAY FOR "MISS JENNIE"—Mrs. Jennie Jordan McDade, probably Orange County's only centenarian, took her 100th birthday in stride last Thursday, as the jovial smile she displays here indicates. An ardent Democrat, she particularly enjoyed the telegrams of good wishes she received from Vice President Lyndon Johnson, U. S. Senators Sam Ervin and B. Everett Jordan, Congressman Horace Kornegay and county party chairman Jim Phipps. Her formula for longevity, she told visitors: "not crossing bridges until she got to them." If anything does happen to bother her, she says, she just goes to bed and sleeps on it. Shown with her is her daughter, Mrs. Hattie Lee Slack, her constant companion for many years.

Bank buys Hillsboro building

A major property transfer is in the offing in downtown Hillsboro.

It was learned authoritatively this week that Central Carolina Bank has completed preliminary negotiations for purchase of the A. L. Mitchell Hardware building, a landmark at the corner of King and Churton Sts., the town's main business corner.

The building, a two-story structure housing two retail firms on its street floor, adjoins the bank building on its north side. It is one of the largest buildings, spacewise, in the downtown area.

A major renovation and expansion program is contemplated, it is understood, although complete plans for utilization of the facilities have not yet been worked

out. Confirmation was not available from local bank authorities.

Present tenants are expected to vacate in about 90 days. Mitchell Hardware occupies the corner and upstairs sections of the building and Summey Shoe Store a portion of the first floor area fronting on Churton St. adjacent to the bank.

Woman civic leader runs for Carrboro board

Mrs. Ben Williams, President of the Carrboro Women's Civic Club, became the 10th candidate for the three seats at stake on the Carrboro Board of Commissioners this past week.

A native of Orange County and a graduate of Chapel Hill High School she is 63, a member of the Carrboro Baptist Church, and has three grown children. Mr. Williams is knitting supervisor for the Superior Mills plant in Carrboro.

Other candidates for the Board in Carrboro are Gordon Fisher, Bryant Hackney, T. W. Hoenig, Leon Ivey, Robert Butler, Byrle Riggsbee, Hughes Lloyd, and incumbents Offie Durham and Ralph Morgan.

Running for Mayor are incumbent C. T. Ellington, Clay-

bourne Greenhill, J. Alvin Williams, and E. N. Shelton.

In connection with her candidacy Mrs. Williams said "I have become aware of a number of needed improvements in our town—particularly in the line of fire protection and streets. Carrboro is growing at

a fast pace now. Its growth should be carefully guided by the Town Board, with particular attention being given to good zoning, the sewage system, and streets. The Board needs to be more cognizant of the wishes of the townspeople."

Beauty event set May 3 . . .

Ten hopefuls seeking crown of first Miss Orange County

Ten hopefuls will seek the title of Miss Orange County at the first annual county-wide beauty pageant to be staged in Chapel Hill on Friday evening, May 3.

The Jaycee-sponsored event, local elimination for the annual Miss America selection, is successor to the Miss Chapel Hill competition held for the previous 12 years. Entrants had been limited to Chapel Hill residents and University coeds. This year they represent every section of the county.

Those vying for the titles are Beverly Leng, Delores Marie Scott and Joan Carol Archer of Chapel Hill, Andrea Marie Ray of Efland and Gwendolyn Marie Minnis, Olivia Ann Clayton, Peggy Lou Byrd, Judith Gail Hollis,

Gayle Dora Sims, and Sylvia Kay Worrell of Hillsboro.

Master of ceremonies will be Ty Boyd of Station WBT in Charlotte, former local radio and television personality. The Jim Crisp combo will play.

Winner of the title will be provided \$250 as a college scholarship, a wardrobe for the Miss North Carolina pageant in Greensboro next summer, and an official Miss America preliminary trophy. The two runners-up and the entrant chosen "Miss Congeniality" by the other entrants will also be given official trophies.

Tickets to the pageant at \$1.00 are on sale in downtown stores and through Chapel Hill Jaycees members.



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