

FOUR KILLED IN WRECK NEAR MARBLE

County Record Of 473 Deathless Days Ends

Four persons were killed instantly and a fifth critically injured in two-car collision one-and-a-half miles east of Marble on US 19-129 Friday afternoon. Cherokee County's record of 473 days without a traffic fatality was ended in the twisted wreckage.

The dead were: George William Bryson, 23, the driver of one car; his mother, Mrs. Artha Mae Bryson, 43; and Robert Edwin Holland, 60, all of Andrews; and Mrs. Vivian Anderson Barnett, 54, of Marble, the driver of the other car.

David Pullium, 23, of Andrews was critically injured. He was a passenger in the Bryson car. Pullium suffered brain damage and did not regain consciousness until Sunday morning.

Highway Patrolmen Don Reavis and Patt Miller said witnesses told them Bryson was driving east and Mrs. Barnett was driving west.

They were told Mrs. Barnett, travelling at a moderate speed, was driving on the wrong side of the road. She apparently tried to get back in her proper lane when she saw the Bryson car come over the crest of the hill. It is believed Bryson, upon seeing the Barnett car, went to his left just as Mrs. Barnett cut to her right.

There were no skid marks at the scene. The Barnett vehicle was knocked back 50 feet and was turned around, headed east. Bryson's car travelled 45 feet and was turned west.

Witnesses said Bryson was travelling at a high rate of speed and had passed three cars in a no-pass zone just before coming over the crest of the hill.

Reavis and Miller said that if there had been no witnesses, it would have been difficult to determine exactly what happened since there were no skid marks and the cars were turned around from the direction in which each was travelling.

Reavis called it "the worst wreck I've seen" in the six years he has been a highway patrolman.

Sheriff's deputies Glenn Holloway and Robert Hartness assisted Reavis and Miller.

Traffic was halted on the highway for about two hours and the Andrews Rescue Squad assisted in handling the traffic jam.

Mrs. Barnett was returning home from a baby sitting job in Andrews. She had been sick earlier in the day and had said she was going home to change clothes and return to Andrews to visit a clinic.

The occupants of the Bryson car had been visiting in Culberson and left there about 3:30, approximately a half hour before the accident.

Funeral services for Mr. Holland were held at 1 p.m. Sunday in the chapel of Ivie Funeral Home in Andrews.

He was a native of Cherokee County and a son of Mrs. Abbie Whitaker of Lexington and the late Edgar Holland. He was an employee of the Town of Andrews.

Also surviving are a brother, Charlie Holland of Cle-

veland, Tenn., and three sisters, Mrs. Wilma Wise of Goldsboro, Mrs. Ruby Johnson of Jackson, Tenn., and Mrs. Hubert Hardin of Lexington.

The Rev. Ted Ellis officiated. Burial was in Valleytown Cemetery.

Funeral services for Mrs. Barnett were held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Marble Springs Baptist Church, of which she was a member.

She was a daughter of the late Robert and Della Mae Enloe Anderson.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Patsy Marr of Andrews; a brother, Wayne Anderson and a grandchild.

The Rev. Ernie Sanders officiated. Burial was in Sunset Cemetery, Murphy.

Palbearers were Kermit and Robert Kilpatrick, Don Moran, Bob Barton, John Garrett and Vincent DeHart.

Townsend Funeral Home was in charge.

Joint services for Mrs. Bryson and her son were held at 3 p.m. Sunday in the chapel of Ivie Funeral Home in Andrews.

Mrs. Bryson was a daughter of the late George Bascomb and Ola Gibby Lee.

She is survived by her husband, William Bryant Bryson; two sons, Walter and James both of Andrews; two daughters, Mrs. Annie Sue Cable of Andrews and Mrs. Lillie Mae Byers of Culberson; two sisters, Mrs. Florence Gibby of Andrews and Mrs. Ellen Haggler of Reform, Ala.; two brothers, L.B. of Shelby and Vincent Lee of Gainesville, Ga., and three grandchildren.

George Bryson was a native of Cherokee County.

He is survived by his father, two brothers, two sisters, and the widow, Mrs. Juanita Ladd Bryson.

The Rev. Paul Miller officiated at the joint services. Burial was in the Valleytown Cemetery.

The last previous traffic fatality in Cherokee County was recorded on December 26, 1965.

A Gainesville, Ga. resident who was in Andrews to attend the Bryson funerals was injured in a one-car wreck just west of the town limits while returning home Sunday.

Mrs. Virginia Helen Elliotts 18, a former Andrews resident ran off US 19-129 for 57 feet on the right side of the road when a tie-rod broke loose on the right front side of her car.

She was admitted to District Memorial hospital with undetermined injuries.

Wade Dillard Dockery, 34, of Andrews suffered shoulder and internal injuries last Wednesday, April 12, when the truck he was driving overturned on Slow Creek Road just south of Marble.

Reavis said Dockery lost control of the truck when the transmission exploded, causing the drive shaft to come loose.

The truck, owned by Charles Higdon of Andrews, ran off the left side of the road and overturned, spilling several tons of gravel in the road.

The truck was listed as a total loss.



Scout Studio Photo

FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED instantly and a fifth was seriously injured in the collision of these two cars east of Marble Friday afternoon. Mrs. Vivian Barnett was alone in the car pictured at the top and George William Bryson was driving the car in the bottom photo.



Scout Studio Photo

EDA & FHA Make Joint Effort To Finance Texanna Water System

Two Federal agencies have joined together in an effort to secure a water system for the Texanna Community.

Cherokee County Rural Renewal Leader Mack Ray and County Supervisor Robert D. Bruce of the Farmers Home Administration have been working for some time with members of the Texanna Community Non-Profit Water Corp. to secure the necessary financing for the project.

The Federal aid is to be in the form of a grant and a loan with the loan to be repaid from operating revenues.

It was learned that FHA could make the loan but had no funds remaining for grants in this fiscal year. The Economic Development Administration, however, had some grant money remaining and in a unique effort, the two agencies went to work on the project together.

EDA's agreement to make the grant tentative, but the application has received favorable attention in Raleigh.

Charles S. Edwards, North Carolina Coordinator for EDA, visited Texanna last Thursday to determine the needs and he conferred with Ray in his office Friday morning.

A total of 45 homes would be served initially when the project is completed and more homes would be able to receive water when desired.

Present plans call for a sewer system to be developed in the community in the future. It is believed aid under the Appalachian program would be available for this. The Federal government provides 80% of the money on Appalachian projects.

Frank Sudderth is president of the Texanna Community Non-Profit Water Corp. Harley Kincaid is the vice-president and John Summerose is the secretary-treasurer. Other members of the board of directors are Charles Thomas, Harvey Kin-

caid, Thomas Gibson and Nathaniel Carter.

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners endorsed the proposed water system at

the April meeting. Most families in the community must now carry water to their homes from open springs.

Our Brother's Keeper

The following letter is in reply to a story that appeared in this space last Thursday. The Scout believes the letter to be a more detailed account of the events that took place than were reported in the last Thursday's edition.

Mr. Dave Bruce, Managing Editor
The Cherokee Scout
Murphy, North Carolina, 28906

Mr. Bruce:

Freedom of Speech and Press is a precious but weighty freedom equally important and necessary to those of my profession as it is to yours. In fact, all of the freedoms that we enjoy are not given to us free gratis. All require that we exercise (sic) responsibility and care in their use. This is especially true when their use brings undue suspicion and unjustified embarrassment upon either a person or his profession. This means that before we start firing from the hip and then rushing out to draw a bull's eye around what we hit, we should be sure of all the facts.

A case in point is your recent article "Who Serves As Our Brother's Keeper?" in the April 13, 1967 Cherokee Scout, Volume 77-Number 38. It would have been well if you had checked into the story before you wrote and printed it. As far as I have been able to ascertain not one minister who might have been involved was contacted by you. Since no names were used, the story, as it stands, cast suspicion upon all ministers. So, in order to relieve the others of this cloud of suspicion, I will admit my part in the affair. But back to the facts which you did not, evidently, bother to verify. If you had you would have discovered the following pertinent information.

(1) At least five ministers were contacted by the couple in question. Two of these ministers do not have access to the Transient Aid Fund which may or may not justify their actions. One of these has recently been the victim of "cry wolf" prankster telephone calls and assumed that this was another such call. A third minister had the telephone call terminated by the couple when he started asking questions about the situation. A fourth helped them by providing a room at the Arbor Motel on the Friday evening before the Saturday in question. He also provided four meals.

(2) This leaves only the fifth minister--me. I too received a call from the couple on the same Friday evening. The couple was directed to meet me at the First Methodist Church. I waited 45 minutes (9:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.). They never arrived, a fact which can be verified by two witnesses other than my wife. Since the call was supposed to have been made from the bus station, I could only assume that the couple had had ample time to come but were not interested.

(3) The couple had been through our town on Tuesday before the Saturday mentioned in your story. They had asked for and received aid from the Fund.

(4) A check of past records that we keep on all applicants for aid revealed that a couple using the same name and answering the description given--woman: sunburned, apparently pregnant, man: palisied with a speech impediment--had passed through our town on June 29, 1966. The point of departure given was Milton, Florida. The destination, Cincinnati, Ohio, where a sick brother was to have an operation. Aid requested: food and transportation. Aid given: two meals and the offer of a bus ticket to Asheville where further aid could be requested from Traveler's Aid. However, the couple only wanted a ticket as far as Andrews where the lady said, "I have a sister."

(5) The couple did not leave Murphy by bus as your article implied, but were seen by this writer hitchhiking a ride (84 West) on the Saturday afternoon in question. This incident and subsequent reporting of it raises some questions which only you can answer.

First, before reporting a story which has cast suspicion upon all members of a profession, why did you not check out the facts with those involved?

Second, do you not have the moral obligation to verify this or any story which you report before you print? Sincerely,

W. Thornton Hawkins, Minister
First Methodist Church

(Editor's note: The Scout did not check out all the facts reported in last week's "brother's keeper" story because of oversight and possibly because The Scout allowed its desire to be of service to strangers to blind it to the virtues of Murphy's conscientious residents.)

The Scout has the moral obligation to verify any story which it reports and will strive to do so in the future.)

Buncombe Seeks Nonpartisan Board

RALEIGH--Democratic Representatives Gordon H. Greenwood and Herschel S. Harkins introduced legislation last week to elect Buncombe County's School Board on a nonpartisan basis.

The bill would take Buncombe County out of the omnibus bill and provide for nonpartisan election of members for six year terms.

Republicans quickly endorsed the plan.

Greenwood and Harkins called their bill a means "to mature education in Buncombe County and reduce to a minimum the jockeying for political position."

"All the citizens and taxpayers should have an equal voice in determining who operates" the education system, Greenwood said.

2 Shoal Creek Fires Set

Two incendiary forest fires destroyed about 20 acres in the Shoal Creek section Tuesday morning.

The fires were on Canada Mountain off Old State Road.

County Forest Ranger Harold Hatchett said the fire danger situation in this area is still critical. The woods are tinder dry from lack of rain.

Hatchett said the fires "are being set in early morning when there is no traffic."

He repeated his plea of last week for citizens to give him any information that may be available on the person or persons responsible for the rash of set fires during the current dry spell.

Mallonee To Visit Here

Tom L. Mallonee, assistant to Rep. Roy A. Taylor, will visit Cherokee and Clay Counties next Wednesday.

He will be at the Town Hall in Andrews from 9:00 to 9:30, City Hall in Murphy from 11:00 to noon, and the Clay County Courthouse in Hayesville from 3:00 to 4:00.

Residents of the two counties are invited to meet with Mallonee at these times.

Local Cancer Crusade Starts

The annual Cancer Crusade is being conducted in Cherokee, Clay and Graham Counties through the end of the month. The drive began April 30 has been designated as Cancer Sunday in the area.

Center Plans Rockhound Class

Rockhounds are invited to enroll in a class in mineral identification, polishing and cutting at the Tri-County Industrial Education Center.

Registration will close next Monday.

Further information is available by calling the Center at 837-3810 or writing P.O. Box 40, Murphy, or call 837-2379.

Clay Man Charged With Bus Robbery

Harold Ledford, 27, of Clay County, has been charged with highway robbery in connection with the robbery and beating of a Trailways bus driver at Caney Creek on March 9.

Deputy Sheriff Glenn Holloway arrested Ledford at the Courthouse Tuesday morning. The arrest was made when Ledford appeared for a case he had in District Court. He had been wanted in connection with the bus hold-up for several weeks.

Holloway called Ronnie Patterson, the bus driver, in Atlanta and asked him to

Defensive Driving Course Scheduled

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles is sponsoring a pilot driver improvement program designed to help area motorists improve their driving habits.

Joe Sherrill, a Driver Education Representative of the State Department of Motor Vehicles, will instruct an eight-hour course designed by the National Safety Council to teach defensive driving.

Classes will be held at the Power Board Building here from 8 to 12:00 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday April, 28.

Those who complete the entire eight hours of instruction will receive a National Safety Certificate. All interested motorists may register for the course by contacting the Local Home Demonstration agent.

The course consists of lectures, films, and questions-and-answer sessions.

The Director of the Motor Vehicle Department's Driver Education and Accident Records Division, C.S. Waters, said the pilot program in Murphy is the first opportunity the general public has had to take such a course in Cherokee County.

During the past year, Waters said 1,375 state government employees completed the driver improvement classes.

He added that if the response to the course is satisfactory in Cherokee County, his department hopes to hold it periodically here and expand it to include all of North Carolina's one-hundred counties.

come to Murphy. Patterson had told Sheriff Claude Anderson at the time of the incident that he would know his assailant if he ever saw him again.

Patterson arrived in Murphy about 10 p.m. Tuesday. He picked Ledford out of a lineup of three men at the County Jail.

Patterson was nearing the end of a run from Atlanta to Murphy when he stopped for a man who flagged him down. He was under the impression that the man wanted to hitch a ride. When the man boarded the bus, he struck Patterson in the head and robbed him. There were no passengers on the bus.

Highway Patrolman Don Reavis assisted the Sheriff's Department in the investigation.

Bond for Ledford has been set at \$2,500.



Jack Long

Jack Long Joins

25 Year Club

FRANKLIN--Jerry (Jack) Myditt Long of Andrews, completed yesterday 25 years of service with Nantahala Power and Light Company to become the 50th member of the Company's 25 year club.

A native of Clay County, Mr. Long was employed by Nantahala April 16, 1942 as an Apprentice Power House Operator at the Company's Mission Plant. He was promoted to Power House Operator June 28, 1942 and transferred to the Company's Nantahala Plant August 31, 1942. On August 15, 1953 he was promoted to Shift Foreman, his current position.