



A SECURITY CAMERA in the NCNB National Bank branch in Calabash shows two masked men robbing the bank last Thursday. PHOTO COURTESY FBI

West Senior Faces Prison Term For Death By Vehicle

BY TERRY POPE

A West Brunswick High School senior is back at school this week, but wondering if he'll have to serve time in prison for the death of his friend and former baseball teammate.

William Russell Hines, 17, of Longwood, is appealing his conviction and two-year sentence handed down in Brunswick County District Court after a judge found him guilty of misdemeanor death by motor vehicle and driving left of center.

Hines was charged by the N.C. Highway Patrol following the May 14 head-on collision near Shallotte that claimed the life of a classmate and friend, George Wendell Daniels II, 17, of Longwood.

Defense attorney James Payne, of Shallotte, said Monday that the case is not likely to go to Superior Court until December, after a grand jury has had time to hear evidence. The grand jury met Monday but did not consider any bills of indictment against Hines.

Hines will remain free on bond and will also attend school while awaiting the appeal, Payne said.

"We were all surprised at the sentence," said Payne. "In fact, we were quite surprised by the verdict."

Daniels, a popular baseball catcher and lineman on the high school football team, was a passenger in Hines' 1986 Mazda truck that crossed the center line and struck another pickup head-on on Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316), State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt reported. The two students were on their way to school when the 7:50 a.m. accident occurred.

Judge Jerry A. Jolly sentenced Hines to two years in prison.

According to Barnhardt, Hines unintentionally caused Daniels' death by failing to drive upon the right half of the highway, resulting in an accident. Hines was traveling north on Old Shallotte Road when he traveled completely across the center line and struck a southbound 1986 Ford pickup driven by Philip Allan Fulwood, 19, of Route 7, Shallotte.

Fulwood testified in district court that Hines approached and swerved into his lane of traffic. Payne said he could not comment on accusations that Hines and Fulwood had frequently greeted one another on the highway by flashing their headlights and swerving their vehicles across the yellow line.

"That's if you believe what the state's witness (Fulwood) had to say," said Payne. "He said Russell (Hines) swerved in front of him first. We contend that it didn't happen that way. I can't really go into any further discussion of the case."

Payne said Hines isn't guilty of the charges and is ready to try the case before a jury.

"Once a jury hears all of the facts," said Payne, "they're going to conclude that Russell's not guilty."

Hines, Fulwood and Fulwood's wife, Janice, 20, were also injured in the accident and treated at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

West Brunswick football players have dedicated this season to Daniels. At Friday night's victory over conference rival Whiteville, players celebrated the 19-7 win with a chant of "Big G!"

Search Continues For Masked Men Who Held Up Bank In Calabash

BY DOUG RUTTER

An FBI agent said Tuesday he has a partial identification of a get-away car and believes a third person was involved in last week's armed robbery of the NCNB National Bank branch in Calabash.

Two black men wearing ski masks and carrying handguns entered the bank last Thursday around 3:30 p.m. and robbed it, said Terry Peters, chief of the Wilmington FBI office.

"They just went in and told the tellers to get down on the main floor..." he said Friday. "They grabbed the money and left."

Peters said four bank employees were the only people inside the bank when it was robbed. Nobody was injured.

The suspects were in their 30s or 40s and were

between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall. Peters said both men had stocky builds.

The FBI agent would not disclose the amount of money that was stolen. He said the robbers dropped a small amount of money on the ground outside the bank when they fled.

Peters said last week that authorities didn't know how the robbers got to and from the bank or in which direction they fled.

On Tuesday, he said lawmen believe a get-away car was used and that a third person was involved in the robbery.

Authorities believe the robbers left the scene in a late model Chevrolet Camaro. They don't know the color of the vehicle.

Brunswick County Chief Deputy John Marlow said Sunset Beach Police Lt. Sam Grantham was

first on the scene. He arrived at the bank less than five minutes after the robbery occurred.

Marlow said authorities set up four roadblocks on major roads leading from the bank immediately after the robbery.

"We didn't know what type of vehicle to look for, but we knew there were two black males," he said. "We stopped and searched everything."

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department airplane was used to search the area around the bank.

Besides Grantham, Marlow said 10 sheriff's deputies, four FBI agents, three N.C. Highway Patrolmen, one N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries officer and the Highway Patrol drug dog, Marco, responded.

(See SEARCH, Page 2-A)

Highway Patrol Puzzled By Supply Man's Death

A Supply man died following a one-car accident Saturday about 13 miles west of Shallotte on N.C. 130.

But State Highway Patrol officials are not sure if Onnie Edward Davis, 76, died from injuries received in the accident or from other causes.

Davis was alert when State Trooper J.V. Dove arrived at the scene of the 4:30 p.m. accident, said Ruby Oakley, spokesperson for the Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

"The driver stated he could not

remember what happened or why he ran off the road," said Ms. Oakley.

Davis was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply by ambulance where he later died.

Ms. Oakley said the Highway Patrol will record the death as a traffic fatality until medical examiners can finish their investigation.

According to Dove's report, Davis' 1987 Chrysler was traveling on a straight stretch of N.C. 130 when it ran off the right shoulder and struck a tree.

No charges were filed in the accident. Damage was listed at \$1,500 to the car.

So far this year, 10 persons have died in traffic accidents on Brunswick County's highways, said Ms. Oakley. Last year, through the end of September, 12 people had died on county roads, she said.

Pedestrian Hit

Officers are investigating a hit-and-run accident involving a pedestrian on N.C. 179 about 2.6 miles south of Shallotte.

Thomas A. Campbell, 19, of Shallotte, told State Trooper B.L. Wilkes that he was struck on the left side by a car that did not stop around 9 p.m. Friday.

Campbell received minor injuries to his arm and was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply by ambulance where he was treated and released, Wilkes reported.

The victim did not get a license number of the car that struck him, Wilkes stated.

"It's unlikely we'll be able to find them," said Ms. Oakley.

Bee Champs Get Just Reward

Expert spellers Marcus and Penny Williams finally have a plaque that they can hang with pride.

The Shallotte physician and his wife received a shiny award several days after winning the Brunswick County Literacy Council Spelling Bee Sept. 12.

The only problem was the engraver misspelled one of the words. It has since been corrected and the plaque returned to the spelling champs.

Williams chuckled when he saw the error. The name of his business, Brunswick Islands Medical Associates, was spelled incorrectly. The plaque said "Brunswick" instead of "Brunswick."

"I thought it was really cute and ironic," he said.

Williams considers it an honest mistake. "Obviously, this individual needs to study and compete in next year's bee," he joked.

The doctor said the literacy council took the mistake in stride.

"They laughed and they thought it was funny," he said. "They appreciated the opportunity to correct it."

County GOP Slates Pre-Election Rally

The filing period for the 1992 elections doesn't open until January, but the Brunswick County Republican Party is getting ready.

The organization is sponsoring a pre-election rally with covered dish dinner and bonfire Saturday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. at the GOP headquarters on U.S. 17 north of Supply.

"This rally is open to all

Republicans and those persons interested in our cause," said James Payne, party chairman.

The building will be open starting at 5 p.m. for drop-off of covered dishes.

Following the dinner a bonfire will kick-off the rally for the forthcoming election campaigns.

Oyster Festival Offers Food, Fun And Friendly Competition

BY SUSAN USHER

Arts and crafts, tasty foods, carnival rides, live entertainment, the thrill of competition—the 1991 N.C. Oyster Festival offers all this and more.

This year's festival begins Friday, Oct. 18, around mid-day and winds down quickly following the North Carolina Oyster Shucking Championship that starts shortly after 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

All activities except foot races take place at the Sea Trail Plantation Grounds in Sunset Beach at the Seaside intersection of N.C. 904 and N.C. 179. Admission is \$1 each day, payable at any of five entrance gates, with free parking available at the site or across the street.

"They're getting a lot of entertainment for the money," said Annette Odom, president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event now in its 11th year as an official state festival.

Between 150 and 200 volunteers are involved in staging this year's festival, said volunteer coordinator Lisa Anglin. A tent canopy will serve as headquarters for this year's team of volunteers, recognizable by their red N.C. Oyster Festival caps.

Festival Chairman Allan Dameron said headlining the entertainment this year will be the popular Band of Oz, playing a mix of beach and

top 20 music in two sets each Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

As part of the "traditional" opening ceremony Friday, Miss Brunswick County 1991 Lisa Dale Young and local officials will cut the ribbon at 12 noon.

The opening program also includes sets by the West Brunswick High School Band of Shallotte, directed by Craig Morris.

The Brunswick County Shrine Club, known locally for its fish fry fundraisers, has taken over the seafood menu for the two-day event. Spokesman Glenn Humbert said he expects Friday's line-up to include lighter fare such as fish sandwiches and/or oyster cocktails. Food service will go into high gear Saturday with a full festival menu of steamed and roasted oysters, boiled shrimp cocktails and fried fish plates, with appropriate side dishes.

In addition, vendors will offer a wide variety of non-seafoods, from egg rolls to cotton candy.

T-shirts, sweatshirts, balloons and other festival "logo" items will be sold throughout the festival, and festival-goers will also get to vote Friday on their choice of designs for next year's festival. The winning artist, who will be announced Saturday during the festival, will receive \$100. Logo contest entries are due at the chamber office no later than Oct. 12.

Between 120 to 130 arts and crafts booths

are anticipated, with a juried competition offering purchase awards. Expanded carnival rides are planned for all ages including a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, choo choo train.

In addition to two 45-minute sets by Band of Oz at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., Friday entertainment will feature music by Lee Michaels, disk jockey with WCCA, said Ann Laughinghouse, entertainment chairman.

Visiting Miss America preliminary pageant winners will perform Saturday from 11 a.m. until noon.

Entertainment on Saturday will include two 45-minute sets by Michael Walden and Roger Scruggs of the Wilmington group Eclipse, at 12 noon and 4 p.m. and 45-minute sets by Band of Oz at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Saturday's full schedule starts early, with a one mile "fun run," and 5K and 10K foot races at Holden Beach. Entry forms are available from the festival sponsor, the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, at its office on U.S. 17 business in Shallotte, and before the race at the registration table.

Not fleet of foot? The festival also offers competitions for fast talkers and those handy with an oyster knife.

"North Carolina's Greatest Bullshooting

(See OYSTER, Page 2-A)



Eleventh Annual
North Carolina
Oyster Festival