

Four Men Indicted In Bomb Incident

Four men have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of manufacturing and possessing an "over the counter" explosive that sparked an eruption of gunfire here last summer

culminating in the death of a woman and injuries to three men, including KMPD Sgt. Johnny Belk.

Indicted Monday in Charlotte were Paul Dean Gann, of 306

Gaston St. in Kings Mountain, James Ernest Mauney, of Route 3, Blacksburg, S.C., formerly of Kings Mountain, Arnold Eugene Mauney, of 1017 Plymouth St. in Gastonia, formerly of Kings Mountain, and Keith Freeland Ramsey of 402 S. Cansler St. in Kings Mountain.

Federal indictments based on an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms charged Gann, Ernest Mauney and Eugene Mauney with two violations, making and possessing an illegal explosive device, and Ramsey with aiding and abetting the three. The felony counts carry a maximum of 10 years in prison.

The four men are scheduled for arraignment at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17th, in Asheville, according to federal court officials in Statesville who were drawing up the summons papers Wednesday.

Ernestine Mauney, 22, died of shotgun wounds to the chest, the two Mauneys indicted Monday were wounded, and Police Sgt. Johnny Belk was hit in both legs by shotgun blasts which erupted at the 50-unit public housing complex on Margrace Road the morning of Monday, July 7th.

Kings Mountain investigators who still can't explain the reason for the outburst of violence at the apartment complex say that a bomb explosion between two project buildings sparked the gunfire. The explosion itself caused no injuries.

"A lot of people tried to say it was a racial thing", said Police Chief J.D. Barrett, "but what happened was that a big party had been going on that day when something erupted."

Sgt. Belk was among the officers who raced to the complex when the gunfire started and ordered the residents to stop shooting. He was hospitalized and out of work for 10 weeks.

Henry Boone, of Forest City, described as a friend of the dead woman's mother, was charged in the shooting death and is serving a 12 year prison sentence.

Federal officials said the type of bomb used at the housing complex was an "over the counter" explosive used to clear stumps and burrow ditches. It had a destructive power of two sticks of dynamite and was allegedly set off by touching a television antennae wire to a battery.



Photo by Gary Stewart

PLANT TREES - Students at Kings Mountain Junior High School planted two dogwood trees Wednesday morning in memory of Jeff Wood and Rod Lewis, who died in a fire Sunday morning, and Frankie Patrick, who died in a hunting accident last year. All three young people were students at the junior

high. Left to right are Joe Champion of Champion's Landscaping, and students Kim Hawkins, Lisa Wright, Phil Robinson, Brad Reynolds, Todd Cloninger and Shane Absher. The entire 700-member student body turned out for the brief ceremony.

Dogwoods Memorial To Youth

Kings Mountain Junior High students planted dogwood trees on the school lawn early Wednesday morning in memory of three students who died tragically.

A "Dedication Ceremony" honored Jeff Wood and Rod Lewis, who died in a Sunday morning fire, and Franklin Patrick, who died in a hunting accident last year. All were ninth graders.

Students collected \$105 from fellow students Monday to purchase funeral wreaths for Wood and Lewis and purchased two dogwood trees to memorialize the three deceased classmates.

Heading up the project were Kim Hawkins, Lisa Wright, Shane Absher, Todd Cloninger, Jeff Lynn and Phil Robinson.

The entire 700-member student body turned out for the brief ceremony, which included short talks by Assistant Principal Richard Hamrick and members of the student body, a silent prayer, and the planting of trees.

Present at the ceremony were Marvin and Catherine Wood, parents of Jeff Wood, Jeff's brother Curt and his wife Sharon, and other members of the Wood family.

Lewis's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald McMahan, and other members of his family were in Marion, where his funeral services were conducted Wednesday afternoon.

Funeral Rites Held For Three

Funeral services for the three teenage victims of an early Sunday morning fire were held Wednesday.

The bodies of Todd Barrett, 17, of 902 Lee St., Rodney Carroll Lewis, 16, of 320 Amhurst Dr., and Jeffrey Wood, 15, of 900 Lee St., were discovered Sunday in the charred remains of an abandoned barn near the KM Junior High School and a short distance from the homes of the youths.

According to investigating officers the boys were apparently sleeping in the loft of the barn and died when a fire they built to warm themselves burned out of control.

KMJH students planted dogwood trees in their memory early Wednesday.

Memorial services for Rodney Lewis, a 9th grader and a member of the Patriot Football Team, were held Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. from the Chapel of Masters Funeral Home by Rev. Clyde Bearden. Funeral services were held in Marion Wednesday at 2 p.m. from McCall Funeral Home and interment was in Nebo Cemetery in Marion. Pallbearers, were six KMJH Patriot Team members, including Todd Cloninger, Brad Reynolds, Heath Chapman, Quinton Rikard, Curt Pressley and Jamie Black.

Surviving Lewis is his father, Roy Lewis of Marion; his mother Mrs. Iris Pyatt McMahan of Kings Mountain; his stepfather, Gerald McMahan of Kings Mountain; two brothers, Roy Lewis and Grant McMahan, both of the home; and a sister, Sherry Lewis of Marion.

Funeral services for Todd Barrett, a KMSHS senior and a member of David Baptist Church, were held Wednesday at 4 p.m. from David Baptist Church by Rev. Scott Carpenter and Rev. M.S. Hardin, interment following in the church cemetery.

Barrett was active in campus activities, including the Senior Class Play, and was employed by McDonald's. Surviving are his parents, Charles Steven Barrett and Patsy Bolin Barrett, both of Kings Mountain; a halfbrother, Bryan Barrett of Kings Mountain; paternal grandmother, Mrs. Biddie Barrett of Kings Mountain and maternal grandmother, Mrs. Hester Bolin of Kings Mountain.

Funeral rites for Jeffrey Eric Wood, a KMJH 9th grader and a member of Trinity Church of the Living God, were held Wednesday at 2 p.m. from Trinity Church of the Living God by Rev. Ozie Montgomery, interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Wood was a member of the KMJH Patriot Football Team and active in Band. Surviving are his parents, Marvin and

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Seed Project Still Undone

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

GROVER—A controversy developed at Monday night's Town Board meeting over street improvements and drew loud complaints from Mrs. Martha Hicks Turner and Mrs. Dick Eaker with strong rebuttal from street commissioner Juanita Pruette. Mrs. Turner said after the meeting that the problem has not been resolved.

Mrs. Turner contended, and showed minutes of an Oct. 8, 1979 board meeting, to verify that back-filling and seeding was to have been included in a \$24,600.00 verbal contract that then-street commissioner Hoover Herndon executed on behalf of the board with Spangler's for curbing and guttering at 16 residences on Walnut and Chestnut Streets. Mrs. Turner wanted to know why the work had not been completed at her residence. "This has gone on long enough," she told the board.

Street Commissioner Juanita Pruette disagreed with Mrs. Turner that the town was to pay the bill. She said that all property owners, with the exception of Mrs. Turner, signed a petition circulated on Sept. 11, 1979, the day after a Sept. 10, 1979 regular meeting in which the board had initially made its recommendation that the town install curbing and guttering adjacent to my property will be done in workmanlike manner with the least inconvenience to my property as possible."

However, the later minutes of Oct. 8, 1979 are contradictory. Those minutes, attested by Clerk Gloria Horton, said that "upon

motion of Comm. Herndon, seconded by Comm. Tommy Keeter, vote unanimous to curb and gutter Walnut and Chestnut Streets, to contract the work with Spangler Concrete Co. of Shelby with total cost of the project to be \$24,600 and Spangler's to do the backfilling and seeding. This action was taking by the Board in consideration of the petition from the residents from Walnut St. and Chestnut St. presented to the board on June 11, 1979."

Clerk Gloria Horton said the board did not execute a written contract with Spangler's and that the paving company denied the inclusion of the back-filling and seeding its original verbal contract with Commissioner Herndon. Further confusion developed, according to Mrs. Horton, when Herndon was replaced as street commissioner by Joe Boheler who resigned. Mrs. Pruette became the town's third street commissioner, all within the past year and a half.

Further confusing the issue, according to Mrs. Pruette, was the report from several citizens that back-filling at some properties had been furnished with truck loads of dirt provided by Mayor Bill McCarter. "I didn't know a thing about this business until 8:30 last Sunday night", she told the board, asking Mr. McCarter to give her street improvements report. Mrs. Horton said the Mayor provided the dirt for the back-filling job at his own expense. She said that dirt was not hauled to the residence of Mrs. Turner. "A lot of people are mad at me", said Mrs. Pruette.

Hoover Herndon, who was present at the meeting, said that "at no time did the Grover Board promise back filling and seeding in addition to the free curb and gutter work", then acknowledged that he had supplied dirt from Spring Acres properties he owns, along with Bob Hambricht.

Comm. Pruette said that "all

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Industry Leaders Meet

Fourteen representatives of local industry met Tuesday morning for breakfast with the Mayor's committee to help find employment for Vietnam veterans. The breakfast was held at Holiday Inn.

Luther Bennett, spokesman for Burlington Mill's Phenix Plant, said that Burlington has always put emphasis on hiring veterans and the handicapped and estimated that Burlington receives about 65-80 new applications each month but that only two of three are from Vietnam veterans.

Jerry Schweiner, Vice President and General Manager, representing Carmet, said that his company "definitely welcomes this program" and noted that Carmet, a Kings Mountain business citizen for four years, has an internal training program for employees in addition to a tuition refund program which allows them to attend technical schools for specialized training. Fifty-six percent of the employees at Carmet are females and 20 per-

cent of them operate machines and drill presses and with initially little experience. He said that if a person has the ambition and the desire to succeed there is an opportunity for him to get to the top.

Mayor John Henry Moss said that the local veterans committee, co-chaired by Aud Tignor of the American Legion and Dickey Burgess of the VFW with assistance from Arlene Barrett, Clara Rhea and Lib Stewart of the Legion Auxiliary, and Peggy Guin of the VFW Auxiliary, has received 14 applications from Vietnam veterans, some of whom are now employed but in seasonal work. "Some of our Vietnam veterans are under-employed and these young people need the leadership and the assistance to find better jobs," said Burgess.

David Harrison said that Eaton Corporation actively recruits veterans and one employee of four at the Eaton plant on Grover Road is a veteran. "We welcome this program to become in contact with

more veterans, and especially the Vietnam era veterans", he said.

Legion Commander Aud Tignor commented that "It does my heart good to see leaders like you interested in veterans."

Ray Thomas of Commercial Shearing said that additional employees are expected to be hired this summer and "we at Commercial Shearing welcome the introduction to these people."

Mayor Moss told the group that the Committee would broaden its application program and seek to present the program to the Kings Mountain Personnel Association composed of leaders of most businesses and industry at a future time. "We haven't scratched the surface yet but we wanted to get your support", said the Mayor, who added, "There is a desire on the part of these veterans who have had intensive training to go up and to broaden their talents and abilities. There are also those Vietnam veterans in our area without jobs. We want to help them get one."



Photo by Lib Stewart

INDUSTRIES SUPPORT PROJECT - Local industry leaders met Tuesday with the Mayor's committee to help local Vietnam veterans obtain jobs. From left, Mrs. Clara Rhea, Mrs.

Arlene Barrett, Mrs. Peggy Guin, representing veterans organizations, Ray Thomas, David Harrison and Joe Hamby.