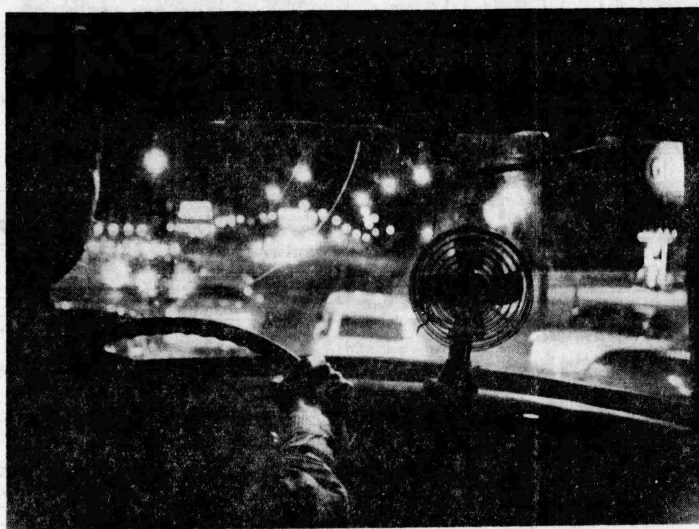




Man Takes Own Life

SUITOR KILLS GIRL IN CHURCH



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Walters)

Hypnotic Effect Of Headlights Plus Fatigue Plus 'Bennie' Equals Death

Illegal Drug Sale Heavy Along State's Highways

By JOHN JAMISON
Charlotte News Staff Writer
An illicit traffic among truck drivers in potentially death-dealing "bennie" pills — is spreading across the Piedmont Carolinas.

Federal drug agents say the peddling of "bennies" — as the pills are known informally — is the worst problem now facing them.

Federal court convictions of "bennie" sellers in the Piedmont area are averaging one a month. And these cases that actually come to court are only a small part of the illicit trade, federal agents say.

Truck drivers buy the tablets to help them stay awake during long night runs. Repeated use as a temporary "pepper-upper" often leads to addiction, and addiction often leads to highway death, crime and broken families.

The drugs in question fill an important and legitimate need in the medical practitioners' science when they are used as a doctor prescribes. Trouble comes when they are diverted into black-market channels.

There is, of course, no suggestion that manufacturers of the drugs are involved in the trade. Drug agents say the pills enter the black market generally through a few unscrupulous retailers or individuals who misrepresent themselves to manufacturers or distributors.

Some veteran truckers estimate as high as 50 per cent of the long-haul drivers use bennies to some extent — and some to the extent that they actually lose control of their minds and bodies.

Amphetamines — the technical name for the drugs — act as an artificial stimulant to the mind. Take one and before long you feel more alert, less worn out. But, of course, your body is still fatigued and your reflexes are as slow as ever.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy and warm through Sunday with a few widely scattered afternoon and evening thunder showers.

Low this morning — 57
Low tomorrow morning — 60
High today — 80
High yesterday — 79
High tomorrow — 80

Sunrise today 5:46 a.m.; sunset today 7 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 3-F

Bennies play tricks on your mind, and soon your mind begins to play deadly tricks on you.

ATAL ACCIDENTS

In a fatal truck accident investigated by the Interstate Commerce Commission, part of the evidence uncovered was a letter from the deceased driver to his brother.

"I am sleepy now because I have been driving 42½ hours without any sleep. I only stop to eat and fuel up and then away I go again. I am taking a lot of pills to keep me awake."

The trucker had driven for days with just a fraction of the rest he needed—and finally succumbed to fatigue that bennies would not relieve.

A veteran of many years as driver and later as terminal manager for a Charlotte trucking firm told The News he is convinced

that any driver can buy bennies in nearly any town in the state. "This is no surprise to the Food and Drug Administration. They could get more convictions if they had the manpower to make investigations."

GETS COMPLAINTS

Buel M. Walters, FDA inspector in Charlotte, gets 15 to 20 complaints a month, usually from wives of family men who have become addicted and can't hold jobs.

With orders to spend only about 5 to 10 per cent of his working hours on "over-the-counter" drug violations, Inspector Walters is obliged to develop just a fraction of the complaints he receives.

Also, having to leave his office unattended while he is doing the leg-work required in his job, he says he misses a lot of phone-in leads.

Estimating that one conviction requires about a week's work on his part, Mr. Walters shows records of about 15 convictions since last April.

Most of these were drug store See DRIVERS on page 3-A

DRIBBLER'S TREK HALF COMPLETED

RALEIGH — With his feet hurting but his spirit undaunted, Duke student—dribbling a basketball—was on the way back to Durham this afternoon.

The student, Bob Posthumus, arrived here at the Capitol shortly after noon, ending a six-hour trek from Durham, during which time he did not stop dribbling the ball. He did stop once for water.

While dribbling around the Capitol he ran into Gov. Hodges.

Trio Held In Death Of Airman

ROSWELL, N. M. — Two young men and their father were held today in the death of a young New York airman who, according to an official, left his guard post and went on a shooting spree.

Dist. Atty. Patrick Hanagan said A3C Daniel L. Jarrett, 22, Roslyn Heights, N.Y., stationed at Walker Air Force Base, apparently climbed over a fence where he was posted as a guard, carrying his military rifle with him.

Hanagan said the airman "definitely had been drinking," and he was found in his canteen.

Held without charge were Clement and Anselmo Lucero, Roswell, in their 20s, and their father, Ben Lucero.

Jarrett was killed shortly after midnight. He was struck by two heavy rifle slugs and two shotgun blasts. Hanagan said there were two shotguns in the body from the ankles to the head.

The district attorney said it was "undetermined" who fired at the airman. Then, Hanagan added, "all three fired shots, apparently simultaneously."

This is the story Hanagan related. Jarrett left his post, climbed over the fence and crossed onto property owned by Ben Lucero.

A dog belonging to the Luc barked, and the airman fired at it. Jarrett then left, broke some windows in an old barracks building and fired more shots. He returned to the Lucero property.

Then, apparently, Hanagan said, the airman and the Luceros exchange some remarks and the fatal shots followed.

Strictly Political

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Mountain view and mountain dew were subjects at a comment meeting in Raleigh this week.

The Tuckasegee River was the principal subject of comment before the Conservation and Development Committee of the House, Rep. R. Crawford of Swain introduced a pollution bill.

Rep. Crawford said, "I've seen the waters running as red as blood, black as tar, foaming like beer."

Marcellus Buchanan of Jackson an opponent, said he could prove that Rep. Crawford was exaggerating. He produced two fruit jars filled with Tuckasegee water — sparkling clear. And Buchanan pointed out to his flat land friend plugging into the committee, "These fruit jars do not contain what is usually found in mountain fruit jars."

Buchanan won the argument and the bill was given an unfavorable report.

However, there are still some skeptics in Raleigh.

"He can't fool us," said one friend. "That stuff he had was pure Jackson County corn."

TAR Heel members of Congress are home today for a tending Easter recess. Has been an active time for Congressmen at delegates.

Rep. Jones has been involved in the fight for a solution to the problems that face flue-cured tobacco growers. He has been interested in poundage as well as acreage controls on flue-cured leaf.

Rep. Durham was a leader in the fight for 40 million stars in missile and defense project research. He's chairman of the See STRICTLY on page 3-A

Gunfire Disrupts Service

COVE, Ark. — Moments after Helen Griffith left a choir and went to a new in a church here last night, six pistol shots blasted the Holy Week service and the 20-year-old girl fell fatally wounded into the aisle.

The shots were fired through a window of the Hilltop Holiness Church in this west Arkansas mountain town. Another member of the congregation, a 61-year-old man, Alford Rankin, was wounded in the left leg during the firing.

Several persons rushed to the door in time to see a man leap into a pickup truck and flee.

Little more than an hour later, officers here were notified that Haskett Sullivan, 28, of Buffalo, Okla., a rejected suitor of the dead girl, had killed himself in front of his brother's house at Nano Chito Okla., 20 miles across the Arkansas-Oklahoma border from Cove.

FOUND IN TRUCK

Sheriff's officers of McCurtain County, Okla., said Sullivan's body was found in his pickup truck outside the home of L. Sullivan.

He had been shot between the eyes with a .22 pistol, apparently the same weapon which killed Miss Griffith, officers reported.

Sullivan left a note. It said: "I killed Helen and ran going with her."

Officers said the auburn-haired, blue-eyed girl was shot twice in the face and twice in the back.

FALLS INTO AISLE

During the fusillade, members of the congregation said, Miss Griffith staggered upright and then pitched forward into the aisle.

The Rev. Mrs. E. L. Blake, pastor of the church, said "everything happened so quickly that things were stunned."

"Helen had just finished singing in the choir," the pastor said. "They had just sung 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'"

"Then," Mrs. Blake continued, "she went to her pew and sat down beside young Rev. Gene Davis, who lives here in Cove and was helping with our service."

She said there were "people sitting in the pews in front of Helen and behind her."

Manley, 65, one of the congregation, told city marshals Burt Brown he saw a man step up to a window just before the shots were fired, but "didn't think anything about it."

Brown said the slain girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Griffith of Cove, had called him to the family home about six months ago, and told him that Sullivan was "bothering" the girl.

Brown said Sullivan "used to date Helen."

Mrs. Blake said several hours after the shooting that Helen was a wonderful girl. Everyone loved her."



(AP Photo)

ALL WRAPPED UP in his play is Daniel Foley of New Bedford, Mass. He found himself in this predicament as he tried to compete with older boys in a kite-flying contest.

Crippled Plane Brought To Safety

DALLAS, Tex. — Ambulances moaned and fear froze in a thousand throats as a crippled and darkened airliner floated to a landing here last night.

Thirty-eight passengers, assailed by two hours of anxiety, buried their faces in pillows.

But all 41 persons aboard the Braniff Airways plane escaped injury as the trembling craft, tilted on its nose and skidded the final few feet to safety.

The pilot, Capt. R. O. Mittendorf, wore a big smile as he emerged from the plane. Pretty Susie Eruck, the hostess, went with relief. And Bert Hathaway, a passenger from Oklahoma City, crowed: "Everybody's happy."

"I've seen the most beautiful landing I've ever seen!"

The plane, a two-engine Convair 440, began its flight at Corpus Christi yesterday evening and made stops at San Antonio, Dallas and Oklahoma City. Shortly after 8 p.m., just after the craft took off from Oklahoma City for Kansas City, the nose landing gear jammed.

"We knew we were in trouble as soon as we took off," said Mittendorf, a veteran of 18 years of flying with Braniff. "A signal light indicated something wrong."

Passengers were informed, while the plane circled and circled Wild Rogers Field, the worst got out in Oklahoma City. A big traffic jam developed at the field.

Mittendorf received instructions to bring the craft back to Dallas last night and today as showery field.

Radio and TV stations flashed immediate reports of heavy damage.

Small tornadoes struck near Culbertson, Neb., and St. John, Kan., yesterday but no injuries or damage were reported.

The violent weather occurred along the line separating the cool and warm air over the central part of the country. The heaviest shower activity was north of a low center in Nebraska.

Rivers in south Texas were expected at flood stages today. The heavy thunderstorms drove many small streams out of their banks, flooded streets and highways and washed away a portion of the roadbed on U. S. Highway 77 south of Waco.

Two teenagers were stranded for three hours last night by flood waters on State Highway 6 some

What's Inside

Books	7A
Classified	5B
Comics	6A
Crossword Puzzle	3A
Earl Wilson	8A
Editorials	4A
Memo To Caesar	5A
Obituaries	3A
Radio-TV	2A
Serial	2A
Sports	4-5B
Teens	1-3B
Your Good Health	6B
Writers	1-3B
Worry Clinic	7A

Violent Storms Kill Six

—HEAVY RAINS HIT TEXAS—

Immediate reports of heavy damage.

Small tornadoes struck near Culbertson, Neb., and St. John, Kan., yesterday but no injuries or damage were reported.

The violent weather occurred along the line separating the cool and warm air over the central part of the country. The heaviest shower activity was north of a low center in Nebraska.

Rivers in south Texas were expected at flood stages today. The heavy thunderstorms drove many small streams out of their banks, flooded streets and highways and washed away a portion of the roadbed on U. S. Highway 77 south of Waco.

Two teenagers were stranded for three hours last night by flood waters on State Highway 6 some

Both Rescued

Mike Jordan, 18, and Brenda Robertson, both of Riesel Tex., were rescued after they abandoned their car and hung on to trees until rescuers arrived.

Their car was washed some 125 feet from the shore. The flooded highway was cut off by the storm's overturning cone. Both escaped with minor scratches, but were being treated for shock. They said the rising water just gradually covered the car and hung on to trees until rescuers arrived.

Their car was washed some 125 feet from the shore. The flooded highway was cut off by the storm's overturning cone. Both escaped with minor scratches, but were being treated for shock. They said the rising water just gradually covered the car and hung on to trees until rescuers arrived.

Gully washing rains up to six inches extended from the Mexican border to the Red River yesterday. High winds and lightning killed power in Waco for three hours during the height of the storm.

Burns Fatal To Two Children

BURBANK, Calif. — Police said a bathtub of scalding water proved to be a death trap for a pair of 2-year-old playmates at nearby Sun Valley. Investigators said Karen Andrews and Gary Lee Edwards were burned fatally when they crawled into the tub which Mrs. Leslie Andrews, 19, Karen's mother, had filled to use in scrubbing floors.

Speeder Really Was Fire-Bomb

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The speeding ticket against Bill Verlusky, 32, was dismissed because he was "going to a fire."

Officers issued the ticket as Verlusky ran to help put out a grass fire. Verlusky is a member of the Grand Rapids Township Volunteer Fire Department. The court dismissed the charge of speeding.