



Summer's Legacy--221 Drowning Deaths

BY BOB SLOUGH
News Staff Writer
(First In A Series)

The day in the field had been long and hot. He thought it would never end. No rain in a week and no clouds in the sky. The earth was blistered. He put his hoe across his shoulder and started for the house half a mile away. When he crossed the pasture something caught his eye. The irrigation pond in the pasture looked inviting. And the day had been hot. Sure, maybe he could find relief from the

heat in the clear water of the pond. He slipped off his shirt and trousers, slid into the water and started across to the other bank. But he never made it. BODY IN MUD They found his clothes on the bank and his body in the mud at the bottom of the pond. He was one of an estimated 221 drowning victims in North and South Carolina last year. The headline in a newspaper told the story. "Man Drowns In Farm Pond."

Tom Merrell of Myrtle Beach saw the story. He clipped it, jotted down facts about the accident in a notebook. Tom Merrell does this every-time he sees a drowning story in a newspaper. At the end of the year he adds up the fatalities. Last year his total was 221. Mr. Merrell is a member of the Myrtle Beach Fire Department and deputy chief of the Myrtle Beach Rescue Squad. OFFERS WORD His interest in the isolated drowning a hundred miles from



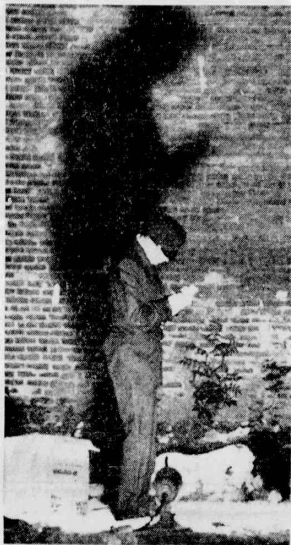
TOM MERRELL

his home is simple — he hopes to use the information to prevent others from going to the watery grave the young farm boy found on a hot summer day. Last year he came up with these statistics: The 221 drownings included 199 males, 22 females. Average age of the 221 was 23.7 years old. When did they drown? Thirty-five died between January 1, 1958 and May 15, 1958. Another 21 drowned between May 15 and May 31.

Thirty-nine more died in June, another 37 in July and 29 in August. Twenty-three persons were drowned between September and December. Where did they drown? Rivers and creeks claimed 74 persons. Ponds and pools took 70 lives, lakes 43 persons, ocean, bays and sounds 23 people. Seven died in miscellaneous places. What were they doing when they drowned? Ninety-one were swimming or wading. Sixty were boating. 12 were at work, 13 died while attempting to rescue some-

body else in trouble, 4 died when their cars plunged into water. Thirty-nine other drownings were classed as miscellaneous. JUST ANYWHERE People drown, Mr. Merrell said, anywhere there is water. "Last year a child drowned in a bucket of water," Mr. Merrell said. "Records show two bathtub drownings." How many people will drown this year? "If the record is no better or no worse," Mr. Merrell said, "it

can be expected that about 221 residents of the two Carolinas will meet death in a watery grave this year." Most of the drownings, Mr. Merrell pointed out, came while the victim was swimming. Some of the victims were excellent swimmers. This summer, thousands of swimmers will flock to ponds, rivers, creeks, backyard pools, community pools — anywhere there is water. And for several hundred of them, it will be their last trip to the pool or river.



(AP Photo)

The Shadow Of Death

Shadowed by a floodlight, a policeman makes notes over the stripped body of a man murdered at midnight in a Boston backyard. The unidentified man was about 35 years old and had been stabbed and slashed to death.

Brutal Beating Fatal To Woman

By JOHN KILGO
News Staff Writer

A white woman who was beaten over the face and head by a gang of men Friday died today at Memorial Hospital. Capt. of Detectives W. A. McCall identified the woman as Frances Parrott. Police have picked up several white men for questioning in connection with the beating. Capt. McCall said the woman was beaten in a house in the 400 block of W. 8th St. Friday afternoon. She died this morning. McCall said he knows nothing

about the case at this time, but that Coroner Dr. W. M. Summerville will view the woman's body this afternoon. A blind man was being questioned by police this afternoon. Police said the woman was brutally beaten. No arrests have been made.

Fast-Draw Student Wounds Self Again

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eight weeks ago, George Hinton Jr., 24, shot himself in the knee while practicing fast draws with a .22-caliber target pistol. Sunday, still practicing, he shot himself in the foot.

BRAINS BANK NEW YORK (AP) — The Parkinson's Disease Foundation announced yesterday it is starting a "brain bank" to aid researchers in the fight against the paralytic disease. Researchers think the study of brains of victims of the disease may give them a clue to a cure.

One-Pound Baby Lives After Week

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Over 300 Persons Killed In Holiday Traffic Crush

Fatalities Far Above Estimates

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
Traffic 310
Drownings 95
Miscellaneous 49
Total 454

More than 300 persons lost their lives in traffic accidents across the nation during the two-day Memorial weekend. The tragic toll of dead was a record for the holiday and far exceeded the pre-holiday estimate of 260.

The National Safety Council attributed the record number of traffic deaths largely to extremely heavy travel and to a rash of multiple accidents that swelled the toll rapidly. "It offers a grim challenge to every one concerned with highway safety to step up the unending efforts to hold down accidents despite mounting travel," a NSC spokesman said. "We can only hope the shock of this awful death toll will be reflected in fewer accidents during the rest of the year."

Other violent deaths — drownings and in miscellaneous types of accidents — also took a heavy toll.

The over-all accident death total for the 54-hour period from 6 p.m. local time Friday to midnight Sunday also topped the toll of 385 for a two-day Memorial holiday period. That mark was set in 1955, when the traffic death toll was 241, the previous high.

Related reports were expected to boost the totals.

The highway death total also was far ahead of the 282 counted by The Associated Press in a test period survey for a non-holiday weekend of 34 hours. The survey, covering the period from 6 p.m. Friday May 15, to midnight Sunday, May 17, also showed 32 drownings and 74 persons killed in miscellaneous types of accidents, for an over-all total of 368.

There were several multiple-death auto crashes. In one of the worst, a mother and four of her

See TRAFFIC on Page 2A



GOV. LONG

Gov. Long's Storm Abates

GALVESTON, Tex. (AP) — Louisiana's Gov. Earl K. Long, his health broken under the strain of office, was in a psychiatric clinic here today. Indications from his family were that he would be away from his office for considerable time. He was flown here on the heels of some tantrum-like outbursts before his home state legislature.

Reports of his condition at John Sealy Hospital were conflicting. Dr. John B. Truslow, the hospital's administrator, said the governor was taking no medication or curative treatment as yet, but was merely under nursing care while doctors continued examinations.

Lighter Side They Left The Screen Door Open

(From AP Reports)
"One day, Carl Kellerman told the San Diego judge, 'We left the screen door open and they came in — and we were never able to get them out.'"

"They" are a flock of ducks. Kellerman and his sister Anna are charged with violating a health regulation which says fowl can't be kept closer than 20 feet from a dwelling.

Kellerman said the dozen ducks took over the house. "So I sleep on the porch."

The judge postponed action to give the Kellermans a chance to solve their problem.

Good Answer? U. S. Marshal Harry Jennings hopes a big problem will be taken off his hands at a hearing in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 15.

He has been ordered to confiscate 6,000 pounds of whale meat destined for Michigan mink raisers. The meat failed to meet Federal Food and Drug Act standards.

The complaint to which the meat was shipped from Japan has been ordered to show cause why the meat should not be confiscated. Jennings hopes it has a good answer.

STOPPS THE MUSIC PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) —

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BILLY GRAHAM PLANS REST IN SWITZERLAND

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Billy Graham was flying to Europe today, his three-month campaign in Australia and New Zealand a huge success.

About 5,000 people stood in a heavy rain at the airport to say goodbye to the American evangelist.

Graham planned to spend a few days in Zurich, then join his wife for a holiday in Britain.

Organizers said the total attendance at Graham's three months of meetings totaled 1,275,000. Decisions for Christ totaled more than 140,000.

You Will Find Ben Favallo On Page 11-A (Adv.)

Suspend Threats, West Asks Reds

GENEVA (AP) — The United States, Britain and France pressed Russia in the Big Four conference today to suspend its threats against West Berlin and negotiate a stopgap settlement to ease tensions over the divided city.

U. S. Secretary of State Nicholas A. H. Herter, British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko at Gromyko's villa in mid-afternoon.

Their session continued secret talks which opened here Friday in an effort to find a formula for averting a military showdown over Berlin and clearing the way to a summit conference.

The West's Big Three still expect the Russians to agree not to disturb the status of West Berlin in spite of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's declaration that he would not bargain for a settlement.

The Western delegates at the Big Four foreign ministers' conference assume that Khrushchev is still anxious for a summit conference. U. S. Secretary of State Nicholas A. Herter made it clear to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that unless the Red threat to "take Berlin" is lifted, President Eisenhower would not attend a summit meeting.

Khrushchev in a speech in Albania Saturday said the Western proposal to be held in the New York Museum.

Russian Sailors Tour Part Of NY

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-two Russian sailors from the first Russian ship to dock in the port of New York in 10 years, toured Manhattan yesterday. The sailors wore shirts and slacks for the outing. A single Russian-made camera, on loan from the Russian delegation to the United Nations, related from man to man.

The men make up about half the crew of the 5,900-ton Ivan Moskv, docked at Staten Island.

It carried tons of exhibits for the Soviet Union's summer exposition to be held in the New York Museum.

WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness through Tuesday with scattered, mostly afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

Low this morning	69
Low tomorrow morning	67
High today	86
High tomorrow	86
High yesterday	76
High tomorrow	86
Sunset today 5:09 a.m.; sunrise 7:22 p.m.	

More weather data on Page 2-A

NOTE TO NEWS READERS: In order that the reader may know just where to look for his Charlotte News features, we have begun an anchoring process. Today, for example, and henceforward, the comic page (best comics in town) is being positioned on the inside of the back page of the second section of The News.

This anchoring of features and departments is just one of the improvements we have in mind for The Charlotte News and which we are getting to as fast as possible and practicable.

Bradley S. Griggs
Editor

—ACTION BY J. C. SMITH UNIVERSITY—

Littlejohn Given Honorary Degree

Former Charlotte Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn today was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Johnson C. Smith University.

Littlejohn was one of five persons receiving honorary degrees as Johnson C. Smith awarded 105 arts and sciences degrees and eight bachelor of divinity degrees to its graduating class.

Two chaplains received doctor of divinity degrees. They were Lt. Col. James Clark Griffin, just returned from Germany to Philadelphia, and Mrs. Booker Thomas Davis of Shepherd Air Force Base, Tex.

Doctor of laws degrees were conferred on James Vance Melver, former member of the New Jersey Legislature and Littlejohn.

Charles Wesley Baughn, research chemist for General Electric, Philadelphia, Pa., was presented an honorary doctor of science degree.

Last year, Littlejohn resigned as Charlotte's police chief, giving a month's notice to



FRANK LITTLEJOHN

the Charlotte City Council and recommending Assistant Chief John Hord for the job.

Four of the seven members of that council voted to accept the resignation immediately and the council then appointed Ernest Selvey chief of police.

Former Chief Littlejohn held the post longer than any of his 16 predecessors.

Speaker for the Johnson C. Smith University commencement program this morning was Dr. Raymond Logan, head of the department of history, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

In his address, Dr. Logan said taken de-segregation in North Carolina is apparently the most accurate barometer of "the Second New South."

He urged graduates of to be content with this token segregation but "to participate, as members of a new generation of 'The Talented Tenth,' in an 'exciting adventure' which would gain fuller acceptance of the decrees of the United States Supreme Court."