

# Schoolboy Badly Hurt As Truck Strikes Bus



Linda Ferr, 14, Comforts Elizabeth Hicks, 17, in Pineville Clinic.

## Youngster Is Pinned Under Seat

By CHARLES KURALT  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

An eight-year-old boy was injured critically when a tank truck smashed into the rear of a packed Mecklenburg school bus south of Pineville today.

Six other youngsters were treated at a Pineville clinic and released.

Hugh (Sandy) McLean, a third-grader, was pinned for 10 minutes beneath a twisted back seat. He was taken to Charlotte's Mercy Hospital with a possible brain concussion and broken leg.

The tanker, rolling empty through a hard downpour of rain, slammed into the left rear of the bus which had made its last stop on Highway 521 before going on to Pineville School, Pineville School Principal S. M. Gibson said there were some 62 students on the bus. An eighth grade student, Beth Grimm, 13, said she saw the tanker "about six feet" from the bus. She and five other youngsters were sitting three to a seat in many cases and that about 10 were standing when the bus was hit.

**DRIVER CHARGED**

The Miller Motor Express driver, Clarence Krepps, 47, of Lancaster, S. C., was charged by county police with reckless driving and assault with a deadly weapon (automobile). He was released late this morning under \$1,000 bond.

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**LAW ALLOWANCE**

(State law allows buses to be operated at more than capacity.)

Driver Krepps said he was going "about 35 miles an hour."

"I saw the bus in plenty of time," he said. "I put on my brakes, but I just seemed to slide. I couldn't stop in time."

He twisted his heavy truck to the left. The empty tanker-trailer swiped the bus into the ditch on the right side of the road. The cab of the truck went into the ditch on the left.

The bus driver was obeying all of East-Corpus County School Supt. J. D. Morgan said after an investigation.

Mrs. Hugh McLean, mother of the injured boy, was extremely anxious in the lobby of Dr. Ralph C. Reid's Pineville clinic where her son and others who were hurt were treated.

At 9 a.m., an hour after the accident, Sandy was taken by ambulance to Charlotte. He had not regained consciousness. The full extent of his injuries, a Mercy spokesman said they could not be determined until X-rays were completed.

The waiting room was filled with the children waiting for treatment. One high school girl sobbed on the shoulder of a friend.

The bus was nearly without See **SCHOOLBOY** on page 2-A.

## Probe Set In Fall Of TV Tower

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Construction company officials and engineers sought today to determine what caused a giant television tower to topple to the ground, bringing death to four workmen.

The nearly completed structure buckled in the middle Monday afternoon and fell in a heavily populated residential area, but miraculously did not strike any houses.

The tower broke in the middle and both sections collapsed in a heavily populated residential area but miraculously did not strike any houses.

The new 1,282-foot broadcasting tower, which was to have been 1,279 feet when topped with the antenna, was being built for station WSM-TV by the John F. Beasley Construction Co. of Muskogee, Okla.

The four dead, workers for the construction company, were identified as:

Donald Ward Kinman, 35, Tucson, Ariz.; George Presler, 33, Union City, Tenn.; Ray H. Maxwell, 23, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Robert Lee Kirschner, 30, California, Mo.

**FATAL WORDS**

Harold O'Neal, 29, of Beecham, N.Y., a fifth steelworker, was treated for shock. O'Neal had just climbed down from the tower and was inside the transmitter station.

Officials of the construction firm were at a loss to explain the collapse. A new type steel alloy, known as T-1, which officials said was supposed to be three times as strong as regular steel, was being used in the tower.

"I've never seen anything like it and I've been in the business for 24 years," said G. A. Wallstrom, of Syracuse, N.Y., General Electric Corp. engineer present at the crash.

"We are going to try and find out what caused the tower to fall," he said. "I'm going to do everything I can, but I don't have much hope."

**FIFTH TREATED**

One of the fatally injured workers, Kinman, was interviewed by a reporter for the Nashville Tennessean a week ago. At that time he said, "I would not drive a race car. Too dangerous. My job's safe because I know what I'm doing. Besides, more people get killed clipping off curbs than in any line of work."

Last night, Mrs. Thelma Brynne, 23, said she was staying at the home of her parents-Sunday night when she heard "a noise like a wire being pulled tight and then slipping just a little."

**DOZEN MEN NEEDED FOR KING-SIZE LIFT**

RUTHERFORDTON, Pa.—Twelve ratchetbearers were required last night to bring out an unconscious, 400-pound man injured when an automobile broke loose down a mountainside and crashed into a tree.

A. C. Gladden, a Gastonia painter, said the car broke and he was unable to stop the vehicle. It knocked into several saplings before battering into a large tree in its 200-foot dash. The impact threw out Sam Dow, 400-pound Gastonia Justice of the Peace, and injured Gladden slightly. Gladden walked two miles to a farmhouse and summoned aid.

Twelve men struggled for some time in bringing Dow up to the highway. Dow was taken to Rutherford Hospital but later was transferred to Gaston Memorial Hospital at Gastonia. Hospital reports today said Dow had recovered consciousness.

## Mining Experts Plan Descent To Find Out Cause Of Blast

BISHOP, Va. — Mining experts planned a descent into the depths of the Bishop coal mine today in an effort to fix the cause of a gas explosion that brought death to 37 miners.

Federal and state officials were joined by top officers of the Pocahontas Fuel Co., operators of the mine, in the formal investigation.

The 37 miners were entombed early yesterday in the big mine by the explosion, described by a survivor as "like a big puff of wind."

The oddly muffled blast occurred at 1:55 a.m., less than two hours after 100 miners had gone to work on the midnight shift at the big mine under the Virginia-West Virginia border.

Sixteen hours later, the last burp-shrouded body was brought to the surface by rescue teams composed in part of miners who had fought their way to safety through choking dust and fumes.

Not since Dec. 31, 1951, when 119 perished in a blast at West Frankfort, Ill., had there been a mine disaster of such magnitude.

Early today, there were only theories as to what caused the explosion, which in one terrible instant consumed the oxygen in the air at the 320-foot depth and caused state slides that buried some of the victims.

So mild did the explosion seem to miners only a short distance from the death tunnel in which

**Ex-Rep. Chatham Dies At Age 60**

DURHAM, N.C.—Former Rep. Thurmond Chatham of Winston-Salem died today in Duke Hospital.


He was 60 years old.

Death was attributed to a heart attack.

Chatham served the 8th North Carolina District from 1948 to 1952.

Chatham, former president of the Chatham Manufacturing Co., at Elkin, was defeated last spring in the Democratic primary for re-nomination by Ralph J. Scott of Danbury.

Survivors include his wife, thought to be in Washington at the time of his death, and three sons, Hugh and Richard Chatham, both of Elkin, sons by a former marriage, and a small son, born of a second marriage.



THURMOND CHATHAM

## Red Mystery Patient Machine Building Boss

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow's mystery patient is Vyacheslav A. Malyshev, Soviet minister of machine building and former deputy premier.

This was established in private advances from the Soviet capital today, Moscow news dispatches identifying him are held up by Soviet censors.

The mystery developed last weekend when Dr. Hans Schulz, a West German blood specialist, was summoned to Moscow to help Russian doctors treat the patient. His name was concealed even from Dr. Schulz.

Active in Communist Party affairs, he was made a deputy premier in 1953.

He was relieved of the deputy premiership and got a new job Dec. 25 when Russian fired its top economic planner, Maxim C. Saburov, and set up a commission headed by deputy premier M. G. Perukhin to overhaul the nation's industrial and agricultural planning.

Malyshev became deputy chairman of the commission.

As Malyshev was treated, all 11 top-ranking members of the Soviet Communist hierarchy showed up today at the opening of a semi-annual session of Russia's parliament, the Supreme Soviet.

Economic matters and overhaul of the judicial system appeared to be the major business

## Red Mystery Patient Machine Building Boss

in prospect. No drastic shakeup was expected in the Soviet government leadership.

Premier Nikolai Bulganin, Deputy Premier A. I. Mikoyan and President Klement Voroshilov, three members of the presidium of the Communist Party Central Committee, attended the opening of the colorful Soviet of Nationalities in the Kremlin's chamber of the Supreme Soviet.

## False Alarm

KEY WEST, Fla. — A report that a Liberian freighter with a crewmen was sinking in the Florida Straits 70 miles west of here turned out today to be a false alarm.

Eleven hours after the start of an intensive search by air and surface craft, the Nortuna was located by a Navy vessel, in no danger and suffering from nothing worse than a lost propeller. She refused an offer of a Coast Guard tow.

## Pet Skunk Can't Bear The Animals

BRYANT POND, Maine (U)—In a week, Tilly and Milly have become accustomed to people and Mr. and Mrs. Gritza Whitman have become used to carrying for bear cubs.

The female bears are three weeks old. Last week, Lee Swan and Chester Harrison, founder of the winter den of a mother bear. They shot the mother. The same bullet killed two cubs the men didn't know were smuggled in the bear's arms. The hunters picked up Tilly and Milly and gave them to the Whitmans.

The cubs needed an incubator so Whitman turned an old tin bathtub upside down and inserted a 250-watt electric light bulb for heat. Then they had to prepare a food formula.

"We used milk, water, syrup and lime water," Mrs. Whitman said. "It apparently was just what the babies needed." The bears suck the food from dolls' nursing bottles.

The cubs weigh a pound and a half each now and crawl around their pen. By summer they'll weigh 30 to 120 pounds.

Most disturbed by the bears is Postie, the Whitman's year-old skunk. She doesn't like their squealing and seems jealous.

The Whitmans also have three other bears in the barn. Morris, Doris and Horace, who were acquired at the age of six months and were easier to tend.

## Evening Prayer

O Loving Father, who hath loved us with an everlasting love, may we so love Thee with all our heart that our love may be steadfast and sure. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

**—I COULDN'T GO ON—**

## Despondent Mother Kills 3

CHICAGO — A young mother who, police said, left notes admitting she drowned her three children and then tried to kill herself, was held in a hospital today on a charge of murder.

The bodies of the children, 3-year-old twin girls and a 5-year-old boy, were found by police in the suburban Park Ridge home of Richard M. Puetz, 32, and his wife, Beverly, 27.

Earlier, when Puetz arrived home from work he found his wife unconscious. Her head was in the oven of the gas stove in the kitchen and the jets were turned on. Puetz said he dragged her to the rear porch, tried to revive her, and called police and firemen.

After firemen revived Mrs. Puetz with an inhalator, the only child, "My children," the children, John and his twin sisters, Deborah Lynn and Cora Lynn, were fully clothed when found downed in the bath tub. Puetz is manager of a woman's apparel shop in suburban Evanston.

A warrant charging Mrs. Puetz with murder was issued by Police Magistrate Edward Lunzberg on recommendation of an assistant state's attorney. Police chief Willis Jones ordered Mrs. Puetz's removal to Psychopathic Hospital for examination.

Puetz said his wife had a nervous breakdown recently, but that she had appeared content after returning within the last few days from a visit with relatives in Bonaparte, Iowa.

"Notice from Beverly Puetz, I drowned the children. Trying to kill self but having trouble, electrically, etc. Want police to know I did it because I can't handle myself. Been going on for some time. . . . My husband, Dick, has been wonderful and is better off without me and the kids for I have them so mixed up I felt they couldn't be straightened out—nor myself."

Another note addressed "Dick," said:

"I hope you can build a new future. I have ruined all this—kids and you—all my own doing. You deserve so much better and I failed you—and I couldn't go on."

**—What's Inside—**

## Don't Tax Your Brains Over April 15 Deadline

NOW THAT INCOME TAX filing time is approaching, The Charlotte News and the Associated Press bring you a series designed to help you avoid common errors and to take advantage of provisions of the law which will save money for you. The first article is on the benefits of early filing, and it's on Page 4A.

Business	7A-6B	Radio-TV	6A
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**Our Weather**

Cloudy and cooler with scattered light rain today, tonight and tomorrow.

Low this morning . . . 53

Low tomorrow morning . . . 53

High today . . . 60

High yesterday . . . 64

High tomorrow . . . 58

Sunrise today, 7:19 a.m.; sunset today, 5:56 p.m.

More Weather Data On Page 2-A