



Renting the video:
People can have convenience, privacy and a workout with exercise tapes, 1D

LIFE



In the fast lane: Jeff Gordon wins the Goody's 500 after leading for 432 laps and rebounding from a spin-out, 1C

SPORTS



Rain likely;
high near 70,
14B

WEATHER

Air Force believes it has found A-10 wreckage

By Robert Weller
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Searchers found what they believe is the wreckage of a missing bomb-jet warplane — but no sign of the pilot — on a rocky, snow-covered cliff in the central Rocky Mountains, the Air Force said Sunday.

Metal protruding from the snow was spotted by a helicopter crew at 11,200 a.m., but a ground search

team could not be sent in because of treacherous conditions on the steep mountain.

It is the collective judgment that what we have seen is likely to be A-10 airplane pieces, Maj. Gen. Nels Running said, adding that he is 90 percent sure it was Capt. Craig Button's A-10 Thunderbolt II.

An Army National Guard helicopter crew spotted the wreckage while hovering "right at the face of the face," and it took that dis-

'It is our collective judgment that what we have seen is likely to be A-10 airplane pieces.'

— Maj. Gen. Nels Running

played, close-up look to see what he saw, Running said.

A close-up look revealed pieces of metal with gray paint, sections that could have been from the inter-

rior of the plane and several smaller pieces of metal, he said. Yellow-green paint used as an anti-corrosion coating inside the airplane was also visible, he said.

"Our next step will be to determine with certainty that the sighted wreckage is in fact our missing aircraft," he said. "We will need to get some pieces to make that absolutely certain."

Air National Guard Chief Warrant Officers Richard Ruff of Denver and Dale Jensen of Eagle didn't cover the wreckage.

"The first thing we saw was just a couple pieces of paper," Ruff said. "Then something just caught

my eye."

The plane has been missing since April 2, when Button took off from a Tucson, Ariz., base on a routine training mission and veered north, heading to Colorado with four bombs aboard.

The wreckage was spotted on the north side of New York Mountain, a 12,500-foot peak about 13 miles southwest of Vail. The area

See A-10, Page 4A

Wet Plains miseries turn hot



Refugee Mark Brown comforts his son Ryan, 7, as they wait for relocation at the high school in Crookston, Minn.

Floods slow efforts to fight fire

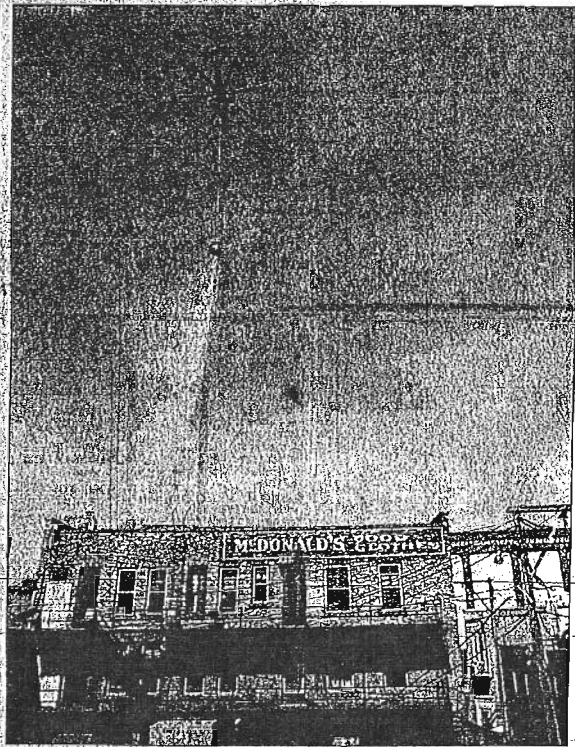
GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Slowed by streets submerged in icy, sewage-fouled floodwater from the rising Red River, firefighters on Sunday put down a blaze that raged through parts of the downtown business block.

The flames were mostly controlled by midday Sunday and the smoke died down after firefighters dumped 2,000-gallon buckets of mostly water on the spot.

All buildings are a total loss, Deputy Fire Chief Peter O'Neil said. At least three others were damaged.

Police said the Red River, boosted by the melting of the winter record snow accumula-

See Fire, Page 4A



A Coast Guard helicopter drops 2,000 pounds of water on a downtown Grand Forks building.

Strike spares Kelly

Independent bargaining OK'd

A staff pool wire report

CINCINNATI — Workers at Fayetteville's Kelly-Springfield Tire Co. were not among the more than 12,000 employees of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. who went on strike Sunday.

Kelly Springfield and Local 959 of the United Steelworkers union have agreed to negotiate independently of the nine striking Goodyear plants in seven states. Kelly-Springfield is a Goodyear subsidiary.

Eddie Evans, vice president of Local 959, said he will try to set up a negotiating session this afternoon with Kelly-Springfield. The plant, which employs about 3,000 workers, will continue to operate as usual.

Contract talks in Cincinnati between Goodyear and the United Steelworkers union broke down late Saturday just before the contract expired at midnight, said union spokesman Curt Brown.

"We're still pretty far apart," Brown said Sunday. "Our people are getting ready to pack up and go home."

No new talks were scheduled, he said. Negotiations on a new three-year contract began March 6.

Workers began picketing shortly after midnight at plants in the Midwest and South.

Mike Runyon, who has been with Goodyear for 14 years in Lincoln, Neb., said he and his fellow 1,700 union workers were prepared for the long haul.

"All we're asking for is to be treated fairly and equitably as a tire worker, and to enjoy a standard of living that any American worker should enjoy," he said.

Goodyear, North America's largest tire maker, has See Kelly, Page 4A

TAXPAYERS CHARGED

CHAMPUS insurer skips some child bills

By Virginia Ann White

Taxpayers are being forced to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for the care of troubled military children because an insurance company refuses to pick up the bills, county mental health administrators say.

It's called cost shifting, private insurance companies relying on county and state agencies to take care of their most expensive cases, said Michael Watson, director of Southern Mental Health Center. The insurance company, FHC Options of Norfolk-Va., manages mental health care benefits for military family members under CHAMPUS, the Civilian Health

and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

Options uses a lump sum from a five-year federal government contract to pay mental health treatment bills and administrative costs. Anything left is profit.

At the end of the first year, ending September, 1996, Options cleared about \$1.2 million of \$12 million budgeted for patient care. Options cut the profit with Cumberland Hospital, a partner in the Fort Bragg contract. The psychiatric hospital is owned by the county.

During that same year, county mental health center administrators say, the number of patients under age 18 jumped along with the

See CHAMPUS, Page 4A

INSIDE

The Two-week search for a 10-year-old who was abducted at Knippelport ends when his body is found, Page 5A

Israeli officials decide not to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Page 7A

INDEX

- Business, 1C
- Calendar, 2D
- Cheek, 1B
- Complex, 4D
- Dear Abby, 5D
- Death, 4B
- Editorials, 1C
- Life, 1D
- Live Wire, 2A
- Sports, 1C
- Television, 6D
- Weather, 14B

©1997 by the Observer-Times

Raid on a still means death for a lawman

Second of a four-part series

By Pat Reese
Staff writer

What started out as just another hot July day in 1921 was to become a nightmare for two hard-working, God-fearing farm families.

Alfred Jackson Pate, whose family farmed and operated mills in Gray's Creek for many years, was going to die.

Marsh Williams, son of a politically strong farmer from Godwin, was to be charged with murder.

It was no secret that Williams was making liquor in the northern part of the county. But still, he was hard to find in the dense woodlands and swamps around Godwin and the young man had never been

LARGER THAN LIFE

The "Carbine" Williams story

caught.

Sheriff N.H. McGeachy evidently knew exactly where Williams was working a still at the edge of a swamp about half a mile from Godwin. He and Pate had been in Godwin the day before. Testimony later revealed that Williams believed one of his hired hands told McGeachy where to find the still.

—On July 2, a Friday, McGeachy and four of his deputies, — Pate, C.E. Driver, Bill West and George West — crowded into a car for the 12-mile trip to Godwin, George West was driving.

It was about 6:30 p.m. when they

parked beside the Godwin-Falern Road, just east of Godwin. McGeachy told George West to stay with the car while he and the other officers slipped into the swamp. They pushed through underbrush until they could see the still in a clearing not far from a cotton field. A Fayetteville Observer reporter wrote this account of the raid: "As they got within seeing distance, three men were plainly seen at the place. Suddenly a voice was heard. 'Halt! Who is that?'"

But the officers were too close on them to stop McGeachy said it was a case of stopping and being all killed or make a dash on the operators. So they sprang up

See Pate, Page 4A

Raid on a still means death for a lawman

Second of a four-part series

By Pat Reese

Staff writer

What started out as just another hot July day in 1921 was to become a nightmare for two hard-working, God-fearing farm families.

Alfred Jackson Pate, whose family farmed and operated mills in Gray's Creek for many years, was going to die.

Marsh Williams, son of a politically strong farmer from Godwin, was to be charged with murder.

It was no secret that Williams was making liquor in the northern part of the county. But stills were hard to find in the dense woodlands and swamps around Godwin and the young man had never been

LARGER THAN LIFE

The 'Carbine' Williams story

caught.

Sheriff N.H. McGeachy evidently knew exactly where Williams was working a still at the edge of a swamp about half a mile from Godwin. He and Pate had been in Godwin the day before. Testimony later revealed that Williams believed one of his hired hands told McGeachy where to find the still.

On July 22, a Friday, McGeachy and four of his deputies — Pate, C.H. Driver, Bill West and George West — crowded into a car for the 12-mile trip to Godwin. George West was driving.

It was about 6:30 p.m. when they

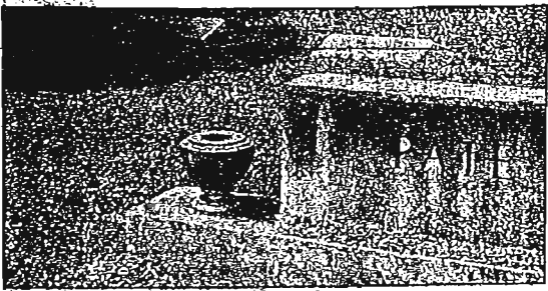
parked beside the Godwin-Falcon Road, just east of Godwin. McGeachy told George West to stay with the car while he and the other officers slipped into the swamp. They pushed through underbrush until they could see the still in a clearing not far from a cotton field.

A Fayetteville Observer reporter wrote this account of the raid:

"As they got within seeing distance, three men were plainly seen at the place. Suddenly a voice was heard, 'Halt! Who is that?'"

"But the officers were too close on them to stop. McGeachy said it was a case of stopping and being all killed or make a dash on the operators. So they sprang up

See Pate, Page 4A



Staff photo by Pat Reese

Alfred Jackson Pate's grave is next to his wife's in Cross Creek Cemetery.

Pate

From Page 1A

through the bushes within a few yards of the still and the three men fled. Two big Army rifles were left behind as they departed."

McGeachy and his deputies destroyed several barrels of fermenting mash and beer. They seized a copper pot cooker, the cap and coil and about 35 gallons of liquor to take back to town.

The sheriff sent for George West to drive up as close as he could to make it easier to load the contraband into the car. They put the copper pot on the back seat, but were unable to close the door on the right side. Pate stepped up on the running board and sat on top of the pot.

George West cranked up the car and drove slowly out of the woods, steering between the small pines and bushes that had partly hidden the still. McGeachy and Deputies Bill West and Driver led the way on foot, watching for rocks, logs and potholes in the fading light.

Suddenly, the swamp exploded around them as shot after shot was fired at the officers and the car. McGeachy dropped to the ground, Bill West and Driver quickly followed suit.

An Observer reporter wrote: "The first bullet almost grazed the tip of the sheriff's nose. The second came so close to Bill West's face that it burned him. The third bullet struck Pate in his right side just above his waist-line and passing through his body, coming out near his heart on the left side. The bullet severed the main artery on his right side." The fifth bullet cut a hole through Pate's hat as he toppled over.

A couple of bullets hit the steering wheel of the car. "How George West escaped remains a mystery," the reporter wrote.

When McGeachy, Driver and Bill West dropped to the ground, George West bailed out of the car. The sheriff later was quoted saying the officers wanted the sniper to believe they had been hit.

When the firing stopped, McGeachy "came around the car to where Pate was leaning over, to inquire if he had been hurt. He said he took hold of Pate's arm and shook him, calling to him at the same time, but no answer came back. Then he called to the driver to get out as rapidly as possible and get the wounded officer to a doctor."

They rushed to Dr. J.A. McLean's house and carried Pate inside. McLean felt for a pulse, examined the wound and told McGeachy that Pate was dead.

McGeachy drove back to Godwin with the guns his officers found by the still. He went to Williams' home and showed the weapons to his young wife, asking her if she could say whether they belonged to her husband.

"I told his wife to tell him to come and give himself up, that we were looking for him," the sheriff said later at a coroner's inquest.

McGeachy picked up Williams' brother-in-law, Columbus McClellan, and a man named Ezell for questioning. Ezell was a partner with Williams in a blacksmith shop in Godwin and most people knew the shop was used to build the copper pot cookers for Williams' stills.

A newspaper story said McClellan and Ezell were accused of "spinning" Williams away after the shooting. Although they were never arrested, the story said they "were questioned closely."

Williams surrenders

The questioning apparently got results. Williams surrendered at noon on the next day. His father, J. Claude Williams, and McClellan had persuaded him to meet the sheriff and deputies in Godwin.

(Williams probably was pulling the leg of a reporter years later when he was quoted in an interview: "We made arrangements to meet at this spot but I didn't go by myself. I had sights trained on every man there from my men around the place. All it would have taken at any time was for me to take my hat off and drop it on the ground.")

Williams' father was a political ally of the sheriff. He was influential in the Democratic Party and was a former member of the county Board of Commissioners. In

LARGER THAN LIFE

The 'Carbine' Williams story



Pate

Williams

Second in a four-part series

■ Sunday: A crackdown on moonshiners in 1921 brings together Al Pate, a tough Cumberland County lawman, and Marsh Williams, who is making liquor in the woods near Godwin.

■ Today: The raid on Marsh Williams' still turns violent and Al Pate is killed. Lawmen charge Williams with murder. Angry Fayetteville residents bury Pate.

■ Day 2: Marsh Williams stands trial and uses an insanity defense. One juror believes him and the case ends in a mistrial. A month later, he surprises county residents by pleading guilty to second-degree murder. He is sentenced to 30 years in prison.

■ Day 4: The warden at Carolina prison farm is impressed by Marsh Williams' ingenuity. He makes him a trusty and lets him invent a gun in the prison shop. The carbine he invents is so impressive that the governor pardons him.

1921, he was serving on the county Board of Agriculture. He had been an elder in the Old Bluff Presbyterian Church for about 31 years and was teaching a young men's Bible class.

The arrest was peaceful and Williams was driven to the jail in Raeford. McGeachy was concerned that the Pate family might try to get even.

A big funeral

Pate's body was taken Saturday to his antebellum farmhouse on Raeford Road, across from Dobbin Avenue in Haymount.

The funeral was on Sunday at 5 p.m. Pate was buried in the Gee family cemetery, a small burying ground on Fort Bragg Road. His body was moved to Cross Creek Cemetery next to his wife's grave after her death. His tombstone is almost hidden under branches of a large bush planted beside the Pate family plot.

"One of the saddest features of his death is the fact that his daughter, Ellen, who was married a week ago, is off on her honeymoon." The Observer reported the day after Pate's death. She married an Army sergeant who was stationed at Camp Bragg.

The newspaper reported: "One of the largest crowds that ever attended a funeral paid tribute to Al J. Pate, the deputy who went to his death at the hands of an assassin while in the performance of his duty."

The Rev. Joel Snyder of First Baptist Church conducted the service.

The reporter covering the funeral wrote on July 25: "Not only was the outpouring a tribute to a faithful officer of the law who had been slain but it was a demonstration of disapproval of the reign of lawlessness that is now rampant in the land."

"And when the minister demanded that justice be meted out to the man who slew the officer while in the line of duty, silent promises must have gone up from the hearts of his hearers that law and order shall henceforth prevail and violators punished."

The coffin was carried from the house to a waiting hearse, "between two lines of his comrades, including all of Cumberland County's deputies, all courthouse officers and lawyers of the city."

Snyder walked out onto the porch of the Pate home — "Sweet-Tarborough" — as the mourners got ready for the short trip to the cemetery and spoke again to the large crowd. "If I were a lawyer I would not lend my influence or go into court and defend the assassin who took the life of a faithful officer while he was fulfilling his duty," he said.

A few months later, though a team of six lawyers stood behind Williams as he faced trial in Pate's death.