

STATE TROOPER AND CADET SLAIN IN BANK HOLDUP

Former Shot To Death In Battle With Three Bandits
He Surprised

YOUTH SLAIN AS
POSSE CLOSES IN

One Alleged Bandit Held In Jail At Henrico; Two Others Sought

FORK UNION, Va., Sept. 23.—(AP)—With one alleged bandit in the Henrico jail, police today continued a hunt for two others suspected of participating in an attempted bank robbery that resulted in the deaths of a State trooper and an 18-year-old preparatory school cadet.

State Trooper W. R. Thompson, 33, of Columbia, was shot to death in a gun battle with one of three bandits he surprised in an attempt to rob the Fluvanna county bank here between 1 and 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Frank Wicks, 18, of Wellesley Hills, Mass., an orphan and a cadet at Fork Union Military Academy, met his death later in the day as a posse closed in on a man who told police he was John Dougherty, 27, of Charlottesville.

No Word From Posse

State police headquarters in Richmond early today said no word had been received from posses searching the woods and highways of central Virginia for the other two gunmen, one of the two—who Dougherty said he knew only as "Mills" or "Milton" and "Bob Wilson"—was believed hiding in the countryside north of here. The second the driver of the bandits' automobile, raced away toward Bremond and Scottsville and his trail was sought.

Dougherty, State troopers said, confessed he was the one who shot Thompson while the officer returned his fire. Mrs. Bernice Thomas, cashier of the bank, said she picked up eleven shells within two hours after the gun battle and believed as many as fifteen were fired.

Wicks, who was regimental supply officer at F. U. M. A. was the only student who had access to the arsenal, had armed himself with a high-powered rifle and joined other students, townsmen and officers in hunting Thompson's slayer and the other bandit abandoned by the driver.

Was Leading Posse

The cadet was in the vanguard of the posse as Dougherty climbed a fence and moved in to surrender with his hands upraised. Others sighted Dougherty as Wicks leveled his rifle and ordered the bandit to halt. Dougherty kept walking toward him. Other members of the posse apparently feared Wick's was in danger and loosed a volley of shots, State officers said.

A bullet from this volley, officers declared, struck down the youth just as Capt. H. B. Nicholas of the State police, alarmed by Wick's dangerous position, cried, "Cease firing."

Motor Vehicle Commissioner John Q. Rhodes and several troopers rushed the troopers to the Henrico jail, while others searched through the night for the second suspect who fled afoot with Dougherty through For Union after Thompson had been slain. One of the two men was believed to have been wounded by the dying officer, a townsman hearing him cry as he stumbled over a store porch:

"Oh, my God! Oh, my God!"

Popular Trooper

Thompson, an unmarried and popular trooper of three years' service with the force, had come to the bank with a school bus driver named Black after a bank employee had sounded a special alarm rigged in a nearby service station.

Inside the tiny building were two gunmen who had informed Mrs. Thomas and her assistant, Miss Iva White, they would get fifteen minutes for a timeclock on the vault to open. The driver was in the coupe some fifty feet from the bank and had made himself so inconspicuous that his presence apparently was not known until he roared away. In fact, such was the confusion that Mrs. Thomas and Miss White at first believed the two gunmen who came into the bank had fled in a car and so informed State police, who broadcast the alarm.

Thompson seized the lookout near the door and turned him over to Black to hold, as he and the bus driver scuffled with this man, the other bandit stooped down in the cashier's cage, crawled out a side entrance and came at his companion's captors "with gun blazing." Various accounts said between four and seven bullets struck the officer.

Killer Races Away

The killer and the freed lookout raced away as Forest Johnson and Selden White broke forth from a filling station and sent bullets from

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STATE TROOPER AND CADET SLAIN

Continued from Page One

22 rifles after them. The bandits scattered several citizens who got in their way, slowing their dash enough to warn J. R. Norvell not to pursue them.

Funeral services for Thompson were to be held today from his home near the Washington highway, six miles from Ashland, fellow officers will be his pallbearers.

His mother lives at Taylorsville, his birthplace. In addition to her, the officer is survived by three brothers, Harold Thompson of Richmond, Barton Thompson of Hanover county and Richard Thompson of Hanover county.

Wick's guardian, Henry D. White of Wellesley Hills, Mass., last night was said en route to Virginia after being informed of the tragedy.

SEPT 24, 1935

4th Fork Union Suspect Held By State Police

Ronald Creasy Arrested at Nohar; Search for Fifth Man Is Pressed

A fourth suspect in the Fork Union Bank hold-up Monday, in which State Officer W. R. Thompson was killed, was apprehended early yesterday at Nohar and the hunt for a fifth, who is believed to have been one of the men in the bank at the time of the robbery, was being pressed last night in a wooded section near Scottsville.

The suspect, arrested yesterday by State Officers F. L. McWilliams and R. M. Simms, gave his name as Ronald Creasy, 30. The officers had been on the lookout for Creasy since Wednesday, when they first suspected him of being a member of the gang which robbed the bank. He was brought to the Henrico County Jail here after his arrest.

Wicks Funeral Held

Meanwhile, a military funeral was conducted yesterday afternoon for Fork Union Military Academy Cadet Frank Wicks, who was believed to have been killed by a posseman's bullet during the hunt for the bandits. His body was sent to the home of his guardian in Wellesley Hills, Mass., for burial this afternoon.

What connection, if any, Creasy had with the attempted robbery was not revealed last night by the State officers. They said he was only being held for questioning.

Creasy, who was taken into custody at his home, is "quite a character" in the neighborhood, officers said. He always dresses in a Western costume, with large boots and a "ten gallon" sombrero, and he wears a long beard, although he is only 30 years old.

10 Troopers Search Woods

Ten State troopers were searching in a wooded section near Scottsville last night for a fifth suspect, known only as Milton or Milt. He is the man State Officer Thompson had arrested in the bank a few seconds before the trooper was killed.

This man and John Daughtery, 27, of Charlottesville, who was caught by a posse a few hours after the attempted Fork Union robbery, were last seen going into the woods shortly after the hold-up. Daughtery told officers they separated a few minutes later and that was the last he saw of him.

John Spoon, 23, of Bean Station, Tenn., and Grant Mills, 20, of Thorn Hill, Tenn., who are lodged in Henrico County jail on suspicion, have steadily denied they had anything to do with the crime.

Motor Vehicle Commissioner John Q. Rhodes said last night that no charges have been placed against Spoon and Mills while a check is being made on their fingerprints at the Federal Bureau of Identification at Washington.

(By The Associated Press)

RICHMOND, VA., Sept. 30.—

When State trooper W. R. Thompson sat down as a supper guest in the home of a fellow officer at Charlottesville last Sunday night, he did not know that his death by a bandit's bullet in the next 24 hours would be before the week was out serve as an exclamation point for the motor vehicle division's demands for a larger force, a state-wide police radio system, and salary increases for present officers.

He did, in all likelihood, discuss with his host the question of salary raises, for the topic is constantly in the mind of Virginia troopers.

He was shot down the next afternoon as he balked an effort of three gunmen again to loot the often-robbed Fluvanna County Bank at Fork Union. His slaying, the accidental death of Fork Union Military Academy Cadet Frank Wicks it is believed, a posseman's stray bullet, and the hunt which netted four "suspects" before Thursday night, occupied large

headlines in Virginia the first half of the week.

Having read accounts of his death, members of the Virginia Police Executives Association, in conclave at Fredericksburg, adopted a resolution calling upon Governor Peery "to make available sufficient state funds to place a co-ordinated state-wide communications system in operation." The theme had been begun the previous Saturday by Virginia sheriffs, in session at Lexington. These officers asked for a state radio system as a help to them and at the same time called for more rigid enforcement of the traffic laws.

State Police Force

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Shot Down in Bank

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Consequently, Motor Vehicle Director John Q. Rhodes was apparently well fortified by public sympathy and official action when he appeared before the governor's budget advisory committee to ask for \$103,620 more in the next biennium in order that he might add 25 men to his patrol, increase some salaries and otherwise strengthen his force. In the words of the Danville Register, Director Rhodes "found his bid doubled." Three committee members, State Senators Aubrey Weaver and Saxon Holt and Delegate Ashton Dovel, were said on reliable report to have immediately advocated a force of 200 men, a state radio system and a state identification bureau.

It was suggested that the program be financed by adding 50 cents a year to the motor vehicle license tax, to yield about \$200,000 annually.

Reaction Varied.

The reaction of the Virginia press to the latter proposal was varied, with The Lynchburg News warning that motorists alone should not be called upon further to finance a highway patrol if it was to become a state police force with many other functions.

"They (the motorists) should be called upon to pay the whole cost only if the whole duty of the force is to patrol the highways. If other duties are to be performed the extra cost should be met out of the state treasury."

In the meanwhile, Amelia county was putting its public foot emphatically down on bank banditry, which the Petersburg Progress-Index said now "flourishes to too great an extent in Virginia for anyone's comfort and satisfaction and may become an even greater menace if allowed to progress beyond its present stage."

An Amelia jury convicted and recommended life terms for Luther Boggs, 32, and Frank Hagan, 24, charged with holding up and robbing a bank there of \$1,580 in July.

OFFICER AND STUDENT ARE SLAIN FORK UNION CADET SHOT AIDING HUNT FOR BANK BANDITS

PRISONER ADMITS KILLING TROOPER

Officer Riddled When He
Surprises Trio Waiting
on Time Lock

ONE FLEES IN CAR

License Plates May Have
Been Taken From Stolen
Lexington Automobile

Fork Union, Sept. 23 (A).—Frank Wicks, 18, preparatory school student from Wellesley Hills, Mass., was killed late today by a stray bullet as a posse surrounded and captured a suspected participant in an attempted bank robbery and slaying.

Wicks, a junior at Fork Union Military Academy and a captain in the cadet corps, was struck in the back of the head by a shot fired by an unidentified posseman just before John Dougherty, of Charlottesville, was seized in a wooded thicket two miles from here.

Confesses Killing.

Dougherty, state police said, confessed to killing State Trooper W. R. Thompson shortly after noon today as the officer interrupted three armed robbers who held up the Fork Union Bank but obtained no money.

Dougherty was taken to the Henrico county jail at Richmond while the pursuing group of state policemen, local officers and armed citizens pressed their hunt for the other two suspects.

Officers said young Wicks got in the line of fire just as Dougherty was sighted in the thicket and the man-hunters fired a fusillade of shots in his direction. The cadet was struck as Captain H. B. Nicholas of the state police, realizing the youth's danger, shouted "cease firing."

Thompson, 33, of Columbia, was killed in a gun battle with bandits he surprised in an attempt to rob the bank.

Two of the men, who were in the bank when Thompson charged in with an armed school bus driver, fled afoot through this village into woods to the northward, waving a gun at excited citizens who got in their way. Observers said one of the bandits appeared wounded.

Third Escapes In Car.

A third man, who had remained in the driver's seat of the (Ford V-8) couple in which the three men came up to the bank was said by bank employees to have fled in the direction of Bremono and Scottsville. State highway police, throwing a statewide net, sought to intercept him on the roads to Charlottesville and Richmond.

The trio got no money from the bank which had been previously robbed three times since 1929.

Mrs. Bernice Thomas, cashier, and Mrs. Ida White, assistant cashier, were alone in the bank with a scrub-woman when two of the men entered and pointed pistols at them. The two women, informed the pair the time-clock was on the vault.

"We'll wait fifteen minutes," said one.

Thompson, however, from his station at a nearby road junction saw the men enter the bank and became suspicious, and with the school bus driver, tentatively identified as G. Black, he rushed into the bank.

Officer Shot Several Times.

Mrs. Thomas said at least 15 shots were fired by Thompson and the two bandits. Thompson was shot either four or five times and fell mortally wounded in the bank doorway. He fired twice, said Mrs. Thomas, who picked up 11 shells within two hours after the battle was over.

The two gunmen fled, one dropping his revolver in the bank. Down through the village they ran headlong, scattering several frightened citizens. One fell over a store porch, and cried:

"Oh, my God, oh, my God."

They disappeared into the wooded country north of here and a hastily organized posse set after them with bloodhounds.

First reports to state police from the bank here were that only two men participated in the attempted

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FORK UNION CADET SHOT AIDING HUNT FOR BANK BANDITS

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holdup. The third had remained outside in the car, which carried Virginia license plates, the first three numbers of which were said by state police to be "245." Alarmed by the gunfire at the bank, he sped away, deserting his two companions.

The confusion was such at first that it was believed that the two men who came into the bank had escaped in the car.

One Believed Former Robber.

The women employees of the bank said they were certain that one of the pair was the same man who handled the machine gun in a holdup in which bandits took \$3,000 from the bank on May 29 of this year.

One was described as having a small mustache, about 28 years old, tall and slender with long hair, the second was of medium build, weighed about 150 pounds, and wore a dark suit and hat.

Thompson, stationed on duty in this area, had been in the service of the state highway patrol for three years. He was unmarried.

It was the fourth and first unsuccessful attempt to rob the bank since 1929, it was robbed in that year, and in October 1934, thieves blew the vault and rifled it during the night time.

State police at Charlottesville, approximately forty miles to the northward, were ordered to block route 15 toward Washington and dispatched to the scene within a few minutes after Thompson had been killed.

Wellesley Hills, Mass., Sept. 23 (AP).—Frank Wicks, military academy student accidentally shot in Fork Union, Va., was the son of the late Frank M. Wicks, district manager of the Westinghouse Electric company here. Neighbors at his home here said tonight his step-mother was now living in Bloomfield, N. J. The boy had no brothers or sisters. Informed of the tragedy, Henry D. White, of Wellesley Hills, a Boston lawyer, and the boy's guardian, left immediately for Virginia. White's family said the boy's mother died several years ago, and that he attended public schools here before attending the Fork Union Military academy.

Urge Reward for Capture.

Fredericksburg, Sept. 23 (AP).—The Virginia police Executives association in convention here passed a resolution asking Governor Peery to offer a state reward for apprehension of two bank bandits who shot to death State Policeman W. R. Thompson at Fork Union today.

News of the killing was announced to the convention shortly after the luncheon recess and a resolution proposing the reward, offered by Capt. John S. Arnold, Alexandria chief of police, was adopted unanimously.

Capt. Albert B. Moore, New York state police inspector, urged the police executives to go on record as requesting the governor "to give us some way of catching bank robbers and murderers before they can kill any more of our state patrolmen."

"It is a severe indictment of the state of Virginia that a policeman could be shot in the back five times and his assailants escape before any law enforcement agency hears about it," he said.

"The killing of a policeman is about the worst crime anyone can commit and when it is done in my state there is seldom any need for a trial," Captain Moore declared.

Frank Millard Wicks Jr



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1 PLACE OF DEATH COUNTY OF <u>Fredricksburg</u> MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF <u>Fork Union Va</u> OR INC. TOWN OF _____ OR CITY OF _____ (If death occurred in a hospital or other institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		21635
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. <u>322A</u> REGISTERED NO. <u>23</u> (TO BE INSERTED BY REGISTRAR) (FOR USE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR)		
2 FULL NAME <u>Frank Millard Wicks</u> (A) RESIDENCE. No. <u>Fork Union Va</u> ST. _____ WARD _____ (Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)				
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Single</u>		
5A. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OF (OR) WIFE OF _____				
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>3/16/1917</u>				
7. AGE Years <u>18</u> Months <u>7</u> Days <u>7</u> IF LESS THAN 1 DAY, _____ HRS. OR _____ MIN.				
OCCUPATION	8. TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK DONE, AS SPINNER, SAWYER, BOOKKEEPER, ETC. <u>Student</u>			
	9. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH WORK WAS DONE, AS SILK MILL, SAW MILL, BANK, ETC. _____			
	10. DATE DECEASED LAST WORKED AT THIS OCCUPATION (month and year) _____ 11. TOTAL TIME (YEARS) SPENT IN THIS OCCUPATION _____			
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Millersburg Wis</u>				
FATHER	13. NAME <u>Frank M. Wicks</u>			
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Millersburg Wis</u>				
MOTHER	15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Flannice E. Snickman</u>			
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Millersburg Wis</u>				
17. INFORMANT (Address) <u>Wick St. Bastard</u>				
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE <u>New Haven Cem</u> DATE <u>9/28/35</u>				
19. UNDERTAKER (Address) <u>Ranson Bros</u>				
20. FILED <u>9/24/35</u> <u>E. E. Nead</u> Registrar.				
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				
21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Sept 23</u> 1935				
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM <u>Sept. 23</u> 1935 TO <u>Sept 23</u> 1935 I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON <u>Sept 23</u> 1935 DEATH IS SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE, AT <u>8:45 P.</u> M. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH AND RELATED CAUSES OF IMPORTANCE IN ORDER OF ONSET WERE AS FOLLOWS: <u>Bullet wound of head</u> Date of onset <u>9/23/35</u>				
CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES OF IMPORTANCE NOT RELATED TO PRINCIPAL CAUSE: <u>173</u>				
NAME OF OPERATION _____ DATE OF _____				
WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS? _____ WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? _____				
23. IF DEATH WAS DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES (VIOLENCE) FILL IN ALSO THE FOLLOWING: <u>Homicide</u> DATE OF <u>Sept 23, 1935</u> ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE? <u>INJURY</u> WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR? <u>near Fork Union Va</u> (Specify city or town, county, and State) SPECIFY WHETHER INJURY OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, IN HOME, OR IN PUBLIC PLACE. <u>Public place</u> MANNER OF INJURY <u>Bullet wound of head</u> NATURE OF INJURY <u>Bullet wound of head</u>				
24. WAS DISEASE OR INJURY IN ANY WAY RELATED TO OCCUPATION OF DECEASED? _____ IF SO, SPECIFY _____ (SIGNED) <u>John E. Nead</u> M. D. (ADDRESS) <u>Fork Union Va</u>				