



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 20, 1974

Youth Charged in Slaying Of Mars Hill College Coed

MARS HILL, N. C. (BP)--A Mars Hill College student has been arrested here and charged with murder in connection with the Oct. 12, 1973, death of fellow student Miss Sally Bell Moffitt.

Madison County Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said Wayne Schilling, 21, of Mt. Holly, N. J., was arrested on the campus after "both physical and chemical evidence warranting such action" had been obtained by the state.

A spokesman for the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) said that the girl's purse, for which Ponder had offered a \$1,000 reward, had been recovered.

The red canvas shoulder bag was presumed by police to have been in Miss Moffitt's possession when she was last seen alive leaving her dormitory and walking toward the main campus at approximately 10 p.m. on Oct. 11.

The SBI spokesman said that dirt samples had been matched from the construction area on U.S. Highways 213 and 19-23 north where Miss Moffitt's body was found by workmen on the morning of Oct. 13, 1973.

Reports of a man running from the area around midnight, when a townsman slowed to pick up a mistakenly identified friend, were also confirmed by the SBI spokesman.

According to Dr. Otis Duck, Madison County medical examiner, the body of the 18-year-old sophomore at the Baptist school was dragged across the road and down an embankment after "either falling from a great height or being thrown from a moving vehicle."

Duck established the cause of death as internal bleeding after one of three broken ribs severed the pulmonary artery. Other injuries sustained were a fractured skull and bruises and scrapes.

The medical examiner said chances the girl had been hit by an automobile were negligible. He said the girl had not been beaten or sexually assaulted.

The young woman was fully clothed when found.

The seven-month investigation has included numerous interviews with students and townspeople and the offer of a reward for the missing purse and identification cards, Ponder said.

According to both Ponder and the SBI spokesman, no other warrants were anticipated.

A spokesman for Mars Hill College said that Schilling had completed his work for the spring semester.

-30-

SBC President Warns Against
Over-Emphasis On Buildings

5/20/74

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--"Southern Baptists need to put less emphasis on buildings and more on missions," Owen Cooper, Southern Baptist Convention president, said in an address at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

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Speaking on "Current Issues in the Southern Baptist Convention," Cooper told the seminary students and faculty that only three cents of every undesignated dollar coming into the churches goes to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

"It is to our shame that the vast majority of our money goes into buildings," he said. "Our measure of success is the size of our church buildings. Think of what Southern Baptists could do if we were to stop emphasizing buildings and spend that money on missions."

Cooper said the Cooperative Program (unified budget) formula for "slicing the pie" was the most equitable formula he could conceive. The Cooperative Program has proved to be the most effective way of supporting our convention agencies, he said.

"I think the money available is divided soundly," he said. "I don't think the various boards, agencies and commissions need bigger slices of the pie; I think we need a bigger pie to slice."

Cooper said all Southern Baptists need to be trained to tithe. "This would bring more money into the churches," he said. "Then the churches need to realize the need to give more of their money to the Cooperative Program."

When asked if he foresaw any conservative-liberal friction during the annual meeting of the convention in Dallas, June 11-13, President Cooper said conservative-liberal lines were not severe in the SBC. "A liberal Southern Baptist is rather conservative when compared to other denominations," he said.

He compared the Southern Baptist Convention to an ocean liner with conservative and liberal elements represented by tug boats. "The tugs influence the great ship," he said, "but as they move the ship in one direction or the other the main purpose and mission remains the same." Cooper said both extremes are beneficial to the SBC as one group holds the convention to the "fundamentals" of the Bible, while the other group challenges the convention to greater involvement in social ministries and programs.

Cooper said those attending the convention in Dallas should expect enough "issues" to keep the meeting exciting, but should not expect major controversies.

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Homer L. Grice, 91,
Dies in Nashville

5/20/74

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Homer L. Grice, 91, the man who started the widespread Vacation Bible School (VBS) movement among Southern Baptists back in the 1920's, died here following a brief illness.

Grice, a native of Citra, Fla., became the first secretary of what was then the Vacation Bible School Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in 1924, spearheading a conventionwide program, which is still going strong.

James L. Sullivan, president of the Sunday School Board, paid tribute to Grice:

"No one will be able to measure the tremendous contribution Dr. Grice made to lives of young people through VBS. The number of children who accepted Jesus Christ as saviour in VBS and the multitudes who have received intensive Bible study comprise a grateful throng."

Before entering denominational work, Grice was a public school teacher in Alabama and was employed by the U.S. Railway Mail Service. He served as a pastor in Georgia and taught English at Ouachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Grice served from 1930-33 as editor of the board's graded intermediate Sunday School lessons and wrote the lessons for the 13-14 year old pupils' books.

Besides editing all literature on Southern Baptist VBS and promoting VBS work, he authored about 45 books for children, ages 4-16.

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An active member of First Baptist Church in Nashville, Grice had a special interest and took part in leadership of the church's mission efforts. Since his retirement, he had aided in compiling materials for a history of Southern Baptists and served as a doctrinal reader for various departments of the board. He led in numerous conferences on the aging at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

His widow, the former Ethel Harrison of Birmingham, Ala., resides in Nashville.

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Revival Restores Stolen
Lawn Furniture in Dayton

5/20/74

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--A housewife here believes in revival now that she has her lawn furniture back.

About halfway through a citywide crusade, conducted by Texas evangelist James Robison at the University of Dayton arena, a man came to the house of a north Dayton housewife and said, "Lady, you don't know me, but last summer I stole your lawn furniture. I was saved the other night at the Robison crusade and I have brought back your furniture. I want you to know I'm sorry for what I did."

"I believe in revivals that do things to people like that," the housewife told L. H. Moore, editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger.

The nine-night crusade, led by the young Southern Baptist evangelist, attracted 45,000 persons and resulted in 1,727 decisions for Christ, including 1,042 professions of faith.

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Hyattsville Ordains
Woman to Ministry

5/20/74

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (BP)--First Baptist Church here has ordained Victoria Jene Brannan to the ministry in a special service. Participants included the pastor and associate minister and the former pastor of the Hyattsville church and the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Raleigh, N. C., Miss Brannan's home church.

Miss Brannan is presently serving as director of Christian education for the Hyattsville church.

The church voted last October to approve her ordination, subject to examination and approval by the D. C. Baptist Convention's advisory committee on ordination. In March she appeared before this body, which is dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches. After a comprehensive examination she was unanimously approved. The church then proceeded with plans for her ordination.

Douglas Sturgill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Franklin, N. C., delivered the ordination sermon and Johnny J. Smith, pastor of her home church in Raleigh, brought greetings from that church.

Miss Brannan, a native of Raleigh, received a bachelor of science degree from Mars Hill (N. C.) College in 1969. She earned the master of religious education degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Miss Brannan is believed to be the third woman ordained by a D. C. convention congregation and one of more than one dozen ordained by SBC churches throughout the nation.

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