

THE LINCOLN STAR

state and local news

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Man worked hard, when there

By Jim Camden
Star Staff Writer

Co-workers described a man sought by police in the slayings of two young Lincoln women as a good worker, but almost no one knew his name or he used. "He was a damn good worker, when he showed up," Williams' supervisor, H.B. Fatzinger, said Williams hadn't been to work since Aug. 1, but that he called several days ago and asked to come in to talk about some problems Williams never came in, Fatzinger said.

That was about the time that Williams divorce became final. The divorce decree is dated Aug. 3, court records show. Williams has been charged several times since 1973 with driving with 10% alcohol or more in his bloodstream. He also was charged with possession of marijuanas. On Aug. 9 of this year he was charged with kidnapping his wife and using a knife to commit a felony. That incident occurred after their divorce decree was granted. Williams ex-wife has reportedly gone into hiding.

A welfare agency spokesman said Marilee Williams contacted the Abuse



Catherine Rada Brooks
... seen with suspect.

projects shop, where he was in machinist's training. Hy-Gain records show he resigned.

Williams reportedly frequented a downtown Lincoln restaurant, and was seen there several times with one of the slain women, according to a cashier who said she didn't want her name used.

The cashier identified both Williams and Catherine Rada Brooks from newspaper photos.

"He always ordered the same thing, and was always in a hurry," the cashier said. The mother of one of the slain women said her daughter was a "good mother" and a "wonderful daughter."

Mrs. Wava Rada, mother of Catherine Brooks, said she was majoring at the University of Nebraska in the education of exceptional children.

The last time the Radas saw her was Wednesday night when Mrs. Brooks and a friend visited the Rada home.

"We just had a good time," Mrs. Rada said adding that her daughter "had no worries."

Mrs. Brooks' daughter, Laurie, age 5, is staying with grandparents now, has been told about her mother's death and seems to be "doing fine," Mrs. Rada said.

Little information was available on the other victim, Patricia McHenry, except that she was originally from New York, was a part-time student at Southeastern Community College, and that her son Matthew is now with the father's mother in Omaha.

Neither the father nor his mother were identified.

Cars parked outside duplex belonged to slain women.

Lewis rallies educators to fight for school aid

By Lynn Zarschling
Star Staff Writer

One of the main backers of the increased school aid bill rolled up his sleeves and started punching back at the measure's critics Friday. State Sen. Frank Lewis of Bellevue told educators attending the Nebraska Council on School Administrators meeting he expects enough signatures will be obtained to place the school aid question on the ballot.

Taking like a high school football coach rallying the team for the big game, Lewis said educators will have to "roll up their sleeves and slug it out" to win in the November, 1978, election.

If the school aid bill is placed on the ballot, Lewis said it will give supporters a chance to discuss the issue "legitimately with the voters."

It's about time, Lewis said, launching a counterattack against Sen. Donald Dvorak and others who are heading the petition drive.

Of Sen. Dvorak, Lewis said, "Never have I heard so much meaning so little from one in a billion."

He called Dvorak, who had referred to Lewis as a "cigar smoking politician," an "inconceivable lightweight from Columbus."

And he called Dvorak, Gov. J. James Exum, and S.H. Brauer of the Nebraska School Improvement Association, "The Three

Maskeeters" for their united opposition to the aid to education bill.

"Today, education is being challenged in this state where it never has been done before," said Lewis, a teacher himself.

The argument some critics of the educational bill make that today's students "don't know as much as we did 25 years ago is nonsense," Lewis asserted.

"The cost of education hasn't changed because it's associated with non-income producing property," Lewis told the educators.

Increased school aid will become even more unpopular next year when the new property valuation bills are sent out, he predicted. If enough petitions are obtained to place the bill on the ballot, disbursement of the \$20 million in state funds to school districts this year will be blocked. That means, school administrators have said, that local mill levies will have to be increased to make up the difference, or budgets will be cut back.

Lewis urged teachers, school board members, administrators and parents to throw aside their disagreements of the past and together persuade the voters of the need for school aid bill.

"I don't particularly care what the contractual disagreements are if we don't have the money to pay the staff," Lewis said.

36-year-old suspect held following bank robbery

A 36-year-old man was arrested minutes after a robbery Friday afternoon at the Cornsboro Bank drive-in, 1300 S. 27th St.

The man, who police said apparently is a transient, was to be charged Monday morning in Lancaster County Court in connection with the robbery, which occurred at about 3:45 p.m.

Police said the man, wearing a dark cowboy hat and a floral shirt, told bank tellers he had a gun, and fled with an undisclosed amount of money.

Shortly afterwards, an officer spotted the suspect at a residence in the 1200 block of N. 28th St., and the man was arrested after going out the back door.

Police said a gun was never seen or recovered. The suspect may also face federal charges in relation to the robbery, police said.

Benefit slated for fibrosis

A march on the State Capitol is scheduled for Aug. 20 as a benefit for cystic fibrosis research in Nebraska.

Funds raised from the walk will go directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Center at University Hospital in Omaha, according to Karen Gauder, coordinator for the walk.

The 15-block march will begin at Memorial Stadium at 10 a.m. Children involved are securing pledges now from sponsors.

Grants to aid varied services for the elderly

About \$1 million in grants for nutrition programs and other services for elderly persons was approved Friday by the Nebraska Commission on Aging.

The funding is about \$1 million more than last year's findings and will support programs in six areas agencies in Nebraska.

The commission set aside \$102,000 for community service employment opportunities for 35 elderly workers in Omaha and Lincoln and \$60,000 for Green Thumb Inc., for rural Nebraska employment programs.

Two additional area agencies on aging will be developed by about \$320,000 in grants. The agencies will serve 22 northeast Nebraska counties and 15 in southwest Nebraska.

State Digest

Project ready by '78

HOODRIDGE (UPI) — The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Friday announced approval of a timetable for completing construction of a \$13 million irrigation project near Elwood.

District assistant general manager Frank Drapson of Hoodridge said the timetable called for landowners involved to use the project during the 1978 irrigation season.

Med Center gets grant

OMAHA (AP) — A University of Nebraska Medical Center researcher has received a four-year \$270,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how ovarian hormones regulate the female uterus.

Parish joining staff

FREMONT (AP) — Kevin Parrish will become managing editor of the Fremont Tribune effective Sept. 1, publisher Russell Weiler has announced. Parrish, 29, currently news editor of the Reno Evening Gazette, registered James Turnbull who resigned. Parrish is a native of Napa, Calif., and was raised in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Rishel leaves hospital

OMAHA (AP) — Nebraska City Police Officer Rishel has been released from Omaha hospital. He had been hospitalized with wounds received in a shootout in which his partner, Officer Gary White, was killed. Rishel is expected to recuperate at his mother's home in Plattsmouth.

New runway planned

NORTH PLATTE (AP) — The North Platte Airport Authority has been notified it will receive a \$2.1 million grant from the Federal Aviation Authority in the near future. The grant will be used for land acquisition and preparation for building a new runway at Lee Bird Field.

Sarpy funds okayed

OMAHA (UPI) — A \$142,071 federal public works grant has been awarded to Sarpy County as part of construction costs for a juvenile court hall of justice in Papillion.

Sen. Edward Zirkinsky, D-Nebr., whose office announced the grant, said the funds from the public works jobs bill approved by Congress earlier this year go to high unemployment areas.

Heated debate precedes gasohol study approval

By Lynn Zarschling
Star Staff Writer

Members of politicians, farmers and committee members debating a feasibility study on gasohol sometimes went higher than the temperature in the conference room Friday.

But, when the smoke cleared Thursday night, members of the Gasohol Committee had enough data to prove that gasohol works in automobiles. It is not a questionable program.

The Gasohol Committee, whose members have been appointed by Exum, have been under fire for several months to conduct the major study, a move which some members have not wanted to take. Reportedly, Exum also was holding up the resignation of two members to the group.

Exum, making a rare appearance at the committee meeting, announced he had secured \$30,000 from the Old West Regional Commission and another \$30,000 from the Federal Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) for the study. Gasohol is a fuel blend of 10% grain alcohol and 90% gasoline.

A major study is needed, the governor asserted in morning classes with some committee members and State Sen. Loren Schmit, because he has not "heard of any study which would determine the economic feasibility of gasohol."

"To the contrary," Exum said, "all studies have shown opposite findings."

"We are not going to attract the money capital from the private sector to make gasohol really go until we have undisputable economic figures to support our claims," he said.

Although Exum claimed the study won't delay the state's gasohol program, Gasohol

shuffles papers to prove whether it will work or not."

And, he cautioned committee members to be careful when they hire to conduct the study.

"I can't see how a study is going to further entice anyone to build a grain alcohol plant," Hodge asserted. He said he thinks Nebraska already has enough data to prove that gasohol works in automobiles.

Schmit's remarks drew a quick response from State Agriculture Director Glenn Kreuscher who said he was "shocked" that persons would reject the money for the study.

Further more, Kreuscher said he would not be in Schmit's direction. "I think a lot of us are scared to death that they won't get credit for the study."

Schmit, in response, criticized Exum for his approach in demanding the study.

The four committee members who called for the study said they think an outside report from an objective consulting firm would go a long way toward promoting the gasohol program.

Jack Quackenbush of Beatrice, Robert Ranner of Sidney, Wayne Winkler of Omaha and Harry Whitely of Chappell called for the study.

Committee Chairman Paul McHenry of Norfolk didn't vote.

One of the committee asked that the guidelines for the study be submitted a report at the September meeting.

Women's delegation challenge denied by national commission

A challenge of the Nebraska delegation to the National Women's Conference was denied Friday by the International Women's Year (IWY) Observance Commission which met in Washington, D.C.

A challenge citing improper election procedures and inadequate representation of all viewpoints had been submitted by Donna Polk, chairwoman of the Nebraska IWY Coordinating Committee and of the Nebraska Women's Meeting at which the delegation was elected.

All of Nebraska's 18 delegates and five alternates were elected on a "profile, pro-family" slate.

"At the appropriate time (the delegation) will be certified," an IWY commission spokeswoman said Friday.

The challenge of the Nebraska delegation wasn't the only one to be denied by the commission, the spokeswoman said.

Two teachers, Vicki Belter and Karen Zagorsky, said it appeared that Rost had changed some students' grades, although they concluded that a guidance counselor could have been responsible. They said the changes, applying to several students, made only a one-point percentage difference in most instances.

Zagorsky also claimed Rost "harassed" her over Title IX requirements for girls' athletics until she finally resigned as girls' coach. Another teacher, Mrs. Darlene Baiders, said Rost used "abusive language" after she complained about his evaluation of her teaching.

Lelling said Rost came to his Fairbury garage during school hours and "accused me of selling out to a clique." There was no further explanation except that Lelling, questioned by Pritzke, acknowledged that some school board members "did visit one time on the Rost charges, but we didn't call a meeting."

Mrs. Baiders' husband, Norman, also said, Rost became "loud and abusive" to him. He added that Mrs. Baiders' evaluation had unfairly included comments about the husband's conduct at a football game.

Central Platte NRD board increases tax levy
Grand Island (UPI) — The Central Platte Natural Resources District Board Thursday night set the tax levy for 1977-78 at 1 mill, up from last year.

Last month the board approved a \$2.8 million budget but waited until Thursday night to set the levy because

the estimated property tax valuation had not been figured out. The board said it was estimated that slightly more than \$1.9 million will be needed for various board projects. A new feature in the budget is a sinking fund of about \$60,000 which is being set aside for the proposed \$14 million Silver sand project in Merrick County.

By Don Terrell
Southwest Nebraska Bureau

Fairbury — The first two showdown events climaxing a summer-long district controversy saw Principal Clarence Rost officially fired after a three-hour hearing Friday.

Prior to a 40-minute executive session culminating in a 40 vote, the board called seven witnesses to support its allegations of Rost's "unsatisfactory performance and conduct."

Mrs. Fritzzen abstained from voting and J. D. Lefing, board chairman, disqualified himself from the deliberations entirely.

In a separate but related issue, those two members plus Leonard Sane and Mrs. Angeline Weers are paired against other candidates in a recall election next Tuesday. Recent appointments Harold Behrends and Harold Ottman, who are set on the special ballot, joined in the firing.

Friday's action, which came 10 days before fall classes begin in the Jefferson County district, sustains a previous dismissal attempt which was overturned on a technicality. Two district court lawsuits, the recall election and a pending appeal in the Nebraska Supreme Court all have stemmed from the May firing attempt.

Conceivably there could be more litigation, as Rost and his attorney refused to attend the Friday hearing on grounds it was illegal. They claim it was invalid because of a patron's vote at the district's annual meeting this week instructing the board to drop

the action against Rost.

Consequently no defense was presented and witnesses were not cross-examined. When Pritzke complained that "I'd liked to have heard the other side," board attorney Lyle Koenig explained that Rost and his legal counsel made the choice not to be present.

Among the more serious accusations were Rost's conviction last September for driving while intoxicated and his alleged request to probation officials in Dawson County, where the offense occurred, not to report the matter to school authorities.

"This incident in and of itself is grounds for termination," argued Koenig, noting that Rost's contract listed the commission of any unlawful act as possible grounds for dismissal.

Considerable testimony also focused on an April 29 school assembly called by Rost to inform students of the DWI charge and to deny, according to Koenig, rumors that he "was running around with two women in the community."

Student Steve Riehl, then a junior, also testified that Rost asked him later to "keep your mouth shut and don't go running to your parents."

Twenty specific allegations against Rost made no mention of the rumors and Rost has strongly denied them. He has, however, admitted the DWI conviction.

Recently resigned Supt. Vernon Hansen