

Mistrial Declared Murder Case Here

Following three days of testimony, a Lancaster County Circuit Court jury was unable to reach a verdict last week in the first-degree murder trial of Gary Logan Lankford. Lankford, 30, is accused in the shooting deaths of a United Airliner pilot and his wife in 1976.

The jury of nine women and three men deliberated for nearly four hours on Wednesday, February 12, before telling Judge Dixon L. Foster that it could not come to an agreement.

A new trial will be scheduled April 25. Commonwealth's Attorney C. Jeff Schmidt Jr. said he is ready to start on or before that date.

As Judge Foster announced the hung jury, Lankford showed no emotion but Doug Rogers, son of the murdered Dale and Charlotte Rogers, buried his face in his hands. His sister, Robin Rogers Frawley, who found her parents' bodies on Feb. 28, 1976, the day after they were shot, left the courtroom during the defense attorney's closing statements. She was 15 at the time of the dual homicide.

According to the prosecution, Lankford shot Dale Rogers, 49, while he was cooking and then shot Rogers' wife in the bathroom. Both victims were shot in the back of the head. Lankford was first questioned about the murders in 1980.

Lankford testified that on the night

of the crime he was playing cards with friends. The alibi did not match previous ones that he had given to authorities.

Defense attorney Murray Janus, in his closing remarks, told the jury that his client had become a scapegoat for law enforcement officers who wanted badly to solve the

Judge Sentences Ex-Band Director

Ernest E. Craig, 40, was sentenced in Lancaster County Circuit Court last Thursday to four years in prison with two years suspended. He will also serve 10 years on probation, three supervised.

Craig, a former award winning band director at Lancaster High School, had pleaded guilty to sodomy involving a juvenile student. He was arrested on August 10.

In reaching his decision, Judge Dixon L. Foster noted the breaking of a "public trust" surrounding the case.

"I feel very sorry about the way I'll be remembered," said Craig.

Judge Foster continued imposition of the sentence until April 25 while Craig is being referred for consideration under the Community Diversion Incentive program.

10-year-old murders. "I don't think Lancaster should be proud of this investigation," said Janus.

Former cell mates testified that Lankford told them he killed the couple in their waterfront home, located in Iberis off Route 613 near Merry Point. Douglas Rivenbark, who was in the Lancaster County Correctional Center with the defendant in August, said Lankford told him he shot Mrs. Rogers in the back of the head because she refused to have sex with him and she lied to him.

Schmidt had Rivenbark demonstrate for the jury the way Lankford described the shootings. The prosecution's star witness lay on the floor of the courtroom in the positions of the victims as shown in crime scene photos presented earlier in the trial.

Rivenbark also testified that Lankford said he obtained the keys to the couple's yellow VW from the nightstand in the bedroom adjacent to where Mrs. Rogers was shot. In that nightstand was a handgun which was discovered by then Lancaster sheriff's investigator Cameron Forrester. The former investigator testified that he had not mentioned the handgun to other investigators because it wasn't part of the murders.

Rivenbark testified that Lankford knew enough about the gun to
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Lancaster High Sets Conference Day On Monday

Lancaster High School has scheduled a conference day February 24 for parents to meet with teachers at the high school. The conferences will be held from 1-5 p.m. and the high school will dismiss students at 12:30 p.m. that day.

Parents who need to meet with teachers will receive a notice from the high school, brought home by the students. Parents are asked to fill out the form and return it the next day to let the school know what time they will come. Those parents who cannot come on February 24 need to return the form listing another date and time when they can meet with the teachers.

The notice and conference will take the place of progress reports this six weeks.

School officials said this will be an excellent time for parents to get together with teachers and help children who are struggling to improve their schoolwork. Help from parents is absolutely necessary if a child is going to succeed in school. In many cases it is just a matter of checking to see that homework is completed and that students study thoroughly for tests and quizzes.

Parents who don't receive a notice are welcome to call and make an appointment if you wish to talk to any of your child's teachers.



Lancaster County Jaycees president Dave Bruner (left to right) congratulates club members Tom Davis and Robert Shoemaker on being the club's top recruiters of new members. The Lancaster Jaycees are currently ranked number one in their district.

Schools Prepare Answers For Board; Another List Of Questions Presented

The answers to 18 questions presented last month by the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors to the county's school board were formally adopted Monday by the school

board. The questions, an outgrowth of "citizen concerns," focused on the operation and accounting of activity funds and athletic accounts at Lancaster County public schools.

The list of written explanations will be sent to the supervisors by Wednesday, school board chairman Dave Whitlow said. The answers were formally adopted by Whitlow, Ed Pittman and Emerson Russell. Other school board members Joe Wiggins, out sick, and Mrs. Preston Bussan, out of town, were absent. Superintendent Alexander McD. Fleet was also out sick Monday.

The complete list of questions and answers can be found on page 4.

On January 20, when the "pop quiz" was dropped on the school board, Whitlow and the other board members declined to answer immediately. When pressed by Supervisor E. R. "Betty" Barrack, the board members explained that they needed time to look into the situation.

According to Barrack, the supervisors will grade the answers very carefully.

Whitlow, apparently speaking for the school board, said the answers were handled by several administrative staff employees, then reviewed by the board.

Barrack, who was present during Monday's meeting, appeared unsettled with Whitlow's remarks. "The questions were for the school board to answer, not anyone else," she said. Barrack also, posed another question Monday. She asked if the school board approved of teachers back dating vouchers.

"I'm not aware of that," said Whitlow. However, the chairman, considered it reasonable in order to get last year's bookkeeping system back on track.

In an unrelated matter, Supervisor Barrack presented the school board with another list. This one deals with a request by the board of supervisors to supply the following information in writing at the time the school budget is submitted for approval:

1. Total pay for employees of the Lancaster County School System. A listing of all employees by classification (classroom teachers, administrative, maintenance, etc.); first and last name of employees in each classification; current salary and benefits/fringes itemized separately; proposed salary increases and benefits/fringes; years

2. Names of teachers who taught summer school in 1985.
3. List by name and grade of curriculum.

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Filing Deadline Near For Town Elections

Low key elections are traditionally the rule among Lancaster County's three incorporated towns; Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone. This seems to be the case again this year with all three town councils scheduled for elections on May 6.

The deadline for candidates to file is March 4, less than 10 days away. However, only 3 candidates have filed in either of the towns as of Tuesday according to the circuit court clerk's office.

In Kilmarnock, three council seats and the mayor's chair will be available for election. The four positions belong to Mayor Edward J. Davis, Councilman Lee Davis, Councilman Fred Swaffin and Councilman James Currie.

Mayor Davis, Councilman Davis and Councilman Currie have filed.

Kilmarnock councilman serve four-year terms. Council consist of a mayor and six council seats.

In Irvington, all six council seats and the mayor's job will be decided. The council members serve two-year terms.

In White Stone, four of the seven council positions are up for grabs; Mayor H. Chilton Treake, Councilwoman Catherine Bellows, Councilman Randy Reeves and Councilman Jeff Gillespie. Council members serve four-year terms.

Area Firemen Meet Thursday

The quarterly meeting of the Rappahannock Volunteer Firemen's Association will be held Thursday, February 27, at 8 p.m. at the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department in Lively.

The Rappahannock Volunteer Firemen's Association is made up of 18 volunteer fire departments from the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. It is dedicated to the service of the volunteer firemen and the volunteer fire companies of the Rappahannock Valley of Virginia.



Northumberland Superintendent J. Larry Hoover (from left), Lancaster Superintendent Alexander McD. Fleet and Northumberland Assistant Superintendent Shirley Stoneham chat with Earl Gillespie, executive secretary of the Virginia High School League, at the district superintendents' meeting held last Thursday in Tappahannock. Gillespie, who became head of the VHSL in January, spoke to the superintendents about various aspects of the League and the role his office plays in school activities.

Town of Kilmarnock Discusses Sewer And Water Line Alternatives

The cost and placement of water and sewer lines involved the majority of conversation during Kilmarnock's Town Council meeting Monday night. Questions concerned on which side of Route 3 the lines should run, easement rights, crossovers, and future developmental needs of the annexed area north of town.

Also discussed were needs related to the potential development of the land near Rappahannock General Hospital.

Councilman Kenneth O. Bransford Jr. expressed concern over "which area is going to develop faster" as discussion centered on expending additional money for new lines.

Money from a Community Development Block Grant will carry new water and sewer lines as far as Lancaster Square. Phase I of council's planning continues approximately one-fourth mile further north to Russell Pontiac.

Saying that we "have to look at it...cost is prohibitive," Mayor Edward J. Davis appointed a committee of James L. Currie, John A. Christopher, Bransford and Town Manager Frederick L. Bates to consider the questions and report back to council.

Davis noted that "for the extra money we're spending, we'll be serving a fair number of extra businesses," by extending the line to Russell Pontiac.

Town Attorney W. Garland Clarke will soon submit letters to property owners in the annexed area requesting the donation of easement rights for the water and sewer lines. A price tag of \$189,000 has been put on the construction, engineering and inspection of the lines as far as Lancaster Square.

Council heard requests from Bates on behalf of Steve Bonner for T.W. Bonner's. Bonner requested that purchases made by the wholesale firm for other wholesalers, and not subject to a profit, not be considered as part of his business license fee computation. Members approved the request.

Bonner also asked council to look into the acquisition by the state of pro-

perty between Brent Street and Cralle Court facing School Street for construction of a sidewalk.

During the town manager's report, Bates mentioned a letter from Carter Financial Corporation reaffirming its interest in the acquisition of town land near Rappahannock General Hospital. Another letter from Virginia Jodon of Sam Webb Real Estate Inc. also expressed the interest of a client in property adjacent to the hospital. Council did not discuss the letters.

Bates recommended attendance at a State Highway Department hearing

Local Rescue Squad Answers 81 Calls

The Kilmarnock-Lancaster County Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to 81 runs for the month of January. Squad units based in Kilmarnock and Heritage Point traveled 2,825 miles and the members donated 272 volunteer man hours of service to the citizens of Lancaster and lower Northumberland Counties.

During the month squad units handled 22 medical emergencies, 7 cardiac cases, 15 non-emergency transports, 15 basic life support transports, 3 stand-by calls for the air ambulance, 2 fire department stand-by calls, several vehicle accidents and numerous calls of other categories.

On January 19 the Middlesex County Rescue Squad and the Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department requested emergency aid from the Kilmarnock-Lancaster County Volunteer Rescue Squad. The Kilmarnock volunteers, using the "Jaws of Life" rescue tool, freed two victims trapped in their vehicles following a head-on collision on Route 3 in Topping. Along with the crash truck, Kilmarnock's quick-response car and an ambulance also responded to the scene where their crews extended further assistance. One of the victims was subsequently transported to Rappahannock General Hospital in the Kilmarnock ambulance.

ing March 24 so that Kilmarnock could lobby for construction of an alternate route in the Kilmarnock area.

Members of council discussed the community interpretation of an alternate route as a "by-pass." Bates noted that this interpretation is not accurate in that the "alternate route" would only take heavy and industrial traffic off of the main route through Kilmarnock. In no way would business traffic to the town be hindered.

Bates announced the hiring of a part time employee, Marie Smith of Irvington, to help in the administration of the Community Development Block Grant. The position is funded by the grant.

Kilmarnock was awarded a grant last week of \$160,189 by the State Water Control Board to install phosphorus removal equipment at the Kilmarnock sewage treatment plant. The town will test phosphorus levels and gather data for one year.

Clarke questioned unclear wording in the grant concerning the cost of removal and the return of the equipment to the state at the completion of the test period. Also questioned was a clause in the grant requiring Kilmarnock to purchase liability insurance.

"I don't think we're ready to sign it until all the questions are answered," Bates said, in agreeing with Clarke.

The "Kilmarnock Clean Up" has been set for April 7-12. The Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees will be coordinating the effort under the direction of Muriel Jennings of the Kilmarnock Garden Club.

As the council entered a closed session, Mayor Davis noted that the purchase contract for land for the proposed Division of Motor Vehicles is in the state attorney general's office and waiting to be signed. The DMV facility has been proposed adjacent to the hospital tract of land and the access road to the facility has already been named DMV Road.

Davis said Kilmarnock has "done everything we can do." The contract has been in the attorney general's office for two or three weeks.



Traffic backs up in Kilmarnock Friday afternoon as the first flakes of snow hit the ground. Before it was over on Saturday morning, about three to six inches had fallen on the Northern Neck. By Monday most of the snow had melted as temperatures reached the 50's.