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Taste Of Chesapeake At Smith Point Saturday

The first "Taste of the Chesapeake Festival and Crab Feast" will be held Saturday, July 26 at the Smith Point KOA Campground and Smith Island Cruise. Proceeds from the Crab Feast will be donated to the "Happiness is Camping" a program sponsored by KOA Campgrounds Owners Association to send children stricken with cancer to participate in the camping experience.

The camps involved in the programs are special camps, professionally staffed and with medical facilities that would not be available in an ordinary campground environment. The program selected by KOA are all staffed by volunteers.

The camps in the KOA program are: Camp Sky High/Hope, Colorado; Camp Serenity, Texas; Camp One-Step-At-A-Time, Illinois; McDowell Cancer Network, Kentucky; Lake Wales Camp, Florida; Camp Good Days and Special Times,

New York; Camp Special Day, Michigan; Happiness is Camping, New York.

Even though staff members volunteer their time and services, expenses are still quite substantial—thousands of meals need to be prepared, drugs, medical equipment, utilities, phones, insurance, gasoline, postage, linens, and transportation. Donations and fund raising efforts by KOA Campgrounds help to keep these special programs alive.

Only children with cancer may apply for these programs. The child's personal physician must make the determination that the child is well enough to attend the camp. A stay at the camp is free of charge. Children from all over the United States are accepted.

We spend millions of dollars every year on cancer research trying to find a cure for this frightening disease. But we sometimes seem to forget the millions of people who are suffering from cancer now, many of them children who have special needs now while they are waiting and hoping for that final cure to be discovered.

Where does the money go? It doesn't go toward capital improvements and it doesn't go into some administrator's pocket. It's spent instead to help the children by paying for meals, insurance, medicine, transportation, utilities—Smith Point KOA has made the commitment to try to raise money through the sale of tickets for the Crab Feast scheduled July 26 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Just call the Smith Point KOA campground (804) 453-3430, or write, Box 289-R, Route 1, Reedville, Va. 22539 for further information. Remember, your participation will be greatly appreciated by these deserving children.

The "Baby Blue Grass Band" have generously agreed to contribute their time and talent to perform music.

Anyone who wishes to contribute even though unable to attend the Crab Feast, may make check payable to "Happiness is Camping" and mail to the Smith Point KOA Campground.

Lankford Retrial Meets Stalemate

(Continued from page 1)

murder. She did say under cross examination that Lankford's wife was not present all of the time.

Dohnal and Janus also noted Lankford's mental problems, he has been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, began after his wife left him in 1978, a little over a year after they were married. They were married in January of 1976 and "that period of time, right after their marriage, was one of the happiest times of his life," Janus said.

As he presented the Commonwealth's case to the jury Schmidt said Lankford had a history of erratic behavior from the age of thirteen when he discovered he was an adopted child.

He opened with the testimony of Douglas Rivenbark who had been a cellmate of Lankford's for about five months. Rivenbark testified, during the time he was with the defendant, he related killing the Rogers and described the murders in detail. He said Lankford got a bar of soap and drew a motorcycle, 2 gravestones with R.I.P. on them and some sea gulls on a window of their cell block. Rivenbark said he told him he had "painted Mr. and Mrs. Rogers in heaven now."

Following the testimony of the state medical examiner and the head of Central State Hospital, Schmidt introduced a forensic hair specialist who said a hair found on the body of Rogers and in the victims' VW, (later found abandoned about a mile from the home) was classified as non conclusive. In other words, it had minor differences from the hair of the defendant, but could have come from him.

The daughter of the couple took the witness stand to describe arriving home about 1:30 Saturday afternoon, after staying with a friend overnight,

and finding her parents bodies. A friend of the family told of calling at about 8:30 on Friday evening and speaking with both of the Rogers for several minutes.

Another United Airline pilot, B.F. Engleman Jr., who had known the Rogers and who was in the process of looking for property in the area at the time of the murder, said he had gotten to know Gary Lankford after they moved near where the Rogers had lived.

"He would visit the house on occasion...he would ride or drive up," Engleman said, "and enter the house uninvited. I asked him to call first before stopping by because my wife was nervous about being home alone," he continued.

Engleman was questioned about a letter he received from Lankford while the defendant was a patient at Central State Hospital in 1978. The rambling letter was difficult to understand. Certain references to the Rogers and their "being in heaven now" were made in the letter. Schmidt also noted drawings in the margins of the letter that looked similar to sea gulls.

Former Deputy Sheriff Cameron Forrester related his procedure after reaching the crime scene about 2 p.m. that Saturday. He produced photographs which were admitted as evidence and which the jury was obviously uncomfortable looking at. A gun which was found in the nightstand of the Rogers' bedroom and which Lankford had described in one of his stories to fellow inmates, was admitted as evidence also. Forrester testified that no fingerprints linking Lankford to the crime scene were found and that several prints are still unidentified.

Schmidt introduced two additional fellow inmates of Lankford, who said he had also told them he had committed the murders. They related details that Schmidt later said Lankford could not have known just by looking at the photos for only a few minutes during the brief interview the evening of February 27, 1981.

Lankford took the witness stand to say he had been with family members the evening of February 27, 1976. He said he met his niece and her friends at work that afternoon and had dinner with them and his aunt at their home. He said they later returned to his home to play cards.

Of the letter he had written on June 15, 1978 to Engleman and three other people, he said, it was the "worst thing that ever happened to me" and he wished he'd never done it. He said he was motivated to get the \$25,000 reward by getting the person who had committed the crime so he could fix up his motorcycle, which would help him get his wife back, and he could carry her out on the town.

Lankford said, when Benson showed him the pictures, it upset him. "No, I don't want to see them," he said he told Benson, because he had "never seen anybody murdered before." Benson asked again, he said, and he told the deputy to hold them and he would look at them.

During cross examination he admitted to threatening to hit a witness who had testified against him earlier in the trial. "I will backhand him. You can't do any more to me," Lankford said. "This is nothing but a bunch of lies. You just want power. It's political," he answered the Commonwealth Attorney, becoming agitated while on the stand. He denied telling any of the three inmates who testified against him that he committed the murders.

The Westmoreland County jury left the courtroom about 1:20 p.m. and returned about 3:30 p.m. to tell Judge Dixon L. Foster they were hung 50-50. The foreman said they had, "taken a poll when they entered the jury room and they had discussed the case and feel we can't go any further."

Judge Foster requested they try again and give their decisions further consideration. They returned a little over an hour later and Lankford, his head on his hands in a prayerful repose, awaited their final decision.

The foreman again reported they were still at a stalemate saying, "I feel these people have worked very hard together and we're not very close together."

Judge Foster declared a mistrial and withheld his decision on dismissal of the charges against Lankford until Friday, July 25.

In some places people believed that whoever cuts the last sheaf of wheat at harvest time will marry within the year — to someone old.

Governor Unveils New Va. Wine Logo

Governor Gerald L. Baliles unveiled the new Virginia wine logo in front of the statue of Thomas Jefferson-Sheraton Hotel in Richmond.

The logo and campaign theme line is "Virginia Wines - A Growing Tradition," depicted by two bottles forming a wine glass superimposed over a cluster of grapes. The logo was designed by Carlton Communications of Richmond.

The campaign is a project of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Wine Marketing Program and was funded by the Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board. "The "Virginia Wines - A Growing Tradition" theme is carried through on table tents for restaurants, shelf talkers and wooden bins for retailers, all of which were on display at the unveiling ceremony.

Governor Baliles declared August as Virginia Farm Winery Month and presented a copy of the proclamation to Douglas E. Flemer, president of the Virginia Wineries Association. He spoke of the dream of Thomas Jefferson becoming a reality with the emergence of 33 Virginia farm

wineries in the last decade and urged Virginians to attend the Virginia Wineries Association Festival in Culpeper July 12 and 13.

Governor Baliles next held an unusual press conference. With the marble floors and Oriental carpeting of the Jefferson-Sheraton well-protected, he crushed Virginia grapes in an authentic hand wine press to salute the beginning of the 1988 harvest.

A Virginia wine reception featuring award-winning wines and champagnes from 12 Virginia wineries then followed the ceremony.

"Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."

Eric Hoffer

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