



The History of School Shootings

Starting in the 18th Century

Volume 2

1980 thru 1994

Wayne Muscarello

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
January 7, 1980	Stamps, Arkansas	1	0

16-year-old Evan Hampton, a freshman at Lafayette County High School, waited in a classroom for 19-year-old student Mike Sanders, whom he immediately killed. Hampton went to the principal's office, turned in the gun and waited for his arrest by police.



Mike C. Sanders

BIRTH	29 May 1960 USA
DEATH	7 Jan 1980 (aged 19) USA

Small town citizens are still wondering: 'Why did it happen?'

STAMPS, Ark. (UPI) — The story is classic in its stark and inexplicable horror.

At 9 a.m. Monday, Evan Hampton, a 16-year-old ninth-grader, walked quietly to the rear of a science classroom at Stamps High School, a class in which he was not enrolled, and stood awkwardly for a moment or two.

No one noticed him particularly, although they remembered later it was not his class, or saw him do anything unusual.

At 9:02 a.m., Mike Sanders, a 19-year-old senior, entered and spoke briefly with Steve Flynt, the teacher. He told Flynt his mother had undergone surgery and his sister would be out of class all week, staying home to help. Then he headed toward his seat.

A couple of words — no more — were exchanged between Evan Hampton and Mike Sanders, and no one seemed sure later what they were.

But there appeared in Hampton's hand a .22-caliber, long-barreled, six-chamber revolver. Three shots were fired.

"It went bam, bam — bam," Eric Morrison, who was just sitting down in an adjoining math class, recalled later. "Like maybe somebody was getting a whipping."

Mike Sanders was struck twice in the upper left chest and once in the right temple. He was killed outright.

Evan Hampton's expression did not change, it was said later. He took out a pair of sunglasses, put them on and walked down the hall toward the principal's office. The revolver dangled in his hand.

Partway there he met principal Gerald Wright, turned the revolver around military fashion and handed it over, butt first. He then walked into the principal's inner office, sat down and began leafing through a magazine.

Ripples of incredulity rolled through Stamps' 2,448 residents. Wild stories spread: A black student had shot a white student; a white student had shot a black student. Neither was so.

Hampton and Sanders both are white.

"It's a good thing those stories weren't true," Lafayette County Sheriff Wade Tatom said the next day, "or the high school would still be closed."

As it was, dozens of students left. Parents came and got others.

"I had to make about three different stops to tell people everything was OK," that it had not been a racial shooting, Tatom said, for deep in these south Arkansas pine woods flush on the Louisiana border, the old fears are not that much below the surface.

Instead, after the shooting, there remained mostly quiet disbelief, and attendance at the high school Tuesday was about normal.

"I do not understand it," said Tatom, a slender man whose gold-rimmed spectacles give him an almost scholarly look.

"He's sitting back there in that cell, quiet, just a model prisoner, and all he'll say is that the Sanders boy had been bullying him and his younger brother for about a year and a half and he just got tired of it," Tatom said.

Principal Wright described both youths as "typical students" and said he had no idea what caused the shooting.

"We had never had any disciplinary problems with either of them. I just don't know what brought it on," he said.

Hampton has been charged with first-degree murder and is being held in Lafayette County Courthouse in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

The Hampton and the Sanders families are hard-working, solid citizens, law-abiding taxpayers, churchgoers. Linda Hampton, Evan's mother, heads up the school lunch program and his father, Kenneth, has worked for more than 20 years for a local manufacturer.

"He (Sanders' father) got there so fast, to the classroom," Tatom said.

"Wanted to know if we'd taken his boy to a hospital. (I) kind of pushed him out of there, had to tell him his boy was dead."



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
March 20, 1980	Dallas, Texas	1	0

49-year-old fifth grade teacher Rosie Pearson was killed in J. Leslie Patton School by an unknown assailant.



Rosie L Pearson

BIRTH	1930
DEATH	1980 (aged 49–50)
BURIAL	<u>Lincoln Memorial Park</u> Dallas, Dallas County, Texas,

Break-in may be tied to teacher's murder

DALLAS (AP) — Police believe the slaying of a schoolteacher in the lobby of a public school probably was related to the break-in and vandalizing of her home two weeks ago.

Officers searched Friday for the gunman who entered the J. Leslie Patton Middle School here Thursday afternoon after most of the students had left for the day and shot fifth-grade teacher **Rosie Pearson**, 49, three times. She died about an hour after the shooting.

The break-in occurred March 7 while Mrs. Pearson was at school. The intruder did not steal anything, but virtually everything of value in the home had been damaged.



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
March 26, 1980	Big Rapids, Michigan	1	0

Business professor Robert Brauer was killed in class by 20-year-old student Thomas Kakonis at Ferris State College; Kakonis had failed an exam in his class. Kakonis was the son of an associate dean at the college. Kakonis was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Murder in classroom: Student kills professor

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A Ferris State College accounting professor was shot and fatally wounded Wednesday in front of his class of 30 students, and college authorities said the student who shot him is the son of an associate dean.

Professor Robert Brauer, 34, was dead on arrival at a Big Rapids hospital, said college spokeswoman Patricia Coyle.

The gunman fired four shot at Brauer from a .32-caliber handgun, then was subdued by two students and taken into custody by campus police, Ms. Coyle said.

She identified the man arrested as **Thomas D. Kakonis**, 20, of Big Rapids. He is a student at Ferris and his father, **Thomas E. Kakonis**, is an associate dean of the School of General Education, she said.

Police did not say whether a motive had been established.

Thomas Kakonis was taken to Mecosta County Jail in this western Michigan city.

The gunman entered the classroom at the 10,000-student college's business education building about 3:30 p.m., walked to the front of the room and fired, campus police said. They did not say how many times Brauer was hit.

Witnesses said the gunman was about six feet away from Brauer when the shots were fired.

Brauer was an associate professor of accounting in the School of Business and had been at the college since the fall of 1976, according to Ms. Coyle. His wife, Katherine, is a secretary in the business school's office, in the building where the shooting occurred.



**THOMAS
KAKONIS**

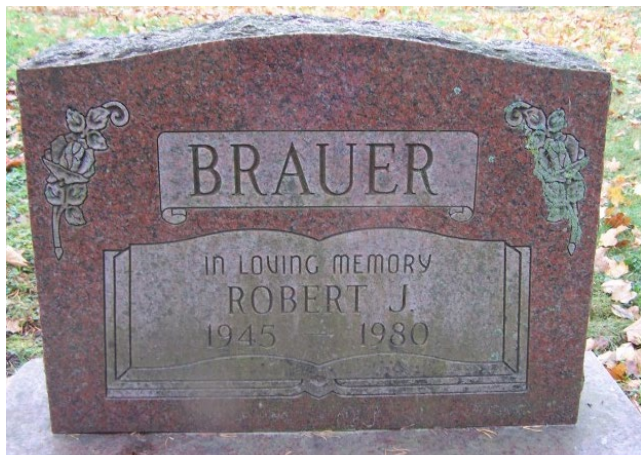
Student who shot college professor is acquitted

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — **Thomas Kakonis** has been acquitted by reason of insanity in the shooting death of a college professor.

Mecosta County Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Root ruled Wednesday that the Ferris State College student was insane when he walked into a crowded classroom March 26 and shot Robert Brauer several times

with a pistol. Kakonis, 20, had been despondent over a failing grade Brauer had given him on an accounting test, according to testimony in the four-day trial last week.

He was to be sent to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti today, where he will stay for up to 60 days, said George Van Kula, an assistant county prosecutor.



Robert J. Brauer

BIRTH 25 Sep 1945
Baltimore, Baltimore City, Maryland, U

DEATH 26 Mar 1980 (aged 34)
Big Rapids, Mecosta County, Michigan,



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
October 31, 1980	Hueytown, Alabama	1	1

17-year-old Rudy Farmer pulled out a .22-caliber pistol and wounded a fellow student in the art room of Hueytown High School, then turned the gun on himself.

One killed in school shooting

HUEYTOWN, Ala. — An apparently innocent remark while comparing photographs led to a classroom shooting that left one student wounded and another dead Friday, according to Jefferson County school officials. A group of students in the art room at Hueytown High School were comparing photographs of themselves when the shooting erupted, said spokeswoman Nez Calhoun. She said it appeared the incident was touched off by an innocent remark about whose picture was better. Miss Calhoun said Rudy Farmer, 17, pulled a .22-caliber pistol and shot 17-year-old Walter Lewis in the face. Farmer then ran into the hallway, turned the weapon to his head and killed himself, Miss Calhoun said. The wounded student was listed in critical condition at a hospital, she said. Further details were withheld pending an investigation.



Hueytown High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
January 27, 1981	Fayetteville, Arkansas	1	1

19-year-old former freshman James Howard Taylor brought a 12-gauge single-shot shotgun into the Delta Delta Delta sorority house on the University of Arkansas campus. He entered the house at 5:45 p.m. and terrorized an initiation dinner. After attempting to negotiate a surrender, he was shot and killed by police when he aimed his shotgun into the dining room.



James Howard Taylor

BIRTH	24 Apr 1961 Denver, Denver County, Colorado, USA
DEATH	28 Jan 1981 (aged 19) Springdale, Washington County, Arkansas,
BURIAL	<u>Rest Hills Memorial Park</u>



Shooting at sorority investigated

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A former University of Arkansas student slain by police as he pointed a shotgun at women dining in a sorority house Tuesday night might have been rejected when he tried to date some of the sorority sisters, authorities said Wednesday.

Campus police Sgt. Bill Stauffacher identified the dead man as James Taylor, 19, of North Little Rock, Ark.

About 110 women were in the dining hall when members of a nearby sorority saw a man with a 12-gauge shotgun entering the Delta Delta Delta building and called police.

Lawrence Slamons, director of the university's Public Safety Department, said the man was hiding behind the front door when the officers entered.

The officers asked the gunman his intentions. He told them he was "fixing to do some shooting."

A campus policeman, who had entered through a side door, raised his service revolver and fired three times, striking Taylor once in the head, police said.



University of Arkansas

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
April 17, 1981	Ann Arbor, Michigan	2	0

As students fled their rooms after a homemade firebomb set a minor blaze on the sixth floor hallway of Bursley Hall dormitory, 22-year-old psychology student Leo E. Kelly Jr. fired a sawn-off 12-gauge shotgun at his University of Michigan schoolmates at point-blank range. Nineteen-year-old pre-medical student Edward Siwik and 21-year-old resident advisor Douglas C. McGreaham died in hospitals



Leo E. Kelly Jr., as he arrived for his arraignment.

a few hours later. Kelly had been dismissed from UM once and was on the verge of another dismissal due to poor grades. In 1982, he was convicted on two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

2 Michigan Students Slain While Warning of Dorm Fire

Knight-Ridder News Service

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A gunman killed two honors students who were racing through a smoke-filled dormitory hall warning residents of a fire early Friday at the University of Michigan.

A 22-year-old student, suspected of setting the fire and killing the pair, was arrested and held without bond.

The two slain students, Edward (Ward) Siwik, 19, of Detroit, and Douglas McGreaham, 21, of Caspian, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, were killed as they ran through the smoke-filled corridor in Bursley Hall, rousing sleeping students.

"We heard what I thought was a loud firecracker. I saw Douglas go down," said Randy Moon, a resident adviser in the 1,200-student dorm who had gone with McGreaham to help evacuate the wing.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's office said **Leo E. Kelly Jr.** of Detroit was being held without bond in the county jail and would be arraigned on murder charges Saturday in Ann Arbor's 14th District Court.

Police arrested Kelly in his dormitory room after the shooting and later confiscated two other guns, including a .22-caliber long rifle and another .22-caliber weapon, from his room.

(See TWO, 15A, Col. 1)



SUSPECT LED AWAY
... **Leo E. Kelly Jr.**, Detroit



Two Ann Arbor police officers inspect the room of murder suspect **Leo E. Kelly Jr.**, of Detroit as another officer stands nearby. Police confiscated two guns.



McGraham and fellow honor student Edward Siwik, 19, of Detroit, were killed as they ran through a smoke-filled, third-floor corridor on the Douglas wing of Bursley Hall.



Douglas C. McGraham



Douglas C. McGraham

BIRTH	23 Mar 1960 Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, US
DEATH	17 Apr 1981 (aged 21) Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan, USA
BURIAL	<u>Stambaugh Cemetery</u>



University of Michigan

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
December 16, 1981	Portland, Oregon	2	0

Shortly before noon in Engineering Hall on the school's campus in north Portland, 34-year-old University of Portland night janitor John C. Holbrook killed 37-year-old engineering teacher Brian D. Massey before taking his own life.

Brian David Massey

BIRTH	8 Mar 1944
DEATH	16 Dec 1981 (aged 37)
BURIAL	<u>Willamette National Cemetery</u> Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon,

School janitor shoots teacher, then kills himself

PORTLAND (AP) — A night janitor shot and killed an instructor at the University of Portland Wednesday, then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide, police said.

Portland Police Bureau spokesman Dave Simpson said Brian D. Massey, 37, of Lake Oswego, an engineering teacher, was shot to death by John C. Holbrook, 34, of Vancouver, Wash., who then fatally shot himself.

Simpson said a motive had not been determined. Authorities said Holbrook had worked in the school's maintenance department for two or three years.

The shootings occurred shortly before noon in Engineering Hall on the school's campus in north Portland.

Khalid Kabbani, a graduate student, said he was in a room a few feet from Massey's office when the murder occurred. Kabbani said he heard three or four shots, then saw the janitor walk out of Massey's office and down the hall toward the main computer laboratory.

Kabbani said he heard two more shots from the computer room.

University spokesman Paul Melhuish said Massey was well-known on campus and had helped design a new computer program for the university's business operations and for teaching computer science. In 1979, Massey won the Miltner Award, given each year for outstanding service by a university employee.

Melhuish said he did not know whether Massey and Holbrook knew each other or what motive Holbrook may have had for the shooting.

"There doesn't seem to be any interrelationship that we know of," Melhuish said.

In an unrelated incident Wednesday, Michael S. Wilson, 19, suffered a stomach wound when a shot apparently was fired from a passing car into the front room of Wilson's house in the Rockwood area on Portland's southeastern outskirts, Multnomah sheriff's office spokesman John Drum said.

He was in stable condition at a Portland hospital.



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
March 19, 1982	Las Vegas, Nevada	1	3

17-year-old Valley High School student Patrick Lizotte killed his teacher Clarence Pigott and wounded two students, before being shot and wounded by police. Lizotte was originally sentenced to life in prison without parole, but his sentence was reduced, and he was paroled in 2017 after the passage of Nevada Assembly Bill 267, which "revises provisions concerning the sentencing and parole of persons convicted as an adult for a crime committed when the person was less than 18 years of age," in 2015.

Accused killer didn't trust teacher



HOSPITAL HEARING MONDAY FOR TEACHER'S ACCUSED KILLER
Patrick Lizotte, 17, was wounded by police following the Las Vegas shooting

AP Laserphoto

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — A 17-year-old student told police he gunned down a popular teacher because the teacher "thought I was unstable and planned to have me institutionalized," it was learned Monday.

In an affidavit obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Patrick Lizotte said he brought 100 bullets and a .22-caliber pistol to Valley High School Friday intending to shoot Clarence Piggott, 54.

Memorial services were held for Piggott Monday afternoon, with some 1,500 students, colleagues and friends alternating between laughter and tears as a teacher eulogized Piggott as a man who cared.

"If all those whose lives he touched could speak at once, the sound would be deafening," teacher Duane Lorsch told the overflow crowd in a downtown high school auditorium.

"My only regret is that I never told 'Pic' I loved him when I could have," Lorsch said, his voice breaking.

In the affidavit, Lizotte said he got the gun from the apartment where he lived with his parents. His father, Norman Lizotte, is a retired Army veteran.

"It belongs to my dad and the reason I was taking it to school was because I planned, before going to school, to shoot Mr. Piggott," the

Lizotte youth said in the affidavit.

The statements were made to detectives who questioned him hours after he shot Piggott Friday morning, then calmly walked out of the school building, shooting two other students on the way.

Lizotte was shot in the chest and thigh by a police officer after the youth walked several blocks, waving the gun as he went.

Lizotte told detectives he walked to Piggott's classroom, where he often helped set up chairs, and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Piggott."

"Mr. Piggott then turned around and I shot him," Lizotte said.

Lizotte was ordered held on \$1 million bail during a brief hearing in his guarded hospital room Monday. Judge John McGroarty told the youth he would be charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder in a March 30 arraignment.

Lizotte's attorney, Frederic Abrams, said he would appeal the \$1 million bail as too high.

Lizotte showed no emotion when told of the charges against him.

Clark County School District officials said they have no record of Lizotte receiving any formal psychological counseling.

Students said Piggott often counseled Lizotte and could be seen walking the halls with his arm around the youth's shoulder. Students said Piggott encouraged them to be tolerant of Lizotte, who was described by classmates as a "loner" and someone who could be very quiet one minute and exhibit a violent temper the next.

One of two students shot by Lizotte, Jose Garcia, 17, remained in a local hospital Monday. The other, Martin Jameson, 17, was released Sunday.



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
April 5, 1982	Hot Springs, Arkansas	2	0

26-year-old Kelvin Ray Love, who was struggling academically, entered Garland County Community College in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and shot dead his teacher, William "Buddy" Putnam, 38, and a fellow student, Donald Schamp, 34, with a .357 magnum revolver. Love fired six shots during the incident before taking a female student hostage and forcing her to flee with him in her car. During the ensuing 125-mile high-speed chase, Love exchanged shots with pursuing patrol officers, but no one was injured. The pursuit came to an end after Love crashed through a police roadblock and wrecked his vehicle; both he and his hostage survived unharmed. Love was later found guilty of two counts of capital murder and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

College student kills instructor, classmate

United Press International

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — A student who worked part time in security at Garland County Community College shot and killed one of his instructors and a classmate Monday, police said.

Authorities said **Kelvin Ray Love**, 26, of Hot Springs, then fled the school, taking a female student hostage. He was caught about 1½ hours later after a

chase by state police and deputy sheriffs.

The hostage, Carrie Loy of Hot Springs, was freed unharmed.

"Kelvin Ray Love" apparently went berserk and shot and killed two people," a spokesman for the Garland County sheriff's office said.

Killed were William "Buddy" Putman, head instructor in data processing computer science at the two-year college, and Donald

Schamp, a student in his middle 30s.

"A terrible, terrible thing," said college president Gerald Fisher. "These two men who were killed were fine people. We think the student was shot accidentally. We just really don't know much."

Putman and Schamp were shot in the head with a .357-caliber pistol, the sheriff's spokesman said.



Donald E. Schamp

BIRTH 16 Sep 1947
DEATH 5 Apr 1982 (aged 34)
BURIAL Wolsey Cemetery
Wolsey, Beadle County, South Dakota,

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
April 7, 1982	Littleton, Colorado	1	0

13-year-old Deer Creek Junior High School student Scott Darwin Michael was killed by 14-year-old classmate Jason Price Rocha. Rocha was tried as an adult and sentenced to 12 years in prison, plus one year of parole but was instead released in 1987 at the age of 20.

Youth held in fatal shooting



—AP Laserphoto

Jason Rocha, in plaid shirt, is escorted by attorney, left, two deputies, and father, right

LAKEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — A 14-year-old junior high school student was ordered held Friday on \$25,000 bond after the fatal shooting of a schoolmate during lunch hour on Wednesday.

Prosecutor Roberta Steinhart said she will seek to have **Jason Rocha** tried as an adult.

James Culbreth, commissioner of the Jefferson County Juvenile Detention Center, set bond Friday. Jason was arrested after the shooting at Deer Creek Junior High School left Scott Darwin Michael, a 13-year-old eighth-grader, dead.

Authorities were given one week to file formal charges.

Michael was shot once in the chest. Sheriff's deputies found the body of the red-haired, freckle-faced boy lying in a grassy area near a bike rack just south of the school's main building in the affluent suburb southwest of Denver.

Police said Jason and another stu-

dent were shooting prairie dogs near the school with a handgun and .22-caliber rifle.

Jason put the pistol in his belt and walked to the school to make a telephone call, police said.

Emerging from the building, Jason approached Michael and another student sitting on the grass. According to testimony at the Friday hearing, Jason first pointed the gun at the other student, who leaped up shouting that it was loaded. Michael remained seated and police said Jason then turned the gun on him and pulled the trigger.

Authorities have not offered any motive for the shooting, but the student who had accompanied Jason told a reporter he thought it was unintentional.

"I know he didn't mean it," said Andy Roe, a 15-year-old classmate. "It was an accident."

The school held its spring band concert Thursday night as planned.

"It's a little difficult to talk about it," said Principal Conger Weightman. "It got to all of us."

Rebecca Burmeister, a parent whose 12-year-old daughter rode the school bus with Michael, said she was stunned by the shooting.

"I guess living in 'never-never land' out in the suburbs, you don't think that a 14-year-old kid would carry around a gun," she said.



Deer Creek Junior High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
November 12, 1982	Jackson, Mississippi	2	0

18-year-old dropout James Hartzog killed his girlfriend, 17-year-old Faye Williams, in her algebra class at Wingfield High School. Hartzog then took his own life.



Faye Williams

BIRTH	11 Aug 1965
DEATH	12 Nov 1982 (aged 17) Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, U
BURIAL	<u>Shiloh Baptist Church Cemetery</u> Magee, Simpson County, Mississippi,

Man shoots girlfriend, self in classroom

JACKSON, Miss. — A young man with a shotgun burst into his girlfriend's algebra class yesterday, shot and killed her and then took his own life.

Both victims died from 20-gauge shotgun wounds to the chest, said police Sgt. Ferry Martin.

The shooting happened about 3 p.m. in a temporary mobile classroom outside the 900-student Wingfield High School in south Jackson.

Martin said the young man, who had dropped out of school in the ninth grade, entered the 10th grade classroom and ordered everyone but the girl to

leave.

Martin identified the girl as Faye Williams, 17, of Jackson, and said the shooting apparently resulted from a lovers' quarrel.

Hinds County Coroner Robert Martin identified the assailant as **James Hartzog**, 18, of Prentiss.

Danny Mitchell, a spokesman for the Jackson Municipal Separate School District, said teacher Albert Carter "tried to talk the individual into leaving but to no avail. The teacher then proceeded to help the students out of the classroom."



Wingfield High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
January 20, 1983	St. Louis County, Missouri	2	1

14-year-old Parkway South Middle School student David F. Lawler, sitting in a study hall classroom of 28 students, opened fire, killing Randall Koger and injuring Greg Saffo. Lawler then took his own life.

Taunted by peers

'Nice boy' pulls out pistols, kills classmate, then himself



David F. Lawler

... yearbook photo

MANCHESTER, Mo. (AP) — A "nice boy" who had won a good citizenship award was taunted about his family by his junior high classmates before he pulled out pistols and killed one student, wounded another and took his own life, officials said.

David F. Lawler, 14, opened fire with an automatic .22-caliber pistol at Parkway South Junior High School yesterday, killing Randall Koger, 15, and seriously wounding Greg Palmer, also 15, said St. Louis County police detective Richard Seymour.

Witnesses told police that Koger and Palmer had made disparaging remarks earlier about Lawler's brother and stepfather.

The boys, all eighth-graders, were not disciplinary problems at the suburban St. Louis school, according to Principal Don Senti. He called Lawler "an above-average student" who received a good citizenship award last semester.

"All three of these kids came to school

every day — what more can I say?" Senti said.

Neighbors of Lawler's said they were shocked at the shootings.

"I can't believe he'd do that," Gielea Lavacek said. "He was just a nice boy who played around here. It's a total shock to me."

Gym teacher Sherry McWhorter, who was watching the 25 students in the study hall, told police Lawler fired one shot from a .22-caliber automatic into the ceiling at about 11:45 a.m. and said, "Now, everybody shut up," according to Seymour.

Lawler then yelled at Koger, "You won't call my brother a (expletive) anymore," and fired two or three shots at him. Koger fell to the floor, fatally wounded in the back, Mrs. McWhorter said.

Lawler then walked up to Palmer, who was lying on the floor, and said, "You can't call my brother a (expletive) anymore."

and fired once, police said.

The boy then walked to the front of the room, pulled another gun, a .22-caliber revolver, out of a bag which police said contained "a sizable amount of ammunition" and said, "I can't stand it anymore."

The boy put barrel of the revolver to his temple and pulled the trigger, Mrs. McWhorter told police.

Both Lawler and Koger were pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Palmer remained in serious but stable condition last night at St. Joseph's Hospital with a bullet wound in the back, according to authorities. He was scheduled to transfer to a St. Louis school this week, and yesterday was to have been his last day at the school.

Police said they believed the guns belonged to the boy's family.

The students who witnessed the shootings were taken to a nearby gymnasium until their parents came to pick them up, Senti

said.

"There was a lot of crying going on," Senti said. "They were shocked and were all talking about it."

After about an hour of talking with two guidance counselors and a minister whose child attends the school, some boys began to play basketball, according to the principal.

"They said it would relieve some of the tension," he said.

Parkway South has a reputation for strict discipline, Senti said. "You won't even find them smoking cigarettes in the bathrooms here," he said.

"I never thought it would happen at this school," said Jim Jacobsmeyer, 14, who said he had become worried after the 20,000-student district voted last year to participate in the desegregation of St. Louis schools.

"I thought I would never go to the city, because I'd get knifed, and now look what happened here," he said.



With students looking on from a window in the background, emergency medical technicians load the body of 14-year-old Parkway South Junior High School student **David F. Lawler** aboard an ambulance Thursday. Scott Dine / Post-Dispatch

David Francis Lawler

BIRTH unknown
DEATH 20 Jan 1983
BURIAL [Memorial Park Cemetery](#)
 Jennings, St. Louis County, Missouri,

Randall Koger

BIRTH 1967
DEATH 20 Jan 1983 (aged 15–16)
 Manchester, St. Louis County, Missouri,
BURIAL [Mount Moriah Cemetery](#)



David F. Lawler



Randall A. Koger



Greg Palmer



Parkway South Middle School

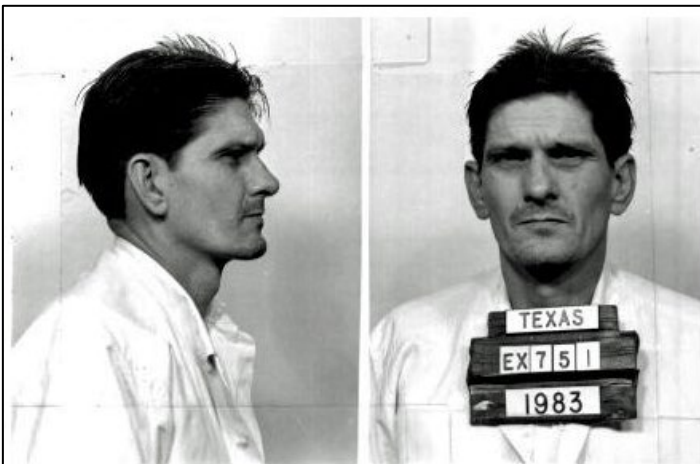
Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
May 16, 1983	Dallas, Texas	1	0

Billy Conn Gardner, a friend of a food service worker's husband, robbed the Lake Highlands High School cafeteria manager Thelma Katherine Rowe at gunpoint as she was counting the day's revenue in the office. Gardner shot her and took \$1,600. Gardner was subsequently sentenced to death for the crime and was executed by lethal injection on February 16, 1995.



Thelma Brock Rowe

BIRTH 22 Aug 1908
DEATH 31 May 1983 (aged 74)
BURIAL Forest Hill Cemetery
Livingston, Polk County, Texas, USA



Billy Conn Gardner



Lunch worker shot

DALLAS (AP) — Police searched a northeast Dallas neighborhood for a gunman who shot an employee Monday during a robbery at the **Lake Highlands High School** cafeteria.

The employee, whose name was withheld, was listed in critical condition at Dallas' Presbyterian Hospital with two gunshot wounds in the chest.

A gunman entered the cafeteria shortly after the lunch hour, as employees were tallying the day's receipts, said police spokesman Ed Spencer. The man demanded cash and threatened employees with a gun, Spencer said.

Witnesses say a struggle ensued and the gun went off twice, then the man scooped up some cash and fled, according to Spencer.

School officials immediately dismissed classes for the day although no students were in the cafeteria at the time of the robbery.

High school cafeteria chief robbed, shot

DALLAS (AP) — A masked gunman shot and critically wounded a high school cafeteria manager as she handed over more than \$1,000 in cash, police said.

Thelma Katherine Rowe, 64, was in critical condition after undergoing surgery Monday at Presbyterian Hospital, officials said.

The robbery and shooting at **Lake Highlands High School**, in northeast Dallas, took place at 2:05 p.m., about 40 minutes after the last lunch period, police said. No students were present at the time, according to investigators.

Paula Sanders, a 28-year-old co-worker who was helping Mrs. Rowe count the cash, was not injured.



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
May 16, 1983	Brentwood, New York	1	2

After being fired from his job as a substitute teacher for fighting with a student, Robert O. Wickes entered Brentwood East Junior High School in Brentwood, New York, dressed in camouflage fatigues and armed with a semi-automatic .22-caliber rifle and over 100 rounds of ammunition, to get revenge on the student, 15-year-old Luis Burgos. Shortly after noon, Wickes entered a ninth-grade social studies classroom inside the school and fired three shots at Burgos, hitting him twice in the stomach and hand, before taking the entire class of 18 students hostage. School principal William Howland was also shot and wounded by Wickes when Howland peered into the classroom. After firing four shots down the hall at responding police officers, Wickes barricaded himself inside the classroom and a standoff ensued. During the standoff, Wickes periodically released 17 of the 18 hostages before shooting himself in the head nine hours into the siege, dying in the hospital later that night. Both Burgos and Howland survived their injuries.



AP photo

Bay Shore, N.Y., medical service workers prepare to take suspect **Robert O. Wickes** to hospital where he died.

Shooting suspect kills self with gun

BRENTWOOD, N.Y. (AP) — A mentally ill man who shot and wounded a student and principal, then held 18 students hostage in a social studies classroom before killing himself, was a loser seeking revenge for his dismissal two weeks ago, officials said.

Robert O. Wickes, whose troubled life ended a few minutes before midnight Monday after a siege that terrified students and their parents, had also been watched by the Secret Service for making threats against the Reagan administration, his lawyer said.

Dressed in Army fatigues and carrying a .22-caliber rifle, Wickes held police in this Long Island community at bay for about nine hours. Many of his student hostages became sick or faked illness to gain permission to leave.

Others were released one at a time in return for a local radio station agreeing to play song requests — including the Beatles' "Penny Lane" — and his own "epistle to the world."

Wickes, 24, described as a paranoid schizophrenic, had been angry at East Junior High



Robert O. Wickes

1977 file photo

since May 5, when he was fired as a substitute teacher's aide because of a fight with Louis Borgos, a 15-year-old student.

He returned Monday, Borgos' first day back after a suspension for the incident, and shot him and Stephen Howland, the school principal.

Howland was released from the hospital several hours after the shooting. Borgos was listed in stable condition.

But Wickes, who vowed he was making his "last stand," carried out his suicide threat, shooting himself in the head with his rifle. He was pronounced dead shortly before midnight.

The siege began in Room 201 about 12:45 p.m. with 18 student hostages. Although the students had called Wickes "the big duck" and often made fun of his clothes and mannerisms, no one laughed at him Monday.

"He walked into the classroom with this gun and tried to push our teacher out," said Angelo Bravo, 15. "But before he could, she grabbed the phone and contacted the office. She said 'Call the police.'"

"He told all of us to get down on the floor. We did. We were all pretty scared," Bravo said.

Just then Howland arrived at the door. Bravo said Wickes turned and shot the administrator in the face.

"Then he told everyone to lift up their faces. He saw Louie (Borgos) and asked: 'How long were you suspended?' Louie said, 'One week.' Then he shot Louie."

The wounded youth, shot in the abdomen, gasped for air. "I'm having trouble breathing. Can I leave the room, sir?" asked Borgos.

Wickes approved and Wilfred Mercado, 15, dragged Borgos to safety. None of the other students was hurt.

After he let half the students go for a variety of excuses, Wickes dug in for the long haul. He issued the "epistle," which said in part: "I cried and no one heard. So now I cry on you, you dirty swine. You turned your back so now I reciprocated, you see ... power wins. Even so, I will paint the road with carnage."

His lawyer, Gerald Lotto, said Wickes was a "paranoid schizophrenic" who had been watched by the Secret Service because of threats against Defense Secretary Weinberger and Secretary of State Shultz.



Brentwood East Junior High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
November 8, 1983	Highland Park, Michigan	1	0

At Highland Park High School a 15-year-old student shot and killed a 17-year-old Kevin Davis a student, the shooting is believed to be related to an earlier fight between the two students.

Youth slain at school

Highland Park, Mich. (AP)—A 16-year-old high school senior was shot to death by a classmate today a few minutes before school was to begin, officials said. Kevin Davis of Highland Park was shot once in the chest about 7:50 a.m. in a third-floor hallway of Highland Park High School, said school a spokesman, Greg Bendrean.

Student, 17, killed by classmate

The Associated Press

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. — A 17-year-old high school senior was shot to death by a classmate this morning just minutes before school was to begin, officials said.

Kevin Davis of Highland Park was shot once in the chest about 7:50 a.m. in a third-floor hallway of **Highland Park High School**, said school spokesman Greg Bendrean.

Davis was taken to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where he died about one hour later, hospital officials said.

A 16-year-old student was taken into custody and is being held on an open charge of homicide, said Highland Park Police Chief Carl Kerttu.



Highland Park High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
November 18, 1983	Baltimore, Maryland	1	0

14-year-old Dewitt Duckett was shot in the neck and killed at Harlem Park Junior High School. Alfred Chestnut and Ransom Watkins, who were both 16 at the time, and 17-year-old Andrew Stewart were convicted of the murder and

sentenced to life in prison. However, evidence was withheld from the defense that pointed to another suspect,

18-year-old Michael Willis, who witnesses said saw run away and ditch the gun; Willis died in 2002. The case was reviewed and the evidence that was withheld was recovered and used by the defense. Four teenage witnesses who testified against the three in the first trial recanted, saying they were pressured by police to change their stories. In November 2019, Chestnut, Watkins and Stewart were exonerated.

Murder in the hallway

When **DeWitt Duckett** of Harlem Park Junior High was shot and killed in a school corridor the other day, by a fellow-teenager covetous of his athletic jacket, it wasn't the first time a student has been murdered inside a Baltimore public school. Several years ago, in a different school, a girl bled to death after being stabbed by another girl.

What is new about this latest episode of lethal violence, and setback to the whole education process, is its part in the large picture of schools security. Contrary to what you may think, the schools' annual total of reported robberies, assaults with deadly weapons and the like has been dropping. But the number of such instances in which guns figured keeps rising.

Starting next month, expulsion is automatic for any student found carrying a gun on school property — it is not yet certain whether Duckett's assailant was student or trespasser; as to the person expelled, if justice somehow miscarries, he or she can still enroll in adult and continuing (i.e., evening) courses. The special officers of Larry Borgan, schools security chief, are entitled to stop and search the apparent interloper, and the student suspected of concealing a weap-

on; but obviously no defense is foolproof, in a large and busy school.

As matters stood last year, 151 arrests for possession of deadly weapons on school premises were necessary; in 36 of those instances, handguns were involved. In 28 of 42 attempts at armed robbery, handguns were involved. In 26 of 65 assaults against teachers and students, handguns were involved. Given the inexperience of the young with the loading and aiming of firearms, it is a grisly wonder that fatalities haven't been more frequent.

The one answer to this situation is as plain as the nose on an NRA propagandist's face: fewer, instead of ever more, handguns. The penalty for unlicensed possession *must* be drastically increased. Under present conditions, it's not just a child's right to go from classroom to classroom that is in jeopardy; it's your right to walk down a street without being blown away by some drugged or nervous or psychopathic fellow-citizen — by some punk with a pistol.

Got "The Day After" blues? Take the subway.
DAN BERGER

Judge orders 3 youths held in killing at school

BALTIMORE (AP) — A 16-year-old boy was ordered held on \$150,000 bail Friday in the slaying of a 14-year-old schoolmate in a junior high school hallway during an attempted robbery.

District Court Judge Allen Lipsom ordered two other 16-year-olds, Ranson Watkins and Andrew Stewart, held on \$100,000 and \$75,000 bail respectively in last week's killing of **DeWitt Duckett**, who had refused to surrender a \$65 jacket.

Alfred Chestnut and the other two youths were charged as adults with homicide, robbery and a handgun violation. They were arrested at their homes early Thursday.

Police alleged that the three youths accosted Duckett in a hallway, and alleged that Chestnut pulled the trigger.



The Sun/Ellis J. Malachuk

Andrew L. Stewart, Jr. (left), Alfred A. Chestnut (center) and Ransom L. Watkins are led into the Western District Police station yesterday.

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
December 2, 1983	Crawfordsville, Indiana	0	1

Student Shot At School 'Critical'

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A senior at Crawfordsville High School, who was shot three times by another student as he took an economics test in the school cafeteria, was in critical but stable condition today.

Calvin Dowell, 17, underwent more than five hours of surgery at Culver Hospital for wounds to his left chest, left arm and right foot. Doctors said Dowell talked with surgeons in the recovery room.

Police said an argument over a girl apparently triggered the shooting yesterday.

They said **Grant Carey**, another 17-year-old student, was arrested on a preliminary charge of delinquency by reason of assault with intent to kill.

Police Capt. Clarence Taylor said Carey was arrested after he was seen in a cornfield a mile west of Crawfordsville by a nearby resident who notified police.

When apprehended, he had a 44 Magnum pistol believed used in the shooting, police said.

Carey also was admitted to Culver Hospital for observation, apparently suffering from exposure, Taylor said.

Police quoted other students as saying Dowell and Carey had argued in a basement hallway shortly before the shooting.

Police Sgt. Harvey Barton said,

"It was broken up by a teacher; then they went their separate ways."

The youths had been arguing about a girl for quite some time, Barton added.

The shooting was at about 11:50 a.m. Taylor said the assailant confronted Dowell and asked him to stand, saying, "We're going to settle this thing right now."

Dowell refused, and Carey pulled the gun, believed to belong to his father, from his coat and fired three shots, Taylor said. Carey then ran from the school, he said.

A school official expressed shock. "We're a well-behaved school," said Supt. C. Merrill Dailey. "We don't have discipline problems that any way near approach this magnitude. To my knowledge, we've never even found a weapon on a student."

17-year-old Calvin Dowell was shot during a senior economics class at Crawfordsville High School by fellow student 17-year-old Grant Carey in a dispute over a girl. The case was waived to adult court, and Grant was sentenced to six years in prison. Dowell survived the shooting but was paralyzed.



Crawfordsville High School



Crawfordsville High School student Calvin Dowell, 17, was shot four times at point-blank range by another student, Grant Carey, 17. The two had been arguing over a girl. According to newspaper articles from the time, Grant used a .44 Magnum from his father's collection for the shooting. The case was waived to adult court and Grant was sentenced to six years in prison. Dowell survived the shooting but was paralyzed.

School shooting leaves students dazed, puzzled

By NEDRA BLOOM
Star Special Correspondent

Crawfordsville, Ind. — "It's almost like Grant killed himself when he tried to kill Calvin," a Crawfordsville High School student said Saturday.

The student, Donnie Sperry, was referring to the Friday shooting incident in a high school economics class that left Calvin Dowell in a hospital room struggling for his life and Grant Carey sitting in a jail cell.

Police caught Carey late Friday night after following his footprints in the snow to a golf course. The 17-year-old suspect is being held in the Montgomery County Jail without bond on a preliminary charge of delinquency by reason of attempted murder.

Dowell, 17, is in critical but stable condition in Culver Union Hospital's intensive care unit.

SPERRY AND other students in the senior economics class who witnessed the shooting are trying to come to grips with what happened.

"It hasn't really hit me yet," said Sperry. "All the girls reacted right away, but the boys held in their emotions. Nonetheless, most of the 25 students in the class have spent hours together or on the phone mak-



Dowell



Carey

ing sure they are all able to cope."

Sperry, who has known both Dowell and Carey since junior high school, said his senior class falls into three basic groups — athletes, those who work for grades, and those who work on cars.

Sperry is an athlete and regards Dowell and Carey as the kind who care most about cars.

SPERRY SAID the two boys had been arguing about a girl. The girl had been dating Dowell three to four years but they recently broke up.

Dowell and Carey were "good friends," Sperry said, but he believes they began arguing because Carey, who had "always liked the girl,"

See DAZED Page 11

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
February 24, 1984	Los Angeles, California	3	12

49th Street Elementary School shooting: Tyrone Mitchell killed two people (Shala Eubanks, 10, shot, died within hours, and Carlos Lopez, 24) and wounded twelve others when shooting at students leaving 49th Street Elementary School. He then committed suicide.

School Sniper Kills 1, Injures 13

Children Flee in Panic; Gunman Found Dead



MIKE MEADOWS, ROSEMARY KAUL / Los Angeles Times

An L.A. police officer stands guard outside 730 East 50th St. after a sniper opened fire on schoolchildren from the top right window and then shot himself. Above, two injured children wait in an ambulance.

A sniper fired bullet after bullet into the crowded playground of a South-Central Los Angeles elementary school as classes let out Friday, killing one girl and wounding 11 other children and two adults.

Scores of terrified children scattered across the yard of the 49th Street Elementary School as the gunman, who was to kill himself later with one of his own guns, pumped about 30 high-powered rifle shots and several shotgun blasts from the bay window of his second-story flat across the street, just 50 feet away.

The rifleman was identified as **Tyrone Mitchell**, 28, a one-time member of the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple.

Disturbed Man

There was no immediate clue to what set off his shooting spree. However, police and residents said Mitchell was well known in the neighborhood as a violent, disturbed man and a user of narcotics such as PCP.

Neighbors and relatives said Mitchell lost his parents and several other members of his family in the 1978 mass suicide at Jonestown, Guyana.



Los Angeles Times

The gunfire broke out at 2:23 p.m., just as 100 youngsters surged happily out of their classrooms to begin their weekend.

The fusillade stopped about three minutes later. The 1,164-student school was evacuated, and the house across the street at 730 East 50th St. was surrounded by police minutes later.

Then began the long siege that ended when a four-man Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team stormed the house shortly before 6 p.m. They found Mitchell dead in an upstairs room, where he apparently had killed himself some time earlier.

Ten-year-old Shala Eubanks, one of the first children to fall under the gunfire, died on the floor of a classroom. Two Fire Department paramedics worked futilely to save her life after she was carried into the classroom by two police officers.

Grabbed Youngsters

One team of paramedics rescued several children in the schoolyard as shots still came from Mitchell's window a few yards away.

Fire Department paramedic Jack Frye said he and his partner drove directly onto the schoolyard and began pulling children into their ambulance. He said boys and girls, some screaming and crying, were hiding behind trees, trash cans and any other cover they could find.

"We pulled the kids, injured or not, into the ambulance," Frye said. "We just wanted to get them safe. We didn't know what could happen."

By late Friday night, three other victims were listed in guarded but stable condition, another was reported in good condition and the rest had been released from hospitals after treatment of minor wounds.

The violence panicked hundreds in the neighborhood.

Jaramilla Hernandez, who lives next door to the Mitchell residence, said when her son came home from the school, she grabbed him and her younger child and cowered with

them in the bathtub for 3½ hours.

"I was so scared, I didn't know what else to do," she said later.

Deputy Police Chief Lew Ritter said officers in a patrol car heard shots at 2:23 p.m. They said a man was firing from the neat, two-story white Victorian house with both a rifle and a shotgun.

"He seemed to be indiscriminately shooting into the schoolyard, where the children were playing," Ritter said.

Ritter said Mitchell was well-known in the neighborhood for his irrational behavior and as a user of PCP and other drugs. However, Mitchell's girlfriend vehemently denied that he had "a problem" with PCP.

Except for the children who fell in the schoolyard, most ran back into the building and were taken to the library on the side of the building farthest away from the sniper, where they remained while parents were called to pick them up.

Shawn Williams, 10, was walking across the schoolyard when the first shot was fired.

"At first I thought it was a firecracker," he said. "Then I saw some dirt jump."

He said a vice principal yelled at him and his friends: "Get down!"

Shawn said he and the others instantly flopped on the ground, lay still a short time, then jumped up when the shots stopped momentarily. He said as they dashed for cover, the shooting began again.

Shawn's sister, Latreece, was slightly wounded in the attack.

He said he saw Shala Eubanks when she was cut down.

"Shala was by the stairs," Shawn said. "She started running and then looked back. I saw her fall."

Albert Jones, 50, a schoolyard supervisor who was slightly wounded by the gunman, said he and another school employee were on the 50th Street side of the school when the shots started. He immediately rode his bike to the cafeteria area.

"I saw a little girl lying on the ground, face down and bleeding," Jones said. "I attempted . . . to help the girl, but he was firing from somewhere across the street. The last time I tried (to reach the girl) I felt a stinging sensation in my feet. I just had to stay there. I didn't see the person. I just heard the shots."

Jones said he made four tries to reach the wounded girl, but each time he got close, more shots were fired.

"I believe he was definitely going (trying) to keep me from getting to the little girl," Jones said.

Treated at Hospital

Wounded in the foot, Jones talked with reporters for a few minutes after he was released from emergency treatment at Orthopaedic Hospital.

"It feels pretty good now," he said of his wound.

Jones said he was supposed to be off at 1:15 p.m.

"Maybe, I should have gone home when I got off, instead of playing softball with the kids."

Willie Lee Mitchell, an uncle of **Tyrone Mitchell**, told reporters his nephew had been in the house all day.

"Then the kids started getting out of school," he said. "I guess he needed targets and started shooting. He just mowed them down. They (the police) were supposed to arrest him four or five days ago. . . . He drinks a lot; he drinks every day."

"Then the kids started getting out of school," he said. "I guess he needed targets and started shooting. He just mowed them down. They (the police) were supposed to arrest him four or five days ago. . . . He drinks a lot; he drinks every day."

Eddie Blackmon, who said his former wife is **Tyrone Mitchell's** cousin, told reporters that Tyrone had grown up in the neighborhood, living as a youngster in a house later razed to build the school.

Tyrone Mitchell's fiancée, Marylou Hill, 29, arrived at the scene before the suspect was found dead. She asked police to allow her to go into the house to try to talk to Mitchell, but authorities refused, fearing she would be taken hostage.

Later, Hill told reporters she and Tyrone were both followers of the Rev. Jim Jones. She said Mitchell's father, Clarence; his mother, Annie Lee, four sisters and a brother died at in the mass suicide at Jonestown. As a result, she said, Tyrone suffered a nervous breakdown.

Hill said Tyrone was a student at California State University, Long Beach.

An attorney who represented **Tyrone Mitchell** said his client had been in Guyana but was not in Jonestown at the time of the mass suicide.

School Principal Charles Jackson, obviously shaken by the horror of the day, declined to talk at length with reporters.

"It's very bad, a terrible tragedy," he said, his voice breaking. "We had been dismissed (the classes), so all the children were out there, leaving. We were able to call some of them back into the school."

There were many eyewitnesses in the neighborhood, and even more who heard the shots. Their stories were varied, dramatic and sometimes conflicting.

A. W. Thompson, who lives across the street from the school, said the sniper was well-known in the neighborhood as "a mentally retarded person."

Thompson said he has a grandchild who attends 49th Street School.

"I was in my house," he said. "I heard shots, like an automatic rifle. Maybe 30, 35 shots. I ran across the street to the school. The children were running, trying to get out of the way, running over each other. They were yelling, screaming."

Ida Shaw, who lives at 776 East 50th St., said she knew the sniper. Shaw said she was in the living room of her house when the shooting started.

"I heard the first shot," she related. "Lots of parents were picking up their kids. I saw people and kids running. He fired 20 or 30 rounds."

Saw Girl Fall

Diane Washington, who lives at 721 East 49th St., said she was outside in her yard when the shooting began. She said she saw a girl fall and start crying, then two others fell down.

"I tried to run to them," she said, "but the gunfire was so fast and it was echoing on the concrete, so I couldn't tell where it was coming from. So I couldn't get to her. So I had to go back. It was terrible."

Erica Barrillas, 12, a sixth grader, said she and her classmates were in their classroom when she first heard the shots. One bullet, she said, smashed a window in the room, but no one was hurt.

The three most severely wounded victims remained in guarded but stable condition late Friday at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital. Carlos Lopez, 24, believed to have been walking past the school at the time of the shooting, suffered gunshot wounds to the abdomen and was in surgery late Friday, hospital spokesman William Delgado said. Anna Gonzalez, 11, also was shot in the abdomen and underwent several hours of surgery.

Steve Gomez, 9, was wounded when gunfire ricocheted from the pavement and struck him in the abdomen, chest and leg. Delgado said. He did not require surgery.

One girl, identified as 10-year-old Iran Macias, was admitted in good condition to Orthopaedic Hospital, spokeswoman Anita Bennett said.

Five other victims were treated and released from Orthopaedic. They were identified as Albert Jones, 50; Latreece Williams, 11; Alicia Pena, 10; Mayra Cruz, 10, and Jose Prado, 12. All suffered shotgun pellet wounds and other minor injuries, Bennett said.

Los Angeles school officials said four other students suffered minor wounds. They were identified as Mario Hernandez, 9; Eloisa Cruz, 10; Jose Gavino, 11, and Victoriano Ulloa, 11.

Three Weapons

Police said they found three weapons near Mitchell's body: a semiautomatic, military-type AR-15 carbine, a double-barrel 12-gauge shotgun and a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun. Mitchell apparently used the double-barrel shotgun to kill himself, according to Police Information Officer Sergio Diaz.

He said the AR-15 had a 30-round banana clip. One round was jammed in the chamber. The double-barrel shotgun was stained with blood.

About 100 police officers from several different divisions took part in the siege.

Capt. Rick Batson of Newton Street Division said officers tried several times to contact Mitchell with bullhorns, but they received no response. There was no phone in the house, he said.

Police speculated privately that Mitchell may have killed himself early in the afternoon. However, some neighbors said they believed they saw someone moving behind the bay window late in the afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m., SWAT marksmen began firing tear gas canisters into the second-floor of the house. About 30 minutes later, four of them entered the house through a second-floor window. At 6:03 p.m. they reported that Mitchell was dead.



ROSEMARY KAUL, BORIS YARO / Los Angeles Times, Associated Press

SWAT team member approaches sniper's house after tear gas was fired. Shala Eubanks, top, was killed by the sniper, identified as

Tyrone Mitchell, above. Other scenes: Injured youngster talks to a medical worker at scene, and Eubanks' body is removed from school.



49th Street Elementary School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
April 20, 1984	Detroit, Michigan	1	0

13-year-old Kelly Crittendon was accidentally killed by two classmates in a classroom at the Precious Blood School.

'It could have been any one of our kids'

By JACK KRESNAK
Free Press Staff Writer

When the Rev. Ron Kurzawa sees any of **Kelly Crittendon's** classmates he is reminded that it could have just as easily have been that student whose parents now grieve.



Kelly Crittendon

"You look at every other person near that gun and you think that, really, this life could have ended that day," Father Kurzawa said. "It could have been any one of our kids."

Father Kurzawa, pastor of Precious Blood Catholic Church, spoke Friday night to parents of students at Precious Blood Elementary School to begin "what we hope is the process of . . . healing our hurt."

EVERY PARENT, student and teacher at Precious Blood, Father Kurzawa said, was hurt by the death Wednesday of **Kelly Crittendon**, an eighth grader who was accidentally shot while another student handled a small, semiautomatic handgun. The gun, assembled from Italian-made parts by the Foreign Import-Export Co. of Miami, Fla., cost about \$50, according to Detroit police.

The 14-year-old boy with the gun was charged in Wayne County Juvenile Court with careless use of a firearm resulting in death, a high misdemeanor. A second eighth grader, 13, was charged with possessing a gun.

Because of their ages, the boys were not identified, and their parents could not be interviewed. But parents of students at Precious Blood said they believe the boys

brought guns to school because they have been harassed, robbed and beaten up by young gangsters from the Schaefer-Mc-Nichols neighborhood around the school.

"I know why they had guns was because they were afraid of the gangs," said one parent who would not identify herself. "They come at these kids with bats, karate sticks and knives."

PARENTS SAID Precious Blood students were close, caring deeply for one another.

"When you drop the kids off, they run up to the car and hug each other, just to say, 'Hi,'" another parent said.

Parents spend more than \$1,000 annually to send their child to Precious Blood. One said they pay because they don't want to worry about the drugs and weapons they've heard are often found in public schools.

Father Kurzawa said 90 percent of the school's 325 students are non-Catholic.

KELLY CRITTENDON was a member of the New St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 15015 Meyers. She sang in the junior choir and was looking forward to the Easter Chorale. She had been a student at Precious Blood since the third grade, her mother, Audrey Crittendon, said.

"I liked the school. I felt it was better, that's why I sent her there," said Crittendon, who spoke at the meeting Friday night at Precious Blood.

"I went to talk to Kelly's class; I figured a lot of them would be at the meeting. My concern was for the children and I told them they need not feel afraid to call me," said Crittendon, a registered nurse at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

"I'm concerned about the children. That's a traumatic thing to happen to any 13- or 14-

year-old. They could be emotionally scarred for a week, a month, a year, forever. Who knows?"

SHE SAID the boy whose gun killed her daughter was a friend who had telephoned Kelly often.

"I want him to be able to pull his life back together, make himself a better person. I don't want him to regress. I do care about him," Crittendon said.

"I have not talked to him. I don't even know where he is. I hope he and the other boy are with their families. They need to be there, they don't need the cold walls of the juvenile home.

"I hope that those children have been taught a valuable lesson," she said.

EACH WEEKDAY morning, Kelly's grandmother, Verdell Foxx, would get off work at Providence Hospital in Southfield, where she is a nursing assistant, pick up Kelly at her home on Steel and take her to school. Each afternoon, Foxx would pick her up at school so Kelly wouldn't have to walk home.

"I used to ask her, 'Kelly, are you going to be a nurse like your mama?' She always told me she might be a teacher or work with those computers," Foxx said.

"All the kids in her class, seems like they were crazy about Kelly. She was not a problem person. She wasn't disobedient or nothing."

Kelly rarely went out without either with her mother or grandmother, except to go roller skating with friends.

Foxx said she couldn't understand why a boy would have a gun in a school.

"These children should stop carrying weapons," she said. "Guns will be killing you and you don't take nothing you can't give back."

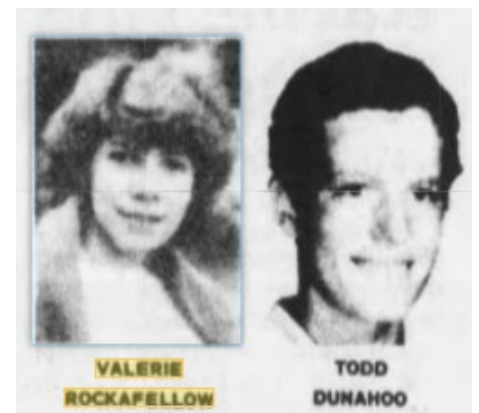


Precious Blood School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
May 17, 1984	Pleasant Hill, Iowa	2	0

17-year-old student Todd Dunahoo killed 16-year-old Valerie Rockafellow in the hallway at Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High in Runnels, then turned the gun on himself.

Student kills girl, then himself in school hall



By TOM ALEX and TOM SUK

Register Staff Writers

A 17-year-old junior at Southeast Polk High School, apparently upset over the breakup of his relationship with a girl, fatally wounded her in a school hallway just before noon Thursday and then killed himself with the same gun.

Valerie Rockafellow, 16, daughter of Dyle and Edna Rockafellow of 1209 Seventh St. N.W. in Altoona, died of gunshot wounds shortly before 1 p.m. Thursday at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.

Todd Dunahoo, 17, was pronounced dead minutes later of a gunshot wound to the head at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. Dunahoo was the son of Carol and Kermit Dunahoo, a Des Moines lawyer. Todd Dunahoo's driver's license listed his address as 2210 Fourth St. S.W. in Altoona.

Rockafellow, an honor student, was taking a test in the hallway outside her French class with another female student when she allegedly was shot by Dunahoo, Polk County sheriff's officials said.

Minimum of 3 Shots

Chief of Detectives Dale Moritz said Dunahoo was a member of the same class, and had asked permission to leave the room.

"The seniors in the class were taking a test, the way I understand it," said Moritz. "He got up, walked down the hall, turned around and came back to confront her. He fired a minimum of three shots at her and then turned the gun on himself," said Moritz.

"They had dated in the past, I believe. Our understanding was that she was graduating early and she didn't want to have the relationship continue and apparently told him so."

An autopsy revealed that Rockafellow died of three large-caliber bullet wounds to the chest, two of them piercing her heart, according to Dr. R.C. Wooters, Polk County medical examiner.

The shootings left fellow Southeast Polk students stunned, and some wept as they boarded buses after classes were cancelled Thursday afternoon.

"They were both friends of mine," said junior Brad Curtis, 17. "I've known them, just from around school, since eighth grade. It's really shocked everybody. Teachers were trying to calm everyone down but they were having a hard time. Everyone was confused. No one can believe he did it."

Suicide Threat

Sheriff's officials were told by one of Dunahoo's classmates that Dunahoo had threatened suicide two months ago. "I just feel like killing myself," he reportedly said then. Authorities said school officials had been told of the threat and had talked to Dunahoo about it.

Investigators said other students apparently knew Dunahoo had a gun.

Officials, who had recovered a .38-caliber handgun at the school, found a .25-caliber handgun in Dunahoo's pockets at the hospital. They said they don't know why he had two guns and do not know where he got them.

Sheriff's officials said they interviewed a male student Thursday who said Dunahoo had asked him some time ago how to get a gun.

Students told authorities that Rockafellow broke off the relationship she had with Dunahoo "last football season," but they said that he wanted to continue seeing her.

Kay Wehr of Altoona, who said her daughter Marlana was a close friend

of **Valerie Rockafellow**, said Marlana told her that the girl and Dunahoo did not date steadily.

"As my daughter explained it to me, they went out once, maybe twice at most," Wehr said. "She did go to the homecoming dance with him, but just as a friend. She didn't date him since then."

"She didn't want any commitments. She had a four-year scholarship to Wartburg College and was looking forward to that. She was the most interested in pursuing her studies."

"He Was Upset"

Wehr said her daughter told her that Dunahoo was upset with Rockafellow because she refused to date him regularly. "And a couple of times, he let her know he was upset," Wehr said.

Rockafellow was inducted into the National Honor Society, open to the top 15 percent of the students in her class, the night before she was killed, Wehr said. "I was there. I saw her inducted. She was a wonderful girl," Wehr said.

"My heart goes out to her parents. You worry about car accidents but you just never expect anything like this."

Allison Woodward of Altoona, a classmate of Rockafellow and Dunahoo, said the two had dated but were not a steady couple. "I think he liked her more than she liked him," Woodward said. "I don't think she took him seriously."

Sheriff's officials did not release the name of the student who was sitting in the hallway with Rockafellow when she was shot, but said she is the primary witness.

Said Curtis: "I ran out [of a classroom] and saw someone on the ground. I went to tell a counselor about it. I was in the office when I heard another shot. I peeked around the corner and [Dunahoo] was going to the ground."

School was closed for the day at 1:30 p.m., but was to resume on schedule today.

Assistant Superintendent Roger Mahnke said, "With the investigation and everything being conducted, we thought it best to send the students home."

Mahnke said school officials "had no indication that this would happen." He added that he was not aware of any threats having been made against Rockafellow.

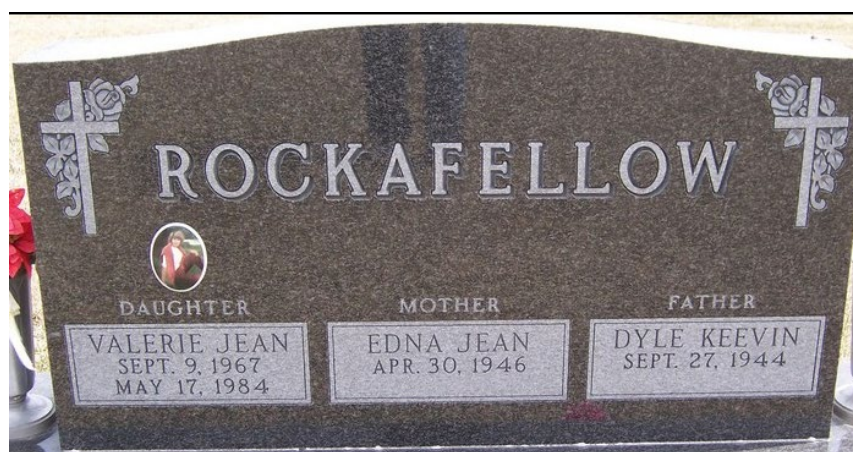
School officials cautioned students not to talk with reporters, and ordered some who were talking with reporters back into the building. Students from Runnells, Altoona, Mitchellville and part of rural Polk County attend the school.



Valerie Rockafellow with her parents, Dyle and Edna, in a photograph the family sent to friends and relatives with last year's Christmas cards.



Miss Rockafellow died at Mercy Medical Center from gunshot wounds, Thursday, May 17, 1984 in Des Moines, Iowa within two hours after the shooting at Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High in Runnels, where she was to graduate Sunday.

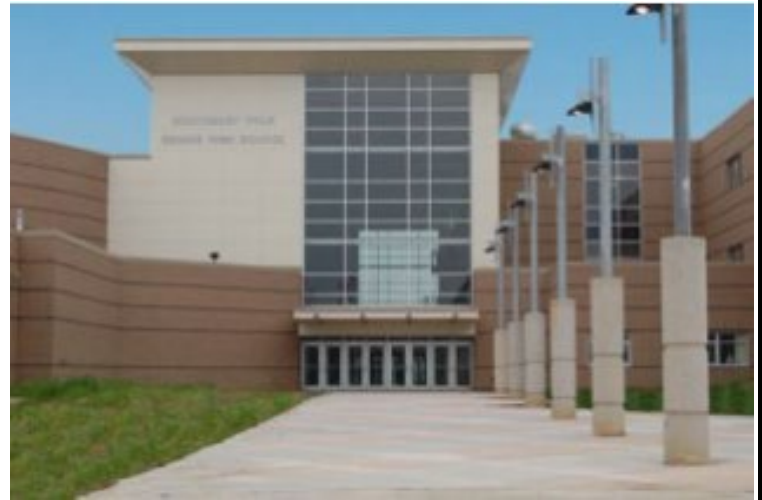


Valerie Jean Rockafellow

BIRTH	9 Sep 1967
DEATH	17 May 1984 (aged 16) Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, USA
BURIAL	<u>Saint John Cemetery</u> Williams Township, Calhoun County, Iowa, USA



Todd Dunahoo is rushed to the Life Flight helicopter after a shooting incident Thursday at Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High School, located just east of Des Moines. Dunahoo, a 17-year-old junior, fatally wounded another student, Valerie Rockafellow, then turned the gun on himself.



Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High in Runnels

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
September 28, 1984	North Richland Hills, Texas	0	1

1981 alumnus Barry Wayne Shaw returned to his alma mater Richland High School carrying a 9mm Uzi submachine gun, an AR-15 and a .45-caliber pistol looking for Ms. Ball, his English teacher. After some time, he gave up the hunt, yelled out "Homecoming, homecoming," and sprayed the school's foyer with 30 rounds of ammunition. None of the dozen or so students in the foyer was hit, though one was injured by flying debris. Principal Ray Williams arrived to confront him after Barry had fired his last shot. Barry threw both rifles at Ray, saying, "I did it." Ray had Barry sit down and wait for the police. Barry offered no resistance. It was later discovered that Barry had killed Dallas karate instructor Jimmy Glen Wilson and wounded Rudy Smedley earlier in the week with the submachine gun. He was charged with two counts of intent to commit murder, one count of retaliation and one count of murder.



BARRY SHAW
... photo in yearbook

Quick action
by principal
ends terror

Principal Ray Williams arrived to confront him after Barry had fired his last shot. Barry threw both rifles at Ray, saying, "I did it." Ray had Barry sit down and wait for the police. Barry offered no resistance. It was later discovered that Barry had killed Dallas karate instructor Jimmy Glen Wilson and wounded Rudy Smedley earlier in the week with the submachine gun. He was charged with two counts of intent to commit murder, one count of retaliation and one count of murder.

By CLARA TUMA
and DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
Star-Telegram Writers

Homecoming day at Richland High School is traditionally a day of spirited, impromptu pep rallies, and Principal Ray Williams thought he heard students setting off firecrackers as he walked down a hall Friday morning.

He hurried to the school's front entrance to put a stop to the antics.

Just before he reached the foyer he realized that the noise was gunfire. He entered in time to see a gunman fire one last round of ammunition into the ceiling as frightened students crouched under benches and sprawled on the floor.

Williams said he recognized the man as **Barry Wayne Shaw**, a former student. He knew Shaw was an excellent marksman, but his concern for the students overrode his fear.

"I wanted it to stop, and I wanted to get him to stop," Williams said. "I was concerned about the kids. That's all that was in my mind was this has got to stop."

The gunman briefly pointed a rifle at Williams as the principal walked across the foyer, but Williams said he was determined to stop the gunfire. As Williams

walked toward him, the man threw his weapons on the ground, apparently in surrender.

"He either emptied (his weapons) or quit," Williams said. "He looked at me and didn't say a word. He did what I said. I asked him to sit down, and I looked to see if everybody was OK. . . . The only thing he said (later) was 'I did it and there.' He didn't say anything to our students. He did not appear anything but cold and indifferent. When I took the rounds out of his pocket, he said, 'That's all I have.'"

By the time the shooting stopped, several coaches ran to the foyer to help Williams keep the man under control until police arrived.

School officials picked up the weapons — two rifles and a 9mm pistol — and made the gunman remove his shoes and fatigue jacket, which contained several additional rounds of ammunition. The man at first was ordered to kneel in the hall, but later was moved into the principal's office so that he would not be in the hall when classes changed shortly after 9 a.m.

Amy Cobb, a student who was in the adjoining administration office when the shooting started, Please see Gunman on Page 2

said she thought the noise was part of the homecoming celebration until she looked out the window.

"I thought it was drums at first, then I thought it may be firecrackers, but once I looked outside I realized it was someone shooting," Cobb said. "All I could think about was my boyfriend, who was standing there frozen in the foyer."

Sophomore Cathy Heaton was sitting in the foyer with her books and tennis shoes on her lap when she saw a man in military fatigues running toward her.

Homecoming banners decorated the school entrance, and Heaton and her friends were talking about the Friday night football game with Arlington Lamar when the gunman reached the foyer.

When he opened fire, Heaton dropped her books and tried to get out.

"I just ran," Heaton said. "I was sitting on a bench and I just ran. Everybody was running and yelling, 'He's shooting and it's for real.' He could have killed a lot of people."

Senior Cindy McDonald said she was relieved that no one was killed in the attack but that she was worried about the gunman's future actions.

"I'm scared he's going to go to

another school if they let him out," she said.

Senior Tracy Norris was walking into the foyer when the gunfire erupted.

"You could hear people running," she said. "It was quiet (except for the firing) until someone said, 'Hit the floor,' and then people were screaming. There wasn't that much screaming until then. I just remember seeing that gun waving."

Several students said the shooting would mar the high school's reputation for years and would come close to spoiling Friday night's homecoming game.

"This doesn't even seem like homecoming," said Gena Tidwell, a member of the Dixie Belles drill team. "This ruined it, and it's even more chaotic than the rape thing."

A student was abducted from the Richland High campus and raped in January.

Police credit Williams, 50, with apprehending the gunman, but Williams said he didn't do anything extraordinary and refused credit for his actions.

He said the school planned no new security measures after the attack at Richland.

"If the president of the United States is not able to prevent terrorism, I don't know how we can here."



Richland High School

Attempted murder charges filed

By CLARA TUMA
and DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
Star-Telegram Writers

A 21-year-old Fort Worth man accused of spraying a barrage of gunfire into the crowded foyer of Richland High School on Friday morning has been charged with attempted murder in the shooting.

Fort Worth police said the man, **Barry Wayne Shaw** of 501 College Ave., had also been sought in connection with a slaying at a Fort Worth karate studio Monday. No charges have been filed in the slaying.

He was being held in Tarrant County Jail Friday night after being refused bail

because he was on probation on a 1984 burglary conviction, according to Assistant District Attorney Jim Blankinship.

One student was slightly injured by flying debris when the gunman fired more than 30 shots in the school foyer, but he was treated by the school nurse and sent home, school officials said.

Shaw, a 1981 graduate of Richland High School, was arrested minutes after the campus shooting. School officials took a 9mm rifle, a .223-caliber rifle, a 9mm pistol and several additional rounds of ammunition from the man, North Richland Hills police said.

Police and school officials said they have no idea as to the gunman's motive.

"I couldn't fathom a guess why it occurred," Principal Ray Williams said. "There were students here if (killing) had been the choice. He did not appear anything but cold and indifferent."

Williams, who apprehended the gunman, quoted him as saying, "I did it, and there," when he was captured.

Classes for the 2,050 students at the school were not halted because of the gunfire. But students said the shooting rather

Please see Charges on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

than the Friday night homecoming game was the chief topic of conversation in all classrooms.

Students and school officials said the gunman apparently started his spree from a perch on top of the high school, where he fired one shot into the roof about 8:50 a.m. He then jumped to the ground and ran into the school, pausing briefly to look in at the door of a classroom. Students and faculty said the classroom had belonged to one of Shaw's former teachers, but that she had moved to another room.

The gunman ran through a hall with rifle at ready position, yelling, "It looks like homecoming," before entering the foyer, a student said. Students ran for cover and dived under benches when he opened fire.

"I saw this guy and he was in (military) fatigues," said Steve Stembridge, a senior defensive back on the Richland Rebels football team. "I didn't think anything of it when I first saw it. But he ran past me and started firing at the glass (at the front of the foyer). I thought it was a joke. But then I noticed the holes in the windows, and that's when I set speed records to the cafeteria."

Stembridge warned students in the foyer and adjacent cafeteria to duck and take cover.

Joel Madden, a member of the school grounds crew, said he was walking down the hall toward the foyer when the shooting started. After it stopped, Madden said he peeked out of a door and saw the gunman sitting on the floor surrounded by school officials.

"He had a look of satisfaction on his face," Madden said.

Fort Worth police on Thursday

had issued a murder warrant for Shaw after he fled from a Fort Worth mental health facility at which he was to undergo psychiatric tests.

The warrant was issued in connection with a shooting death Monday at a Fort Worth karate studio.

Jimmy Glen Wilson, 30, of 1162 Audelia Road in Dallas, was slain and karate instructor Rudy Smedley, 29, of 3909 Trail Lake Drive in Fort Worth, was wounded when someone fired more than a dozen rounds of ammunition through the window of the studio at 5033 Trail Lake Drive.

A 9mm weapon was used in the karate studio killing, police said. Fort Worth police said they decided to question Shaw in the karate studio killing after learning that he had purchased a 9mm Uzi submachine gun and 100 rounds of ammunition Saturday at a Hurst gun shop.

A.J. Tiroff, a Fort Worth detective, said Shaw had volunteered to undergo psychiatric testing at the Tarrant County Mental Health Association in the 1300 block of Summitt Ave. Thursday, but bolted just after he entered the building with his mother at about 3 p.m. He was not under arrest at the time, Fort Worth police said.

"He went on the suggestion of his probation officer," Tiroff said. "I found out he was over there, and when I called to talk to his mother, he ran out."

Star-Telegram writers Paul Clobery and Tom Anderson contributed to this report.



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
October 24, 1984	Celina, Ohio	1	0

45-year-old Shirley Shindeldecker killed school bus driver 54-year-old Gene Green as he stopped to pick up the son of Shindeldecker's estranged husband. After serving 19 months of her sentence, Shindeldecker was found not guilty by reason of insanity and released.

Women slays driver of bus carrying her son

CELINA, Ohio — A woman was jailed Thursday in Portland, Ind., in the fatal shooting of a school bus driver who apparently tried to stop her from taking her son off the bus.

Shirley Shindeldecker, 46, also was charged with attempted murder for trying to kill her former brother-in-law, Frank Shindeldecker. He jumped on the bus after the shooting and drove the boy to the city police department.

Police said Mrs. Shindeldecker has been involved in a custody dispute with her husband, who has custody of the child.

The woman wrestled with driver Gene Green and shot him with a handgun. When Shindeldecker jumped on the bus and drove away, she followed in her car, shot at the bus four times and attempted to ram it at least twice. There were no other children on the bus.



Gene Harold Green

BIRTH 22 Apr 1928
Ohio, USA
DEATH 24 Oct 1984 (aged 56)
Mercer County, Ohio, USA

Slaying Suspect Linked to Sect

CELINA, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio woman who is charged with killing a school bus driver while trying to regain custody of her son was once involved with the Faith Assembly sect, court records show.

The records indicate her involvement in the sect — which advocates faith healing over medicine for curing the sick — apparently contributed to her losing custody of the boy in 1982.

Shirley Shindeldecker, 46 of Celina, Ohio, is charged with murder and attempted murder. She is accused of killing school bus driver Gene Green, 54, and attempting to kill her ex-brother-in-law.

According to the Mercer County, Ohio, Sheriff's Department, Green was picking up Matthew Shindel-

decker, 10, at the home of the boy's father in Celina Wednesday when Mrs. Shindeldecker approached the bus armed with a handgun and demanded that her son be turned over to her. Green and the woman scuffled, and he was shot in the chest, the department said.

Mrs. Shindeldecker also is accused of firing on the boy's uncle, Frank Shindeldecker, as he drove the bus to a police station after Green was shot. She was arrested 14 hours later at a restaurant in Portland, Ind.

Mercer County Sheriff Joe Gilmore told the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel he wasn't aware of anything linking the woman's involvement in Faith Assembly teachings to Wednesday's shooting.

The boy's father, Ralph Shindel-

decker, was granted custody of his son during 1982 divorce proceedings in which his wife's involvement in the Faith Assembly became an issue.

The divorce petition, filed in Mercer County, said Mrs. Shindeldecker attended services conducted by Rev. Hobart Freeman, the founder of the sect, near Syracuse, Ind., and for 2 years attended religious meetings conducted either by Freeman or another Faith Assembly minister about five evenings a week.

Ralph Shindeldecker said in the petition that he had last seen his wife in October 1982. He accused his wife of "extreme cruelty and gross neglect of duty," citing repeated absences from home.

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
January 21, 1985	Goddard, Kansas	1	3

Armed with a rifle and a handgun, 14-year-old James Alan Kearbey killed principal James McGee and wounded two teachers and a student at Goddard Junior High School. Kearbey was released in 1991 but was arrested again in 2001 after being found with a gun; he was paroled in 2003.

Kearbey a Model Boy Scout Fascinated by Guns



Mike Hutmacher/Staff Photographer

Goddard police officer Doug Sieh, left, and Valley Center police officer Don Fleury escort shooting suspect **James Alan Kearbey** to the juvenile detention center in Wichita.

By Beth Rosenberg
Staff Writer

Those who know **James Alan Kearbey** portray the ninth-grader as a loner, a tough guy of sorts, fascinated by the military and guns.

At the same time, the 14-year-old Goddard teenager was a model Boy Scout — the son of a scoutmaster — who was working toward his Eagle Scout badge.

Although classmates and some parents say he occasionally could be difficult to get along with, they say they can't figure out why he would kill the school principal and shoot three other people.

"HE'S A person who could be very helpful at times, but he had a behavior problem sometimes, but not a severe one," said one parent who knew Kearbey from scouting and did not want to be identified.

"He'd fly off the handle, but nothing severe. He'd get mad, but then he'd take care of the problem. He was just like any other kid. I have no idea of why it happened. There were no signs that this was coming. I was in shock when I heard."

Although Kearbey's parents declined an interview, a woman who identified herself as Mary Kearbey, the boy's mother, telephoned KAKE TV, Ch. 10, and said that

the principal and kids were picking on her son, and that **James Alan Kearbey** felt the treatment was unfair.

The mother called a KAKE news executive in response to a Channel 10 broadcast that she said was unfair to her son. She told the executive that the boy had complained about intense pressure at school, but she wasn't sure of the reason for the shooting.

KEARBey, WHO was known as

Alan, lives a few blocks from the school with his parents, Wayne and Mary, and a younger brother. Several neighbors said that Kearbey played basketball and football with the other kids on the block, regularly played the game "Dungeons and Dragons" and was "just a normal, average teenager."

His father served for the past year as the local scoutmaster but resigned last week, apparently because of scheduling conflicts, scouting officials said. Wayne

Kearbey has been an air conditioning teacher for the past four years at the Wichita Vocational Technical School, school officials said.

Because of the younger Kearbey's fascination with the military and his affection for wearing military fatigues, one student said Monday that he wasn't surprised when he saw Kearbey with a rifle at school Monday morning. The boy, Matthew Wert, 12, a former playmate, said he even asked

Kearbey if he'd brought the gun to school as part of a class project.

After starting to say no, Kearbey told him that he had brought the gun to school as part of an assignment, Matthew said.

"I WASN'T that surprised at the gun because his father had a lot of guns," said Matthew, who lives a few blocks from the Kearbey home. "I didn't think it had shells in it. He never had a gun in school before that I know of. I know he brought knives to school because he used to show them to me."

Robert and Nikki McDermeed, who recently moved into the home across the street from the Kearbeys, said they were worried when they first heard the news of the shooting because their sons, Ron and Russell, had gotten into a fight with Kearbey last week during a snowball fight. Relieved that their children were not injured, the McDermeeds said they felt terrible for Kearbey's parents.

"It's really a tragedy for those parents," said Nikki McDermeed. "But it could have been any parents' kids. If you could have seen them come home (after the shooting) ... Those two people have to be going through hell right now."

Ron and Russell McDermeed said they had been told by other neighborhood kids not to hang

around with Kearbey because he was "a poor sport and liked to get his own way." They said Kearbey became mad at them when he slipped during the snowball fight and got hit by one of the ice bombs.

"HE WAS acting like the snowball fight was a war," Ron said. "He and ... (a friend) were talking about guns and how if they had an M-60 we wouldn't be winning. He was wearing his Army hat when we played. When he wasn't in school, he always had that hat on."

Classmates say Kearbey was a C-plus student who could have gotten straight A's if he tried.

David Crook, Wilbur Junior High School librarian, taught a summer school English class that Kearbey attended last June. Crook said Monday that he was flabbergasted and refused to believe the reports of Kearbey's actions when he first heard them.

"He was a very imaginative student who read a lot of science fiction," Crook said. "He already had a good working knowledge of science fiction literature when he entered the class."

Crook said the summer school class was a make-up class and Kearbey received an A for the six-week course.



Charles Rollins/Staff Photographer

Parents wait anxiously outside the school Monday as medical teams evacuate the wounded.

Principal Wanted To Help Youths

By Gordon M. Henry
Staff Writer

Two months ago, James McGee, the principal of Goddard Junior High, said, "One of the most important things that I can do in my life is to work with young people and help them mold their lives."

Monday morning, police said, McGee walked into a school hallway and confronted a 14-year-old, rifle-toting Boy Scout named **James Alan Kearbey**.



McGee

Police said Kearbey shot McGee in the upper right chest. McGee died about three hours later.

Those who knew McGee say his life was filled with God, family and country, and a particular devotion to children.

"HE TALKED to me about the kind of homes some of the kids came from," said the Rev. Gary Jones, pastor of the Rose Hill Friends Church, which McGee attended for three years. "He wanted to help troubled kids. In fact, the young man they arrested today, Jim McGee would have wanted to help."

McGee, 35, his wife, Crystal, and their three children moved in the fall of 1982 from Rose Hill to Goddard — a town described by English teacher Darlene Criss as "the safest place in America."

"He was strict, but at that age (of student) you have to be strict,"

observed Kathy Sieh, a reporter at the Goddard newspaper, who interviewed McGee in November.

HOWEVER, MCGEE also was known for smoothing the transition for new students between elementary and junior high and doing the same for outgoing students entering senior high.

When news of the shooting spread through town Monday, the reaction among Goddard students was one of shock and horror.

Friends and neighbors knew McGee as an extremely private, religious, family-oriented man.

"He believed in the simpler things of life," said Jones. "In his life, career and philosophy, he was not extravagant."

The McGees live in a simple, brown, woodframe house on a dead-end dirt road east of Goddard. A station wagon is parked outside on the gravel driveway.

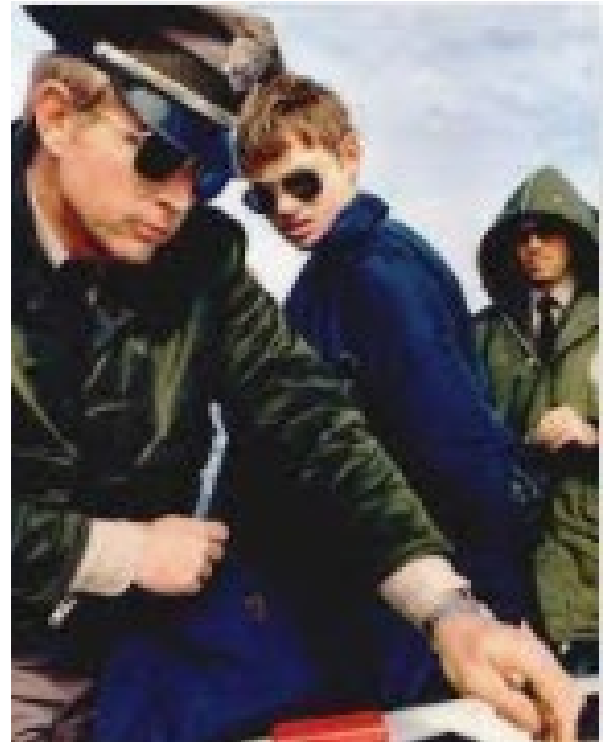
THE FAMILY is a young one: Crystal, McGee's widow, has three children — Jeanne, 10; Joseph, 7; and Jamison, 5 — and is pregnant with a fourth.

Raised in the south central Kansas town of Kiowa, McGee received a bachelor's degree from Central State University in Edmond, Okla., and later earned a master's degree in education administration from Emporia State University.

He entered the Marines and then taught in Burlington before becoming principal at Rose Hill Middle School in 1979. This was McGee's third year as principal in Goddard.



James McGee



James Alan Kearbey

'Wrong Place, Time' Jeopardized Victims

Donald Harris, 39, was in good condition Monday night at St. Francis Regional Medical Center, after undergoing surgery for a gunshot wound to his left hip.

Harris has spent his entire teaching career in Goddard. His good-natured joking with his history and driver's education students has made him a favorite and the teams he coaches.

The 1967 graduate of Wichita State University had made an effort to warm up to the suspect, **James Alan Kearbey**, said classmate Lisa Karstens, a ninth-grader.

"They were pretty good friends," Karstens said. "Mr. Harris was always talking to him (Kearbey), like he did to everybody. I don't see how he (Kearbey) would have anything against him. He's a real all right guy."

A member of Tyler Road Southern Baptist Church, where he and his wife, Marilyn, are former Sunday School teachers, Harris has two other children: Mark, 13, of St. Petersburg, Fla., and a stepson, Shannon, 14, who lives with Harris at 160 N. Robin in Wichita.

Dawn Swearingen, a 32-year-old learning disabilities teacher, was in good condition Monday night at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center with superficial head wounds.

Swearingen, of 2 Valleyview in rural Goddard, is a member of the Goddard United Methodist Church. She has two children: Lucas, 3, and Billy, a third-grader at Goddard Elementary School.

Swearingen has lived in Goddard four years.

"It's not safe to be a teacher



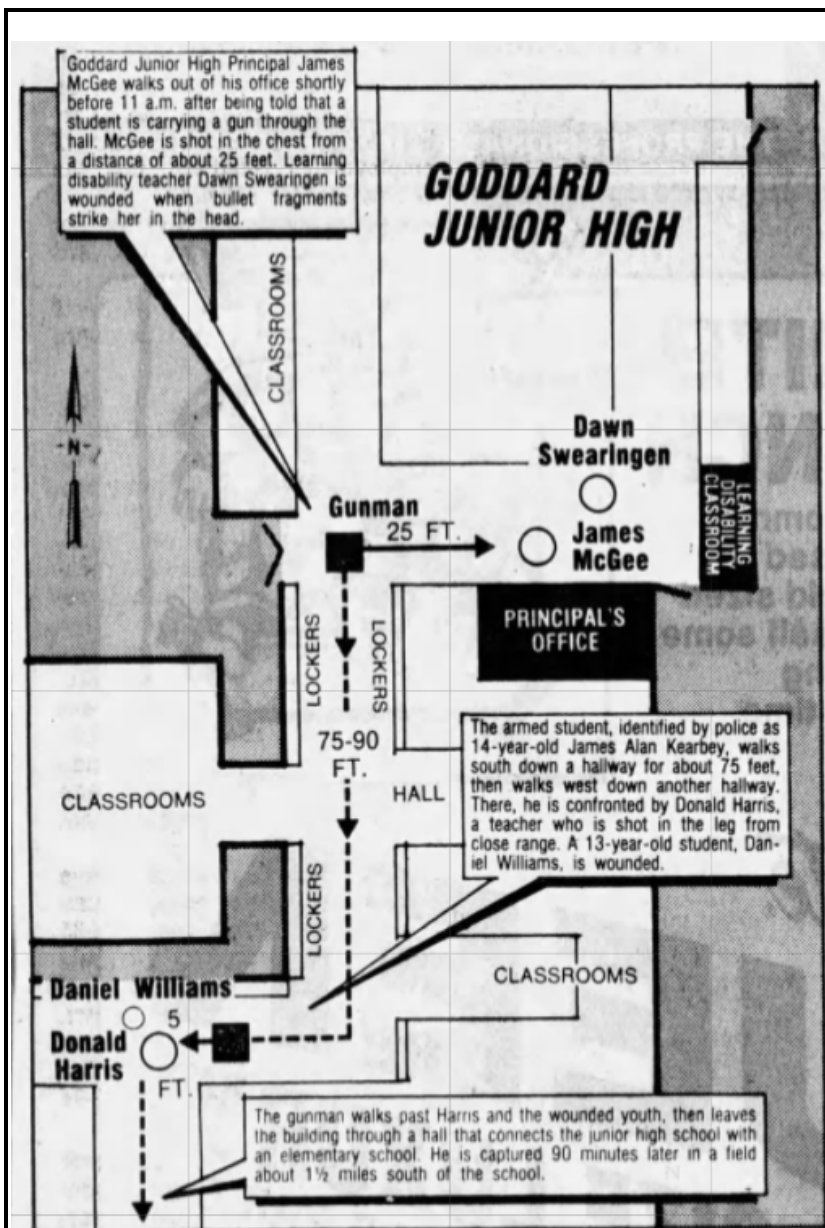
Shooting victims Donald Harris, upper left, Daniel Williams, above, and Dawn Swearingen, left, were in good condition.

anymore ...," her husband, Paul, said. "You don't expect this kind of thing to happen in a small town," he said.

Daniel Williams, 14, the only student shot, was in good condition Monday night at St. Francis Regional Medical Center after surgery on a gunshot wound in his left thigh.

Daniel was on his way to lunch in the school cafeteria — in the wrong place at the wrong time. His seventh-grade brother Matthew, 12, was in class nearby.

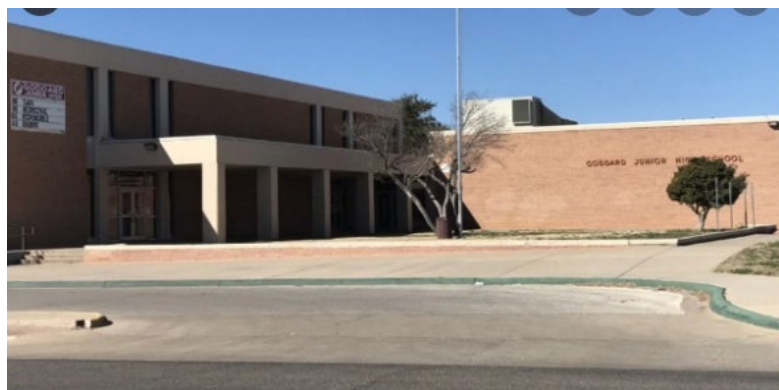
A sandy-haired eighth-grader who lives with his family at 1460 S. Main Road in Goddard, Daniel is "an all-round good boy who likes kidding about things," said his mother, Norma, a homemaker.



James Brent "Jim" McGee

BIRTH 2 Mar 1949
USA

DEATH 21 Jan 1985 (aged 35)
Sedgwick County, Kansas, USA



Goddard Junior High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
September 4, 1985	RICHMOND, VA	0	1

A 12-year-old East End Middle School boy shot a girl with his mother's gun.



East End Middle School

Girl on bus shot in face

RICHMOND (AP) — A 14-year-old girl was shot in the face by a boy as they were riding home on a city school bus Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

Lagretta Nash was in stable condition Wednesday night at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital, Richmond police Sgt. Robert E. Walker said.

The .38-caliber bullet entered her chin and exited from the girl's neck, Walker said.

Some of the children who were riding the bus told authorities three shots were fired, Walker said, adding that one shot went in the direction of the bus driver, who was not hit.

He said the bullet smashed the windshield in front of the

driver, who was not identified.

Walker said Miss Nash was riding in the back of bus No. 24 from East End Middle School when the driver heard the shot about 3 p.m.

The driver stopped the bus and went for help, Walker said, while many students on the bus ran out the door as soon as it stopped.

"Only two were still there when police arrived," he said.

Noting that the suspect is a juvenile, Walker refused to identify the boy being sought by detectives.

Schools in Richmond opened Tuesday. There are about 29,300 students in the city's school system.

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
October 18, 1985	Detroit, Michigan	0	7

Murray-Wright High School shooting: During halftime of the homecoming football game between Northwestern and Murray-Wright high schools, a youth opened fire with a shotgun, injuring seven people including six students with whom he had fought earlier in the day.

Teen sought in shooting

DETROIT (AP) — A teen-ager sought in the shotgun shootings of six other youths at a high school football game had been involved in a fight at the school earlier, police say.

A car pulled up to the gates at Murray-Wright High School's football field Friday afternoon and one of the four occupants opened fire on spectators with a shotgun loaded with birdshot, said Detroit Police Sgt. Daniel Carr.

The six youths, ranging in age from 13 to 19, were taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Garnet Robertson.

Four were treated Friday night and released, nursing supervisor P. Holloway said today. Their names were not released.

She said Michael Murphy, 19, was in stable condition today, while Shannon McKissick, 15, had been discharged.

Police were looking for a teen-ager involved in a fight at the school about an hour before the 4:15 p.m. incident, Carr said.

Witnesses said the shooting occurred two minutes before halftime of the Public School League contest between Murray-Wright and Northwestern High School. The game was canceled.

"This is my second year here as principal and we have had no type of violence ... other than the routine misbehavior of students. I'm trying to be calm. We're trying to talk to the parents of those that were injured," said Principal Eloise Anderson.



Murray-Wright High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
November 26, 1985	Spanaway, Washington	3	0

Armed with a .22-caliber rifle, 14-year-old Heather Smith shot and killed 15-year-old Gordon Pickett, her ex-boyfriend, and 14-year-old Christopher Ricco in the gymnasium at Spanaway Junior High School, before fleeing the school grounds. She later returned to the school and, after a short standoff with police, shot herself in the mouth. Smith died the following day.

Jilted high school girl kills herself after shooting ex-boyfriend, youth



— AP photos

Chris Ricco, left, and Gordon Pickett were slain by Heather Smith who shot herself

SPANAWAY, Wash. (AP) — Distraught over the end of a teenage romance, Heather Smith walked to her school gymnasium, shot her 15-year-old ex-boyfriend and another youth, then fatally shot herself, authorities said Wednesday.

Gordon Pickett, who had been dating her, died in the snowy schoolyard Tuesday afternoon and his friend, Christopher Ricco, 14, died Tuesday night at hospital.

Smith, 14, died Wednesday morning at Madigan, hospital spokesman Mark James said.

"Apparently the girl used to date one of these boys, and recently that relationship had gone sour," said Pierce County sheriff's department. "Apparently she was distraught over it."

"It was just one of those very tragic teenage things," said Gerald Hosman, superintendent of the Bethel School District. "None of them were discipline problems to my knowledge. It was just an impromptu depression and a resolution to that problem."

French said youths who knew

the girl said she told them she had decided to kill Pickett. She got a ".22-calibre semi-automatic rifle that belonged to her family, loaded it, and got a ride over to the school with a friend," French said.

That friend apparently didn't know her plans, he said.

Matt Hone, an eighth grader

"I don't even know how to load this thing"

— Heather Smith

who witnessed the shooting, said Smith had recently learned Pickett was dating another girl.

Hone said he emerged from the gym to find Smith holding the rifle.

"Heather asked me to go find Pickett and bring him here," Hone said. "What are you going to do, blow his brains out?" Hone said he asked her.

"No, I don't even know how to load this thing," Hone recalled the girl saying.

At that moment, Hone said, Pickett and Ricco walked into view and Smith pointed the rifle at Pickett.

"Chris (Ricco) stepped in to try to stop her from shooting Pickett," said Hone, and both boys were shot. Hone said he fled.

Smith fled after the shootings but was identified by other students and staff members at the gymnasium, French said.

She eluded pursuers but returned, rifle in hand, several hours later.

"Officers confronted her and ordered her several times to drop her weapon and she refused," said sheriff's Sgt. Tom Miner. "Several officers were within feet of her, and were slowly moving in to disarm her when she put the weapon to her head and pulled the trigger."

The girl had slashed her wrists a week earlier because she was depressed over bad grades, Miner said.

Pregnant Teen Shoots Ex-Boyfriend to Death at School

The 14-year-old also shot and killed his best friend.

Heather Smith's world was turned upside down when her boyfriend, 15-year-old Gordon Pickett, told her he just wanted to be friends. She was left both heartbroken and three months pregnant. Distraught over their failed relationship, Heather's grades spiraled downward, and the honor student received her first-ever B, shattering her unblemished record.

It only added fuel to the fire when Heather learned that Gordon had a new girlfriend just six weeks later. The ninth-grader slashed her own wrists and told several classmates she was going to "get even" with her ex-boyfriend and that people would "remember her." Sadly, no one took Heather's threats seriously.

On November 26, 1985, the 14-year-old left school early and retrieved a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle from her home. She asked her neighbor for a ride back to Spanaway Junior High School where she ran into her friend, Matt Hone, and asked if he knew where Gordon was.

Matt looked down at the rifle in Heather's hand and asked, "What are you going to do? blow his brains out?" Heather responded, "No, I don't even know how to load this thing."

Moments later, Gordon and his best friend, 14-year-old Christopher Ricco, exited the gymnasium only to come face to face with Heather. Within seconds, she was pointing the rifle straight at her ex-boyfriend's head.

Christopher stepped in front of Gordon and as he begged Heather not to shoot his best friend, she fired three shots at Christopher's head, neck, and torso. Gordon turned and ran for his life, but he too met the same fate; both were transported to the hospital but died a short time later.

Heather fled the school only to return hours later, with the rifle still in her hand. Officers surrounded the teen, pleading with her to drop the weapon, promising, "Everything will be alright Heather." It was at that point she raised the gun to her own head, calmly said, "No, it won't" and fatally shot herself.

After the shooting, parents of all three victims embraced in their grief together, recognizing Heather was not a monster, but a hurt child who must have felt incredibly desperate to have committed such a violent act, we're all suffering our loss. They're probably suffering even more because of what their daughter did, " said Gordon's mother, Sandra Lauderdale.

Heather's classmates and friends were shocked the bubbly gymnastic, who was known for being a practical joker could have been capable of the horror they had witnessed in the halls that snowy November day. It was Thanksgiving just two days later but for three families, it was difficult to find something to be thankful for.



Chris Ricco



Christopher J. Ricco

BIRTH	2 Jul 1971
DEATH	26 Nov 1985 (aged 14)



Gordon Pickett

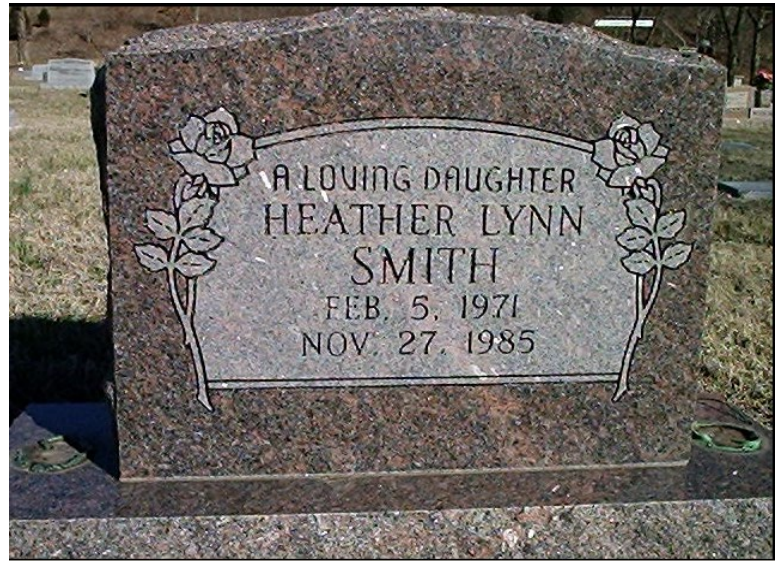


Gordon Charles Pickett

BIRTH	31 Aug 1970
DEATH	26 Nov 1985 (aged 15)
BURIAL	<u>Fir Lane Memorial Park</u>



Heather L. Smith



Heather Lynn Smith

BIRTH 5 Feb 1971
Würzburg, Stadtkreis Würzburg, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany

DEATH 27 Nov 1985 (aged 14)



Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
December 3, 1985	Concord, New Hampshire	1	1

At Concord High School, 16-year-old dropout Louis Cartier entered the school with a shotgun and took two students hostage: 18-year-old Patrick Lena and 16-year-old Scott Hayes, before engaging in a standoff with responding police officers. After the gunman aimed his weapon at football coach Don LeBrun, Concord Police Officer Michael Russell shot Cartier in the head with his service revolver, wounding him. Cartier returned fire with one shotgun blast at police, wounding police officer Stephen McDonnell in the chin with a shotgun pellet, before being shot twice more in the chest by Russell and CPD Officer John Clark. Cartier died of his wounds the following day in the hospital; Officer McDonnell was treated and released.

Captor shot; 2 hostages OK



Associated Press

Discussing their ordeal Tuesday, students Scott Hayes, 16, left, and Pat Lena, 18, said Louis Car-

tier Jr. appeared to have been drinking and carried a half-empty wine bottle.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A high school dropout wielding a shotgun took two students hostage in his former school Tuesday before being critically wounded during a gun-battle with police.

One of the hostages walked away from the youth before the shooting in the halls of Concord High School, and the other jumped out a window during the gunfire and escaped injury in the incident, which lasted about 30 minutes.

Principal Charles Foley identified the former student as **Louis Cartier Jr.**, 16, of Concord, a junior who dropped out a month ago. He was described by ex-classmates as silent and withdrawn.

Foley said Cartier entered the building shortly before 8:30 a.m. carrying a double-barreled shotgun. That began the incident which ended with two police officers shooting the youth when he pointed his shotgun at the football coach, who had been trying to persuade him to give up the weapon.

The school was thrust into the national spotlight this



Associated Press

Louis Cartier Jr.

year when social studies teacher Christa McAuliffe was selected to be the first teacher to ride in space.

Foley said he didn't know Cartier or why he left school, and neither the principal nor Cartier's former classmates knew what was troubling him.

"He was real silent," said Lisa Clark, 17, who had an English class with him. "He didn't talk to anyone. He sat in the back of the room in the corner and stared out into space."

Cartier first approached an office, where an assistant principal closed his door on the youth and called police, said Foley. Cartier walked down the hall, taking hostage two acquaintances whom Foley identified as Pat Lena, 18, and Scott Hayes, 16, both of Concord.

After Lena walked away, the football coach approached the youth, said Foley. Cartier pointed the gun at the coach, prompting police to open fire, said Police Chief David Walchak.

According to Hayes, Cartier was hit by gunfire, then fired at one police officer before being shot by a second officer.

Lena and Hayes said Cartier appeared to have been drinking and carried a half-empty wine bottle. The youth, wounded in the head and chest, was listed in critical condition at Concord Hospital.

One police officer was hit in the chin by a ricocheting shotgun pellet and was treated at a hospital and released, police said.



Louis J. St. Cartier

BIRTH 10 Apr 1902
DEATH 3 Dec 1985 (aged 83)
BURIAL Saint John Catholic Cemetery



Concord High School

Date	Location	Deaths	Injuries
December 10, 1985	Portland, Connecticut	1	2

After being suspended for refusing to take off his hat while at school, 13-year-old student Floyd Warmesley pulled out a firearm at Portland Junior High School, shooting and wounding the 53-year-old school secretary Lynn Haddad and killing 36-year-old janitor David Bangston. Warmesley was tried as a juvenile and sentenced to four years in prison but was released a year early for good behavior.

Teen Held in School Shooting



Michelle Holland, left, and Lorraine DiMauro are comforted by Edward Burgess, a teacher, as they leave Portland Junior High School after a shooting Tuesday. The suspect in the shooting was scheduled to be in class with Burgess at the time of the incident.



David A. Smith / Special to The Courant

Floyd Warmesley, 13, the suspect in the fatal shooting of a school custodian at Portland Junior High School Tuesday, talks with state police Detective Frank Griffin while waiting to be taken from the Colchester state police barracks to Hartford for detention.

Man Killed, 2 Injured In Portland

By G. PHILLIP MORAGO
Courant Staff Writer

PORTLAND — A 13-year-old Portland Junior High School student used a semiautomatic rifle to shoot and kill a school custodian and injure a school secretary and the principal before surrendering Tuesday afternoon, police said.

One student was taken hostage during the 45-minute ordeal but was released unhurt.

Other students, unable to escape the building, cowered under their desks in locked classrooms until the youth's aunt, called to the scene, spoke with the boy over the school's intercom system and persuaded him to surrender.

Police would not identify the suspect, but teachers and students at the school identified the suspect as **Floyd Warmley**, 13, a resident of the Chatham Court public housing project.

Police said the youth had been suspended recently, but they were not sure whether he had been suspended Tuesday or earlier. He had been in class in the morning, police said.

One student said Warmley had been suspended at least once this year, for wearing his hat in school. Another student said he had been in trouble for swearing in school.

The eighth grader had not been charged by late Tuesday, but police said he could be charged with murder and two counts of assault.

Anyone under 14 cannot be jailed in any of Connecticut's prisons or jails. The maximum penalty for a person under age 14, regardless of the seriousness of the charges, is a four-year commitment to the state Department of Children and Youth Services, said Francis Carino, chief juvenile prosecutor for the state of Connecticut.

School officials canceled classes at the junior high school for today but, at the request of state police, declined further comment on the incident.

Killed was David L. Bengston, 36, a school custodian and a town resident, who was shot in the head. He was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown at 1:55 p.m., hospital officials said.

The secretary, Lynne Haddad, was shot in the arm. She was brought to the hospital about 1:30 p.m. with a bullet wound in her left forearm, and went into surgery to have the bullet removed. She was listed in stable condition.

Principal Donald J. Rixon, cut by flying glass during the shooting, was treated but not hospitalized.

No students were injured at the Main Street school.

About 12:45 p.m., the youth entered the principal's office on the first floor and confronted Rixon with a 9mm assault rifle, Sgt. Edward Dailey, a state police spokesman, said. It was unclear late Tuesday where the youth had been immediately before the incident or where he had gotten the gun.

Larry Thoren, a school counselor, said he walked into Rixon's office and found Warmley, the gun strapped around his neck, with Rixon.

"I walked in and he [Warmley] said, 'Hi,'" Thoren said. Thoren asked Warmley what he was doing, and Warmley asked him to shut the door. Thoren left the office instead and called police.

About 25 state troopers responded, including a SWAT team. They cordoned off the area surrounding the school.

Thoren said, "I got some teachers out of the building" and the evacuation started. About one-quarter of the students were already outside for lunch break, he said.

The evacuated students were shepherded to the parking lot of a nearby supermarket, where school buses picked them up and took them home.

Meanwhile, Rixon managed to slip away into another office, where Haddad was working, and locked the glass door, Dailey said. The youth shot through the door, hitting Haddad in the arm, and glass from the shattered door hit Rixon, Dailey said.

The youth then proceeded upstairs and took a seventh grader hostage en route, Dailey said. Students and teachers later identified the hostage as 12-year-old Billy Buggie.

At some point on the second floor, the youth shot Bengston, who had been helping evacuate students, Dailey said. Police said they were not sure when or why Bengston went to the second floor, but his brother, Paul Bengston, also a school custodi-

an, said Bengston had gone there to try to evacuate students.

Police did not know under what circumstances Bengston was shot.

Most of the students on the first floor had been evacuated, but school officials used the intercom system to tell teachers on the second floor to

lock their classroom doors and students to get underneath their desks.

Warmley went to the classroom of English teacher Joann Thoren, Larry Thoren's wife, Joann Thoren said. Warmley said he wanted one of Thoren's students in class at the time to go with him, she said.

"I could see Billy was frightened," Joann Thoren said. "Floyd assured us he wouldn't hurt Billy."

She said Warmley told her, "I can't get out of here unless I have someone" as a hostage. Thoren said Warmley was afraid the police would harm him.

Thoren said she went to the doorway to speak with Warmley. Several times, Thoren said, Buggie asked her to trade places with him as a hostage. But she said she believed she was more effective trying to persuade Warmley to end the incident.

From the threshold of the classroom, she tried to coax Warmley into releasing Buggie and give up his gun, telling him how "talented" he was as a student, Thoren said.

Shortly afterward, she said, Warmley's aunt, who police identified as Pat Bucks, came on the intercom and, after several tense minutes, was able to persuade him to drop the gun out a classroom window.

Joe Ortiz, 13, an eighth grader who heard the conversation on the intercom, said Warmley's aunt "was saying, 'Floyd, I love you, put the gun down.' She told him, 'Throw it out the window and I'll come up,'" Ortiz said.

"He was saying, 'Aunt Pat, I love you very much, but I can't put the gun away,'" Ortiz said. Warmley told his aunt that, "If I do that, someone will kill me," Ortiz said.

Dailey said three shots were fired during the incident, but students inside the classrooms said they heard as many as five or six.

Warmley was taken to state police barracks in Colchester for questioning.

He was to be held overnight at the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center for presentation in Juvenile Court on Broad Street in Hartford today.

Buggie was "physically fine, but shaken up," his mother, Marie Buggie, said Tuesday evening. Marie Buggie declined to comment further, saying, "It's a very difficult situation. We're very relieved for all of the children, and very sorry for the man who died."

According to Dailey, the youth "had a problem with the administration at the school."

Classmates described Warmley as smart and likeable but said he had frequent run-ins with school officials.

Luanne Bishop, 14, an eighth grader, said Warmley has had frequent run-ins with Rixon. "He wanted the principal bad. He said he wasn't going to hurt anybody else," she said.

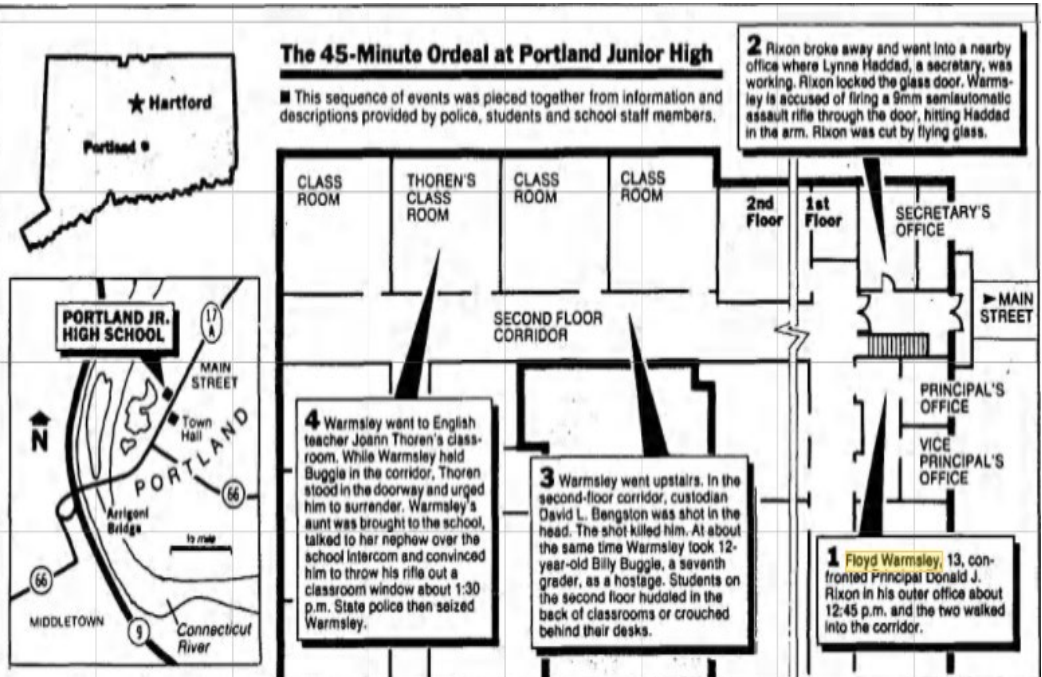
Earlier in the day, while riding the bus to school, Warmley had told a friend of Bishop's that Tuesday "he would do something he would regret all his life," Bishop said.

Thoren, who had Warmley in a class last year, was at a loss to explain Warmley's behavior. She described him as a "very talented, excellent" student.

"He has a very strong sense of justice" and would try to correct an injustice if he saw one, she said. "I have never seen him react with violence."

"The tragic events of Tuesday at Portland Junior High School have shocked the entire community," said LeRoy E. Dyer, school superintendent. "The community is sickened and saddened by the loss of David Bengston."

The junior high school will reopen Thursday, Dyer said.



'Nice Guy' Lost Life While Aiding Students

By STEVE BURKHOLDER
and DAVID RHINELANDER
Courant Staff Writers

PORTLAND—David L. Bengston was a generous neighbor and a devoted father, his friends said Tuesday — a man whose character dictated that he risk his life to protect the students he worked for every day.

State police said Bengston was shot to death Tuesday while working to evacuate students from Portland Junior High School, where a boy with a rifle had wounded a secretary and taken a seventh-grader hostage.

Bengston, 36, and his brother, Paul, 38, were maintenance workers for the town school system and both were at the junior high school when the shooting began. Paul Bengston found his brother in a second-floor hallway a short time later, shot in the head. David Bengston was taken to Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown, where family members gathered.

Paul Bengston arrived at the hospital about 2 p.m., almost at the moment his brother was rushed into the emergency room on a stretcher. Seated in a small, private anteroom, he was joined by David's wife, Bonnie; the Bengstons' parents; ministers from town churches; and hospital workers who knew the Bengston family. Bonnie Bengston works as a nurse at the hospital.

David Bengston, according to a neighbor, had planned to go shopping Tuesday night to buy Christmas presents for his two young boys.

"He was just one of those super guys," said a neighbor, Bruce Ledoux, who has lived across Strong's Avenue from David and Bonnie Bengston for seven years. "He was a wonderful father for two lovely little boys."

Ledoux said Bengston's friendliness and willingness to help may have contributed to his death.

"He was really a nice guy. Nice is overworked, but it really fit Dave," Ledoux said. "He would do anything for anyone. If someone was in trouble, he'd go to help. That may have cost him his life today."

"Here in the neighborhood, if your pipes were leaking, he'd come over at 2 a.m. and fix them and not take any money," Ledoux said.

Bengston liked to hunt and fish and often spent time outdoors with his sons — Josh, 6, and Justin, 5 — Ledoux said. "He was really a happy-go-lucky, down-to-earth guy. He knew everybody in town and everyone liked him."

Ledoux said he and other neighbors plan to organize a trust fund at a local bank today. "I want to get something going for Bonnie and the children," he said.

The Rev. Dwight E. Juliani, pastor of the Portland Congregational Church, said David and Paul Beng-



DAVID L. BENGSTON

ston often pitched in at town churches, offering their skills for free.

David Bengston "worked hours for our church," putting in lighting for two recent musicals, Juliani said. He was "just the kind of person who would go way beyond what was needed to help," the pastor said.

Ralph I. Barrett, the director of maintenance for town schools, praised both David and Paul Bengston.

"You couldn't ask for two finer men," he said. "I'm sick over this whole thing."

Barrett said David Bengston worked for two years as the head custodian at Portland Senior High School. For the past three years, he worked as the school system's electrician, but both Bengstons handled many jobs, from welding to simple carpentry, Barrett said.



David L. Bengston

BIRTH

31 Oct 1949

Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut, USA

DEATH

10 Dec 1985 (aged 36)

Middletown, Middlesex County, Connecticut,

