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just the facts

Wednesday, May 25, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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Susan Comstock
 ad manager

Man hospitalized, another charged in shooting

One Hoopeston man was shot and another is facing a preliminary charge of attempted murder in what police are alleging was an ambush.

Donald H. Bruce, 29, of 313 N. Seventh Ave., Hoopeston, was shot in the left shoulder with a .22 caliber rifle according to Sgt. Steve Bane of the Hoopeston police department.

Bruce was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, then transferred to Carle Hospital in Urbana. His condition was unknown at presstime.

Police arrested Terry E. Sage, 36, of 110 N. Market St., Hoopeston, in connection with the shooting, charging him with attempted murder, aggravated battery and unlawful use of a weapon.

Bane said Bruce and two unidentified friends, all African Americans, were driving in the 300 block of East Seminary at approximately 8 p.m. Tuesday night when they stopped and had a verbal confrontation with an undetermined number of white men in the area.

Bruce's friends told police that a white man pulled a handgun on the three men, causing the men to run, Bane said. It was while the men were

running that Bruce was shot through the back of his shoulder.

Bruce ran "a good half-block" after being shot, ending up at the First Baptist Church, 323 E. Seminary, where a revival was in progress.

Two unidentified revivalists at the church, trained in emergency first aide, began treating Bruce and called 9-1-1.

Sage was arrested shortly after the shooting. "Some lady hollered and said 'He's the one who did it,'" Bane said.

A search of Sage's apartment turned up one 15-shot .22 rifle, an 11-shot .22, and a single-shot 12-gauge shotgun, Bane said.

Although the victim is an African American and the alleged assailant white, Bane said the incident "was not racially motivated. It looks to me like it was an ambush."

Police have no motive for the shooting, but say it may have been drug-related. No drugs were found at the scene, Bane said.

Police are trying to search for shell casings, but "that's the problem - we don't know where the

See **SHOOTING** on other side

Danville man dies in semi-motorcycle accident

A Danville man died at 8:45 Tuesday morning after his motorcycle was struck by a semi truck in Rankin.

Charles Gilbert, 45, of route 3, Danville, was pronounced dead at the scene at the intersection of routes 9 and 49, said Merle Miller, Vermilion County sheriff's deputy.

Miller said Gilbert was stopped at the intersection when his motorcycle was struck by a semi driven by John Wilson, 42, of Independence, Mo. Wilson was not injured.

Wilson was charged with failure to stop at a stop sign. Miller said the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

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NOTICE

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Three people injured in two-vehicle accident Tuesday

Three Hoopeston residents were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Tuesday following a two-car accident.

Injured was David W. Watson, 815 W. Main, and two of his children, Vincent, 2, and David Michael, 5.

Watson's wife, Deanna, said all three received bruises and scrapes.

The accident occurred at 11:10 a.m. at the intersection of East Maple and South Market. Watson, who was southbound, was stopped. According to

police reports, a car driven by Margaret K. Crawford, 78, of 202 S. Second, Ambia, Ind., failed to stop, striking Watson's vehicle. Crawford was ticketed for failure to stop at a stop sign.

According to Mrs. Watson, the experience was not totally bad for her children.

While being transported to the hospital, the children were given dolls by local emergency medical technicians. Mrs. Watson called the gesture "wonderful," saying the act helped comfort her children.

Police News

Rossville police are investigating burglaries at Rossville Hardware and the American Legion hall. Both were reported Monday.

Several pieces of jewelry, stereo equipment and cash were taken from the hardware store. Cartons of cigarettes and cash were taken from the Legion.

Donald E. Graham, 623 W. Washington, reported Monday that someone took a television, coffee maker and CB radio from his motor home. Police are investigating.

Ivan Garcia, 18, #13 Hunt's Trailer Court, was arrested Monday, charged with domestic battery and criminal trespassing on a complaint from Brenda Colunga, 323 N. Sixth Ave., and police officer Doug Wagoner. Garcia was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Police are investigating a Tuesday report of three broken windows at the Lorraine Theatre. Brian Field, manager of the theater, said the windows, on the west side of the building, were broken during the night of May 23.

Weather

Partly sunny today. 40 percent chance of rain. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, clearing. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 74, low near 55.

Shooting continued from other side

scene is," Bane said. "It's like looking for a needle in a haystack."

Police received conflicting stories about where Bruce was when he was shot. Some witnesses say he was on Seminary when hit, while others say he was in an alley between Seminary and Main St.

Some witnesses told police Sage allegedly ran after Bruce, but Bane said Sage is recuperating from a broken right ankle.

Witnesses also disagree on the number of shots fired, giving numbers between one and six. "We have no idea how many were fired," Bane said.

Police are also looking for the man who initially pulled a handgun on the men.

Sage was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville by Vermilion County sheriff's police. He is expected to be arraigned today.

This is the first shooting in Hoopeston since the mid-1970s, said Sgt. Joe Gaffney.

Obituaries

STINE - William Floyd Stine, 79, of Indianola, formerly of Hoopeston, died Saturday, May 21, 1994, at home. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. today at Pape Memorial Gardens, Danville. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Indianola. Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.



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