

# School Board Stands on Duke Benz Decision

## Students Strike For Duke Benz

### POLICE CHIEF WALLACE ESCORTS GUNMAN



MURDER WALKS BEHIND! A vicious killer of unarmed and bound taxi driver, Ken Van Orman shown on his way to prison yesterday afternoon following overnight stay in the Saranac Lake jail. Robert Foley, 20-year-old confessed murderer walks behind James Young, 22, who also was involved in gunplay when he pulled a gun on arresting officers following a routine disorderly conduct report. The two men will be held in the Franklin County Jail for grand jury action. The men are being escorted by Saranac Lake Police Chief Bill Wallace. (McLaughlin Photo.)

### 100 TEENAGERS STAGE WALKOUT AT HIGH SCHOOL

#### May Ban Track Team From Van Dusens

About 100 students, led by many members of teams coached by Duke Benz, were out on strike today in support of the popular athletic director at Saranac Lake High School. They were protesting School Board action in not renewing the Benz contract.

Late this morning Butler Sullivan, track coach, advised members of the track team that they would not be eligible for the Van Dusens meet at Ogdensburg this Saturday if they continued out of school.

Superintendent Kenneth Wilson pointed out to two members of the team, Jim Beebe and Larry Muzzy, who called on him, that school regulations do not permit athletes to compete unless they have regularly attended classes. The team has had an undefeated season.

The walk-out was orderly. Leonard Morgan, member of the Quarterback Club which has been supporting Benz, told some of the boys, "Whatever you do, don't create a disturbance."

Assistant Police Chief John Moody and Officer Wallace Gay asked the students to move off the school property, and they did. Moody also advised them to remain quiet and orderly.

Several small signs were displayed and one large one, We Want Duke Benz, in red letters on a white background. From time to time students set up a chant for Benz.

George Nesbitt's convertible was decked out in signs and students in it drove down Main Street and Broadway.

Majority In School

However, in school, the balance of the 780 students continued in class or at rehearsals and other activities. Naturally there was interest and some excitement, but some of the students leaders who had not walked out urged them to continue their studies.

With final examinations coming up next week many felt it important to do this, whatever their feelings about the Benz situation. Mr. Wilson said a number of calls had come in from parents expressing concern lest their children join the walk-out.

When school started at 8:30 Mr. Wilson talked to the group outside, urging them to attend school. He later went out front and asked them to move to Petrova Avenue since they were distracting the students inside. He was greeted with a few good-natured boos and the crowd quietly moved to the street.

Jim Beebe, president of the Saranac Lake High School Student Council, told The Enterprise this morning that he tried to stop other students from striking, but that he was not actively opposing the walk-out.

Jim's father, Paul Beebe, president of the Quarterback Club, came into the Enterprise with his son at 8:30 a.m. and said the students had gotten nowhere with the School Board regarding the Duke Benz situation and so had come to the Quarterback Club.

"Last night representatives of the club also got nowhere at a meeting with the school board, so this is why the students are out this morning," Mr. Beebe said.

Woodruff Letter

He said that he had received a letter from Dr. Woodruff dated May 15 in which it was stated that all School Board meetings are open to the public and that the Board welcomes suggestions. The letter stated that the next regular meeting would be May 26 and that bids would be opened for the awarding of a roofing contract. "We have no idea how long this matter will take," Dr. Woodruff wrote.

The School Board president concluded by saying, "With reference to the specific problem you mentioned, I think you are aware of the fact that the Board does not have the authority to make such a decision. The Quarterback Club president, however, understood the situation and was very cooperative in this regard. We will continue to work with the opposing group. See



READY TO ROLL... SLHS striking students decorate their automobile with signs in support of Athletic Director Duke Benz whose contract was not renewed. About 100 were out of classes at 10 a.m. today. Lower photo shows campus demonstration as students mass in protest. (Photos by McLaughlin and Myers.)



### Space Monkey Lives:

## "Baker's" Operation Successful But "Able" Dies During Surgery

### PRESIDENT SEES NO PROGRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower said today there has been no detectable progress at the Geneva talks that would justify a summit conference.

Eisenhower called at a news conference for Russia to show some willingness to reach at least preliminary agreement at the foreign ministers sessions.

The President suggested that the Soviet Union ought to make, for example, a clear commitment that Western rights in Berlin will not be impeded pending reunification of Germany.

Eisenhower said there also are other good faith approaches which the Soviet Union could take.

He added that some recent statements by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev have not been calculated to ease East-West tensions.

The President spoke out against the background of his call a week ago for a measure of progress at Geneva if Russia really wants a summit conference.

He sounded that call when he met at the White House with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and the United States.

WEATHER

Gradual clearing this afternoon. High generally in 70s. Fair to night. Low in 40s and low 50s. Thursday, some cloudiness but generally fair. High in 70s. Winds west to northwest 10-20.

### WASHINGTON (AP) — Baker made it. Able didn't.

The two monkeys rode 300 miles into space in a Jupiter rocket and came back without a scratch.

Baker, a tiny one-pound squirrel monkey, survived easily Tuesday an operation to remove the electrodes that had been planted under the skins of both for the trip. No anesthetic was used. None was considered necessary for the smaller simian.

But when Able, a seven-pound Rhesus monkey, was placed under an anesthetic for a similar operation Monday night, her heart went into a spasmodic vibration. For more than two hours, doctors did everything humanly possible to get the heart beating again.

One even placed his mouth over the monkey's and breathed into her lungs. It was no use.

Baker had no trouble at all when Navy scientists at Pensacola, Fla., removed two of the four electrodes from her Tuesday night. They snipped them out in a couple of minutes. The two other electrodes, put in as spares, will be taken out later.

Baker showed no sign of pain and was as frisky as ever. It was not even necessary to bandage the places where the tiny wire coils were taken out of her chest and under one arm.

The electrodes had sent back important records of heartbeat, respiration and body temperature during the monkeys' pioneering flight last week from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The data has an important bearing on future space flights of human astronauts.

Scientists had hoped to study both monkeys alive for several years to see if any latent effect of the space trip would show up. They were bitterly disappointed by Able's death at a laboratory in Ft. Knox, Ky., but some good may come of it. The scientists said a preliminary autopsy showed "absolutely no evidence of any injury" from the rocket ride.

### IKE DENIES HE INTERVENED

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower said today it is completely untrue that he has intervened in favor of the steel companies in their wage dispute with organized labor.

Eisenhower was asked at his news conference to reply to a charge by President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers that the President has moved to favor management in the steel wage negotiations now going on.

Eisenhower replied vigorously that this charge is completely untrue. He said he recalled that he had urged both sides in the steel dispute to exercise discipline or the country would be in a bad fix.

The President said he doesn't want to see the wage-price spiral continue and has urged management to keep its prices down. He would be delighted if prices could be reduced, Eisenhower added.

As far as favoring management is concerned, the President said he has very little interest in the relative few among the management and big capitalistic classes as compared with his interest in the working man.

But, the President went on, the working man must be careful not to do things that will hurt themselves.

In response to a question, Eisenhower said he does not think Congress should go home until it enacts some corrective labor legislation.

### NO SKIN DIVERS

AVON, N.J. (P) — The city has beached skin divers in the Shark River inlet. Commissioner Henry Brewster says from now on skin divers will have to stay up stream. They are a menace to navigation in the inlet, he said.

MINOR FIRE

A burning acetylene tank at the Wehs Motel on Lake Flower avenue at 10:00 a.m. today was quickly extinguished by the Saranac Lake Fire Department. No damage resulted and the fire was declared out at 10:20. Twenty-five men answered the call.

### APPEAL IS MADE BY DELEGATION AT HIGH SCHOOL

By ANNE TRUMBULL

A delegation of about one hundred last night failed to get the Saranac Lake Board of Education to reconsider its position on George Duke Benz, whose contract as high school athletic director has not been renewed.

The delegation was headed by members of the Quarterback Club, Edward Goetz and Charles Jones, and Jim Beebe and Mike Buckley, president and vice president of the Student Council. More than 50 per cent were adults.

Dr. W. Warriner Woodruff, president of the School Board, said that under the education law the board was unable to discuss the Benz matter.

He said that the law required that the purposes for any scheduled meeting must be clearly set forth in the notice sent in advance to the board members.

The matter of discussion of the Benz contract did not appear on the call as issued because, as stated by Dr. Woodruff, it was a matter which had been finally resolved by vote of the board at an earlier meeting. The Quarterback Club had been so advised by a letter from the board to Mr. Paul Beebe, Dr. Woodruff explained.

Dr. Woodruff reviewed the legal facts involved, but in view of the large number of people who appeared in Mr. Benz's behalf, he permitted delay of the regularly scheduled meeting in order that they might present their points of view. However, he reminded them that the board was not legally able to open its meetings to that discussion or to take action at that time.

Edward Goetz, a representative of the Quarterback Club, said that the club's delegation appeared to express its feeling and the feeling of the students regarding the Benz question and to protest the manner in which his contract had been handled. He said that he had a petition of 800 names supporting the protest and he wondered why the views of the taxpayers hadn't been considered in this matter. "We are of the opinion that Duke is one of the best appointments made by this school board and we are fortunate in having him. According to the board, this matter is a closed issue. . . . We want a direct answer to our questions. . . . The minutes of the board haven't shown that Duke hasn't lived up to his agreement. Rather, from the minutes, it would seem to be a personal matter. We sincerely feel that we should keep Mr. Benz as athletic director."

In reply, Dr. Woodruff again pointed out that the board could not legally consider the matter at that time.

Mrs. Goetz said, "It seems as though it has come out that the morale of the teachers is at stake because of Duke Benz." She recalled that in recent time a questionnaire had been submitted to the teachers. One of the questions was "What do you consider the biggest factor in the low morale of the teachers?" "The answer to that," she said, "was 'the administration' by a large percentage. If the low morale of the teachers is a result of the administration then it seems something should be done about it since it is a matter which affects our children and it should therefore be considered seriously."

Dr. Woodruff said that the board members were elected by the people to conduct the business of the schools. This the members strive to do to the best of their ability, he added. He pointed out that the taxpayers have the privilege and protection at election to either retain or replace, by their votes, those board members who do or do not represent them adequately.

Charles Jones, of the club delegation, asked if there were some way by which they could obtain the board's reasons for Mr. Benz's dismissal. Dr. Woodruff replied that there wasn't. Under the law, it isn't necessary for the board to make public the reasons for its actions in these matters. He explained that at the end of a probationary period the board may, upon recommendation from its administrators either renew a teacher's contract and permit accrual of tenure, or it may cancel a contract. No publicizing of the reasons for actions taken need be made.

Hold Guards at Knifepoint: Four Long Term Prisoners Saw Their Way Out of Penitentiary

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### SHERIFF SHOT DURING CHECK

TAYLORSVILLE, N.C. (AP) — "The sheriff and I walked through the back door into the hall and started upstairs. A little more than halfway up I heard a shot."

The sheriff turned and fell into me. The only thing he said, was, "O Lord, I'm shot."

That was the way Deputy Sheriff Joe James described the slaying Tuesday of Sheriff Thomas E. Beber, 53.

The officers had gone to the home of Jones Ellis to investigate a family argument.

They were starting upstairs to talk to Ellis' son, Willard, 38, when the sheriff was hit in the back by a .22 caliber bullet.

Jones Ellis had complained that his son was throwing rocks at the house, and had telephoned the sheriff's office for help.

Willard barricaded himself upstairs after the shooting. A neighbor, R.Z. Matheson, finally persuaded him to surrender.

Willard first was jailed here, but later was whisked to a Statesville jail when a crowd formed.

Coroner L.M. Warren, who will act as sheriff until county commissioners appoint a successor, said Willard was being held without charge. Beber, who was starting his third four-year term as sheriff, is survived by his widow and five children.

### FORT MADISON, Iowa (AP)—

Four long-term prisoners held a guard and a cellblock captain at knifepoint and saved their way out of the Iowa State Penitentiary early today.

The four, on serving a life term for killing a policeman, saved two bars from a window located in an outside cell of the prison after having saved their way from their individual cells.

The breakout came in cell house 19, which houses about 400 prisoners. The four who escaped had to drop less than 10 feet to the ground after cutting the opening in the window.

Warden John Bennett identified the four as Lloyd Woodson, 38, Quincy, Ill.; Albert M. Boerger, 26, Kansas City, Mo.; Elon Girdler, 23, Peoria, Ill.; and Robert Jones, 24, Cedar Rapids Iowa.

Lawrence W. Smith, 53, night cell house captain said he heard a noise on a walkway extending outside the cells, and saw James crawling along.

Smith said that was about 12:25 a.m. He pushed the alarm button. Almost simultaneously with James' escape from his cell on the second tier, Boerger got out of his in a different part of the cellblock and put a knife to the throat of guard Larry H. Pickard, 60. Then Woodson and Girdler came out of their cells, which also were widely separated from those of the other two convicts.

Bennett said each man had saved two bars from their cells to get out onto the walkway. It was not immediately known where they got the saws, he said.

Smith said James held a long dagger on him and forced him to call the deputy outside the cellblock and say he had rubbed dentally and that everything was all right.

Pickard was tied with twine and Smith was ordered to sit at his desk while the prisoners took turns holding a knife on him, he said.

The convicts began cutting the bars of an outside wall window while each 20 minutes according to prison procedure. Smith said that all was well inside the cellblock.

### EXPLOSIONS HIT; 11 DIE; 15 HURT

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Pa. (AP) — Tragedy has struck like lightning in this area for the second time within six months. Its weapon — violent explosions. Its victims — mostly curious spectators.

Eleven men were killed and 15 injured Tuesday when a propane gas truck involved in a collision exploded on heavily traveled Route 122, about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

A tractor-trailer rammed the rear of the halted gas truck, setting it afire. Less than an hour later, while firemen were trying to put out the blaze, there was a thunderous explosion. Bodies were tossed about and utility poles ripped down by flying metal and debris, and by what was described as a "ball of fire" which rolled up the highway.

Ten of the victims were among 20 spectators standing as far as 300 feet away. The 11th was a fireman.

The calamity recalled a similar tragedy in Allentown, Pa., 40 miles east of here, last Dec. 14. Several persons were watching a tree fire from the porch of the Mountainville Hotel. Flames ignited a gas line, causing a tremendous explosion that tore down the hotel. Seven persons were killed and 22 injured.

### WALL STREET

NEW YORK (P) — The stock market recovered partially early this afternoon from Tuesday's sharp decline. Trading was moderate.

Key stocks rose from fractions to a point or so. There were scattered losses. Some electronics and selected issues rose 2 or 3 points.

LICENSE REMINDER

The Saranac Lake Police Department announced today that all vehicle licenses are due for renewal as of June 1, 1959. The department is holding a license renewal clinic in the Hamletstown town hall.

See