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Shooting Suspect Shouted: 'Hey, George! Over Here!'

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LAUREL, Md., May 15 — George C. Wallace was shot while standing at the new crossroads of middle America today, between the drive-in bank and variety store of a suburban shopping center.

The suspected assailant, a young white man, called the Alabama Governor over to him after Mr. Wallace had stepped from behind his bullet-proof speaking stand and came down to shake hands with the crowd of about 1,000.

"Hey, George! Hey, George! Come over here! Come over here!" the man shouted insistently, according to several witnesses. The man had been standing against the ropes that cleared a space for security guards and reporters between the crowd and the small parking lot speaking stand.

Mr. Wallace heard the shouts and veered to his left, working his way down the line of admirers. He came first to Mrs. Brigitte Howkins of Hyattsville, a plump matron, who reached over a man, took Mr. Wallace's hand and said: "Good luck, Governor Wallace."

"He smiled at me," Mrs. Howkins recalled later, "dropped my hand and reached out for another when the man who had been standing on my right lifted his right arm and suddenly there were shots."

Mr. Wallace fell to the asphalt parking surface and lay

on his back in the brilliant sunshine. Witnesses said he was bleeding from the chest and appeared also to have been struck in the right arm.

Val Hymes, a columnist for several Maryland newspapers, saw the Governor sprawled on the pavement, a large red splotch spreading across his shirt front. "I thought at first he was dead," she said.

Mrs. Wallace ran to his side,

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according to Mrs. Hymes, clasping his body in her arms and sobbing.

"The Secret Service pulled her from him and dragged her away in a scene reminiscent of Jackie Kennedy being pulled away from the dying body of President Kennedy," Mrs. Hymes said.

Mrs. Wallace managed to pull away from the men and ran back to her husband. There was blood smeared on her yellow print dress. Someone spread a coat under Mr. Wallace's head and someone else pulled his shirt up, placing a large white gauze patch on the wound. Then he was put on a stretcher and lifted temporarily into a station wagon.

Crowd Hovers

Karen Yengich, a 25-year old reporter for The Laurel News Leader, said when she heard the shots "I thought it was tear gas for demonstrators or something like that. Then suddenly the crowd was surging toward me and people were shouting 'He's been shot, he's been shot.' I got scared, my legs got weak—I thought I'd get stomped to death. It was my first day on the job here."

Miss Yengich said that when

she got to the wounded candidate the crowd was hovering over him and blood trickled down his arm.

"His wife was crying, she had this grief-stricken look, and she had blood on the top of her suit. It seemed to me a long time before the ambulance came, but I looked at the clock and it was only five minutes."

Bulletproof Stand

Miss Yengich added, "I never thought I would see anything like this, especially in Laurel. It's a small community. It's probably Wallace country; I mean, it's middle America."

The afternoon Wallace rally, which was almost over when the shooting occurred, had taken place in sparkling mid-summer weather in a setting that could have been any suburban shopping center in the country.

A small speakers' stand of red, white and blue, with a sign "Laurel Shopping Center" across the top, had been set up just behind the Equitable Trust Company, a white brick building in the center of the parking area.

An hour after the shooting, the bulletproof speaking stand that Mr. Wallace customarily carries to every rally he ad-

dresses, was still standing on the platform, with a large vase of red roses in front of it.

Before he came down from the platform, Governor Wallace had delivered the same well-tested political speech that has featured his 1972 primary campaign: a charge that other Democrats had stolen his program, along with an attack on tax evaders and "welfare loafers."

About an hour after the shooting, the police and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation circled a dusty blue coupe, an American Motors Rebel, pasted paper over its Wisconsin license plates and shooed reporters away.

After the Governor had been rushed to the hospital by ambulance, the shopping center crowd was full of eyewitnesses, many of them young people anxious to talk to reporters.

One of these, Gary Mills, a tall teen-ager with long blond hair, said he had seen blood on the right arm of Governor Wallace immediately after the shooting. He described how the police had pounced on the alleged assailant and dragged him out of the crowd, amid shouts of "Get him!" and "Get that bastard!"

Onlookers said the crowd seemed stunned and nearly silent after the shooting. The only other outbreak came, ac-



C.B.S. News

SUSPECT SEIZED: Arthur Herman Bremer, facing camera, is surrounded by policemen after shooting in Laurel, Md.

According to Mrs. Hymes, when a group of about 10 Wallace supporters turned on four young black men. The blacks, frightened, backed away saying, "No, no, we didn't do it," Mrs. Hymes said.

The onlookers who had seen the assailant described him as of medium height and with very light, almost white, short hair. One witness said "he was the kind of guy you would call whitey."

Versions Differ

Immediately after the shots were fired Walter Houkins, the husband of the woman who had just shaken Mr. Wallace's hand, dove at the gunman and grabbed him by the leg. Almost immediately, four or five members of the Prince Georges County police department leaped upon the alleged assailant and some pummeling ensued.

At a news conference about two hours after the shooting, Capt. James Ross of the Prince

Georges County Police Department told reporters, "We removed the agitator."

According to the police version, the gunman fired five bullets at very close range before he was wrestled to the ground. "We wanted to get him out of there as fast as we could because the crowd was menacing," Captain Ross said. "He was removed for his own protection."

Seconds after the gunman was seized and Governor Wallace fell to the pavement, a revolver was found lying on the ground between the two men.

Shortly after the shooting, the clear Maryland skies began to cloud over darkly, and in less than two hours a torrential thunderstorm descended suddenly on the shopping center, washing discarded bumperstickers and buttons into the gutters and dampening multi-colored pennants that had hung over the parking space all afternoon.