

Georgia Officer Disputes Tests

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Chief's Gun Linked to Shooting

TENNILLE, Ga., Jan. 4 (AP) —Ballistics tests indicate that a shotgun owned by Police Chief Roy Frady was used in the shooting of a Negro woman near Tennille Tuesday, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said today. Frady denied it.

GBI information officer Bill Wilson said he understood the weapon was kept at the police department and that a number of persons might have had access to it. Wilson also said the GBI returned the weapon to Frady after a test firing last week and it since has been reported as missing.

Wilson said the test indicated Frady's weapon fired the 12-gauge shotgun shell found near where Nancy Robinson, 32, was wounded as she and several companions drove away from a church meeting.

Wilson said the information would be turned over to the Washington County grand

jury, which has been summoned to meet in special session Tuesday.

Police Chief Comments

Frady said the GBI is "wrong about what they're saying, I think. As far as I know a gun that we have has not been fired at anybody. If I was them, I'd take some action. I wouldn't keep talking about it. It's their job to prove it."

He said the police station is often left unattended. "We can't tell who comes in and out of here. We had a rifle stolen here a year ago."

Wilson said GBI ballistics experts asked for Frady's permission to test fire police department shotguns as well as Frady's personal 12-gauge automatic shotgun.

He said test firings were made Friday and the shells were sent to GBI headquarters in Atlanta for comparison with the shell found near the shooting scene. Wilson said the weapons were returned after the test firings.

A comparison of the test shell from Frady's weapon with the shell found at the scene showed the shells bore identical breach patterns, Wilson said. He said this indicated the same gun fired both shells because, he said, no two shotguns leave identical breach patterns.

Warrant Obtained

He said GBI agents obtained a warrant to seize the gun Saturday, but before the warrant could be served the weapon was reported stolen.

Wilson, dispatched to ra-

cially troubled Washington County to aid state law enforcement officers, said no charges had been brought in the case.

The shooting was the second in less than a week in Washington County.

Mrs. Robinson was struck by pellets from a shotgun blast fired from another automobile. The GBI said witnesses told them there were five or six persons in the other car, but they could not identify them by sex or race.

Wilson said agents also are continuing an investigation into the shooting of a white man outside the home of Negro leader Richard Turner in Sandersville, about four miles north of Tennille.

Turner and two other persons were arrested last week,

but charges against them were dropped Friday at the request of District Attorney H. R. Thompson of Swainsboro. He said the state "has not completed its investigation and does not desire to divulge its evidence at this time."

Meanwhile, an 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew was continued in Sandersville and Tennille, while a force of 50 state troopers and 12 to 15 GBI agents remained in Washington County.

Sandersville has been the scene of racial tension for more than six weeks, as Negroes staged demonstrations and boycotts of white merchants to protest what they call discriminatory hiring and discrimination in public works projects.