

Robert Hamilton

September 18, 1909 – February 5, 1958

(From - Hinton Daily News - February 9, 1958)

Former Resident Commits Suicide

Robert Thomas Pinkerton, 47, of Winston-Salem, N. C., a former well-known Hinton resident and a graduate of the local high school committed suicide on the Wake Forest College campus at 9:45 o'clock Wednesday morning. He had earlier been reported missing, before being found dead in his car.

Dr. V. M. Long, Forsyth County coroner, ruled the death a suicide.

A hose was connected from the exhaust of the car through a rear window to the interior. The crack left to admit the hose was stuffed with newspapers.

The car was in a parking area near Wait Chapel.

Wake Forest College student Donald McNair of 1148 Student

Apartments and Windsor discovered Pinkerton's body leaned up against the front seat of the car.

He summoned Professor R. A. Dyer of the Wake Forest Department of Religion, who called police.

Minutes later, the two pulled Pinkerton's body from the car and attempted to revive him by artificial respiration.

City Detective G. L. Adams said the gasoline tank in the car had run dry. The switch was still on when officers investigated.

"He must have been here several hours," said Detective Adams.

Pinkerton had no connection with the college. He had been a division passenger agent for the Southern Railway with offices in the Robert

E. Lee Hotel.

He first disappeared from there on Jan. 15.

Police here found him several days later, sitting behind the steering wheel of his parked car.

Missing Again

Then, last Tuesday Mrs. Pinkerton reported to police her husband was missing again.

Following his first disappearance he had gone to a doctor, who told him he was a very sick man, Mrs. Pinkerton told police.

So he made arrangements to go to Washington, presumably to enter a hospital she said.

Mr. Pinkerton left home last Friday, presumably by train to Washington. That is the last time Mrs. Pinkerton saw him.

But police checked the local
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railroad train station. He never went there, they discovered.

Mr. Pinkerton was born in Hinton, W. Va., Sept. 18, 1909, a son of Robert A. and Hallie Hoover Pinkerton.

He was married Jan. 18, 1936, to Miss Evelyn Higgan of Ralleggh.

He had been associated with the Southern Railway for 20 years. He had been division passenger agent in Washington, D. C., before moving to Charlotte 16 years ago as division agent there.

He came to Winston-Salem as division agent three years ago.

He was a member of Ardmore Baptist Church, the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and was a Mason and Shriner.

Surviving are his wife; one daughter, Kay of the home; one sister, Mrs. Willard G. Hunt of St. Louis, Mo.; and one brother, W. S. Pinkerton of Columbus, Ohio.