

Man dead - Chase ends in fatal shooting

By Alan Mores, Co-publisher

Was the word voiced by area residents on the death of Dwayne Jens, 41, Hancock, following a high-speed chase on the gravel roads of southwest Shelby County.

The emotions being felt by friends and acquaintances of Chad Butler, the Shelby County Sheriff's Deputy, who allegedly fired upon Jens when Jens is said to have reached for and had in his hand what was believed to be his cell phone and not a weapon.

Law enforcement observers are commenting regarding the rash of burglaries this week, a Christmas drug bust in Shelby that uncovered a cache of loaded weapons and drugs; the Dec. 29 shooting of a Mills County man when deputies raided the home finding dozens of weapons and the shooting of Pottawattamie County Sheriff's deputy Brian Loomis during a routine traffic stop near Avoca.

It was a quiet Thursday evening for Doug and Marcie Robinson, who live a mile and half south of Tennant, at the intersection of Elmwood and 500th St.

The Robinsons said they heard sirens and then saw the flashing lights racing by on the gravel road in front of their home just before 7 p.m.

They said they then believed the vehicles went through the mile-long lane of Rob Pauley continuing on a mile south of their home. The chase then went a mile west before backtracking east toward their home, finally stopping in the farm lane of their neighbors, Eldon and Jan Norgaard.

"It's no wonder law enforcement officials are jumpy around here," Robinson said as an Oma-

ha TV crew waited for him in his driveway. "With the deputy shooting near Avoca and the drug bust in Shelby recently, we're all a bit unnerved," he said shaking his head.

His wife, Marcie said, "Doug went outside several times to see what was going on, but neither of us heard any weapon fired."

She said her husband could see Jens in his pickup, numerous law enforcement and fire officials assisting at the scene and a visibly distraught law enforcement officer, Butler, leaning up against a law enforcement vehicle.

The Robinsons said law enforcement was at the scene until shortly after 1 a.m. investigating the incident.

"It's such a sad and tragic turn of events for all the families involved," Marcie Robinson said.

Shooting unfolds

Pieced together from a Shelby County Sheriff's Department news release, observers at the scene and statewide news coverage, the tragedy unfolded leaving behind shattered lives and emotions.

Jens, who reportedly had lost his driver's license, was with his 12-year-old daughter, Angie, possibly returning home after checking some of his hunting traps.

The Jens pickup was observed speeding and, after failing to stop, a chase ensued. Jens led two Shelby County Sheriff's officers and a Harrison County Sheriff on a chase before stopping in a farm lane at the intersection of Elmwood and 500th St.



The deputy, was identified as Chad Butler, by observers at the scene.

The Sheriff's Office said the deputy approached the pickup and then broke the window in the driver's side door to arrest the man.

The deputy saw what appeared to be a gun in Jens' hand and Jens made what the deputy perceived to be a threatening motion a release from the Sheriff's Office said.

The deputy fired once at Jens killing him, the sheriff's office said. Jens' daughter was transported to Myrtue Memorial Hospital for treatment of glass cuts and later was released.

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The pickup driven by Dwayne Jens came to a stop after eluding officers at Elmwood & 500th Street, stopping near the farm lane of the Eldon and Jan Norgaard home. Jens, who reportedly had no driver's license, was with his 12-year-old daughter, Angie, possibly returning home after checking some of his hunting traps.

Family said the victim had fled officers before

Shooting *from previous page*

Father comments

Herbert Jens, father of Dwayne, told the Omaha World Herald that both his son and the deputy were at fault. He blamed his son for trying to get away and the deputy for approaching the vehicle too fast and not allowing his son to get out.

He speculated his son went for his cell phone to call a family member to come get his daughter. He said his son had a history of trying to avoid law enforcement officers, due to a record of driving without a license and drinking while driving.

Monday morning veteran Shelby County Sheriff Gene Cavanaugh reiterated what many are feeling.

"My heart goes out to the family of Mr Jens...it's a tragedy all the way around -- for their family, the community and for law enforce-

ment officers as well," he said.

As of press time, law enforcement and medical officials had not confirmed whether or not there was a weapon in the vehicle; whether Jens' was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time or if a grand jury will be called to decide if criminal charges are warranted against the sheriff's deputy.

The investigation is now in the hands of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. Thursday's incident brings to seven the number of fatal shootings involving law officers in Iowa this year. The last time an Iowa officer faced criminal charges was in 1990, following a Davenport trial in which he was later acquitted.

Funeral services are Tuesday, January 4 at 2 p.m. in the Hancock Methodist Church. See death notice at left for more information.