'Wild' bull gores farmer to death

A SWALEDALE farmer was gored to death yesterday by a bull which went "absolutely wild" and kept farm workers trying to destroy it at bay all day.

Tragedy struck the collection of scattered farms known as Harkerside near Grinton yesterday morning when 58-year-old Mr James Matthew Calvert, of Bleak House, Harkerside, went into a building apparently to tether a two-year-old Northern Dairy Shorthorn bull.

Mrs Doris Calvert is reported to have dragged her husband out of the building but he died almost immediately.

Mr F. N. Brown, who lives at nearby Swale Hall, said last night: "No one could get into the building with a humane killer all day because the bull had gone absolutely wild."

Farm help

Nine hours after the accident Mr Roland Weighill, a local garage proprietor, managed to get behind a hay rack in the building with a .303 rifle to shoot the bull.

All day local farmers and neighbours of Mr Calvert helped with work on the farm, which Mr Calvert ran single handed with some help from his sister, Mrs Marjorie Longstaffe, who lives down the lane at Deer Park.

Mr Calvert, who has one daughter, was a native of Swaledale, and for years had been an exhibitor and supporter of both the Reeth and the Muker Agricultural Shows.