

## Steps To Prevent Burglary

No one can absolutely prevent burglaries. But you can create an environment in which burglaries are less likely to occur. There are two principal components within such a "safe environment." The first consists of maintaining an adequate system of

discourage the burglar who investigates your residence up close.

The second part of this environment is to create the appearance that your house is occupied even when it is not. A majority of burglars prefer to work in unoccupied homes or apartments. And, unfortunately, far too many homeowners advertise the fact that their homes or apartments are unoccupied. Among the principal steps recommended by police officials, if you are going to be away from your home for some time, are the following:

1. Be certain to turn off or cancel all kinds of deliveries, i.e., mail, newspaper, milk, and the like, which would pile up in your mailbox or on your front stoop and thus announce the fact that your home was unoccupied.

2. In a number of recent cases burglars have used the telephone to confirm whether or not a home was unoccupied. Under the pretext of selling a

nonexistent product or service, they call homeowners to discover whether the residence is occupied. If you are leaving for some time, consider having your phone turned off.

3. Use a timing device to turn on a bedroom or also if possible - to create the illusion your home is occupied. A timer can automatically turn the lamp on and off at any selected time period. The illumination provided by the light might also silhouette an intruder through windows of your home, alerting neighbors or police to the burglar's presence.

4. Whenever practical, remove shrubbery or other obstructions which might conceal one of your home's entrances from view by neighbors or patrolling police.

5. Notify police exactly when you will be away, whether or not any lights will be on, which, if any, vehicles may be parked in your driveway or near your home, and the license numbers for these vehicles. If you have a second car that you are not taking on your trip, arrange to park it in the driveway, rather than in your garage. This accomplishes two things. First, it makes it appear that someone is home. And

second, it prevents burglars from backing a van up close to your front door or garage and loading bulky items stolen from the house into the van without being detected.

6. Inform your nearby neighbors of your plans to leave so that they may be on the alert for suspicious persons or vehicles around your home.

7. Arrange for someone to cut the lawn regularly and to remove advertising circulars and litter which might blow on to your property. Some police suggest that you deliberately litter the lawn with a few inexpensive toys in order to create the impression someone is at home.

Also make certain, if you are taking a winter vacation, that you arrange for someone to shovel the snow from your walk, run their car up and down your driveway after a snow fall or tromp around outside (leaving footprints in the snow). In this way a clean smooth blanket of snow won't provide cruising burglars with a glaring announcement of your absence from home.

8. Leave an extra key with one of your nearby neighbors so that your home may be inspected by police if necessary.

9. Do not publicize your trip or plans by sending notices to local social column editors, etc., or by discussing these plans at local stores, beauty parlors, etc.

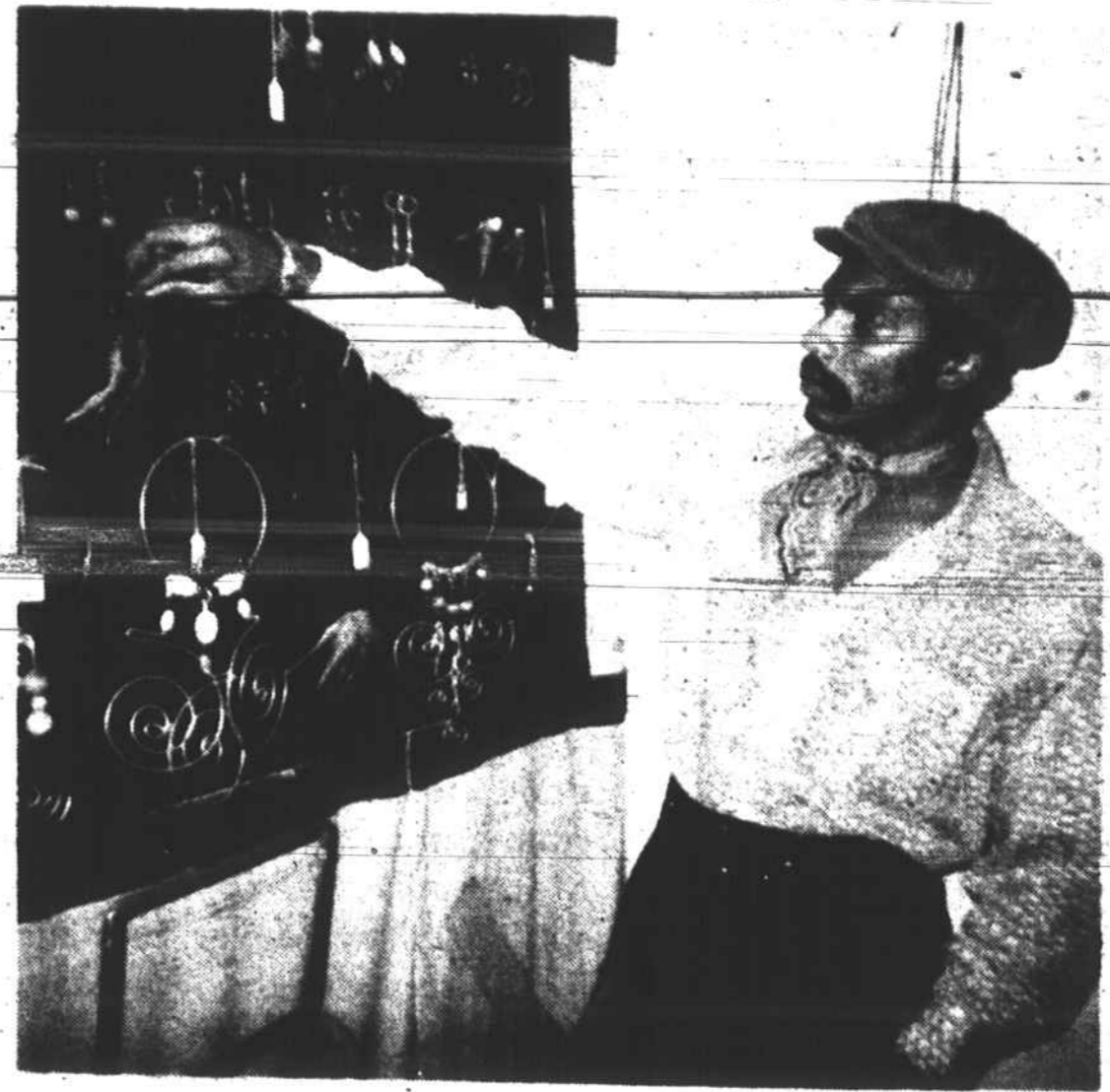
10. Do not leave notes pinned to your home's doors for servicemen, deliverymen, etc.

Burglars have a number of other ways of knowing whether or not you plan to be home on a particular day. They regularly comb newspapers for notices of upcoming graduations, christenings, weddings, bar mitzvahs, etc. They know that the family involved will be away from its home at these times. Some even search funeral notices and prey on the homes of the deceased's family when they know it will be attending a funeral. If possible, have someone home on such occasions. Forget about the notion of the burglar giving you an even break...because he won't!

### CHILD MOLESTED

The six-year-old daughter of Ms. Grader L. Sykes of 1826 N. Trade Street was reported to have been molested by a cousin of Ms. Sykes Nov. 3, according to police reports.

Ms. Sykes took the child to Baptist Hospital for an examination. The report stated that Paul Cambell was picked up for questioning. The case is being investigated.



A man of the Arts, Witherspoon, fashions himself a "professional craftsman." All the items in his shop [Swalbar Crafts Shop] are handcrafted.

## Chronicle Profile

### Dedicated Craftsman Believes In Self-help

Take a young man with determination, the ability to use his hands, and creative talent, and the results will probably be George A. Witherspoon Jr., lone manager and worker of the "Swalbar Crafts Shop."

Witherspoon has been involved in some form of crafts for most of his life, but more recently has been devoting all of his time making handcrafted items for the shop.

The Swalbar is a neat little shop on Trade street. Everything is in its place, but one would hardly think the beautiful handmade gowns and dashikis come from the strings, scraps and pieces and patterns that line the walls of the work area.

He is a very articulate and cultured young man who displays an affinity for the fine arts. His language is pleasing and low-key. He speaks with a soft tone, but one can tell he has a tremendous knowledge of the field of arts and crafts.

Witherspoon, 28, attended the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Baptist City Craft School in New York. He came back to Winston-Salem two years ago to pursue his passion: making things with his hands. "I want to become a professional craftsman," he said in a recent interview. "I want to show people what I can do."

He makes practically everything you can think of that a boutique might sell. "I make earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, bangles; anything in jewelry, leather work and tie-dyes," he said proudly. Witherspoon designs his jewelry and clothing and makes them from scratch.

He wants people to see what a local black artist can do. He has come up with the "black look" which is different from the African look. The difference is not what people wear but their reasons for wearing particular garments. He explained:

"People should dress according to themselves; their personalities. Some people can wear red and others can't. I try to bring out the best in a person. I design my clothes to suit the individual.

"A lot of people wear things that look good to them but not on them. A dark skinned person really should not wear a bright red; there's too much contrast. Some women wear a lot of make-up and I take these things into account when I design."

Witherspoon is learning the hardships of the business world too.

"But, I don't complain," he said. "It doesn't help." He seems deeply concerned over what he said is a potential threat to black people. "A lot of blacks don't want to deal with their own color, but we have got to get together.

"It's a big thrill to work for your self and I want to show that blacks can do for self. We shouldn't be trying to cut each other's throats. We should work together. We should be helpful to each other."

He knows that it takes a long time for people to accept a new business, but said he is willing to hold on. "This is my life; this is what I do for a living. I'll never give up. I'll go down with the ship, but I'll never give up."

## Infant Is Found Dead

Monique L. Hughes, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hughes of 1025 E. 15th Street, was pronounced dead on arrival Monday morning at Baptist Hospital, according to police reports.

The emergency operating room attending physicians stated that there was no sign of injuries on the child's body nor any signs of foul play, the report said. The physicians could give no cause of death at the time the police report was filed.

The parents of the child told police officers investigating the death that their daughter was three months old and that she had not been sick except for a cold. Mrs. Hughes told officers that the child did not have a temperature when she was put to bed that night. She said she checked on the child around 3 or 3:30 a.m. and

found her to be lying on her stomach with her face to one side. The child was not breathing.

Officers at the scene reported that Mrs. Hughes found no clothing covering the child's head or face. Mr. Hughes, who is in the Marine Corps and is home on leave, saw his wife had gotten up to check on the child and called to him that the child was not breathing.

Mr. Hughes told officers that he went to the baby's crib and did not see anything around the child's head that might cause the child's breathing to be restricted.

Final disposition on the case is pending until a medical examiner's report can be made. The report had not been filed at the time of the police report.

## Man Angry For Lack Of Food

A man, apparently enraged over the scarcity of food and money, reportedly walked into the Social Services department and assaulted an employe. Police reports state that Dianna Hall, an eligibility specialist, was thrown against a wall by Alfonzo Brown.

Brown was upset over the

fact that Ms. Hall had discontinued food stamps to a friend, according to the report. When Ms. Hall tried to leave in her car, Brown blocked her in with his car. He was placed in the county jail under \$400 bond and charged with assault and assault with a vehicle.