



MAKES BIRD FEEDER—J. R. Marsh of 535 Morganton Road inspects a "squirrel-proof" bird feeder he built at a cost of 69 cents for the vertical iron rod that is bent into a horizontal bracket, as shown at the top of the picture. Suspended from the notch on the end of the rod is a tray holder made from an old coat hanger. The tray, customarily containing bread spread with peanut butter and raisins, is an aluminum foil individual pie dish like those in which frozen pies are packaged at grocery stores. Located in front of the window near which Mr. Marsh and his wife spend much of their time, the feeder accommodates dozens of birds which live in the neighborhood. Like human beings, the Marshes have noticed, most birds like to eat three times a day—morning, noon and night. Several fillings of the small tray are usually required to keep up with their daily demands. The Marshes have other bird feeders and watering places throughout their yard which is densely planted with a great variety of shrubs and flowers. Gardening and landscaping are hobbies they share, along with caring for the birds. (Pilot Photo)

New York Detectives Pick Up Prisoner Held Here, Say He Is Noted 'Con Man'

Two New York City detectives came to Carthage last week and took Bertram Looby, alias Pres-ton Looby, alias Betty A. Perry, from Moore County jail back to the big city to answer to grand larceny charges. From them' members of the sheriff's department learned that the smooth-talking Negro, glib with his answers to every question, was a "con man" of considerable note, on the "wanted" list since he skipped bail in July, 1954. He had been hiding in Moore County since last January, for a while in West Southern Pines, then among the rural Negroes of Jackson Springs. He impressed them with his tales—all fiction—of war heroism, encouraged rumors that he was an FBI under-

cover agent and frightened them with hints of a mysterious past. However, he apparently wore out his welcome by staying around with first one, then another, without paying and none rallied to his aid during two weeks he languished in jail for lack of money to pay court costs on a comparatively trivial charge. Looby was picked up by John K. Sharpe, ABC law enforcement officer, of West End, for improper operator's license and car registration. These, bearing the name of Betty A. Perry, had obviously been altered to fit his description. Convicted July 18 in Moore rec-orders court, he was sentenced to pay costs, or serve 30 days in jail. The name Betty A. Perry, the New York officers said, was that of his wife, who is dead. He adopted the name along with her car and papers. Other papers he carried—including an altered Army discharge—been his other names and touched off the sheriff's investigation which ended with his return to New York. The Negro waived extradition. One of his rackets, the detect-ives said, involved his imperson-ation of an attorney foreclosing mortgages on homes under FHA and veterans' loans. He collected

large amounts from the mortga-gees to "prevent" foreclosure. The man is a cripple, and claim-ed his 1946 Oldsmobile was given him by the government, specially fitted to enable him to drive. The special equipment, Sheriff Mc-Donald found, consisted only of the standard hydromatic drive. The car is in storage at West End, where it will be held until a qualified administrator of Betty A. Perry's estate lays claim to it, or until—after a reasonable at-tempt to locate such a person is made—it is sold for storage charges.

Blue Heads New Water Committee

State Rep. H. Clifton Blue of Aberdeen was appointed by Gov. Luther J. Hodges this week as chairman of the advisory com-mittee to the State Board of Water Commissioners. The committee, which will ad-vise a water commission author-ized by the General Assembly, is composed of three members of the State House, two from the State Senate and, as ex-officio members, the commissioner of agriculture, the State health off-icer, and the director of the De-partment of Conservation and De-velopment. Governor Hodges has indicated that he considers the work of the committee very important.

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Council Decides Not To Undertake Any Municipal Insect Control Program Now

The problem of pesky gnats that buzz around the eyes and ears of persons outdoors in South-ern Pines and the Sandhills these days—seemingly, unusually num-erous this year—came before the town council at its meeting last Thursday night. The council informally decided that municipal control measures would be both too late in the summer and too expensive to be undertaken this year. Mayor Voit Gilmore said this week that he had called Charles M. White, chief of the insect and rodent control section of the State Department of Health, to ask what assistance could be given by the State. The official told the mayor that it is not the State's policy to fur-nish equipment for spraying—airplanes or any other equipment—but that the State would fur-nish insecticide to be applied with local equipment. Two methods are recommended: a residual treatment with 25 per cent DDT concentrate, in the early summer, that is effective for about three months, killing in-sects on their contact with it; and a weekly "fog" spray with five per cent DDT. Gnats stay in the air so much that a residual spray is not too effective, it was stated. Also, in-



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