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TRYON, N. C. 28782

FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 1991

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The weather Wednesday, high
56, low 31, hum. 32 percent.

"Where are the birds?" asks
Lou Blair. The bird feeders at
his home in Morgan Chapel
Village have stood empty much
of the time this year, he says,
contrary to the crowd of feath-
ered friends he usually attracts.

We'll soon know for sure if
the bird count is down. FENCE's
annual Christmas bird count
is being held tomorrow. Meet
in the Tryon Plaza parking
lot at 8 a.m. if you would like
to go along.

Folks, if you think communi-
ties should not be torn apart it
is time to write to the General
Assembly members represent-
ing Polk County and let them
know that most county residents
don't feel "ripped off" by having
South Carolina students in our
schools. If you agree, you can
tell them we would feel "ripped
off" if our legislators failed to
take into account natural com-
munity associations.

Write to the *Asheville Citi-
zen-Times*, *The Charlotte
Observer* and the *Raleigh News
& Observer* while you're at it.
State legislators probably read
these more quickly than their

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Mountain Home Engineer Pleads To Church Burglary

A Mountain Home civil
engineer pled guilty Tuesday to
11 counts of breaking and
entering in Polk County, along
with 117 other theft-related
crimes in three other counties.

Prosecutors called Thomas
Thurmond Dillard Jr., whose
crimes involved churches, busi-
nesses and medical offices, a
one-man crime wave.

The *Hendersonville Times-
News* reported that Dillard, 40,
said he was sorry and wants to
repay the \$29,000 he owes the
victims of his crimes when he
went before the judge to plead
guilty Tuesday in Henderson
County Superior Court.

"I am not going to stand here
and attempt to make excuses for
the magnitude of these crimes,"
a soft-spoken Dillard told
Superior Judge Paul Wright of
Goldsboro.

"But I am sincerely regretful
and ashamed for what has
brought me before this court
today."

A father of seven who holds a
bachelor's degree in civil engi-
neering from N.C. State Uni-
versity and was once named as
a scholar, Dillard was described
by detectives as "the most
honest crook" they know.

Of the felonies, Dillard
pleaded guilty to 73 counts of
breaking and entering, 53
counts of larceny and two
counts of safecracking. Of the

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Visitors From China

Xiaoqin Liu is remembered in this area as the AFS exchange
English teacher for the school year 1986-87. Now working in her
hometown, Xian, Shaanxi, China, she manages the American and
European Section of Xian Travel Service. She and the Deputy
General Manager, Mr. Baoan Dang, are visiting Travel Service
agencies in the United States.

For their few days here they are guests of Rev. and Mrs. Richard
Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lovelace hosted an afternoon tea
for Liu's many acquaintances, and Mr. and Mrs. William Chaffee
are hosts for seeing the sights and getting the plane for their last
business stop, Tampa, Fla. Mrs. Jackson is pictured with her
guests. —*Community Reporter*

New Arrival

Tim Tullock and Julie Edney
Tullock are the proud parents of
Elizabeth Darlene, 5 lbs. 15 oz.,
born December 18, 1991, at
Catawba Hospital, Hickory,
N.C.

Maternal grandparents are Mr.
and Mrs. Carl Edney, Edney
Road, Tryon. Paternal grand-
parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jim
Tullock of Morristown, TN.

Office Closed

The Polk County Board of
Education office will be closed
Christmas Week, Dec. 23 - 27.

Purchase Home

Richard and Vonda Krahn of
Elgin, IL have purchased a new
home from Andy Metcalf Con-
struction Co. on Blanton Street
Ext., Columbus.

Peggy Dedman of Coldwell
Banker was listing agent and
selling agent for the transaction.