

DURHAM DETECTIVES RECALL CAREER

'Black Diamond' Hill, Convicted In Moore, Is Veteran Shoplifter Expert

Detectives in Durham say that the incarceration of McKinley "Black Diamond" Hill removes from the scene one of the best known characters in police recollection, writes Paul Mason in the Raleigh News and Observer.

"Black Diamond," along with four other Negroes, pleaded nolo contendere to shoplifting charges in Moore Superior Court recently. He and two others were given terms of from three to five years for larceny.

Lt. John Lynn, of the Detective Bureau at Durham observed that he had kept track of "Black Diamond" for the past 20 years. And he said that the aging Negro's plan of operation has varied very little over that time.

"They had a gang of shoplifters," the veteran detective reminisced. "They always went after clothing. Why, for years Hill made a living stealing around the State and then peddling what he'd got. At one time, I'll bet that 50 per cent of the colored people in North Durham had on his clothes."

Had Trade Mark

Lt. Lynn said that "Black Diamond" had a kind of trade-mark—the label was always cut out of the clothes. And when arrested in Moore County after his last "job," Hill was found riding with 17 brand new men's suits—all of them with the labels removed.

"One day," another detective recalled, "I saw a little fellow coming along the street in a spanking new outfit. I said there was another Black Diamond suit. 'No sirree, the little boy said when we asked him,' the detective continued. And looking inside he said he found a label. 'But the only trouble—that suit was brand new. And the label inside must have been 15 years old.'"

Police at Durham say that though "Black Diamond" has probably cost merchants many thousands of dollars, his operations almost never took place there. The group returned to Dur-

ham only to sell what it had taken.

Favorite Haunts

"Their favorite haunts were the small town department stores of North Carolina and Virginia," Lt. Lynn recalls. "They would go in when part of the clerks were at lunch. One would keep the clerk on duty busy by trying on shoes. The rest of 'em would stuff suits and everything else underneath their oversized overalls."

Once they escaped with their loot, they would head back to Durham to sell. And over the years, inflation apparently came upon the professional shoplifters as it did to everyone else. For once the asking price for a suit was \$8. Informants say that now the same article costs \$20.

"And if it couldn't be sold, they'd pawn it for \$1," Capt. W. E. Gates put in.

"Black Diamond" Hill was the last of the old crew—the others of whom have all moved on to graveyard or penitentiary. The four others with Hill this time—all Durham Negroes—are "more or less newcomers" to the racket, officers said.

Two of these were women and they also received three to five years along with "Black Diamond." Their driver got nine months. One teenaged first offender was put on probation.

Trick Spotted

The defendants had been captured near Carthage nearly two months before. They were picked up after Mrs. Bertie C. Stewart, a storekeeper at Vass, spotted their trick and sent out a radio alert.

Detectives said that they doubted whether Hill really minded being caught. Maybe he thought that a man might expect such occasionally. Anyway, Lt. Lynn tells of a trip he made to Pittsboro to testify to the man's bad character at a trial. "After it was over, he came and told me that there were no hard feelings, that he took his bitter with the sweet," he said.

He also enjoys telling a report which came down from Clarksville, Va., about how some of the shoplifters hit a change of luck. While one man tried on shoes, the storekeeper caught sight of the other rushing out the door with an armload of clothes.

Had To Buy Shoes

"He tried to catch him but couldn't make it," the lieutenant laughed. "But he came back in time to grab the other one still lacing his shoes. He wouldn't let him go till he had bought the shoes he'd been looking at. And they were a good four sizes too big."

Although questioned carefully by Judge Susie Sharpe at Carthage, none of the defendants would tell about their current business. While pleading nolo contendere, they were still tight-lipped about their thefts or how their merchandise even got into their car. But now, it's likely that time

Seeding Alfalfa, Cover Crops Under ASC Program Advised By Farm Agent

By E. H. GARRISON, Jr. Moore County Farm Agent

Practices set up under the A. S. C. Program this year should be attractive to most anyone. Two of these are seeding of alfalfa and cover crops. Do you realize that the payments on Alfalfa Seeding this year will pay almost half the cost of seeding an acre? Under the program this year, you can get payments per acre as follows: seed, \$6.25; lime, \$8; and 2-12-12, \$11.70.

This is a total of \$25.95 you can earn, and is about half the seeding cost per acre. The actual cost of seeding an acre of alfalfa will be, roughly, about \$50. This does not include cost of land preparation, but only materials to be bought. The first cutting off an acre of alfalfa, approximately a ton of hay, will about pay all this cost of seeding anyway.

With proper care and fertilization, the stand should be good for at least five or six years. What could be a better paying proposition than this?

If you want some real hay, contact the A. S. C. office and get on the list. Lime should be put

Former Training Unit Members To Convene Sept. 8

Former faculty members of the World War II Special Training Unit, at Fort Bragg, are planning a 12-year reunion at the Southern Pines Country Club, September 8.

The Special Training Unit faculty was composed, for the most part, of men from North and South Carolina. Dr. V. J. Daly, who served as the unit psychologist, and Garland Pierce, Southern Pines postmaster, were members of the group, and the Sandhills area has several others.

A partial roster of former members shows 22 lawyers, three mayors or former mayors, 11 legislators, two newspaper editors, two Congressional Assistants, a former state Commissioner of Parole, two postal officials, three accountants, and several state and national executives. This is considered to be unique for a single military unit.

Garland Pierce and Dr. Daly are co-chairmen for the 12-year reunion. They announced today that they are making every effort to contact all former members, and requested that any former member who does not receive an invitation, contact one of the co-chairmen.

is catching up with the aging "Black Diamond" of Durham, and he may be closing down his business for a good spell. When he was arrested, some of his loot was identified as coming from Sanford also.

Charges are waiting for him and several of the others in Lee County.

on as soon as possible now and worked into the soil. Contact our office for full details in regard to seed, land preparation etc.

Cover Crops

Don't forget that you can earn \$2 per acre for seeding a good crop of oats, rye or one of the legumes if you prefer. This may be grazed or turned under in the spring. What could be finer than this? Good grazing during the winter or a good crop to be turned

ed? Some of both can be had if we handle this properly.

These practices are just too good to miss out on and our soil needs the humus. Winter rains carry off some of our soil, if it is not well nailed down. March winds also carry off some. All this can be stopped with a good cover crop. And you get paid for putting on the cover crop.

Contact the Carthage A. S. C. office and get your name on the list.

Recent developments point to increased production of milk late this year or in 1956.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON A PROPOSED T. V. ANTENNA ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF SOUTHERN PINES.

Notice is hereby given that hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Southern Pines at the Town Office at 8:00 P. M. on the 13th day of September, 1955 on a proposed T. V. Antenna Ordinance, providing for regulations controlling the installation, maintenance and repair of T. V. Antenna within the corporate limits of the Town of Southern Pines. Any persons desiring

to protest the provisions of said ordinance are hereby given notice to be present at said hearing at said time and date. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Office of the Town Clerk.

This 17th day of August, 1955.
LOUIS SCHEIPERS, Jr.,
a25s1-8
Town Clerk

FOR Land Surveying CONTACT Clarence H. Blue Matthews Bldg. So. Pines

WHY PAY RETAIL ? WHY PAY WHOLESALE ?
You Can Buy For Less At

ROBBINS DISCOUNT HOUSE

Because We Buy By the Trainload at Greatly Reduced Prices. We Will Not Be Undersold!
MOORE COUNTY'S ONLY HOTPOINT DEALER

<p>HOTPOINT WASHER \$100.00 OFF</p> <p>on our model LH-7 fully automatic, all porcelain. Regular \$269.95 value— only \$169.95</p> <p>6 Mos. Supply of FAB FREE</p>	<p>For your Winter Heating we will install— Complete—Our Largest</p> <p>FLOOR FURNACE A regular \$325 value for only \$200.00</p> <p>\$100.00 Trade-In Allowed on your old refrigerator, regardless of condition—on the purchase of a new Hotpoint Model F-100, fully automatic, frost-free, shelf in door, 75 lbs. frozen food capacity; vegetable crisper. Originally \$348.95; less your old refrigerator \$100. No down payment \$248.95</p> <p>\$100.00 Trade-In on your old stove, regardless of condition on the purchase of a Hotpoint Electric Range Model RB-64; regular price \$269.95 Less your old stove \$100.00 \$169.95</p> <p>EVERYTHING FULLY GUARANTEED EASY TERMS. LOW DOWN PAYMENT</p> <p>A COMPLETE LINE OF FURNITURE</p>	<p>MAYTAG WASHERS Don't pass us this big buy— A regular \$159.95 value now only— \$115.00</p> <p>Hotpoint Electric Water Heaters Full 10-year guarantee, fiber glass lined, 30-gal. table top; reg. \$124.95, only \$79.95</p> <p>30-gal upright; regular \$99.95, only— \$64.95</p> <p>54-inch Porcelain Sink and Cabinet, only— \$69.95</p> <p>General Electric 21-inch Table Model TV Set \$174.95</p>
---	--	--

YOU ALWAYS PAY LESS AT

ROBBINS DISCOUNT HOUSE

NEAR THE MILL ROBBINS, N. C.



I Know, Teacher!

Israel Mann

has the best buys in Tom Sawyer Shirts. Jackets and Pants, Rugby Sweaters, Eastern Suits for boys, Dungarees 13 1/4 oz., Boys' Intervoven Socks. We have a complete new Boys' Department, just Remodeled.

Poll Parrot and Star Brand Shoes for boys and girls.

Cinderella Dresses, Girls' Coats, Sweaters

No matter the distance it will pay you to shop with

Israel Mann
"In Raeford Since 1925"
RAEFORD, N. C.

Belmont

straight **bourbon** whiskey

86 proof

this whiskey is **6** years old

\$3.85
4/5 QT.

\$2.45
PINT

BELMONT DISTILLING COMPANY, LAWRENCEBURG, INDIANA