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Starling Gentry, Jr.
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Over-loaded Truck Downs Store Front

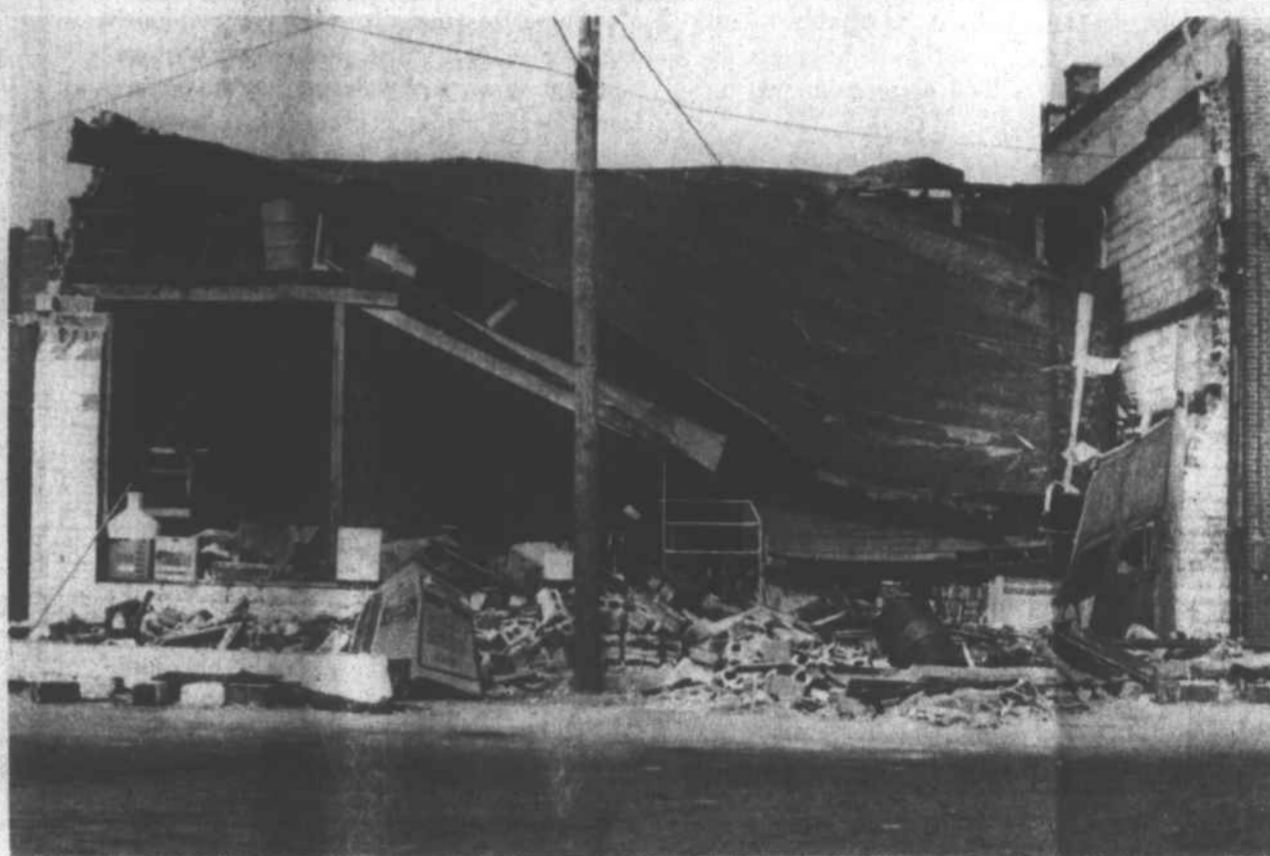


Photo by N. Hancock

Roberts-Elam Building After Freak Accident

An over-loaded logging truck clipped an overhead telephone cable on Bridge Street late Friday afternoon, broke a telephone pole at its base, and downed the entire front of a building to which a guy wire was anchored.

Extensive damage was done to the building, and eyewitnesses said two men narrowly escaped injury when they got up from a bench in front of the building and walked away minutes before the freak accident.

Marshall policeman Craig Edwards said the driver of the logging truck, James Douglas Bryant, 29, of Burnsville, was coming into town on Bridge street at 5:15 p.m. when he hit the cable. The officer said Bryant was charged with loading his truck too high. The truck was loaded 15 feet, 8.5 inches high, according to the police department report.

The fallen front of the cinder-block building closed off traffic to one lane of the street, and telephone and power company crews worked through the night trying to restore damaged

power lines and telephone cables. A spokesman for French Broad Electric said five or six customers in the vicinity of the accident lost electric service when the lines went down.

The Madison County Jail, the magistrate's office, Roberts Pharmacy and several business offices were affected by the power outage.

Power company workmen had to loosen the base of the broken pole with a stick of dynamite in order to replace it with a new pole on which to hang the power and telephone lines.

Iverson Bradley, district manager for French Broad Electric, said a guy wire went from the telephone pole back through the building and wrapped around an I-beam. "The pressure jerked the I-beam out and collapsed the whole front of the building," he said.

He estimated damages to the power company facilities at about \$2,000. Monday night, there was still no estimate available from the building owners, Mrs. Clyde M. Roberts and Mrs. P.R. Elam, nor from Leonard Baker, co-owner of

Home Electric Furniture Co. which used the building as a storage warehouse.

Baker said Monday the building contained television sets, washing machines, all types of furniture and numerous rugs owned by his company. He said there appeared to be little or no damage to the furniture, but an unestimated amount of

damage was done to mattresses and the other items.

Mrs. Roberts reported that electric power had still not been restored to the Leake Building adjacent to her building late Monday afternoon. The Leake Building contains the law offices of Harrell and Leake Attorneys.

2nd Robbery Suspect Apprehended In Florida

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder returned from Florida late Friday afternoon after picking up a second suspect in the June 15 holdup of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. branch office in Hot Springs.

The sheriff and Deputy J.W. Treadway left Marshall Thursday and returned with Spencer Dale Allison, 44, of Moore Haven, Fla. Allison had been charged with bank robbery and conspiracy in the Hot Springs armed robbery that netted three robbers approximately \$50,000. Allison was being held in the Lake County Jail in Tavares,

Fla., where he had waived extradition to North Carolina.

Allison, a former resident of Spring Creek, was arrested Tuesday at a construction site, according to Lake County Sheriff Noel Griffin Jr.

Already under arrest is Charles Williams, 18, of La Belle, Fla., being held in the Madison County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond. The sheriff said warrants have also been drawn against a third person, David Jones, 18, of Miami, Fla. in the case.

Ponder reported after picking up Williams in Florida shortly after the robbery that some of the stolen money had been recovered at several hiding places in Florida.

Williams was scheduled to be tried in Marshall Monday in the criminal term of Superior Court with Judge Ronald Howell presiding, but Ponder said Monday night that the decision was made to continue the trial of the two apprehended suspects for a couple of reasons.

"Allison hasn't got his case prepared, and he doesn't have a lawyer. A lawyer will have to be appointed for him," Ponder said. "And, hopefully, we'll have the third man in a short time."

Ponder said if the third suspect is apprehended soon, the state would be able to try all three at the same time, and "We wouldn't have to whip the horse but once."

Williams' trial has been rescheduled for Sept. 19, according to the Clerk of Court's office.

Foxfire Students Prove Kids Are Competent

Editor's Note — In July, we met the young Foxfire String Band from Rabun County, Georgia when they performed in Canton. Intrigued that these youngsters, and other Rabun County school students, were responsible for writing the now famous Foxfire books, we set out for Mountain City and Clayton, Ga. to attend some of the Foxfire project classes at Rabun County High School and visit the Foxfire Fund, Inc. headquarters to learn more about this highly successful approach to education.

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Many creative and beautiful things are often born out of man's frustrations or periods of unhappiness. Witness some of Michaelangelo's eternal sculptures or the near priceless paintings of Van Gogh, or the more contemporary, and classic, rock album "Desperado" recorded by The Eagles when they were in England for several months to record the album and reportedly hated every minute of it.

Foxfire, a cultural journalism project, was born out of the frustrations of a young first-year English teacher in 1966. Straight out of Cornell University, Elliot Wigginton returned to Rabun County, Ga. where he had been partly raised and faced a group of 155 bored and hostile ninth and tenth grade English students. Unable to motivate them with the texts and standard teaching procedures, Wigginton, in a near-desperation action, told his students to go out into the community and to question their grandparents and other old-timers about what it was like to grow up and eke out a survival when they were younger. If the kids found this interesting, then they could write about what they learned and their experiences.

The students liked the idea and their writings — which taught them grammar and composition — were compiled into a quarterly magazine which later would be called Foxfire and would become the cornerstone of the educational project which has been called one

of the most dramatically successful high school projects in the nation.

In 1972 Doubleday published a book-length collection of the students' articles from the magazine in The Foxfire Book. The collection of Appalachian folklore and "how-to" articles sold over two million copies and became the most successful book in Doubleday's 76-year history. Today, there are six Foxfire books with combined sales approaching six million copies. Each of the books have been on the New York Times Bestseller List.

Royalties from sales of the books have generated enough revenue to maintain and expand the Foxfire program which operates on a \$300,000 annual budget. Now, in Rabun County High School, the Foxfire program includes the Foxfire magazine division, a television production division, a music division, environmental division, photography division, radio division and a publishing company. All projects in the divisions are developed and produced by the students under the guidance of advisors who are employed and paid by the students through the Foxfire Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Looking back over the evolution of the Foxfire Program, Wigginton told the National Workshop for Cultural Journalism in St. Louis that in the beginning his fellow teachers were highly skeptical of what he was doing.

"They said that the pupils in my ninth and tenth grade classes were reading and writing at way below the national average and would not be nearly as competent as I seemed to think they were," he said. "They predicted that the magazine would be an embarrassment to me and the students."

Pointing out the tremendous success of the first Foxfire book, Wigginton added, "It was written by students who, according to those other teachers, couldn't read or write. Teachers all over this country make kids cripples on a daily basis with the assumptions they make about what they can and can't do."

Wig's Educational Philosophy

Wig, as Wigginton is affectionately called by students in the program, bases his educational philosophy on the teachings of John Dewey and four "touchstones" or basic rules of operation that are involved with all the projects conducted in the Foxfire program. First is the realization of the "absolute necessity of personal experience" in education — a "hands on" type of experience. Second is knowing the need for experience and giving students every opportunity to have those experiences.

The third touchstone is having the work done with students "rooted in the community that surrounds the

schools." "Young people should know how things get done in their communities, how the political system works, where the power structure lies. If they don't walk out of the doors of a high school knowing those things, then the stated goal of 'training tomorrow's leaders' becomes a mockery," he said.

The fourth touchstone deals with two basic facts in adolescent psychology, according to Wigginton. The first is the development of a sense of self-worth in the student. "We have to help young people achieve this first, or everything we throw at them about comma splices or quotation marks is doomed to be shuffled off someplace and forgotten." The second fact is that young people in late adolescence feel a need to be involved in real work in the real world. This enables young people to know they are capable of operating in the real world as adults, Wigginton said.

"They go home (from school) and their parents ask, 'What did you do in school today?' And they say, 'Nothing.' That's the way they perceive it," he explained. "Teaching involves a lot of energy above and beyond and apart from 'Read Chapter 26 and answer the questions at the back for homework.'"

The Kids Are The Program

For the past 15 years Wigginton has been applying his philosophy on hun-

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Photo by N. Hancock

Jerry Taylor Of Foxfire Video

Public Meetings

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Friday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom in the courthouse in Marshall.

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet Monday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall on Main Street in Mars Hill.

The Madison County Board of Educa-

tion will meet Thursday, Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Marshall.

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall in Hot Springs.

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet Monday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall on Main Street in Marshall.