

KIDD BREWER'S Raleigh Roundup

Not Overlooking \$1,250 To \$1,500 In Stolen Cash

Hillsboro's Worst "Sacking" Since Fanning Leaves Town Aghast, Faces Red, Offices Littered

What happens in a small, well-lighted North Carolina town when a gang of bold thieves break into and ransack 13 business firms and offices, virtually in earshot of the town police department, and make off without a trace except scattered debris, broken files and missing money?

In Hillsboro, Orange County, North Carolina, it did happen here last Friday night and the net results thus far have been jokes, always jokes, and incredible wonder that the thing really occurred. Late yesterday, serious-minded Sheriff O. H. Clayton, whose office was also one of the ransacked, had found little on which to push his investigation. No arrests had been made. The F.B.I. and the S.B.I. had come and gone.

The tragic and ludicrous aspects of the affair had been hashed and re-hashed by all and sundry.

Some of the wags said it was the worst sacking Hillsboro has suffered since Fanning's in Colonial days.

Nobody could recall a similar incident when a courthouse had been broken into in a special flaunting of the law which led the culprits to leave their crowbar on the Sheriff's desk and wipe their feet on a Deputy's uniform topcoat.

But it is no joke to County Accountant Sam Gattis from whose desk the thieves got over \$1,000 of the County's cash. A new 1,500 pound safe is being delivered this week.

It is no joke to Policeman D. T. Roberts, who says he "shook doors" all night and whose patience with the jokers has now grown thin.

And it is no joke to the 19 busi-

ness and professional folks and public officials whose offices were disrupted, locks, files and safes smashed, and money and other articles stolen. Largest losers outside the courthouse were Dr. Robert Murphy, \$225, and Citizens Insurance Agency, \$22.

The thieves literally ransacked the town using crowbars and a screwdriver to gain entry into 13 offices and business establishments.

The tax office, and all other offices in the Orange County Courthouse, had to close while officers sought clues to the crime wave.

The thieves, who attempted to en-

ter four other places, went through downtown stores and offices, scattering files and taking small amounts of cash, a radio, shoes, cuff links, candy and similar items.

They passed up stamps and checks in the Orange County Courthouse, which appeared to have been their final stop. Two crowbars and a screwdriver were found in the courthouse.

Impressions at windows and doors left little doubt that the tools were those used to gain entry to the establishments.

Just where the thieves began was not known. Local police, the

sheriff and his deputies and SBI agents spent the day visiting each place that had been on the thieves' list.

The FBI also was brought into the case, since one of the offices entered was that of the draft board. A filing cabinet had been broken open, but nothing was reported missing.

At the courthouse, checks and documents in both the county tax collector's office and the county tax supervisor's office were scattered about the floor.

Also in the courthouse, they ransacked the office of Sheriff Odell Clayton and entered offices of the Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds and Welfare Department.

Courthouse Closed
The front door of the courthouse Saturday morning bore a handwritten sign: "Courthouse Closed For Business Today Due to Break-in."

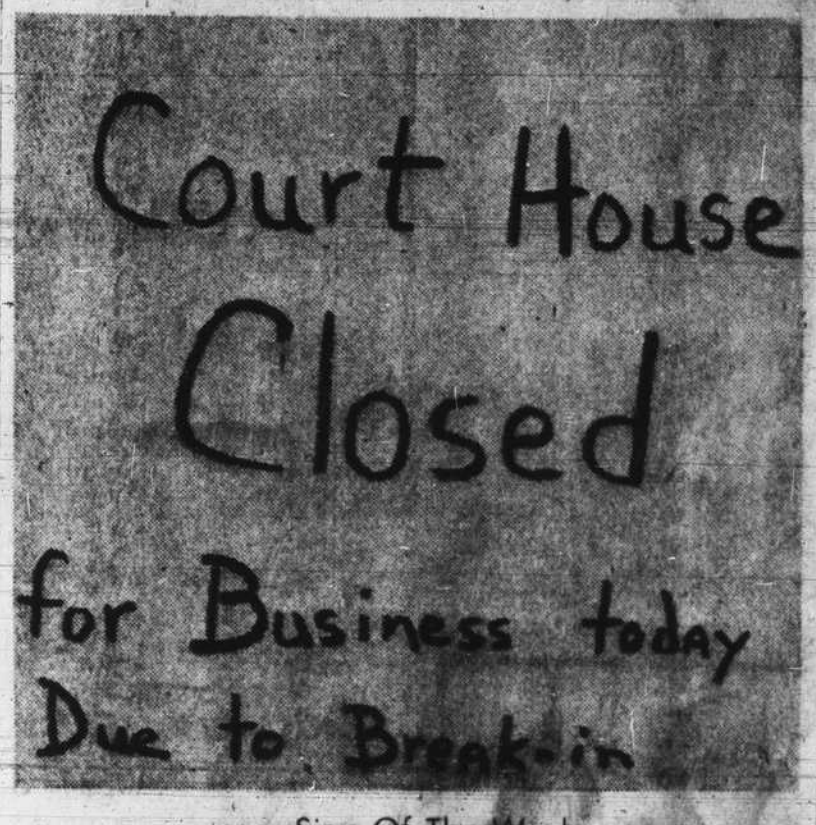
The courthouse normally remains open until noon each Saturday.

Standing on the front steps, Tax Collector Carl Davis turned away county residents who came to pay their taxes. "I've been here 22 years, and this is the first time I've sent anyone away without taking the money," he said.

Hillsboro High School also was entered. Sheriff Clayton said a small amount of cash was taken from the principal's office. The thieves made a lock on a freezer but did not take anything, he said.

Entered in addition to the courthouse, the high school, the draft board and the insurance company, were the following:

(See BREAK-INS, Page 6)



Contract For School Is Signed

Carrboro school children may be attending classes in a new modernistic 16-classroom building as fine as any school plant in the state before the end of the next school year.

Contracts totalling approximately \$395,000 for the long-awaited one-story structure have been let by the Orange County School Board to low bidders on the project and construction is expected to begin within a few days.

240 Working Days
District School Committee Chairman Carl Ellington said that the general contractor has stated the building would be ready for occupancy after 240 working days and that he felt this would be well before the end of the coming school year.

The Dickerson Co., Inc., of Monroe, low bidder out of 10 contractors who sought the general contract, will build the new school on Ashe St. for \$294,900. This same firm recently won the general contract to build the fourth of three men's dormitories for the University above Navy Field.

Other contracts were awarded to low bidders as follows: Plumbing, Center Plumbing and Heating Co., Asheboro, \$22,220; heating, John-C. Davis Plumbing and Heating Co., High Point, \$26,243; and electrical, Dicks Electric Co., Wilson, \$33,342.

Building architect is the firm of Croft and Hammond of Asheboro. In addition to the eight primary and eight elementary classrooms, the school will have a 250-seat lunchroom, a 500-seat auditorium, an 80-seat library, a large play room, administrative suite of the principal's office, health room, teacher's lounge, work and storage room, and an audio-visual room.

Museum Drive Meeting Is Set For Next Thursday

The drive to establish a museum in Hillsboro gained momentum this week.

Last week, members of the Hillsboro Garden Club museum committee discussed plans with members of the State Department of Archives and History in Raleigh and scheduled a further planning meeting here next week with Dr. C. C. Crittenden, state archivist, as principal speaker.

Dr. Crittenden will be guest speaker to the Hillsboro Garden Club next Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock and will speak on establishing historical museums, with the meeting being held in the upstairs of the old courthouse.

The old courthouse is one of the proposed sites for the museum. Representatives from all civic groups have been asked to attend this meeting and an invitation to all interested Orange County residents is cordially extended.

Dr. Crittenden's staff has guided the establishment of such museums in Salisbury, Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Clarence D. Jones is chairman of the club's museum committee.

Robber Robbins Receives Only Light Terms

Brady Ray Robbins, Fairview area resident, who teamed with a trio of juveniles to break, enter and rob three Orange County businesses, could serve as little as four months for his crimes.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn sent Robbins to the roads for six months in one case and gave him another six months in a second case to run concurrently. With good behavior, he could be out again in four months. In the third case, he was given a three to five year term suspended on condition he remain sober, of good behavior, and gainfully employed.

Another break in exist, Johnnie Wall, charged in three break-in cases, received a year each in two of them and the Solicitor not prosed the third. He broke in the Post Office and Tip Top Grocery at West Hillsboro.

Other cases:
Charles B. Wood, Jr., escape, six months to be served at the expiration of sentence he is now serving; Eugene Womble, escape, six months to be started at the expiration of sentence he is now serving; Ed Tew, escape, six months, to begin at expiration date of sentence he is now serving;
Bobby Taylor, escape, 12 months to start at the expiration of sentence he is now serving; Richard (See COURT, Page 6)

World War I Veterans Plan Area Meet Here

Arrangements have been completed here in Hillsboro for a rally of all World War I veterans in Orange and surrounding counties Sunday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock in the Orange County Courthouse.

J. Max Rogers of Durham, Commander of the Durham Battleship No. 707, Veterans of World War I, will be the chief speaker.

The Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc. was founded about five years ago, and since that time have expanded their operations into 46 states and territories with more than 800 local Barracks. Headquarters of the national organization is located in Washington, D. C., while the state unit is located at Salisbury. (See VETERANS, Page 6)

SOIL BANK DEADLINE
Tomorrow is the deadline for signing agreements with the ASC in the Acreage Reserve phase of the Soil Bank program. Office Manager Donald Roberts reminded yesterday.
For tobacco, 197 agreements, involving 359.03 acres, and promising \$73,639.90 have been signed in this county. Approximately \$16,000 of the county's original allotment still remains unclaimed.
In the voluntary Conservation Reserve phase of the bank, the sign-up deadline remains April 15.

Red Cross Drive Plans Meets Held

Rural Division Chairmen of the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross's 1957 Fund and Membership Drive are meeting with their staffs this week to complete plans and receive final instructions. Campaign Chairman C. H. Reckard announced today.

Chairmen A. B. Latta, North East Division, The Reverend W. I. Conway, South West Division, and Robert Strayhorn, South East Division, met with their divisional staffs earlier this week.

Everett Kennedy and the North West Division staff will meet in the Cedar Grove Methodist Church tonight, Thursday, February 28, to complete their plans and receive their last minute instructions and materials.

The Rural Divisions, the Hillsboro Residential Division, Mrs. G. C. McBane and Mrs. Ira Ward, Co-Chairmen, the Colored Division, A. L. Stanback Chairman, Efland, the Reverend Roland Stubbins, Chairman, and School, Mrs. Irene Pender, Chairman, will begin their drive Saturday, March 2nd.

The Business Division, C. D. Jones, Chairman; Industrial, W. (See RED CROSS, Page 6)

Grand Jury Finds Penal Facilities In Good Shape

Praise for law enforcement officers, slower 1956 tax collections, and a clean bill-of-health for penal facilities in the county were features of the Grand Jury report submitted in Superior Court Tuesday.

According to the jurors:

"The State Highway Prison camp is being operated in an efficient manner. All buildings and grounds were found to be clean and in good condition. A new solitary confinement unit of two cells has been opened. The camp was found completely equipped with sanitary facilities, bed, and hot and cold water. The administration of the camp is constantly seeking ways to improve the camp.

"The county jail has been recently repainted and found to be kept in clean and orderly state. Facilities were found to be in good shape.

"In the jail in Chapel Hill where prisoners' under both the Chapel Hill and Carrboro jurisdictions are housed, one lavatory should be replaced. All blankets have been recently cleaned, new bunk pads installed and everything is in a clean and sanitary condition."

The committee examined a report

of Patrolmen Mann Norris Jr. and T. B. Winborne on the school buses, and drivers, in which the patrolmen reported they found only minor repairs needed which were made on the spot under their supervision. The report shows the drivers of these buses to be competent and careful.

It found reports from the tax office have been regularly presented to the County Commissioners. The total amount of tax charges (See GRAND JURY, Page 6)

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

A big Forestry Field day featuring a free barbecue lunch provided by Halifax Paper Company will be held tomorrow under the sponsorship of the Farm Extension Service on the farms of Paul McKee and Douglas H.C., one mile north of the Duke Power Company's Eno Steam Station just off Highway 70, beginning at 10 a.m.

All landowners in a two-county area are invited to attend for the forestry demonstrations. In the event of rain, it will take place the following day, Saturday, March 2.

Two Named Development Body Members

A. L. Galbraith of Eno Township and Turner Forrest of Efland, Cheeks township, have been appointed to the membership of the Orange County Agricultural and Industrial Commission.

They were named to fill vacancies caused by resignation of original members of the development body.

Mr. Galbraith is vice president of Wright Machinery Corporation of Durham, a subsidiary of Sperry Rand Corporation and resides two miles north of the Eno Power Plant. He succeeds Mrs. Clarence Link.

Mr. Forrest is an owner of Forrest & Forrest, general merchants and farm machinery dealers, of Efland. He succeeds Thomas Kale.

The commission's first meeting of the year will be held tonight at 7:30 o'clock at the courthouse to discuss recent activities of the board and elect officers for the new year.

Discussion is planned on a suggestion that a special Research Triangle Development Committee be set up in the Chapel Hill area to discuss this phase of the overall promotion and to work in conjunction with the county group.

Fire Destroys Two Homes In Past Weekend

Two homes in the Hillsboro area were completely destroyed in fires last Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The home of T. A. "Check" Watkins, a 7-room frame structure four miles from Hillsboro on the New Sharon road, caught fire and burned to the ground about 4 a.m. Sunday morning.

Mr. Watkins, his son Alex, daughter Laura, and stepson, Jesse Jordan, just barely escaped without injury. Although the origin is unknown, it was reported they heard an explosion in the kitchen just before the fire broke out. The rural fire department was able to keep the blaze from spreading to adjacent barns and chicken houses.

The home of George Pherribo was burned about 7 o'clock Saturday night on Hillsboro avenue. The origin here was also undetermined and the house was a total loss. The family was away from home at the outbreak, it was said.

Merchants Sponsoring Dollar Days This Week

Tomorrow and Saturday various merchants of Hillsboro are sponsoring a "Dollar Days" Sale.

Plans were made last Thursday at the luncheon meeting of the Hillsboro Merchants Association for those desiring to have the sale to go together on it.

It was announced by the president, John Couch, that there are around \$300 still due on the Christmas lights.

Mrs. Clarence D. Jones, chairman of the museum committee of the Hillsboro Garden Club, told the association about the interview held by the committee with Dr. C. C. Crittenden, of the Department of Archives and History of North

Carolina last Wednesday in Raleigh.

Mrs. Jones said that the establishment of a museum is too large an undertaking and responsibility for one organization. The Garden Club is hoping to have the support of other civic organizations in Hillsboro in starting the museum.

"The first need is for glass showcases" said Mrs. Jones, "as we must have a place to keep and protect the collections." She asked if anyone knowing where such cases could be obtained please notify her or any member of the Garden Club. The club is also interested in offers of historic relics of Orange County for the museum.

Aycock Boys Win Conference Tournery For Fourth Year



DWIGHT COMPTON STANLEY POPE LOCKET ASHLEY

JERRY WRENN RONALD WILKERSON

CARROLL HAWKINS

BOBBY HUGHES

The Aycock High School boys' team won the North Piedmont Conference Basketball Tournament for the fourth consecutive year last Saturday night in the Helena High Gymnasium. Aycock defeated Cobb Memorial

44-28 after winning over Anderson High in a Thursday night semi-final 54-53. The tournament win climaxed a terrific stretch drive which saw the "Champs" win their last eight games after "losing" seven of their

first sixteen games. The boys won the Conference Season trophy with a record of eleven wins, one loss. Jerry Wrenn, Aycock's leading scorer, was selected for the All-Conference team as was Geraldine Talley, guard for the Aycock Girls.

The Aycock Girls were eliminated by Cobb Memorial in the opening round of tournament play. In posting their season record of 17 wins, 7 losses, the "Champs" relied mainly upon seven seniors. Their Scoring averages were:

Wrenn 19.6; Hawkins 9.8; Pope 7.3; Compton 6.6; Wilkerson 4.6; Hughes 5.0; Ashley 4.3. Aycock will represent Orange County in the District III, Class A State Tournament in Rocky Mount, March 7, 8, 9.

Shop In Hillsboro During "Dollar Days" Tomorrow And Saturday

Merchants of Hillsboro are sponsoring a "Dollar Days" Sale tomorrow and Saturday.