

# Merry Christmas

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### Counterfeit Bills Discovered

Cherokee County Sheriff's officers and agents of the federal Secret Service seized \$51,860 in counterfeit \$10 bills in a house trailer Monday in the Bealtown section of Murphy.

A Secret Service agent said Tuesday that no arrests have been made yet but investigation of the case is continuing. He indicated that it was not a local affair but was part of a larger investigation, involving people in other cities and other states.

"These bills are of very poor quality," he said, displaying the sheets of paper, with four bills printed on each one. The bills had not been cut apart, many sheets had the ink smudged and the reverse side of the

bill had been printed noticeably smaller than the face side.

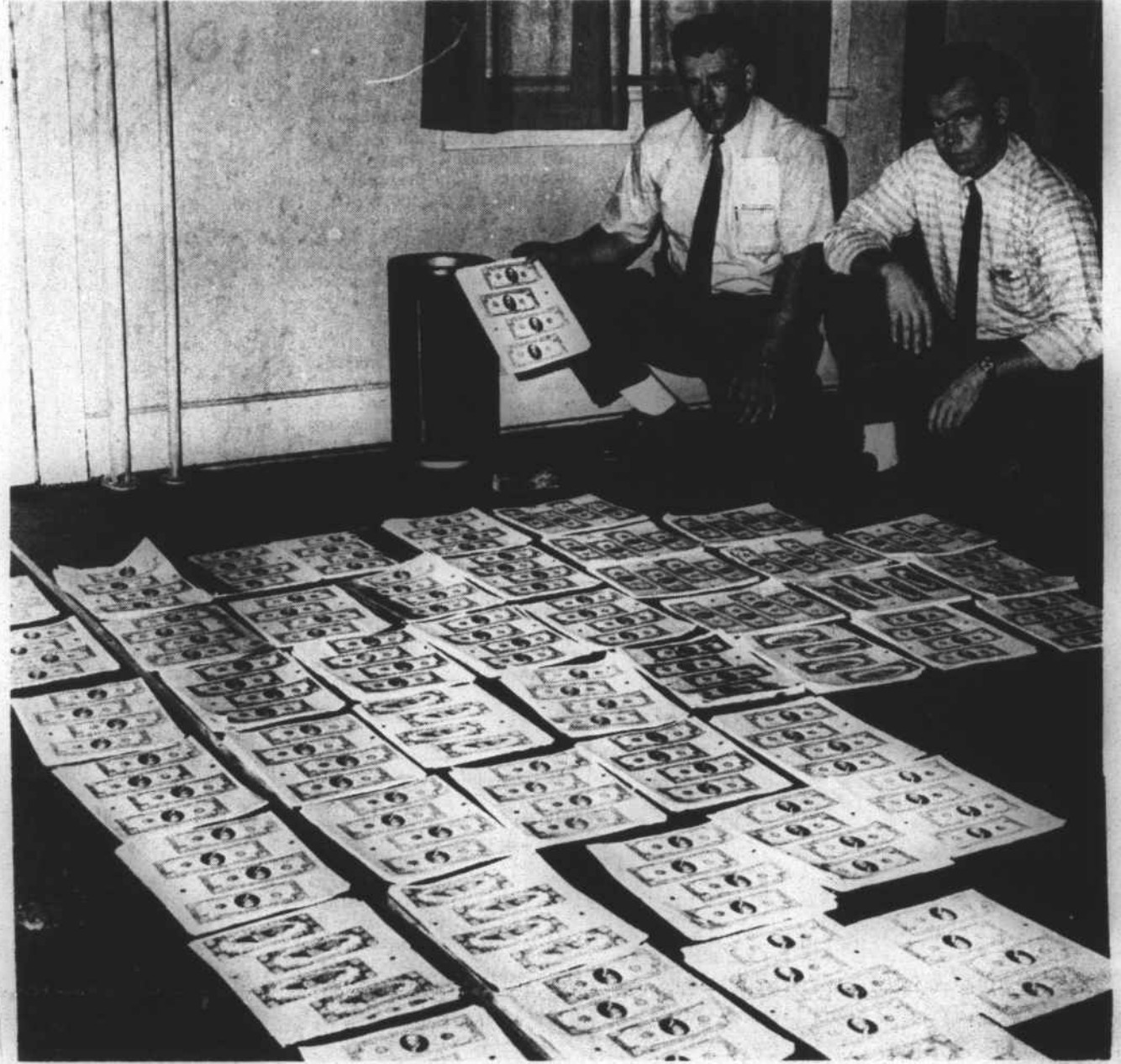
Despite the poor quality, the Secret Service man said one of the bad 10's had been passed in Cherokee County, at a grocery store near the Georgia line.

Counterfeiting of United States currency is a federal crime, he explained, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Secret Service branch of the Treasury Department. Those charged will be tried in federal court, he added.

Two counterfeit \$20 bills were discovered last week by tellers at Wachovia Bank, but the Secret

Service agent said at the present time there seemed to be no connection between them and the pile of bad 10's discovered Monday.

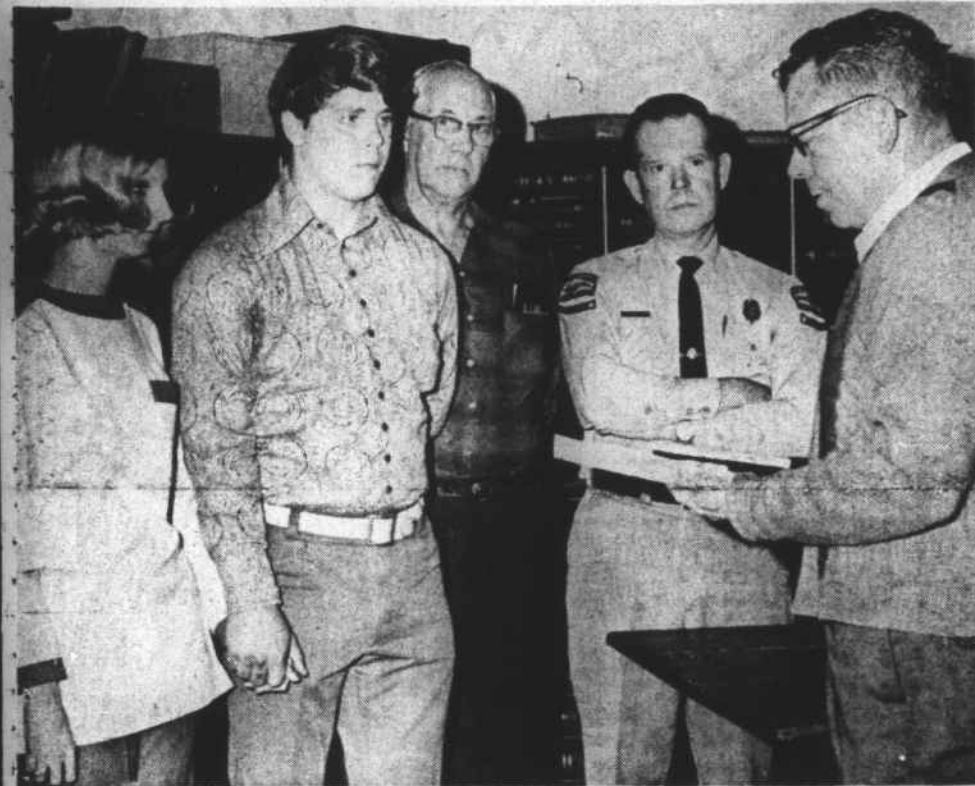
Bank officials said the two counterfeit 20's were of good quality, especially on the face side of the bill. They said since only two have been discovered, the bills may not have been passed originally in this county but may have gotten here as change some Cherokee citizen received while Christmas shopping in Asheville, Atlanta or Chattanooga. Asheville in particular has been plagued with counterfeit money recently, they said.



Funny Money

Cherokee Sheriff Blain Stalcup and Deputy Willard Bates pose with nearly \$52,000 worth of counterfeit \$10 bills discovered on Monday in a house trailer in Murphy. The bogus bills were

printed four to a sheet of paper and had not been cut apart. No arrests have been made yet in the case, which is being investigated by both local officers and agents of the Secret Service. (Staff Photo)



Georgia Couple

Miss Peggy Lynn Martin, 18, and Terry Lee Wood, 19, from Austell and Mableton, Ga., respectively, were married last week in Register of Deeds Ed Graves' office. The Rev. Raymond Carroll performed the ceremony and Graves and Driver's

License Examiner A.E. Crooke were witnesses. A growing number of Georgia and Tennessee couples buy marriage licenses here, North Carolina marriage laws easier than the ones in their home states. (Staff Photo)

### Marriage License Market Booms

Sometimes with friends and relatives and sometimes alone, the bright-eyed young couples come to see Ed Graves almost every day.

Because Graves is the Register of Deeds of Cherokee County and he sells marriage licenses, at \$5 apiece. And the market is a steady one, since North Carolina marriage laws are easier than the ones in Tennessee and Georgia, both states bordering on this county. Both Tennessee and Georgia have a three-day waiting period, Graves explains, and North Carolina has none. In Georgia you must be 19 to be married without your parents' consent, in Tennessee it's 21, but here you can marry at age 18.

Incidentally, those who write the laws in Georgia apparently feel the decisions involved in marriage more serious than marking a ballot. It has been legal for an 18-year-

old to vote in Georgia for a number of years.

A change in the laws put Cherokee County in the marriage license business, Graves says. In 1956, for example, it was easier to marry in other places and the Register's office sold only 39 licenses during the whole year, mostly local couples.

Last year, however, Graves sold 726 marriage licenses and the figure this year may go even higher.

The \$5 goes to the county, Graves says, and the couples get the license, best wishes and a small package of household goods, including detergents soap, etc.

Graves is not qualified to perform the wedding ceremony and few couples marry in his office but he sometimes does, on request, obtain a preacher or magistrate to officiate on the spot.

### Conservation Supervisors Selected In Both Counties

In recent weeks citizens of Cherokee County have elected L.L. Kisselburg to replace John Lansford, whose term of office expires on January 4, as a Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

C.B. Newton has been reappointed as a district supervisor by the N.C. State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Other Cherokee County District Supervisors include Billy Howell, Gay Hawkins, and W.T. Reppert.

In Clay County, M.H. Payne has been re-elected to a three-year term as a Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. Carl Moses has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Wooten who had to resign as a district supervisor since he was elected to the Clay County Board of

Commissioners. Other Clay County District Supervisors include Richard Bristol, Harley Hicks, and Floyd Ledford.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are organized and operated under the provisions of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes of North Carolina. These districts enable all interested people within their boundaries to work together for improved conservation practices.

The official governing body of each district is a board of three elected and two appointed supervisors. They have the responsibility for coordinating a sound program that will conserve and develop the natural resources of the district.

### Motor Club Predicts 21 Deaths On Roads

Stay out of the Christmas crunch this holiday season and dodge the 1,500 traffic accidents which the N.C. State Motor Club says may take 21 lives and injure over 800 more persons on North Carolina's streets and highways during the Yule Weekend.

The state will count its holiday highway toll from 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, through midnight Sunday, Dec. 27, a 78-hour period. In a 102-hour span last year, the casualties totaled up to 27 deaths and 813 injured in 1,624 accidents, with 21 killed in the 36 hours of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Leading accident causes were speeding, driving left of center, following too closely and

driving under the influence. "North Carolina's traffic safety authorities are making every effort to reduce our highway death toll," said Thomas B. Watkins, president of the motor club the National Automobile Association, "and our traffic deaths are running around 100 below last year's pace. Let's keep it that way to the end of the year."

"During the Christmas and New Year's holidays, drunken drivers and speeders will be prime targets for the Highway Patrol. With all the usual holiday partying, drinking drivers become a real problem. If you do drink, please let someone who doesn't do the driving," Watkins urged.

### Christmas Bus Company Proposing Closings

Most stores in Murphy will be closed on Friday and Saturday for Christmas, to reopen for business as usual on next Monday morning.

Wachovia and First Union banks, in order to give employees more time with their families, will close for the holidays at 1 o'clock on Thursday, Christmas Eve, and will not be open from 3 until 5 p.m. as usual.

Both banks will open again on Monday morning.

The Scout office will close for the holidays at the end of business Wednesday afternoon and will reopen on Monday morning.

Bus service between Murphy and both Atlanta and Asheville may soon be cut back.

J.B. Hall, who manages the local bus station, says Continental Trailways, serving Murphy and this area as Smoky Mountain Trailways, has proposed to cut out two runs, the 5 p.m. bus to Atlanta and the 7:30 p.m. bus to Asheville.

Dropping these two runs will have to be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission, he said, and those who oppose cutting back the bus

service should write to the Public Utilities Commission, Raleigh, concerning the Asheville run and the same body in Atlanta concerning the Georgia run.

Hall said at present there are two chances each day for a passenger to board a bus in Murphy to take him to Atlanta, 7:30 in the morning and the threatened 5 p.m. run. If the cutback is made, he pointed out that there will only be once chance in 24 hours to go to Atlanta by bus.

He said this could work a hardship on those who may be working in the Murphy area and want to go to Atlanta on the weekend or vice-versa.

Hall added that there are presently four times a day when a bus leaves Murphy for Asheville- 3 a.m., 10:50 a.m., 3:50 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. If the evening bus is eliminated, he said there will be a period of about 11 hours each day when there is no bus service to Asheville.



Christmas Baskets

Max Blakemore, chairman of the Murphy Lions Club's Christmas treat project, is shown filling the bags and baskets which were distributed this week to 120 needy families in the county. The bread was donated by Kern's Bread and Holsum Bakeries and the snuff and chewing tobacco was given by Wayne Ford of

Warne, the representative of the Conwood Corp. Other items, which included fruit, cereal, nuts, candies, sugar, coffee, potatoes, etc., were purchased by the Lions. Blakemore said the Lions themselves located many of the needy families and got the names of others from the county welfare rolls. (Staff Photo)



Ground Broken For Memorial

The first ground was turned last Friday for a memorial plaza at Murphy High School for three Seniors who have died in accidents during the past year. Manning the shovels were, left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Aiden Cook, whose daughter Suzanne died

recently in an auto accident; Mrs. Margie Dochow, whose daughter Debbie was killed last March in an auto wreck; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Godfrey, whose son Alan perished in a plane crash in Euro last August. (Staff Photo)