

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

Volume Five

TRENTON, N. C. Thursday, July 30, 1953.

Number 12

Police Teamwork Solves Burglary Committed Last Week In Kinston

Last Friday night at about 11 o'clock, Barry Jones with his family returned to home on Morningside Drive in Northeast Kinston. They had been away from home for several hours, but the house had only been empty—so far as the family was concerned, since 10 o'clock, when Vincent, Barry's brother, had left home.

Barry noticed a light in the house and then on looking a little closer saw a man that was not supposed to be there standing in the front door of the house. Barry got out and immediately gave chase. The uninvited visitor was faster afoot than Jones, who has added a few pounds in the places where it doesn't improve one's speed since the days when he was playing a lot of shortstop on local baseball teams.

A call was put in to the police department. Detective Leslie Gay answered the call. A

ville Prison Camp had failed to follow the trail of the burglar, Spence told Detective Gay about the man they had stopped who had a wrist watch in his pocket.

"Who was he", was Gay's first and natural question.

Spence didn't know his name but he did recall that he had seen the fellow working on a particular job. A visit to the employer revealed the name and address of the man Spence had in mind. Then a visit to the house, but no man was there. Nothing to do but wait and look. Finally, after a night away from home, Earl Waters of 619 Fields Street, returned and officers

door knocking and if someone answered he asked if a "Mr. something or other lived in that neighborhood." Police believe that was the technique used. When a home was found at which no one answered the knock and if the door was open the thief merely stepped in and went to looking.

Detective Wheeler Kennedy

PERSONALITIES



EXPERT TOBACCO FARMER RAYMOND P. CUNNINGHAM



LESLIE GAY

few minutes after the fleet-footed visitor had departed from the Jones Home with a \$20 bill, a wrist watch, several necklaces and a child's purse, Policeman Floyd Spence, Jr. and John



FLOYD SPENCE, JR.

Barrow stopped a man back of Grainger Stadium for a routine check. They just felt he was out a little late and in a neighborhood he had little excuse to be. Where Spence and Barrow stopped the man was not more than a half dozen blocks—as the crow flies—from the Jones Home.

They questioned the man they had stopped, looked in his pockets for weapons and saw a wrist watch. But not knowing of the Jones Home burglary and the watch missing there, they let the man go and told him to go on home.

Not too many minutes later Spence and Barrow found out about the burglary and after bloodhounds from the Green-



JOHN BARROW

Gay and Spence picked him up. But in his pockets were no \$20 bill, no wrist watch—in short none of the loot from the Jones Home. He "hadn't even been that away."

Nevertheless Gay and Spence brought Waters to the police station where he was booked and ordered held for investigation. Under the law a person may be held for 24 hours for investigation.

Long before that 24 hours of investigation ran out. Waters was no longer "being held for investigation." He was under indictment for burglary and was under \$2,500 bond.

Friday night Gay had called Identification Officer Fred Boyd to the Jones Home and



FRED BOYD

Boyd had been able to get a number of excellent fingerprints. In the morning light Jones found an excellent footprint back of his home where softer ground and the high speed of the departing thief had left an indelible impression. Also, aroused by publicity about the burglary a neighbor reported that a man had been seen roaming around not too long before the burglary of the Jones Home and he was going from door to



WHEELER KENNEDY

got into the act and found that the shoes Waters was wearing when he was picked up fitted the tracks behind the Jones Home. Waters was identified by the neighbor as the man who had been "roaming around the neighborhood." Finally, when Waters was fingerprinted his prints proved to be identical to a number of those lifted at the Jones Home by Officer Boyd.

Some luck, a lot of work and perfect coordination between all officers taking part in this investigation quickly ended what could have become a major problem in the community, since a similar burglary on Thursday night was reported by Shady Saba of 206 East Grainger Avenue, however, there is no evidence linking Waters to that "job."

Week In Review

Leo Harvey, Kinston auto dealer, was sworn in Monday as a member of the 15-man Board of Conservation and Development as the newly named group held its first meeting in Morhead City with Governor Umstead presiding. Harvey was named to the Commerce and Industry Committee and to the Mineral Resources Committee at this organizational meeting.

Wednesday morning, Dr. Paul Whitaker, well known retired physician of Kinston, who was a leading force in the establishment of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission during the 1947 session of the General Assembly, was sworn in as a member of the commission which he took such a large part in setting up.

John R. Kelly was bound over to the August term of Lenoir County's Superior Court Monday after probable cause was found against him in the death of James Larry who died from a head injury last Wednesday following a fight with Kelly last Monday night. Judge Albert Cowper ordered Kelly held under \$500 bond.

There may be better tobacco farmers than Raymond Cunningham who lives just north of Kinston and owns 500 of Lenoir County's richest and most productive acres, but if there is a better tobacco farmer, he's not in this neck of the woods.

Cunningham started "farming for himself" in 1923 with 27 acres of land, part of the farm he still owns, and that first year "on his own" he planted five acres of tobacco and with the thorough-going industry and attention that he is well known for today he made money with that first venture and although the record is not public, it is presumed as most likely that Cunningham has managed to "break even or a little better" on each of the succeeding 29 crops.

The 1953 crop, however, "is about the sorriest I ever had," Cunningham said this week as he searched the skies for a little badly needed rain and he expressed doubt that rain would do any good at this late time. But glancing, with an amateurish eye at a few of the 83.9 acres of tobacco that Cunningham has this year it would appear that by comparison he still had one of the best looking crops in this section.

Until cut back by acreage allocations, Cunningham had upped his tobacco acreage from that five acres in 1923 to more than 137 but this year he has the 83.9 acres allocation mentioned above.

Cunningham's farm is in one tract of land, in the sense that it is not separated by any other landowners' property but it is intersected by two roads, US 258 and a connecting road between US 258 and NC 11. Aside from being next door to rapidly expanding residential areas of Kinston which naturally skyrocket real estate prices, it is fairly well admitted that Cunningham has perhaps the most valuable 500 acres in Lenoir County. It is also freely admitted that nobody, but nobody is likely to buy any little part of it as long as Cunningham is watching over the affairs of those richly 500 acres.

With 24 modern, neat and

well kept tobacco barns in a single group, with freshly painted tenant houses, mule sheds, storage barns and work rooms Cunningham has a small town all to himself.

Last year the Cunningham Home burned to the ground and although the area was cleaned up as soon as the brick were cool enough to handle Cunningham is still in no hurry to replace the house, because as he puts it, "There ain't anybody pushing me and besides prices are mighty high right now."

Cunningham was born within sight of the land he now owns some odd years ago—since he is still an eligible bachelor his age will be omitted for obvious reasons—the son of the late Thomas R. and Mary McArthur Cunningham and he has two brothers and three sisters who are almost as well known for their abilities as he is for tobacco growing.

These include Mrs. H. B. (Canary) Taylor, Mrs. B. F. (Hattie) Scarborough, Mrs. Pinckney (Claude) Hardy, Clyde and Quincy Cunningham.

On Monday of last week when Cunningham was interrupted from his work for the picture with this article he was on July 20th, if you please, working on his tobacco bed! That should give you some idea of how far ahead he plans and works toward producing the most of the best tobacco at the lowest possible cost.

He explained that he kept the site he had chosen for a plant bed cut during the entire summer. As soon as a few weeds show their heads and before they can go to seeds he has his tractors and disc busy churning the weeds back under. Then in the fall he puts the usual weed-killing chemicals on the land and comes as near to having a weedless tobacco bed as it is possible to produce.

There is little doubt about the fact that Cunningham is one of the county's wealthiest farmers. His way of life is a complete contradiction to that old saying about a man never being able to work out a fortune with his own hands. Cunningham

Continued on Page 5