

Safe is stolen in Nectar's burglary

The Nectar's fast food outlet across from the ABC store in Hertford was the victim of a burglary in the early hours of Monday morning.

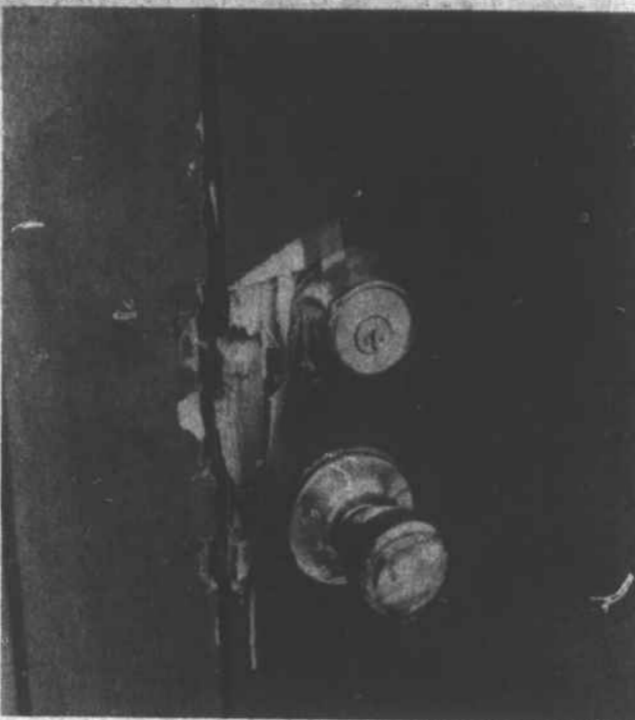
The back door was broken into with a prying tool and a safe containing over \$700 was taken. An automatic camera with a strobe light was ripped off the wall, apparently as a precaution, before the thieves went to work.

Taken, along with the safe, was all of the loose change from an open cash register drawer. The only thing left behind were the pennies.

Nectar's is owned by Gardner Homes, a company based in Elizabeth City. According to Mrs. Connie Lamb, manager of the food outlet since its opening in Hertford, an attempt to break into the business was made once before but failed.

The safe, worth \$300, was very heavy and termed almost impregnable except to a professional safe cracker. According to police, the safe was so heavy, that two men would be required to remove it from the premises.

The theft was discovered by Mrs. Lamb when she entered the business on Monday morning at 10:15. Investigating the burglary were Police Chief Marshall Merritt, Patrolman Robert Morris and Patrolman Gene M. Overton, who had just been sworn in as a new officer for the Hertford Police Department.



SHATTERED DOOR — This is what the back door of Nectar's looked like after burglars broke in early Monday morning and made off with the business's safe. (Staff Photo by JACK GROVE)

Master fire plan is presented

A Master Fire Protection Plan, was presented to the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Hertford at their meeting last Monday night.

Mack Simpson, senior planner for the Regional Development Institute of the East Carolina University in Greenville made the presentation to the Town Board. Simpson in presenting this Fire Protection Plan, stated that it is a "working tool" for planning and implementing fire protection in the community.

Simpson gave credit to Ed Thorne of Farmville, formerly of the RDI staff, for his work in preparing the plan along with help received from Mayor Bill Cox and R. Tim Brinn. Brinn is the Assistant Director of the RDI in Greenville.

The Master Fire Protection Plan includes fire alarm information, locations, type fires, and time of calls, for the past eleven years that have occurred in Hertford and Perquimans County.

It includes available water supply sources for fire fighting, lists of available fire apparatus in the county and recognition of each fire department.

This plan is a result of emphasis placed by the U.S. Fire Administration in encouraging communities to plan for both fire prevention and control.

The master plan projects goals and objectives to be sought in Hertford and Perquimans County in the next five to ten years. Since the inception of this plan, some 18 months ago, a number of goals have been accomplished by the Hertford Fire Department: (1) an insurance rating classification change from class 8 to class 7 in Hertford; (2) an update of fire hydrant and hydrant records system in Hertford; and (3) updated maps of the water main supply system in Hertford.

Objectives still to be realized include establishing written mutual aid agreements with other fire departments in Perquimans County and neighboring fire departments, updated fire prevention codes in Hertford, and the establishment of the "Rural Emergency Identification System" for central radio dispatching use.

Hertford Fire Chief Charles Skinner said "This is the first published Master Fire Plan in North Carolina for small volunteer departments and now it is being used as a guide to help other communities." Chief Skinner expressed his appreciation to the RDI staff and others that have made this published plan possible.



NEW OFFICER — Gene Mitchell Overton is sworn in as a police officer by court clerk Jarvis Ward in a ceremony Monday morning at the Court House. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Town has new officer

The Hertford Police Department has a new police officer. Gene Mitchell Overton was sworn in as a policeman on Monday morning at the Court House by Superior Court Clerk Jarvis Ward.

Overton, from New Hope, is 21. He is the son of Margaret Overton. Overton graduated from Perquimans County High School and attended the College of the Albemarle one year.

According to Police Chief Marshall Merritt, he will receive a minimum of one month's on-the-job training. His first week will be spent in orientation with Chief Merritt. Overton will then spend three weeks in training with Officer Robert Morris, who has been designated as his training officer.

The police department has been undermanned since the dismissal of Patrolman James R. Logan last April 13. Logan remained in the department in an inactive status from the date of the dismissal until the Town Council upheld the action on May 31.



NEW PHONE CABLE — A crew lays a "relief cable" in an operation that has been worked on for about six weeks. The cable is being laid from Highway 17 out the Harvey's Point Rd., across to the Holiday Island Rd. and into Holiday Island. The specially designed tractor digs a two foot deep trench and lays the cable in one continuous operation. The new cable will make possible the installation of between 100 and 200 new phones at Holiday Island.

Gold Bond redemption difficult

Customers of the Colonial Store (now Big Star) in Hertford who have been saving their Gold Bond Stamps for redemption at a Gold Bond Gift Shop will now have to go a long way to do so.

The Gold Bond Gift Shop on Indian River Rd. in Chesapeake, Va., the closest redemption center to Hertford, closed its doors for good last Saturday.

The manager was interviewed by phone last Friday. Mrs. Ann Craft, the manager, was asked what patrons should do with stamps they have accumulated. She said that the closest redemption center to this area is now in Richland, Va., on the other side of Roanoke, in the western part of Virginia.

Mrs. Craft stated that stamp holders may mail them in to the Gold Bond company for redemption in cash or merchandise from the catalog. The books are worth \$2.50 each or 50 cents for a fifth of a book. The address for mailing in the books may be found on the back of the books or the catalog, according to Mrs. Craft.

The manager indicated that she has been receiving a lot of complaints about the closing from N.C. residents. She said the reason stemmed from the change-over of the Colonial Stores to Big Star which does not issue the stamps. The Colonial Stores were the main customer of the Gold Bond Stamp Co. in this area.

Mrs. Craft emphasized that the company is not going out of business, just moving out of the immediate area. The sales office, formerly located in Chesapeake, has been moved to Atlanta, Ga.

Company is under investigation

A joint release today, three top state officials called for a thorough investigation of the tactics used by the Smith-Douglass Fertilizer Company and their representatives in settling claims against the company by farmers who used the fertilizer allegedly contaminated by the herbicide picloram.

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham and Commissioner of Insurance John Ingram have jointly asked affected farmers to come to Raleigh on Friday, August 10 to present affidavits outlining their problems with the settlement offered to them and the economic affect it has had on their tobacco and other crops. The session will be held on the State Fairgrounds and will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Affected growers will have an opportunity to give a sworn affidavit to attorneys for the three departments and the three North Carolina officials will be on hand to hear public statements from anyone wishing to be heard on the situation.

The move is being made to gather sufficient information to determine action the three agencies might need to take. The legal possibilities include cancellation of the registration of the Smith-Douglass Company by the Department of Agriculture, hearings on the insurance company's and the adjustor's license by the Insurance Commissioner's office.

Morgan to be feted

Archie T. Lane, Sr., Chairman of Perquimans County Democratic Party, has announced that the Perquimans County Democratic Party will hold a reception in honor of Senator Robert Morgan.

Lane said that "It is past time for us to show Senator Morgan how much we appreciate the job he is doing in Washington as our senator." Chairman Lane extended a warm welcome to the friends of Senator Morgan. This reception will be held at the Perquimans County ANPDC building in Hertford at 4 p.m., Friday August 17.



WRECKAGE — This is what was left of an automobile involved in a fatal accident at the "Y" last Friday night. Killed, was a Marine from Camp Lejeune. Five others in the car were injured. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Car wreck takes life

A late model Mazda containing six Marines from Camp Lejeune at Jacksonville, N.C., was wrecked at 11:45 p.m. Friday. The accident took the life of one of the Marines, Amando E. Eclarino, age 30. Injuries to the other occupants were termed "not serious" by investigating officer, trooper Y.Z. Newberry.

The auto was headed north on U.S. 17 at a high rate of speed when it missed a curve at the "Y" five miles south of Hertford, jumped a traffic island, rolled three or four times and crashed through the wall of a building owned by T.R. Kirby. The car came to rest on its side inside the building.

The Edenton and Perquimans Rescue Squads and the Edenton crash truck responded to the emergency. The injured were taken to the Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City before being transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Pedro Liberato Peralta, 24. Peralta has been charged with death by a vehicle, driving under the influence, and driving at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent.

Highway 17 rally to be held Tuesday, Aug 14

Plans have been completed for a Highway 17 rally that will be conducted at the Jaycee Hut in Edenton at 7 p.m. on Tuesday night, August 14.

"Tickets are going well and we expect a good crowd," Bob Moore, Executive Vice-President of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, reported. Moore serves on the planning committee with Tom Campbell of Elizabeth City, and Mayor Bill Cox of Hertford. All are on the Executive Committee of the Highway 17 Transportation Association in North Carolina.

The objective of the organization is to get Highway 17 four laned through deep Eastern North Carolina from Virginia to South Carolina.

William H. (Bill) Page of Washington, President of the organization, will be the speaker at the rally, the second of three to be conducted along the highway. One has already been staged in New Bern. Another is planned for the Wilmington area.

"We'll have plenty of barbecue and refreshments," Moore said today. Tickets for the event are \$5.00 and may be purchased at Chambers of Commerce in Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton, Windsor, and Williamston.

Moore said the rally is being conducted to cover that area of the highway and "we hope a lot of folks from the other communities attend."

In discussing the rally today, Page called Highway 17, North Carolina's most neglected major highway. "It's going to have to be improved from one end to the other," he said.

Page said a lot of "little" projects along the highway are already being planned by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. "What we need, though, is an overall plan from one end to the other so that we can see the project in perspective," Page said.

Page said his organization is urging Governor Hunt to encourage the Department of Transportation to come up with such a plan.

Check theft leads to arrest of suspect

A young Hertford woman has been arrested and charged with felony counts of larceny and false pretense, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt. Shirley Elliott, 17, of 304 Stokes Dr. was arrested Wednesday morning, August 1.

The charges stemmed from the theft of an endorsed payroll check from the purse of Jo Ann Blanchard at the county Board of Education office on July 31. Miss Elliott was arrested after allegedly attempting to cash the check at the Bank of North Carolina. A stop order, however, had already been requested by the Board of Education.

Miss Elliott, a CETA program employee at the Board of Education, was released under a \$1,000 secured bond after a first appearance hearing on August 1.

Chief Merritt urged citizens not to endorse checks until they are ready to cash them.