

An Inside Look At The Secret Service

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

What exactly is the Secret Service?

James Bond is portrayed as a member of Her Majesty's Secret Service. Now we all know 007 is a guy with an unlimited expense account, expensive clothes, travels all over the world, meets danger dozens of times a day and winds up with a beautiful woman in his bed.

"It's the same with me," said Dennis Schlindwein, who works out of the Charlotte office of the U.S. Secret Service. Of course the young agent was joking before launching into an informational talk to the Kings Mountain Rotary Club Thursday.

"My greatest foes are cockroaches, bank presidents and the privacy act," Schlindwein said.

The agent said a great many adults and children have no idea what the Secret Service really is because the image and the importance of the office have been distorted by movies and TV.

The Secret Service is actually a branch of the U.S. Treasury Department. "Even though we are listed in the phone directory under the FBI," Schlindwein said. "The Secret Service was started in 1965 - long before anyone ever thought of establishing the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Central Intelligence Agency."

The SS was the very first federal enforcement agency ever established. The agency was created to combat counterfeiters, which were and still are great threats to the economy. "During the Civil War about one-third of the money in circulation was counterfeit," Schlindwein said. "And counterfeiters, caught and convicted, were the first people in the United States to be executed for their crimes."

Schlindwein said this is still considered a terrible crime because nearly

Bus Driver

Class Set

The School Bus Drivers Class has been changed from April 10 and 12, to April 5 and 6.

Interested adults and students are encouraged to contact Mr. Blaine Froneberger at 739-5401 for registration.

The current rate of pay is \$3 per hour for all bus drivers.

Sgt. Fite

Reenlists

Sgt. 1st. Class Donald A. Fite of Kings Mountain, recently reenlisted in the Army for three years while serving as a motor pool sergeant with the 72nd Signal Battalion in Karlsruhe, Germany.

The sergeant's wife, Jonanna, is with him in Germany.

Employee

Honored

Susan H. Stewart of First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company in Kings Mountain will be recognized this week for her long service to the bank and its customers.

She will receive a jeweled ten year service pin and a special letter of commendation from Lewis R. Holding, president of First-Citizens Bank.

everyone gets stuck. Counterfeiters will pass the bogus bills to anyone today, according to the agent. He said the average counterfeiter is middle-class, fairly well educated with a knowledge of photography and printing or chemical processing. "A great many of these people try it just to see if they can get away with it. Some do, but more do not."

Last Wednesday, Schlindwein arrested such a counterfeiter in Greensboro. He said this man had taken one dollar bills and had bleached out the color, but retaining the numbers and seals. He had then contacted a printer who reprinted the bills with \$100 denominations and correct portrait.

"He tried to sell a batch of them to another agent," Schlindwein said, "and that's when we arrested him."

The agent passed several bogus fives, tens, 20s, 50s and 100s around to Rotarians for examination and explained a couple of ways they can be tested for phonies: the slick or smooth feel of the paper; the one-dimensional appearance of the portrait; the broken or blunted points on the Treasury seal; and either the absence of red and blue fibers appearing in the white edges or the overly clear appearance of the fibers.

"The overly clear appearance comes from the counterfeiter using red and blue pens to actually draw the lines in," Schlindwein said. "In real bills these fibers are actually in the

paper itself."

Although investigating negotiation of federal counterfeit operations checks (Social Security,

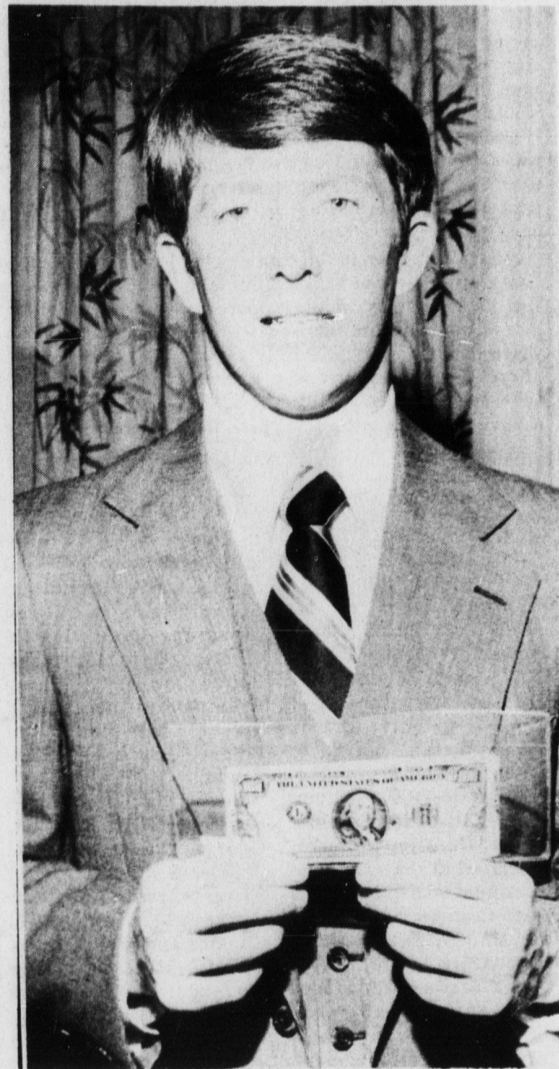


Photo by Tom McIntyre

SHOWING BOGUS BILL—Secret Service agent Dennis Schlindwein, who spoke on counterfeiting and dignitary protection at the Kings Mountain Rotary Club, displays one of counterfeit \$100 bills he brought along to demonstrate.

etc.), the Secret Service is also charged with providing protection for The President of the United States, the first lady, children and grandchildren.

Schlindwein will soon be transferred to Georgia where he will be charged with protecting James Earl Carter III - The President's grandson.

"Each morning I will say goodbye to my wife, then I will spend the day in nursery school with Master Carter," Schlindwein said.

The Secret Service also provides protection for the Vice President; President and Vice-President - elect; former Presidents; the wives of former Presidents, until they die or are remarried; and children of former Presidents, until they reach age 16.

Protection is also extended, during election years, to all Presidential candidates no matter what party affiliation. And to visiting heads of state or their emissaries.

Protection of Presidents began after the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, but it wasn't until after President John Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 that the Secret Service's protection was expanded to cover previously mentioned dignitaries.

"The Secret Service protection not only involves making the rounds with the dignitary, but also spending a lot of manhours checking out areas and people where the dignitary

is to make an appearance," Schlindwein said.

An example is President Carter's visit to Winston-Salem last year. He was there for half an hour to

an hour, but prior to that 20 agents spent 1,200 manhours checking out all potential threats or dangers to The President before he made an appearance.

"We always have the complete cooperation of local law enforcement agencies in cases like this," Schlindwein said. "It would be impossible without that assistance."

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Cleveland County Technical Institute

Bank Opens Today

(Story begins on page 1)

unfurling of the banner, said Ainsworth.

Visitors will be invited to tour the spacious facility and to enjoy cold apple cider from old-fashioned souvenir mugs, cheese and Moravian sugar cookies while they enjoy tunes on the dulcimer. Free coloring books will be distributed to children and visitors will be invited to register for free door prizes including a Polaroid Polavision system-camera, projector and cassettes.

Independence National Bank will open its 28th branch bank at 410 East King St. for full customer service Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. Mrs. Jackie Mauney, manager, said the bank will be open Monday through Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Night deposit facilities and drive-in windows are available for

customer conveniences, she said. The branch bank will also employ three tellers and two customer service employees offering consumer and commercial loans, checking and savings accounts and full services throughout the day, said Mrs. Mauney.

The Kings Mountain branch will be a link between Gaston and Cleveland Counties, said Ainsworth, who said that Independence National, which merged with Union Trust Co. of Shelby and Citizens National Bank of Gastonia on June 1, 1976, has assets at \$254 million.

Independence National's new branch bank here is completely renovated in the former Hermie's building on East King Street in an attractive brown and gold-toned decor with drive-in windows and customer parking facilities.

The bank's manager, Mrs. Jackie Mauney of Kings Mountain, native of Gastonia, is a veteran of 24 years in the banking business. Other staffers are Joan Grady, Thelma Queen, Phil Stewart, Jane Gordon and Denise Falls, all of the Kings Mountain area.

"We're quite proud to be opening in Kings Mountain," said Ainsworth, he added. "We feel that this progressive community can be served by a third bank and believe we can make a contribution to the area."

One philosophy of the bank's management derives from its long-time objective of genuine "friendliness in banking," said Ainsworth, of "giving our customers highest quality banking in a warm personal manner, which we expect to continue in our association with Kings Mountain people."



STAFF OF NEW BRANCH BANK—Pictured are members of the staff of Independence National Bank's Kings Mountain office which holds grand opening Tuesday (tonight) and opens for business Wednesday.

From left, Joan Grady, Thelma Queen, Phil Stewart, Jane Gordon, Denise Falls, and at center, Jackie Mauney, manager.

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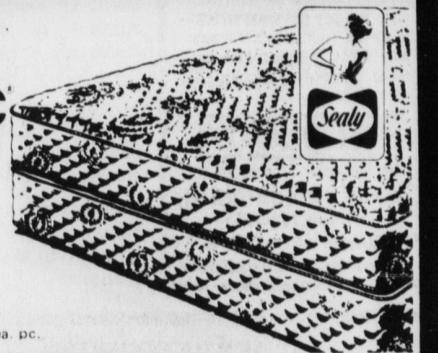
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