

In Five-Year Old Liquor Case

Cork Count Is Short

By JAY ASHLEY
Mirror Staff Writer

On "citizen's inquiries" concerning the confiscation of 41 cases of liquor in 1968, the newly installed city commissioners took inventory Tuesday morning and found nine full cases missing.

The liquor, and a questionable amount of beer, was confiscated in an arrest on April 12, 1968 and stored in the evidence room at the Kings Mountain Police Department.

According to one of the arresting officers, Lt. Bob Hayes, he and Ptl. Bynum Cook were on patrol the night of April 12

and around 3 a.m. and spotted a truck parked near the Bonnie Mist Car Wash near the intersection of Cansler and King St. The driver of the vehicle was making a telephone call and the officers stopped to "check the vehicle out". The truck was a 1960 three-quarter ton pickup with the name North Hickory Furniture Company of Hickory painted on the side.

Hayes said the truck "appeared to be very heavily loaded" and he asked the driver, James Holmes, if he (Hayes) could look inside. The driver consented and Hayes discovered the vast amount of liquor and beer. Holmes, who gave his address as 1014 Washington St. in Statesville said he had been told by his

boss to pick up the truck. Holmes could not advise his boss' name.

A check of the truck's serial number revealed the owner as Lester Jessie Huffman of Connelly Springs, in care of Maple Lane Grocery.

Holmes was charged with transporting liquor and was tried in the recorder's court in Kings Mountain.

Chief McDevitt of the KMPD told the commissioners that the judge had instructed him "not to dispose of the liquor" for reasons he would not reveal.

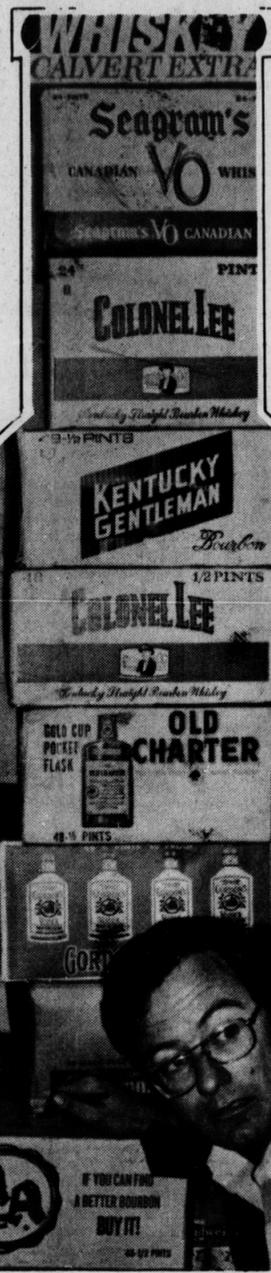
The truck had been left at the police station parking lot "for a long time", according to McDevitt, and was later taken to Dixon's Chevrolet for storage.

The truck was later sold to pay for storage costs.

In making the inventory, Ward Six commissioner M. C. Pruette said he and the other commissioners had received several inquiries as to the disposition of the liquor and they had decided to check into the matter. All commissioners were present with the exception of Ward One's Ray Cline.

Pruette said, "this liquor has been stored here for five years and that's much too long." He continued saying he had checked with the Sheriff's Department and found such confiscated liquor

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COUNTDOWN - Ward Four Commissioner, Don McAbee calls out the cases of booze as inventory of a 1968 liquor haul begins. Nine of the 41 cases of liquor were missing.

Photo by Jay Ashley

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actor bill hicks in shoot-out scene

Royal Villa Robbed

'Don't Get Excited, Hand Me Money'

A total of \$196 was taken in a Wednesday morning hold-up at the Royal Villa Motel on York Rd. at I-85. Night clerk, Earnest W. Anderson of 1215 Springs Dr.

in Shelby, told Ptl. Jerry White and Ptl. Billy Benton, that around 1:55 a.m. Wednesday he was on the desk when a man in his thirties came into the lobby.

Anderson said the man was wearing a black leather coat, had dark hair and was about five feet seven weighing around 150 pounds.

The man came into the lobby and struck up a conversation with the night clerk and told Anderson he was on his way to a rodeo in Atlanta. The man started to leave and then turned around to reveal a small caliber chrome pistol.

He told Anderson not to get excited and asked for money.

Anderson told police he gave the man about \$172 from the motel till and \$24 of his own.

The robber then told Anderson to lie down on the floor of a storage room and he tied the clerk with tape and a leather strap. He then pushed a chair against the door and proceeded to remove the mouthpieces from all the telephones in the lobby.

An investigation is still underway into the case.

Centennial Commission Meets Monday

An organizational meeting of the Kings Mountain Centennial Commission will be held Mon., Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in city hall.

Co-chairmen Charles Mauney and Mrs. W. T. Weir announced the purpose of the meeting is to meet with all the members and map out plans for the celebration of the city's 100th birthday in 1974.



BELL PAYS TAXES - Judy Harmon, Kings Mountain assistant tax collector, accepts a check for \$9,896.70 for 1973 taxes from R. W. Fleming, local Southern Bell manager. This

payment by the telephone company stays in Kings Mountain and helps provide schools, police protection, sanitation, fire protection and other city services.

law, cannot be taxed locally. State, county and city units of government must own and use property "wholly and exclusively" for public purposes in order to qualify for exemption. The courts have implied that "only property held for public purposes qualifies for exemption."

2) Real property set aside for burial purposes is exempt unless it is held for purpose of sale or rental of burial rights.

3) Real and personal property used for educational purposes is exempt, provided it also is owned by an "educational institution" or one similar and provided the institution is not organized for profit. Such property usually must start with the buildings, and the land which the buildings occupy, plus additional land necessary for the convenient use of the buildings (perhaps a parking lot).

4) Real and personal property of religious educational assemblies used for religious and educational purposes.

5) Real and personal property used for charitable purposes (YMCA, home for aged, orphanage, reformatory, convent, lifesaving, rescue squad, etc.) shall be exempt, provided such property is used in it entirely by the owner for charitable purposes, and the owner is not organized or operated for profit. A charitable purpose must be "humane and philanthropic" and must be available to a significant rather than a limited segment of the community.

6) Real and personal property used for educational, scientific, literary or charitable purposes.

7) Real and personal property used for hospital purposes may be exempt if owned by non-stock, non-profit charitable institutions.

8) General exemption for individually owned personal property. This special exemption on personal property in the amount of \$300

(See TAX p.7A)

Cleveland County-based movie

'Challenge' - a film without 4-letter words

There has been a series of violent deaths lately in Cleveland County - deaths that have not appeared on the police blotter.

One man died choking on his own blood from a crushed throat; one man died when his Corvette smashed into the blade of a bulldozer and burst into flames; another piloted his plane into the side of a mountain; and yet another plunged several stories after crashing through a hotel window.

And just the other day a grim-featured man wielding a shotgun chased a terrified fat man through the woods - and this was after the gunman had forced the other's car off the road near Boiling Springs.

And the truth of the matter is the gunman was directly responsible for the deaths of all the others. Revenge was the motive. Seems all those who died violently had murdered this man's wife and child - burned them to death in their home.

Sounds like pretty gruesome stuff being overlooked by the county law enforcement body, doesn't it?

But never fear, the local law enforcement officers are fully aware of what's going on and furthermore, they don't plan to lift a service revolver to stop it. If they did it would mean thousands of dollars and hundreds of manhours down the tubes.

What in the name of all that's Holy is this?

Movies, that's what! Granted, this leadin is a bit dramatic, but you'll have to admit it was a pretty cool way to get into the subject. I didn't

exaggerate, however, all of these scenes will appear in the theatrical motion picture being filmed right in Cleveland County by EO Motion Picture Prods., Inc. EO stands for Earl Owensby and the film is entitled "Challenge."

Several stories have appeared in area newspapers about this new tar heel enterprise founded and, to date, funded by Owensby. And this is only the beginning, according to the 38-year old tycoon from Cliffside. In a relatively short period of time Owensby announced the beginning of one feature film, cancelled it because of "trouble" negotiating locations and a name actor for the lead, then announced a second feature.

"Challenge" is the second feature and it's almost completed. The first feature was "Johnny Stonewall."

"We started shooting the week before Thanksgiving," Owensby said, "and we should wind it up in the next week or two."

This time Owensby had no trouble signing someone for the lead role. He signed himself. And he had never been before a camera before in his life. Never had an acting lesson, never even appeared in a community theatre production.

The lack of experience didn't slow Owensby down, however, he hired experienced professionals to handle the production aspects. Martin Beck is directing, Bob Newcomb is assisting Beck and Darrell Cathcart is director of photography. The production crew is professional to a man.

Although no one said it of Owensby, it appears his lack of knowledge of film making and of acting caused him no

worry, just as the fact he began his business career with little more than driving ambition didn't deter him from, today, heading no less than seven corporations.

"Challenge" is primarily a revenge story, which Owensby himself outlined. "I just sat down and outlined scenes I would like to see in a movie," he said. "I'm not a writer, either, he said, but I can draw up suggestions a writer can follow."

Bill Hicks, who appears in the film as the lead heavy, took Owensby's outlines and wrote the script. Hicks is the fat man Owensby chased through the woods recently. The character Guthrie is the syndicate head and the last man on Challenge's revenge list.

The afternoon I spent kibitzing from the sidelines I saw a piece of pretty good acting by Hicks. Terrified of the man with the shotgun Hicks, as Guthrie, wrecked his Cadillac and tried to getaway on foot. He tried first to scare Challenge off, then tried to buy him off, finally tried begging for his life.

It took the better part of four hours to get it on film and it probably won't last over a couple of minutes on screen.

I took the opportunity to renew my acquaintance with both Beck and Newcomb and to gather some comments from Owensby and Hicks about the project.

"Challenge" is Beck's first theatrical feature. His film experience does include a three-hour training motion picture for the Ford Co. and hundreds of award winning TV commercials. Before turning to directing Martin, at age 16, appeared

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