

Save this record to your family tree, your shoebox, or your computer.

Save

Help

Return to Search Results 1949 > September > 7 > 1

Interactive Image Report Issue

Image: 1 of 8

View All | Print | Order | Options | Share | Magnify | Rotate | Mirror | Next Hit

# Anonymous Open Pitts Is Identified In \$41,500 Stickup

### Man Without Fingerprints Has Long Record; Harry Russell Still At Large

HICKORY, Sept. 7.—(U.P.)—Robert James Pitts, "the man without fingerprints," was captured today and charged with a \$41,500 South Carolina stickup.

FBI agents and local officers roused the notorious convict out of sleep at a hotel where he had registered under an assumed name. They said he made no attempt to escape.

Pitts had been the object of a nationwide search since the holdup of store operator Wash Ladd at Salem Crossroads, S. C., Aug. 13.

He lost his fingerprints in 1941 through skin grafts performed by Dr. Leopold Brandenburg at Union City, N. J., the FBI said. Arrested later, he challenged authorities to identify him.

The case became a national mystery as police sought to name "the man without fingerprints."

Charles W. Brown, special agent in charge of the Charlotte FBI office, said a hitchhiker's tip led to Pitts' arrest.

Pitts, driving a stolen car, picked up the hitch-hiker last night and brought him to Hickory. There the rider, who did recognize Pitts, told police he appeared to be drunk.

Brown said the FBI had other information pinpointing Pitts' whereabouts in the area.

After an all-night investigation, local officers went to federal agents, accompanied by two local officers, went to his room about 6:45 and awakened him.

The FBI said he readily admitted his identity but refused to discuss the South Carolina case.

Also wanted in the holdup is Harry W. Russell. The robbed storekeeper identified both from pictures. Warrants were issued charging the pair with armed robbery, assault with intent to kill and unlawful flight across state lines.

North Carolina prison records indicated that Pitts had served terms in federal prisons at Atlanta and Alcatraz as well as in North Carolina, his home state. He received terms of two years and eight to ten years on house-breaking charges in North Carolina, later escaping several times.

Pitts is listed as 36 years old. The FBI said none of the loot was found on Pitts' person.

The South Carolina robbery took place as the storekeeper prepared to close his store on a Saturday night. Ladd told officers one of his assailants was masked and that both drew guns when they entered his store.

He said they blindfolded him and taped his mouth shut. Ladd reported they took \$1,000 from his pockets, \$500 from a cash drawer and \$40,000 from a tin box he kept under his bed.

## Board Receives 14 Road Petitions

Iredell county commissioners were bombarded with road petitions at their regular meeting Monday which also saw the adoption of a resolution commemorating the late C. D. Stevenson, county accountant for six years, and the trans action of other routine business.

During the forenoon, the commissioners met with Joseph Graham district highway commissioner and L. B. Peck, division engineer. At that time Iredell county's participation in the \$200,000,000 rural road improvement program was discussed.

As evidence of the county-wide interest in roads, 14 petitions for rural road improvement project were approved by the board and forwarded to the state highway and public works commission. They will be added to the huge backlog of similar petitions which have been filed during recent years.

These petitions follow:  
Road in Barringer township, running from Highway 801 by Triplett church to Amity Hill, known as Amity Hill-Mooresville road. Hard surface.

Road in Shiloh township, known as old Lewis Ferry road. Repair.

Road in Union Grove and Eagle Mills townships, running from Highway 901 to Yadkin county line known as Holcomb Bridge road. Black top or tar and gravel.

Road in Olin and Union Grove townships, running from Union Grove by Olin to U.S. 21 one mile north Yadkin river. Hard top.

Road in Davidson township, running from Highway 21 at Mt. Mourne west to Mayhew community. Bituminous surface.

Road in Shiloh township, running from M. C. Lindsey's home to the fola. Maintenance.

To construct a road connecting Highway 64 with road known as Old River Hill road, beginning at B. C. Robertson's gin, approximately two miles.

Road in Shiloh township, running from Alexander Ford road to Har Ford road. Take over and maintain.

Road in Coddle Creek township connecting Highway 21 and Sheare Chapel road to Mecklenburg county line. Grade and road.



# Willy Open Pitts Is Identified In \$41,500 Stickup

### Man Without Fingerprints Has Long Record; Harry Russell Still At Large

HICKORY, Sept. 7.—(AP)—Robert James Pitts, "the man without fingerprints," was captured today and charged with a \$41,500 South Carolina stickup.

FBI agents and local officers roused the notorious ex-convict out of sleep at a hotel where he had registered under an assumed name. They said he made no attempt to escape.

Pitts had been the object of a nationwide search since the holdup of store operator Wash Ladd at Salem Cross roads, S. C., Aug. 13.

He lost his fingerprints in 1941 through skin grafts performed by Dr. Leopold Brandenburg at Union City, N. J., the FBI said. Arrested later, he challenged authorities to identify him.

The case became a national mystery as police sought to name "the man without fingerprints."

Charles W. Brown, special agent in charge of the Charlotte FBI office, said a hitchhiker's tip led to Pitts' arrest.

Pitts, driving a stolen car, picked up the hitch-hiker last night and brought him to Hickory. There the rider, who did recognize Pitts, told police he appeared to be drunk.

Brown said the FBI had other information pinpointing Pitts' whereabouts in the area.

After an all-night investigation, local officers went to federal agents accompanied by two local officers, went to his room about 6:45 and awakened him.

The FBI said he readily admitted his identity, but refused to discuss the South Carolina case.

Also wanted in the Laddup is Harry W. Russell. The robbed storekeeper identified both from pictures. Warrants were issued charging the pair with armed robbery, assault with intent to kill and unlawful flight across state lines.

North Carolina prison records indicated that Pitts had served terms in federal prisons at Atlanta and Alcatraz as well as in North Carolina, his home state. He received terms of two years and eight to ten years on house-breaking charges in North Carolina, later escaping several times.

Pitts is listed as 36 years old. The FBI said none of the loot was found on Pitts' person.

The South Carolina robbery took place as the storekeeper prepared to close his store on a Saturday night. Ladd told officers one of his assailants was masked and that both drew guns when they entered his store.

He said they blindfolded him and taped his mouth shut. Ladd reported they took \$1,000 from his pockets, \$500 from a cash drawer and \$40,000 from a tin box he kept under his bed.

**Banks Addresses  
Rotary Club Meet**

## Board Receives 14 Road Petitions

Iredell county commissioners were bombarded with road petitions at their regular meeting Monday which also saw the adoption of a resolution commemorating the late C. D. Stevenson, county accountant for six years, and the transaction of other routine business.

During the forenoon, the commissioners met with Joseph Graham district highway commissioner and L. B. Peck, division engineer. At that time Iredell county's participation in the \$200,000,000 rural road improvement program was discussed.

As evidence of the county-wide interest in roads, 14 petitions for rural road improvement projects were approved by the board and forwarded to the state highway and public works commission. They will be added to the huge backlog of similar petitions which has been filed during recent years.

These petitions follow:  
Road in Harringer township, running from Highway 801 by Triple church to Amity Hill, known as Amity Hill-Mooresville road. Has surface.

Road in Shiloh township, known as old Lewis Ferry road. Repair.

Road in Union Grove and Eagle Mills townships, running from Highway 901 to Yadkin county line. Known as Holcomb Bridge road. Black top or tar and gravel.

Road in Olin and Union Grove townships, running from Union Grove by Olin to U.S. 21 one mile north Yadkin river. Hard top.

Road in Davidson township, running from Highway 21 at McMourne west to Mayhew community. Bituminous surface.

Road in Shiloh township, running from M. C. Lindsey's home to M. J. M. Maintenance.

To construct a road connecting Highway 64 with road known as Old River Hill road, beginning at B. C. Robertson's gin, approximately two miles.

Road in Shiloh township, running from Alexander Ford road to Elm Ford road. Take over and maintain.

Road in Coddle Creek township connecting Highway 21 and Shears Chapel road to Mecklenburg county line. Grade and sand.

Road in Chambersburg township running from Highway 64 at Os Forest to Rowan county line. Has

Return to Search Results

1949 > September > 15 > 5

Help

Image Only | Print | Order | Options | Share:

Interacti

Zoom In Zoom Out Custom  Magnify Rotate Mirror Next Hit

Image

the past few days. Mrs. Lee is sister of Mr. Prince. They were vacationing between quarters at the Ohio State University where Mr. Tice is a Research Engineer and is working on his Ph. D. degree. They plan to visit relatives in Florence, Ala., before returning home.

Mr. Everett Phifer, Jr., has returned to Buffalo, N. Y. where he is connected with the Capital Lines, after a visit of several days with his mother, Mrs. Everett L. Phifer.

Miss Louise Murdoch, Statesville, Route 4, left Tuesday for Kentucky College to continue her study in art and to major in English.

Mrs. Miles Foy, Jr., and sons, Les Foy, III, and Glenn Foy, Burlington, are spending a few days here with Mrs. Foy's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn A. Foy.

Mr. Herman Pharr, Statesville, Route 1, left Tuesday for Memphis, Tennessee, to visit his mother, Mrs. Jack Pharr, and Mr. Pharr is a student in the School of Optometry in Memphis.

Carolyn Vernon has gone to Mississippi to resume his studies at the Pilgrim Bible school there. She is taking voice in addition to regular high school work.

Mrs. Nancy Elliott has returned from a visit to her mother and is a member of the Woman's College. She is a member of the Junior class this

Rev. Robert Turner, of Morganton, preached at Fifth Creek church Sunday and was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Bobbitt.

Mrs. Leon Sides, of New York, visited her sister, Mrs. J. T. Steele, recently.

The Youth Fellowship of Fifth Creek church entertained at a hamburger supper at the home of Miss Sadie Wilhelm Monday night. The inspiration for the party being a member of the group, Ned Clendenin, who is entering State College this week. During the evening Mr. Clendenin was presented a gift from the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner Porter and daughter Anne and Audrey, of Volney, Virginia, were visitors at the community Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Niblock visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kenshaw at Hendersonville, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Buck White and baby of Washington, D. C., are spending their vacation here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Crenshaw and son of Mocksville spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Page.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sherrill from near Statesville, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Benty and children spent Sunday in Winston with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sherrill.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harper of Charlotte spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Harper, Mrs. Charles Bygones, of Mooresville visited Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Har-

probably will make some taxpayers rather uneasy.

Revenue agents in the Chicago area are making some house to house calls. But they are social calls—they're friendly calls, so to speak, to make sure that everything is on the up and up in the income tax returns filed by the persons visited.

Uncle Sam calls it a sample audit. It involves a spot check of returns from thousands of taxpayers selected at random. And the taxpayer will be required to show records on wages, salaries and any other income, and they'll also have to prove their claims of exemptions.

It's a plan to determine if people are making proper returns. Washington officials ordered the nation-wide test to furnish the government with new information about the income reporting habits of persons in various job classifications. At the same time, the government wants to make sure if the taxpayer is receiving a proper refund or is paying more taxes than he should.

### Segregation Is A Fixed Policy

Birmingham, Alabama — The city commission of Birmingham has set aside more than 20 acres for Negro homes, and about

### Harry Russell Admits Part In Big S. C. Holdup

Charlotte, Sept. 15—The FBI says it has obtained a confession from Harry Russell, a 31-year-old Charlotte man, who was arrested in Georgia early Wednesday and charged as one of the two men who pulled the August 13th stick-up.

FBI agent Charlie Brown says Russell has admitted that he and Robert J. Pitts, also of Charlotte, did the "job." Pitts was captured a week ago in a small Hickory town. When arrested, Russell had only 156 dollars in his pocket; Pitts had only a small amount of change.

According to the FBI, Russell has admitted that he and Pitts held up Wash Ladd, took his money, and left him tied up. The FBI says Russell has admitted stealing a car at Monroe the day before the robbery. It was the same car he took to Georgia and Florida after the hold-up.

Russell was arrested about one o'clock Wednesday morning while asleep in a country church near Tifton, Ga. Both men are to be taken to Wintonsville, S. C., to be tried on charges of armed robbery.

WILLIAM LAMMIGAN • VICTORIA BUCKLE  
Also—Pinto Cartoon & Sportrel

**SAT. ONLY**  
Theatre Opens 1 P. M.

**Leo GORCEY and THE BOWERY BOYS**

**HOLD THAT BABY!**

Also—Woody Woodpecker Extra Special!  
First Thrilling Chapter "BUCK GENTRY" Daredevil of Skies  
(This is the serial the all plane is advertising beside the Playhouse).

**PLAYHOUSE**  
KIDDIE CLUB SHOW

**SAT. MORNING**  
Shows Open—9:30 A. M.

Hit No. 1 "DUDE GOES WEST" Eddie Albert  
Hit No. 2 Chapter 1 "BUCK GENTRY"  
Hit No. 3 "COLOR CARTOON"



Save this record to your family tree, your shoebox, or your computer.

Save

Return to Search Results

1949 > September > 15 > 5

Help

View All | Print | Order | Options | Share: [ ] [ ] [ ]

Interactive Image Report Issue

Image: 5 of 6

Zoom In Zoom Out Custom

Magnify Rotate Mirror Next Hit

Demetrius, 215, cNeely, Sr., and ere in Charlotte They went to k of Mrs. Aberber.

Mrs. Abernethy's sitting here from ane home with id been visiting several months. e of Emily re- re she had been s. Her J. De v ment

... has been ...

### Up Calls Payers

15—Uncle Sam's experiment that ke some tax- easy.

in the Chicago some house to hey are sociallly calls, so to re that every- and up in the 1 filed by the

s it a sample a spot check- ousands of tax- random. And he required to rages, salaries one, and they'll determine if proper returns. Is ordered the to furnish the new information- eporting habits same time, the to make sure is receiving a s paying more old.

### ns Is d Policy

Alabama — The of Birmingham than 20 acres —and funds

... have segre- with for many was done by erey Comm- an agency on Mar. 1949. The median bearing Association for

... was more over a jury every time a her head until blood splattered her The witness was Andy Pierce. She testified at the trial of Professor Russell Moxey, a 45-year-old mar-ried man. Earlier the nurse testi- fied that Moxey, a professional photographer, had made "figure studies" of her. She said he had made "pictures of me at Myrtle Beach against the skyline on the sand minus my bathing suit." Moxey, a former instructor at the Un-iversity of South Carolina, is char- ged with burglary with intent to murder and with assault and bat- tery with intent to kill. The nurse said she was sitting on her bed, almost undressed and ready to re- tire when the professor jumped from beneath her bed and began gnawing her. She testified with difficulty. Three of her teeth had been knocked out. She said he sat on her chest and beat her head with the pistol.

### Harry Russell Admits Part In Big S. C. Holdup

Charlotte, Sept. 15.—The FBI says it has obtained a confessor- ... a \$175,000 dollar rob- bery of a Salem Crossroads, S. C. merchant Harry Russell, a 44-year old Charlotte man, was arrested in Georgia early Wednesday and charged as one of the two men who pulled the August 13th slick-up.

FBI-Agent Charlie Brown says Russell has admitted that he and Robert J. Pitts, also of Charlotte, did the "job." Pitts was captured a week ago in a small Hickory hotel. When arrested, Russell had only 136 dollars in his pocket; Pitts had only a small amount of change. According to the FBI, Russell has admitted that he and Pitts held up Wash Ladd, took his money, and left him tied in. The FBI says Rus- self has admitted stealing a car at Monroe Tuesday before the robbery. It was the same car he took to Georgia and Florida after the hold- up.

Russell was arrested at an ene- o'clock Wednesday morning while asleep in a country church near Tifton, Ga. Both men are to be tak- en to Winston, S. C., to be tried on charges of armed robbery.

### MEMORIAL PLANS

... and ... will ... of ... The ... of ...

FOR SALE or Trade: One ...

14 YEAR FARM LOAN 4 ...

HICKORY LEATHER WA ...

FOR SALE: Falcraia seed ...

PERMANENTS \$2 and ap ...

### PLAYHO

HOUSE OF I ...

FRI. ONI ...

STATE DEPART ...

FILE 619 CME ...

WILLIAM LUDWIG • VICE ...

Also—Pinto Carti ...

Sportrel

### SAT. ONI

Theatre Opens 1 ...

Leo GORCEY ...

BOWERY B ...

### HOLD T

Also—Woody Wood ...

Extra Specta ...

First Thrilling C ...

TRICIE GENI ...

Daredevil of S ...

(This is the serial ...

plane is advertisin ...

the Playhouse).

### PLAYHO

KIDNIP CLER ...

SAT. MORNI ...

Does Open—9:30

Hil. No. 1 ...

"DITTE GOES V ...

Hil. No. 2 ...

"BRIEF GENI ...

Hil. No. 3 ...

COLOR CART ...

Hil. No. 4 ...

KIDNIP CLER ON

FREE ...

Paul, Adm ...

### CRESCCE

FRIDAY ONI ...

TIM McTOY ...

### "Outlaws of

Rio Grand ...

Hot ...

ADON O BILL

... DAY ...



**Eagle's Opening**  
Additional Friday

Formal opening of a remodeled addition to Eagle's store on the square will be held here Friday morning, Manager J. R. Moore said today.

The addition, acquired by moving into a store building to the rear of the present Eagle's, provides about 2,000 square feet of space and will permit expansion of all departments.

Formerly occupied by Doty's dress shop, the building has undergone extensive remodeling for the past several months. It will provide an entrance to Eagle's on Broad street.

Eagle's will use the first floor for displaying merchandise and the basement for storage. Offices are located on the second floor.

Eagle's opened here for business in February 26, 1942 in the Mills building on the square. The structure burned February 17, 1943 and Eagle's was out of business in Statesville until June of that year when it moved into the Cooper building.

Last year, it purchased the site of its former store on the square from the X. B. Mills heirs and built a two-story brick building moving into it in November of last year. Almost immediately, the firm realized it was cramped for space and secured the building to the rear when Doty's moved to the Cooper building on South Center.

F. H. Shook, district manager of Gastonia, has been here for the past several days making plans for the opening.

**Charlotte Girl Charged With Helping Robbers**

CHARLOTTE, Sept. 15—(AP)—A 15-year-old waitress was expected to surrender today to face charges as an accessory to the \$41,500 holdup of a South Carolina storekeeper.

Police said the slight brunette Peggy Jean Rame, helped in the robbery of Wash Ladd, 13 and visited his store before she has been identified by Ladd, officers reported.

It was Miss King, the elderly storekeeper said, who visited the upstairs of his store two days before the holdup while he talked to one of the alleged gunmen below.

The bandits found the great-or part of the loot—\$40,000—secreted in a tin box upstairs. The girl, who lives here with her family, was picked up by police shortly after the robbery but released.

South Carolina authorities meanwhile filed a warrant charging her as an accessory before the fact.

**Iredell Club In Junior I**

The suit charges that member of the union were denied right given them under the U. S. Constitution when officers forcibly removed them from a picture taken Monday morning of this week.

Defendants in the suit include Hickory textile plant on Monday.

Four H and Future Farmer of America club members from Piedmont North Carolina county on premiums totaling about \$2,500 at the Junior Dairy show sponsored at Iredell fairgrounds yesterday by Belk's department stores on this section.

Approximately 500 persons attended the event, an annual affair sponsored by Belk's to encourage cattle raising among rural youth in the section.

With the Danish judging system used, every entry won a blue, red or white ribbon. There were 7 blue winners, 129 red winners and 14 whites.

Blue ribbons won \$11, reds, \$9, 75 and whites, \$9. Two hundred and 22 animals were entered.

Iredell entries did well, winning 25 blue ribbons and 23 reds.

In Jersey showmanship competition, Ethel Compton of Troutman, Francis Pressly of Scottdale, and Billy Canister of Troutman fourth, John Besh of Gaston county was first.

In Jersey filling, Iredell place fourth with Ethel Compton winning that place. First, second and third places in this division went to

**Charlotte Girl Charged With Helping Robbers**

Today—with the two alleged gunmen behind bars after a month of searching across the south—police indicated a fourth arrest might be forthcoming in the month-old case.

Already in jail were Robert J Pitts, 36 and Harry W. Russell, 34, the ex-convicts identified from "rogues gallery" photos by Ladd and the stick-up Russell was captured Wednesday as he slept in a South Georgia country church and is being held for extradition in Moultrie, Ga. Pitts, caught a week ago at Hickory N. C., is in jail here.

The fourth suspect in the case was not identified by police, nor was his alleged part revealed.

Russell reportedly confessed shortly after his capture, implicating Pitts. The latter has maintained a snave but stony silence since his arrest and told newsmen Russell "doesn't know what he's talking about."

Save this record to your family tree, your shoebox, or your computer.

Interactive Image Report Issue

Image: 2 of 8

Help

Return to Search Results 1949 > November > 23 > 2

View All | Print | Order | Options | Share: | Magnify

Zoom In Zoom Out Custom Rotate Mirror Next Hit

### g Breakfast ARP Church

Thanksgiving breakfast to the entire First Associate Reformed church Thursday in the basement of the church. The Thanksgiving services will follow the service, a nursery for the children and for the Beginning department.

### Rites in Friday

Funeral services for Myrtle Johnson at her home at 4 p.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church. The officiating minister will be in the church.

### Quartet Wins in State

A college quartet has won second place in a contest held at the fair in Raleigh. The quartet are D. Morrison, Alan Herrin and two aunts.

### Foot Set Friday

A turkey shoot at the Salisbury road at Salisbury on Friday.

## Part Of Stolen Money Found

CHARLOTTE, Nov. 23.—(AP)—Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn said today that part of the \$41,500 stolen from country storekeeper Wash J. Ladd at Salem Crossroads, S.C., last August has been recovered in Georgia.

Littlejohn said that Russell, who is charged with the theft along with Robert Pitts, revealed that some of the loot was hidden in Moultrie, Ga.

Littlejohn and South Carolina authorities went to Moultrie and recovered "several hundred dollars in cash" and a new automobile which Russell said had been paid for with stolen money.

Russell, released yesterday on \$7,500 bond from the county jail at Winnsboro, S. C., is "cooperating" with the police. Littlejohn said.

Pitts and Russell are to be tried for armed robbery in the theft at the February term of Fairfield county court at Winnsboro.

Pitts is being held in South Carolina state prison at Columbia, awaiting trial. His bond was raised from \$25,000 to \$35,000 last week when he was linked with an alleged jailbreak plot.

## Union Thanksgiving Service Scheduled

TROUTMAN—A union Thanksgiving service will be conducted for the churches of Troutman at Troutman Associate Reformed Presbyterian church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Dr. E. L. Croy, pastor of Troutman Methodist church, will bring the message.

An offering taken at the meeting will go to the various churches participating.

## Davidson Present P

Davidson college presented a special assembly this morning.

Conducted by Dr. George Langford, the last before the Thanksgiving homes.

Jesse Fisher accompanied by Paul Dearman student body president. The college days today at resuming Monday.

## Windsor To Tennessee

SMYRNA, Tenn.—Windsor has just returned from Greenville, S. C. to base. Cpl. Windsor of the 316th T which transfer tact following the Greenville. Cpl. Windsor service. He is Windsor of Tennessee.

## Briton To Visit To State

WASHINGTON—The phase of a the American meeting and ben W. C. Stevens products technology to industrial products and Canada. Administration administration.

Stevens will industries, Inc.,

