Weather.

...Partly cloudy. 50 percent chance of rain today. Highs in 70s.

The Mount Airy News

Bill Crownfield Box 276 Oct 76 IN

A JOURNAL OF AUTHENTIC NI[illegible] DEVOTED TO T[illegible]

95TH YEAR — NO. 40. MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA 27030

Dobson 'Kidnapping' Raises $700 An

A two-hour "kidnapping" of several well-known county leaders resulted in over $1,400 "ransom" for an African missionary project.

The kidnapping, staged by Dobson United Methodist Church members and sympathizers, netted better than $700 an hour. The church still needs almost $1,000 additional to meet the estimated cost of paying expenses for a dentist to travel to a mission clinic in Liberia.

Dr. Steve Yokeley of Dobson, has volunteered to go to Ganta, Liberia for two weeks this summer. The church group is seeking $2,500 to pay air fare, food and lodging for the medical mission. The mission has 60 bed hospitals, three surgeons and a fully equipped dental lab.

Several dentists throughout North Carolina are giving two weeks of their professional time and talents to the hospital.

Masked gunmen and gunwomen raided the courthouse and new jail to "abduct" top county officials who were quickly tied up and held at various locations until the ransom was paid. Many were held on the courthouse lawn while other groups were held at other sites in Dobson.

Rev. Jack Yarborough, pastor of Dobson United Methodist, who was one of the first victims of the kidnappers was delighted with the outcome. He said the ransom (donations) paid during the two hour period Thursday far exceeded expectations.

Rev. Yarborough expressed confidence that other churches, civil groups and individuals will contribute the remainder of the money needed.

Businesses, industries and county employees collected donations with Rev. Yarborough declaring the project a unified effort of the entire community.

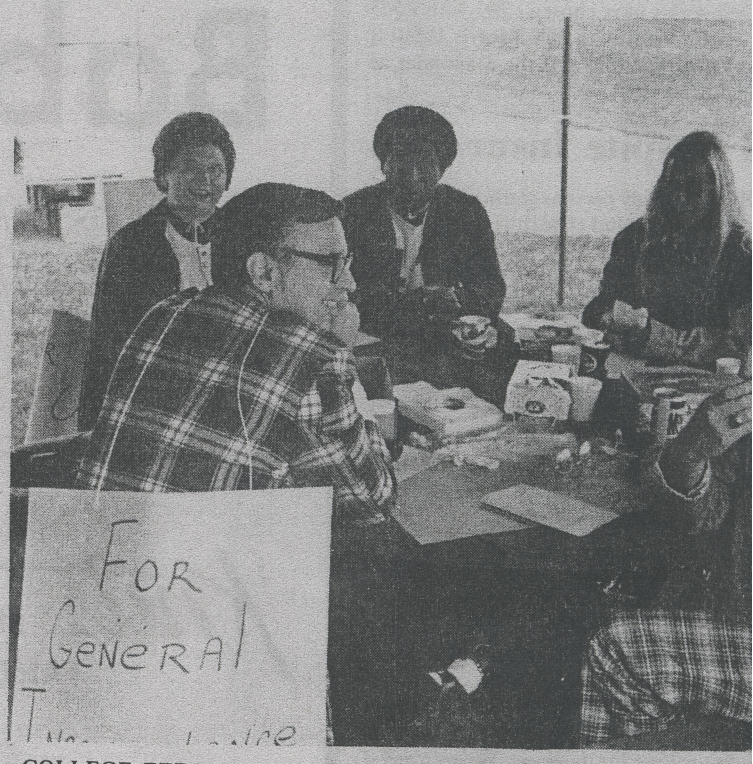
Students at Surry Community College were particularly glad to participate, getting a chance to nab President Swanson Richards and several of the college instructors. However, other students and teachers pitched in to pay the ransom. The college effort was described as extremely successful.

Mrs. Kathryn Crownfield, one of the conspirators, who is secretary to Rev. Yarborough, assisted with organizing the effort. She said everyone—even the victims—had a good time.

Among the kidnap victims who agreed to the project in advance were T.C. Alberty, Jerry Beasley, Carl Brittain, Otis Carter, Cindy Comer, Frank Comer, Doug Cooke, Mrs. Leona Cook, Sam Gentry, Gene Glace, Tina McCall, Charles Jackson and R. O. Lanier.

Others included Sheriff Robert Montgomery, Dr. Swanson Richards, Dale Sasser, Tony Searcy, Herman Short, Sherman Simpson, Richard Spencer, Sam Walker and Bryant Bivins.





COLLEGE EFFORT—Dr. Swanson Richards, president of Surry Com[illegible] Maye, an instructor, were among those held for ransom.

Weather.

[illegible]artly cloudy. 50 percent [illegible]nce of rain today. Highs in

Call 78

For Al

Depar