

County Engineer Held For Arson; Confesses To Firing School Here

Guard Unit Leaves For Camp Sunday

Company H, Hillsboro's National Guard unit, will leave here next Sunday, July 11, for two weeks of training at Camp Perry, joining with other elements of the 147th Infantry of the 37th Infantry Division for the encampment.

Two men, Sergeant 1-c James M. Hart and Pvt. Charles E. Barnes, were scheduled to leave Thursday as an advance detail of the local unit.

Three officers and approximately 35 enlisted men are planning to attend the training session. The group will travel by company vehicles, meeting at the Army early Sunday and leaving following breakfast. They will join with other units of the 147th for the trip to camp. The point of assembly of the convoy has not yet been learned.

Officers of the company include Capt. Eugene W. Gall, commander; Second Lt. Ernest Bell and Warrant Officers Bernard Bradshaw.

Caniff Set To Receive Honor

Ohioana Library Group To Give Career Award

Milton Caniff, one of Hillsboro's famous sons, is to receive another signal honor, this time from the Martha Kinney Ohioana Library Association.



MILTON CANIFF

Caniff, comic strip artist who was born here, will receive an Ohioana Career Medal from the state association at its annual meeting in Columbus this fall. Word of the award came to Miss Violet Morgan, county chairman.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Band Posted By

THE COMPANY now has eight vehicles and probably will take five of them, including three jeeps and two heavy, personnel trucks.

Col. George Schiele, Cincinnati city treasurer and tax commissioner, is commander of the 147th. The two-week encampment will be the first since the division's return from two years' of active military service.

More than 2,000 National Guardsmen from 56 Ohio cities will train under Maj. Gen. Leo M. Kreber.

Members of the local company completed range firing recently to qualify new men before camp time. Eleven out of 17 men qualified at the Blanchester company's range.

Recent promotions in the company include: SFC Ralph A. Michael and SFC Donald B. Smith to master sergeants; Sgt. James M. Hart to Sgt. 1-c; Cpl. Donald E. Crisenberry to sergeant.

One Injured In Crash Tuesday

A 40-year-old Clarksville man is confined at Highlands Community Hospital with back and other injuries suffered in a highway accident Wednesday.

The driver, Carl L. Harner, was driving a 1953 Buick sedan which went out of control on a curve 4.3 miles north of Hillsboro at 12:15 A. M. Wednesday. The vehicle rolled over twice.

Two passengers in the car, Oscar Barnes, 23, and Marvin R. Mottern, 24, both of the Clinton County AF Base, were uninjured.

Granted FCC License

Hillsboro's police department has been granted its license by the Federal Communications Commission for installation of a two-way radio system. The license was received Saturday. Work on the installation is expected to proceed in a few days.

Resignation Requested By Commission

Philip Partridge, county engineer, confessed to authorities about midnight Tuesday that he had set the fire at the Lincoln elementary school here Monday, Prosecutor Richard L. Davis revealed.

Partridge, following the confession and subsequent questioning, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace David Boothby about 1 A. M. Wednesday and held for grand jury action on a charge of arson. Bond was set at \$2,000. A property bond was provided and Partridge was released. The engineer had attended a

In a statement at noon Thursday, county commissioners said that Partridge was asked by them to resign but up to that time, he had not done so.

Charles W. Summers, Jr., chairman of the board of commissioners, said that if the engineer did not voluntarily resign, formal action would be instituted against him.

Meanwhile, his bond as a county official has been lifted by a bonding firm at commissioner's request. Summers also stated that "as far as we are concerned we will not okay any bills from the county engineer's office until he is removed." Any agreements made by Partridge from now on will not be recognized by officials, Summers added.

The engineer is bonded as a county official for \$2,000.

Partridge conferred with the commissioners late Wednesday afternoon at the courthouse. The officials withheld comment following this meeting but it is understood that Partridge reportedly told commissioners that he felt that he had done no wrong, "as county engineer."

meeting of city council and during the session, he drew Police Chief Walter Reffitt aside and told him that he had started the fire at the school. The chief, stunned by the confession, called the county prosecutor at his home.

THE GROUP then went to the office of the county prosecutor where Partridge made and signed a written confession, admitting the act in some detail.

Davis said Partridge was appointed (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

County Engineer

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

ently "motivated" in setting the fire by the "inequalities between the white and colored elements here." He did not elaborate further.

The prosecutor said Partridge admitted going to the school shortly after 4 A. M. He entered the building through a basement window and pried the lock from a classroom door. He admitted carrying two cans of fuel into the classroom and setting the fire.

Apparently Partridge had been on the verge of confessing previously, Chief Reffitt said. The chief said Partridge came to the police station about 8:30 A. M. Monday, about three hours after the fire, and told the officers that he had some information about the blaze but wanted to wait until Tuesday.

Partridge came to the police station again late Tuesday after the chief had gone home for the day. Later, at the council meeting, after the engineer had appeared with a group of chamber of commerce men concerning an annexation proposal, at the session, he drew Chief Reffitt aside.

At the preliminary hearing before Boothby, Partridge entered a plea of guilty.

WEDNESDAY morning, Partridge issued the following written statement to this newspaper:

"Ohio passed a law abolishing segregated schools twenty some years ago. But we still have segregated schools in Ohio.

"The Supreme Court's recent decision abolishing segregated schools may not take effect for another twenty years or longer.

"The most devastating weapon

of the enemies of freedom is infiltration. Daily they grow stronger and we do not dare to wait this long for progress.

"We must take unto ourselves the whole armour of freedom.

Partridge came here in the early part of 1950 from Clinton County. He was with the Clinton Construction Company in that county. He is the father of two children.

Partridge, 43, was appointed in 1950 to fill the unexpired term of Claude West as county engineer. Then, in 1952, he was elected to a four-year term in the post. He is a Republican.

New Coach

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

there. The school had won only nine games in nine years previously. His basketball teams at various schools won several county and district titles. He coached several semi-pro and independent teams around Columbus and has been a football, basketball and baseball official for 10 years. He has been a life guard and swimming instructor for nine years.

Schroth is married and has one child.

Williams, the new assistant, attended Utica High School, graduating in 1941. He played four years of football in high school and later, from 1945 to 1949, at Ohio Northern, where he won his degree, he played three years of football.

Following high school, however, Williams played four years of semi-pro football in the northern part of the state. This period also included more than two years of duty in the armed forces.

At Ohio Northern, Williams assisted in football coaching his senior year and was coach of the freshman team the year following graduation.

He has been at Belfast, coaching basketball and teaching physical education and other classes, for the

