

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

HIGHLAND HOUSE IS OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS MERRY MERCANTILE IS OPEN

HOLIDAY SHOPPING IS NOW AVAILABLE!

As I write this, the vendors of The Merry Mercantile are hauling out the holly, jingling the bells, and Fa La La La La-ing! They are setting up their displays for the 2020 season. We have 20 vendors this year who will have many hand crafted items ready for sale.



The Mercantile opens on Saturday Nov. 7 with an open house from 10:00 to 4:00. Then it will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 1 to 4 until closing on Saturday Dec. 19.

Please consider doing some Christmas shopping at The Mercantile. This is a good opportunity to shop from local cottage businesses, and the museum receives 30%



of every sale! In addition the beautifully decorated rooms of the Highland House will get you in the spirit!

We are following all mandated procedures to protect every one from Covid. The wearing of masks is required, we will remind customers of social distancing, and hand sanitizer will be available. We hope to see you at least once this season!



Liz Odland-Keister



With Halloween in the rearview mirror, it's time to think about the upcoming holidays. If you need inspiration or something to put you in the mood, be sure and stop by the Highland House Museum. It's beautifully decorated for the holidays from top to bottom. The 2020 theme **"Our Favorite Collections"** incorporates a wide range items from Santa Clauses and nativity sets to tea cups and butterflies.

One group shares children's Christmas books from the Highland County Library and invites children to take a gift-wrapped book to read over the holidays. Another room invokes memories of famous Christmas movies such as White Christmas and Miracle on 34th Street.
(continued on page 2)

2020 TRUSTEES

- Tara Beery
- Sue Boatman
- Bob Brown
- Alex Butler
- Sue Honeycutt
- John Kellis
- Denny Kirk, Chair
- Leslie Ramsey
- Jim Rooney
- Steve Roush
- John Willis
- Nancy Wisecup

Society Officers

President: Sandy Shoemaker
 Vice President: Carolyn Michael

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF
 Historian: Jean Wallis
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze

Holiday Hours

Th/Fr/Sa 1p-4p
except
 7 Nov 10a-4p
 Closed Thanksgiving
 27 Nov 10a-4p
 19 Dec Final Day

WHO AM I?



If you guessed **VICKI KNAUFF** for last issue's mystery child, you were correct!

Who is this fine chap?
 (Answer next issue)

CHRISTMAS AT HIGHLAND HOUSE!

(continued from pg 1)

Be sure to look closely to see if your favorite was one of theirs as well.

The fifteen-plus trees have been decorated by the following groups: Altrusa, Daughters of the American Revolution, Esoteric Club, Highland



County Farm Bureau Women, Highland County Retired Teachers Association, Hillsboro Garden Club, Southern Ohio Genealogical Society, Southern State Community College Theatre Group, Three Arts Club, Women in Ministry, Lincoln School Project Ladies and Towne Club plus museum volunteers Kathy Levo, Helen Ford and Carolyn Hastings.

Highland County Historical Society thanks all these groups and their members for their part in continuing the tradition of decorating the museum.



Kathy Levo

(Photos just to get you interested! You must visit to see everything in person!)

JOIN US

Looking for something to do on New Year's Eve? Join us at Highland House to LITERALLY ring in the new year as we ring the bell out front of the museum (one of the largest ever made by C. S. Bell Co.) on 31 Dec. Starting at 11:45pm.

On 11/11 at 11:00am, in honor of Bells of Peace, we will also have a bell ringing! Did you know that next year is the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington, VA?



TURNER

FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATORY

www.turnerfuneralhomes.cc Fax: (937) 393-2028

TURNER & SON
 602 N. High St.
 Hillsboro, OH 45133
 (937) 393-2124

DAVIS-TURNER
 201 Broadway St.
 Lynchburg, OH 45142
 (937) 364-2341

TURNER
 73 E. Main St.
 Leesburg, OH 45135
 (937) 780-7841

Building Campaign Update

Summary:

The past few years have been extremely active ones for the Society in terms of repairing and updating its buildings and holdings. When we embarked on an effort to repair the museum back wall, it did not make sense to address only that project and to not look at other needs, and there were several items needing attention.

Through the efforts of many, we raised \$235,794.16 for needed upgrades and repairs to Society buildings. Those funds repaired the footer and back wall of the museum, redesigned the back yard, rebuilt the handicapped ramp, and put a new roof on the log cabin. We also upgraded the museum electrical system, installed new lighting throughout the museum, and replaced windows and doors in the back and west side of the museum.

As part of our campaign, we also renovated Scott House. An application to the Ohio Legislature resulted in an appropriation of \$111,124.20. The building is now a fully rented office building serving the Society and the community and providing income for the Society. The expenditures for all of the building upgrades totals \$335,719.80. As the campaign Chair, and on behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for a job well done.

Phase 2:

While the above efforts were ambitious and successful, we also identified additional needs that the Board and campaign planners wanted to address soon. Those items included:

The replacement of the remaining original windows, and repair of the brick façade of the east and west side of the museum above the attic floor, including the iconic parapet walls and chimneys, and finally a way to purchase the Peele Law building beside the museum.

A strategy was developed and request submitted for consideration to the Ohio Capital Improvements Budget through our legislators. While the request was well received, the 2020 COVID-19 year of 2020 resulted in no capital budget being passed, leaving us at square one with the three items noted above.

We currently have \$10,000.00 remaining in the building fund from a donation for window replacement. There is also roughly \$1,000.00 remaining that was earmarked for military room upgrades. The \$10,000.00 will go for the purchase of windows on the east side of the museum, leaving only the \$1,000 for the military room in the building fund.

As Campaign and Finance Chair, I often discuss our activities with Bob Hodson, as he and Dorothy are significant benefactors to the Society. One conversation included buying the new east windows to avoid antic-

ipated price increases. A few days later, Bob called me to inform us that he and Dorothy wanted to buy the Peele Law Building for the historical society, so we proceeded to discuss how to make that happen.

I am pleased to report that a donation of stock in the name of the historical society has been received and we are preparing to complete the purchase of the building and lot beside Highland House Museum. It is hard to adequately express how appreciative we are about this generous gift.

THANK YOU BOB AND DOROTHY

The plan for the Peele Law Building is to eventually refurbish it to house the Society's administrative functions such as the Director's office, the conference room, cataloging activity and library. That will free up space for additional display room, allowing us to expand the museum significantly.

We still need for installation of the east windows that were recently purchased. Also remaining in the improvement plan moving forward will be the replacement of the Museum front win-

dows, and the repair of the brick parapet walls and chimneys. Now we can plan for renovations of our the Peele building.

The Society will stay in touch with our State Legislators about future capital bills and the opportunity to complete the items noted above. Whether the work can be accomplished with support of the Ohio Legislature, or if another campaign is warranted, you can be assured that the Historical Society has taken great strides since 2015 towards ensuring a solid foundation for The Highland County Historical Society's property and real estate for the future.

John Kellis, Chair
HCHS Campaign and Finance



Unknown year—this tree grew in the center of Main & High Streets and was decorated at Christmas time!

KMR BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNTING

Professional Accounting, Bookkeeping & Tax Preparation

KAREN RENO

- E-FILE
- TAX PREPARATION
- BUSINESS
- INDIVIDUAL
- PAYROLL

118 Holmes Street - Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Tel. (937) 393-2672 Fax (937) 393-5542 Cell (937) 402-1079

kreno1079@gmail.com

Kirk Law Office, LLC
Denny Kirk, Attorney at Law



P.O. Box 1846
158 W. Main Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133
(937) 763-9866
kirklawoffice@att.net

Visit us on the web: www.kirklawoffice.net

HCHS HONORS JOSEPH FORAKER



Foraker was born in Highland County and enlisted at the age of 16 in the Union Army during the American Civil War. He fought for almost three years, attaining the rank of captain.

Later in his political career, he came to differ with President Theodore Roosevelt over railroad regulation and political patronage. Their largest disagreement was over the Brownsville Affair, in which black soldiers were accused of terrorizing a Texas town, and Roosevelt dismissed the entire battalion. Foraker zealously opposed Roosevelt's actions as unfair, and fought for the soldiers' reinstatement. The two men's disagreement broke out into an angry confrontation at the 1907 Gridiron Dinner, after which Roosevelt worked to defeat Foraker's re-election bid. Foraker died in 1917; in 1972, the Army reversed the dismissals and cleared the soldiers. Mount Foraker, the second highest peak in the Alaska Range, and the third highest peak in the United States, was named for him in 1899.

(source: Wikipedia)

Joseph Benson Foraker (July 5, 1846 – May 10, 1917) was an American politician of the Republican Party who served as Governor of Ohio from 1886 to 1890 and as United States Senator from Ohio from 1897 until 1909.

Mother / Daughter Christmas Tea

December 6 at 2:00 pm

At

SCOTT HOUSE

338 W Main St., City

Limited Seating! Call 393-3392 or stop by Highland House to pick up a form.

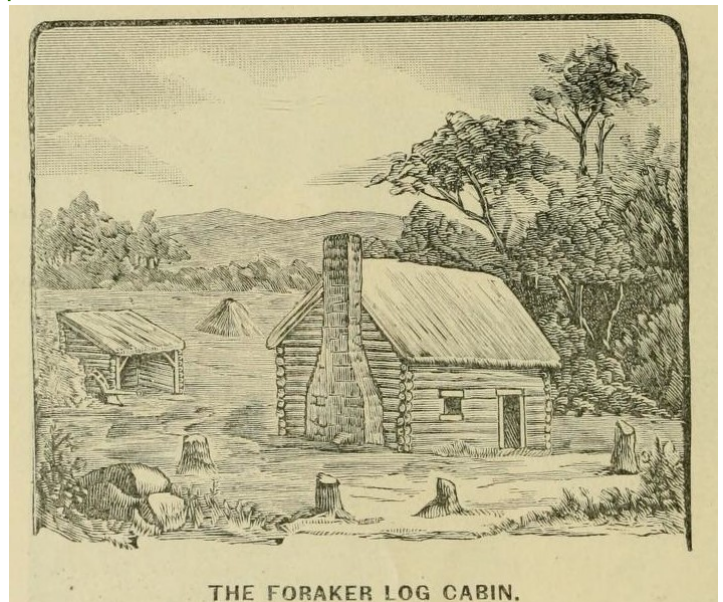
\$10.00 p/person

(payment due with reservation)

Registration deadline is December 1

Ladies: wear your fancy dresses!!!

TEA—STORIES—GAMES—FOOD—FUN



See note page 5.



JONATHAN M. GIBBS
Owner / Agent

7710 Shawnee Run Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45243
T: (513) 561-5551
F: (513) 561-1918
M: (513) 460-9663
jonathan.g@gibbsassociates.net

gibbsinsuranceassociates.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to our renewing members:

Carol A. Brennfleck
 Howard & Judy Falk
 Bill & Dianne Fawley
 Bob & Vicki George
 John & Connie Hanna
 Joyce Kitrell
 Anita Pope Lunn
 Rosalind Newman
 Kevin & Liz Odland Keister
 Dale & Myra Phillips
 Leslie Ramsey
 Caroyl Reid
 Jack & Karin Smith
 Richard & Rebecca Wagner

Welcome New Members:

Bob & Lynn Lowell

CONTRIBUTIONS

A special thanks to Bob & Dorothy Hodson for their monetary contribution.

NOTE RE: FORAKER CABIN

The log cabin, in which Joseph Foraker was born, if you believe his campaign publication, from which this is taken. His biographer, Everett Walters noted a discrepancy, as, he said, Foraker was actually born in a comfortable 2 story residence. Being born in a log cabin (note the stumps outside) was taken as an indication of being a common man in the 1800s.

By Not known (Robert McMurdy is credited by the Internet Archive as the author, but this is most likely for the text, not necessarily the images - Sketch of Joseph Benson Foraker (1883), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20520736>

MEMORIALS

The Historical Society extends their condolences to the families of these members who passed away recently:

Kay Ayres
 Vernon Garrison
 Kenneth Roush
 Bill Siddons
 Dr. Bill Terrell
 Betty Wilkin

Thanks to Larry & Patty Holladay for their contribution in memory of Bill Siddons.

Donations in memory of Kenneth Roush were received from:

Kelli J. Cole
 Joanna Evans
 Jocelyn Freburg
 Don & Carolyn Hastings
 Edward & Sharyl Pancallo
 Leland & Ellen Penninton
 Stephanie Robson
 Samuel & Judy Rudy
 Rory & Pamela Ryan
 Thomas & Grace Wilson

BEST WISHES, JEAN!

As many of you know, Jean Wallis has left Hillsboro to live with her daughter. I already miss her greatly as she has given me tremendous support during my time as director. I knew I could call Jean and she would know the answer or point me in the direction of finding the facts. I have known Jean for many years and worked with her and her late husband, Lester, on a Bicentennial project for the Octagonal School in Sinking Spring.

Her passion for history was evident when she won a county-wide contest on American History in high school. Her interest was fueled by research, communicating with people all over the country and attending antique auctions. Jean's incredible memory of dates, people, places and events of Highland County cannot be surpassed by anyone I know. She is a walking and talking history book.

I enjoyed her sense of humor and teased her when she had to

rethink a date or person's name. She would say, "now, wait a minute." She would pause a few minutes and the right answer would come to her.

Jean has been a wonderful benefactor to the Historical Society as she has donated numerous documents, files and furniture while the most valuable thing she has shared is her knowledge. She has certainly done her part in preserving Highland County history.

Vicki Knauff



~ Serving Southern Ohio Since 1980 ~
 Industrial - Commercial - Residential
 TELEPHONE, SECURITY, & NETWORK SYSTEMS



Greystone Systems, Inc.

James C. Hamilton

jhamilton@greystonesystemsinc.com

Ph. (937) 466-2300

Cell (937) 402-0342

4416 Turkey Pike

Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Current membership stands at 258; approximately 350 members. Renewal letters are sent with each quarterly newsletter.

Attendance for the year is about 200. Due to the pandemic, the Highland House was not allowed to open the first weekend in May.

Even though the Museum was closed for the first six months, the work continued. More than 4200 items have been cataloged, Carolyn Hastings has worked at home organizing files and photos, Tara Beery has researched various topics, John Glaze, Kati Burwinkle and Myra Phillips have started a new project that extends the Lincoln School Project.

The Historical Society honored Joseph Benson Foraker with a military banner at the Courthouse Square. Foraker was a Civil War veteran, governor and U. S. senator.

Most of the events hosted by the Historical Society were cancelled out of concern for the safety of visitors and volunteers. Following the 2019 annual meeting, we participated in Veterans Day ceremonies followed by a very successful Merry Mercantile Christmas shop and more than 300 visi-

tors in November and December to shop and to see the beautifully decorated trees.

Opening was delayed till July 4th weekend where we celebrated our nation's birthday. John Glaze coordinated the annual Ghost Walk in September of historical characters of Highland County. Many thanks to John Willis, Drs. Jeff & Tara Beery, Bob Brown, Earl Smith and Tim Hennison for entertaining the audience with the biographies of people who made history in our area. Tara Beery and Bob Brown led an East Main and Walnut Streets Walking Tour in October and the Historical Society provided lunch at Jean Wallis' auction. Proceeds amounted to \$1200. and will be used to purchase a window in honor of Jean and her late husband, Lester. They have been generous benefactors and volunteered hundreds of hours of their time to preserving Highland County history.

This year has been like no other but the Historical Society is committed to preserving and promoting Highland County history. Watch for us in 2021. We will be back, bigger and better than ever.

Vicki Knauff



Need A
RUUUG?

TISSOT'S
HOME CENTER

206 N ELM ST
HILLSBORO

Jacob Lucas' Diary

FOURTEEN MONTHS A PRISONER IN THE ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

(continued from 3rd Qtr)

The next morning we were marched to Railroad depot and crowded into a box-car, and about 8:00 o'clock the first train left Dalton, crowded uncomfortably full of hungry men, making prospect for comfort at starting on that, our first visit to the Capitol of the Confederacy—anything but flattering. When we remonstrated about starting before breakfast, we were informed that it was their custom to feed such men as we were, but once each day, and that we would be put upon our good behavior for even that much. Our train consisting of fifteen box-cars, into which had been crowded six hundred prisoners, or forty in each car, with six guards, three in each side door, moved out of Dalton leaving the rest to follow on other trains. We passed over some very rough looking country and through many towns and stations, among them was Tilton, Seracca, Calhour, Adairsville, Akworth and Merrietta, crossing the Ala-

bama and Chattahoochie Rivers, arriving at Atlanta near sunset, where were taken off of the train, formed into two ranks and marched to the courthouse grounds, where we spent the night. As hungry as we were, we got nothing to eat. The next morning about eight o'clock, we heard a voice at the gate calling: "Yanks! Fall in for rations", but two hours or more was required to again register our names, etc. and then another hour was spent in searching us for valuables, but I do not think they found valuables enough the second time to pay them for their trouble. The search completed, we were marched some distance to barracks where we received some hard tack and bacon, the quality of which was fair, but the quantity was insignificant. After receiving this we were returned to the courthouse grounds where we remained until next morning when we were marched back to railroad and crowded into box cars like so many hogs, fifty in a car. Leaving Atlanta quite early in the morning, we passed through the towns of Stone Mountain, Covington, Rutledge, Madison, Buckhead, Greensboro and Union point, reaching Augusta (the capitol of Georgia) some-



Susan E Vaher
Financial Advisor

301 N High Street Suite 101
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-5751

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Jacob Lucas' Diary *(continued)*

time after midnight, and were taken out of the box cars, marched a short distance to a vacant lot of ground, where we slept until morning. Quite early we were again packed in the box cars, the train leaving Augusta at seven o'clock, we soon crossed the Savannah River which is the dividing line between the States of Georgia and South Carolina, but made no note of any of them until we came to Columbia, which was the next morning after leaving Augusta. Leaving Columbia we passed through Wainsboro and Chester, reaching Charlotte late in the day, where we were taken off the train, given a small bit of cornbread and permitted to lie down on the ground and sleep until morning, when we again got into our box cars and after running all day and until eleven o'clock at night, the capitol of North Carolina), where we were again taken off the train to spend the rest of the night. Some of the most important town passed from Charlotte to

Raleigh, are Harrisburg, Concord, Salsberry, Linwood, Lexington and Greensboro. We left Raleigh early the next morning, very hungry for we got nothing to eat there, but where we got to Weldon, late in the day, we were given a small quantity of crackers. Leaving Weldon awhile after dark, our train reached Petersburg at daylight, where we were transferred from one train to another and hurried on to Richmond, which place we reached at nine o'clock September 30th, and were at once conveyed to the famous Belle Isle, where we were initiated into the horrors of Confederate prison pens. There were about six thousand prisoners confined on Belle Island when we arrived there and their condition was pitiable starved and half naked and sunburned and smoked until they looked as black as negroes. The prisoners were divided into hundreds for the purpose of roll call, which was *(continued on page 8)*

SOCIETY FINANCES

Highland Co Historical Society Profit & Loss October 2019 through September 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Bureau Workers Comp Rebate	122.00	122.00
BWC Rebate	107.38	107.38
Discounts Earned	4.18	4.18
Donations	7,923.76	7,923.76
Fundraiser	1,753.00	1,753.00
Interest Income	78.53	78.53
Investments	14,858.87	14,858.87
Membership	8,925.00	8,925.00
Memorials	880.00	880.00
Newsletter Sponsorship	1,800.00	1,800.00
Office Rental	18,350.00	18,350.00
OHC Grant	10,000.00	10,000.00
Ohio Historical Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00
Recovered Returned Checks	100.00	100.00
Room Rental	525.00	525.00
Sales-Museum Shop	15,632.17	15,632.17
Special Events	227.00	227.00
Total Income	79,882.85	79,882.85
Expense		
Accounting Fees	1,350.00	1,350.00
Advertising	59.95	59.95
Dues	388.00	388.00
Highland County Book Expenses	2,650.00	2,650.00
Insurance	6,823.25	6,823.25
Janitorial-HH	300.00	300.00
Janitorial-SH	2,180.00	2,180.00
Licenses & Fees	115.00	115.00
Merchandise for Gift Shop	5,330.58	5,330.58
Museum/Display	470.80	470.80
Newsletter Costs	1,725.00	1,725.00
Office Supplies	305.31	305.31
OHC Grant Expenses	7,848.19	7,848.19
Payroll Expenses	879.13	879.13
Postage & Communications	314.45	314.45
Repairs & Maintenance-HH	3,453.39	3,453.39
Repairs & Maintenance-SH	2,581.00	2,581.00
Salaries & Wages	12,050.00	12,050.00
Sales Tax Paid	558.61	558.61
Security Monitoring-HH	342.00	342.00
Security Monitoring-SH	495.00	495.00
Special Event Expenses	947.54	947.54
Taxes-SH	2,610.00	2,610.00
Utilities- SH	4,423.94	4,423.94
Utilities-HH	5,714.33	5,714.33
Total Expense	63,591.47	63,591.47
Net Ordinary Income	16,291.38	16,291.38
Net Income	16,291.38	16,291.38

TIRA
Builders LLC
Design Build Remodel
937.393.0785

kroger community rewards
Kroger Plus
Shopping Card

THE MUSEUM SHOP
AT HIGHLAND HOUSE
151 E. MAIN ST.
HILLSBORO, OH 45133

HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

151 E Main St
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Phone: 937.393.3392

*U.S. Postage
PAID
Hillsboro, OH
45133
Permit No. 11*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Check the date found on your mailing label. This is your membership renewal date. If it falls within the period of this newsletter, your renewal statement is enclosed. Please make any corrections or additions on the form and return it with your payment. Please consider increasing your membership to the next level.

Jacob Lucas' Diary *(continued)*

had once each day, and also for the purpose of drawing rations, which we usually got twice each day but quite often but once. When, as the Jonnies would tell us the rations were short, but I thought they were always short for they consisted of about three or four ounces of cornbread, made from corn ground cob and all, and mixed with water only, with no salt, and baked in large quantities, and often when we received it, it would be sour and moldy, and sometimes in addition to the corn bread, we would get ten or twelve pounds of beef they called it, but we pronounced it horse and mule flesh, and we learned afterwards, that horses and mules that had been shot or disabled in battle, were prepared and issued to the yankee prisoners for or in lieu of beef. But whatever it was, we only got ten or twelve pounds, bone and all, for one hundred men. This was what we received for

our daily rations. As for water, there were four old barrels set in the ground, or in the sand, as the Island was nothing more nor less than a vast sand bar. The source of the water was the river and the process of passing through the sand took the salt out and it would rise in the barrels fresh water, but six thousand men getting water from four barrels kept the water so low during the day, that we usually got about three sands and one water, and if any of the prisoners attempted to visit the barrels to get water during the night, the guards would fire at them and quite often they did not miss their mark, w=for when morning came, we would find some poor prisoner dead and stiff, shot through by someone of the guard. Anyone who never had any experience in any of the Southern prison pens, will not believe what the Yankee prisoners suffered in that Rebel Hell. The nights were so

cold and chilling, much of the time that I remained there, that we would trot up and down through the camp the whole night long and sleep next day, if the sun should shine. We had nothing to cover us but the clouds and the heavens After a few weeks stay on Bell Isle, I was very fortunate in that I was one of a squad that was taken over the river into the city and were put in a large brick building that had been used as a tobacco factory and was known as Smith's Building. It was but a short distance from and in full view of Libby Prison. Smith's building was well lighted, having plenty of windows, it was also well ventilated, having no sash in the windows, therefore no glass in the sash, but for all that, it was far better than Bell isle. James Scott of Company A, and W. H. Martin of my own company and myself were all the members of our Regiment

that were in Smith's Building. W.H. Martin and myself, before enlisting, have been neighbors and schoolmates, and had the determination to share our lot together during our incarceration, therefore, we had managed to keep together. While in this building, we were subjected to many privations, much suffering, and numberless mistreatments. We had been in the building but a short time when we were visited by some officers who informed us that we would be required to turn over to them everything that we might have in our possession, either money or other valuables, for which they would receipt us for, and that when we were paroled, which they said would be in a few days, upon the presentation of the receipts, everything would be returned to us again.
(continued in next issue)