

### HOLLIDAY PINS BURGLARY ON COMPANIONS

#### Says Pair Told Him About Breaking Into Trading Post Near Earville

Two former companions were blamed Thursday by James Holliday, formerly of Earville, for both burglary and automobile larceny upon which he was indicted.

Testifying Thursday in the circuit court at Ottawa during his trial on a car theft charge, Holliday named the two companions as John Zacco and William Blaisner.

Holliday said the pair told him about breaking into the Diamond M Trading Post near Earville and said he bought some items allegedly taken from the establishment from them.

He explained that other items from the Diamond M were in his possession because he was keeping them after the other two men had taken his clothes.

He said he decided to retain the items, which included three guns, until they returned the clothes.

According to Holliday, he came into possession of the guns when he found them in his bureau drawer following his return from a trip to Ohio and found his clothes gone.

Holliday began his testimony Thursday afternoon after three other witnesses for the defense appeared.

Assistant State's Attorney Peter Ferracuti rested his case for the prosecution about noon yesterday.

#### Local Man Testifies

Defense witnesses were Mrs. Elizabeth Zacco of Chicago, wife of John Zacco, who refused to answer most questions; John Springer of Earville, who was questioned about a letter he allegedly received from Holliday; and Lawrence Boatman of Streator.

Boatman, an inmate of the LaSalle county jail, testified he had seen bruises on Holliday.

His testimony intended to support charges by Holliday that Chicago police tortured him to secure an alleged confession to the break-in.

Holliday was being cross-examined by Ferracuti when court recessed shortly after noon today.

Under Ferracuti's questioning, Holliday explained he had implicated a fictitious Charles Stover in his confessions to Chicago police; State's Attorney Harland Warren and Deputy William Dummett.

Holliday said he made up the alleged confessions to keep from being beaten, to "please" Warren and Dummett and to keep Warren from prosecuting him on another theft indictment.

He testified he also feared mistreatment from Dummett because the latter had a "bad reputation" in regard to handling prisoners.

Ferracuti rested his case Thursday after testimony was heard from two witnesses, Alex Wrubleski and Robert Hollerbush, both of Chicago.

Wrubleski is a member of a three-man police squad that arrested Holliday in Chicago. Hollerbush testified that Holliday had been employed at his firm for a time, leaving several months before his arrest because of "ill health."

Holliday is on trial on an indictment charging him with stealing a car from Charles Haight of near Earville last Sept. 11.

Another indictment pending against Holliday is for burglary and larceny and charges him with breaking into Haight's establishment, the Diamond M Trading Post, last Sept. 11.

## AUTO THEFT TRIAL RESUMES

### DIXON RULES ALLEGED HOLLIDAY CONFESSIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY JURY.

A jury of three women and nine men finally got back into the act Monday afternoon in circuit court in the automobile theft trial of James Holliday, formerly of Earlville.

Excused for more than a week while a hearing raged over the admissibility of alleged confessions by Holliday, the jury resumed the trial Monday after a ruling by Judge Walter Dixon.

In his ruling, Dixon held that three alleged confessions were proper material to be considered by the jury.

According to testimony thus far, one was secured by Chicago police, an oral statement by State's Attorney Harland Warren at the La Salle county jail and a second written statement afterward at the jail by Deputy William Dummett.

Exclusion of the statements was asked by defense attorney Taylor Wilhelm who charged with Holliday that the alleged confessions in Chicago resulted from brutality, torture and other mistreatment.

Holliday is on trial for alleged theft of an automobile from Charles Height of Earlville last Sept. 11. Another indictment pending against him charges Holliday with burglary and larceny for al-

legedly breaking into Height's business establishment—the Diamond M Trading Post.

### Church Guild Votes Donation; Hears Lesson

St. Margaret's Society of Christ Episcopal church voted the sum of \$100 for the improvement of the guild room when they met in the parish hall last evening with Bessie Wonders and Margaret Bottoms as hostesses.

The business meeting was conducted by Hannah Dakin with Rita Mae Adamson giving the lesson on "Miriam" from "Women of the Bible".

Lunch was served in keeping with the March 17 motif. The next meeting will be held in the church recreation room with Mayme and Clara Hart in charge.

### CHRIST CHURCH GUILD MEETS

The St. Elizabeth Guild of Christ Episcopal church met in the home of Mildred Somsag, 124 S. Everett St., at which time the business meeting was conducted by Lereice Shaheen. Among various items considered, were a report on the last auxiliary meeting by Ellen Kimes, and the donation which was collected to send to Rev. Archer Torrey, missionary in Korea.

The Rev. Wilbur Fogg gave the lesson and spoke on St. Patrick.

Following the meeting, lunch was served by the hostess who was assisted by Alice Fogg. The next meeting is to be in the home of Mrs. John Seymour, April 8.