

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 1429 North Jasper

Legal description:

Carver's Addition

N 78' Lots 19 and 20, Block 6

Date of original construction: 1922 (See article on dedication -
July 22, 1922)

Name of original owner: City of Decatur

History:

1. Data from available city directories:

1924 city directory - not listed.

1925 city directory - not available.

1926-1974 Alice G. Evans Branch Public Library.

1975- Decatur-Macon County Opportunity Corp.

2. Data from Decatur Township assessor's office:

Property - not taxable

No data given other than -

- legal description

- size of lot 69'x78'

- owner

City of Decatur

3. History Cont'd.:

a. Brad Cantrell describes the building as follows:

The Evans Branch Library has Prairie School influence.

Points which add to its style and horizontal emphasis

are the grouped windows, low pitched roof with wide over-

hanging eaves, large areas of blank space and the strong

band surrounding the structure. The entrance is modernistic

in its execution; however, it does not detract from the li-

brary's simple but interesting lines.

b. Data from Decatur Public Library records follows:

Plans and specifications for new branch building by S. A.

Clausen, Architect, were approved February 24, 1922.

Building contract for construction of branch building award-

ed to E. J. Kibele, March 23, 1922.

S. A. Clausen, Architect, was employed as superintendent of

building at 2 per cent of cost March 23, 1922.

Plumbing contract awarded to W. T. Delahunty March 23, 1922.

Present owner: City of Decatur.

3. History Cont'd.:

c. Data from a Decatur Public Library's one hundredth anniversary publication (1975) follows:

- (1) November 17, 1881 - Richard L. Evans, librarian, died and Mrs. Alice Glore Evans was named to succeed her husband.
- (2) On September 17, 1908, the public library placed three hundred books in the H. B. Durfee School for student use... Although the book deposit was for student use, parents read the books their children brought home, thus cultivating broader interest than had been anticipated. On March 3rd, 1916, the Durfee School collection was expanded for the purpose of adult use, and, in effect, Decatur had its first branch library.
- (3) May 3, 1916 - The Alice G. Evans Branch Library opened in Durfee School with 512 volumes. It was the first Decatur Public Library branch. In 1968, it had 12,385 volumes.
- (4) July 22, 1922 - The Alice G. Evans Branch permanent building was dedicated at 1429 N. Jasper Street. (The Durfee School collection was moved to the new building)
- (5) Due to a decline in use, the Evans Branch was closed and service discontinued in May, 1973. "Community service is still carried on in the building; however, since the Decatur Macon County Opportunity Corporation and their Neighborhood Youth Corps are currently located in these quarters." (1975)

d. News items are as follows:

- (1) Decatur Herald, July '22, 1922, New Building Named Alice Evans Branch.
- (2) Decatur Review, February 8, 1926, obit.
- (3) Decatur Herald, February 9, 1926, editorial, Mrs. Evans.
- (4) Review, May 9, 1973, O.E.O. Phaseout Order Lifted.

1429 North Jasper



Editorials

General and very Bishop White, can not be en-
sured without a standing army. Then there would
be the possibility of keeping the army sober.

"The price and time wages" advises Henry
that the law which positively can not fail,
and the message to the other fellows
and all the rest of it.

THE PIONEER ENTRANCE

All things come about in time, and thanks to an
agreement between the city council and the park board
a beautiful opening of Franklin street will be
completed in the coming season.
This special agreement long has been known
to the people. On such property as abuts the
street would be an entry.
It is referred to the other day as Decatur
the last remaining entrance way that
remains of the roughness of pioneer days.
It is responsible for loaded wagons up
the hill when the old covered bridge
was modified repeatedly, the
road now its steepness is not
it will still itself the north ap-
proach to be improved. The principal
road macadamized at the time of the
city is to serve as proof that macadam
can be made traffic additions.

It is a pleasure to see the progress
of the city and the people who are
making it a better place to live in.

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how seldom was that calm disposition ruffled, how fre-
quently did the apt word, the kindly forbearance disarm
and win the critic.

There must have been some significance in the fact
that Mrs. Evans was so often chosen as the recipient for
signal honors. It was logically her task to inaugurate the
beginnings of the present Carnegie library. Twenty-three
years ago she was regarded as much an institution as the
library itself. It was fitting that she should be chosen as
the subject of the Brewer portrait, fitting again that De-
catur's first branch library should bear her name.

People were glad to do for and honor Mrs. Evans.
Her appreciation was so genuine, her pleasure so unfeigned
even while she took these honors modestly.

It will always be a source of joy to her friends,
even as it was a satisfaction to her to round out her 50
years of library work. She chose to regard the golden
jubilee celebration of last August as a tribute to the li-
brary, but it could not be divorced from a tribute to herself.
The names were so inseparably linked that to many Mrs.
Evans was the library. Perhaps she never was so happy
as in those days of preparation and the culmination of
Aug. 10.

Public speaking was not her strong point as she well
knew. Her associates were a little fearful that in the
acknowledgment of the tributes, together with the surprise
gift of gold which came from hundreds of her friends,
she might break down. But when the silken purse was
laid in her hands, not tears but a sparkle came to her eyes,
and her little speech of thanks, coming from the heart,
with all notes cast aside and forgotten, was all that was
needed to round out the program, and bring the celebration
to a happy ending.

So she left for holiday in the West, which her board
had voted her as an additional gift, and rejoicing in the
companionship of those near and dear to her, meeting old
friends and making new ones, looking forward to a home
coming when Decatur put on its spring loveliness, she
lived—and died.

It was another happy ending. Shocked and sad-
dened as are her friends, they find it possible to be glad—
glad that she was spared a long period of pain, glad that
she had seen her life's work come to fruition, glad that
she knew as never before how widely and deeply she was
reverenced.

Her labor will live after her, and something else.
The fragrance of that life will pervade the memories of
those that knew her even as the odor of a flower remains
after the flower has been removed. Mrs. Evans' charm
abides.

Cathedral of St. John in New York is to have
a stained-glass window memorializing, among other
things, the glorious old sport of horse racing, and
we just can't wait to hear what our pastor will say
about those Episcopalians when he learns that rela-
tions being already strained to the point that they

Things are never so bad but that they might be
worse, and we suppose that even Gov. Small is a
little thankful when he begins to think that it
seems as though the state were really likely to get
that million dollars out of him.

As I V

Life, I
is just a
There are
One can

What's here? A
Golden Balls. And
gram from the Faculty
is it that have our
calls the great, the

I have sent
to Boston
I have done
but first

"Dear Sam—
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university the other
the Elizabethan stuff
distinguished, and do
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of those remaining
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Paris

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The men, from the
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IN OLD DECATUR

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Feb. 8, 1926

Mrs. Alice G. Evans Dies In California

Stricken Monday in Los Angeles While On Leave of Absence After Fifty Years as Head of Library.

Mrs. Alice G. Evans, librarian of the Deatur Public Library, died unexpectedly Monday in Los Angeles, Cal., where she was visiting her sister, Mrs. William Evans. She would have been seventy-eight years old to day. The cause of her death was not given in the message that accompanied Mrs. Thomas Wilson and Mrs. Joseph A. Hill, acting librarians.

She was on leave of absence from the library at Water and East Main streets.

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

It appears by tradition there and T. T. Roberts and H. H. Green owned the building at the corner of East Main and William streets and gave it to the library board. The library moved into that building and continued there until the building was destroyed by fire. A few of the records and some books were saved and are now in the possession of the present T. H. C. A.

The library board has since been advised that until the new library building at Water and East Main streets was completed and the library there moved, the very few books that had been saved from the fire were stored in the present library building at Main and Third streets. Mrs. Evans was on the job during all these changes, and the many improvements that have come to the library throughout the years are largely due to her influence and untiring work.

LAST CHANCE MEET.

The board of trustees met last night to discuss the matter brought before them by the board of trustees of the Deatur Public Library, and to discuss the matter of the death of Mrs. Evans. The board of trustees met last night to discuss the matter brought before them by the board of trustees of the Deatur Public Library, and to discuss the matter of the death of Mrs. Evans.

ANNIVERSARY GIFT.

The death of Mrs. Evans came on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the announcement that Andrew Carnegie would give \$48,000 toward a new public library in Decatur. That was on Feb. 8, 1901. Mrs. Evans is said to have danced for joy. She, in connection with Mayor G. A. Stadler and the late C. M. Hurst were delegated to make the request for the donation. They called upon James H. Brown, secretary of the Carnegie philanthropies and Mr. Stadler presented Decatur's plea for the library. A little over a year later, on March 25, 1902, Mrs. Evans herself turned the first stone that marked

Dies In Los Angeles



MRS. ALICE G. EVANS.

also Miss Gore. Mrs. Evans was also a member of the College club, the Business and Professional Women's club and the Woman's Relief Corps, the National American Library association and the Illinois Library association in which she held an office.

When he learned of the death of Mrs. Evans, Mayor Elmer R. Egan said:

"For fifty years Mrs. Evans was a faithful and efficient public servant. All who knew her loved and respected her. Her death comes as a personal loss to hundreds and her memory will always be honored."

HAD WIDE ACQUAINTANCE.

The same sentiment is shared by every one who knew Mrs. Evans. It is safe to say that she was personally known to more persons than any one else in Macon county. Not only was she widely known locally, but was known to librarians everywhere. She was one of the oldest librarians in the country.

In thirty years she had missed but one session of the American Library association. The last session was held in Seattle last spring, and she

IVESDALE HOME BUREAU MEETS

President, Feb. 9—The regular meeting of the Ivesdale Home Bureau will be held in the town hall, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2 p. m.

The business will be Mrs. T. J. Conner, Mrs. Ralph Rose, Miss Mary Conner and Miss Fazel Hicks.

Mrs. Elizabeth Moore of Urbana will be present and give a talk on "Burying Problems."

Phil Callahan, Harry Perkins and Tim Clark attended the auto show in Chicago last week.

Miss Margaret Laroe of Champaign passed the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Laroe.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rose were called to Sadorus, Friday by the death of Mrs. Rose's sister, Mrs. Price Evans.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Misses Madeline Milligan and Lucy Laroe celebrated their birthday anniversaries Sunday evening by entertaining a number of their friends at a party in the town hall. Games and dancing were enjoyed and refreshments were served.

To column 2, reverse side

To column three reverse side

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726

Last June the library board gave Mrs. Evans a year's leave of absence in commemoration of her fifty years of service as librarian. Her fifty anniversary in that office was celebrated Aug. 18, 1935, which was also the golden jubilee of the library. Mrs. Evans was the central figure in that celebration and her friends presented her with a purse of gold and silver.

At that time a report was circulated that she had resigned, but that was not the case. She was ready to do anything or do whatever the board considered the best for the library. The board declared that all she needed was a good long rest, and granted her the leave.

ON TRACTS LEAVE.
During the year's leave of absence Mrs. Evans, the past Decatur secretary, was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. J. C. Evans, and their family. The house in which she lived was the property of Mrs. Evans and was maintained as an excellent home. She is a member of the library and a close friend of the board.

TRUSTED LOVER.
Mrs. Evans has three and Mrs. J. C. Evans has two. Her children are all grown up and are in a variety of occupations. Her friends are many and she is always ready to help them. She is a very kind and loving person and is always ready to help them. She is a very kind and loving person and is always ready to help them.

KEPT UP READING.
The members of the library board were tenderly watchful of her and when more help was necessary in the library it was provided; but Mrs. Evans was always busy. Each evening she took time to go through the current magazines and thus kept abreast of all that was best in literature. She scanned the new books that came out and admitted none to the library that were subject to adverse criticism.

A few years ago Mrs. Evans thought of retiring. When the members of the board learned of this they would not listen. They insisted that she stay on realizing what a loss the community would mean to the library.

BRANCH NAMED FOR HER.
When the branch library was established at 1423 North Jasper street it was named by the board the Alice Evans branch. She visited it often and always referred to it lovingly. The branch library was established when she was away last fall, but she was back and was hearing the news of it.

Mrs. Evans and her sister, Miss Alice Evans, had a little cottage at the corner of the street in recent years. The cottage was in the Decatur neighborhood and it was always a favorite place for them. The cottage was not built by Mrs. Evans but her daughter had it built. During recent years the cottage was owned by Mrs. Evans and her sister.

executive, she has been a constant help to her staff and to patrons.
The year's leave of absence, which the board voted her as the library's anniversary gift, and which came wholly unexpectedly, is not a reward, but a tribute to a beautiful gentlewoman. Decatur will unite in wishing her a happy holiday.

ANNIVERSARY GIFT.

The death of Mrs. Evans came on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the announcement that Andrew Carnegie would give \$60,000 toward a new public library in Decatur. That was on Feb. 3, 1911. Mrs. Evans is said to have danced for joy. She, in company with Mayor G. A. Stadler and the late C. M. Hurst were delegated to make the request for the donation. They called upon James Dabram, secretary of the Carnegie philanthropies and Mr. Stadler presented Decatur's plea for the library. A little over a year later, on March 25, 1912, Mrs. Evans herself turned the first spadeful of dirt that marked the beginning of work on the present handsome library building.

SERVED GENERATIONS.

Since the death of her husband in 1891 Mrs. Evans has had full charge of the library. She never shirked a duty, but placed no limit on her hours of work. She served children whose grandchildren later came to her for the same service. She never lost the personal charm that distinguished her and made her popular even as a girl. Her gentleness, friendliness and courtesy to old and young endeared her to everybody. Until ten years ago she took her turn on the evening shift. She never complained of the work being too much for her.

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In thirty years she had missed but one session of the American Library association. The last session was held in Seattle last spring, and she was there, returning to prepare for the golden jubilee of the library which marked her half century of service as well.

Mrs. Evans had been presented a gold bowl after her twenty-fifth year of attendance at the National Library association.

FORMER MATTOON EDITOR BUYS PAPER

Roy Elliott Gets a Weekly at Fordyce, Ark.

Mattoon, Feb. 9.—Roy Elliott, former editor and one of the owners of the Daily Bulletin, published at Mattoon for two years before its suspension, but lately connects with an East St. Louis paper, has resigned his position as business manager and bought a weekly paper at Fordyce, Ark., from Warren A. Turner. Turner will succeed Elliott on the staff of the East St. Louis paper.

TOWER HILL REVIVAL GROWS IN INTEREST

Tower Hill, Feb. 9.—The revival which is being conducted at the Free Methodist church here is awakening a good interest. Sunday morning the pastor, Rev. A. J. Smith, preached on "Perfect Love," and several professed to obtain it. A praise service was enjoyed at 8:30.

The evening service was conducted by Mrs. Ella Smith who preached on the subject of revival from "O Lord revive Thy work." Great interest was manifested, as she showed the need of the old-time revival.

in the town hall, Wednesday, Feb. 10 2 p. m.

The hostesses will be Mrs. T. J. Corcoran, Mrs. Ralph Rose, Miss Mary Concanon and Miss Feroi Hicks.

Mrs. Blanche Moore of Urbana will be present and give a talk on "Burying Problems."

Phil Gallivan, Harry Perkins and Tim Clark attended the auto show in Chicago last week.

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Altamont.

The Young Ladies' sodality of Saint Clare's Catholic church will give a card party and entertainment in the K. of C. hall on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Mrs. H. W. Schumacher is passing several days in Springfield with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Horace Dollaridge.

Miss Hulda Siegmund spent several days the past week in St. Louis in the interest of the Siegmund Sisters Hat Shoppe.

Miss Ida and Miss Florence Quamman entertained Saint Cecilia's choir at their home on Sunday evening.

Mrs. Charles Tappendorf left on Tuesday for St. Louis. Mrs. Tappendorf will take treatment at the Lutheran hospital in that city.

CUT PRICES, RAISE WAGES, FORD SAYS

New York, Feb. 9.—(A.P.)—The way to check a threatened business depression is to cut prices and raise wages Henry Ford said in an interview published in the current issue of Collier's Weekly.

"It is good business," said Mr. Ford "always to raise wages and never to lower them. Higher wages and lower prices mean greater power—more customers."

Boston Transcript: He—"Why isn't it done ready?"
She—"I've been down town bargain hunting all the afternoon, and I couldn't get home in time."
He—"Humph! Looking for something for nothing, I suppose."
She (sweetly)—"Yea, dear. Trying to get you a present."

Sharon Ladies Aid.
The Ladies Aid society of the Sharon church will meet all day Wednesday with Mrs. Frank Park.

←

Touchy Corns!

FREEZONE

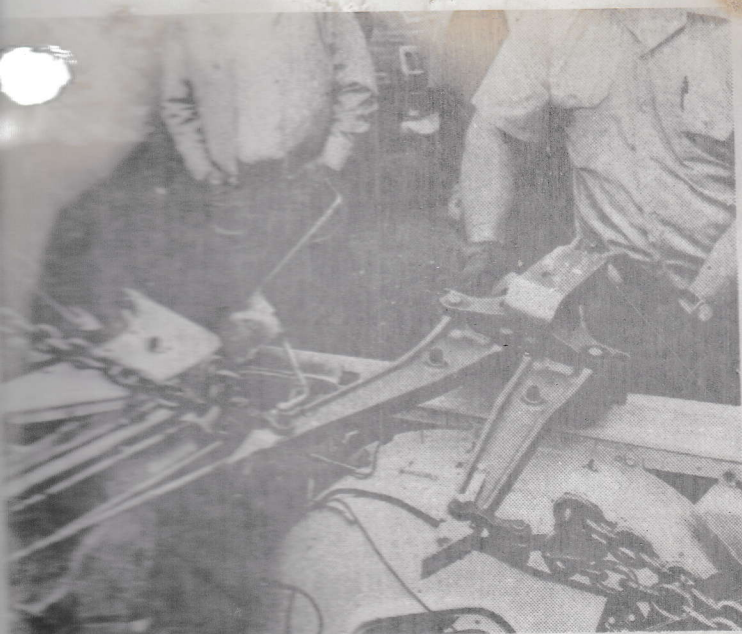
Lift Right Off with
Fingers—No Pain!

Magic! Instantly that old, both-achieve corn stops hurting, then surely you lift that corn right off with your fingers—root and all—without a bit of pain or soreness.

A few cents buys a tiny bottle. "Freezone" at any drug store. Drop a little on any hard corn, soft corn or corn between the toes or callus—that's all—Corns gone!

To show two reverse side

To show three reverse side



Staff photo by Bob Strongman

Decatur Fireman Lee Sturgis Jr. works with the new rescue tool.

Study Set Refuses Okay Three

of the Macon County Sanatorium property to Decatur Memorial Hospital.
Republican Gordon Stiely moved for chairman Bennett Bradley Jr. to appoint a special committee to study the language of the agreement turned down at the April meeting.
Stiely, who called the sale deal after the April meeting, said Tuesday the county has a moral obligation to sell the property back to the hospital.
The county obtained the ground from the hospital when it established the chest clinic. A county operated nursing home in the present structure has been closed and only the tuberculosis testing operation remains.
The hospital has agreed to provide space in its building for the chest clinic if the sale is made.
Early in the meeting, Republican Roy L. Austin presented the board with a letter of intent to provide \$25,000 to the Park Extension Service from the next budget.
Much discussion followed Austin's move. He said the service needs to know the board's intention now because the service's budget must be prepared early in June.
The county budget doesn't come out until September.

Firemen Try Using New Rescue Tool

By Glen R Cooper

If you get locked out of your car, the fire department has a tool which will get you in... by ripping off a door or tearing open the roof.

Firemen don't intend to use the device to help motorists who forget their keys, however. It is a rescue tool to free victims trapped inside wrecked cars.

Officially, the tool is known as a Hurst rescue tool and it has been purchased by the city for \$3,775.

Tuesday, shortly after noon, several firemen, city officials and curious persons gathered at Black Brothers Auto Wrecking Co., 2700 N. Woodford St., to watch a demonstration of the tool.

This session was the laboratory section of a training course conducted by John Rodcay, captain of the St. Louis fire department rescue squad. He also is a salesman for the Hurst company.

Earlier in the day Rodcay had a classroom session for the firemen in the use of the tool.

A badly wrecked car, stored in the wrecking yard, was selected for the demonstration.

The top of the car was pushed down against the seat. The interior had been pretty well dismantled and the sides were

Emergency Employment Act program were told today how much money they will get in phasing out their EEA programs.

The decision was made in a meeting with the city staff and representatives of the agencies.

There is \$645,000 available in federal funds which must be used by April 30, 1974.

The program ends officially June 30, 1974, and the city will use the extra 60 days to clean up details of the program.

The city will retain \$468,000 for its EEA program.

Glenn F. Spachman, city EEA coordinator, listed these allocations to the participating subagencies:

- Decatur School District, \$104,800
- Decatur Park District, \$38,600
- Sanitary District, \$15,000

- Decatur Housing Authority, \$6,700
- Decatur Public Library, \$2,400
- Macon County Conservation District, \$2,400.

The subagencies, Spachman said, may start cutting back their programs to fit their allocations any time but not past April 30, 1974.

"The decisions in ending the program are to be made by officials of the participating agencies," Spachman said today.

The city's decision to retain \$468,000 as its share of the available EEA funds was made when guidelines for phasing out the program were made by the City Council.

Spachman said the city was not required to share its EEA allotment with any other body.

"Those seven subagencies will have been given about \$13

He added representatives of the participating agencies expressed disappointment at the program's ending but were pleased with what they had been given.

According to Spachman, the city plans to use the remaining EEA money in the street division of the public works.

Six EEA employees transferred to the city Thursday to help with maintenance crews.

Some EEA employees terminated from the city the end of this month.

The city staff, Spachman said, will not merely discontinue temporary employees as is phased out.

"We have job openings and will work with those who attempt to find other work," Spachman said.

Some EEA employees absorbed in other jobs.

OEO Phaseout Order Lifted

1429 N. Jasper

The Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp. has been notified it is no longer on a phaseout status.

The agency received word of the change from Howard Phillips, acting director of the federal Office of Equal Opportunity.

Phillips was appointed by President Nixon to dismantle OEO. In January, he told the agency it should begin "through phasing out" expected to be completed in June.

The recent change in status is the result of a federal judge's ruling April 11 that the administration's action is illegal.

Opportunities Corp. executive director Wayne Shipley declined to express optimism over the agency's future, however, because its programs are to be evaluated Aug. 31 to determine if additional funding is forthcoming.

"We now are under the goals and objectives we originally submitted. We have four months to do what we said we could do in six months," Shipley said.

The agency's goal was to assist about 110 persons rise above the poverty level during the six-month period.

Shipley said because the agency's efforts had been directed to phasing out and working to save the program since January, it will be difficult to meet program goals.

He also expressed concern that "the attitude of the workers and the credibility of the agency is not the same."

working on borrowed money which means we can't provide some services," he added.

Since receiving the new orders, Shipley has begun to plan a reorganization of the agency's staff. These plans are expected to be announced soon.

He declined to say if a decrease would be made.

The reorganization is part of the effort to meet its goals by Aug. 31. In addition, Shipley said reorganization would make the agency's procedures more compatible with other possible sources of future funding, such as township, city or county government.

Indictment Change Asked

The Macon County state's attorney's office today made a motion to amend the indictment charging the suspended foreman of the county highway department.

The indictment charges William Heft with three counts of official misconduct in connection with kickbacks he allegedly took from James Keller, operator of Municipal Chemical Co.

The motion asks the court to approve dropping two specific violations mentioned in the charges.

This prosecution motion is in response to one from the defendant asking for outright dismissal of the indictment.

Judge Rodney A. Scott set the

Scott Denies Two Motions By Wur

Judge Rodney A. Scott denied two motions filed by the Rock Island defendant charged with a conspiracy in the 1971 burglary of the Hubbard residence.

The defendant, Wurbs, 38, asked dismissal of the charges because they were at the same time charges. This motion also asked for State's Atty. Fichter.

The judge also denied a motion requesting a change of venue from Macon.

The defendant could not be tried because of undue delay of the burglary subsequent arrest.

The defense at Denger of Rock Island charged the burglar with the theft of more than \$100,000 in antique weapons, the largest ever in the county.

In denying the motion, Scott said he felt probably had not occurred over the crime.

The judge noted that the defendant's criminal record included a conviction for armed robbery.

He said the defendant's conspiracy charges should be dismissed.