



CASH AWARD SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT 4 O'CLOCK

PUBLISHED IN ROPESVILLE, THE FRIENDLIEST TOWN ON THE SOUTH PLAINS

THE ROPES PLAINSMAN

VOLUME XXVI-21

ROPESVILLE, HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS

5c A COPY

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 1961

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY TO BE HELD IN COUNTY IN '62--COUNTY, STATE OFFICES TO BE SOUGHT

According to a statement made by Jack Blair of Levelland, the Republican party in Hockley County will hold primaries this year.

Among other offices for which they will have candidates is the office of county

judge and the office of State Representative. As to who will carry the Republican banners in these races he did not state.

Mr. Blair told the Plainsman: "We feel that the state and the county would be

much better off if there were two well balanced parties in the state. Dissatisfaction with the present administration made it possible to elect a Republican to the United States Senate, so, it just might be possible that we

can elect a man to the State House of Representatives from this district. We also feel that there is a possibility that we can place a man in one of the county offices."

The tactics that Jack and Bob Kennedy have used to-

ward the South during the time they have been in office will have the effect of driving many more people into the Republican ranks. This past election there were more republican votes cast in the county than at any other

time in its history.

Also in the general election it is likely that folks will vote for the man and not the party, which will give a Republican a good chance of going into county office.

—o—o—

Future Homemakers Hold annual Election

The Future Homemakers of America held its first meeting of the year September 16, 1961. The regular meeting time was set for the 3rd Friday of each month. Officers for the year are as follows:

President - Kathy Kahlich.
1st V. Pres. - Sandra Witherspoon.
2nd V. Pres. - Sharla Biggs.
3rd V. Pres. - Sandra Ward.
4th V. Pres. - Patricia Moore.
5th V. Pres. - Charlotte Curry.
Sec.-Treas. - Linda Whitten.
Historian - Sandra Jeffcoat.
Parliamentarian - Sue Redford.
Plantist - Evelyn Stowers.
Sponsor - Mrs. Jane Gamble.

The FHA upperclassmen surprised the freshmen with a "come-as-you-are" break-

fast Saturday, September 23, 1961. Although 7:30 is pretty early, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Formal FHA Initiation was held Tuesday, September 26, 1961 at 7:30 P.M. An impressive candle ceremony in which the eight purposes of FHA were repeated by the following girls: Sharla Biggs, Barbara Goode, Judy Gregg, Geraldene Blair, Kay Baxter, Sandra Ward, Linda Sosebee, and Janette Jackson, preceded the ribbon-pinching of the following girls: Diane Collins, Mary Jackson, Sarah Cato, Kay Jackson, Joyce Evers, Kathy McNabb, Donna Patton, Doris Martin, Cheryl Teague, Gwen Goode, and Sue Killian.

Woodrow Jones' Have Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Jones had as their visitors this past week Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones, Mrs. Earl Jones and Marilyn Sue and Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Jones, all of Brownfield. Also Mrs. Albert Kahlick of Lubbock.

R. M. Mayfields Have Visitors

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Mayfield over the weekend were their granddaughters, Linda and Debbie Mayfield of Hart Camp, and Donna Boles of Lubbock.

We have a portable welder for field welding. Pierce Farm Supply.

Ropes H. D. Club Met Tuesday

The Ropes Home Demonstration Club met Tuesday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Jimmy Sims with eleven members present.

Richard Davis, with Civil Defense in Lubbock, spoke to the club on fall-out shelters.

Those present were Mmes. Bud Rucker, Claude Brown, J. W. Berry, Doyle Darby, Joe Harris, Mansfield Thomas, J. M. May, Nell Smithee, Huile Lee Darby, C. B. Ward, and the hostess, Mrs. Sims.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Nell Smithee October 17 at 2:30 p.m.

We are prepared to mount your boll puller. Pierce Farm Supply.

Lions Club to Hold Mop, Broom Sale

This past Monday night the Ropes Lions Club showed a moving picture depicting the effects of atomic fallout on crops, human beings and animals. The turnout to see the picture was very disappointing as only twenty-one were present.

Tom Kirkham, state secretary, was present. Mr. Kirkham organized the Ropes club. Also present was Wayne Richards of Ralls, and Mr. Stewart and Mr. Gentry, of

Levelland. The latter two showed and explained the moving picture.

It was also announced the broom and mop sale will be held on October 4th.

Three new members were added to the club: Mansfield Thomas, E. N. Exum and Dee Lindley.

The next meeting will be on a special date with the District Governor present. It will also be ladies night.

Hewlett Hogs Capture Prizes at S. Plains Fair

Glen P. Hewlett was the big Hockley County winner in judging results at the Panhandle South Plains Fair

TAYLOR BOYS ARE INJURED IN COLLISION IN LUBBOCK TUESDAY

James R. Taylor and Kenneth Taylor, of Ropesville, were injured in a car wreck in Lubbock Tuesday evening.

Undergoes Eye Surgery

Monta Sue McGuire, five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monty McGuire, underwent eye surgery on Friday morning of last week. She was taken in Tuesday for a checkup and is reported as doing as well as could be expected.

Visiting in the McGuire home is Mrs. McGuire's mother, Mrs. A. G. Davis, of Sterling City. She is helping during the illness of Monta Sue.

To Persons Interested in Hockley Co. Agi.

Bill Taylor, county agent, would like to have your attendance at a tour of crop demonstrations in Hockley County Thursday, October 5. They will leave from the Fair Grounds at 1:00 P.M.

They will visit some interesting demonstrations which were not made on the last tour, and will get into them in more detail.

The public is invited.

Perry Middletons Visit in Ropes

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Middleton and girls, of Lubbock were Sunday visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Thomas and family.

Earl Odom to Undergo Surgery

Earl Odom entered a Lubbock hospital on Wednesday where he will undergo surgery on his knee today.

held at Lubbock last week.

Hewlett was a winner in the Berkshire, Duroc and Spotted Poland China swine

divisions and had a pair of grand champions.

Hewlett's Berkshire, Texas Miss 5th, was judged grand

champion sow after winning the senior champion sow division and the Ropesville swine breeder also exhibited the reserve champion and grand champion in the Spotted Poland China division.

Other places won by Hewlett's entries were third junior spring boar, first senior spring boar, first senior boar, reserve junior champion boar, reserve grand champion boar, third senior spring sow, third senior sow, third junior yearling sow, third junior yearling sow, first mature sow, first young herd, first get of sire and third produce of dam, all in the Berkshire division.

Hewlett also placed third in senior spring boar, senior spring sow and young herd and second in get of sire and produce of dam in the Duroc division in addition to his top entries in the Poland China division.

—o—o—

Roy McCoy Buys the Ropes Barber Shop

Rev. Roy McCoy, who has operated the Ropes Barber Shop for the past year and more, this week completed a trade with Bill Chandler where he bought the fixtures and leased the building.

Rev. McCoy stated that he

would do extensive redecorating on the interior.

It is pleasing to know that the McCoy's have now become permanent citizens of our community. He is an expert tonsorial artist, as well as an A-1 citizen.

Duke Biggs Returns Home From Dallas

Duke Biggs, who was in Dallas for medical treatment several days last week, returned home last Friday and was reported to be improved.

—o—o—

Mrs. Leon Young Returns Home

Mrs. Leon Young was returned home Sunday morning from a Lubbock hospital. She underwent major surgery last week and is now on the road to recovery.

—o—o—

Weekend Visitors In Strickland Home

Visitors over the weekend in the home of Mrs. D. E. Strickland were her son, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Strickland and baby of herforth. Also, on Sunday her son, Mr. and Mrs. Slim Coy of Lubbock.

Mrs. Gene McKee Returns Home

Mrs. Gene McKee, who underwent surgery last week in a Lubbock hospital, has been returned home and is reported to be recovering.

James Martin Visiting Here

Afc and Mrs. James Martin, of Washington, D. C. are here attending the bedside of his father, Jim Martin, who suffered a heart attack several days ago.

Tom Prices In Dimmit Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Price were in Dimmit on Sunday where they visited in the home of his sister, Mrs. Myrtle George.

Rev. McCoy Will Preach in Lubbock

Rev. Roy McCoy will be in Lubbock this coming Sunday where he will fill the pulpit at the Eastside Church of the Nazarene.

In Lubbock On Tuesday

Mrs. Bessie Curry and Mrs. Jephcott were in Lubbock on Tuesday on business.

If you need a law enforcement officer call 3902 or 3801.

Freezing Weather On South Plains

The Ropes territory was blessed with showers on Sunday night. The rain, in varying quantities, extended over most of the Ropes territory, being heavier to the north.

Monday morning was among the coldest we have had this year with the temperature dropping to 35, while to the north of us, at Sudan,

the temperature wen to 27, giving them the first freeze of the season.

Tuesday was a mild day, but in the evening the temperature commenced dropping, and by morning was in the high thirties.

Wednesday followed a like pattern.

—o—o—

See "Shadow of the Boomerang" Saturday Night at 1st Baptist Church

express our sincere thanks to each one for get well cards, visits and flowers during the time I was in the hospital. May God bless each one of you.

Jim Martin and family.

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for the kindness, visits, cards, flowers and gifts while I was in the hospital and since I've been home. May God richly bless each one is my prayer.

Mrs. Maurice Cain.

We really appreciate your busines. Pierce Farm Supply.

LOIS HARDY IN LEVELLAND TUESDAY

Mrs. Lois Hardy was in Levelland and Lubbock Tuesday taking care of business.

GEO. WHITTEN GROWS LONG STAPLE COTTON

George Whitten was in Ropes Tuesday displaying a part of a stalk of long staple cotton.

The branches of the stalk which he brought in were loaded with bolls.

Mr. Whitten said he had been experimenting with long staple cotton for the past three years and that he had been successful in growing it, stating that this year the three acres on which he has his test plot would make from a bale and three-quarters to two bales per acre.

Long staple cotton raised by Mr. Whitten in 1960 brought above 38 cents per pound.

"There is no question in my mind," stated Mr. Whitten, "but that long staple cotton can be grown on the South Plains, and this next year I intend to plant a large acreage of it."

FAIR WINNERS

We failed to give the following fair winners:

C. K. Teaff won 2nd place with calves.

In the Agriculture division Paula McCormick won first with cashaw; 2nd place with higar.

Bill McCormick won third with higar; 1st place with sunflower.

We have all the electrical instruments to check your electric pumps. Pierce Farm Supply.

ATTEND FUNERAL AT POST TUESDAY

Ray Martin, accompanied by his father, M. W. Martin, were in Post on Tuesday where they attended the funeral services of Walter Brown, aged 83. Mr. Brown was a brother-in-law of M. W. Martin.

\$100 FREE IN ROPES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 4:02.

We have 31 pupils in our room now. There are 16 boys and 15 girls. There are 19 Latin Americans and 12 Anglos. Most of us are making progress in our work.

One reading group has a new reader and our workbooks are ordered. We have a table with Hockley County Library books on it.

On one bulletin board we display our best work. Shirleen Butner had the best illustration of a story we had read in our readers. It was Tom Thumb riding in the ear of a horse.

We are having fun telling stories about pictures we have displayed on a bulletin board. We can use our imagination on these. We got the idea from Mrs. Wallace.

Both third grade students will sing tomorrow for P-TA. We will sing four groups of songs. They are clown song, a novelty song, singing game songs, and patriotic songs. We will be glad for all mothers and fathers to come and hear us sing.

We made some experiments in Science this week. We observed that some things will rust in water and some will not. We also observed that some things dissolve in water and some do not.

GRAND JURY FOR OCTOBER 9, 1961

Those from Ropes who are called to serve on the grand jury October 9, 1961 are G. W. Sosebee and J. R. Smith.

Our well truck is ready to go anywhere. Pierce Farm Supply.

CALL 3711

If you have visitors, if you go visiting, if you have or know of a blessed event, if you are getting married, or one of your friends is getting married, call 3711. We want the news and we do appreciate you calling us - that is why we have a telephone

Read the Ads.

FURNED ROPES CITIZEN RITES ARE HELD

Cortie Coffman, 58, resident of Cochran County since 1941, died at 6:20 a.m. Sunday in Methodist Hospital at Lubbock of complications following a lung operation.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Methodist Church at Morton with the Rev. J. E. Harrell of Amarillo, the Rev. Clarence Stephens of Hale Center, and the Rev. Floyd Dunn, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in Morton Memorial Cemetery.

Coffman moved to the Morton area from Ropesville. He farmed eight miles south west of Morton. He was a native of Goree.

Survivors include his wife, Cristine; two sons, Virgil Coffman and Ken Coffman, both of Morton; a sister, Mrs. Mary Harlan of Littlefield; two brothers, Orb Coffman and Buster Coffman, both of Goree; and four grandchildren.

We will pick up and deliver your stalk cutter or sand fighter free through October if they need overhauling.

Pierce Farm Supply.

SCHOOL MENU FOR OCTOBER 9 - 13

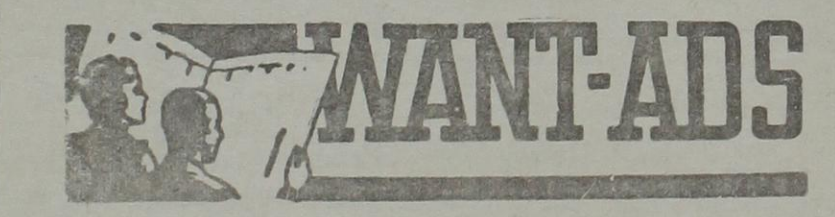
Monday: Salmon croquettes, baked potatoes, buttered green peas, blackberry cobbler, light bread and milk.

Tuesday: Meat balls, spaghetti and tomato sauce, baked beans, canned fruit, hot rolls, butter and milk.

Wednesday: Pinto beans with weiners, scalloped potatoes, cabbage slaw, ice cream, cornbread and milk.

Thursday: Meat casserole, pork and beans, buttered spinach, ice box cookies, hot rolls, butter and milk.

Friday: Fried chicken, buttered potatoes, green beans, jello, light bread and milk.



BIDS WANTED-

The Ropes School Board will accept bids on the old concession stand at regular meeting November 6, 1961. Send your bid to O. V. Fuller in sealed envelope. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Riojas Dept. Store is now selling many different kinds of magazines.

We are well equipped to do your blacksmithing and

welding. Pierce Farm Supply.

FOR SALE OR RENT-

Two bed room modern house. See D'wayne Tibbits or call PO 2-2009, or write 1517 East Main, Lubbock.

FOR SALE-

Duroc weaning pigs. See N. G. Ryals, five miles east of Ropes or call UN 3-2681, Lubbock. These pigs are subject to register.

WANTED-

Music and voice students. Call Mrs. Lois Hardy at 4211, Ropesville.

WANTED

Dealer for good Texaco Service Station. Doing good gallonage. Located in Ropesville. See or write E. T. Cloe, phone 3451, Ropes, or phone 998-4166, Tahoka, Texas.

LOST IN ROPES

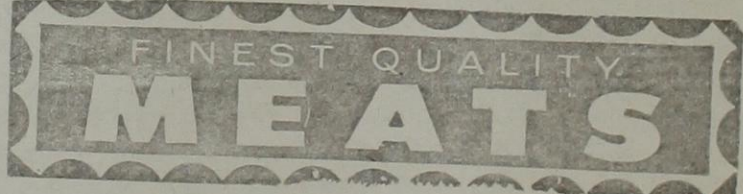
A billfold containing driver's license made out to V. H. McRorey, courtesy card made out to Roy McRorey, about nine dollars in money. Keep the money and return the billfold to V. H. McRorey at Smith Auto Service in Ropesville.

SPECIALS

FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

SHURFRESH	ONLY
BISCUITS, 12 CANS	.95
SHURFRESH	ONLY
OLEO, 5 FOR	.95
SHURFINE BLACKEYED	300 SIZE CAN
PEAS	2 FOR .25
SHURFINE	300 SIZE CAN
HOMINY	3 FOR .25
VAN CAMPS	300 SIZE CAN
PORK & BEANS	2 FOR .25
LIBBYS VIENNA	ONLY
SAUSAGE	5 FOR \$1
LIPTON	ONE-HALF POUND BOX
TEA	.75
SOFLIN FACIAL	400 COUNT
TISSUE,	.19
FOLGERS	TWO POUNDS
COFFEE	1.29
SHURFINE	ONLY
GREEN BEANS POTATQES 2 FOR	.29
COLORADO PINTO	8 POUNDS
BEANS,	.85
ARMOURS	12 OUNCE CAN
TREET	.45

CRUSHED ICE FOR SALE- SCREENED-NO SNOW.



FRYERS	POUND	.32
FRANKS, POUND		.55
SLAB BACON, LB.		.57
CHUCK ROAST	POUND	.49
ROUND STEAK' LB.		.79

BARBECUE EVERY SATURDAY
DOUBLE STAMPS EVERY WEDNESDAY
EVANS & SIMS
GROCERY and MARKET

NOTICE . . .

TAX STATEMENTS

ARE BEING MAILED OUT BY

CITY OF ROPES

IF YOUR

TAXES ARE PAID BY OCTOBER 31st

THERE WILL BE

A DISCOUNT OF 3%

If Paid by November 30th, a 2% Discount

If Paid by December 31st, a 1% Discount

AFTER JANUARY 31, 1962

There will be a Penalty Added

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YOUR FURNITURE NEED REPAIRING?

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I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Motorists can now have
their vehicles safety inspected
for the 1962 Inspection
Sticker.

Captain Alan Johnson of
the Motor Vehicle Inspection
Service, Texas Department
of Public Safety, said today
that over 5,000 inspection
stations have started in-
specting more than four and
one-half million vehicles
coming under the provisions
of the Motor Vehicle Inspec-
tion Act. All such vehicles
must display the new safety
sticker by April 16, 1962.

Johnson said, "We feel
that the vehicle inspection
program in Texas has proved
a deterrent to vehicle acci-
dents on our streets and
highways." He urged all mo-
torists to get their vehicles
inspected before the bad
weather of winter begins
when it is so essential to
have vehicles in safe operat-
ing condition.

"It takes just a few min-
utes to have a vehicle safety
checked," Johnson stated,
"yet those few minutes thus
spent today could mean the
saving of someone's life to-
morrow."

Johnson noted that the
per cent of accidents in
which vehicle defects were
causative factors has been
cut approximately in half
since the program was start-
ed in Texas.

—o—o—

JIM MARTIN IS RETURNED HOME

Jim Martin, who entered
St. Mary's Hospital in Lub-
bock several days ago suf-
fering from a heart attack,
was returned to his home in
Ropes Tuesday, and is re-
ported to be recovering sat-
isfactorily.

The doctor gave him strict
orders, however, to remain
in bed two weeks.

—o—o—

ROPES NEEDLE CLUB MEETS

The Ropes Needle Club met
this past Thursday in the
home of Mrs. Otto Chitwood.
During the meeting a quilt
was quilted. Members pre-
sent were Meses. Hayslip, J.
C. Chitwood, Rogers, Bob
Thomas, E. Exum, James
Means, Jr., Sam Whitener,
and one visitor, Mrs. L. S.
Rosser.

—o—o—

METHODIST LADIES ENJOY SOCIAL

The ladies of the Meth-
odist Church enjoyed a Sun-
day School social in the
home of Mrs. Bessie Curry
on Thursday of last week.

Refreshments were served
to Meses. W. H. Still, Cope-
land, Honssinger, Kimberlin,
Bob Thomas, Strickland, L.
S. Rosser, Rev. and Mrs. J.
Young and the hostess, Mrs.
Curry.

—o—o—

Read the ads in the Plainsman,
and trade at home.

—o—o—

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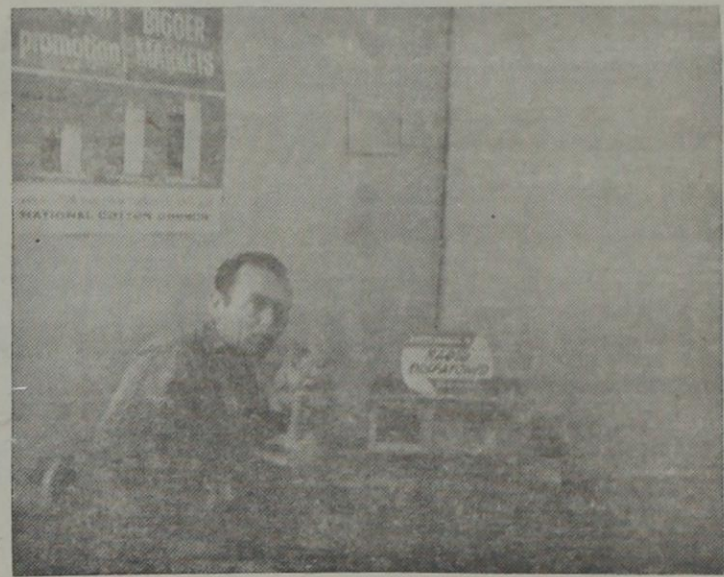
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have Installed a Radio Station and equipped new
Pickups with Radios, and all you have to do is call us
and we will send a trailer to your field. When you
want the trailer hauled back to the Gin, call us and
we will dispatch a Pickup to bring it to the GIN.

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THE ROPES PLAINSMAN

Published every Thursday
at the Plainsman Office in
Ropesville, Hockley County,
Texas.

Irene Morris Publisher
Troy Morris Editor

Entered as Second Class
Matter at the Post Office in
Ropesville, Texas, as under
the Acts of Congress March
3, 1897.

Subscription Price
One Year \$2.00

Freedom in Truth

"Ye shall know the truth, sins of our parents) that
and the truth shall make separate us from God. Sin
you free"

Jno. 8:32 is transgression . . . not trans-

mission. Men by sin go a-

stray, they are not born

"Whosoever committeth sin

astray through the natural

transgresseth also the law: birth, Rom. 3:12. At the

for sin is the transgression judgment day each of us will

of the law." I Jno. 3:4. give account of himself unto

Adam, in the beginning of God for his own deeds and

time transgressed the law of not those of Adam, Rom. 14:

God, "Therefore as through 12. The wages or harvest of

one man sin entered into sin is death. Rom. 6:23.

the world, and death through Man can be obedient just as

sin; and so death passed he can be disobedient. Jesus

unto all men, for that all is the author of eternal sal-

sinned." Rom. 5:12. It is vation to all them that obey

not sinful ancestry, nor sin- him. Heb. 5:8-9. It was

ful surroundings, but dis- Christ that should save his

obeying law that makes men people from their sins, Matt.

sinner. "The soul that sin- 1:21. He shed his blood for

neth, it shall die." Ezek. 13: the remission of the sins of

20. We will not have to ans- the world, Matt. 26:28. His

wer for the other fellows blood was shed in his death.

sins, "The son shall not People are baptized into his

bear the iniquity of the death for the remission of

father, neither shall the sins to walk a new life . . . a

father bear the iniquity of life free from past sins, Rom.

the son." Ezek. 18:20. Sin 6:3-4; Acts 2:38. THINK ON

isn't inherited but commit- these things.

ted. It is our sins (not the

—o—o—

BRONCHO GAS COMPANY

Ropesville, Texas

Ulys Gregg, Manager

PROPANE, Gallon ..7c

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The Best In Latest Gin Machinery

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GENE McKEE, Manager

Ropes Farmers Co-op Gin

DIRECTORS:

W. W. JONES, President
EDWARD JORDAN

G. W. SOSEBEE
BILLY W. CARTER

H. JOE SCHWARTZ
E. B. McKEE, Manager

MY EXPERIENCE WITH A KLEPTOMANIC

by Don W. Hillis

(This article was turned in by Rev. Roy McCoy)

I would never have dreamed he was a thief! Our acquaintance had all been so friendly and casual. It started one evening at my front door. It was a Tuesday in August. "An entertainer turned salesman," was his smiling approach to me. But I was not to be taken off my guard so easily. I prodded him about his background. "Who are you with?" I asked. It came out that he had ties with several of the largest distilleries. He also had an account with a prosperous tobacco company. "At present," he continued, "I'm an agent for a leading national magazine."

So I let him come into the living room and listened to him for a couple of hours. On learning of his connections, I took pains to tell him of my Christian faith and love for Christ.

"There is no place in my life for such things as liquor or tobacco," I told him deliberately. "As a Christian, my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." I was sure these words would bother or affront him. But no, he was totally undisturbed by my convictions. He would hold

his views, I could hold mine. This status quo was to mark all our subsequent discussions.

In a light-hearted moment, he slipped off on an off-color story. I was quick to inform him such things did not go in my home. In fact, I cut him off sharply.

As you may imagine, I had reservations on the truth of many of his stories. Still, I must admit his experiences often excited me. After having an interesting evening together I invited him to come back the following night. "I may have a helpful influence on him," was my naive hope.

It took my wife's words to remind me that his return visit conflicted with our church Midweek Prayer meeting. "I should attend," I confessed, "but I must stand by the invitation I have given this friend." I shared with her some of the things he had said to me. Well, to put it lightly, she was reluctant to accept him. "I just don't trust him," she would say. She grew steadily more concerned as he took up more and more of our family life.

My entire day was boring in comparison with my evenings with this character. He had an imagination that was captivating. I would sit and laugh myself sick at all his

crazy experiences. There were other times that my hair would stand on end. His scrapes with the FBI and the law were absolutely breath-taking.

If his stories were true, he was also an "extra" in motion pictures. But he couldn't talk about this without including sex. This forced me to cut him off time and time again.

Then he began to affect my teenage son Charles and my nine year old daughter, Eloise. They just couldn't wait to catch his latest quip or some hair-raising tale. They would have stayed up all hours if we had allowed it. All this distraction was hurting their studies and did their health little good. I began to worry about this fellow's presence in our home.

And then it came. The "straw that broke the camel's back". One day several of my best books turned up missing. I searched in vain for them. "This fellow may be something of a thief," I concluded. "If he is," I concluded, "who can tell what else he's taken from us?"

It all looked very suspicious. The next day I was so wrought up about it I decided to check on him next door. Sure enough, he had taken things there too. I

was amazed by his subtle maneuvers. They certainly confirmed my wife's original point of view.

In one home he had entered as a religious teacher. "He has revealed the truth of our modern cults," they said. Another neighbor, a salesman down the block knew him as an efficiency expert. "He's showing me the latest gimmicks," he called after me. "The sort of thing a successful salesman can put to use." "He certainly has a lot of ways of getting in," I concluded.

To all of these people I suggested a check of their belongings. Most of them found something missing. At one friend's home I noticed no more Christian magazines. In another the Bible had disappeared. I was surprised to hear that their Sunday and Midweek church service was spent with this fellow. As I left this house the husband told me their family altar was missing too.

A few days later I met this fellow entertaining at a neighbor's. He paid scant attention to me and I was glad for it. I had come to talk with their teen-age daughter about her faith in Christ. Well, this fellow monopolized the whole evening conversation. He stole all serious thinking from her mind and heart. I

was sick about it. Finally, I just had to say a word to the girl's mother about this lack of courtesy. "Oh," she exclaimed, "It's that way all the time." I found also that she had a five-year-old boy who was emotionally mal-adjusted from loss of sleep all from this fellow's visits. I walked home deeply concerned about what I might do.

At long last I realized my visitor was afflicted with kleptomania. Like an inveterate thief, he had stolen my books, magazines and my time. But the chief things missing were my close friendship with Christ and the evenings spent in talking with my family. I'm sure that others are having similar experiences.

Some have lost things of real value, not trifles, but precious family things they once enjoyed together. Spiritual, social and intellectual experiences have been taken from them, replaced by only a moment's crackpot amusement.

This fellow is not at our home now. Though, if I could keep him in his place, he would be quite harmless. Kleptomaniacs are not always deliberately bad. Even this one might profitably drop in with his tidbits of news and a light word or so.

But you must keep your eyes open, or such a person will continually steal things from you.

I still see him now and then at my neighbor's. And he still keeps them laughing or excited hour after hour. I've been trying to recall his name so you will be alerted about him and his many subtle methods. It escapes me, and I'm not sure now that he gave it. But I will never forget his initials. They were "T.V."

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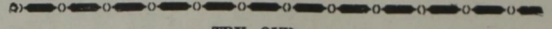
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