

METROPOLITAN



DAVE FORD (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Hock Shop upsets neighborhood

by Robert Lothian

The *Observer* has received several calls from irate neighborhood residents upset with the Hock Shop, a second hand store at 5600 N.E. Union Ave.

The residents complained that they went to the shop after items were stolen from their homes and found the items for sale there, presumably brought in by burglars. Several suggested the store might be a fence operation.

One man, who resides on N. Williams Ave., said he found bicycles belonging to his wife and daughter in the store. "My daughter's bike was just being loaded onto a truck," with many other bikes, he said. He was able to recover the bike after showing Hock Shop owner Dave Ford the bike license.

After a camping tent and backyard barbeque were stolen recently, the man said he stood across the street and watched the store entrance to see if he could catch the person who took his things. "It seems to me he's running a semi-legal fence for a lot of the petty thieves in the neighborhood," he said. "A lot of petty burglary goes right there; I've sat and watched it."

Ford said he is not responsible for the community's burglary problem, and that he has no way to tell if an item is stolen or not. "There's not a second hand store in the city that doesn't have this problem," he said. "When they get one in the area they want to blame it for every crime committed. We don't end up with any more stuff stolen here, in a low income area, than they do in Southeast."

Ford said that if someone can prove an item in his store has been stolen from them he will give it back. They can also contact the police and go through an official process which takes some time and paperwork, he said.

Ford said he provides a service to the community, that even local churches have benefitted from his bargains. "There's no pickets out there," he said.

The shop has had a stormy history since it opened in May, 1983. Complaints from the neighborhood about the store being a possible fence operation surfaced almost immediately, and police visited the store frequently. "They were on me top to bottom," said Ford, trying to put me out of business. "Charging harrasment, Ford slapped the Police Bureau with a lawsuit, which remains under litigation.

Some of the problems may be cleared up by an amendment to the city's 1980 pawn shop ordinance being considered by the City Council. The amendment would require about 400 pawn shops and second hand stores in the city to have a revocable permit, allow police to investigate applicants for a record of theft or fraud, require customers selling property to present identification, require businesses to hold certain property for 15 days be-

Gospel singer Irby tours the south

by Nathaniel Scott

Ten-year-old "Master" Goldie Irby, who has been singing since he was three years old, returned to Portland after performing in Muskegon, Michigan, Memphis, Tennessee, Vickburg, Greenwood and Jackson, Mississippi. The tour also took Irby to parts of South Carolina.

The Midwestern and Southern tour was a first for Irby even though he has toured the West and Pacific Northwest extensively.

He said at one place in Mississippi he sang at a church that sat in the middle of a cotton field. And in Jackson, Mississippi, he was a special guest to WOAD's Second Gospel Festival. WOAD is a Jackson, Mississippi, radio station that plays gospel music 24 hours a day. The festival was held July 27 and 28.

In addition to appearing at the gospel festival, Irby met and sang with the Jackson Southern Airs and the Archie Singers. Later this month, Irby and gospel singer Shirley Caesar will be in concert in South Carolina.

A native of Portland, Irby is a fifth grader at Irvington grade school. He

has recorded on a 45 single record: "Bless Me, O Lord, Bless Me" and "The Day Will Come."

Irby has written two poems and directs the adult choir at the Greater Faith Baptist Church.

He said the tour was tiresome but he enjoyed seeing things he hadn't seen before.

"I want to be a singer and a concert pianist when I grow up," said Irby, who is teaching himself to play the piano.

Irby said, "Sometimes I feel happy; sometimes sad when I sing certain songs."

Irby's mother, Lamodia, said, "Everybody wants to be his (Irby's) manager. A man from New York offered us \$50,000 to sign him to a contract."

However, Rose Trice, Irby's grandmother, said, "If we find someone who wouldn't take up too much of his time and treat him right, we will sign him to a contract." The family's main concern is that Irby's career doesn't fall into the hands of someone who is out to exploit him.

In the meantime, the family is managing his career.



GOLDIE IRBY (photo: Richard J. Brown)

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