

Swindlers Rob Old Folks With 'Extra Income' Tale

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Swindlers are growing rich by shattering the nest eggs of old folks. Taking advantage of an elderly person's desire to increase his meager income or pension, the swindlers promise to set him up in a money-making enterprise. All the victim has to do is make one "small" investment. The result is that thousands of oldsters, many of them feeble, lose their life savings each year.

These rackets have become so prevalent that the Senate Permanent Investigating subcommittee will soon hold hearings on a special anti-fraud bill.

One nationwide fraud aimed at old folks is the vending machine racket. Shysters send their victims glowing reports about big profits that can be made from the mechanical vendors.

For investments ranging from \$600 to \$3,000, depending upon the number of machines purchased, they promise returns of up to \$3,000 a year. Often they promise to help put the machines in money-making locations which are advertised as the owner's exclusive territory.

It's not until the victim shells out his money that he discovers he has been taken for a sucker. In addition to learning that vending machines don't begin to make the expected profits, he often finds that the company's promise to locate them is phony. Even if shysters do keep their end of the bargain, they often pick sites like out-of-the-way garages and warehouses.

Harry A. Babcock, executive director of the Federal Trade Commission, explains that the scheme has great appeal for old persons. "They welcome the idea of servicing vending machines because they are told it requires only a few hours of work each day, and that it is within their physical capacity," he says.

"They also are led to believe they will be able to earn several hundred dollars a month on an investment of two or three thousand dollars. To them this would be a Godsend. But their hopes of such profits are soon shattered, and they find that their savings have gone for a sorry investment."

Babcock also declares, "To me it's a mean, dirty trick to sell out old people. It's a cowardly sort of thing. And I have a low boiling point for the people who do it."

In the past 21 months, the

FTC has forced 14 vending machine companies to stop phony advertising. Several other companies are now under investigation.

Another racket which fleeces many oldsters has been dubbed the "Vanity Press." This swindle convinces the victim that he is

the greatest writer in the history of American literature. Through the use of brochures or newspaper and magazine ads, swindlers invite self-styled authors to submit their manuscripts for evaluation. They promise to publish the manuscript in book form if it is acceptable.

Of course, the manuscript is almost always unacceptable. In fact, the victim is sometimes told it is the best thing that the firm's executive vice-president has read in months. Then the shysters explain that all the victim has to do to get his book in print is to "share" in the publishing expense.

For investments ranging from \$500 to \$6,000, he is led to believe that huge royalties are a strong possibility. The gimmick is that instead of sharing the publishing costs, the victim is actually paying all expenses plus a profit to the company.

The phony home-nursing course is a racket which victimizes elderly women who are still active and want to work. For \$150 to \$250, a woman buys a nursing correspondence course and a promise of employment after she finishes it. After she completes the course and receives a diploma, she learns that no hospital recognizes it.

Investigators explain that many firms which advertise vending machines, publishing services and correspondence courses are legitimate. To find out which ones are not, they advise you to contact your local Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce or the FTC.



VENDING MACHINE is child's play for this lass, but it's tough on old folks who fall for shyster's promises of big profits they can make from the mechanical vendors.

School Aides Face Recall

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Three segregationist members of the Little Rock School Board today faced the threat of recall in the wake of a purge of 44 teachers in the city's integration-troubled school system.

About 400 patrons of the Forest Park Elementary school Wednesday night shouted approval of a plan to seek a recall election against Board President Ed I. McKinley and members Robert Laster and Ben Rowland.

Mekinley, Laster and Rowland, acting after three other board members walked out of a meeting in protest, voted Tuesday not to renew the contracts of 44 teachers, including the Forest Park principal, Mrs. Frances S. Wood.

Acting as the Forest Park Parent-Teacher Assn., the group first adopted resolutions censuring the three segregationist board members for the purge and commending Mrs. Wood. Then acting as school patrons they voted to cir-

culate the recall petitions under a segregationist-backed 1958 law designed to facilitate removal of board members suspected of integrationist tendencies.

The three have refused to give specific reasons for the purge, except to say that some teachers were fired for "remarks they made about integration."

OUT ON A LIMB COLUMBUS, Ohio (UPI)—Ohio Penitentiary newspaper columnist Herb Cheatham predicted the Indians will clobber the Yankees for the American League pennant. He added:

"It is hoped the Cleveland club doesn't let this writer down after going this far out on a limb. There ain't no place here to hide."

Eight all-steel cabooses now in use on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad in Maine were troop sleepers during World War II.

Injunction Turned Down

NEW YORK (AP) — A Supreme Court justice has turned down a motion for temporary injunction brought by Singer Lena Horne to bar the sale of an album of "Porgy and Bess" in which she is heard with Harry Belafonte.

Miss Horne contended that her voice and that of Belafonte's were recorded separately and later united in duets by technicians of the Radio Corp. of America.

In her move for an injunction and \$100,000 damages against RCA, Miss Horne termed the recording "damaging to my reputation and my career."

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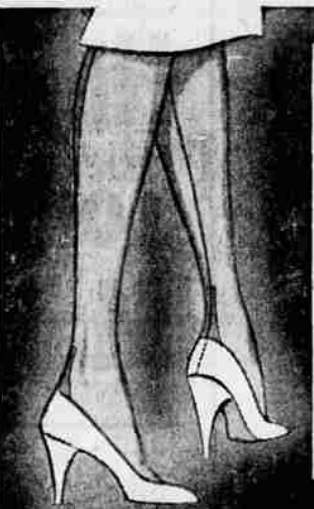
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WARDS

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