



Loony Larcenies Of 1960

By MEADER G. PATTINGTON
NEW YORK (NEA)—A woman in Meridian, Miss., complained to police that thieves stole all the concrete pieces in her driveway which was broken up in a street-paving project.

And while police tried to lay that 1960 Loony Larceny to rest, puzzled thieves left the contents of eight cartons in a field near Lockport, N.Y. The contents? Jigsaw puzzles.

Not a trace was found of the careful burglar in Dallas who robbed a tavern of 252 cans of beer and 174 breath-cleansing chlorophyll tablets.

Five thief-proof locks were lifted in Gothenburg, Sweden, at an exhibition called "Stop the Thief."

In 1960, a 16-foot aluminum canoe was stolen. The owner told police that it had a hole in the bottom—the only patch being a Band-Aid.

And in Toledo, Ohio, two 20-gallon garbage cans were stolen; both of them were filled to the brim with garbage.

Car thefts had their place. A three-time loser explained that he only stole cars when he became too drunk to walk home.

Cars still need engines to run. Thieves pushed one a quarter of

a mile for a quiet getaway in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, only to find that it had no engine. Hoodwinked again!

Pity the poor watchdog, a home near Von Ormy, Tex., was robbed of \$150 worth of materials plus one object whose worth was not easily determined—the owner's watchdog. And police caught two escaped convicts in St. Petersburg, Fla., in the company of the prison bloodhound.

Stores came in for their share of odd cases: a thief in Huntington, W. Va., tried to break into a store so that he could get back and finish the season with a local penitentiary basketball team. Discharged on a petty larceny charge for eating candy, bananas, string beans, strawberries and sugar-coated ham in a supermarket the indignant eater told the court "Why I've been eating there for more than five years."

Told by a Detroit grocery clerk that the store next door had more money, the appreciative thief thanked the clerk and went to call on that next "customer." He was promptly arrested. And a loyal store detective in Kingston-on-Thames, England, was arrested for shoplifting from a neighborhood store.

Some burglars used every break they could get. After breaking into a Dayton, Ohio, Do-It-Yourself store, the enterprising yeggs used the tools on sale to crack open a safe; they took more than \$1,000. And a private eye in Detroit complained that a thief had stolen his detective kit containing fingerprinting tools, diploma, badge and magnifying glass.

A Reno patrolman investigating two suspicious characters was robbed and tied up in his own

handcuffs. And a library in Pullman, Wash., reported a stolen book. The title? "Cheating—How It Can Be Stopped."

A Los Angeles owner of a coin-operated laundry was fined when he tried to steal \$1,500 worth of heirloom jewelry that a customer was washing in one of the machines.

In Vancouver, B.C., thieves found with nearly 900 coins in their pockets, argued that they were hunting for a rare nickel. They were convicted, however, for robbing parking meters.

Another collector in Nashville, Tenn., a postal employee, was arrested for tearing stamps off mail to add to his collection.

Food meant more than money to some robbers. A porter in Hove, England, carrying \$8,000 worth of jewelry and a salmon sandwich, lost only the fish-bread when he was held up. Another thief in Rome, Ga., after stealing milk from a man's front porch, left a note for a delivery of chocolate milk. He took that, too.

An early morning milkman burglar in Brooklyn insisted that he had never robbed a customer.

A restaurant owner, tired of losing a large number of spoons each month, ended the thefts in Vancouver, B.C., when he drilled large holes in the bowls of all his spoons. A detective in Minneapolis, tired by a long stake-out for a female burglary suspect, kept a dinner date with his wife. He recognized the waitress as the suspect and arrested her.

Some thieves lose their nerve. In Sapporo, Japan, a third-story burglar there became so frightened by the height that he yelled for the police to get him down. An-



other accused thief in Denver, returned the money to his victim, thanked him for the loan, said he was not a thief and advised the owner to lock his safe.

And some can talk their way out of any situation. Two gunmen in Yonkers, N.Y., took \$8 from their victim. His hard luck story got him a \$10 return.

A man in Indianapolis, prying a telephone apart with screwdriver, can opener, hammer and mallet, explained that he was only trying to recover a lost dime. In Bowling Green, Ohio, two ransackers caught breaking into the county courthouse explained that they thought it was a church.

Perhaps the looniest larceny of 1960—stolen, one kiss, from a passenger in a car. While the attempt was made by the driver, he crashed into a tree. The passenger's pretty ankle was broken and four teeth were knocked out. It happened in Aberdeen, Scotland.

AVALANCHES KILL FOUR
LENK, Switzerland (UPI)—Four persons were killed and two injured Thursday in snow avalanches in the Swiss and Austrian Alps.

Ten students were buried in a slide in Austria's Styrian Alps. Two were killed and one critically injured. Swiss Dr. Walter Baumgartner and one of his children were killed near here. Another child was injured.

'Let's Get Moms Out Of Schools'

BURLINGTON, Vt. (UPI)—A University of Vermont official says mothers aren't necessarily good educators.

Dr. Raymond V. Phillips, director of the Summer Session and the Evening Division, said "the thing that qualifies a person least to have any notion on how to raise a child is the act of motherhood."

"Yet, these are the 'experts' who would usurp the educational system at the public school level."

Dr. Phillips, a popular speaker for PTA meetings, said the trouble with education today is that "too many of us went to school and therefore consider ourselves experts."

He said "everybody becomes an expert merely by attending school, whether graduating or merely completing first grade. Then they try to supersede the real experts, those trained in education."

Phillips expressed deep dissatisfaction with "the Momism expert who tries to dictate school policy, either through PTA or by belaboring harassed school officials."

"People don't try to tell a contractor how to construct his building or a pilot to fly his plane," he said. "So why do they consider themselves more qualified to run the educational system?"

He also blasted "another popular theory"—that this generation is going to the dogs.

"There is no way to check the student of today against one, say, of 20 years ago to prove that one is better or less educated than the other," he said.

Phillips said he's "all for interest in the schools—but I want fewer experts, less Momism and less condemnation of the present school system and those connected with it."

GOP Chief Confident

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican National Chairman Thruston B. Morton expressed confidence today the GOP can move ahead successfully without any change in its major principles.

The senator from Kentucky called the Nov. 8 defeat of Vice President Richard M. Nixon a temporary setback. He said it was so close it was like losing "the winning touchdown in a questionable play on the goal line."

But Morton, in a speech prepared for a meeting of the GOP National Committee, said the loss has been certified. He added the party's chagrin should not be dismissed lightly, but it also must not be reflected in the party's national conduct in the immediate future.

He said there is unbounded confidence among party leaders at all levels.

Morton called the party's 1960 platform the best in forward-looking Republican thought and said GOP leaders in Congress will press a positive program for the nation.

Tennessee was the last of 11 states to secede from the Union—June 8, 1861. South Carolina led the way on Dec. 20, 1860.

BRITAIN CONSULATE

LONDON (AP)—Britain was reported Thursday night to have barred the United Arab Republic from opening consulates in the East African colonies of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and Aden on the Arabian peninsula. Informed sources say the British fear the U.A.R. wants to use the consular missions to promote anti-British activity.

Is It A Bird? Is It A Plane?

It Could Be A Military Superman

By RAY CROMLEY
WASHINGTON (NEA)—You, too, can be a superman. No tonics. No pills. No exercises. But you might have to join the Army.

Quartermaster Corps scientists are beginning to push for the development of a fantastic metal skeleton which a GI would wear around his body. It would give him super strength, endurance and mobility.

As a GI moved his hands, arms, legs and feet, the power mechanism in this skeleton would be "automatically activated" to

multiply his strength in much the same way as power brakes and power steering increase the power of a car driver.

If the Superman gadget works out as hoped, an ordinary soldier could carry six to eight times as heavy a load, push 10 to 20 times as hard, twist with his wrist 50 times as strongly, grip five times as firmly as he can now.

The "skeleton," it's now believed, would consist of splint-like attachments about the arms, body and legs. These attachments would pivot at shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, knees and ankles. The wearer could climb

crawl, run and lift "naturally."

For combat use, the mechanism "would be designed to convert each soldier into a fast-moving and highly-mobile one-man tank."

The military men hope this Superman gadget someday will enable GIs to make long marches with heavy equipment. A GI could walk "tirelessly" over rugged mountain trails and climb "impossible" cliffs. He could dig into the rubble of bombed-out cities and ports, toss aside large beams, move giant pieces of wreckage in superhuman rescue and repair jobs, and clear roads of debris with ease.

He could carry and fire large recoilless rifles, single-handedly load or unload heavy artillery and sizeable missile rounds, trucks and ships for a long time effortlessly. He could squash an enemy soldier between his bare hands.

The Army figures that a successful Superman gadget would have a "significant" impact upon the handling of heavy, large, unwieldy military supplies such as airdropped cargo and missile components.

The Army wants this gear to be easy to get in and out of in case it breaks down.

Engineers looking into this Superman rig have high hopes. But they think it might take a

decade before it is perfected and produced in quantity.

There are dozens of very difficult problems to solve. A powerful but light fuel and motor must be found. The skeleton, to be practical, probably should be made of strong, light and flexible metals. Breakdowns embarrassing to troops in battle have to be prevented.

Already, one company, the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory of Cornell University at Buffalo, has sent in a conceptual proposal for the Superman. The Army is now looking it over.

Why is this "Servo-Soldier" skeleton needed? As war gets more complicated, the GI becomes more of a truck horse loaded down with gear.

The military men are making his rifle lighter, but they're talking about adding radiation, bacteriological, and chemical warfare protection; heavy armored shoes to protect against land mines and maybe even some air conditioning.

They're asking him to carry more ammunition and, in many cases, more communications equipment. All this will be added to the GI's present load.

As one Pentagon wag puts it: "If the GI in 1965 or 1970 carries everything he's supposed to, Superman rig have high hopes. But they think it might take a



'SERVO SOLDIER' could do 10 or 20 times more than the average GI could do today according to this conception by Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Inc., of Buffalo, N. Y.

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