

“Patriot” Kluxers Tricky Salesmen

Many Adroit Kleagles Seek to Capitalize Masonic Affiliations by Mysterious Catch-Penny Allusions; Circulate Fake Reports of Race Troubles and Use Film Picturing Solution of Bolshevism by the Masked Night Riders; Lure of Catch-Penny Mystery Played Up in Klan Advertising.

Lure of Catch-Penny Mystery Played Up in Klan Advertising

Open advertising for members has her hair was clipped off and left by the roadside where the deed was committed. Thanks to a helping hand always extended, she has found a home in the city of Houston."

In Dallas, Texas, the following circumstances are reported:

"Since the advent into the south and more especially in Texas, of the Ku Klux Klan, there have been efforts made to tie the proposition onto the coattails of leading members of the Masonic fraternity, leaving the impression, both with the public and with younger Masons, that Freemasonry was sponsoring the Klan.

Soileitors approaching a prospect would mention men of prominence as Klansmen, when as a matter of fact some of those mentioned were sitting up nights to fight the spread of the Ku Klux Klan. The climax came last spring when, by deceitful methods and practices, local newspapers and public speakers were duped during a convention of the National Shrine Directors' association.

"Someone got onto the Shrine Directors' printed program a slogan which read:

"The year the owls were so bad." Unsuspecting, everybody credited the use of the sentence to some new-made Shriner who was exercising a fertile brain. A well-known Dallas man, making a speech, borrowed the phrase and the speech was reproduced in one of the leading periodicals of the United States.

"Dallas newspapers also kept 'The year the owls were so bad' prominent in their write-ups of the Shrine Directors' Convention. But the scheme to use that Masonic gathering as an advertising vehicle for the Ku Klux Klan did not come out of the bag till the Dallas Klan issued its first communication to the 'alien' public, and there, under the date of issuance, was written, 'The year the owls were so bad.'

"To go further into this tricky attempt to tie Ku Klux and Masonry together, a Dallas newspaper received a blank envelope containing five \$100 bills and a letter asking that the money be delivered to a local charitable institution. This letter, over the date of the month, bore the line, 'The year the owls were so bad.' The money could well have been sent directly to the local baby camp for which it was destined, but probably would not have found its way into the news columns as quickly, and regardless of their elaborate pretensions of secrecy, these Klan organizers love publicity.

"On the back of this letter was the insignia of the Royal Arch Chapter, a York Rite Masonic body, imprinted on sealing wax. This mark was traced to the chief organizer, then working in Dallas, he having placed it there with his own coin, which he obtained on receiving his rank in that branch of the Masonic order.

"Good men have been induced to join the Dallas Klan on the claim that within its ranks would be found certain men of local Masonic prominence, only to find they had been misled. Young sons just over 21 have been urged to join because the Klan had the endorsement of their fathers, when, as stated, these fathers had been staying up nights to combat the Ku Kluxism which has been so bad in Texas."

"As a result of the tactics used by the Klan organizers in Dallas, many of its members have withdrawn from the membership rolls, and the movement that way is increasing. Official edicts have gone forth from the leaders of the Masonic order to the effect that Ku Kluxism is tinged and marked with practices unbecoming a Mason.

"To the shame of a free citizenship, Texas is the home of the only white woman so far known as the victim of a band of masked men. This little woman, living in an East Texas village called Tenaha, was stripped to the skin, tarred and feathered, and

gave him an idea on which he seized as a mail-order method of securing lists of available timber for his committees.

A medicine vender, with a large and very bored looking rattlesnake, was giving to a lounging audience a long and clever lecture on the curative virtues of oils extracted from similar reptiles, and which, bottled, he offered them "at the ridiculously low price" of 25 cents a bottle.

It will be remembered that the mystic word "KOTOP" — interpreted as "Knights of the Open Palm" — is printed on the little red membership button of the order.

Booms Kotop & Co.

To every known or suspected Klansman in his territory Fry sent a circular which ran as follows:

"KOTOP & CO.

"Manufacturers and Distributors of

"Old Reliable Snake Oil."

"Dear Friend:

"The writer has been made sales manager for the above firm in handling its 'Old Reliable Snake Oil' for Johnson City and upper East Tennessee. Your name appearing on the books of the company as a satisfied customer who has found 'Snake Oil' valuable for rheumatism, constipation, sore throat, dyspepsia and many other ailments, I am writing you to let you know that I am on the job selling 'Snake Oil' and will be delighted to fill your orders for same.

"Now, friend, having tried 'Snake Oil' yourself, it should be your duty to place this wonderful remedy before all of your friends who you think might be cured by it. I therefore would deeply appreciate it if you would, in the inclosed envelope, send me the names of as many of your friends as possible who have not used our marvelous remedy. I will see that a salesman calls on them and offers them a chance to become customers.

"ALSO, please note especially, I desire to establish sales agencies for 'Snake Oil' in each of the following places:

"Kingsport, Erwin, Elizabethtown, Jonesboro, Morristown, Greenville, Newport. You probably have from one to ten or more personal friends in those towns whom you would like to have told about the 'Old Reliable Snake Oil.'

"Therefore, friend, please send me, by return mail, the names of your Johnson City friends and those living in the above towns whom you think might become valuable customers of my firm which desires to bring to suffering humanity everywhere the most splendid medicine that has ever been offered the public.

"Yours very truly,

"H. P. FRY, Colonial Hotel."

Tomorrow The Star will report how an attempt was made to draw together into another and adjunct "Invisible" order all former military and naval aviators in the United States, and all persons interested in aviation to the extent of \$10, which was to have been the initiation fee, how Emperor Simmons was made Commander of this new order, and how attempts were unsuccessfully made to increase its prestige and attractiveness by inducing Gen. John J. Pershing and Gen.

Menoher, Chief of Army Aviation, to accept appointments as Honorary Commanders.

The target spider in the world was discovered at Sumatra; Its body was nine inches in circumference, and it had legs 17 inches in length.

Mrs. B. Geer has removed her

manicure parlor from the Flower

Gift Shop, 44 No. Stone Ave., to 25

West Pennington St. (next to Steinfeld's grocery) and would esteem the

continued patronage of her many

patrons.—Adv.

Do Late to Classify

FOUR-ROOM house with two screen porches, four blocks from University. 1101 E. 8th St.

SMALL apartment, nicely furnished, sleeping porch; good location. 413 N. Main. Phone 1895.

WANTED—A man with some selling ability. Commission job; permanent if makes good. Room 28 Willard Hotel between 6 and 7 evenings.

UNFURNISHED 5-room brick house on North Side, half block from street car line, two blocks from school. Phone 333-M.

ONE nicely furnished room, suitable for two gentlemen, one block from postoffice. Meals served in house. Also two sleeping porches. Men only. No sick. Phone Mrs. Phelps, 380. 175 E. 12th.

FOR SALE—Good 1919 Ford cheap if taken at once. Call for Mrs. Phelps, 135 S. 4th Ave.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE A PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1921,
AS THANKSGIVING DAY.

In accordance with the oldest of American customs, and obedient to the prompting of our hearts, we pause once more at the close of autumn to publicly express, through observance of another Thanksgiving Day, our sincere gratitude to Almighty God for His watchful care and continued blessings.

It may be that during the past year we have allowed our minds to dwell on conditions calculated to disturb our peace and at times to cause us to grow pessimistic. Yet only to the careless thinker will it appear that we have small reason to be thankful at this time. As a nation we cannot find anywhere on this globe a people who have been more favored with the good things of life, or who are more happily situated.

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