

L-R

2 Apr 1964

Kenneth Smith

Ray Wood

Jonas Lee

Bill Luke

Lowell Bass

Neil Hudson

Ted Dennis



3 Dec 1964

L-2

Chief of Police Gene Hiner  
Kenneth Smith  
Neil Hudson  
Robert Metich  
Don Sneddon  
Lowell Bass  
Wally Everist  
Ted Dennis  
Roy Wood  
Mayor Don Storey

Marijuana spread Jan 30, 1969

## Meridian Optimists hear drug problem in Ada county explained by sheriff

Marijuana is the "wolf in sheep clothing" as far as juvenile delinquency is concerned, Sheriff Paul Bright told members of the Meridian Optimist club at their meeting last week.

In talking on the general subject of the narcotic situation in the county, Bright said that the public is not aware of the spread of the use of marijuana and that children in grade school and junior high schools are using it.

"We concern ourselves about our children drinking and then driving automobiles," he said, "but we do not seem to worry about them smoking marijuana while they are driving. Many accidents can be traced to this cause."

He said that youngsters can "get away" with smoking the weed because cigaret smoking is common among juveniles and no attention is paid to it.

Bright had samples of various drugs and narcotics seized in Ada county, together with the various "tools" used to inject or take the drugs.

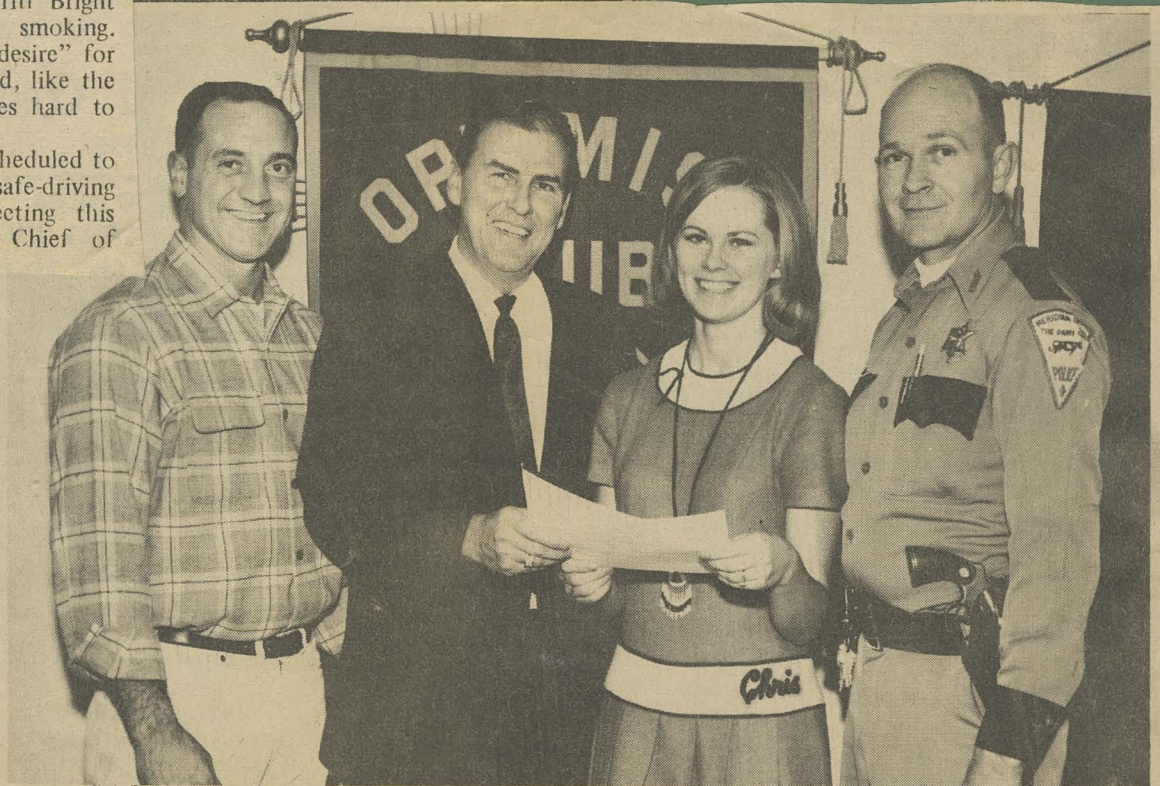
He emphasized the fact that the use of drugs is not confined to the children from low and medium-income homes. He said they have encountered many cases in the county involving juveniles from the "best" families.

Asked if the use of marijuana was habit forming, Sheriff Bright compared it to cigaret smoking. He said an "increasing desire" for the weed is built up and, like the use of tobacco, becomes hard to stop.

The Optimists were scheduled to open their youth safe-driving campaign at their meeting this Thursday noon when Chief of

Police Gene Hiner is to announce the young driver selected for the month's safe driver award. The Optimists will make an award to a young Meridian driver each month during the campaign.

Glenn Peterson, president of the Meridian Athletic Association, is to be the speaker at the meeting.



### Optimist safety driver award goes to girl

CHRIS AMIDON, a Meridian high school student, was the first young driver to be selected by Gene Hiner, chief of police, for the Optimist club "Safety Driver of the Month" award. The Meridian group plans to make a similar award

each month to encourage safe and courteous driving by young people of the area. Mayor Don Storey is presenting the award as Babe Anduiza, Optimist president, left, and Chief Heiner look on. (Horton photo)

Feb. 6, 1969

# Information From D.C. Aids Arrest

Idaho State Police announced Monday a man identified as a probation violator was arrested in Meridian by use of information from the National Crime Information Center in Washington, D.C.

Taking part in the arrest of a man allegedly using the name of James L. Evans Sunday were Idaho State Police, the FBI and Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner. An FBI agent said the man had been convicted under the Dyer Act, transporting a stolen car across a state line.

The apprehension started when ISP Cpl. Bill Morgan asked for information on a car bearing an Illinois license. He was informed the car was registered to a man wanted by the FBI.

Morgan said the woman driver of the car, who claimed to be the suspect's wife, could not produce the vehicle registration and said her husband was in Oregon but would return to Meridian.

The officers awaited his return and he was taken into custody by the FBI about 7 p.m. and brought to the Ada County jail.

The FBI said the suspect's correct name was Kenneth C. Brantley.

## Second Section of

# Valley News-Times

Thursday, February 27, 1969

Meridian, Idaho

### Tourist note

## Youthful travelers get second chance from Meridian police and lumber firm

Six young fellows probably are at work today at the Boeing plant in Seattle, instead of sitting in the Meridian lockup, because a couple of Meridian folks decided to give the kids a break instead of obeying the letter of the law.

A Pine Street resident called Gene Hiner, chief of police, one morning last week to complain that two one-half gallons of milk had been stolen from her porch. A little later, the driver of a bakery truck informed Chief Hiner that 16 boxes of doughnuts, with 10 in each box, had been stolen from his truck while he was making a delivery.

Still a little later, Chief Hiner saw a car parked near the railroad station with Kansas license plates. There were six young men in the car. When he investigated, Hiner found doughnut boxes on the floor and two empty milk containers.

### Car troubles

The boys said they had left Wichita several weeks ago with about \$80 between them and jobs promised for three of them in the airplane factory. They had two cars when they left, but one broke down on the road and they sold it for junk. They told Hiner the last

of their money had been pent the day before when they bought something to eat in Pocatello.

Hiner got in touch with Ed Lemon, head of the Meridian Pine Company, who had helped out in such situations previously, and asked him if he could put six boys to work for a day. Under the circumstances, Lemon could.

So Hiner took the boys to a restaurant and saw they had something to eat besides doughnuts and milk before starting to work, and then escorted them to the lumber yards where the boys did odd jobs that Lemon found for them the rest of the day.

After they were paid off, Hiner again took over and saw to it that the boys paid for all they had eaten -- including the doughnuts and milk -- and then, with still a few dollars in their pockets, the boys took off what they hopefully expected to be the last leg in their trip to Seattle.

## Pair Charged in Burglary Of Drug Store at Meridian

March 9, 1969

Two men arrested Friday night in connection with an alleged break-in of Rice Pharmacy in Meridian appeared Saturday before Justice of the Peace Frank E. Chalfant Jr. in Boise and were released on bail pending later appearances in court.

Wesley F. Keeton, 38, of 216 West Thirty-eighth, posted \$5,000 bail and is scheduled for a

March 20 date in court. Edward P. Campbell, 32, 5701 East Forty-first, posted \$500 bond, pending his appearance Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

The men were charged with first-degree burglary after being arrested shortly before midnight by Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner. A citizen alerted law enforcement officers to the break-in.

## Break-in brings arrest of two

March 13, 1969

Alertness of a citizen thwarted an attempted break-in at the Rice Pharmacy at Meridian last Friday night, and resulted in the arrest of Wesley F. Keeton, 38, and Edward P. Campbell, 32, both of Boise.

Clayton Roberts, a former Meridian resident now living at Banks, called police shortly before midnight Friday, and the two men were arrested by Police Chief Gene Hiner.

The two men were charged with first-degree burglary when they appeared before Justice of the Peace Frank E. Chalfant, Jr., in Boise Saturday. Keeton was released on \$5,000 bail, and Campbell posted a \$500 bond.

At their second appearance Tuesday afternoon, a preliminary hearing was set for 3 p.m. next Thursday, March 20.



### Meridian hosts "Two Wheels for Easter Seals"

DELTA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY MEMBERS from the University of Idaho conducted their annual "Two Wheels for Easter Seals" bicycle-ride from Moscow to Boise, to publicize the annual Easter Seal campaign in Idaho. The next-to-last stop of their almost-400-mile ride was Monday noon at Meridian, when entire group was invited to luncheon by Meridian Chamber of Commerce. John Fitzgerald paid penalty for being C of C president -- he and Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner valiantly gave

*March 27, 1969*  
 their all by pedalling with the fraternity group the final few miles into Meridian. Hitching ride at back of bike is Meridian attorney Ivar J. Longeteig, and welcoming committee included Mayor Don Storey, seen immediately behind police chief. Governor Samuelson and other state officials greeted the "Wheels for Seals" group at Boise, expressing praise for the youths' service that, in turn, benefits adults and youths of Idaho, through therapy programs and other activities financed by sale of Easter Seals.

(News-Times photo)



### New policeman

ROBERT E. EDWARDS has joined Meridian police force, and is currently on night patrol. He came here from Salt Lake City, where he had been attending BYU. Born in Pocatello, he was raised in Idaho Falls. His wife, Valeen, will come from Salt Lake City when officer locates home here. During off-duty hours, officer plans to attend Boise State College, to complete his education as a major in law-enforcement. *May 9, 1969*

(News-Times photo)

### In acknowledgment . . .

We of Davis Foods want to express publicly our appreciation of the far-above average service and protection given our community by the Meridian police force. Like all peace officers, they work long hours at modest pay and, at all times, face the possibility of personal danger. Yet, in our community, Police Chief Gene Hiner and members of the force go far beyond the call of duty in their work and dedication. Thanks to them, we now have the best police protection and service in the history of our town.

*APRIL 17, 1969*

APR 12 10, 1969

# Burglary charge

## faces Wilder man

A Wilder man was arrested Tuesday at Caldwell, and has been charged at Boise with first-degree burglary of Davis Foods at Meridian. He is Leo Leonard Young, 47.

Davis Foods was broken into after midnight last Thursday, when entry was made by cutting a hole in the roof. Police Chief Gene Hiner was summoned to the store, when the intruders tripped a burglar alarm.

Chief Hiner sighted two men in the store, and ordered them to surrender. When both fled, he fired through the store window. Blood stains found on the floor indicated one man had been wounded, but both men fled through a rear door and escaped.

When arrested by Caldwell police, Young reportedly had a bullet wound in his left hip. In the Boise court, his bond was set at \$2,500.

(Idaho Free Press)

# Hiner returns

## prison escapee

SEPT. 14, 1969

Richard Mastlock, 20, of Meridian, was returned to the Idaho state prison in Boise by Meridian chief of police Gene Hiner, Tuesday, after he had been reported missing from the minimum security dormitory of the prison Monday night.

Matlock was serving a three-year term for second-degree burglary.

When he was arraigned in Ada county justice court on a charge of escaping, the case was continued until next Tuesday and Matlock was returned to prison.

## Planners meet

# Mayor Lauds Police Work Of 'Reserves'

MAY 7, 1969

MERIDIAN — Mayor Don Storey commended the reserve city police officers Monday night for the "excellent work" they've been performing, and suggested a pay increase for reserve officers working regular officers' shifts.

The City Council then passed a 15-cent per hour pay raise for the reserve policemen involved.

**Councilman Marvin Bodine** said the summer recreation program was being planned, and the council hired Warren Shepherd as summer recreation director on Bodine's recommendation.

Mayor Storey announced the city had written to the State Highway Department requesting that the traffic signal light on East First and Idaho be allowed to remain in operation. The highway department reportedly is considering removal of the signal because of lower traffic count through Meridian due to opening of Interstate 80N.

The mayor said also he had received many complaints about sand in waterlines in the northwest section of town. Work Supt. Neal Hudson said the pipelines in that area had been blown out, resulting in murky, sandy water, but said the condition should improve.

TO MEET

# Chief Fires At Intruders In Meridian

APRIL 5, 1969

MERIDIAN — Police Chief Gene Hiner fired four shots through a plate glass window early Friday morning at two men he observed inside Davis Food Store in downtown Meridian.

Hiner said he answered a burglar alarm about 12:45 a.m. and could see two men inside the store near the cash register.

After he made hand motions and shouted at them, one of the pair ran down an aisle inside the store.

"I fired a warning shot at him," said Hiner, "but he kept on running."

The other man reportedly panicked and also ran. Hiner fired several shots at him and said he believes he hit him once because bloodstains were found inside the store.

When Hiner fired his last shot, a motorist heard it, stopped his car, and got out with his hands in the air. Hiner quickly explained the situation to the man, gave him a shotgun and enlisted his assistance.

Police are still looking for the pair who fled through a rear door. They had apparently entered through a hole in the roof of the store.

★ ★ ★

# Evidence of Shooting



MERIDIAN POLICE CHIEF Gene Hiner examines bullet holes in the plate glass window of a Meridian store. Hiner fired the shots Friday morning at two men inside the store.

Meridian council meets

# Mayor pushes fight to keep traffic signal on First Street

Another volley in the 18-year Battle of the Traffic Light was fired Monday night at a meeting of the Meridian city council when Mayor Don Storey read a letter he had written to W. W. Sacht, district engineer of the State Highway department, protesting the proposed removal of the light at First and Idaho Streets.

Storey told Sacht that the removal of the light would be "strongly opposed" by members of the city council, the mayor, the judge and the chief of police. The Meridian Chamber of Commerce and members of the school board have written similar letters to the highway department.

The mayor said the light is needed not only to regulate traffic at the Idaho Street intersection but at the other

intersections along First Street.

### Free from accidents

"There has not been a single accident officially recorded since the light was installed," Storey wrote "and it provides the only place where children and elderly people can cross the street safely during heavy traffic hours."

The battle has been going on for almost 20 years and at one time, the city of Meridian bought a light of its own, but because the street is a state highway, permission was refused to put it into operation.

The present light was installed in September of 1967.

Storey reported that Sacht has expressed his willingness to come to Meridian for a discussion on the matter.

Neal Hudson, works superintendent, reported he is

still awaiting the arrival of material to build a sand trap in the water line at well No. 6 on West Eighth Street following many complaints from residents that sand is coming through their water pipes.

The mayor reported that new complaints were received last Saturday after water lines had been blown in an effort to remove the sand.

Other business at the meeting included:

**Reserve policeman** -- It was agreed to raise the salary of the reserve policeman from \$1.35 to \$1.50 an hour on recommendation of Gene Hiner, police chief.

**Package insurance** -- After Rick Thierhaus explained how the city could increase its insurance coverage by \$26,500 at a lower premium than it is now paying, the council decided to make the change. The present company, General American, still will hold the policy. At present, the premiums amount to \$1,597. Under the package plan, the cost will be \$1,393.

**Automatic switch** -- After hearing discussions on savings in power, it was voted to buy an automatic switch for the lift station on East Fourth Street at a cost of \$790.



## Meridian wins

# City keeps traffic signal after appeal to road board

Meridian's one and only traffic signal has been saved from the dump-yard and will continue to regulate traffic through the business section of the city on a "temporary" basis.

This was assured Monday afternoon when a small, well-organized Meridian delegation, headed by Mayor Don Storey, appeared before the state highway board to appeal a recent ruling that the light be taken down because the traffic flow did not meet standards set by the highway department.

Speakers representing the Meridian cause still had a few minutes of their allotted half-hour left, when they completed their arguments. Besides Mayor Storey, the speakers were Rep. Harold Agee; Gene Hiner, Meridian chief of police; Carl H. Rathjen, representing the older citizens; Gary Emerson, member of the Idaho state police force, and State Sen. Vern K. Brassey.

### Explains position

Storey reviewed the long and sometimes bitter arguments over the traffic light situation and, for the benefit of the state board members who do not live in this

area, summed up Meridian's position in the valley as to its geography, population, industrial situation and growth potential.

He stressed the fact that Highway 30 (East First Street) bisects the city of Meridian and has to be crossed daily in the ordinary conduct of business and that the light also is used extensively by school children and elderly residents for the safety it provides.

He reviewed some of the arguments that have been used for the retention of the light and then introduced the petitions that were signed "voluntarily and spontaneously" by 1,300 persons in Meridian and the surrounding areas.

### Letters of protest

Storey also had selected three or four letters of protest from the scores he had received on the matter, and he read excerpts from them.

When he completed his presentation, Storey introduced Rep. Agee who spoke as "a resident and a farmer." Agee, who himself is in the dairy business, described the traffic of heavy trucks and farm vehicles at the creamery in Meridian and he

contended that the removal of the signal would work a hardship on the truckers and plant employees as well as the farmers.

He also told of other industries in the area that have huge trucks in operation throughout the day and emphasized the rapid development not only in the city, itself, but in the surrounding areas, with the resultant increase in traffic.

### Chief Hiner speaks

Chief Hiner spoke from the safety factor and the value of the light in police work. He insisted that if the light were eliminated, it would be necessary to have a policeman on duty at the intersection to avoid accidents from left turns and traffic congestion.

"The light is also very valuable in regulating traffic all along the street," he explained. "Because of the break in traffic it causes, it is not necessary for us to have a man several blocks north to watch children crossing at the school building.

"It also helps on other streets  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Traffic signal . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

besides Idaho Street to give motorists an opportunity to cross First Street."

He said the Meridian police department simply did not have the man power to assign additional officers to the traffic work that would become essential if the light were eliminated.

### Aid to elderly

Rathjen, a Meridian writer and author, explained that the mayor had asked him to present the case of the elderly residents of the city. He said that many of the older people -- like many of the younger school children -- walked out of their way to be able to cross the street at the traffic light to avoid "dodging" the heavy traffic.

He argued that the light was of benefit not only to elderly pedestrians but to motorists who depend on the breaks in traffic to drive across the street.

### State policeman speaks

Some of the most effective arguments for the light, backed up by new statistics, were given by Gary Emerson, the state policeman who, at the request of Sen. Brassey, conducted a one-hour check of traffic in Meridian recently.

Emerson, a quiet, convincing talker, described a check he had made between 3:30 and 4:30 after public hearing was held on the matter several weeks ago.

During the hour, he said, there were 225 northbound cars and 297 southbound for a total of 522. At the same time, he said, 22 vehicles cross the street from the east and 87 from the west for a total of 109. In addition, he said, 44 adults walked across the street and 60 children for a total of 104.

Sen. Brassey started out by explaining that the city of Meridian was the very heart of an area with a population of more than 200,000.

Additionally, he contended, Meridian was unusual in this respect because its school population was much greater than the population of the city, itself. This is due, he explained, to the centralized school setup in the district.

He made a plea that the light be retained "for six months or a year, anyhow" to see how things developed and ended with the prediction that if the light were removed at the present time, "it would be necessary to replace it within five months."

The board announced it would take the matter under consideration and early Tuesday morning, Mayor Storey was notified the light would be retained on a "temporary basis" with a warning that the Meridian police department keep a close watch to see that the signal was obeyed.

October 13, 1969

Meridian City Council  
City Hall  
Meridian, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that on October 9, 1969, one Clinton Dundas, also known as Recarto Shanacropolas, was tried for the crime of Burglary in the First Degree. That burglary occurred in your city at the Davis Food Store owned by one George B. Davis. The burglary occurred April 4, 1969. The jury deliberated for only thirty-five minutes before returning a verdict of guilty in that case. Prior to this Mr. Leo Young, who was Mr. Shanacropolas' accomplice on that burglary, had plead guilty.

At the Shanacropolas trial on October 9, 1969, your Chief of Police, Mr. Gene Hiner, testified as to his work, involvement and investigations on this case. The conviction which was returned in this case was due largely to the police work of Mr. Hiner. The police work which Chief Hiner did on this case was of the highest quality. It appears that your city has a high quality of police protection. I hope that you will continue to engage men on your police department of the same quality as Chief Hiner.

Very truly yours,

JAMES E. RISCH  
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

JER/m

### School area

# Meridian police crack down on young traffic violators

A general crackdown on all traffic violators, with particular emphasis on the area around Meridian high school, has resulted in the appearance of more than 20 motorists before police judge Herald Cox and the issuance of about that many more citations.

Most of the charges are of a minor nature -- stop sign violations, speeding in restricted zones, improper turns and violations of the basic rule. In a large majority of the cases, the violators are students at the high school.

It was learned that numerous complaints have been received at city hall recently on "drag racing" and negligent driving in the high school area. Police chief Gene Hiner started out on a one-man campaign to curb violations in the area but after a few days, he added a second and then a third officer to patrol the neighborhood before and after school opened.

Judge Cox said that a "general let down" in the observance of traffic regulations throughout the city had been noticed. He said that while police are concentrating their efforts in the school area, violations all over the city have resulted in traffic tickets.

"We are handling a great many more cases in police court than usual," he said, "and there are still a large number of citations out that haven't been answered. We have noticed that motorists become negligent and careless at times and it is necessary to crack down once in a while. They become conscious of regulations again and things settle back to normal."

In most cases -- especially among the students -- the offenders are being fined \$10.

## Thieves ransack high school here

*Dec. 4, 1969*

Several offices in the Meridian high school were rifled by burglars Tuesday night and although only a few dollars could be found missing, damage to broken doors, the safe and furniture was estimated at more than \$300 by August Hein, principal.

Neither Gene Hiner, chief of Meridian police, nor sheriff's deputies could find any sign of where the burglars entered the building and it is believed they remained in the school after Tuesday night's wrestling matches.

Hein said that five or six dollars in change was taken from a desk drawer in one of the coach's office. The administration offices were ransacked and an effort was made to open the school safe. Experts were working on the safe Wednesday in an effort to open it and repair the damage.

## C of C plans war on check writers

*Jan 29, 1970*

A closer and more effective system of being alerted if a bad check is passed to a Meridian businessman was urged by Don Roberts at the Tuesday meeting of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce.

Roberts explained that when a merchant or businessman received a bad check, it has been the policy to call other chamber members to alert them of the fact. He said he believed the system would be more effective if more of the members would become interested in the plan and take part in the work.

He said that Gene Hiner, Meridian chief of police, has been working closely with the merchants in an effort to minimize the passing of bogus checks.

Marvin Bodine, chamber president, named Roberts and Pat Fowler to a committee to work on the system in updating it and increasing participation.

**Officials to speak**

**Chamber of Commerce members hear talks on drug problems next Tuesday**

Meridian Chamber of Commerce will hear a special program of drug problems at its luncheon meeting next Tuesday noon at Pat's Cafe.

Speakers will include federal narcotic agents, Mayor Don Storey, police chief Gene Hiner, city council members, and others. All C of C members are urged to attend.

At this week's meeting, the civic group heard talks by three Meridian banking officials -- Jack Green, manager of Farmers and Merchants State Bank; Robert Glaisyer, manager of First Federal Savings; and David Murray, assistant manager of Idaho First National.

Acting as moderator for the panel discussion was Glenn Green, real-estate and investment broker, who conducted the question-and-answer session.

**Area outlook is favorable**

The three bank officials expressed optimism about the area growth in building, economic increase, and agricultural outlook.

Discussing the recently-increased interest rates, the bankers said that they foresaw no lowering of rates within the near future. They added there was a possibility of further increase, but that the rate could not rise to more than 10 per cent under the present laws concerning usury.

They said that the increased interest-rate developed from the extremely heavy competition for deposits by governmental and private financial institutions. Mr. Glaisyer said that the new rates had decreased some of the competitive advantage of savings and loan associations over regular banks, and had brought increased expenses without increased revenue.

Their consensus was that the outlook for the Meridian area was very promising, and that it seemed that the smaller farm had more chance of survival because of the dairying and livestock interests.

The bankers agreed that the restrictions on today's money market and available loan-funds is in direct proportion to the effectiveness of financial institutions in competing for local and area deposits.

**Everyone invited *Feb. 19, 1970***  
**Meridian slates meeting to discuss drug problem**

Plans were announced today for a public meeting, open to all interested persons young and old, to discuss the growing problem of drug use in the area.

Although activated by the Meridian Chamber of Commerce, the meeting will include representatives of the city, schools, and other groups.

The meeting will be held Tuesday night, March 3, at the Legion Hall in Meridian, beginning at 8 p.m.

The evening will include a panel session, with panel members giving brief introductory remarks, then answering questions from the audience.

Glenn Green will be moderator; and panel members will include Mayor Don Storey, Police Chief Gene Hiner, high school principal August M. Hein, MHS student-body president Scott Canning -- and an out-of-town guest member, Walt Belveal, specialist on public affairs for the Boise police department.

Mr. Belveal will show a 30-minute film, "The Trip Back" a moving account of a former drug-addict, pictured as she tells a group of high school students of her life during years of addiction.

Also to be invited is a

psychiatrist, who has worked with youths and adult patients suffering from drug-related problems.

**All urged to attend**

C of C president Marvin Bodine last week named a committee of four to work out arrangements for the March 3 meeting -- Don Storey, Glenn Green, John Fitzgerald, Ralph Hunter.

"We want this to be a community-wide event," said the committee members, "and we urge every interested person, young or old, to attend."

"The sole motive of the event will be to do all we can to combat the drug problem," they added, "with emphasis upon education and authoritative information, rather than upon any 'headline-seeking' sensation. This is a problem of concern to all, and surely all of us have the same goal."

## C of C discussion

# Mayor and police chief talk on rise in drug problem here

Meridian Chamber of Commerce members heard a report by city officials Monday noon that the problem of student-use of marijuana and drugs in the district was sharply increasing.

Mayor Don Storey said that local police have a list of 54 school-age boys and girls who have been involved in the use of drugs on two or more occasions.

## School-age youth

Also speaking on the problem was Police Chief Gene Hiner, who said that there have been five arrests in the past five or six weeks. He said that the list of 54 names included three junior high school students. The others were of high school age, he added, but several of them were "drop-outs" from school.

"We realize this has become a problem everywhere," said Mayor Storey, "but we had been rather proud of our past record. Now, however, it seems that the problem here is increasing . . . perhaps because of our central location between two larger cities."

## Drug display shown

In connection with their talk, the two officials showed many items -- marijuana, LSD pills, "speed" and "acid", and other drug-types -- that had been seized by the local police.

The display included a full kilo of marijuana, the size which Chief Hiner said sold at \$60 on the illegal market. Other items were "lids," smaller units of marijuana, but large enough to make 60 "sticks" or cigarettes. The market price on that was said to be \$20.

"In addition," he said, "sales of individual 'sticks' of marijuana are made to the school-age youth at prices from two dollars to five dollars each."

Both officials stated that local cases had involved not only marijuana -- but had also included dangerous hallucinatory drugs, cocaine, hashish, and others.

## Broken homes involved

"To date, we have not found

any 'main-line users' but several local youth are on the verge of that," they commented.

Both officials agreed that the great majority of the local youths involved in the situation were from either broken homes or "over-permissive" homes, where little if any control or discipline was exercised by the parents. They told of a New Year's Eve dance in the area, of which details were learned later, that was attended by 150 youth, and involved drugs.

Mayor Storey said that persons recognized as local "pushers" (drug or marijuana salesmen) were not students for the most part, but were in their 20's or older.

## Future problem

"One important point," the mayor said, "is that, while today's problem seems centered about our young people, what about future years -- when today's youths have become adults? The problem could affect all age brackets of our society, and be even more dangerous than it is now. That background didn't exist a few years ago, but it is here now."

The costliness of the problem was also discussed by the speakers. "It has required additional personnel, additional police costs, and other expenses to the city. In addition, there is the increased cost to the community as a whole, because of the rising number of petty thefts in the area . . . which we think is directly connected with the drug problem."

## Education is needed

In the question-and-answer period following the talks, it was agreed by all who spoke that the need was for education and correction -- not simply for detection and punishment of the young "users".

Also suggested was a policy

## Group hears official report on drug problem

Chamber of Commerce members heard a report Tuesday noon by Mayor Don Storey and Police Chief Gene Hiner on current developments in the community's fight against drug problems.

Mayor Storey said that latest records show a total of 72 narcotic-users in the area, including 54 residents of the immediate Meridian area. He said that 28 narcotic cases have been handled by the police to date.

Of those, he said, 27 cases have been completed on the local level and are now in district court for action, with local action still pending on the 28th case. He said the 28 arrests resulted from a total of 45 persons being picked up by the local police.

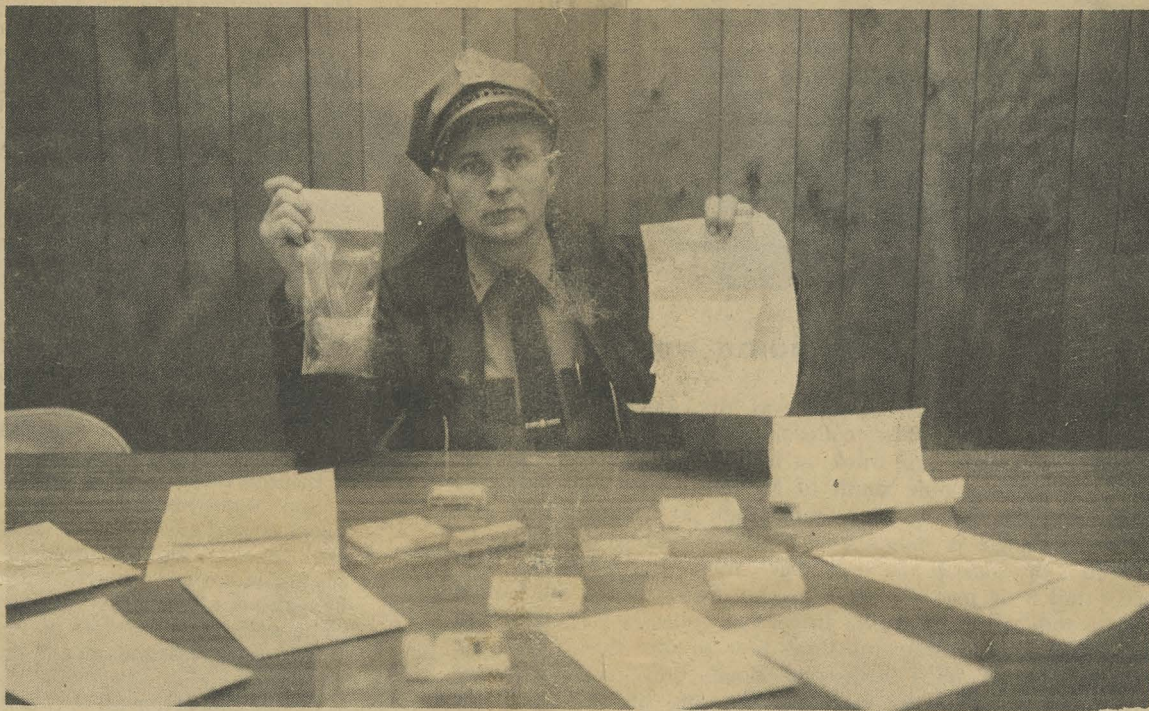
Of the 28 cases, the mayor reported, 18 of the arrests were for selling or attempting to sell narcotics; and the others were for possession of drugs.

## High costs cited

Discussing the cost to the city of the campaign, Mayor Storey said approximately \$2,500 had been spent to date. He said that included 340 man-hours at \$1,530; a total of \$70 paid to informants; the purchase of \$375 worth of drugs by informants, approximately \$525 spent for part-time help and vehicle expenses, plus the cost of operating cameras and drug-testing equipment.

He added that he felt the campaign had been conducted sensibly and without undue publicity or sensationalism, and that he was sure that it had brought the local drug-problem under at least temporary control. "Meridian now has a reputation as a too-risky place for drug-selling or drug-using. We will do our best to maintain that reputation -- for the good of the entire community."

Also speaking at the meeting was Dr. John Lee. Portions of his talk will be published in a forthcoming issue. Television's Channel 2 of Boise covered the meeting, and telecast part of the proceedings in newscasts Tuesday night.



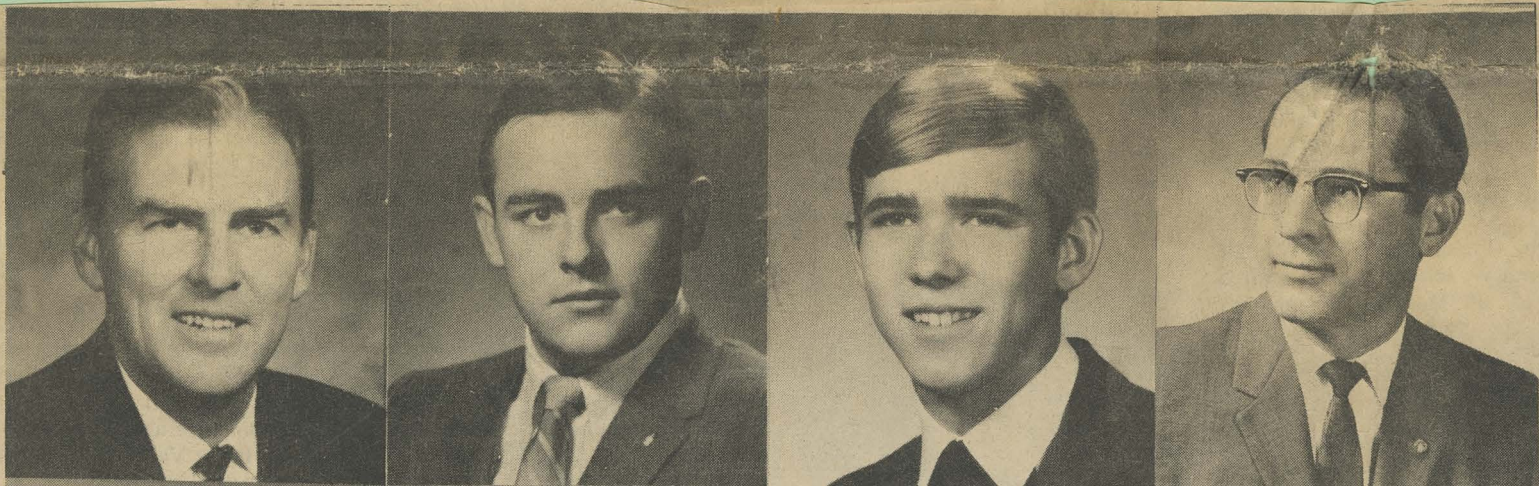
### Yes, there is a drug problem in Meridian

PHYSICAL PROOF OF DRUG PROBLEM in Meridian area is shown by Chief of Police Gene Hiner, who displays just part of the many drug items seized by police from youth in the city of Meridian. The larger items shown are drugs that have been subjected to chemical analysis by state officials, and that must remain sealed in the envelopes until opened in court during the trials. In his left hand, Chief Hiner holds one envelope containing 46 capsules analyzed as a combination of dextro-amphetamine sulfate and amobarbital, both of which are enumerated drugs. In his right hand, officer holds a three ounce "lid" of marijuana, with enough of the drug to make about 60 "sticks" or cigarettes, and which is sold by pushers for about \$15 to \$20. Other exhibits

include LSD pills, hashish, pep pills, opium, "bennies", marijuana seeds, and other illegal drugs -- each item having been seized by Meridian police from youth within the city limits. Other drugs seized in the past few days were not available for picture, because of being at state office for chemical analysis. One of the latter included dope that was analyzed Wednesday as cocaine, in a form used for injection -- and of which possession is a felony. Said Chief Hiner, "That item, and others we have seized locally, prove that the use of 'heavy drugs' is included in our Meridian problem." Chief Hiner will be one of panel members speaking at public meeting on drug problem -- at 8 p.m. next Tuesday night, March 3, at Meridian high school. Public is urged to attend. (News-Times photo)

VOLUME 66, No. 47

MERIDIAN, IDAHO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1970



### Civic and school leaders on drug-meeting panel

PANEL MEMBERS, who will also answer questions from audience at public meeting Tuesday night at Meridian high school on drug problem, include, from left -- Mayor Don Storey; Wayne Mittleider, a Meridian high school graduate who is now a student leader at Boise State College; Scott Canning, student-body president at

Meridian high school. August M. Hein, principal of Meridian high school. Other panel-members, pictured elsewhere on this page, are drug-expert Walt Belveal and Police Chief Gene Hiner. Tuesday night's meeting will begin at 8 p.m., and is open to all community residents.

Next Tuesday night at high school

# Community groups

## invite area residents to

# meeting on drug problem

Growing interest in the forthcoming public-meeting on the drug-problem in the Meridian area has resulted in a change of meeting place.

**The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. next Tuesday night, March 3 -- and will be held at the Meridian high school. All community residents, including students, are invited to attend.**

Previously, the American Legion had offered free use of their hall at Meridian - which drew the appreciation of those involved -- but the apparent wide interest in the meeting indicated that a larger seating capacity might be needed.

### Panel session, film

Tuesday's meeting will include a panel of six members, with Glenn Green as moderator, plus a 30-minute film on drug addiction. Members of the panel will be Walt Belveal, a narcotics expert of the Boise city police department; August M. Hein, high school principal; Mayor Don Storey; Scott Canning, president of the high school student-body; Wayne Mittleider, a MHS graduate who is now a student leader at Boise State College; and Police Chief Gene Hiner of Meridian.

Each panel member will speak briefly, then moderator Green will conduct a question-and-answer session, with answers by panel members.

The film to be shown, "The Trip Back," portrays a woman telling a group of high school students what her life was like during the years she was a heavy drug-user. It is reported to be one of the

impressive films of its kind.

"We emphasize that everyone -- and we mean everyone -- is invited to this important meeting next Tuesday," said a spokesman. "There is definitely a drug-problem in the Meridian area. In fact, as the president of Idaho State University said, 'If just one student is involved with drugs, there is a problem.'

**"We also emphasize that we invite people from every possible community group -- including particularly students, school officials, PTA officers and members, teachers, ministers, representatives of lodges, Farm Bureau and Grange members, and every other interested person."**

It was also emphasized that the next Tuesday night's meeting is a community-wide event, rather than being sponsored by any one group. The Meridian Chamber of Commerce helped start the arrangements, and the school district has donated the use of the high school auditorium -- but the meeting itself will represent all interested groups and individuals of the entire area.

### Started at C of C

The original idea of such a community-wide meeting started when Mayor Storey and Chief Hiner spoke at a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting. Among other things, they reported that there was an official list of 54 names of local school-age youths (some attending school, others who are drop-outs) who are known to have been involved with

(Continued at right of picture)

concerning use of automobiles by students during school hours. It was reported that at Bishop Kelly high school, students who drove to school were not permitted to use their vehicle at any time during the day -- including noon hour -- unless specifically excused for a doctor's appointment or similar reason. (That rule was confirmed by the News-Times in a phone-call Wednesday.)

"I think that's an excellent rule," said the police chief. "It is hard to control students' actions when dozens of them -- including suspected drug-users -- all drive off in different directions. In fact, the mobility of today's youth because of cars is one of the major reasons why detection of violators is so difficult."

### Public meeting studied

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chamber of Commerce president, Marvin Bodine, suggested that perhaps community residents would be interested in a meeting on the subject -- to learn better how to help guide their own children away from drugs, how to detect and prevent use of drugs, how to help officials in the matter, and other points.

Mr. Bodine appointed a committee -- Glenn Green, John Fitzgerald, Don Storey, and Ralph Hunter -- to study the matter, and to make arrangements for a public meeting if enough interest was indicated.

He said that the discussion had revealed that a better pattern of cooperation -- among parents, youth, school officials, city officials, and others -- was needed to help correct the situation, and to educate students as to the danger of the use of marijuana or other drugs.

Standing room only

March 5, 1970

# 1,200 attend Meridian meet on community drug-problem

Tuesday night at the high school, a standing-room-only crowd of 1,200 Meridian-area residents heard a panel session, and took part in a question-and-answer period on drug problems in the area.

Youths formed an estimated 25 per cent of the audience, ranging in age from fifth-graders through high school students.

City and school officials and Chamber of Commerce spokesmen expressed gratification at the capacity turn-out. "Surely this proves that the men and women and youth of our entire community are sincerely concerned with the problem," said Mayor Don Storey, "and it demonstrates that they are willing to take a personal part in seeking a solution."

## Six panelists

With Glenn Green as moderator, the panel included Mayor Storey, Police Chief Gene Hiner, high school principal August M. Hein, MHS student-body president Scott

Canning; MHS graduate and student leader at Boise State College, Wayne Mittleider; and the special affairs officer of the Boise police department, Walt Belveal.

Prior to the panel session, Mr. Belveal showed a film, "The Trip Back", depicting a woman who spoke frankly about her years of drug addiction, imprisonment, and degradation before "kicking the habit".

During brief opening remarks by the panel members, city officials stated that there was a confirmed list of more than 50 names of local youths, each of whom had been involved with drugs on two or more occasions.

## Students participate

Various aspects and philosophies regarding the problem on the high school level were discussed by MHS student-body president Scott Canning; and on the college level by Wayne Mittleider of Boise State College.

High school principal August M. Hein said that the role of the

school included providing information on the dangers of drugs, and that current textbooks carried such material. He said the Meridian high school had presented speakers and films on drugs for student assemblies.

Mr. Belveal presented many details concerning drugs, based on his several years experience in drug-investigation, and his training at the FBI police academy.

## Questions cover wide range

In the question-and-answer period, members of the audience asked about such points as the source of local drugs . . . Meridian high school's standing compared with other Idaho schools . . . whether treatment was given addicts . . . what parents should look for if they suspect drug-use . . . and other points.

Panelists said that there seemed to be no organized ring of peddlers, and that drugs came from nearby Idaho cities, as well as from other states. They said Meridian high school was probably among the top 10 of Idaho schools with drug problems. Mr. Belveal said that, on the basis of

(Continued on Page 12)

## Meridian meet . . .

(Continued from Page 1)  
enrollment, the school was probably average for the state.

They said that no public facilities now exist which offer treatment for addicts who surrender or are apprehended. Discussing clues to possible drug use, panelists said that marijuana resembled "strawberry tea".

## School questions

Asked if suspected dope-pushers could be kept away from the school, principal Hein said they could. Discussing the problem of students smoking in cars at noon (referring to tobacco, not marijuana), Mr. Hein said that Police Chief Gene Hiner had been very cooperative and effective in correcting that situation.

Three young girls asked if an addict were to surrender, would he receive sympathetic help and rehabilitation. Both Mayor Storey and Chief Hiner said that definitely such help would be given. "The big point in such a case is for the person to be completely honest. Then you can be sure that we'd do everything possible to help him or her."

Asked how they, as community leaders, would like to see the problem handled, the panelists said that it would take the help of all concerned -- students, parents, school personnel, city personnel, police officers, and others.

In closing, it was pointed out that the Meridian meeting was

believed to be the first community-wide session of its kind ever held in Idaho -- and that the crowd of 1,200 adults and youths represented an excellent participation.

"With this interest by so many people," said Mayor Storey, "we can keep the drug problem at a minimum . . . and keep the Meridian community the fine place for family living that it has always been."



drugs on enough occasions to be seriously involved.

Their talk at the C of C meeting also included a display of actual drugs -- including marijuana, opium, cocaine, LSD, hashish, and other drugs -- that had been seized by police in the Meridian area. Following that meeting, C of C president Marvin Bodine appointed a committee of four to work out plans for the community-wide meeting -- Mayor Storey, Glen Green, John Fitzgerald, Ralph Hunter.

In arranging details of the meeting, all four emphasized that, "We do not want this to turn into a sensational 'witch-hunt', or any exaggerated premise that ours is a drug-ridden community, or any revengeful prejudice against youth just because they're young.

"What we do hope for is an evening in which all of us will learn more about the problem, become better informed on the drugs and dangers involved, and thus hopefully become better equipped to work for a correction of the problem.

#### Information-education

"We have no axe to grind . . . no blame to place . . . no criticism of groups or individuals," said the spokesman. "Instead, our sole motive for this meeting will be for information and education. Each of us, adult or youth, will benefit from the combined experience and words of the panel members -- and from the questions that will be welcomed from any person in the audience.

"This is a matter that concerns

every person of every family in the community, because the correction of this problem -- and the prevention of its continuance or growth, is of serious concern to each of us. We hope you will join us next Tuesday night."



#### Expert on drugs

WALT BELVEAL, one of six panel members for Tuesday night's meeting at Meridian high school on drug-problem in area, is public affairs officer for Boise police department. He has been on force for more than six years, has attended several narcotic schools, and had three years' investigative experience in vice squad work on narcotics. He is member of International Narcotics Officers Association, was outstanding officer of his class at Idaho F. B. I. Law Enforcement Academy last year; and was named "1969 Officer of Year" by Exchange Club. Mr. Belveal will also show film, "The Trip Back," depicting life of woman narcotic-addict.

## C of C plans special program

Marvin Bodine, president of Meridian Chamber of Commerce, said a special program on local narcotic developments will be presented at the group's meeting next Wednesday, April 8.

Speakers will be Mayor Don Storey and Police Chief Gene Hiner. Mayor Storey said a complete report will be made of events to date, including several incidents that could not previously be revealed.

The luncheon meeting will begin at 12 noon at Pat's Cafe, and all members are urged to attend.

Also on the program will be Dr. John Lee, giving his talk on narcotics that won first place in Toastmaster competition. The program will also include the display of drug items by the two city officials.

MERIDIAN, IDAHO, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1970

## Ada Arrests, Drug Charges Trip 7 Teens

March 16, 1970

Ada County law enforcement agencies Sunday made two separate arrests, which resulted in the detention of five juveniles and two 18-year-olds, for illegal possession of narcotics.

The first arrests took place on U.S. Interstate Highway 80, approximately 1/2 mile west of Boise, when Ada County deputies stopped a vehicle containing three juvenile boys, ranging in age from 15 to 17 years, and a 16-year-old girl, arresting officers Sgt. Ralph Snell and Jim Miller said.

John G. Kerr, 18, of 1717 Brumback, Boise, and Eugene T. Snider, 18, and a 17-year-old both of Granada Hills, Calif., were placed in custody in the second raid by officers. The trio was arrested in a downtown Boise hotel.

Snell said the 17-year-old youth was on probation in California for narcotics violations.

During the second raid, Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner, Rex Nehn of the Boise vice squad and the two Ada County sheriffs deputies made the arrests.

Sheriff's reports show that Kerr and Snider will be arraigned today. The juveniles have been released in the custody of their parents.

## April 28, 1970 Youth Hurt In Collision Of Train, Car

MERIDIAN — An 18-year-old Meridian youth was injured Monday afternoon when the pick-up he was driving was struck by a westbound Union Pacific railroad train at the crossing on East Third Street in Meridian.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said Steven Stone, 12 East State Street, was alone in the northbound pickup when the train struck the right side of the vehicle at 1:15 p.m.

Stone was listed in serious condition at St. Alphonsus Hospital, Boise, where he was undergoing X-rays at 3:30 p.m.

Hiner said no citations were issued, but investigation of the accident is continuing. The pick-up was demolished, he said.

The intersection reportedly was marked by railroad warning signs and stop sign.

Hiner said it was the first train-car accident in Meridian this year.



**"It's easy to have a safe bike – and safety pays!"**

IDAHO STATE JAYCEES, including the Meridian Jaycees, are sponsoring annual bicycle and motorcycle safety campaign. Reflectorized stickers and rules and laws are available free at Valley News-Times office Meridian police department,

and sheriff's office Above, officials cooperating with campaign include, from left -- Jim Heath of Meridian, newly elected state president of Idaho Jaycees; Police Chief Gene Hiner, Meridian Jaycee president Harlan Schildhauer, and Meridian police officer Robert Gaston. (News-Times photo)

*April 23, 1970*

Meridian council meets *May 7, 1970*

# City accepts street-work bid; votes to annex Embassy Park

Boise Paving and Asphalt Company was named Monday night as the low bidder on Meridian's street repair program, and was awarded the contract at the bid-figure of \$20,206.

City officials said that the lower-than-anticipated bid would probably make possible some street improvement projects in addition to those previously listed.

One project to be added is repairing and patching pavement on Broadway at East First, which is one of the more heavily-traveled streets of the town.

## Ordinance approved

By unanimous vote, the council approved an ordinance annexing the Embassy Park mobile-home subdivision on Cherry Lane. The ordinance appears as a Public Notice on Page 8 of this issue.

Also discussed at Monday night's meeting was a report by the JUB engineers, Inc., of Nampa, on the feasibility of a major improvement and enlargement of the city's sewer and water system.

## Total costs estimated

Total cost of the sewer project was estimated at \$970,000, of which 25% could be financed by a state grant, and 50% by a grant

from the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration.

Total cost of the proposed water project was estimated at \$556,000. The engineers said that, under present regulations, no federal funds would be available for the water project.

The engineers' report said that "The existing water supply for the City of Meridian is basically adequate to meet present domestic demands of the community, but is insufficient to provide the required fire flows in many portions of the city."

Regarding the sewer proposal, the report said that sewer lines in Meridian were "generally at a minimum depth and, because of terrain conditions, could not be further extended . . ."

The engineers said that the matter of federal funding was subject to change, and that future revisions may make more funds available to the city for the proposed projects.

## Fee increases estimated

Citing the effect of the projects upon sewage and water bills, the report said that, at the present time, residents in the older areas of Meridian pay an average monthly

total of \$3.50 for sewer and water -- and that, with the proposed project, those rates would be increased to \$9.02. Residents in the new areas of town now pay an average monthly total of \$5.55, and the rates with the proposed improvements would be \$11.07.

Mayor Storey said that the city simply did not have the money to undertake such major projects at this time. The engineers agreed with the point, and all agreed that, for the time being, the city should "sit tight" and see if the funding program improves.

All agreed, however, that the community was undergoing a "terrific growth picture," and that major enlargement of the city's facilities would be unavoidable in future years.

The council approved Police Chief Gene Hiner's request that the city purchase a new radio system for use by the police department. Chief Hiner said that the new system, valued at \$6,339, could be purchased by the city for an outlay of \$1,159; and would provide four-frequency service that will soon be uniform throughout the entire state.

He said that federal funds for the project would be available July 4, and that work on installing the new system at Meridian would start about August 10.

The present police-radio system will be retained and used for fire-calls and for the city works department.

## Annexation tabled

City attorney John Fitzgerald said that the annexation of property of the Church of God, Seventh Day, would have to await clarification of documents concerning the land involved.

The officials heard a report on certain properties within the city that are regarded as potential fire and health hazards. An additional inspection of the properties will be made, and owners will be notified before final action is taken.

Marvin Bodine, park commissioner, received approval for the construction of restrooms in a new location at the city park. He said the move was indicated because of vandalism, and because the present restroom location is not convenient for the public.

## Clean-Up commended

The city council officially voted commendation of what they termed "the community's outstanding cooperation in the annual Spring Clean-Up Day." They complimented the many volunteers, the committee members, the city workers, and the residents who

cooperated with the project.

It was reported that the VFW at Meridian had done considerable work in building new tables, and repairing old ones, for the city park; and that members and officials of the LDS church plan to work in repairing and improving play-equipment at the park.



### Car-truck crash injures valley woman

*June 25-1970*

MRS. AGNES M. WYATT, 62, of Rt. 2, Nampa, was hospitalized Wednesday morning with undetermined injuries, following a collision between her car and a pickup truck driven by John B. Clemens, 49, of Meridian. The accident happened at the intersection of Meridian Street and Franklin (Highway 30). Mrs. Wyatt was traveling west toward Nampa, and the pickup was bound south on Meridian Street. Mr. Clemens was cited for failure to yield right of way. Meridian police officer Sid Spath is shown above, examining Mrs. Wyatt's damaged car. Police Chief Gene Hiner said accident was first at intersection since 1967. Prior to building of interstate-connector, there was heavy Kuna-Meridian traffic at corner, with several accidents. (Valley News-Times photo)

### Youth Killed By Gunshot At Meridian

*7-25-70*

MERIDIAN — A 15-year-old Meridian High School boy was killed Thursday when a .22-caliber pistol held by a companion discharged a bullet into the left side of his chest.

The victim, Charles Albert Clegg, was pronounced dead on arrival at a Meridian doctor's office minutes after the accident, which occurred at about 11:57 a.m.

Meridian Chief of Police Gene Hiner said the shooting, which occurred in a car while Clegg and three companions were planning a jackrabbit hunting trip later in the day, was "an accident altogether."

The boy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Clegg, Route 2, Lake Hazel Road.

Hiner refused to release the names of the other three youths, who were the only witnesses of the accident. He said they were all 15 or 16 years old.

The boys all had been released for the school lunch period about five minutes prior to the accident. Neither the weapon, a revolver, nor the car belonged to the Clegg family, Hiner said.

The chief said indications were that the bullet entered the boy's lung and then his heart. He was conscious several minutes but was not alive on arrival at the office of Dr. Lee Pulley, Hiner reported. Clark Sears, deputy Ada County coroner, also was called.

### MHS student dies from gun accident

*Oct. 1, 1970*

Charles Clegg, 15, a sophomore at Meridian high school, was killed by the accidental discharge of a .22 revolver while seated in a car on the parking lot at Meridian high school last Thursday noon. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Clegg of Lake Hazel Road, Rt. 2, Meridian. Chief Gene Hiner of the Meridian police said the discharge of the revolver was completely an accident. He said three boys had been examining the gun in the car, and one youth accidentally pulled the trigger while reaching into the back seat of the car. The boys had reportedly been planning a hunting trip. Names of the other youth were not released.

The accident happened at 11:57 a.m. last Thursday, and the boy was taken to the office of Dr. Lee Pulley in Meridian, but died as he was carried into the office.

### Police plan radar for school zone

*Aug 20, 1970*

Police Chief Gene Hiner today reminded adult and student drivers that extra caution should be used when schools open Monday, August 31.

He said that the Meridian police would use radar units to control speed, particularly in the areas near the schools, and that citations would be issued to all violators.

"Please drive carefully," urged Chief Hiner. "And please watch especially for the younger children going to and from school."

Chief Hiner also urged parents to impress upon their youngsters the importance of crossing only at corners, to watch for traffic before stepping into the street, and to remember not to dart out from between parked cars.

Lucky Bucks game *Aug 20-1970*

## Woman wins \$45 jackpot, next week's is final game

Police Chief Gene Hiner drew the 10 winners in this week's Lucky Bucks game, and from those 10 drew the name of Mrs. Earl Crew for the jackpot entry.

Mrs. Crew answered within six rings when her phone rang at 11 a.m. Tuesday, and became the winner of the \$45.00 Lucky Bucks jackpot. Next week's jackpot, the final in the present series, will be \$15.00.

This was Meridian week for the Lucky Bucks game, with nine of the 10 winning players being Meridian area residents.

In addition to the jackpot winner, the nine who received Lucky Bucks were Mrs. William Ward, 211 West Washington; Ralph Hawkins, 1410 East 2½ Street; Elmer Lorah, 703 West Second; Orlie Weast, Rt. 3; Mrs. Joe Huwyler, Rt. 2; Mrs. Dale Bates, 1328 East 2½ Street; Roy Stuart, Rt. 3; Mrs. H. L. Sandy, 307 East State; and one non-Meridianite, Mrs. Rosa Clement, Rt. 1, Kuna.

This week marks the 25th week since the Lucky Bucks game started on February 26. Including next week's final game, the Meridian firms sponsoring the game will have awarded players a total of more than \$650.00 in Lucky Bucks -- good as cash at any of the sponsoring stores.

With next week's Lucky Bucks

game being the final in the current series, the annual football contest for News-Times' readers will start the following week -- in the issue of August 27. Players will predict the winners of six football games among local teams -- with a \$10.00 cash prize for the best prediction, and a \$2.00 cash prize for the runner-up.

## Area youth set Halloween record

*Nov. 5-1970*  
Boys and girls of the Meridian area set one of the best records yet for Halloween behavior last Saturday night. Police Chief Gene Hiner said there had been no reports of vandalism or rowdiness. "We can be proud of our boys and girls -- who had fun without causing trouble or damage."

In the annual collection of canned food -- to be used for needy families and in emergencies -- another good mark was established. The high school and junior high school students collected a total of 754 cans of food, 152 more than last year.

## Shotgun wounds Meridian man

William R. Bain, 27, of 1445 2½ street, was shot in the lower right arm with a 20-gauge shotgun Monday afternoon and his condition was reported as "fair" at St. Alphonsus hospital late Wednesday.

Neither Meridian police chief

Gene Hiner nor Ada County prosecutor James E. Risch would give any details of the shooting.

Risch said that Bain's wife, Karen, was at home at the time of the shooting and that she was questioned but released. No arrests have been made, he added.

## Crash brings driver's arrest

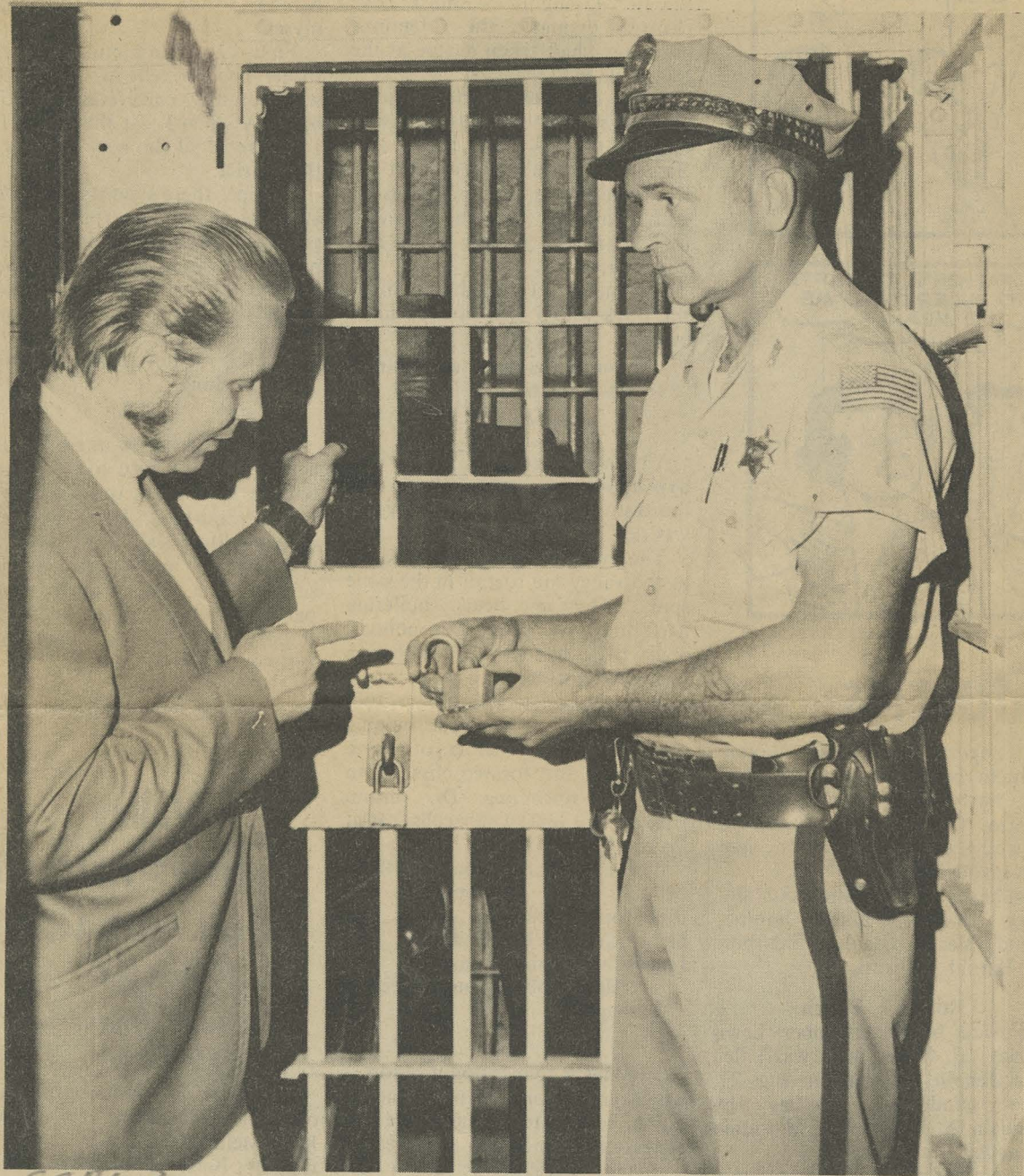
Michael H. Stephen, 21, of 149 Delaware, Nampa, was arrested at Nampa following a one-car wreck early Sunday morning in Meridian.

Police Chief Gene Hiner said Stephen was driving a pickup truck which slid and rolled over one and a half times at the north curve in Meridian at 1 a.m. last Sunday.

He said Stephen left the scene, and that a few minutes later Harold Bales reported the theft of his 1963 Ford sedan from the Bales' home, one-quarter mile north of Lane's Corner grocery.

Police checked with the owner of the wrecked pickup, who said he had loaned the vehicle to Stephen. Stephen was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, and fined \$50; and also drew a \$100 fine and 10-day jail sentence for driving on a suspended license.

Chief Hiner said the Nampa man would be charged later in district court with auto theft. The Bales' vehicle was recovered in Nampa.



SEPT 31  
1970 "Now add handcuffs and a locked strait-jacket . . ."

STEVE BAKER, world-noted escape artist who will star in The Steve Baker Show at the Meridian high school Saturday, September 19, discusses with Police Chief Gene Hiner his planned pre-show escape from the Meridian city jail. The September 19 show, with two performances -- at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. -- will be in community tribute to Dr. John T. Brunn. Dr. Brunn, who served community families night and day for more than

21 years, is now completely disabled as result of massive cerebral hemorrhage suffered three years ago. Further details, with coupon to send in for tickets, appear on Page 10 of this issue. Baker, billed as "The Impossible Possible", has made sensational jail-escapes throughout the world, as well as such death-defying stunts as escaping from handcuffs and strait-jacket while tied to muzzle of a cannon with a lighted 30-second fuse. (Horton)

James Risch speaks *SEPT. 24, 1990*

## Chief prosecutor aide tells C of C about drug problems in Ada County

James E. Risch, chief deputy prosecuting attorney for Ada County, discussed drug problems of the area in a talk at the Meridian Chamber of Commerce's luncheon meeting Tuesday, September 15, at Pat's Cafe.

Risch has handled all out-of-city cases arising in Ada County for more than a year, totalling more cases than any other Idaho attorney. Monthly averages for the county are 200 misdemeanors and 50 felonies.

The speaker, who is a Republican candidate for Ada County prosecuting attorney, said that most of the felony cases involve drugs. He said that the cases are divided into three general groups -- 1) Use or prescribing of drugs by unlicensed practitioners, with only a few such cases handled. 2) Cases involving the use of Class A ("hard") drugs by addicts. 3) The use of marijuana and other drugs by younger people.

Discussing the second group, Risch said that addicts are usually involved in the use of morphine and derivatives. "There is no heroin traffic in our county," he explained, "but the drugs that are involved are just as bad. They include drugs that are legally manufactured for legitimate uses, but which addicts obtain by burglaries or prescriptions, including forged prescriptions."

### LSD use decreases

Regarding the use of drugs by youth, the chief deputy said, "The use of LSD has dropped way down on campus, because the students have first-hand knowledge of what has happened to some users on 'bad trips'. But it is being replaced largely by marijuana."

Asked how a person could help with the problem, Risch urged, "As parents, help youth to gain all the education they can about the danger of drug-abuse. If you do discover an actual case of drug-use, do not try to solve the problem yourself -- get professional help. That includes psychiatric help; and, in many cases, the user requires physical medical help."

Risch said he does not agree with certain statements that education about drugs results in causing children to become interested in experimenting with drug use. "Today's youth is going to discuss drugs, whether we do or not, so there is no use trying to hide the facts. One important point, though, they must be told the truth."



James E. Risch

work done by the Meridian police, especially including Chief Gene Hiner.

A guest at Tuesday's C of C meeting was Neal Samuelson, a state information specialist for soil and water conservation districts.

### Courts have two obligations

Regarding penalties imposed by courts in drug cases, Risch pointed out, "Courts must weigh both the good of the individual involved, and the good of society. To send a one-time user to prison on a marijuana charge can result in a hard-rock criminal emerging. At the same time, leniency toward more serious offenders can harm society in general."

The speaker said that Ada County has some outstanding policing units, including the Boise police and the Ada County sheriff's department. He also praised the

Growth continues

NOV 5 - 1970

# Council okays subdivision for multiple-housing lots

Meridian city officials Monday night approved preliminary plans for a new subdivision at the west end of Idaho Avenue, which will include multiple-dwelling units.

Developer of the new project is Lester Herby, who recently constructed a four-plex unit between West 4th and West 5th on Pine. For the new subdivision, Idaho Avenue will be extended approximately 440 feet to the west.

In other action at Monday night's meeting, a representative of Realty West presented a written agreement to provide a performance-bond for the installation of sidewalks, curbs, and paving in a proposed subdivision. The project would be between West 2nd and West 4th, from Washington to Cherry Lane, the former Ray Tolsma property. It would cover about seven acres, with a total of 27 lots averaging 70-feet by 90-feet.

Councilman Wayne Skiver, chairman of the city planning and zoning commission, said he would see if a special meeting could be called for Monday, November 9, to consider the matter.

## New jail equipment

Police Chief Gene Hiner reported that new sanitary facilities had been received for the city jail. The units combine a washbowl, drinking fountain, and toilet; and their installation will bring the jail up to standards. Federal and state funds were approved to help pay for the items.

Also approved for federal and state funds were new radio facilities, to bring the city onto the new state-wide wave-length. The federal funds totalled \$4,775; the state liquor funds \$795.

Discussion was also held on the pasturing of a horse and pony in the city in violation of zoning restrictions, with Chief Hiner to notify the persons involved.

Work superintendent Neal Hudson said that some of the trimming back of trees and shrubs in city alleys has been completed, with the work to be completed soon.

Herald J. Cox, city clerk, will preside at the Institute for City Clerks and Finance Officers, to be held at Boise this Thursday and Friday. Mr. Cox is vice president of the group, and will conduct the sessions in the absence of the president.

# Meridian Police Investigate Armed Robbery of Grocery

Jan 17 - 1971

MERIDIAN — Meridian police investigating the reported theft of money from a Meridian food store Friday said Saturday they had no concrete leads, but a number of people were doing their best to help.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said he considered the amount taken from the Davis Food Store "less than the

\$3,000 reported. He said exact data is pending further investigation.

Two men armed with automatic pistols walked into the store at about 8:30 p.m. Friday, ordered an employee, Mrs. Jessie Jackson, 62 Cottonwood Drive, Meridian, and a customer to lie on the floor, then rifled the contents of three cash registers.

By KEN MATTHEWS  
Statesman Staff Writer

MERIDIAN — Two men armed with automatic pistols walked off with a possible \$3,000 Friday after robbing Davis Food Store in Meridian.

Owner George Davis and his wife, Doris, who were not present during the stickup, said the exact amount of money taken would not be known until today.

"Talk about scared. I was petrified from the moment they entered," said Mrs. Jessie Jackson, 62 Cottonwood Drive, Meridian, the clerk on duty at the time.

The men, described as dark-complexioned and speaking with accents, entered the store holding guns, Mrs. Jackson said, and ordered her to open three cash tills.

They were both in their late 20s or early 30s, she said. One was six feet, 185 pounds, with a pock-marked face and a flat nose. He wore an Army fatigue jacket.

The second man was five foot, seven inches, 150 pounds, with dark brown

hair, a husky voice and wearing a blue plaid ski jacket with a fur collar.

One other customer was at the front of the store when the armed men appeared, according to Mrs. Jackson, and she and the customer were ordered to lie on the floor after she had opened the cash registers.

Mrs. Jackson said they missed money hidden under the tray in two registers and did not even notice a fourth

register used for gasoline receipts.

She said she could not see their movements from the floor, but heard them say, "Don't move or you're dead" before they left through the electric eye exit. Their mode of travel was reported unknown, Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said.

Law enforcement officials throughout the valley were notified of the robbery shortly after it happened at 8:30 p.m.

Roadblocks were set up in Ada County on Highway 44, Highway 20 at Glenwood and on Freezeout Road and Boise police aided by watching major routes for suspicious vehicles.

Roadblocks also were reported in Emmett, Caldwell, Nampa, and Kuna and at some other valley locations.

# Meridian robber eludes capture

Jan 7, 1971

Area police have reported no new leads concerning the Dec. 23rd robbery of Don's Market at Cherry Lane and Meridian Street.

The robber entered the store at 11 p.m., as clerk Arlene Brown was counting the money preparatory to closing. The man wore a bandana handkerchief as a mask, and was armed with a shotgun.

Holding the clerk at gun-point, he scooped up approximately \$140 in currency and coins, and escaped. The clerk said she did not hear a car, and could not determine in which direction the robber had fled.

Action was also tabled on the purchase of a new police car, as only one bid was received.

Police Chief Gene Hiner reported that new sanitary facilities and mattresses had been installed in the city jail, and that the jail had been painted.

## Police request move

Chief Hiner also asked the council to consider approving the move of the city police department to the old fire-hall on the north side of the city building. He said more space was needed by the police, and that the present facilities could be used by the city work superintendent, Neal Hudson, and his staff.

City officials expressed general approval of the proposal, but said action would have to wait until the 1971 city budget had been established.

Jan. 7, 1971





### City officials honor retiring treasurer

MRS. ORAL COLEMAN was honored recently by city officials on her retirement as city treasurer. A party, with a cake and other refreshments, was held at city hall. Mrs. Coleman has worked for Meridian since May of 1952. Helen Ryker has been named to succeed

her as treasurer. In the front row, from left, are John Navarro, Mayor Don Storey, Mrs. Coleman, Marvin Bodine and Keith Ellis. Back row, Wayne D. Skiver, Bruce Stewart, Neal Hudson, police chief Gene Hiner and city clerk Herald Cox (Horton studio)



### Jaycees help make it a "Merry Christmas"

FAMILY CHRISTMAS BOXES are prepared at Meridian city building by Meridian Jaycees, using canned food collected by youth last Halloween, and chicken and bread added to each box by Jaycees, with funds raised in annual orange sale.

Workers, from left, shown with Meridian police chief Gene Hiner -- Larry Cantrell, Jerry Gould, George Cuttlers. Jaycees prepared 14 Christmas boxes, for distribution to community families. (News-Times photo)

# Meridian Police Chief Predicts Better Year

January 3, 1971

MERIDIAN — With 1970 now history, Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner paused to take a speculative look at law enforcement prospects for the new year.

"1971 is going to be a better year for law enforcement in Meridian," he said, pointing to hopes for improved control of drug abuse problems.

"I feel with more education in the area of drugs, young people will realize the danger... and we won't see as many offenses," Hiner added.

"Naturally, with the popu-

lation growth of Meridian in the past year, we saw the crime rate increase," Hiner said. "However, I must emphasize that we didn't have a great increase, only one that reflects city growth."

Hiner said that while Meridian's drug problem of 1970 was not large, it was evident.

"We didn't have many problems, but I feel that even one drug case represents a problem that must be taken care of," Hiner reported.

"Parents must be brought in on all drug offenses," he said. "They need to know what the problem is with their son or daughter and they have to help us to get rid of that problem," Hiner added.

During the school year, according to Hiner, drug information is more available.

"We get more leads to possible drug offenses during the school term, because the kids are closer together, rather than so spread out as they tend to be in the summertime," said Hiner.

"Farm kids, with all their work around their parents' farms, don't often figure in our cases," he reported. "Kids living in the city, without the cows to milk or other chores to do, sometimes really don't have enough to do and that leads to drug experiments."

"Not all the kids we have problems with have long hair, but it is seldom that a real clean, short-haired kid comes to us in the area of drugs," he noted.

"We need everyone's cooperation if we're going to lick this problem," Hiner concluded.

## Meridian To Vote On Drink

Jan 10 - 1971

### Election Slated To Consider Act Already on Book

MERIDIAN — Voters will go to the polls from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday to decide whether liquor by the drink may be sold in the community.

According to Harold Cox, Meridian city clerk, Meridian already has a city ordinance that legalizes the sale of liquor by the drink.

"Section 3-1301 through 3-1309 in chapter 13 provides for the sale. It was approved in 1955, but until now no one has ever tried to get one (license) or even question it (the law)," reported Cox.

As the present city ordinance states, applicants to sell liquor by the drink must first receive a state license from the state liquor commission. After that license has been obtained, one from the Ada county commissioners must be granted, then city license may be acquired. At the present time Meridian qualifies for two liquor licenses, according to state law of one license per each 1,500 people in the city.

"When we heard that someone was going to try to obtain a license, we found that the only way to keep it from going through was to pass petitions, take the signed petitions to the city council and request an election on the issue," said Rev. Ralph Fothergill, pastor of the Meridian Methodist Church.

Some 44 Meridian people, representing 20 per cent of the voters in the last city election, signed the petitions.

"Only 44 signatures were needed to demand an election, because less than 300 voters turned out for the last city election," said Cox.

Local tavern owner, Bud Erwin, discussed the possibility of acquiring a license with several members of the city council.

"I talked to them individually," Erwin stated, "none of the council members were against the idea at all."

The group attempting to defeat the sale of liquor by the drink presented the petition to the Meridian city council Dec. 21. At that time the Jan. 12 election date was set.

"We feel that liquor by the drink would be good for the town," said Meridian voter Mrs. Jeane Mays. "We could keep the liquor money that might be spent in Boise or Kuna right here in our town."

"I think if I had a license, people wouldn't have to take the ten mile drive to Boise and gamble their lives on the highway," Erwin emphasized.

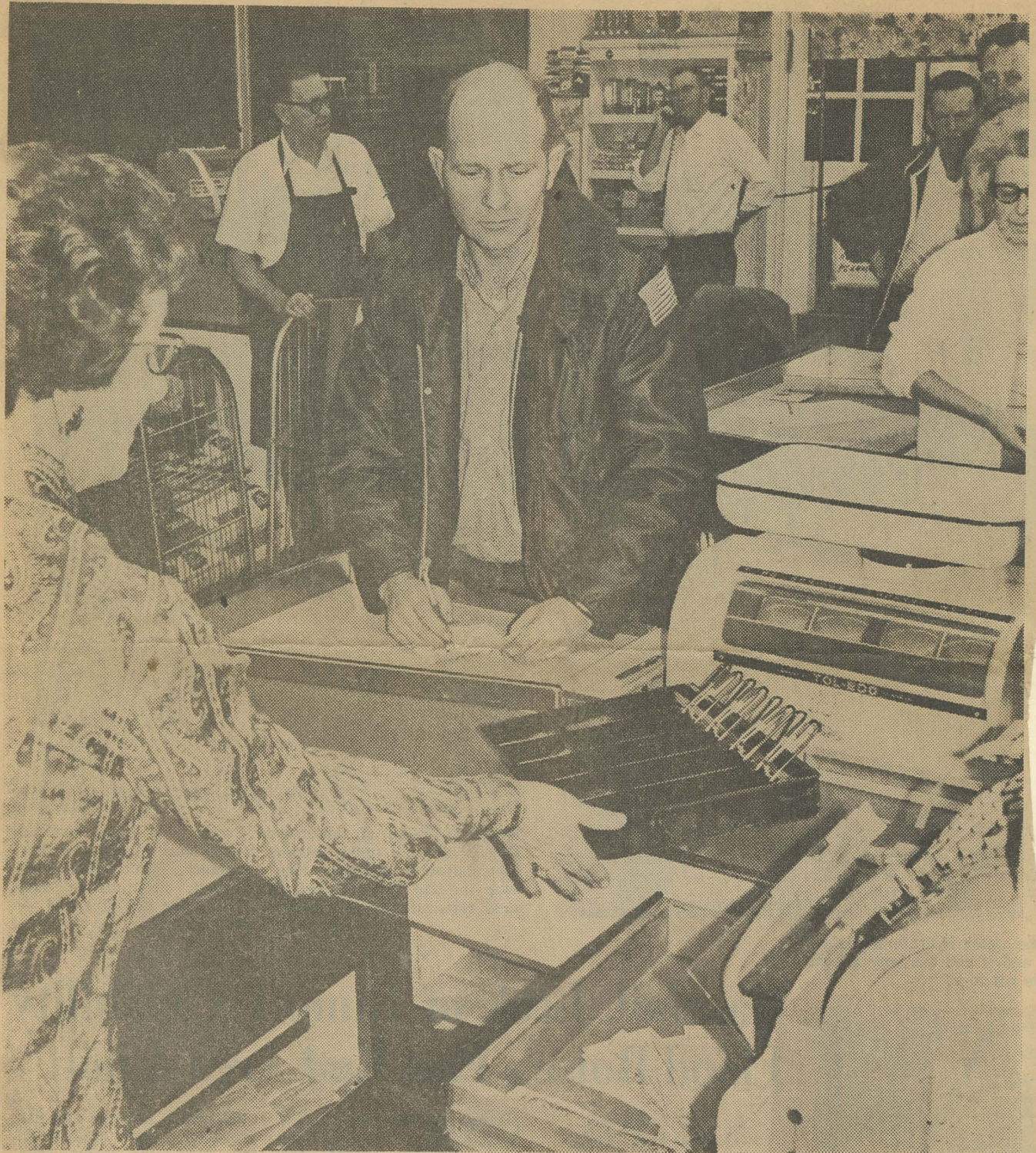
Rev. Fothergill, however, feels that a liquor bar would be a detriment to Meridian.

"We are against any way to make alcohol more available in Meridian," said Rev. Fothergill. "The young people in the town would see the older generation drinking in the bar and start thinking that is the thing to do," he added.

Police Chief Gene Hiner had voiced no opinion on the upcoming election.

"With my job and being a member of the community, I'm not going to make a comment," said Hiner. "However, I will be making my opinion known in the voting booth Jan. 12," Hiner added.

"If young people want to drink, they will, whether there is a liquor bar in town or not," said Erwin. "And I can promise everyone that I'm not going to be handing out drinks to under-age kids, either."



## *Gunmen Miss Stack of \$5 Bills at Meridian*

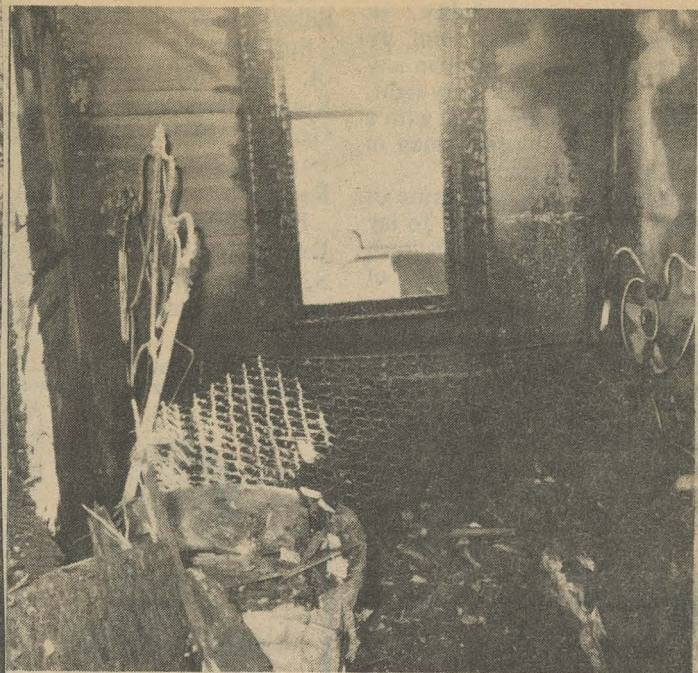
MRS. JESSIE JACKSON, clerk at Davis Food Store in Meridian during an armed robbery Friday night, shows Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner how the stickup men failed to notice a stack of \$5 bills and checks under the cash tray. One customer was at the checkstand when the gunmen en-

tered and other store employees were at the rear during the holdup which took "only a few minutes," according to Mrs. Jackson. On the phone in background is owner George Davis, who was not present during the robbery. (Statesman photo by C. E. Kimbrell)

\*\*\* Jan 16, 1957 \*\*\*

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# 2 Gunmen Hold Up Meridian Store, Walk Off With \$3,000 Friday Night



### 91-year-old woman dies in fire

MRS. ETTIE M. CARTER, 91 years old, died in a fire Saturday noon at her home, 332 W. Idaho, in Meridian. The blaze completely destroyed the interior of the small bedroom (picture at left) in which Mrs. Carter was in bed. Smoke from the fire was sighted at about 12:20 noon by neighbors -- the Bill McConnells at the east of the Carter home, and the Don Matlocks at the west. Mrs. Matlock had taken care of the elderly woman the past several years. Gene Hiner, Meridian police chief, said that the fire apparently started from a heat-lamp that was connected to a plug over the woman's bed, and which had been placed on a suitcase. He said that, contrary to reports published earlier, there was no indication that the woman had started a fire in the bedroom. He said the report evidently came from the fact that Mrs. Carter had been seen picking up twigs in her yard that morning -- but added that the twigs had been found in the unlighted oil stove in the kitchen, shown at the right in the center picture. Damage was confined largely to the kitchen and bedroom, with some exterior damage to the house, as shown in the top picture. In that picture, Mrs. Carter's bedroom is at the right front corner of the house. Neighbors said that the elderly woman lived alone by choice, and received excellent care from Mrs. Matlock. Graveside services were held Tuesday, as reported in Mrs. Carter's obituary on Page 2 of this issue. (Photos by Valley News-Times)

Jan 7, 1971

# Glimpse of Gun Proves Sufficient For Robbery of Store in Meridian

By KEN MATTHEWS  
Statesman Staff Writer

MERIDIAN — A customer buying a pack of cigarettes and a can of tuna fish gave the manager a peek at a gun under his coat Monday night, then robbed Paul's Clover Farm Market on East Second Street in Meridian.

The armed robbery was the third in Meridian within the past month, according to Police Chief Gene Hiner.

Manager Marshal Stoffle said the man entered the store when business was slack about a half hour before the 8 p.m. closing time.

He placed his cigarettes and tuna fish on the counter and only then displayed a "large" automatic pistol under his coat, Stoffle said. The man ordered him to "fill a paper sack with money."

The manager said only "a couple" other customers were in the store and other employes at the rear did not even realize the store was being robbed.

★ ★ ★

Jan 26, 1971  
He placed the contents of two cash registers in the sack, Stoffle said, before the man left through the front

door. "He knew more or less what he was doing," Stoffle said. "I didn't want to scare him."

The amount taken from the registers was not disclosed, but Stoffle said it was "not a great deal."

Despite the fact the robber ordered him to "stay put a few minutes," Stoffle said he began edging toward the front door just as the robber passed in front of the large plate glass window on his way to the rear of the building where his car was parked.

"He stood outside the window and we were looking at each other," the manager said with a nervous laugh.

Stoffle ran out the back door just as the man sped off in his car, he said, but the vehicle was too far away to determine its make or license number.

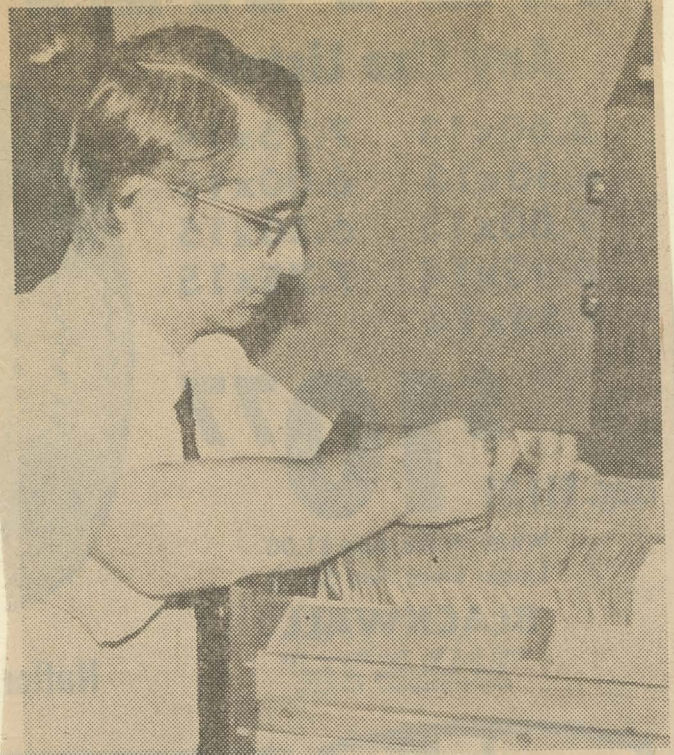
Descriptions of the suspect were being broadcast throughout the valley Monday night as Chief Hiner and the manager of the store poured through mug shots of known criminals in the hope of determining identity of the robber.

He was described as in his late 30s, 5 foot 10, about 160 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a brown coat and brown pants.

Hiner said he first wanted to discover the man's identity. "We are making every effort to establish a connection between all the robberies in the valley."

He referred to the Sunday night armed robbery at a Circle K store in Boise and similar robberies at a grocery in Ontario and a motel in Blackfoot, also on Sunday. The chief noted some similarity in description between the Meridian suspect and man who executed the Blackfoot robbery.

Other hold-ups in Meridian the past month occurred at Don's Market and Davis Food Store.



## Hunting for Robber's Mug

SEARCHING THROUGH hundreds of mug shots of criminals, kept in files at the Meridian police station, Marshal Stoffle tried Monday night to find someone who looked like the man who had robbed him less than a half hour before. The armed robbery netted an undisclosed amount of money at Paul's Clover Farm Market in Meridian, where Stoffle is manager.

se, Friday, February 26, 1971

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## Nampan, 26, Charged With Meridian Robbery

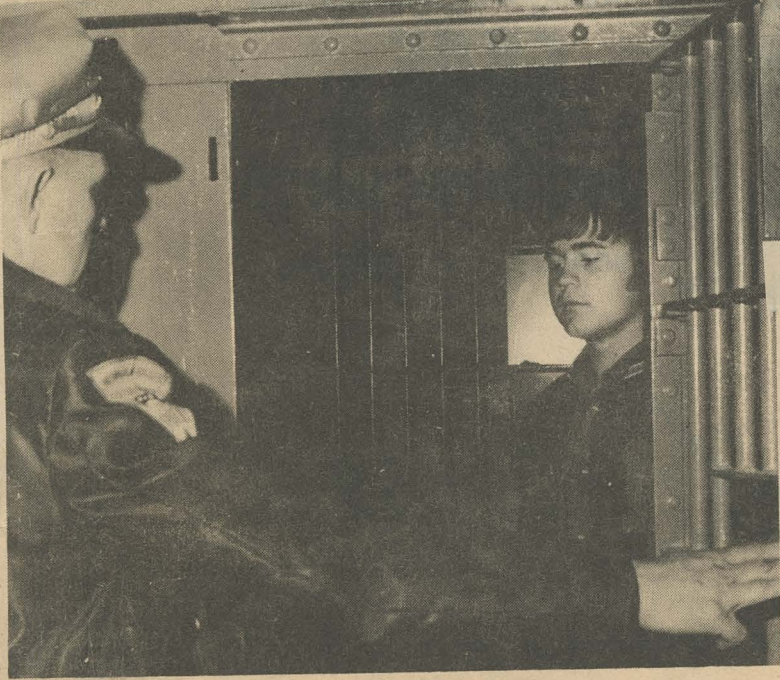
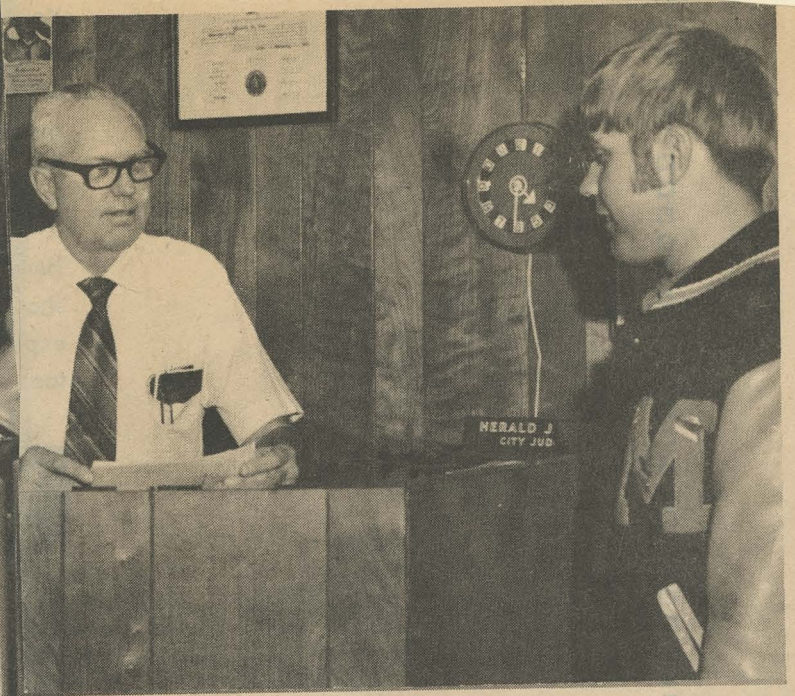
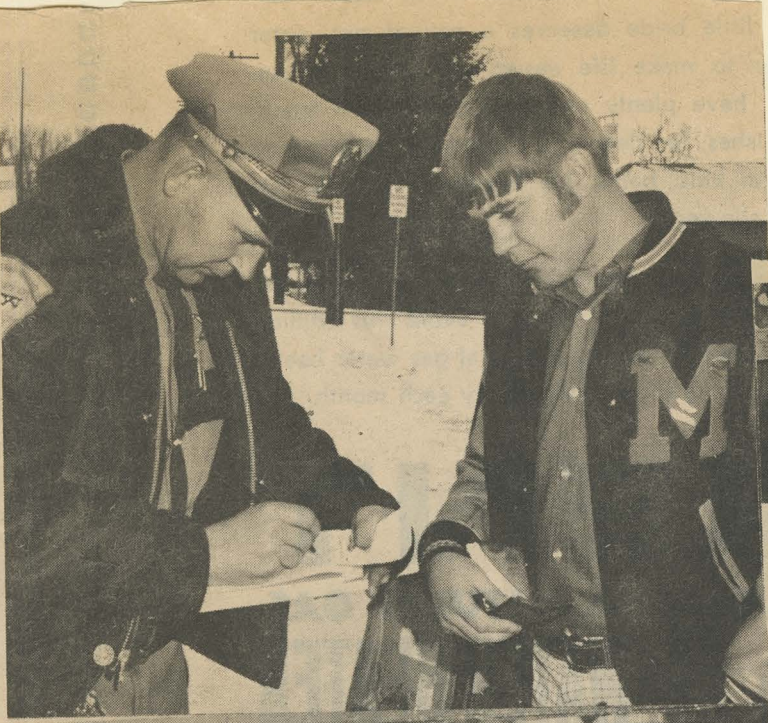
Roger Wayne Bacon, 26, Nampa, was charged Thursday with the Jan. 25 holdup of a Meridian market.

Bacon posted a \$2,500 bond pending further proceedings in the case.

The complaint alleges Bacon took \$1,077 from Paul's Clover Farm Market on East Second in Meridian at gunpoint.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said a man entered the store during an evening business lull. The man allegedly allowed the store manager, Marshal Stoffle, a peek at a gun beneath his coat while going through a check-out stand with a pack of cigarettes and a can of tuna.

Stoffle emptied the contents of two cash registers into a sack carried by the man.



## Student president does "home work"

Jan. 14, 1971

MERIDIAN STUDENT-BODY PRESIDENT Dave Cheney wanted his social-study theme to be based on reality, so the high school leader went at it the hard way -- arranging with Police Chief Gene Hiner to place him under "arrest" . . . then appearing before Police Judge Herald Cox . . . then spending the night in a cell at the city jail. "The first part was interesting, even exciting," said Cheney. "But that was one of the longest nights I've ever spent. If anyone wonders, it's no fun to spend a night in jail . . . even on a pre-arranged basis." Chief Hiner and Judge Cox both expressed appreciation of the youth's interest in Meridian's law-enforcement program, and of his willingness to spend a night in jail to complete his research. The "traffic-law violation", pre-arranged with Chief Hiner, will not be a matter of record; but the student-leader now has an "I was there" experience of what it is like to be in jail. (Horton Studio)

# Thieves strike again *Jan 28, 1971* Bandit robs Paul's market in third Meridian hold-up

For the third time within a month, armed bandits struck a Meridian grocery store, holding up Paul's Clover Farm market Monday night.

An undisclosed amount of cash was taken at gunpoint, under circumstances similar to those when Don's Market and Davis Food Store were robbed earlier this month.

"I feel certain there is some connection between the three robberies," Police Chief Gene Hiner said Wednesday, "but every lead we've run down has come to a dead end."

## Similarities noted

He noted that all three had occurred shortly before closing time, that a gun was displayed each time, and that there were similarities in the physical descriptions of the bandit involved in two of the hold-ups.

Monday night's robbery occurred at about 8 p.m., a half hour before closing time -- when store manager Marshel Stoffle, who was working at the check-out stand, was ordered to "fill a paper sack with money" by a man who displayed a gun under his coat.

Two customers and an employee, Tim Myer, who were in the back of the store, were unaware that the holdup was taking place, Stoffle said. Stoffle placed the contents of the two cash registers in the bag, and the bandit left through the front of the store.

Stoffle said the man went around the building to the rear where his car was parked and escaped. Stoffle, unable to see the license number of the car, described the bandit as in his late 30's, about 5'10" tall, medium weight, with brown hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a

brown coat and brown pants.

"It's one of those things that can happen any time," the manager said Wednesday. "You are always aware of the possibility, but I really didn't expect it to happen so soon after the other two robberies in Meridian."

# Crash Laid To Hornet In Meridian

*June 7, 1971*

MERIDIAN — The buzzing insistence of a hornet crawling up a pants leg allegedly led to an accident Sunday afternoon.

The crash occurred in the 300 block of Cherry Lane, Meridian.

Meridian police chief Gene Hiner said driver of one of the vehicles, Kenneth Ewing, 22, of 526 West Pine, Meridian, told police a hornet crawled up his pants leg.

He said he tried to grab for it and caused the car to swerve into an opposing lane of traffic in the process.

A passenger in the other car driven by Mrs. Jo Anne James, 39, Route 1, Boise, was injured. St. Luke's Hospital said Howard McIlvaine, 70, Pueblo, Colo., was treated for a whiplash injury and released. Two other passengers were apparently not injured.

Hiner said Ewing was charged with crossing the center line.

# Meridian Police Arrest 14 in Thefts

*12-21-71*

MERIDIAN — A Boise man has been arrested and charges are under consideration against 13 juveniles in connection with a series of thefts in the Meridian-Nampa area, Meridian police said Monday.

Darrell E. Rundle, 20, 4301 Gage, was charged with illegal possession of stolen goods and illegal possession of marijuana. He was released Friday on bonds of \$200 on the

first charge and \$500 on the drug-related charge.

Police said the 13 juveniles, ranging in age from 15-17, have been referred to Ada and Canyon County courts. Charges may be filed against the youths later this week, spokesmen said.

The juveniles are not connected with the drug charge against Rundle, police emphasized.

Ada County authorities, who investigated the case in cooperation with Meridian and Nampa police, said stolen

items ranged from a car to household goods. Police said some \$3,200 worth of stolen goods has been recovered.

A calf allegedly was stolen and later sold at the Meridian Sale Yard, police said. Stolen auto parts included tools, tires and wheels. Also taken were firearms, ammunition and a coin collection.

Police said the stolen car — from the Nampa area — was stripped of parts, pushed into the now-empty New York Canal, and set afire.

# Bandits Shoot Man In Meridian Home, Escape With Cash

1-22-72

Statesman Staff Report

MERIDIAN — A 61-year-old Meridian man was reported in poor condition at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise early this morning suffering from a gunshot wound in the

abdomen.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said Ernest Pickel of 55 East Ada was home in bed shortly before midnight Friday when two men forcefully

## Man, 61, Shot In Meridian By Bandits

(Continued from Page 13)

entered his home, reportedly robbed him, then shot him.

Early this morning Meridian and Ada County law officers were searching for two suspects after Meridian patrolmen Jim Boyd and Larry Scarborough spotted a car accelerating rapidly near the Pickel home shortly after the shooting.

Meridian police said Pickel had just picked up the day's proceeds from a coin-operated laundromat in Meridian and returned home with the money before the robbery occurred.

Pickel's mother, Mrs. Ada Pickel, about 81, who lives with him, told police two men came to the door of the home and began kicking at the door.

Mrs. Pickel rushed to the door yelling, "Wait a minute, wait a minute," she said. By the time she got there, they had kicked the door in, she said.

They shouted, "We want the money". Mrs. Pickel said she denied there was any money in the house. She said they insisted there was and demanded she show them where.

She told police she led them to a desk and they took an undetermined amount of cash.

Apparently hearing the noise, Pickel started to investigate what was going on when both suspects kicked open his bedroom door. Mrs. Pickel said they shot him once and then forced her to let them out the back door.

Police were investigating footprints and tire marks in the alley behind the house. Police said the man who shot Pickel was carrying either a pistol or a revolver.

## Man Held In Holdup At Meridian

Jan 23, 1972

One man was arrested in Boise early Saturday morning following a robbery and shooting incident late Friday night in a Meridian home.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner said Darrell J. Johnson, who gave as his address a transient trailer court east of Eagle, was in the Ada County jail under a charge of armed robbery. A search was underway for a second suspect in the robbery.

Ernest Pickel, 61, 55 East Ada, Meridian, was in satisfactory condition at St. Alphonsus Hospital Saturday after undergoing surgery for a gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Hiner said Pickel was home in bed Friday night when two men forced their way into his home, robbed him, then shot him.

Pickel had picked up a day's proceeds from a self-service gas station he operates in Meridian and returned home with the money earlier in the evening, Hiner related.

The two men forced their way past Pickel's mother, Mrs. Ada Pickel, about 81, to gain entry to the home, according to police reports.

The men found the cash, Mrs. Pickel told officers.

Apparently Pickel was shot after hearing noises and rising from his bed to investigate. Mrs. Pickel told police the suspects kicked open his bedroom door and shot him once before forcing her to let them out a back door.

Johnson was arrested about 7:30 a.m. at a Boise residence. Meridian police said somewhere between \$200 and \$300 was stolen and part of that has been recovered. Ada County sheriff's deputies are assisting in the investigation.

Johnson was arraigned in Magistrate Court Saturday on an armed robbery charge. His case was continued until 9 a.m. Tuesday. He is being held in Ada County jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

## 2nd Suspect Held in Heist At Meridian

Jan 24, 1972

The second of two suspects in the Friday night robbery and shooting of a Meridian man was arrested Sunday and charged with armed robbery.

Meridian Police Chief Gene Hiner identified the man as Robert L. Jones, 31, address unknown. He was placed in the Ada County jail Sunday night following his arrest at about 8:15 p.m.

Hilner said Jones was apprehended by Idaho State Police west of Canyon County on a charge of fictitious display of license plates.

Further investigation resulted in the armed robbery charge, said Hiner. Jones is scheduled for arraignment today in Magistrate's Court.

The other suspect is Darrell J. Johnson, who lives east of Eagle. He was arrested early Saturday morning and was arraigned on an armed robbery charge. He is being held in the Ada County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

## Heist Suspect Granted Delay Until Friday

1-25-72

The second suspect, arrested in connection with the Friday night robbery and shooting of a Meridian man, Monday was granted a continuance of his case until Friday in Magistrate's Court.

Robert L. Jones, 31, no address given, was arraigned on a charge of robbery and was being held in Ada County jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond.

Darral J. Johnson, Eagle, was arrested earlier and is being held in lieu of \$50,000 bond.