

Churches Looted Of Art Treasures

Berlin — (RNS) — Increased looting of churches and wayside shrines by gangs of thieves who specialize in stealing art treasures was reported here by West German police authorities.

THE THEFTS have been especially frequent over the last several years in rural areas of southern Germany, where churches usually contain many valuable and where, at the same time, the risk of detection is comparatively small.

Apparently possessing a knowledge of art and its sale value, the criminals concentrate particularly on madonnas, paintings, candlesticks and other items regarded as "antiques"

Investigation authorities said the burglaries obviously are prompted by the high "vogue" and resulting great demand on the antique market for religious works of art. Many well-to-do West Germans pay "excessive" prices for these objects with which to decorate their homes.

Half Million For Windows

Hartford — (RNS) — St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cathedral here has awarded a \$500,000 contract for the design and installation of 26 stained glass windows covering 22,837 square feet in the church's main nave.

The contract is one of the largest stained glass commissions ever awarded at one time, according to Egger and Higgins of New York, architects for the cathedral.

Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien said that the commission was given to Jean Batillet of Paris, France, widely known stained glass designer who has done work for some 20 churches in this country.



Priest Gets Close-Up Of Lucifer

Santa Clara, Cuba — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic priest, Father Joseph Vando, got acquainted with "Lucifer" when the crew of this rebel tank paused at the military barracks here on its way to Havana. The tank

was part of the caravan escorting rebel leader Fidel Castro to the Cuban capital. It was named after Satan to signify rebel "devilish" determination against the defeated Cuban dictatorship.

Fatal Miracles

Korea Faith Healer Jailed

Seoul — (RNS) — The Seoul Prosecutor's office has formally detained Korea's top faith-healing leader, Park Tae-sun, on charges of "fraud and intimidation."

Park has been under intense investigation by the civil authorities here for three months on account of fatalities allegedly connected with his nationally-known "praying message." He is now being held at Seoul's main prison, West Gate, following a face-to-face interrogation with E.L. Sang-son, his chief accuser.

Kim charged that Park swindled him out of 1,450,000 hwan (\$2,900) in a real-estate deal. He also alleged that Park caused the death of seven members of Kim's family last year by administering a "praying message," coupled with admonition against medical treatment.

erected for him in Incheon, Seoul, and Pusan.

Calling himself "The Olive Tree," he dispenses "holy water" in which he has washed his hands, claiming that any sick person who drinks it will recover.

Informal sources say that the real-estate fraud charges have stemmed from Park's activities in connection with his "Millennial Castle," a modern housing development outside Seoul with 600 residences, a church and 10 small factories for producing daily needs. Olive Tree followers are assured that anyone living in the Millennial Castle development is certain to witness the Second Advent.

Archdiocese To Try 'Only One Collection'

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — The collection box won't be passed as often in Roman Catholic churches of the St. Paul archdiocese in 1959 as in the past, Archbishop William C. Brady announced here.

But this doesn't mean that Catholics should give less, the Archbishop intimated to add.

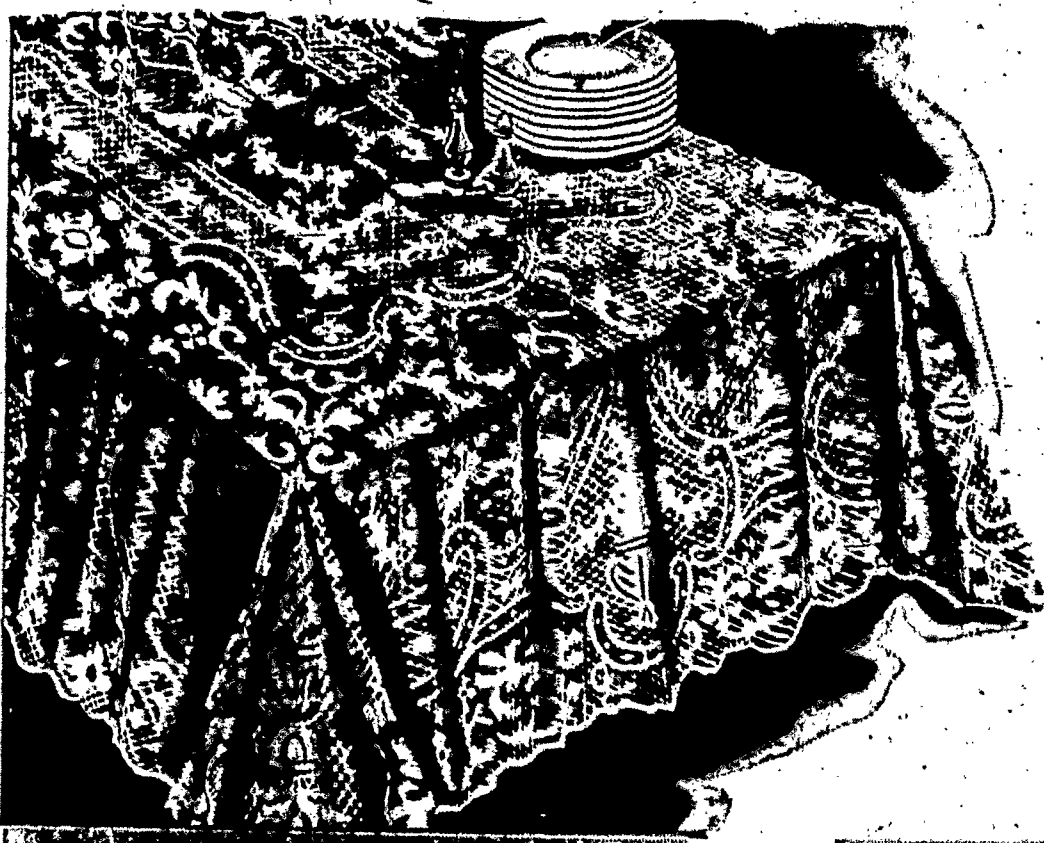
"What we are going to try to do is to limit the number of

our collections by consolidation of many appeals into one or a few," the archbishop wrote in his weekly column.

"Our parish priests have long hoped for some simplification and some relief from the special appeals we have been making, almost monthly, for our work of charity, the education of our seminarians, the promotion of Catholic work in mission fields.

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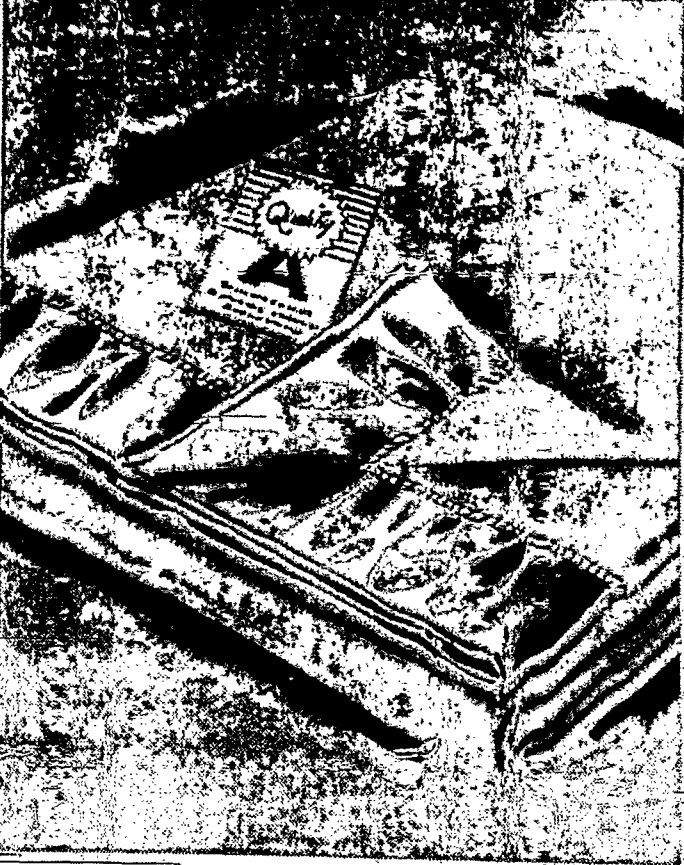
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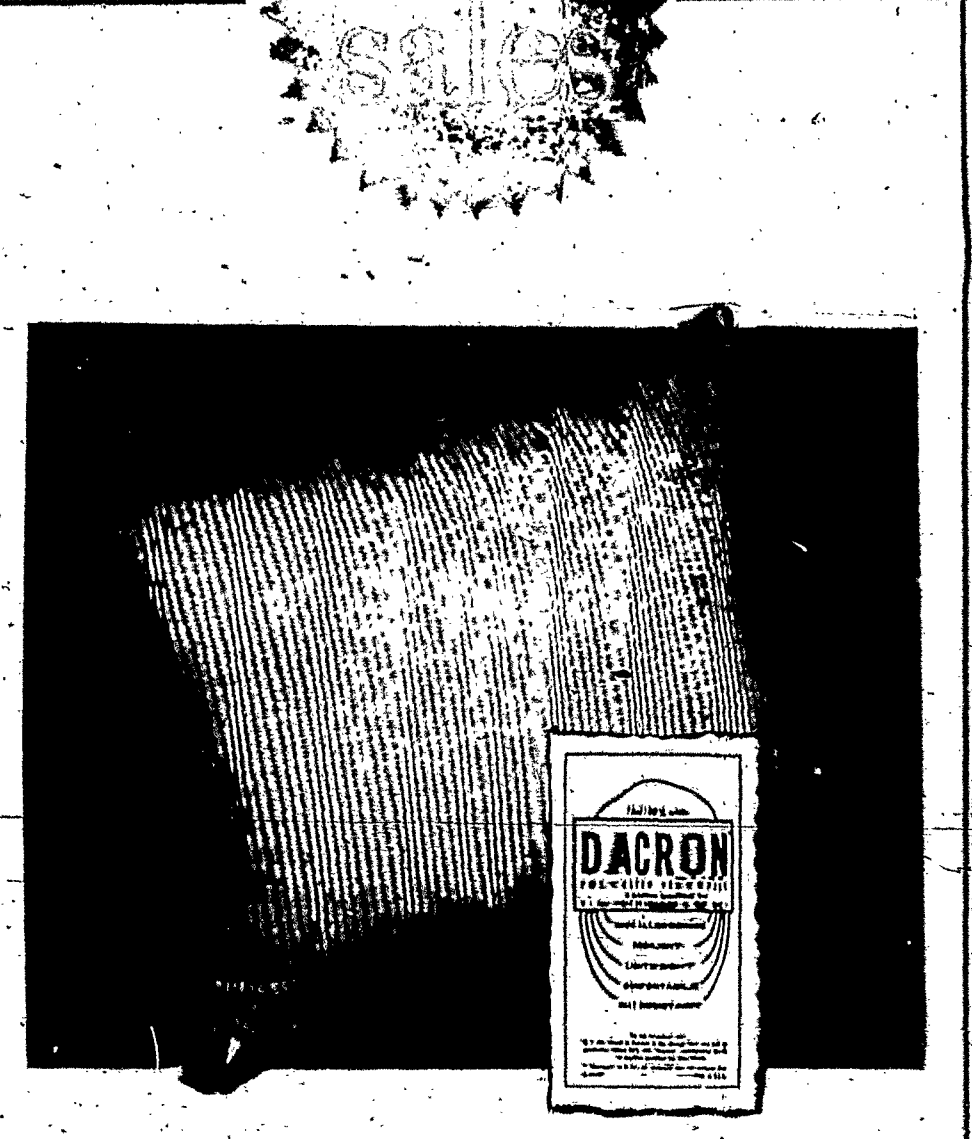
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