

Tom McDoal walks downtown with a tapping cane and perceiving ears. At right one friendly pedestrian spots the cane and holds the door. Tom's wife Barbara helps in concession owned by N.Y.S. Commission for the Blind.

Photos by Susan McKinney



Blind Shopkeeper 'Sees' With Memory

By BONITA BALDWIN

The lobby of the Executive Office Building on Rochester's West Main Street is a good place to grab a candy bar or pack of cigarettes, when you happen to be down that end of town.

Tom McDoal, the man behind the counter, has his business memorized. Candy is arranged alphabetically, and he knows where to find the Winstons and where to find the Tareytos without a moment's hesitation. When questioned he did admit, however, that he had marked the boxes in braille "just in case."

Customers paying Tom, a

Rochester Institute of Technology graduate with a degree in business administration, often say, "It's a five, Tom," or "It's a ten." Although he appears to feel the bill he admits that he can't tell the difference. He is being trained in the use of a machine that will do that for him, but in the meantime Tom is satisfied with people's word.

While he was attending college, customer service was his goal. "I wanted to help people solve their problems," he said. He looked for some such position without success and then learned of a training program offered by the New York State Commission

for the Blind that would enable him to go into business for himself. He spent six weeks learning how to deal with customers, count change, and order stock. Then the Commission helped set him up in business. "I love it," Tom said.

He commutes to the city from Hilton. Asked how he managed, he said simply, "My wife drops me off for Park and Ride and I come on in." At the mention of his wife, Tom added quickly that their second anniversary is next month. Two afternoons a week she comes downtown to help him in the store. In a way that's how she met him: as a college student she volunteered to be his reader.

Pastor Attacks ERA

Auburn — In an address to the St. Aloysius Altar and Rosary Society at Wood Acres, Father Albert Shamon, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo, called attention to what he feels are the implications possible in the ERA amendment to the New York State Constitution which appears

Flower Arrangers To Hold Clinic

A demonstration on flower arranging for churches will be given Wednesday morning, Oct. 15, at St. Christopher's, Union Street at King Road in North Chili. Mrs. Marge Kimmel, the instructor, also will give advice on specific problems brought to her attention.

A fee of \$1 will be discounted by half for those who bring photographs or sketches of church interiors and flower arrangements. Anyone who brings an actual flower arrangement designed for church use gets in free. The meeting runs from 10 a.m. until noon, and refreshments will be served. Further information may be obtained from Donna Pickard, 889-1795, of the St. Christopher flower committee.

on the ballot in November.

He pointed out that the legislation looks good on the surface, but that the wording is not clear and the implications need to be carefully examined.

He feels that if ERA passes, the current laws on the books could be hung up in the law courts and that legislation will end up in a court of law for decision and taken out of the hands of the legislature.

He said that as the wording now stands, women are not specifically mentioned and room for exceptions based on sexual differences is not safeguarded specifically.

He questioned the need for ERA as the 14th amendment already exists. He feels legislation on the books assures equality of rights, civil rights and equal pay. Focus, he feels, should be put on enforcing already existing laws.

Father Shamon indicated his feeling that there are anti-Christian implications in the ERA as it is now worded. He feels there is a need for laws to protect women and to assure preferential treatment to protect the home.

St. Hyacinth Sets 40 Hours

Auburn — St. Hyacinth Church will be the site for the 40-Hours devotions to the Blessed Sacrament, Oct. 12-14. Exposition will begin following the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 12.

Father George Tarasha of the Franciscan Fathers' Mission Band will lead the devotions. Benediction will be held each evening at 7:30 p.m. with confessions immediately preceding.

Daily celebrations of the Eucharist will take place at 7, 8, and 9 a.m. A homily will be preached at the 9 a.m. Mass. Again, confessions will be heard before Mass.

The traditional procession will take place on Tuesday.

NURSERY SCHOOL

The Little People's School at St. Salome's has a few openings in the two and three-year-olds for three and four-year-olds. Sister Diane Marie said last week. For information: 467-7593.

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