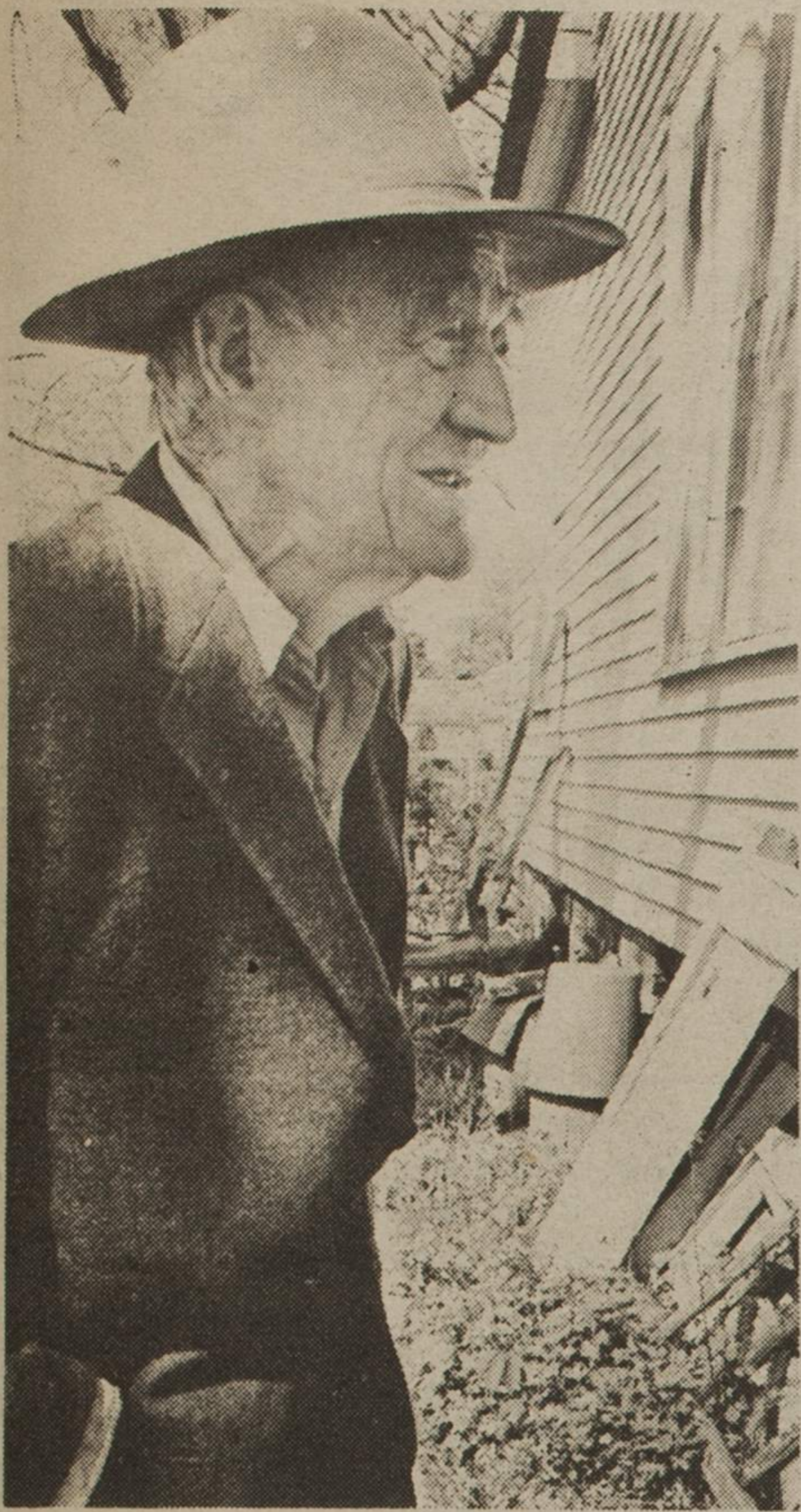


HARRY STRIKES BACK



I think it is wrong. Yes, if someone comes down and do like they have done with me. My house has been broken into seven different times. Since the first of the year, I had three Negro boys and a White girl come down there and attempt to rob me. And I had a time with them. They didn't make it out.

I had Negros, let's see, I should say about five years ago, with an excuse about he had a car out on the highway that went bad on him and he wanted money to have that car brought in and fixed up. I didn't think too much of that. I told him I didn't make a habit of loaning out. I had a habit of buying houses from people, and it was only on real estate that I had loans. Well, he asked if I knew anyone he might go to, and I told him of a man that took chances like that sometimes. He got up and started to leave. I was sitting in a chair, and he stretched his arms out like, kind of like he felt like he wanted to use his arms a minute. Then all at once he turned and made a leap at me, grabbed me by the coat at the shoulder, and pushed me back off

balance and started hitting me in the face. He hit me seven or eight times at least. I was kind of suprised at how much punishment I could take and not be knocked out.

I hit him, I tried to hit him in the ribs. But he had too much clothes on, and I wasn't having any effect. So I pushed him back, and I got up on my feet. He grabbed me by the throat. And he had a good hold of me too and he was shutting off my wind. He got up close to me to keep me from getting ahold of his wrists, and I shoved my hand up. I have a pretty heavy hand. I used to have a good grip, and I got ahold of his wrist and twisted it and turned him loose from me. I shoved him back from me, right by the stove, and he knocked the stove pipe down, and he landed right there in the doorway. He either thought there was some smoke coming out of there, he either thought he was catching the house afire, or that I was going to get the best of him. I think I would have got the best of him too.

He was somewheres around thirty

years old and maybe six feet tall. He was heavy. Probably heavier than I was. I remembered his face but I couldn't remember his name. I couldn't place him for a time. But I finally place' him and I met him through his father-in-law who lived across the river. I had made him a loan. I was at his place and saw him there. I talked to his brother-in-law and I found out he had took off and gone to Oklahoma City. And because I didn't belong to one of the main lodges here they didn't want to bother with him. But, if I'd belonged to the Masons Lodge or the Elks Club, they'd sent some men, looked him up and had him brought back here. But they just dropped it.

The Odd Fellows don't have no more influence than I do. The Masons and the Elks, they're the main ones. Chamber of Commerce too. Chamber of Commerce because all of them belongs to the Elks and the Masons too. All of the Masons and all of the Elks are not crooks. But some of them, they're signed up to help each other out. So they have a lot of control.

LEGENDS OF RENEGADES

There used to be a second-hand store where the bus station is now in the 600 block of Massachusetts. There was a man there. He was one of the first to come to Lawrence. He was one of 'em that caused the Quantrill's Raid here.

There was a bunch of them that come here when they first started to build the town, a bunch of them you'd call renegades. During the war they fought back and forth. The people in Missouri wanted to make it a slave state. And they come over here and caused trouble. They'd make raids over here. They raided back and forth. During the war, say '61 to '65, they nearly all of them from the South, all the able-bodied men were in the Army, drafted in the Army. Mostly the boys under 16 and the men too old to be in there were left at home. There wasn't too much resistance. There were about '20 men from here that'd ride over there on horseback and make raids in Missouri.

That drew retaliation from over there. They have a bunch of what you'd call guerilla warfare.

They went down there two or three times and raided Osceola. They'd steal anything they could get of value. They'd run off the Missourian's cows and mules. Or they'd drive them off and sell them to

people here in Kansas.

... There was a man here. He stayed here with those people. They had a little building back there where they housed, I think there were two Negroes that had been slaves, that stayed there and did yard work and one thing or another.

And one day they sent him down there to cut a hedge fence, right across the road from where we lived. Right across the road from us was a hedge fence, and they sent this Negro out there and had him most of one winter, and had him cut the hedge down and make fenceposts out of it. He told me he was here when Quantrill's raid was. He got away from them. He said they shot at him. He said that he was running so fast that his coattail was settin out behind and they had two bulletholes through his coattail.

..... There was one woman there, she had a carpet on the floor and she rolled it and the man layed down on the carpet and she rolled it up and rolled the carpet out the door and saved him.

..... Some of these stories you hear have been added on to. These here reporters hear a story for the paper, they take part of it and add on to it.

I've been reading anything and everything. I been readin' what you'd call these here, novels, and so on. But some of them ain't worth readin'. I don't know why that they could be any lower. Some of these books.

... I like what's his name... Stanley... Earl Stanley Gardner. Yes. That's his name. It's a good way to pass the time away. There is nothing immoral or sinful about it. Some of these books you have, you have to look over. You start a readin' and the first thing you know, you're readin' about someone having a meeting and so on. It looks like, I don't

know, like maybe some of these liquor businesses maybe have given them so much money to advertise liquor. It gets kind of monotonous. It's just so many of them that have something like that. Even some of these detective stories tell about goin' somewheres drinking liquor, you know.

I didn't go to the movies not no great lot. I used to go out there when the Pattee theater was here. I remember going there once a week. After they got to charging, oh 20 cents or something like that, why I didn't figure that I was gettin' 30 cents of amusement out of it and I quit goin'.



Conversation Piece

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

"I'm trying to get out of especially long-term loans."

PUCKETT'S REPUBLIC

City Manager, I don't think anything of it. I think that it would be much better if we were back at the Mayor-Council form of government. Because the City-at-large isn't representative. They do things to suit themselves.

If the people would band together and get up a bunch of signatures and demand special election and change the form of government back to the Mayor-council form of government. We had the Mayor-Coun-

cil form of government here.

If the people would band together they could run the town. If they'd do like they're supposed to do. That is, we are supposed to have a nation by the people, of the people and for the people. If they'd just get together and get control of these dirty crooks, we could have a good town. The best thing we could do is to get them in the notion to be honest. That's all I can say.

