

# Peoples Store WILL open

by Garry Forbes

Mike Coates had plenty of things on his mind as he surveyed the main floor of his Peoples' department store and watched workmen busily repairing and re-assembling the interior of the seemingly luckless structure yesterday morning in Midland.

It was only hours after a length of pipe was thrown through a front window, only days since burglars had broken in and stolen clothing, exactly a week since fire had ravaged the store to the tune of \$180,000 and less than a year since it had been levelled in another major blaze.

"They're not going to leave me alone," the manager said dryly. Who's "they"? "I don't know, you tell me I just don't know."

Yesterday, only shortly after Midland police were on the scene investigating the vandalism to the front window (they say the pipe was probably thrown from a passing car), most of Coates's 20 employees reported to work in overalls, ready for another long, hard day mucking about in the wet, sooty basement in an effort to clean up the mess left in the wake of last week's fire.

Their efforts, and the efforts of the contractors' crews (yesterday's broken window was replaced 15 minutes after the repairmen were called) and the generous contributions from other local businesses

have given Coates something to smile about in the midst of his misfortune.

"Those people downstairs are really making a big sacrifice. Look at the conditions down there -- it's looking better today but they've been working in ankle-deep water and a horrible mess," said Coates. "And they and the workmen have had to work around each other, everybody's really been striving to get this store open for Midland in time for Christmas."

Coates said the Post Office has been "more than generous" under the circumstances. Snyder Transport has incurred considerable inconvenience and expense to ensure delivery of goods and both Dominion Stores and Bay Mills have gone out of their way to supply the store with boxes for cleanup.

Because of those tireless contributions, said Coates, there shouldn't be any problem in getting things in order for the announced re-opening date of Dec. 1.

Coates says the store's security has been "increased sufficiently", but the question clearly remains on the manager's mind: will "they" try to strike again?

"It seems they'll do anything to slow us down," says Coates. "Whoever they are -- these degenerates and bums who are doing this -- they'll do anything."

## Did you know?

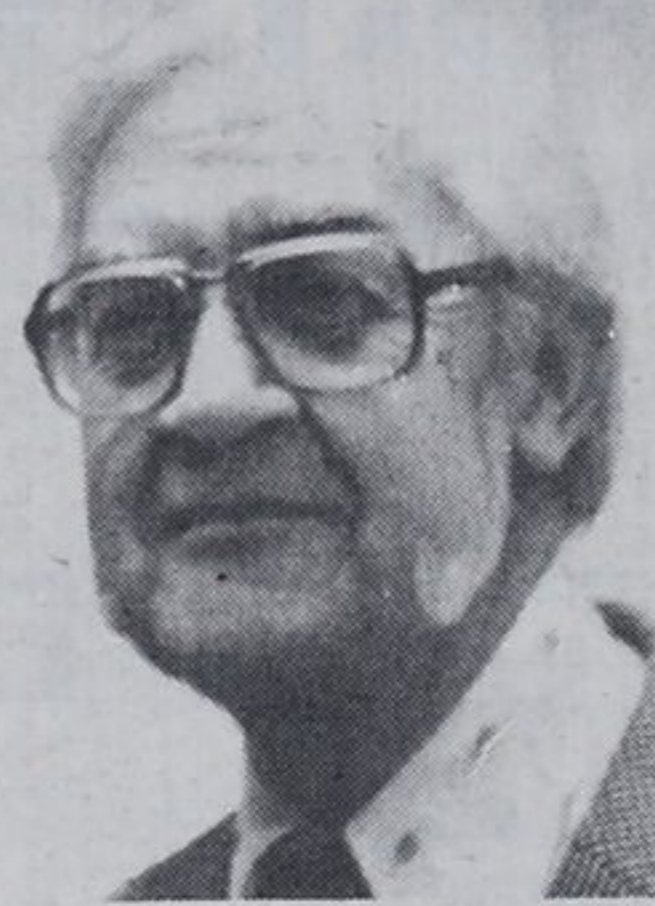
Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 9 p.m. TV Ontario's Academy with Jack Livesley presents Parenting, a new six-part learning series based on the celebrated television program, Footsteps. Each week a specific problem in child raising is tackled, from dealing with misbehaviour or learning to listen to your child, to the effect of television in your child's life.

Designed for parents and those who work with parents and children, Parenting is part of TVO's new concept in television based learning. Each program includes a discussion with a special guest and parents on the issues raised. The registration fee is \$8

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I don't know of a totally successful accident prevention program that does not have first aid as part of it," says Frank Riley. Riley is Manager of Field Services for the Industrial Accident Prevention Association. "We recommend first aid in a safety program for three reasons, compliance with regulations, human reasons and as an accident prevention tool."


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