

Chapter 48: The Family Business

The family's shoe business continued to operate and appeared to be thriving. In June 1951, granddad noted having the best weekend ever in the business. He worked hard with long hours and very rarely closed the shop. For example, he noted that he closed the shop just for an hour for the Festival of Britain carnival in July 1951. Mostly, after they had moved to Welbeck Street, he cycled to and from work, except when the weather was bad when he walked. Grandma worked regularly and mum helped out more and more, including dressing both ladies' and men's windows. She also ran errands for granddad. For example, in August 1950, she went to Mansfield for shoes. In 1954, when both granddad and grandma were ill, various people helped out in the shop. They included mum, dad, granddad's brother Cyril, family friend, Phyllis Attwood and, in particular, Ken and Pearl Hodges who were living behind the shop at that time. To recognise the help Ken and Pearl gave, in particular, grandma bought them a nest of tables, which granddad noted cost £14 12 6.

Grandad's practical skills benefit the business

Grandad continued to use his practical skills to benefit the business. For example in March 1951, he altered the weight on the workshop door and, in April that year, he made a new door mat for the shop bell. In May, he took the fireplace out of the stockroom and blocked up the opening and, in August, he opened mum's bedroom out to make a new stockroom (perhaps as he knew they were moving to Welbeck Street).

In January 1954, he made a writing desk for the shop. Sometimes, he brought in others to do work on the shop. For example, in June 1951, he brought in workers to paint the shop. He also sometimes bought things for the shop. For example, in March 1954, he bought an eight-day clock¹ for the shop at a cost of 67/-.

In March 1952, a man, John Turner, deliberately broke one of the shop's windows. He did this in order to get "a night's kip" because he had had his war pension stopped. Although granddad had to make a statement to the police and he had to attend court, he was not called to give evidence. After initially being remanded in custody for three weeks for a medical report, Turner was sentenced to six months in prison because of a long string of previous offences. Granddad had to get the plate glass window repaired.

**KIRKBY
Mansfield Shopkeeper's
Allegation**

In evidence at Mansfield to-day, P.C. Wilson said he was called on Saturday afternoon to a boot shop in Station-street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, where the shopkeeper, Charles Gordon Parkin, accused a 68-year-old unemployed labourer, John Turner, of no fixed address, of having broken the shop window. The officer said Turner told him: "That's right, I wanted a night's kip."

Charged with doing £20 malicious damage to the window, Turner was remanded in custody until Thursday for further inquiries.

**Wanted Night's Keep-So They
Broke Windows**

TWO CASES of maliciously damaging shop windows came before the Mansfield Petty Sessionsal magistrates yesterday. The first one involved Peter Gornall (29), whose address was given as 73, Leamington Drive, Sutton. He told the police: "I did it for a night's kip."

The second defendant was John Turner, a 68-year-old unemployed labourer, of no fixed address. And he told the police: "I did it for a night's kip."

Prosecuting, Chief Insp. C. Harrison said that on Thursday evening Gornall went into Sutton Police station. He had been drinking, but was not drunk, and said he had been turned out of his lodgings. He was told to go home quietly. Later, at 11.45 p.m., P.C. King was in Low Street when he heard the sound of breaking glass coming from the direction of Bowell's shop. He saw defendant nearby, and was told: "Yes, I have just put my foot through it."

Put on Probation

Gornall was put on two years' probation and ordered to pay the cost of the damage—£25.

Mr. Charles G. Parkin was attending to a customer in his boot shop on Station Street, East Kirkby, on Saturday, said Chief Inspector Harrison, when he heard the sound of breaking glass. Outside he found the defendant, Turner.

Turner, who admitted being before the court on 112 occasions, including four for wilful damage, was remanded in custody for three weeks to await a medical report. In 1947 he was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for breaking a window.

In court, he held up a ban to show mislaid fingers and said: "They stopped my war pension." He added: "I have asthma and am only going on one cylinder."

Cost of the damage was estimated at £20.

**BROKE SHOP
WINDOWS AT
MANSFIELD
Man Remanded,
Another Put
on Probation**

Two cases of shop window breaking, each stated to be done "for a night's kip," came before the Mansfield magistrates to-day.

One man, before the court, John Turner, a 68-year-old unemployed labourer, who was said to have done £20 malicious damage last Saturday by smashing a boot shop window in Station-street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, had 112 previous convictions in various parts of the country, including four for wilful damage, according to Chief Insp. Harrison.

Before being remanded in custody for three weeks for a medical examination, Turner complained to the court that the Ministry of Pensions and the War Office had robbed him of a pension. "I am running on one cylinder because of asthma," he said.

In the other case, heard separately, Peter Gornall, 29, of 73, Leamington-drive, Sutton-in-Ashfield, was alleged by the police to have put his foot through a drapery shop window in Low-street, Sutton, last Thursday, causing £25 malicious damage.

According to the chief inspector, Gornall had earlier walked into the Sutton Police Station, having had some drink, to complain of being turned out of his lodgings and was advised to go home quietly.

Gornall was put on probation for two years, and ordered to pay for the damage.

Wanted Night's "Kip"—Gets Six Months

John Turner, a 68-year-old unemployed labourer of no fixed abode, "wanted a night's kip." So he broke a Kirkby shop window and was taken into custody. That was on March 29th.

Yesterday, at Mansfield Petty Sessions, after hearing a medical report, the magistrates gave Turner enough night's kips to last him six months.

Said Lt.-Col. J. N. Chaworth-Musters to defendant, who admitted 112 convictions since 1928: "You appear just to go about the country doing damage, and prison is the only place for someone like you."

News cuttings about grandad's broken window in 1952

¹ Requiring winding once a week only