Big Brother History Told

Robert W. McColley, state parole officer and executive director of Big Brothers, Inc., spoke on the Big Brother movement at Tuesday's meeting of the Hagerstown Civitan Club in the Legion Home.

President William E. Greene presided. John H. Bowie, general chairman of the district council meeting committee, reported on the coming meeting. Mel Greenwald reported on fruit cake sale, and Robert H. Shingleton, program chairman, introduced the speaker.

Mr. McColley pointed out that several years ago the Grand Jury Association discussed juvenile delinquency and proposed a Big Brother Association here. The group, he explained, consists of responsible men who interest themselves in the welfare of boys whose physical, mental and moral development has been endangered because of inadequate parental supervision, bad environment or other conditions.

The Big Brothers history, he said, is the repeated use of the one man—one boy formula, which means applying the influence of one man's character and personality to one boy's growth.

He pointed out that the Big Brother idea dates back 53 years to the time when Ernest K. Coulter, clerk of the children's court in New York, proposed the plan. Nationally, the organization now has an active roster of 10,000 Big Brothers.

Civitans were reminded that it costs from $2,000 to $3,000 yearly to keep a boy in a reformatory. If we can save boys from being sent away to institutions, we render a good and lasting service to the boy and also save money for taxpayers, he said.

Statistically, the speaker said, 40 per cent of crimes are committed by juveniles under 16.

On the local Big Brothers organization, Mr. McColley said that 23 men are participating, eight of whom are active in the work and others awaiting boys that are carefully selected by Evan Crossley, former juvenile court magistrate. Knowing all the Big Brothers personally, Mr. Crossley can match Big Brothers with Little Brothers to the best advantage from a psychological viewpoint.

Morris Bassford, president of Big Brothers in Hagerstown, was also introduced.

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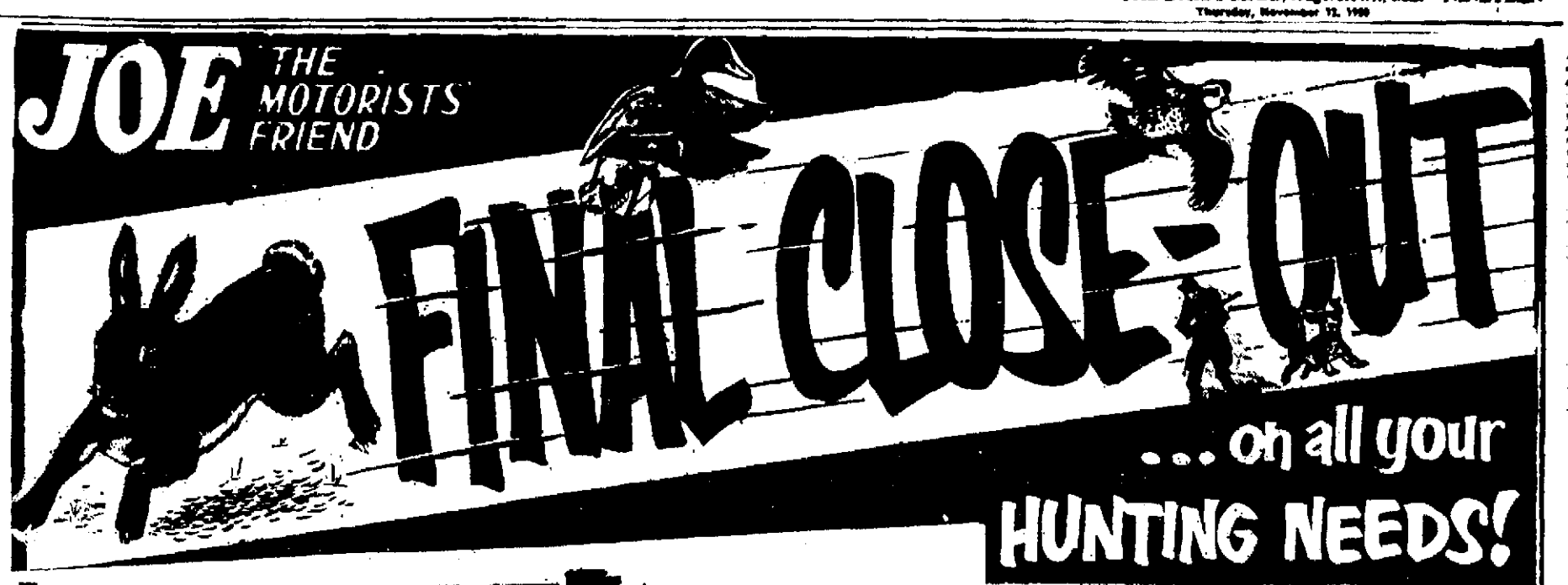

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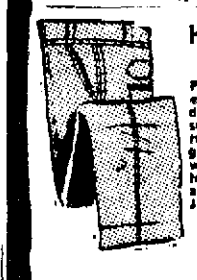

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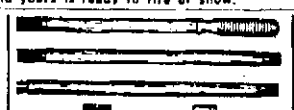

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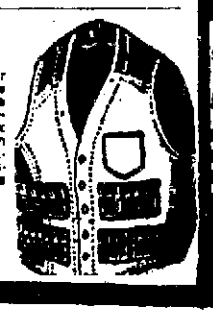

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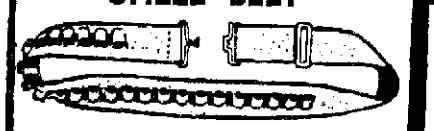

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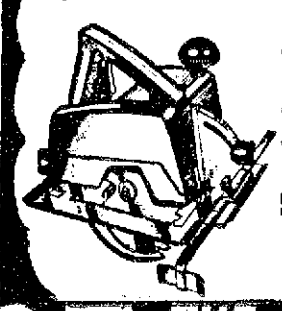

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